

# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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Dedicated to the needs and interests of young Americans of Ukrainian descent.

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## UYL-NA TO HOLD RALLY IN NEW YORK JUNE 8

Further plans for the coming Ukrainian-American Youth Rally in the East to be held under the auspices of the Ukrainian Youth's League of North America, Saturday, June 8, at Hotel Edison, New York City, were drawn up at a meeting last Wednesday night of approximately 45 representatives of 25 youth clubs in the New York Metropolitan Area, including Newark, Elizabeth, and Raritan, N. J. The rally program will consist of an afternoon session devoted to a discussion of a few of the most vital problems confronting young Ukrainian-Americans, and an optional-dress dance in the evening, in the grand ballroom of the hotel, which is located on West 47th St., in the Times Square district. The admission to the rally will be free, to the dance \$1.00.

Among the topics to be discussed will be one pertaining to the role the younger generation must now begin to play in our adult organizations. How our young people can best foster the spirit of Americanism in these critical times, will be another topic to be treated at the rally. Finally, an examination will be made as to the best methods available now to our younger generation to help Ukraine win her national freedom. Besides the regular youth speakers several prominent American guests will also address the rally.

Those attending the meeting constituted themselves as the general rally committee, which will work in close cooperation with the League officers.

The meeting was conducted by Michael Piznak, president of the League. Evelyn Kalakura and Helen Slobodian, League secretaries, fulfilled their functions as such at the meeting.

## CURRENT NUPTIALS

Among the better known of our young Ukrainian-Americans who have decided to enter the state of marital bliss are Stephen Jarema, member of the New York State Assembly, and John W. Kosbin, an officer of the Ukrainian Youth's League of North America.

Mr. Jarema became wedded last Thursday. His bride is Olga Bugera of Astoria, L. I. She studied at N.Y.U. and Columbia University. The groom attended Columbia and was graduated from the Fordham Law School. Besides practicing law and serving in the Assembly (8 A.D.) during the past few years, he is also a member of various American benevolent and political organizations. In addition, he is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Ukrainian Youth's League of North America, whose vice-president he was at one time. The wedding took place at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City.

Mr. Kosbin's entrance into matrimony will take place this afternoon, at the same church as above. His bride will be Elsie Hociy of New York City, a graduate of Hunter College, where she received a B.A. Active in Ukrainian-American youth circles, she occupies at present the posts of secretary of U.N.A. branch 423, and secretary of the Ukrainian Youth Chorus of New York and New Jersey. John, resident of Brooklyn, but born in Woonsocket, R. I., attended N.Y.U. and C.C. N.Y. He has been active in Ukrainian-American youth life and has occupied many responsible positions in it. At present he is the financial secretary of the Ukrainian Youth's League of North America, and in former years was its Recording Secretary. U.N.A. activities have engaged much of his time. He is financial secretary of U.N.A. branch 423, and participates in local U.N.A. sports. In

## A SURPRISING SITUATION

Surprising though it may be, our average young person, in fact even one who is above the average, knows very little about his Ukrainian background. Questions of the most elementary nature concerning Ukrainian history, culture, traditions, literature, language stump him nine times out of ten. Even such a universally acknowledged poet as Taras Shevchenko is actually very little known to him.

The most deplorable feature of this situation is its total inexcusability. A decade ago or so there was some excuse for it. Then our present younger generation was in its childhood days. More important still, there was a complete dearth then of printed material in English on the subject of its Ukrainian background. Since that time, however, our younger generation has become quite mature, and enough such material has appeared in English to satisfy even the most serious student of Ukrainiana. The Ukrainian Weekly alone during the past seven years of its existence has printed more reliable information in English about things Ukrainian than can be found anywhere. Then there are the various books and booklets which are inclusive enough to satisfy the needs of our young people. Spirit of Ukraine, The Ukrainian National Movement, Ukraine and American Democracy, and Taras Shevchenko, are but few of the many.

Apparently, however, the younger generation has made very little use of all this wealth of material. For if it had, it certainly would be better informed on the subject than it is at present.

Various conjectures can be made relative to the reason why our young folks have not availed themselves of all that has been published in the language they can best understand about the land and people of Ukraine. Perhaps leading them all has been the general tendency among them to favor the so-called "light reading" and to ignore anything whose assimilation may require a little mental effort.

That is a dangerous tendency. Those who are unfortunate enough to possess it, soon find themselves in a position where their intellectual and imaginative powers become narrow, their personalities shallow, and their accomplishments petty indeed.

A little serious study of one's Ukrainian background will help to overcome this tendency, and at the same time enrich one's personality and life.

All this is especially applicable to those of our younger generation who have occasion to address others of their kind on Ukrainian and yet who despite their education and position of leadership, betray in the act their general lack of knowledge of their Ukrainian background and cultural heritage.

## U.C.Y.L. TO HOLD RALLY IN PHILLY

The Ukrainian Catholic Youth League of N.A. will hold its 4th annual rally in Philadelphia on Sunday, May 26, 1940 at the Hotel Lorain, Broad and Fairmount Ave. From 2 o'clock to 5 P. M. there will be a afternoon session of speeches and discussions at the hotel. Among the speakers will be, Miss M. Klachko, who recently returned from Carpatho-Ukraine; and also Michael J. Bradley, U. S. Congressman from Pennsylvania. The Rev. P. H. Tarnavsky will deliver the invocation and the closing prayers. In the evening, a gala dance presided by a popular dance band bring the rally to a close.

## TEACHES AT MORDKIN'S

Michael Herman, who lists among his accomplishments being dance Director of International House, leader of the Ukrainian Folk Dance Circle of New York, the Ukrainian Dancers Club of Elizabeth, N. J., and the Danish Folk Dance Society of Brooklyn, is now teaching folk dances at the Mordkin Ballet Studios.

