



UKRAINIAN WEEKLY



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WHY DO UKRAINIANS OBSERVE CHRISTMAS NOW

In common with several other Slavic peoples, the Ukrainians observe Christmas on January 7th. This is so because they adhere to the old Julian calendar, while most of the Christian world follows the newer Gregorian calendar. The difference between the two around this time of the year is thirteen days. For the same reason Easter and other holidays are observed later by the Ukrainians.

The movement to readjust their calendar would perhaps find favor among the Ukrainians were it not for the political reasons involved. Poland, as we know, seeks to denationalize the Ukrainians under her rule. The Poles follow the Gregorian calendar. And there prevails among our people the opinion that if the Ukrainians were to abandon the Julian calendar and adopt the Gregorian, they would involuntarily aid the Poles in this denationalization policy, which encroaches even into the religious field.

THE GREATER DANGER

At a meeting of Polish legionnaires and student representatives, held in Lwiv (Western Ukraine under Poland), December 11, for the purpose of discussing the youth question, it was stressed by the speakers that the "Jewish menace" does not constitute for Poland as great a danger as does the "Ukrainian problem."

Resolutions were passed calling upon the Polish population to take a stand against the Ukrainian people and their nationalistic aspirations.

METROPOLITAN SHEPTITSKY GETS RIGHTS TO LYSENKO'S WORKS

It is reported from Lwiv that Metropolitan Sheptitsky, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, has recently purchased the author's rights to approximately 350 compositions and arrangements by Lysenko, famous Ukrainian composer. Up to now they had been the property of V. Idzikovsky, formerly a publisher in Kiev. Among them are forty-five piano compositions, close to three hundred pieces for solo and choral work, five operas, and four operettas. The purchase includes several rare manuscripts, such as the full orchestral score for the operas "Taras Bulba," "Aeniad," Rizdivyana Nich," and the operetta "Chornomortsi." The Metropolitan has also purchased author's rights to many works of K. Stetzenko, A. Koshetz, Y. Stepoviy, P. Senitsya, Nischinsky, as well as of other and lesser known composers.

UKRAINE CENTER OF EAST EUROPEAN CULTURE

In his address "East-European Nations Reflected in the Mirror of Literature," delivered at the University of Koenigsberg, Germany, Prof. Karl Meyer declared that Ukraine was in reality the first of all Slavonic nations to have a literature of its own, and that this was as early as the 12th century. Kiev, he said, was a cultural center of long standing, as witness Nestor's Chronicles (1110) and the Tale of Ihor's Legion (1186). From 1386, he further brought out, Ukraine took part in all the movements that affected Europe, including Humanism, Renaissance, etc. It became the cultural center for all Eastern Europe, especially for Muscovy (Russia). The latter, the lecturer pointed out, is indebted to Ukraine for its Europeanization.

Christmas—What It Means To Us

The approach of Christmas is a period of happy anticipation, and its arrival a joyful event. Yet among us, young Ukrainian-Americans, these feelings of late have begun to take on a deeper and more abiding character. The reason for this is quite simple, although perhaps not obvious. It lies in the fact that where formerly (when we were still in our teens) these happy feelings were engendered by the more superficial aspects of the holiday; today they rest upon our growing realization of its true worth and significance.

Formerly, for example, Christmas usually recalled to our adolescent minds only the story of the Nativity of our Savior, of Mary and Joseph, of the great shining star first seen by the Shepherds, and of the coming of the Three Wise Men laden with gold, myrrh, and incense. Today, however, in our more mature minds this story recedes into the background, there to become a rich setting for the very essence of this great holy day, which is that He came upon this earth in order to save all mankind, to teach us how to live the ideal life, a life in harmony with the loving Father in heaven, a life which Augustine well described when he said, "O God, my heart is restless, and finds no rest until it rests in Thee." Such, then, is the true religious significance of Christmas; and our growing awareness of it is accelerated by the troublous times in which we live.

Formerly, too, Christmas for us meant the various colorful customs with which our people observe it, including the Holy Supper, with its various traditional and delectable courses, served on a table beneath whose snow-white cover there lies a layer of hay, around which the entire family gathers, eats, and sings the heart-warming "kolyadi." Yet in most cases these customs impressed us only by their outward colorful appearance. Their real meaning generally escaped us. Of recent times, however, we are beginning to capture it. We are beginning to perceive that all these customs with which we celebrate Christmas constitute an important and vivid manifestation of the psychology of our race, with its special emphasis upon family life and the patriarchal system, and its close relation to the soil.

As a result, our flagging interest in Ukrainian Christmas customs has become revived. They have become less peculiar and more dear to us. And although here in America it is difficult for us to observe them as they do in the old country, yet we endeavor to do the best we can, even to the extent (as one young lady revealed to this writer) of throwing a spoonful of "kutya" against the ceiling, in order to make sure that the coming season will be full of happy bliss for us. For those of us who live on the farm, of course, the opportunities for celebrating as they do over there are much greater. On the farm we can even tend to the cattle in the special manner reserved for this day, and thereby symbolically show our appreciation of the vital role these and other domestic animals have played in Ukrainian family life. Who knows, perhaps for this kind act they in turn will reveal secrets of great importance to us; for on Christmas Eve, it is said, they become endowed with the powers of clairvoyance and speech.

