



The building before the work started.

The Langsjoby Project or *“House-moving the Swedish Way”*

By Andreas Martensson of Tore Husflytningar AB

It all started in the spring of 2004 when Elvin Axelsson, a real estate owner, contacted our company with an idea of moving one of two apartment buildings in the small village of Langsjoby to the city of Umea, a city on the East coast of Sweden. It is a university city with high growth and sky-high real estate prices, compared to the situation in Langsjoby. A big building such as the one shown in this article is worth practically nothing in a town such as Langsjoby because of the high expense of demolishing it.

The building was three-stories. Two floors of wood construction over a half-basement constructed of concrete and Leca brick and contained a total of eight apartments. It was 22.5 meters long by 11 meters wide and 13 meters high. The distance between Langsjoby and Umea is 300 km.

My father Magnus immediately started the immense work of finding a way to get this colossus to the coast. It was clear at an early stage that moving all three floors at once was not an option because of both the height and weight of the building. So, it was decided to lift the two upper floors off the concrete basement. These floors, without the A-frame roof, formed a nice square package 11 meters wide by 7 meters high and 22.5 meters long. Due to road and bridge load limitations we



Holes for the two main beams are finished, including on half-made hole that was cut in the wrong place due to a drain freezing.



One of the two holes with one of the four cribs on the floor in the basement. We had also removed the boards from the ceiling to reveal the floor beams.

also had to cut the basement into two pieces: one 10 meters long and the other 12.5 meters long.

After a long period of driving the 300 kms back and forth between Langsjoby and Umea, measuring all three dimensions, discussing different alternatives, talking to electric & phone companies, plus railroad and road authorities, dad finally had a plan for the move. Complete with rest stops and overnight parking for the bulky loads. Planned in detail, hour by hour and kilometer by kilometer.

So in June 2005 a small crew from Tore Husflyttningar AB, led by Jens Nilsson, drove to Langsjoby to start welding beams and making holes thru the basement for the two 600 mm main beams we needed to lift the upper floors. The first problem we ran into was a mob of angry Langsjoby villagers....

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After the first lift.



One of the four cribs with the beam resting on rollers closest to the camera and a Wetter air jack in place on the far end of the crib.



Folke Hammar (right) and I working on one of the cribs.