In addition he is vice-president of several years standing of the Ukrainian Youth Chorus of N. Y. and N. J.

## BISHOP BUCHKO ARRIVES HERE

Last Monday a delegation of Ukrainian Catholic dignitaries welcomed to these shores Bishop John Buchko, former assistant to Metropolitan Andrew Sheptitsky at L'viv, recently a Visitor of the Apostolic See to the Ukrainian parishes throughout South America, and now Coadjutor of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese in America under Bishop Constantia Bohachevsky.

As reported in the February 3rd issue of the Weekly, Bishop Buchko had an unpleasant experience in Brazil during his visit to the Ukrainian parish at Curitiba. During the course of his sermon there police broke into church and demanded he stop using the Ukrainian language, creating such an uproar that the services had to be discontinued. The act of the police was one of the many perpetrated by the authorities in various sections of Brazil in line with their policy to denationalize the ethnic groups residing there, including the Ukrainians.

Bishop Buchko is now in Philadelphia.

## CONGRESS CONCERT TO PORTRAY UKRAINE'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

Judging by its rehearsals thus far, the concert of Ukrainian songs to be presented by the specially selected mixed and male choruses under Prof. Alexander Koshetz at Washington on May 24th at the close of the Congress of American Ukrainians, will be the finest since the memorable time some eighteen years ago when the world-famous Ukrainian National Chorus led by Koshetz toured America.

An unusual feature of the coming concert will be its choral portrayal of Ukraine's struggle for freedom. That will be its dominant tone, especially evident in the selections to be sung by the male chorus.

These selections of themselves will constitute a saga of this heroic struggle. The first of them will portray the opening of the Kozak period in Ukraine history, when the Kozaks were but turbulent yet knightly warriors who fought for honor and fame alone, and cared naught for worldly goods. The next few songs will take in the period when the Kozaks had evolved into staunch and nationally-conscious defenders of Ukraine herself, who drove out her enemies, brought mighty Poland to her knees, and established freedom for their nation. The next historic period to be presented will be Ukraine's decline as the result of the machinations of enemies, and the oppression and denationalization of her people. Next will come the period, when as in Stetsenko's choral composition "Prometheus," Ukraine was enchained by imperial Russia, with the double-headed Russian eagle gnawing away at her vitals, and her life ebbing away. Then will come a group of songs telling in inspired tones of Ukraine's resurrection to independence at the close of the first World War, and of her gallant defenders, the famed Sichovi Striltai, worthy descendants of the brave Kozaks of yore. Finally will come a song which will point out the way to permanent freedom for Ukraine. Its unusually stirring rhythm will set hearts and minds throbbing with an irresistible desire to help Ukraine free herself of foreign misrule and oppression.

Besides these inspiring male chorus selections, there will be a number of others, equally inspiring, which will be presented by the mixed group, of which the male chorus is a part.

The concert will be held in the evening, at Hotel Washington, site of the congress.

## TO DEDICATE CLEVELAND CULTURAL GARDEN

On Sunday, June 2, 1940, the United Ukrainian Organizations of Cleveland, will sponsor a cultural program together with a formal dedication and presentation to the City of Cleveland of the Ukrainian Cultural Gardens in the Rockefeller Park, construction of which is now being completed.

The principal speaker at the exercises will be Prof. Clarence A. Manning of Columbia University, whose article on "The Problem of Ukraine" appeared recently on these pages.

The Ukrainian Cultural Gardens contain, aside from flower beds, shrubs and trees and other plants, the busts of Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Volodimir the Great, and plaques of Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky and the historian Prof. Michael Hrushevsky. The busts are the work of Alexander Archipenko, world-famous Ukrainian-American sculptor and painter. The Ukrainian National Association made a material contribution to defray the costs of these statues.

# UKRAINE'S CASE FOR INDEPENDENCE

By Prof. ALEXANDER A. GRANOVSKY

(From "World Affairs," March, 1940)

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As a matter of fact, the Allies, especially France and Great Britain, recognized de facto the Ukrainian National Republic and accredited their representatives to it. The Central Powers, Germany, Austro-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, recognized the Ukrainian National Republic de jure early in 1918. Separate treaties were effected with Ukraine by such states as Soviet Russia, Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, Esthonia, Georgia and others. Through the success of Soviet Russia in engulfing Ukraine, by fire and sword, Russia imposed on Ukraine on July 6, 1923, a new USSR constitution, formally absorbing Ukraine as a constituent republic of the Soviet Union. Again Ukraine lost her freedom.

There are diverse opinions of the importance of the Brest-Litovsk Treaty and its consequences for the Allies. This treaty, however, from the Ukrainian national standpoint is a master stroke for youthful Ukrainian diplomacy in defense of the Ukrainian independent state. Even the grizzled diplomats of the Central Empires, in their subsequent memoirs, paid due credit to the Ukrainian representatives at Brest-Litovsk. Germany later erred against the newly recognized Ukrainian republic by extending her ruthless tentacles through economic aggression on the riches of free Ukraine. The Ukrainians were then quite justified in their necessary action of deposing the puppet Government of Pavlo Skoropadsky and in reestablishing the democratic state under the leadership of Simon Petlura. This fact again demonstrates the true trend of the Ukrainian national movement.

## Post War Division of Ukraine

On the heels of the Versailles Treaty, the Ukrainian ethnic territory was rent asunder by the avaricious grasp of her neighbors. Soviet Russia by her military aggressive action acquired over 565,000 square kilometers, with about 37 million Ukrainians; Poland was enriched by nearly 130,000 square kilometers and about eight million people; while Rumania obtained 17,000 square kilometers of Ukrainian territory with 1,238,000 people; and Czechoslovakia received 14,000 square kilometers with about three-quarters of a million of Ukrainian population.

