

Dedicated to the Ideals
And interests of young
Americans of Ukrainian
descent.

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WEEKLY COMMENTATOR

90th ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF LINCOLN

Some men pass away at the peak of their power and influence, and become enshrined among the great. Others remain on and on, take on fresh responsibilities, and as a result of one thing or another, of factors and elements beyond their control, do not measure up in stature, in deeds of the time when they were at the peak.

A good example of this was General Ulysses S. Grant, brilliant commander-in-chief of the victorious Federal forces during the American Civil War. He was persuaded to run for the presidency of the United States. What happened after that during the chaotic Reconstruction Period, when Grant with all of his ability, leadership and integrity, did all that was possible to fulfill the functions of his office, is well known.

All this comes to our mind on the 90th anniversary of the death of the great Abraham Lincoln (April 15, 1865). It was a little after 10 o'clock on that April night 90 years ago when John Wilkes Booth crept behind the President as he sat in a rocking chair in a box at Ford's Theatre, Washington, aimed a derringer at a point between the left ear and the spine and fired a single shot.

The chair stopped rocking. It is reported that the President made no sound. His head inclined slowly toward his chest. After a preliminary examination by Dr. Charles Leale, he was carried across 10th street, to the home of William Petersen, a tailor. There the doctors quickly determined that he was mortally wounded. The bullet was deeply imbedded in the brain. They could only wait through the long night.

At dawn the President started to moan. His breathing became swift and shallow. At 7:20 he breathed no more. Secretary of War Stanton stood erect, placed his hat on his head and exclaimed, "Now he belongs to the ages."

News of the shooting of Lincoln appeared immediately in the morning newspapers in form of government announcement. The latter left no doubt that the President would die. Still when the end came the people were still stunned and unbelieving. From Washington, across the nation, spread the tolling of bells and then, in city after city, came the booming of cannon, every 30 minutes, all day and all night.

The death of Lincoln brought grief not only to the victorious North but also to the defeated South. The Confederate states well knew that the passing of the just and magnanimous Union leader made their future dark indeed. The events which took place then confirmed their fears.

But if the assassination was a disaster for the nation, it rescued Lincoln from the turmoil of the postwar years and assured his place among what might be called, the folk gods of America. Historians have correctly pointed out that his policy of reconciliation would have involved him in a fierce struggle with Congress that might have obscured the memory of the great work in preserving the Union.

And thus the task of binding the wounds fell to Andrew Johnson, leading him to the humiliation of an unmerited impeachment, while Abraham Lincoln passed into history martyred, immaculate and enshrined—as he so richly deserved.

Lyktey Is Selected As Utica, N. Y. Envoy to Foreign Countries

A former Ukrainian displaced person who won his American citizenship after serving in the U.S. Army was named Utica Community Ambassador, of Utica, N. Y. to foreign countries for 1955, when he appeared among the six finalists on March 28 last in the Utica Free Academy Little Theatre, the Utica Observer Dispatch reported.

The appointee was Jaroslav "Jerry" Lyktey, 26, native of Ukraine and now a sophomore at Utica College.

The other Utica "envoy" selected from among the six finalists was John A. Bengough, General Electric employee.

According to the Utica Observer Dispatch, at least two unprecedented marks were passed during the final competition. It is the first time that any male contestant was selected to represent the Utica, N. Y. community in the four years of project competition. Also, it was announced during the evening of the ceremonies, that the Organization for International Living, which sponsors the ambassador projects on a nationwide level, wrote from its Putnam, Vermont headquarters that after reading the data on the finalists, six in all, it felt the information represented "the finest group of applicants that have ever been received from any city in the U.S."

Bengough has selected France as his first choice of a country he would like to visit, and Finland as his second choice.

Lyktey selected Yugoslavia as first choice, Austria as second.

Lyktey fled from Ukraine in 1944 to Western Ukraine, where he attended schools. Through the advice and encouragement of an uncle who lives in Utica, "Jerry" came to this country and to Utica in 1949. He served in the Army from March, 1951 to March, 1953, after which he became a U.S. citizen.