No matter where we dwell, however, we should do our best to observe Christmas in the Ukrainian way. For it is not only beautiful but very meaningful as well. By doing so we not only preserve the traditions handed down to us, but we also strengthen the ties that bind us all: first, as members of our immediate families, and secondly, as members of the great Ukrainian Family, living in both its native and foreign lands.

Only through harmony and accord, with God and ourselves, can we really hope that soon we shall be observing the Nativity of our Saviour with the nativity of a free and independent Ukraine.

ВЕСЕЛИХ СВЯТ

— I —

ЩАСЛИВОГО НОВОГО РОКУ

The Ukrainian National Association, "Svoboda," and the "Ukrainian Weekly," join in wishing all their friends

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FRENCH PRESIDENT EXAMINES UKRAINIAN PRESS EXHIBIT

During the recent ceremonies bringing to a close the Paris World's Fair, President Lebrun of France visited the press exhibit, and there stepped into the booth containing a display of Ukrainian newspapers. The sight of so many of them, testifying to their fine development, surprised the President considerably, especially since the very existence of Ukrainian press had been barely known to him. His stop in the Ukrainian booth, it is reported, was longer than that in other booths.

"NATIONALISTIC ELEMENTS" BANE TO REDS

Excerpts from Soviet Ukraine press reprinted in "Dilo" (foremost Western Ukrainian daily, published in Lwiv) reveal that Ukrainian "nationalistic elements" continue to be a source of worry to the Soviet editors. The latter complain that these "elements are sowing enmity between Ukrainian culture and the culture of the great Russian people." As an example of this, they cite the case of some motion pictures made in Ukraine, which were "guilty" of portraying Ukrainians as heroes and Russians as villains. Such films, of course, had to be remade.

GEORGE KOTSUBINSKY EXECUTED

George Kotsubinsky, son of the famous Ukrainian writer, is reported to have become a victim of the purge now raging in the Soviet Union, especially in Ukraine.

In 1918, when the Ukrainians were waging a war for freedom, young Kotsubinsky allied himself with the Reds and fought against the Ukrainian Republic. Now, at the hands of these Reds, he has met the tragic fate of many other such deserters from the Ukrainian Cause, who repented and sought to make amends in the cause of that ideal which they had formerly deserted.—But it was too late!

UKRAINIANS CHARGED WITH PLOT TO ASSASSINATE STALIN

The "Daily Sketch" of London reports the presence of three agents of the Soviet GPU in that English metropolis. Their mission is said to have a connection with the intensive search now being conducted throughout Europe for several persons who are charged with having conspired to assassinate Stalin. The conspiracy is reported to have been hatched in Soviet Ukraine. It was uncovered, and the conspirators fled to England, and it is thought that they are now living in Sussex, suburb of London. Hence the presence of GPU agents.

LOVE AND CHIVALRY

By YURA SHKRUMELYAK

A revised translation by STEPHEN SHUMAYKO

Christmas Eve, 1926, found us, a group of close friends and veterans of the Ukrainian Army, far from home, exiled in Prague. A local Ukrainian student organization had arranged a communal Holy Supper to which we were invited. But though the speeches were ardent, though the traditional Ukrainian courses were served, though we sang the "kolyadi," yet none of us felt at home. Despite all efforts of our hosts, the supper reminded us too much of the restaurant or mess hall. There was none of that warm atmosphere of home. And therefore, when at the close of the supper my comrade Vasylo suggested that a small group of us leave and go to some more homey place and there finish our supper, we all readily agreed.

At the first opportunity we left, four of us: Vasile, Mikola, Volodimir, and myself. It was snowing. A few minutes of trudging brought us to the door of Volodimir's quarters. Entering, Volodimir made haste to start a fire, for it was quite cold inside. In a few moments the crackling and cheerful humming of the fire lightened our spirits. We discarded our overcoats and sat down to the tea which our host prepared.

In accordance with the ancient Ukrainian custom, we first sang a few "kolyadki," but rather softly, timidly, so that we would not waken the others in the building. The singing livened us up, however. We began discussing the various Ukrainian customs connected with Christmas. Volodimir refilled our cups with steaming tea.

"Listen, comrades," he broke in. "The night is long. Let's enjoy ourselves in some manner, but quietly."

"How can we enjoy ourselves quietly?" smiled the lively Mikola.

"I've got an idea," continued Volodimir, casting a rather strange glance at Mikola. "Suppose everyone of us tells a story based on some incident in his life that happened on Christmas Eve. That should be interesting."

"Good idea!" I exclaimed. "Let's start now."

For a moment there was absolute silence, as each one of us tried to recall some such incident. Mikola was the first to break this silence. He seemed, in the brief interval, to have saddened.

"Your minds are sluggish," he said, "and so I will tell my story first."

"Go ahead, Mikola, tell yours first," we chorused.

All grew quiet again. Somehow I had the strange feeling that this was to be an unusual story. This feeling grew more positive when I saw Volodimir looking with peculiar intentness at Mikola.