This division of Ukrainian territory inflicted an unbelievable reign of terror and oppression on the Ukrainian population, in the process of the efforts of subjugation and assimilation under foreign occupation. It is not the intent to dwell here on the martyrdom of the Ukrainians for the past twenty years. It is sufficient to say that the Ukrainian religious life under Soviet Russia is completely extinct. Hundreds of Ukrainian churches under Poland were either demolished or confiscated. On all Ukrainian territories the national schools were closed and the population reduced to economic misery and bare subsistence, with hardly a trace of national life surviving under the misrule of foreign aggressors, depriving the Ukrainians of the most elementary human rights. Such conditions prevail to this day on all Ukrainian ethnic territories.

## The Ukrainian Will To Freedom

From the fall of 1938 to the middle of March 1939, it seemed that the star of Ukraine was in the ascendancy in Carpatho-Ukraine, until it was eclipsed by the unprecedented Hungarian military occupation of that picturesque and ill-fated country. With the speedy collapse of Poland, the Ukrainians under Polish rule, did not have an opportunity to assert their independence. Reliable news, however, is available that even under those tragic conditions, between the mighty pincers of the German army on the one side, and the uninvited so-called Soviet Russian "liberation" on the other, the Ukrainian na-

tionals established home rule in many villages and towns on the eastern slopes of the Carpathians in the area of Dnubich, Stanislaw, and neighboring towns. While this was crushed by the Soviet occupation with sanguinary consequences, yet the Ukrainians had again manifested their will to freedom!

By the absorption of Western Ukraine and White Ruthenian territories from Poland, Russia has so increased her minorities that the native Russian population actually becomes the minority in the Soviet Union. This fact is of tremendous importance in evaluating the potential strength of Russia and her inevitable collapse. The subsequent news, which is leaking out from her hermetically sealed frontiers, dramatically indicates that she is already encountering serious trouble in Western Ukraine in her efforts to subdue the Ukrainian population. Will these first harbingers predict the more serious consequences for Soviet Russia which have inevitably followed all of Russia's wars in the last hundred years? Only time can tell. The impressive fact is that Russia has failed to win any foreign war in the last hundred years.

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Taking into consideration the Ukrainian ethnic territory, which extends from the beautiful Carpathian Mountains in the west, through the world famed black earth belt and the spacious Cossack steppes along the northern shores of the Black Sea, and then to the northern Caucasian regions and to the Caspian Sea in the east, with the northern boundaries merging in the central regions of what is known as European Russia, it becomes apparent that the future Ukrainian national state, by the size of its territory, over 900,000 square kilometers, will be the second largest state in Europe, next to Russia proper. The population of ethnographic Ukraine is nearly sixty millions of inhabitants, of which about fifty millions are Ukrainians. In ethnic population, therefore, Ukrainians occupy the third place in Europe, outnumbered only by Russians and Germans.

In the geographic position of Ukraine, with the long Black Sea coastline in the south, the Carpathian Mountains in the West, the Pripyet marshes in the northwest, and with the chain of independent national states around Ukraine, there will be left a relatively short frontier with the Muscovite state, the only state that in territory and population will be greater than an independent Ukraine. These facts are of considerable strategic value to a numerically strong independent Ukraine. In friendly relations with her neighbors she will become the central power, around which smaller independent states will naturally orient themselves politically, economically and strategically. This gives even greater value to the importance of Ukraine's claim for independence.

## Rich National Culture

The Ukrainian people possess a remarkably rich and varied folk lore, replete with the national traditions of a great historic past. Their advanced culture of a thousand years, is remarkably distinct from that of their neighbors. In spite of the centuries of Russian and Polish influences, the Ukrainians have retained the pure national characteristics of their culture on a high plane, absorbing but little, if any, from the customs of the oppressors, who forced on the Ukrainian population their state culture. As a matter of fact the Ukrainian culture made an indelible imprint on the cultures of the Russian, Polish, Rumanian and Hungarian peoples. Ukrainian literature is not well known abroad, yet it is unusually rich and is on an equal plane with any Slavic or Scandi-

navian literature. It must be kept in mind that the Ukrainians have greatly enriched Russian and Polish literature by their writings in these languages, and it is safe to say that western nations would be willing to claim as their own such outstanding men of letters as Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Michael Kotsliubinsky, Lesia Ukrainka, Olga Kobylanska, Alexander Oles and others. In the fields of art and music Ukraine has equally great men who have contributed much to Ukrainian, as well as Russian and Polish culture, and who could well adorn, by their works, any leading nation of the world. The artistry and harmony of the brilliant hues on the beautifully hand-embroidered costumes, worn by young and old, men and women alike, are incomparably handsome. The natural freedom, spontaneity of expression, vigor and elegance of movements, with the charming steps and patterns that characterize the distinctive Ukrainian national dances, have been acclaimed in universal praise. The beauty of Ukrainian folk-songs is renowned throughout the world and has given inspiration to many of the leading composers of classic music.

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## Natural Resources

The natural resources of Ukraine are tremendously rich. She occupies a leading position in world production of many agricultural products. According to the latest statistical data, the ethnic Ukrainian territory is third in world wheat production, third in rye, third in barley, third in sugar beets, fifth in beet sugar, fourth in potatoes, seventh in corn, sixth in flax seed, second in flax fiber, second in hemp fiber, and is an important producer of truck and vegetable crops as well as grapes, fruits, etc.

In livestock production Ukraine is not very far behind the first few leading nations of the world. She is fifth in breeding horses, seventh in cattle, fifth in pigs, and eleventh in sheep. She is known to be a heavy exporter of poultry as well as of eggs.

Ukraine is the home of the wheat known in America as the Turkey Red and Durum varieties, and the wheat and other grains that Soviet Russia exports to other countries are grown mostly on Ukrainian soil.