While in the Army, "Jerry" conducted a course in Russian, and at present commands, according to the Utica Observer Dispatch, no less than five foreign languages, which he speaks fluently. Active in several organizations in the Utica City, he is president of the International Club, a member of the U.C. Choir and the Speakers' Bureau, and is a member of the Ukrainian Catholic church group. He is unmarried.

A UKRAINIAN PROFESSOR AT PARIS CONSERVATORY

A Ukrainian, Margarita Matyashivska, a recent graduate from International Conservatory in Paris, has been appointed professor at this conservatory for 1955.

Chicago Youth Operating a Seven Day a Week Program

The Chicago chapter of a youth organization founded in Ukraine and driven underground by the Communists is operating a seven day a week program on Chicago's north west side, the Chicago Sunday Tribune reported last Sunday in a featured and illustrated article.

Called the Ukrainian Youth Association, Inc. (Soyuz Ukrainyokoyi Molodi Ameriky), it is operated by persons of Ukrainian birth, most of whom came to Chicago via Germany between 1949 and 1951.

If the group of young people who gather nightly at 2147 Chicago avenue can be characterized by a word, it is independence, the Tribune notes.

As reported in that Chicago daily—

The two story former store building which serves as headquarters was purchased for \$15,000. There are still several thousand dollars due on the mortgage.

From their own ranks have arisen leaders who direct activities in band, chorus, soccer, drama, and dancing. And out of loyalty to the United States and affection for the Ukraine has arisen this organization to pass on cultural heritage to their young people.

Hopes to Be Engineer

"We have to learn, we have to work, and still we have to find time for our boys and girls," explained one of the officers, a 27 year old man who works days in a machine shop, studies thru a correspondence course at night, and hopes someday to become a mechanical engineer.

John H. Barabash, a kind of older statesman among the younger men and women since he came here in 1912 as a teenager, chuckled at the mention of juvenile delinquency.

"We didn't have things like

that in the old country; there wasn't enough freedom. Barabash for 17 years was band director at Harrison High school. For the last 16 years, he's held a similar post at Wright Junior college. Now, he also directs at 45 member band at the association.

Organizers of the Ukrainian American Youth association were exiled in Russia when Communists learned about the group. But after World War II, the organization was revived in Germany.

With the movement of Ukrainian people to London, Philadelphia, New York, and Chicago, it was reactivated. There now are 32 chapters in the United States and the Chicago group was among the first to be formed.

Driven by Communism

Many of the men who are members of the Chicago ave. group came to Germany under the forced labor program. Others were driven there when the Communists moved into the Ukraine in 1944 and 1945. About 25 are GI veterans of the Korean war.

"We lost a lot of time in World War II," explained one. "We were taken from our homes. We lost educational opportunities, especially for professional training where time is necessary. And many of us have families and parents, sisters and brothers still in the Ukraine."

If the association is headquarters for some of the younger Ukrainians, the Ukrainian Civic center at 845 N. Western ave. is "home" for older immigrants.

Association leaders estimate there are 15,000 persons of Ukrainian descent in the Chicago area who came after World War II and between 60,000 and 75,000 including earlier settlers.

Ukrainian Independence Day Anniversary Marked in Brazil

On January 21, 1955 Dr. Pedro Firman Netto, Federal Deputy of the State of Parana, Brazil, made the following statement on Ukraine on the floor of the Brazilian Parliament:

"Tomorrow the Ukrainian people will celebrate their national holiday and will commemorate this great act toward liberation which took place on January 22, 1918.

"The Ukrainian colony in the State of Parana has become an important factor in the agricultural life, especially in regard to the cultivation of wheat.

"The celebration that will be marked by the colony is close to all the citizens of Parana, and it should be close to this Assembly of the representatives of the people.

"The nation which has been struggled under such outstanding men as Bohdan Khmelnytsky, Vyhovsky and Mazepa, the nation which for the past 154 years has been fighting unceasingly for the restoration of its independence and which still fights against Russian Bolshevism, deserves our admiration.

"On the Brazilian land this people represents a treasured human strength which stands for the defense of democracy and Christianity.

"I take this opportunity to

transmit from the floor of this Parliament expressions of greetings and admiration for the Ukrainian colony in Brazil, and in particular that in Parana."