"That about which I shall tell you," began Mikola, "took place in the winter of 1918-1919. You all remember those memorable years. The scene of my story lay on the Polish-Ukrainian front near L'viv. It was Christmas Eve, 1919.

I was a lieutenant then, in command of a platoon in the sector near the memorable for us and our enemy the village of Sokilnyk. You recall the fighting at that time—a long drawn out struggle. Neither the enemy nor ourselves could dislodge one another from his position. As a result, both sides dug in. Fighting diminished in intensity, which left more time on our hands than before. Leaves

of absences were granted quite regularly.

But where could a soldier on leave go when he was so near the front. Some sat around in the rough shelters and played cards, talked, while others took a "jump" to the nearby villages. Among the latter was I.

In one such village, which I shall call Slavyaniw, I found a most welcome relaxation. In the local preceptor's there was a very pretty, and what is more important, intelligent daughter, 18 year-old Slavtsa. She was a Seminary student, but now at home because her parents feared to be alone so near the front.

Slavtsa was a most agreeable girl, of a happy disposition, dreamy; and I was 22. 'Tis no wonder then, that we, having met "accidentally," became inseparable. I fell deeply in love with her—and, it seemed to me, she returned my love. Hardly two weeks had gone by when we had already determined to plight our troth. Christmas Eve coming in a few days, we decided to tell her parents of our intention then, and by the Jordan Holiday get married.

I was happy as a lark, but as yet I did not disclose my love for her to anyone.

But no... there was one whom I told. His name was Roman. He was my closest friend. We had known each other well from boyhood, attended the Gymnasium together, and now, being lieutenants in the same sector, were inseparable comrades, so much so that we were dubbed "twins." And thus only he, my friend Roman, knew my secret, and in my company several times visited the girl's home as the guest of her parents. I disclosed to him my intention of marrying her. And he gave all evidence of his happiness at the news, congratulated me heartily, and began to prepare to be the best man at my wedding. I did not anticipate the slightest trouble from anyone, and impatiently awaited Christmas Eve—and then, Jordan!

But! Trouble never sleeps! Listen further.

Came Christmas Eve. And it so happened that our company became transferred to my sweetheart's village. It could not have been any better!

"Well, today is the day of your major offensive on the ramparts of your Slavtsa's heart!" exclaimed Roman banteringly.

I nodded vigorously.

"Yes, today is the day. I shall propose to her, ask for her parent's consent, and then we shall become engaged!" And in my happiness I vigorously pumped his hand.

"Go, pal, and good luck to you!" Roman said as I was leaving.

And I went.

The Holy Supper went off very pleasantly. My Slavtsa's cheeks were red as roses. We both had considerable difficulty in repressing our excitement while waiting for a suitable moment to break the news to her parents.

Finally that moment arrived. After we had sung the first "kolyada," I rose from behind the table and approached her parents. Just then I heard a slight sound outside the window, as if someone had darted past. But in my present state of nervousness, I paid no attention to it. I stepped up to the father and mother of my Slavtsa, and, bowing ceremoniously...

Suddenly, the door was flung open. It banged against the wall.

In the doorway appeared my friend Roman. He looked wild and dishevelled.

"Christ Is Born!" he greeted us excitedly, and then turning to me, cried:

"Mikola, don't lose a moment! The enemy has broken through our lines! Our forces are in full flight. They are nearing the village right now! There is no time to lose! Come!"

I felt as if the ground had dropped out from under me. My Slavtsa was pale as a ghost. Her parents looked as if they were about to faint. However I did not utter a word. Just a "good night" and I was out of the house.

Two saddled horses were standing nearby. I looked inquiringly at Roman.

"I got the horses because our commands are far in the front, and we will have to race to catch up with them," Roman explained. "So let's go!"—and off we went.

We galloped with the wind for about two miles. All around us was deathly silence. Above a full moon shone. Our racing shadows cast grotesque shapes on the snow-covered ground.

"Why is everything so quiet, if there was an attack?" I asked Roman, who was riding at my side.

"Probably a lull," he replied. "Over there yonder, beyond the rise in the ground, are our troops."

We galloped on. Finally we topped the rise.

Nobody was in sight. All quiet and peaceful.

"What is this, Roman? Are you playing a joke on me?" I cried, bringing my horse to a halt. A sudden thought struck my mind. Yes! That was it! Now I knew!

"No, Mikola, I'm not joking," replied Roman. "I was never more serious in my life. Listen, I purposely got you out of the house so that you would not become engaged to Slavtsa!"

"But why?" I exclaimed, amazed. "Don't you want me to take a wife for myself? Why?"

"That's not it, Mikola. The fact is—I love Slavtsa too! And whether she is to be yours or mine, we shall settle right now, with weapons!"

"Oh!" I cried, wounded to the very heart. All my ideals came tumbling down before my feet... But quickly I recovered my self-possession. Jumping off my horse I drew my revolver, and said:

"Agreed, comrade! Get ready! five steps!..."

Roman took his position five paces away from me and drew his revolver.

"On 'three' we shoot! Aim well!"—and he began to count off. "One... two... three..."