Although Ukraine is primarily an agricultural country, with rapidly developing commerce and industry, she has abundant deposits of mineral wealth such as iron ore, coal, manganese, oil, salt, copper and other minerals. Her world output of leading underground wealth is equally impressive. Ukraine occupies second place in manganese production in the world. She is fourth in iron ore production, fourth in pig iron, fourth in potash, fifth in coal, sixth in steel, sixth in rollew metal, eighth in petroleum, eighth in salt, and by the recent addition of her large Dnieprostroi hydro-electric plant, she occupies fifth place in the production of hydro-electric energy.

In addition to these, Ukraine has valuable deposits of minor minerals as well as other important resources.

With such wealth the Ukrainian ethnic territories have supplied many essential items of trade and commerce to the nations who now, by force, occupy the Ukrainian lands. Much of this wealth has been exported abroad, rapaciously exploiting Ukraine, without due consideration of the native population, which has been kept on a low level of economic subsistence and whose educational, social and cultural requirements were grossly neglected. An independent Ukraine, by the rational exploitation and prudent conservation of her own resources, will be able to raise the standard of living, social and economic welfare of her people, while maintaining her friendly political and economic relations among the family of nations.

Doubtless, Russia and other aggressor nations will maintain that they need the Ukrainian wealth and territory for their own existence. In reply the Ukrainians assert that an independent Ukraine can live without Russia or Polish overlord-

ship. And if Russia cannot live without Ukraine, on its present grand scale, then Russia should be reduced to her own ethnographic boundaries and make her living according to her own resources, found available within her ethnic territories, as any other nation does and should do.

Because of her rich natural resources, Ukraine has been a bone of contention between several neighboring states. The Ukrainian people, however, have never waived their claims to a united Ukrainian sovereign and independent state, and no political, economic, national or cultural oppressions can exterminate the living soul of a people, so rich in its brilliant history, so ancient in culture, and so individualistic a people, who cherish and defend their cultural heritage, national and individual rights for freedom and independence and through them lead to world peace.

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## Ukraine's Cause Deserves Just Consideration

In conclusion, it must be stated, that on the basis of the above mentioned facts the case for Ukraine's independence deserves just consideration not only for its humanitarian aspects, as well as justice and equality of the rights of people, but also for its economic, strategic and political considerations.

Will the mistakes of the Versailles Peace Treaty be repeated again? Or will the next international peace conference courageously consider the importance of the Ukrainian problem in its entire magnitude and in its relation to European and World powers? If a new world order is to be created at the end of the present struggle, the Ukrainian question cannot be neglected, for it is the keystone to the equitable adjustment and settlement of a long chain of problems in Eastern Europe. It is apparent, that neither the status quo, nor the creation of a new "Cordon Sanitaire" out of conglomerate states will provide the desired balance, because the inherent weakness of such states has been tragically demonstrated in recent history. On the other hand, it has been equally well demonstrated that the homogeneous nationally united states are able to withstand the onslaught of much greater forces of numerically larger aggressor nations. The homogeneous countries have shown their virility and the remarkable ability to deal with their internal problems to the greater satisfaction of the entire population.

It is of interest to recall that Finland was not created by the World War Allies but emerged by the invincible will of the Finnish people. In the present struggle homogeneous Finland has resisted Soviet Russia for three months, thus aiding the Allies in their preparedness against inevitable eventualities. On the other hand mosaic Poland was the creation of the western Allies and has become a decided liability in the present conflict, and yielded up half of her territory to Soviet Russia without any resistance. Had there been in existence today a homogeneous independent Ukrainian state, the present struggle would probably have been averted and a greater possibility of peace would have been assured. With these facts in mind, the case of Ukraine's plea for independence becomes at present of even greater importance.

Her case for independence rests on the fact that the nation of fifty millions by virtue of her geographic position, in cooperation with national neighboring states and western powers, will provide an adequate balance between the two potential dangers in central and eastern Europe.

Her case for independence is augmented by the indomitable will of her masses who, in the twentieth century saved western Europe from Communism just as in the thirteenth century she saved Europe from the Mongol invasions. By her stubborn resistance to communist innovations she has restrained the red march westward for twenty bitter years, at the price of her own liberty and mil-

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## YOUTH and THE U.N.A.

### Regarding Suspensions

The first week of every month, the Ukrainian National Association accept new members, reinstatements, suspensions, and the like, in accordance with the reports submitted by the secretaries of its 458 branches. In connection with the suspensions, it is perturbing to note that the majority of them consist of young people who have been members less than three years. Further investigation reveals the fact that a very small percentage of these persons are reinstated the month following the suspension. Why this is so is difficult to explain, but it would not be surprising if the main factor proved to be that of misunderstanding or lack of information.

Many suspended members learn about their suspension when they see their names listed under the suspension heading of the monthly report released by the Recording Department of the U.N.A. for publication in the Svoboda. Most of the members receive suspension notices from their branch secretaries. Uninformed members who find themselves suspended fail to reinstate themselves because they misunderstand the term "suspended." They (particularly those recently admitted to membership) seem to think that being suspended means that their certificates have been made null and void. Occasionally a member will write to the U.N.A. and ask if it would be possible for him to reinstate himself somehow. Some persons even make long trips

to the U.N.A. office to inquire about ways and means of their becoming good-standing members again. All of this is the result of misunderstanding or lack of information.

The truth of the matter is simply that a member remains suspended just as long as he does not pay his monthly dues. A member who does not pay his May dues, for instance, will be suspended in May. If he pays his May and June dues in June, however, he is promptly reinstated. It is as simple as that. All certificates provide for reinstatement privileges, and a member may reinstate himself within three years of the suspension date, upon furnishing the satisfactory evidence of insurability and upon payment of all arrears of dues.

