





Pride of the Air Force

(Concluded from page 2)

fore he was old enough to vote he was sitting-in with name bands all over the East.

In 1940 Bo enlisted as a private and eventually won his commission as a Maintenance and Supply Officer with the old Army Air Corps.

On demobilization, Bo came home to direct a private school for mentally retarded children in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Recalled to Service

When Korea came, Bo was recalled to the service and for a time took over the Maintenance and Supply Group at Donaldson Air Force Base, S. C.

"Airlifting troops and supplies became big business," Bo explains. "We were using all sorts of giant aircraft to deliver troops, armament and supplies direct to the front line."

"We had aircraft pilots and maintenance crews to fly men and equipment up to or beyond the front line. But we suddenly discovered that we needed more than that—we needed skilled men to load, tie-down, airdrop and carry out all the necessary ground control work."

"You know what happened of course. Whenever they form a new group, it is generally made up of all the leftover personnel from other organizations. All the misfits and cast-offs."

"And very few of these 'candidates' wanted any part of a new unit. They had no idea what we were doing anyhow. All they knew was it involved hard work and in most cases they would have to fly to off-load the cargo. You'd be surprised how few of them wanted any part of that flying business."

But, instead of looking on them as a gang of reluctant stevedores, Bo decided to start from rock-bottom and make soldiers of these slouches. Military discipline was spread on in generous dollops.

"What's this blond-and-thud guy trying to do?" the men howled. "Starched coveralls and combat boots! We didn't sign up for Congressional Medals."

Merry Hell

It was merry hell in the ranks for a while, but Bo knew what he was doing. Soon the First Aerial Port Squadron was giving the line crews the willies with their efficiency. Loading cargo aircraft "by the numbers," and doing it as though handling Tiffany consignments, was something new in the Air Force.

As the training program progressed it soon became obvious that a combat control team would be needed with each air group, and that, in warfare, someone would have to be in the drop zone to direct operations. Since the only way to get there was by parachute, Bo requested permission to start training his men as parachutists.

"You can imagine what most

of those troops thought when we got that 'Geronimo' order," Bo grins. "After all, I had had enough trouble policing them up and kidding them to fly, even with extra hazardous-duty pay. Now, we were screaming for volunteers for paratrooper work. There was nothing for me to do but to set the example and take the first jump course at Fort Benning myself."

Saunders passed the regular physical examination but before he went down to Benning he put himself through a careful program of exercises in the gym—push-ups, knee bends, etc. He didn't want to be washed out because he couldn't take the strenuous physical program. After all, Bo was 37 years old.

The paratrooper course runs from four to six weeks and candidates must make five jumps to qualify for paratrooper's wings.

"I sure wanted those wings," Bo confides. "I knew I had to have them if I was going to do anything with that bunch back at the Aerial Port Squadron School."

All went according to schedule and Bo passed his first two jumps tests with little trouble. Then, on the third jump, it happened—his chute did a Mae West. That is, the shrouds became entangled over the billowing canopy, making two very suggestive bulges of silk.

Bo had jumped at 1,200 feet and was falling very fast. There was no time to pull the reserve chute. It would probably become fouled anyhow. The risers, which had gotten twisted, were unwinding, spinning Bo around. He barely managed to assume the landing position before he hit and in that way absorb some of the shock. Nevertheless, he hit with such force that he broke his back.

"I knew what had happened," Bo says, "and the first thing I thought of was my hands. I lay there helpless for a long time, thinking I was sure to be a wheelchair case for life. Then I gradually worked my head so I could see my hands. I tried to move my fingers, and, sure enough, they opened and closed just like they were supposed to. Boy, that felt good! Whatever happened, I knew I would still be able to play the piano."

Saunders was hospitalized for weeks, but, eventually, he got back on his feet. Naturally, he returned to the Aerial Port Squadron and his jumpers. He appeared first in a cast, then in braces supported by a cane. Everyone told him he was crazy, that he ought to get into some other line of work. Instead, Bo went back to flying and dropping cargo all over the world. Soon a year had passed and it was time to try for his jump wings again. It was at this time that Bo got the worst news of his life. He had heart trouble! For some months Bo had suspected his heart was bad and now he was sure.