Suddenly the rat-tat-tat of a machine gun was heard, followed by sounds of heavy firing. We could hear the cries and shouts of men, somewhere to the left of us.

For a few seconds we stood there like graven images, then slowly lowered our guns.

"Mikola!" spoke Roman. "Let's leave this to some other time, for it will indeed be a crime to settle a personal dispute at this time."

I nodded my head in assent.

"I think the enemy is trying to surround our sector," I commented dully.

Without another word we both mounted and galloped off to the sound of the firing. In a quarter of an hour our company fell upon the enemy, who was attempting a flank movement, and quickly wiped

him out. Such was Christmas Eve in 1919.

And in the early morning, when our work was over, I stood by a sleigh, and on it there lay—Roman, dead. He had been killed in the thickest of the fighting—a hero's death.

Standing there by his corpse, the corpse of my dearest friend, I resolved:—Farewell, my Slavtsa, forever!... My comrade Roman won you and not I... for he laid down his life before me in a holy cause—Ukrainian Freedom. I shall never become engaged to you. That is my duty to my dead comrade, who loved you too..."

And thus I wrote to her—about everything, just as it happened—and from that time I have never heard from her nor seen her. I did not want to see her...

"And so," concluded Mikola, "my story is finished." His usually lively features were heavy with sorrow.

No one spoke. All of us stared into the ground, sad and thoughtful.

"But no, Mikola! It is not finished!" Volodimir's voice, tense, broke the silence.

We all looked up, surprised.

"Listen, Mikola!" Volodimir continued, rather breathlessly. "Is your resolution to never marry Slavtsa as strong as ever? Neither you nor she are married, you know..."

"Do you know her, Volodku?" Mikola asked in an amazed tone.

Volodimir nodded his head.

A gleam of happiness appeared in Mikola's eyes, but just as swiftly disappeared.

"Yes, Volodku," he continued, sadly, yet resolutely. "My resolution is as strong as ever, and always will be. I shall never marry her."

"In that case I have a free hand with her!" exclaimed Volodimir, drawing out of his pocket a letter, and handing it over to Mikola.

"I have known Slavtsa for a long time and have loved her from the very start," he explained. "She told me about you two, Mikola and Roman, and for that reason I did not take steps to marry her. For I first wanted to hear from you. And tonight I purposely gave the beginning to the recital of your story, so that we could mark a 'finis' to the whole episode. Please try to understand, and don't be angry with me..."

Mikola finished reading the letter, his hands slightly trembling. He gave it back to Volodimir, and said in a quiet voice:

"She sends her greetings to me... Yes, Volodku, go ahead and marry her, and may God bless you both. You have my best wishes. And as for me—tell her to forget me..."

Volodimir rose and gripped Mikola by arms. His eyes were glistening when he sat down again. Mikola, the lively one, wept unashamedly.

Nobody spoke after that. We were all too moved to listen to any more stories. Drinking down the tea, we bade each other good-night and a Merry Christmas, and departed.

Trudging home through the snow, which was still falling, I felt rather depressed, and yet I could not help but feel happy that Chivalry still lives in this world, and that among us—Knighthood is still in flower.

END.

UKRAINE IN 1937

The extreme interest centred in Eastern Europe during the past year brings the Ukrainian question to the fore. It would be misleading to deal with such problems as that of Poland, Czechoslovakia, or even Rumania, and to ignore the vital significance of Ukrainian minorities in those countries. As for the Ukrainians under the Soviet, events of 1937 speak for themselves. The strong and spontaneous desire for independence of a people such as the Ukrainian cannot be indefinitely suppressed, however ruthless the persecution.

In UKRAINE UNDER THE U. S. S. R. 1937 has seen no improvement; rather the reverse. The fiercest dictatorship in history has shown itself totally unable to destroy the longing of Ukrainians for independence and freedom from the Soviet. The year has seen the inauguration of Stalin's Constitution—and a renewal of the notorious "purges" on an enormous scale, conducted with especial intensity against Ukrainians.

Important personalities who have been lauded by "Red"—propagandists in the most extravagant superlatives; have been suddenly apprehended, and condemned to death, or exiled, as plotters against the very edifice to the building of which they have notably contributed, and a significantly large proportion of the victims have been Ukrainians, who have been accused of espionage, not only in the interests of Germany, but—ironically enough—of the Polish Government. The most amazing case was that of Lubchenko, head of the Ukrainian Government, regarded as one of the most ardent and promising of the younger Communists, who committed suicide when suspected of anti-Soviet activities. There is little doubt that this tragedy was in consequence of the exposure of nationalist separatist groups in Khar'kov and elsewhere in the Ukraine. Then, incredible as it may seem, came the news that Lubchenko's successor, Bondarenko, regarded as a fanatical Stalinite, had been arrested on a charge of "maintaining treasonable contact with Ukrainian Separatists with headquarters in Berlin." There were also Postyshev, Secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party, who, like Lubchenko, committed suicide to escape arrest; Zatonksi, Commissar for Education since 1932 (he succeeded the "Old Guard" Skrypnik, who also took his life) an Archbishop and several highly-placed Ukrainian clergy, unnamed; General Petrovski, commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Army; Marshal Tukhachevsky, and several Generals on a charge of plotting to cede Ukraine to Germany; Colonel Borisenko, Commander of the Ukrainian Tank Regiment; Balitsky, Secretary of the Ukrainian G.P.U., Popoff, Editor of the Official organ; "The Communist" of Ukraine; and the entire political bureau of the Ukrainian Young Communist's League.