It is unfortunate that members, in many instances, do not read their certificates carefully. That this has led to many unnecessary permanent suspensions cannot be doubted. U.N.A. organizers have reported coming across many cases where former members expressed surprise upon learning that they could have reinstated themselves.

There have also been cases where members, moving from one city or state to another allow themselves to be suspended, thinking that by leaving the city in which their branch is located, they automatically forfeit their membership. This of course, is not true... but uninformed members are suspended nevertheless. Sometimes it is not the member's fault, an uninformed branch secretary being to blame. The U.N.A. has received more than one letter from secretaries who

write about members "leaving town," instructing the U.N.A. to "cancel their certificates." It is apparent that some branch officers do not read the U.N.A. By-Laws and Constitution, and such officers do more harm than good. All that is necessary in cases where members are moving from one city to another is a transfer letter. This transfer letter is a document, signed by the branch officers, which gives the person to whom it is issued the right to be admitted into any other U.N.A. branch in the United States and Canada.

The writer knows of a case where two brothers, who had been U.N.A. members a long time, refused to pay sick benefit dues to their branch. Upon being told that the by-laws of the branch compelled them to pay these additional dues, they allowed themselves to be suspended. That was several years ago, and they are now suspended without hope of reinstatement. If these two brothers had been given transfer letters, with which they could have been admitted into a branch that would not require them to pay sick benefit dues, they would be good-standing today.

The U.N.A. sends copies of the By-Laws, information booklets, pamphlets, etc., to all of its branches at regular intervals. Its certificates contain much information that would be to the member's advantage to read and remember. There should be no reason for misunderstanding. The trouble lies in the fact that many persons do not bother to read this information regarding their organization.

## UKRAINE'S CASE FOR INDEPENDENCE

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lions of deaths of innocent people. Without just consideration of Ukrainian aspirations the Red frontiers may soon be placed at the threshold of western democracies and America.

Her case for independence is further strengthened by the fact that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics provides in its Constitution the right of any of its constituent republics to secession. Naturally, such secessions will never occur with the good will of the Russian people without a first-class external conflict. The disarmed and downtrodden Ukrainian masses, browbeaten by purges, liquidations and artificial famine, in fear for their lives, will never be able to express freely their innermost desire:—A Free and Independent Sovereign and United Ukraine. They are silenced for the moment by these circumstances and wait for dependable aid from the democracies.

The creation of an independent Ukraine in the present state of world affairs is indeed a political and economic expediency in the interest of justice and lasting peace.

In closing, the best thing to do is to urge the reader-member to take the writer seriously. Read your certificate and U.N.A. By-Laws so that you will be fully informed. Don't let lack of information or misunderstanding result in the unnecessary suspension of your certificate.

THEODORE LUTWINIAK

## UKRAINE: HER RIVERS

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### Dnieper

The main river of Ukraine is the majestic Dnieper. To the Ukrainian the Dniro is what "Matushka Volga" is to the Russian, the Vistula to the Pole, and the Rhine to the German. It was revered like a divinity by the ancient Ukrainian tribe of Polyans, the founders of the Ukrainian state of Kiev. It was esteemed as the provider of the Zaporozhian Kozaks, the champions of Ukraine's freedom. In Ukrainian folklore, as well as in the Ukrainian works of literary art, it was the imperishable symbol of her life, something of a national sanctuary. Nor could it be otherwise in view of the close connection of the river with all the important phases of the past life of Ukraine. It was the chief channel of her relations with the North and the South of Eastern Europe, her chief contact with the ancient cultural centers, transmitter of the culture of Greece, of Christianity. Its significance for the future is almost incalculable.

The Dnieper is the third largest river of Europe, after the Volga and the Danube. It is more than 1,300 miles long, and drains an area of 203,000 square miles.

### Its Course

It rises in White Russia, from a little swamp, which was once a small lake, situated at a height of 840 feet. It is at first a small muddy streamlet, as all Eastern European rivers, flowing in a flat valley, between swamps and moors. Its volume increases so quickly that already at Dorohobuzh the river becomes navigable for small vessels. When the Dnieper reaches the Ukrainian territory, at the confluence with the river Sozh, it is already a powerful river, flowing in majestic turns, abundantly supplied with waters by the Druch and especially the Berezina. Now numerous low islands appear in its bed, dividing the river into numerous branches and changing later the Dnieper into a veritable labyrinth of armulets, lakes, old river beds, swamps and fens. The Pripet, from the right side, increases the Dnieper's waters twofold. In the section of estuaries of the Teterev and the Irpen, from the right side, the Ukrainian plateau approaches the river, pressing upon the river and forming picturesque precipices, especially in the region of Kiev, where the Dnieper receives the largest of its left-side tributaries, the navigable Desna.

At Kiev, with the source-waters of the Pripet, Berezina, the Upper Dnieper, the Desna and the

Sozh, the river is a powerful stream normally 1,800 to 2,700 feet wide. In floods it exceeds in width six miles and covers all the islands, sandbanks, meadows, old river beds, with a mass of yellowish water, rolling slowly toward the south: no wonder that Herodotus compared the Dnieper with the Nile. The spring-floods occur regularly every year, when the great masses of snow, which remain lying all through the winter, begin to melt off all at once. The progressive destruction of forests makes these floods more irregular and more destructive.

