

## Act three:

Now our plans became very real very quickly. Calle filed an application for "permanent residence" *under the clause that he wished to live with his wife*. He filed the forms in November and obtained his approval and travel documents in February 2020.

Ingrid started packing personal items in November, selling furniture & "stuff", donating books to the Julian Library, shredding older tax documents and so much more. Ingrid could only shred 3 boxes of paper a day filling three large black garbage bags, before the motor got too hot handle. In the beginning of December she had a "Christmas sale" of precious handmade and collected decorations. Every day was filled with more and more work. We sold our beautiful Toyota Avalon to the Pettit's. Every box was numbered, contents detailed, lists compiled for custom inspection. Totally we had 87 boxes shipped!

We emptied one room after another, filled holes after shelving & art was removed and repainted. We ordered new carpeting for all the bedrooms, living & sunroom plus new bathroom flooring. The house looked new, freshly painted, great carpeting thought the house, sparkling cleaned windows with sun streaming in. Many art pieces were removed along with special handicrafts collected over the years.

We put the house on the market in March. It was sold on April 7.

In April we ordered business class seats for a SAS flight Los Angeles to Stockholm for June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020.

On May 27<sup>th</sup> we rented a U-Haul, drove to San Pedro, shipped the truck filled with art, special items that were difficult to pack, essential toolboxes, jars of our own honey, and our lovely smaller easy chairs stuffed in the back seat. All 87 boxes fit

onto 3 regular pallets. We left San Pedro in the U-Haul truck, which we left in Ramona. Our neighbor Mary Prentice drove up the hill to Julian.

Once back home in Julian on May 27 we received the message that SAS had cancelled our flight. We were in chock! Flight cancelled due to Covid-19! Our travel agent Grete Bigert ([www.jettravelgroup.com](http://www.jettravelgroup.com)) reserved seats on a KLM flight Los Angeles via Amsterdam to Stockholm. We had the same departure date as the original plan that was good.

Grete continued to press upon SAS for months to refund our tickets. After 8 months we finally received the refund.

Our neighbor & friend Mary Prentice drove us to Los Angeles airport. The departure area for the KLM flight was packed with people many with lots & lots of luggage. KLM offered the only flight from the West Coast to Europe that day. After waiting for a long time we finally could check-in but there was the snag with Calle's immigration papers. They were all in Swedish! Since our plan was to fly with SAS, we did not expect any problems at check-in, not so with KLM. The agent was about to reject us! We were asked to show our marriage certificate to prove that Calle could travel with me, a Swedish citizen. Calle could show a picture of it in his computer. Who carries a marriage certificate when traveling? A kind wise mature female supervisor let us pass. We could breathe again!

The stop over in Amsterdam turned about to be easy. We had no complications to continue to travel to Sweden.

Upon arrival at Arlanda airport, we were asked to sit down while a "supervisor" verified Calle's documents. It took a long-long time. An armed guard asked "Why do you want to come to Sweden". We were the last passengers to walk through customs! Our friends, Ulla and Thore, patiently waited for us and drove us to our

new home, a condominium located on the third floor overlooking a beautiful wooded area. They offered to fill our refrigerator with an assortment of breakfast foods. They lent us a table & chairs and we used Karin's living room furniture until our shipment arrived. Nothing makes the earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance; they make the latitudes and longitudes.

Here we are, now what? A beautiful summer! A new life! We have lots to learn about Swedish Immigration, Social & Financial system. Wait there is more to read about our experiences in Sweden. Next chapters tell more about our new life in Sweden.