The story of 1937 has amply demonstrated that, far from bringing democracy nearer to the peoples of the Soviet—the much-boasted New Constitution has necessitated getting rid of every potential, or actual, oppositional element which might challenge Stalin's supremacy on democratic principles. Therefore it need hardly be said that the result of the plebiscite held in December was a foregone conclusion. Only one candidate was provided for each constituency—the official one—and electors knew well that deletion of that candi-

date's name was strongly disapproved, and as for abstention, that was a course not likely to be followed by the majority, seeing that to vote was imposed as an absolute duty of citizenship, and that there was a system of passport-checking at the polls.

But even had the Constitution been fulfilled to the letter, and Stalin's promises honored, this would have been irrelevant to Ukrainians, for whom only one article of the Constitution has any significance, viz. No. 17, which gives them the right freely to secede from the Union, and to form an independent State. This right of self-determination belongs to every Nation, on democratic principles, and it is all that the Ukrainians claim.

IN UKRAINE UNDER POLAND events during 1937 have shown clearly that the Government's policy remains the same. The new National programme inaugurated at the beginning of the year is, admittedly, based on purely Polish Nationalist principles, and aims at creating a one-party system composed exclusively of Poles, in which minorities will play no part. Poland has been brought appreciably nearer to the totalitarian State, in spite of assurances to the contrary, and there seems small likelihood that the situation will be bettered for Ukrainians.

Conditions in Poland could not be better illustrated than by the words of the President of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Representation in Poland, Mr. Mudry. Speaking in the Sejm, on December 2, during the Budget debate, he said: "The Ukrainian question has, in the eyes of the average Polish citizen, become a sinister threat to Poland. Every cultural activity of Ukrainians is regarded as a danger to Polish cultural expansion. Every economic or co-operative activity is regarded as a danger to Polish economic expansion. Even sport is regarded, by the Polish Nationalist element, and by the Government itself, as a danger to the State, not to mention Ukrainian political activities, which are viewed as the gravest danger of all, almost a spectre of War..."

"I only repeat," said Mr. Mudry, "what I said in this house on December 6th, 1935, and on December 2nd, 1936. I do not withdraw even one syllable. In the third year of our attempt to establish an understanding—a "modus vivendi"—between Poles and Ukrainians, I must say that the situation is very bad indeed..." And he concludes: "Events in Poland and in the whole world are developing at an alarming speed. The whole of Europe seems to be rumbling and quaking like a volcano, and it seems only a matter of the day and hour when that volcano will erupt. There is no question that our Ukrainian territory will be involved. Out of this cataclysm we have the right to expect to draw as many advantages as possible for ourselves. We have very much to gain and very little to lose, but Poland as a State will probably have much to lose if a war overtakes her in such a condition as she is now in, viz. a land torn by vital, conflicting interests, amongst which is that of the Ukrainians."

UKRAINIANS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA inhabit chiefly the autonomous province of Podkarpatska Rus, although a great number of them were incorporated into Slovakia. Changes in political boundaries, to give a great meas-

ure of justice to Ukrainians, have been contemplated in Prague, but so far they have not been carried out.

According to Czech statistics of 1930, there were, in Czechoslovakia, 549,169 Ukrainians (Ruthenians) though Ukrainians themselves claim that their number has been put far too low, as, according to denominational statistics, it should be in the region of 700,000.

Judged relatively, Ukrainians in Czechoslovakia are considerably better off than they are in any other country with a Ukrainian minority, though there is still much to be desired. Autonomy, which was one of the conditions under which Ukrainians of Podkarpatska Rus joined the Czechoslovakian Republic, has not been fully granted, though during 1937 some of the steps towards that end have been taken. Law 172/37, which became implemented from October 8th, 1937, defines the powers of the Governor. He receives the right of decision in some matters relating to local administration, but his powers are, so far, not so great as had been hoped. The Government still pursues a policy of "Divide et impera" and discerns several nationalities; "Russian," "Ruthenian," and "Ukrainian," where, in fact, the is only one, which policy is extremely galling to Ukrainians. The recent policy of introducing Russian text-books into the schools aroused spontaneous protest amongst the Ukrainians of Podkarpatska Rus, culminating in the National Congress held at Uzhhorod on October 17th, when some 20,000 people and delegates took part, and from twelve to fifteen thousand paraded the streets, sending a resolution to Prague. It is to be hoped that these grievances will soon be settled by the elimination of their causes.

UKRAINIANS IN RUMANIA are probably experiencing the worst oppression of any minority in Europe.

Although there are nearly one million Ukrainians in Rumania, they have not a single school. Cultural associations are prohibited by order of the police, and, in the past year, in spite of the Concordat with Rome, even the Church has been attacked, and deprived of most of its autonomous rights.