From Kiev down, the Dnieper flows southeast as far as Dniepropetrovsk (formerly Katerynoslav). The right bank remains steadily high torn by gorges and crowned with rock formations. The left bank is flat, abounding in swamps, covered with reeds. Its tributaries in this section: the Stuhna, Roś and Tyasmin, from the right side, and the Trubizh, Supo, Sula with the Uday, Psyol with the Khorol, the Holtva, Voroskla and Orel on the left side, increase the volume of waters but slightly. It is here, however, that the Dnieper assumes the most majestic character. Because of the slight decline of its bed the current is slow and calm, its mirror-like waters almost motionless in appearance. Above the mouth of the Psyol the speed trebles, the left bank rises, and at the mouth of the Samara both banks approach the stream with cliffs, and the river turns south to break through the granite ledge of the Ukrainian horst, the famous section of its rapids.

In the region of the rapids, the Soviet Government engaged Colonel Hugh L. Cooper, a prominent American engineer, to design and construct a huge dam and hydroelectric station, the so-called Dniepreistan.

Below the rapids the Dnieper enters the so-called Zaporozhe, which is the country below the rapids. The Dnieper valley widens, numerous islands appear in the stream, many of them famous in Ukrainian history, as Khortitsya and Tomakivka, which at various times served as the site of the fortress of the Kozaks below the rapids, Zaporozka Sich. Further south begins on the left bank the so-called Veliky Luh, a labyrinth of flat islands, covered with forests, groves and reeds, old river beds, and swamps, the hunting and fishing grounds of the Zaporozhian Kozaks, and their wintering quarters. Here, too, ships were built by the Kozaks out of the old oaks of the Veliky Luh, for their raids against the Turks.

From the mouth of the Konka the Dnieper runs southwest to its estuary. It runs in many arms in a valley whose right bank is high and often rocky. Having received its last tributary, the steppe-river Inhulets, the Dnieper empties with nine arms into its liman, below the city of Kherson.

### Pripet

Of the Dnieper's tributaries on the right the most important is the Pripet River, which gathers in all the waters of the Polisy, in which it forms a kind of labyrinth of intricate waterways and stagnant pools. Of the same character are its tributaries: the Tyrya, Stokohd, Sir with the Ikva, the Horin with the Sluch, the Ubort and the Uzh, on the right; the Pina Yasyolda, Sluch, and Ptich, on the left. Many of them are navigable over long stretches. Of other right-hand tributaries of the Dnieper, the Teterev can transport only raft of logs as can the steppe-river Inhulets.

### Sozh

Of the left-hand tributaries of the Dnieper the Sozh is navigable for nearly 220 miles. The Desna, the longest of all the tributaries, is navigable for larger river boats for some 450 miles. Of others none has any significance for navigation (only the Samara can float rafts), though wrecks of ships in their beds attest to the fact that they were accessible even to larger ships in distant times.

### Don

The Don, in Ukrainian often Din, over 1,100 miles long, is the fourth river in size in Europe, and drains in an area of almost 39,000 square miles, less than that drained by the Dnieper. Not even one-fourth of it flows in Ukraine; it is thus Ukraine's eastern border stream. Rising in Lake Ivan-Ozero, in Central Russia, it seems to imitate on a small scale the course of the Dnieper, and empties its waters through thirty arms, of which three are navigable, into the Sea of Azov. Its delta region is rich in fish. Because of many sandbanks and shallows in its current, navigation on the Don is but slightly developed. Of the tributaries of the Don, the more important are: the Voronizh, Bityuh, Khorper, Medveditsya, and the Manich, on the left side, and the Donets on the right. The course of the Donets, too, imitates the course of the Dnieper; it floats rafts for over 180 miles, and is navigable for 120 miles.

### Kuban

The Kuban river, another great river of Ukraine, rises in the Elbus, is at first a roaring mountain stream; turns then toward the west, its valley grows broad and flat, and having received the Laba and Bila, it empties through a many-armed delta, partly into the Black Seas, and partly into the Sea of Azov. Navigation on it is possible for only some 200 miles.

In the region between the Dniester and the Boh there are many rivers, which do not empty their waters into the sea, but end their courses in limans closed off by bars. There are many of such rivers approaching the Sea of Azov from the east, but never reaching it, except the Yeia; all the rest end their courses in lagoons.

(To be continued)

## AND CHRONICLE SMALL BEER

## NICE HAND

The poet sings of pale hands  
Beside the Shalimar;  
And hands that empires built or  
wrecked,  
Whose fame has spread afar.

And hands that held within their  
palms  
The hearts of czars and kings,  
And hands that are all scarred with  
work,  
And hands bedecked with rings.

And cruel hands, and healing hands  
As gentle as a saint's;  
But a picture of the hands I love  
No poet ever paints.

Last night I held a little hand  
So dainty and so neat;  
Methought my heart would burst  
with joy,  
So wildly did it beat.

No other hand into my soul  
Could greater solace bring,  
Than that I held last night, which  
was  
Four aces and a king.

## ANSWERS TO FIT EVERY OCCATION

Are you a College man?  
ANS.: No; a horse stepped off  
my hat.

Are you troubled with indigestion?  
ANS.: B-U-R-P!!

Have you got a lawyer?  
ANS.: No, I decided to tell the  
truth.

## NOT IN WEBSTER'S

**ABNORMAL:** To have intelligence, character or genius; to be less stupid than one's neighbor; to be better than the worst; to be one's self. E. g., the writer of this column.

**COOPERATION:** Doing what I tell you to do—and doing it quick.

**EARTH:** 1. A small bean-shaped planet, full of noise, nonsense and nibodies, created in order to swell the pockets of the privileged few. 2. A blister produced by the constant abrasion of motion against space.

**FOLDEROL:** Talk or conversation of any kind between a man and a woman that does not contain an invitation, a proposition or a promise.

## MOSTLY MOTORISTS

... For Sale: 1937 car in first crash condition.

... The automobile approached the coroner at 60 miles an hour.

... A friend of ours is such a reckless driver that when the road turns when he does, it is merely a coincidence.

... He drives as though he were rehearsing for an accident.