Nevertheless, he was allowed to resume his parachute training and completed his last two jumps with the famed 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg. When he came back with his wings, the First Aerial Port Squadron was a revitalized organization. They were putting on their best for Bo. The former cast-offs and AWOLs were still starching their coveralls and squaring their caps; but, in addition, they were now blousing their pants over their boots—in regulation paratrooper style. Also, each squadron had come up with a flashy insignia that would make a general do a double-take. Nothing quite like this had hit the Air Force since the "take-a-brace-mister" days at Randolph Field.

Instead of his recruits busting out nightly to go over the hill, they were out attracting hundreds more to join the outfit.

"The discipline and uniform appeal brought many," Bo explains. "Actually, men were begging for combat control service just to get the jump wings. They liked the bloused boots and the sucked-in belly, but I soon let them know combat control was much more than getting a pair of paratrooper wings."

Kudenko Featured in Philadelphia Inquirer

(NOTE: The Philadelphia Inquirer's magazine section "Today" of Sunday, September 14, carried an interesting half-page article entitled "He's the 'most valuable' soccer player" accompanied by a picture of Wolodymyr Kudenko, ace soccer player. We reprint the article in its entirety to illustrate what great publicity was given the Ukrainian name in an important newspaper.)



Walt Kudenko

"At the conclusion of its 1957-58 season, the American Professional Soccer League conducted a poll to determine the circuit's 'most valuable player.' It was no contest. Walt Kudenko, left halfback of Philadelphia's National Ukrainians, won by the length of a soccer field.

"Inasmuch as most players don't attain soccer maturity until their late 20's, Kudenko's selection was an item. Walt is only 22.

"Eight years ago, Kudenko came to the U.S. with his mother and three sisters and settled in Philadelphia. A native of the Ukraine, he brought a lot of memories, most of them unpleasant. Walt's father a soldier in the Second World War, was killed during the Nazi advance. Then the Kudenkos were transported to Stuttgart, Germany. In 1950, a Ukrainian group in Philadelphia sponsored their entry into the U. S.

"Walt, who had seen and played in a few soccer games in Europe, chose to enter the Northeast High to learn soccer under Bay Mullen, North-east coach. By the time he was graduated in 1956, Kudenko was playing for the National Ukrainians in amateur competition. The team went professional last season, joining the American League.

"Kudenko, who lives at 2416 Perot st., now is preparing for a career in electronics. This summer, he planned to play professional soccer in Canada to pay for his studies. However, injuries incurred in an automobile accident made this impossible. 'I heal fast, though,' Walt says. 'I'll be back with the Ukrainians this season.'"

We certainly do hope young Kudenko recuperates rapidly to once again thrill soccer fans with his great all-around play and help the pro Ukrainian Nationals to once again attain soccer honors as they did in the last three seasons in amateur and pro circles.

U. S. Citizenship

Question: My wife and I are both native American citizens, but we have been living abroad for a number of years because of my job. My wife recently gave birth to a daughter. We would like to know whether our child, who was born abroad, is an American citizen?

Answer: Yes, your daughter is an American citizen. A person born outside of the United States of parents both of whom are citizens of the United States, and one of whom has had a residence in the United States, or one of its outlying possessions prior to the birth of such person, is an American citizen by birth.

FREE LETTER-WRITER'S GUIDE AVAILABLE

You can be a Spokesman for the United States. That is the title of a free letter-writers guide available from the Common Council for American Unity, 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N.Y. The six-page guide offers simple, practical suggestions on how the letters we write abroad can help build international understanding. It also points out some false impressions of America which our letters can correct.

Advertisement for Brides & Grooms at Central Plaza featuring wedding services, dinner, and reception at budget prices.

Silver Anniversary

I was once told that a person goes through life with a few incidents that occur and for an unknown reason they are not able to put their feelings into words. I have had that feeling before and just recently, at the Youth of ODWU Silver Anniversary Banquet that same feeling overpowered me. I can only very humbly state that it had to do with an awakening that it has been 25 years that the MUN has been striving to fulfill its original obligation.

Indeed, time has passed. What was originally only American-born Ukrainians, we now have active in the MUN the third generation. This in itself makes me feel pretty old. At the same time, I feel quite proud or even slightly conceited, that we were able to do our work for such a long period of time to where our children are stepping in to take over.