A distinguished British traveller who visited these parts in 1937, said, during a lecture to a select London audience: "...These Ukrainians are today a subject people whose area is being colonised in order to ensure their being a minority. Bukovina is a province of about a million people. The attitude and measures of local officials are such that the truth seldom penetrates into, or leaks out of, Bukovina. Taxation, chiefly for police and military purposes elsewhere, is crushing. It often represents to the peasants as much as the results of six month's work..." One need hardly add anything to this.

FROM THE UKRAINIAN BUREAU

With the coming of 1938, the Bureau commences its eight year. We desire, at this time, to repeat our statement, made in the first bulletin issued by this office. That statement was that the Bureau is dedicated to the Ukrainian Nation as a whole, without interest in, or favor to, any particular political group, or groups. It is established to assist all Ukrainians in whatever way possible, and to aid them in

re-establishing their independence, and once more uniting them as a Nation. It is, always has been, and always will be, against Communism in all its forms, for we firmly believe that the ills of the present day are directly, and indirectly, due to, and inspired by Moscow, and we will continue to fight against this curse.

The sponsors of the Bureau, and they are but two in number, wish to thank their many friends for their interest in, and sympathy with, this fight for Ukrainian independence. They appreciate the enormous amount of work that has been done to bring this just cause to the attention of the English-speaking peoples, which has resulted in a marked growth of interest in the Ukrainian cause.

May our relations with the British people continue to be as friendly as they have been heretofore. May we continue in the future as we have for the past eight years—with our struggle for recognition of a problem that has long since ceased to be in the interests of the Ukrainians alone. And may the dawn of a new and better day come within the coming year for all Ukrainian people wherever they may be.

UKRAINIAN BUREAU
(London, England)

WOMEN'S MASS MEETING HELD IN PHILADELPHIA

The Ukrainian women of Philadelphia have long been aware of the necessity that exists for organizing themselves—young and old. Taking a big step forward in this direction a committee consisting of members from the five existing branches of "Soyuz Ukrainok" in Philadelphia called a women's mass meeting on December 19, 1937.

Mrs. Boyko, chairman of the committee, called Mrs. Lototsky to act as chairman during the meeting. Mrs. Panamarenko and Miss Kish acted as secretaries.

The general theme of the speakers was "Organization," especially of the youth. Mrs. Horochivsky and Mrs. Fostyk represented the Olga Basarabova branch. Mrs. Holowaty represented the Ukrainian American Women's Association, branch 41. Miss Bilyi and Miss Sywulak represented the newly organized junior branch of the "Soyuz Ukrainok." They spoke in American and brought forth some of the problems facing the young generation of Ukrainians in America.

Mrs. Helen Stogryn, who recently returned from a tour of Ukraine, talked about the conditions there, especially in Galicia. She was enthusiastically received by the young women in the audience who have never seen Ukraine as well as by those whose native land is Ukraine.

A collection was taken up among the members of the audience, the proceeds of which are to go toward the culture and education of the women in villages of Ukraine.

Several important resolutions were passed, and it is hoped that with this auspicious beginning the organization of Ukrainian women in Philadelphia will leap ahead and give an incentive for similar work in all Ukrainian communities.

MARIE R. KISH, Sec.

UKRAINIAN ARTISTS IN PHILLY

Two noted Ukrainian operatic artists—Maria Sokil, prima donna, and Antin Rudnitsky, pianist-composer-director, who recently arrived from Galicia, Ukraine, will perform at the Ukrainian Hall, 849 N. Franklin St., Philadelphia, Sunday evening, Jan. 9.

In Detroit they sang before an overflow crowd of 1,200 Ukrainians.

RAY OF SUNSHINE

By RAY DAMER

UKRAINIA CHRISTMAS IN THE OLD COUNTRY

Many of us who have read or heard tales about the Ukrainian Christmas in Ukraine, wonder how people can have such a wonderful time with such simple means — without jazz orchestras, without mechanical devices, without alcoholic drink, without cars, without latest styles in clothing, without electric lights.

Although I was only a youngster about 7 years of age, I can recollect with the greatest of pleasure the last Christmas I spent in Sassiw, Galicia (Western Ukraine) before embarking for America. Sassiw is a small village whose chief occupation is agriculture, pottery making, and fruit drying. Here the peasants live a simple life, eat simple food, and dress in simple style clothes which have been made from material of their own manufacture.

In Sassiw and throughout other Ukrainian villages, Christmas preparations begin about 3 months in advance. Mothers must start at such far-ahead time to store and economize on food for the holidays. Milk and cream must be saved to make butter and cheese. Pigs and other animals are killed, smoked, and stored away. Meats are not eaten because of "Peest" and scarcity of supply. Eggs must be accumulated so that they can be sold to buy household necessities such as salt, pepper, sugar, candles, kerosene, and oil.

For seven weeks prior to Christmas, everyone observes the holiday fast. During this Christmas period the peasants are deprived of many things most of us consider absolute necessities, such as milk, cheese, meats, white flour products, etc. In addition, once every week, usually on Friday, according to strict religious rules, the older folks fast all day (which incidentally is a very good health rule to follow). For almost two months these people curb their appetites — but they don't seem to mind it. They look forward to the holidays, to the many good things to eat, to wear that new pair of trousers or that new dress. The children are a bit impatient, for it is only on Christmas that they can eat all their hearts desire of rich and sweet foods.