... He thinks that a locomotive whistles at crossings just to keep up its courage.

... After looking over last year's death toll, it wouldn't surprise us to hear that the Finns are taking up a collection for the relief of United States' traffic casualties.

... Epitaph: He walked on the suicide of the road.

... Another Epitaph:  
Here lies the body of Walker Jay,  
He always disputed the right of  
the way.

He was right, dead right, as he strode along—

But he's just as dead as if he was wrong.

## MOSTLY MARRIAGE

... A model marriage is one in which the wife is a treasure and the husband a treasury.

... It may be all right for a woman to marry in haste and repent at leisure, but what about the married man? He has no leisure.

... Another trouble with modern romance is that the time is too short between the courtship and the court.

... Remember, girls, in seeking your model husband, there are two models: sport and working.

ETAION SHRDLU

## CLUB MAZEPPA CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Club Mazeppa, Branch 183 of the U.N.A., celebrated its fifth anniversary on March 9th, 1940 with a banquet and dance. This social affair was held in the Ukrainian National Temple on Martin Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. Stephen Lupinetsky, president, was the chairman and John Evanchuk, financial secretary was the toastmaster.

Five years ago John Evanchuk conceived the idea of forming a youth branch of the U.N.A. After many persistent requests to the secretaries of branches No. 75, No. 175, and No. 292, he received from them a list of all the youth members of their respective chapters. Then, with the aid of Nicholas Charney, also a youth organizer, he composed a short letter calling a meeting of all the young people whose names he had received for the purpose of forming a U.N.A. youth chapter. This meeting, held in a church hall March 17th, 1935, proved that the youth wanted a chapter of their own. One month later a chapter comprising seven members was officially organized and adopted the name "Club Mazeppa." The members of the first executive board were, Stephen Muzyka, president; Mildred Poshwak, secretary, and Walter Garko, treasurer.

From that time to the present Club Mazeppa has been very active. During the year it sponsors dances, lecturers, outings, picnics, readings, has even published its own journal and has financially aided Ukrainian organizations both at home and abroad. The club has its own library consisting of a set of Harvard Classics and a set of Encyclopedias, which the members have the privilege of using in the club room of the Ukrainian National Temple. Its membership at present is 96, and it is represented in all of the important Ukrainian organizations in Detroit. It is also one of the four chapters incorporated in the Ukrainian National Temple, a building valued at about \$80,000 toward which the club has donated and loaned about \$500.

The speaker for the evening were; Rev. Stephen Pobutsky; Mr. W. Didyk, member of the Supreme Council; Mr. Walter Chmyr, president of the Ukrainian National Temple; Mr. Nicholas Shustakewich, director of the Ukrainian Radio Program over station WMBC; Mr. Joseph Charnoske, Ukrainian Attorney; Mr. Joseph Gurski, engineer; Mr. John Koos, attorney and president of the Ukrainian Federation of Michigan; and Mr. Peter Kizel, secretary of branch No. 292 of the U.N.A.

Mr. Roman Maraz, Ukrainian's popular radio baritone, rendered several vocal selections. The dinner was followed by a dance which lasted until ...!

Irene Shustakewich Lupinetsky,  
Secretary, Club Mazeppa

## NEWARK, N. J.

The Dr. Yankowicz Ass'n. Inc., and the Ladies Auxiliary of Newark, N. J., present a novelty affair known as the **SADIE HAWKINS NITE IN REAL HILL-BILLY STYLE**, on Saturday Eve., May 4, 1940 at 8:30 P. M., at the Ukrainian Center, 180 William St., Newark, N.J. Featuring 2 bands, the Barnyard Boys-Radio Entertainers to provide Mountain Music for novelty dances and entertainment. For Popular Swing, Maestro Vic Romaine and his Orchestra. Dress in hillbilly country style or come as you like! Admission 50c incl. wardrobe. Proceeds donated towards a milk fund.

Listen to the opinions of **READ LEWIS**, Director of Foreign Language Information Service (FLIS) on "Anti-Alien Legislation," a topic of great interest today, at the International Institute, 344 East 17th St., on Thursday, May 9th, at 8:30 P. M. sponsored by Ukrainian University Society. Admission free.

... And the bonds of matrimony aren't worth much either if the interest is not kept up.

... Maybe much of the lost faith in heaven is due to the impression that marriages are made there.

## COMMENTS ON "TARAS BULBA"

Sunday evening, April 22, Mikola Lysenko's opera "Taras Bulba" had its "American premiere" in an abbreviated form at Mecca Temple, New York City. Typical of the reception it received by the press are the two following reviews:

## The New York Times

"Taras Bulba," an opera by Nikolai Vitalievitch Lissenko, based on the famous story by Nikolai Gogol, was presented under the auspices of the Musical Artists of America, Inc., last night at Mecca Auditorium. The work, which ranks as the most important of the six operas of Lissenko, leading composer of the Ukraine, who was born in 1842 and died in 1912, received its first American hearing on this occasion. The five acts deal mainly with the story of Andrei, Taras Bulba's youngest son, and not with the tragedy of Taras himself.

The cast was headed by Sidor Belarsky in the title role, Helmi Rosnell as Marylitza, Ivan Velikanoff as Andrei, Victor Sokoloff as Ostop, and Natasha Ukrainka as Nastia. Claire Brooks was Nostria and Edward Sirutis was the Governor of Dubno. Walter Grigaitis conducted. The audience was large and enthusiastic.

## New York World Telegram

Braving the weather, a band of Ukrainian patriots greeted the American premiere of Mykola Lysenko's Ukrainian Opera Taras Bulba, as presented by the Musical Artists of America, Inc. The language was reportedly Ukrainian. The music was a variety of things. The acting was an Act of God.