I was deeply impressed with the Homestead, and the possibilities that it offers for the youth as well as the older folks. Having the distinction of being an honorary president of the MUN, I am deeply moved by what has been achieved in the past few years. We not only expanded, but most of all we were able to publish an Almanac. This is something that will outlive all of us. Another point worth mentioning is the fact that only a few years ago we were talking and wondering if the upcoming generation will become interested in what we are doing. Today, we find them not only interested but, in a very polite way, they are telling us to move over for new blood is taking the reins. I verily believe that youth is youth for just so long; then they become adults. Too often we find people who have not only become adults but are on the verge of being grandparents and yet they still insist in holding the reins so that youth has to take a back seat or else drop out entirely.

Upon arriving home from Youth of ODWU convention I found a letter written to me with a special note for the MUN. This letter was written by Congressman Kenneth B. Keating of the 38th District. I feel that in Mr. Keating the Ukrainians have one of the best friends that any people can hope to have. He has done a lot to help the Ukrainians in many fields. Presently, Mr. Keating is a candidate for U.S. Senator from New York State. What he has to say to the youth is more than can be expected of him. I am submitting his letter verbatim:

"Please extend my greetings and the best wishes to all in attendance at the national convention of the ODWU. I deeply regret the fact that previous and pressing commitments prevent my attendance in person. 'I do want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the many fine citizens of Ukrainian extraction, who have contributed so much to the culture,

thought and strength of the United States. By combining the rich traditions of your native land with your indomitable belief in freedom and democracy, you have become respected and treasured members of the American community.

"It is fitting that a special recognition is to be given at your convention to your young people. I know from personal experience the joys they experience in preserving the wonderful heritage of Ukraine, such as the dance, and the upright manner in which they have been trained. They deserve every bit of the praise I am sure you will accord them. It is particularly important at this time, as you salute your young people, that all of us pause for a moment to remember the plight of your noble people enchained behind the Iron Curtain. They look forward to no immediate future of promise and success such as that before the youth of America. Yet they persist in their courageous resistance to the Red tyrants and their implacable opposition to Soviet oppression in all its forms. Our hearts go out to them on this occasion.

"It would be well for all of us to once more dedicate ourselves to the proposition that one day soon Ukraine must and will be a free nation. Until that day, no person who believes sincerely in the dignity, freedom and honor of the individual can rest. I pledge to you my continued devotion to the cause of a free and independent Ukraine. Let us once more join hands in prayer and hope that the day of salvation will not be long delayed."

William Popowych

U.N.A. BOWLING LEAGUE NEWS

By STEPHEN KUBLAK

BROTHERHOOD OF HOLY ASCENSION KEGLERS TAKE EARLY LEAD

Although it is still too early in the season to mean anything, last season's "cellar-dwelling" St. John's C.W.V. "juniors" did better than their senior brothers by winning at least one game from the First Ukrainian P.M.O. five. This "auspicious" beginning was mainly due to the good bowling of their new reinforcement, Joe Samila, whose 214-pin game brought home the bacon for the juniors in the first game. His subsequent 211 and 170 pin games came short of making repeat performances, but did give him the evening's highest individual three-game series totalling 595 pins.

Both the St. John's Holy Name Society team and the quintet representing the Ukrainian American Veterans Post won two out of three games, the former from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church five, and the latter from the Ukrainian Y.W.C. keglers. Another performance worthy of note was the second-best "wood-chopping" of Joe Kalba, who rolled up a series total of 563 pins and a single game of 222.

U.N.A. BOWLING LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY TEAM STANDINGS

Table with columns: Rank, Team Name, Won, Lost, Game, High, Total Pins, Average. Lists 10 teams including Brotherhood Holy Ascension, Ukr. Center, 1st Ukr. P.M.O., etc.

Advertisement for the Autumn Festival featuring volleyball matches, dances, and the election of Miss Soyuzyivka 1959. Includes dates for Saturday Night & Sunday, Sept. 27, 28.

Advertisement for the Ukrainian Americans of the New York Metropolitan Area, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Environs. Features a protest manifestation on Sunday, October 5, 1958, commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Ukraine Death Victims.

Advertisement for Wołoschuk Furs, featuring fur clothing like coats and jackets. Includes address: 343 - 7th Avenue, New York, N.Y.