When Christmas Eve comes all the foods have been cooked, the tables set and the floor has been covered with 6 to 12 inches of straw and hay. On this soft covering the children enjoy themselves by wrestling and playing tag. The Christmas tree has been beautifully and deliciously decorated with fresh and dried fruits, cookies, nuts, lumps of sugar, and rolls of peppermint candies.

At about 8 o'clock the house is lit with candles and food is served. The supper usually consists of a 12 course meal — with double helpings for those who ask for it. Later in the evening all members of the family and guests take part in games of chance, games of fortune and singing of Christmas Carols. Near midnight groups are formed which go about singing carols outside of every home.

Christmas day itself is observed first by attending church. Rich and poor, healthy and the sick — all are present in church. Before one enters the church one must pass a long line of beggars, invalids and needy people who have come to beg for food and money. After the Mass the people separate in long processions, homeward bound. At home another feast is resumed. In the evening both young and old dance to the music of a two piece orchestra — one violin and a drum.

And so ends the Ukrainian Christmas in my village in the old country. The people go back to work, back to a diet of black bread, borsch, cabbage, back to simple living. Somehow they have learned the philosophy to take the good with the bad. They do

XMAS STORY

(The oldest Legend of All)

And it came to pass that God had ordered all the youths to gather at the church. Each was to carry a staff. The one whose staff came to life, would be chosen as the protector of Mary.

Mary was a pure and holy virgin who spent much of her time in prayer.

Now, Joseph was an older man, being well past 30 years of age, but to and behold, as he entered the church, carrying a staff, it at once burst forth with new leaves. So Joseph was chosen then as Mary's guardian and protector.

Now, it came about that the Romans in power were collecting a tax and taking a census, so Mary and Joseph travelled to the nearest city, Bethlehem, for that purpose.

Night had fallen and they stopped at the city Inn, hoping to get a room in which to pass the night.

The Inn keeper inquired of them if they had the price of the room. He quoted a price far above what they had expected to pay.

"I've many guests this night. My Inn is full of merry people with full purses tonight. It is already too full. There is no room in my Inn for poor travelers tonight!"

The hope died out of Joseph's eyes and Mary's filled with tears. She was weary of the travel.

Joseph started to speak again, but the door slammed shut upon upon warmth, friendly light and the smell of food.

Mary shivered a little. Joseph took off his mantle to wrap it about her more securely.

They plodded along hopelessly, in a search of a place to stop.

"Perhaps, on the outskirts of the town, some kind soul will give us lodging," thought Joseph, as he directed Mary.

Just at this instant, they saw a light, a bright gleaming star, in the distance, as if beckoning to them.

"Hurry, Joseph," said Mary, "we must hurry now!" At the same time a sigh of relief escaped her lips. She pointed, "There perhaps will be a kind soul who will let us rest for the night."

The star grew brighter and nearer as they approached. Soon they saw a stable, not far off, and a bright star directly over it, lighting up its windows.

There Mary and Joseph stopped under the star, so bright it lit up the interior of the manger.

The star was so bright and big that all the shepherds were attracted by its glory and followed its direction, hearing the singing of angels louder and louder as they came nearer to the manger. Within and all around the manger was a great and holy light. There angels were singing hosannas.

The shepherds entered, looked upon the Christ child and were amazed, for the Prediction had come true, Jesus Christ, the Child of God was born.

So they went forth and told the Great News to all the world!

T. BORESKY.

not complain as often as their friends here in America that life is troublesome, full of care, disappointment and bitterness.

A MERRY UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY UKRAINIAN NEW YEAR TO ALL.

ABSOLUTELY LAST WEEK TO ENTER CONTEST

Contest will close January 8th. Consult previous issues for details.

PENN-YORK UKRAINIANS WANT BOOKINGS

The Penn-York Ukrainians' Athletic Club wish to announce that they are ready to play basketball and would like to book games with teams within a reasonable distance of New York City. The club has intentions of joining the

ATTENTION BASKETBALL MANAGERS

The Ukrainian Youth's League Basketball Tournament is now under way and unless the following requirements are complied with by January 22, 1938, your team will be automatically excluded.

1. Send small snapshots of each player with his name and address written thereon.

2. Send the required one-dollar (\$1.00) to help cover the expense of trophies.

3. Send full line-ups of every game, including the individual scoring so that the League officials can have a complete basis for judging the respective merits of the teams entered.

All this send immediately, either to your District Leader; the Assistant Director of your region; or directly to the Director.

The Assistant Directors and their addresses are as follows: Eastern Division (provisional): Paul Ripka, 1397 East 2nd Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Western Division: Stephen Madezki, 3465 Stickney Avenue, Toledo, Ohio; Canadian division: Peter Waslyk, 510 King Street West, Toronto, Canada.

William Haschak, Director
211 Ward Street,
Chester, Pa.