The statement of Dr. Firman was also printed in the official "Diario do Congresso," while the official Radio Nacional broadcast it throughout all Brazil, in addition, Radio Nacional declared on January 22, 1955:

"The day of January 22 is the day of Ukrainian Independence which was proclaimed in 1918.

"Ukraine, despite the fact that it was overpowered in 1921 by the Red conqueror and despite the fact that today it is a Socialist Soviet Republic has never renounced its national ideals.

"The Ukrainian people continue to resist successfully the domination of Moscow, and the exiled government of Free Ukraine continues its activities towards the liberation of its land, standing unwaveringly on the side of the great democracies of the West in their struggle for a free world.

"For their own part the Brazilian people watch with deep sympathy the liberation struggle of the friendly Ukrainian nation, fully identifying themselves with its aspirations."

Ukrainian Women Organization In England Expanding

At the close of 1954 the Alliance of Ukrainian Women in England presented a report of its activities. We learn from it that the organization comprises 10 groups, each having about 30 members on an average. They are located in the industrial region of Yorkshire and Lancashire where most of the Ukrainian families have settled. Mrs. A. Ses is the president of the Central Ukrainian Women's Alliance in Great Britain.

This organization is engaged in education and charitable work. Its action, however, is devoted mostly to the caring for children. Some groups maintain kindergartens or evening schools so as to have the children preserve knowledge of Ukrainian language, literature and history. Some of the groups are promoting the Ukrainian folk art embroidering articles for their churches and National Homes.

Undergoing Basic Training At WAC Center

Pvt. Anna Osinska, of Newark, N. J., a former Ukrainian displaced person, is now at Fort McClellan, Alabama, going through her basic training at WAC Center there.



Pvt. Anna Osinska

She is the daughter of Mrs. Natalia Osinska who lives at 94 Bruce Street, Newark, N. J. Her father, Victor Osinski, in civilian life was an engineer and in 1918 was captain in Ukrainian

National Army fighting against bolsheviks. She came to the United States in 1949 with her mother and graduated from West Side High School in Newark, N. J. She also attended New York University at Washington Square, New York City, N. Y. In Newark she belonged to Student Association and ODUM (Ukrainian Democratic Youth Association).

At home she was brought up to be a Ukrainian patriot. One of her uncles was General Hnat Stefaniv and another one Zenon Stefaniv, who writes to "Svoboda" on Ukrainian military matters and who also is the author of Ukrainian Armed Forces History.

Pvt. Osinska writes that "I joined the Women's Army Corps in order to be ready and fight when the time comes for the country of my forefathers. And I believe that Women's Army Corps is a wonderful organization for young women. It broadens the general knowledge as well as prepares us to be ready in case of emergency."

Crowned Champion in Diocesan Spelling Bee

Eleven-year-old Oleh Koropej, who came to this country in 1949 with his parents, Dr.



Oleh Koropej

and Mrs. Orest Koropej, former displaced persons, presently residing in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, was the winner of the boys' grammar school CYO Diocesan Spelling Bee, held at St. Mary's School, Bayview, on March 25 last, the Providence Visitor daily reports.

A sixth-grader, Oleh, of Sacred Heart, Pawtucket, was the daily reported, most casual of all the spellers. Oleh sat back and rattled off spellings without even bothering to use the time honored system of splitting the words into syllables. Nor did the youngster seem impressed with the fact that he defeated last year's winner, Paul Ferguson of St. Joseph's, Newport. Oleh expected to win, and did.

The entire Koropej family are members of the Ukrainian National Association.

Don Wyatt, the Providence Visitor reporter wrote that "to-

day's youngsters can spell as well as their elders was proved beyond doubt as the finals of the CYO Diocesan Spelling Bee were staged at St. Mary's School, Bayview... Adults sitting in the audience grimaced and contorted their faces as they tried to picture spellings of words which the youngsters were tossing off with ease on the stage."

In all, 48 grammar and high school youngsters competed for six championships.

The event was also reported and pictured in the Evening Bulletin of Providence.

Judges included Brother Cornelius Peter, F.S.C., principal of La Salle Academy; Brother Faber, F.S.C., principal of St. Raphael Academy, Judge John E. Mullen of Superior Court; Miss Frances Steere of RICE cultural advisor for the Northern R.I. CYO, Miss Alice Sullivan of the Newport School Department, and Miss Claire Ducharme of the Warwick School Department.