One remembers Gogol's Taras Bulba from an early reading, a savage King Lear of the Cossacks, whose trouble was sons, not daughters; how he killed one of his sons for treachery, was captured by his enemies, strung to a tree and set afire, bellowing in rage like a bull. Taras was epic. Gogol painted him with vast strokes in the grand style. A Wagner or a Verdi could have taken his operatic size.

Last night's music might have fitted a Mlle. Modiste or a Student Prince, not a wild Cossack chieftain. Taras Bulba was as tame as the shorn Samson. Men surrounded him with well-pomaded pates. Bright-colored Cossack women bought pretzels at a kiosk. His sons looked as fierce as feathers and the fighting was a matter of pushing.

It is hard to say who was to blame, Lysenko or the Musical Artists. Lysenko, a native Ukrainian, knew his folklore, and the score is drenched with doleful balladry. But the fabric is thin, though even Goetterdaemmerung would have sounded thin last night.

Walter Grigaitis did what he could against staggering odds and the orchestra and chorus sounded as if they were improvising in all keys. Sidor Belarsky, in boots and mustache, strode manfully about as Taras and sang sonorously. The others merely strode. The "American premiere" of Mykola Lysenko's Taras Bulba is yet to come.

L. B.

## UKRAINIAN COMPACTS

Sure, every girl has a compact! But does she have a UKRAINIAN compact? We have received a shipment of beautiful compacts designed by a Ukrainian soldier, who now manufactures them in his plant in France. The plastic cover has an elaborate, engraved blue and gold design of the Ukrainian Trident interwoven with the other insignias of the Ukrainian nation. The compacts are available in three colors: white, black or tortoise shell background. Those who already have purchased these compacts, report they are so beautiful that they prefer using them for ornamental purposes and showing them off to their friends. They make original birthday, anniversary, graduation, Mother's Day gifts, and if you are a man, and want to gain favor in the eyes of your lady fair, give her one of these compacts and she'll be thine forevermore. The price is \$2.00. We pay postage. Order them now, from the "Svoboda," 83 Grand St., Jersey City, N. J.

## THE U.N.A. SPORTLIGHT

## CHICAGO'S HORSESHOE TOURNEY

The Sport Division of Chicago Branches of the Ukrainian National Association will conduct a horseshoe tournament. All Ukrainians of both sexes are eligible to enter; U.N.A. members may compete free of charge, while non-members will be required to pay 5c for each event entered. The tournament will consist of men singles, women singles, and men doubles... single elimination. A medal will be given to the winner of each event. The place and date will be announced in a forthcoming Sportlight.

Persons making entry by mail are asked to indicate the event in which they intend to participate. U.N.A. members should include their respective branch numbers, while non-members are asked to enclose the required fee. The point system announced in a recent Sportlight will be in effect, and interested persons are urged to get points for themselves and the branches they represent.

All entries, questions, and requests for additional information should be addressed to the Chicago U.N.A. Athletic Director, Joseph Woje, 4457 N. Christiana Ave., Chicago, Ill.

(Basketball scores appear in "Svoboda.")

## BASEBALL AND TRACK TEAMS FORMED IN JERSEY CITY

The Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Holy Name Society of Jersey City will organize and support a baseball and track team this coming season. The baseball team will be under the able guidance of Mike Stelmach, noted local sports luminary and present football coach at H. Snyder High School. The track team will be coached by Bill Lotowicz. It will participate in local meets and will represent Jersey City at the meet to be held during the Ukrainian Catholic Youth League Convention in Newark next August. All Ukrainian boys interested and desiring a chance to try out for either team should communicate with M. Steblecki, 202 Washington St., J. C. N. J. All Ukrainian teams in the Metropolitan area, namely from N. Y. C., Newark, Yonkers and Philadelphia wishing to arrange games with the baseball team, please communicate with M. Tizio, 169 Hopkins Ave., J. C. N. J. Up to date prospects for a successful season are very favorable and local fans are urged to support the local teams.

## ELIZABETH TEAM CLOSES SEASON

The Ukrainian Boys Club of Elizabeth, N. J. closed its basketball season by easily defeating the Hungarian A. C. of Elizabeth by a score of 58 to 38. Steve Kunka, Portertfield, and Mike Lubinsky, Jr. played well for the Ukrainians while Tomosso, Samer, and Truhan did the scoring for the Hungarians.

Recently the Ukrainians defeated the strong Murphy Varnish Company Team, runner up in the Newark Industrial Team. The Ukrainian Boys' Club Jayvees defeated the Bayonne C.Y.O. by a score of 23 to 19.

## Softball Challenge

The Ukrainian Boys Club of Elizabeth, N. J. would like to arrange a home and home series with softball teams within the New York Metropolitan Area. Write to manager Peter Yarem, 147 West Lincoln Ave., Roselle Park, N. J.

## NEW STARS!

Singing Sisters **STELLA** and **MARY BODNAR**, Pupils of famous vocal teacher **Madame Xenia Vaschenko**, Moscow Opera House Primadonna. Appointment by telephone only. **Endicott 2-9711**, 250 W. 75th St., New York City.

## NEW YORK CITY

The first class in the **UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE COURSE** taught by **Michael Herman** will be held **WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1940** at 8:00 P. M., and will meet every Wednesday at the same time for the duration of the course, at the International Institute, 341 E. 17th St., New York City. Reminder...bring comfortable shoes.

## NEW YORK, N. Y.

**FOURTH ANNUAL SPRING DANCE** tendered by 4th Branch Youth of **ODWU** (Member of Ukrainian Youth League of No. America) on **SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1940** at **Stuyvesant Casino**, 142 Second Ave., (between 8th and 9th Streets) New York City. Dancing: 8:30 to 3 A. M. Admission 40 cents. Music by **John W. Seman** and his Royal New Yorkers. 99-