OPEN OHIO BASKETBALL CARNIVAL

Opening a gala Basketball Carnival, the Akron Ukes stepped into first place in the Ukrainian Ohio State Basketball League, by defeating the Rossford Ukes 22-20 and the Cleveland Sacred Hearts, 31-28, in a doubleheader played Sunday afternoon, December 19th, in Akron.

The Akronites met and defeated the Rossford Ukes in a hard fought, overtime battle, for their first victory of the afternoon. John Lesniak and Victor Pulk shared scoring honors for the victors with 6 points each.

Trailing at the half by a 17-9 score, the Akron team climaxed the Carnival with a thrilling 22-20 win over the Sacred Hearts of Cleveland. John Pulk scored 14 points for the Akron team, while Oleksyk of the C. S. H. collected 10.

In conjunction with the Basketball Carnival, which included several other games between various Akron teams, the Ivan Franko Club held a card party and social hour at the Church Hall immediately after the games. Members and friends of the visiting teams were guests. The affair was well attended.

GENEVIEVE ZEPKO.

NEW YORK CITY.

Make your reservations now for the **TESTIMONIAL DINNER** tendered by the Ukrainian Democratic Club and the Women's Auxiliary on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 1937**, in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel McAlpin, 34th St., and 6th Ave. — Commencement at 7:00 P. M. Ticket \$3.00. Fine Entertainment and Good Music. 304,5,11

Ukrainian Youths' League of North America and would like to play league teams. A few of the players on the club's team are Mike Kobach, Pete Evans, Paul Poticha, Wallace Sheska, Steve Nazar, Joe Nazar and John Vitushinsky. For games and further information interested parties should communicate with Wallace Sheska, 132 West 71st St., New York, N. Y.

The Penn-York club has always been an athletic club but because of requests made by Pennsylvania Ukrainians living in and around New York City the club has decided to include social activities in its schedule. All Pennsylvanians living in New York City are invited to become members of the Penn-York club, this invitation including the fair sex. For detailed information write to Wallace Sheska at the aforementioned address. THEODORE LUTWINIAK.

BASKETBALL LEAGUE FORMED IN N. Y. METROPOLITAN AREA

There has been recently formed a Basketball League under the auspices of the Ukrainian Youth's League of North America. Its members are confined to the Metropolitan Sector, and include the New York Ukrainians, Yonkers Fourth Ward Ukrainians, Passaic Lions, Newark Sharpshooters, Elizabeth Social Club, and Newark Club Ukraine.

The purpose of the League is to make the selection of the sectional champion more equitable than in previous times.

Any other teams desirous of joining should communicate immediately with the writer. The League will begin its games as soon as possible.

Paul Ripka, Assistant Director
1397 East 2nd Street
Brooklyn, N. Y.

CHICAGO CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

At the yearly meeting of the Ameruks Social and Athletic Club, held at Loukup's Club Rooms, Chicago, Friday, December 17, 1937, the following officers were elected for the year 1938: Pres., William Costytion (who was re-elected for the fourth consecutive term); Chairman of Board of Directors, John Bobbee; Vice President, Ann Gura; Rec. Sec., Ann Patrun; Fin. Sec., Ann Hrynshyn; Treasurer, Steve Lubezny; Controllers, M. Elkow and H. Lantvit.

Refreshments were served and talented members entertained at this meeting. Members also enjoyed dancing to the music of Lubez till the wee hours of the morning.

The Club decided to sponsor a New Year's outing to be followed by numerous other social events in the future. The social calendar of the year will be made up by the Board of Directors. Among the various projects discussed at the meeting was that of a club newspaper. This matter, however, was postponed for further discussion at next meeting.

The members will go carol singing this year as in the years previous.

WILLIAM COSTYTION.

NEW YORK CITY.

ANNIVERSARY DANCE sponsored by Ukrainian Social Club of Astoria and St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Club at Hotel Victoria, Main Ballroom, 51st St. and Seventh Ave., New York City, **SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1938**. Music by Balt Mariah and his Orchestra. Subscription One Dollar. Commencing 8:30 P. M. Dress Optional. 5,11,17

NEW YORK CITY.

COURSES in the Ukrainian Language will begin at the International Institute, 344 E. 17th St., on **MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1937** as follows: 7—8 P. M. Beginners courses; 8—9 Intermediate course; 9—10 Advanced course. Ukrainian literature courses: Jan. 10. Consolidation of the Ukrainian nation under Saint Volodimir. Translated literature. Jan. 17. Yaroslav the Wise, his relations with other races. Development of original literature. Jan. 24. Volodimir Monomakh. Ukrainian literature at the outset of 12th century. Jan. 31. "The Song of Ihor's Legion". Nestor Novovirsky, Instructor.

NEW YORK CITY:

Want to dance again? Then come to the **THIRD ANNUAL DANCE** to be given by the Ukrainian University Society in the International Institute, 344 East 17th Street, on **JANUARY 15th, 1938**. Swell music will be played by an all-girl orchestra (The Melody Girls), and valuable door prizes will be given. Admission 50¢. The proceeds will be given to the Student Aid Fund for courses in the Ukrainian language and for the publication of Prof. C. A. Manning's lecture on Ivan Franko. 5