A YOUNG UKRAINIAN PIANIST

At an international musical competitive examination in Geneva, Switzerland, a Ukrainian girl, Ruslana Antonovich, 16, who studied music in Vienna, received the first prize. She also received an especial mark of distinction for her rendition of Chopin's compositions.

"KIEV" TO BE CAPITAL OF U.N.A. "SOYUZIVKA"



THE "KIEV" VILLA

The famed Ukrainian National Association resort, popularly known as the "Soyuzivka," located in the rolling mountain region near Kerhonkson, N. Y., has acquired 50 more acres to augment its present 300 acres, to afford more vacation facilities and pleasure for vacationers and visitors. On the newly acquired property there is a beautiful villa, with two adjoining buildings. It has been dubbed "Kiev," and as such it will be the capital of the "Soyuzivka," known as "a fragment of free Ukraine in free America."

The "Kiev" building, which is surrounded by a fine park

and an orchard, has as its neighbors the two adjoining buildings, named "Lytynka" and "Darnytsia," names of two suburbs of Kiev, capital of Ukraine.

Improvements are constantly being made to make the "Soyuzivka" an ideal vacation spot, for weekly, monthly, or for just weekend sojourn. Its swimming pool, for example, has had already installed in it a new water filter, to make the water crystal clear.

A "full house" is expected this summer at the "Soyuzivka." Better make your reservation now.

Ukrainians to Lead Nationality Groups in American Loyalty Day Parade

The Ukrainian contingent will head, as in previous years, the nationalities groups in American Loyalty Day parade, next Saturday, New York City, down its famous Fifth Avenue. They will be led by five Kozak attired horsemen. Grand Marshal will be Mr. Walter Bacad.

Assembly place will be at 92nd street, east of Madison avenue.

As many of our Ukrainian American societies as possible should participate in it. Phone or write to Ukrainian National Home, 140 2nd Avenue, New York City.

Madrid Ukrainian Students Mark Ukrainian Independence Day

The Ukrainian student colony in Madrid, Spain, marked the 37th anniversary of the proclamation of Ukrainian independence by holding a special meeting which was attended by prominent Spanish and foreign representatives.

Rev. Santiago Morillo, S.J., assisted by Revs. Aguirre and Secunda, celebrated a Mass in the Oriental Rite. The church was filled with many prominent Spanish and foreign guests.

Father Morillo, who is president of the Centro de Estudios Orientales, at which several dozens Ukrainian and other East European students are being trained, delivered a penetrating sermon on the significance of January 22, 1918, on which day the Ukrainians proclaimed their national sovereignty and independence.

Among those that attended the Ukrainian festivity were Sr. Daniel Castel, representative of the Spanish Foreign Office and head of the Department for Eastern Europe, Dr. Tsune-chi and Kuei Tsung-yao, Ambassador and Secretary of Nationalist China respectively; Dr. Cieker, Slovak Minister, and Mr. Dragievich, representative of the Croat organization.

Mr. Yaroslav Stetsko, president of the ABN (Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations) in Madrid on a visit, was also among those attending the

Ukrainian independence observance.

Mr. Andrew Kishka, Representative of the Ukrainian National Council in Spain, with whose cooperation the festivity was organized, was host to the Ukrainian colony and foreign representatives.

Major Spanish political dailies, such as "Arriba," and "ABC," gave an extensive coverage to the Ukrainian independence anniversary.

97 UKRAINIANS GRADUATED ALBERTA U.

258 students were graduated from the Alberta University, Edmonton, in winter 1954; 97 of those are Ukrainians from Edmonton and the suburbs, mostly Canadian born. The Canadian Golden West was the region where most Ukrainian immigrant farmers settled at the beginning of this century.

LETTERS FROM AMERICA

Letters from America Week, May 16 through May 22nd, is being set aside by many governors and mayors to call attention to the effectiveness of letters in fighting Communist propaganda. Make your letters to relatives and friends abroad weapons for our country in combating Communist lies and spreading the truth about America.

