

"To promote opportunities for children and youth to realize their full potential for a creative life in freedom and dignity."

D. D. Eisenhower

СВОБОДА УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ЩОДЕННИК



SVOBODA UKRAINIAN DAILY

The Ukrainian Weekly Section

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Khrystos Rozhdayetsia — Christ is Born!

KHRYSTOS ROZHDAYETSIA! — MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas in Ukraine, ever since the introduction of Christianity there in the year of 988, was always observed according to the Julian calendar on January 7-9.

For the last two decades when the overwhelming majority of the Ukrainian people found themselves under the domination of Communist Russia, there has been no true celebration of Christmas.

Today, when Ukrainians in the free world are preparing to observe their traditional Rizdvo, our thoughts must be directed toward the enslaved homeland of so many of us.

But, even though our enslaved brethren cannot openly enjoy or celebrate the Feast of Nativity, they certainly are not devoid of the Christmas spirit.

Christmas — Symbol of Hope

No matter to what degree religious freedom has been suppressed in Ukraine, we know that the vast majority of Ukrainians believe in the true meaning of Christmas.

Therefore, when we sit down to the Holy Supper, or sviata yechera, let us think of our unfortunate brethren in Ukraine and those in Kazakhstan, Siberia and elsewhere.

When that time comes, Ukrainians will resume the observance of Christmas festivities with the same reverence and happiness as they did in the past.

Continue Ukrainian Christmas Traditions

But in the meanwhile, while Ukraine is still submerged by the forces of darkness and godlessness, let us see that the beautiful Ukrainian Christmas traditions be continued by Ukrainians in the free world.

Some highlights of these traditions are: the preparation of sviata yechera, containing the twelve traditional meatless dishes, including kutia (boiled wheat with honey and poppy seeds).

Let us celebrate Christmas by keeping the Christ Child in our hearts.

Khrystos Rozhdayetsia! Slavite Yoho! Christ is Born! Praise Him!

Sing These Carols and Keep Our Christmas Traditions

БОГ ПРЕДВІСНИЙ НАРОДИВСЯ... У ВИФЛЕСМІ НІНІ НОВИНА... НА НЕБІ ЗІРКА ЯСНА ЗАСЯЛА... НЕБЕ І ЗЕМЛЯ... БОГ СЯ РАЖДАЄ...

CHRISTMAS IN UKRAINE



UKRAINIAN PROFESSIONALS MET WITH UCCA

NEW YORK, December 30. — Representatives of the American Ukrainian Medical Society and the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America met with eleven members of the Executive Board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America for the purpose of exchanging views and ideas on the present situation in the Ukrainian community in the United States.

The initiative for the meeting came from the UCCA whose officials felt that both the Medical Society as well as the Ukrainian Engineers' Society should be drawn more closely into the activities and operations of the UCCA.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS IN UKRAINE

By TED LUCIW

I am dreaming of a white health to celebrate the Easter Holidays, the Day of the Ascension and live as many years as God has granted unto you. Christ is Born!

Unfortunately, such Christmas Holidays as I describe are not as free today as they used to be.

The actual Christmas festivities start with the Christmas Eve and the Holy Night supper. This takes place on January 6th according to the old, Julian calendar, inherited from Roman times when the Christian church began.

On January 6, before my grandparents began their Christmas Eve Supper, they would first send suppers to the needy folks, widows, and orphans.

When the first star showed up in the skies, we children hollered "The star, the star, let's start the celebration!"

Grandpa, dressed in his best suit, with all his inborn dignity would leave the house, followed by other members of the family, to the nearby shed and in a few moments a special "procession" would follow to the house.

As they approached the house, Grandma would open the door, as if to welcome them. Grandpa would stop in front of the threshold and in his serious voice would say:

"I come to wish you a Merry Christmas, A Happy New Year; May you live in good health to celebrate the Easter Holidays, the Day of the Ascension and live as many years as God has granted unto you. Christ is Born!"

Christmas Greetings from Edith Hyder

HAMILTON, Ont. — Edith Hyder, for over twenty years a commentator on Canada's airwaves sent her Christmas greeting headed "To All Ukrainian Friends".

Again—we near the time when our thoughts, hopes and prayers center on the miracle of our Saviour's birth. Hope for all mankind was born (as well) when the first Christmas was the fulfilled Promise of the Angels.

Let us know—Peace will never come to a world half-free and half-enslaved and Peace is the dream of all decent people.

Let us therefore (as our New Year slowly approaches and Christmas leaves our lives this dying year) let us look toward "Tomorrow and know what People of Good-will Must Do. Working with God and with the dynamic force of conviction we can—bring forth the true—Peace on Earth—Good-will toward All Men—which we now seek.

On the occasion of the Ukrainian Christmas, The Ukrainian National Association, with the Editors and Staff of SVOBODA and THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY, send warm greetings to all the readers, and wish them a happy and merry celebration of the Saviour's birth.

Former L. A. Theatre is Now Ukrainian Culture Center FUNDS ARE NEEDED BEFORE OPENING

LOS ANGELES, Cal. — An appeal for funds in behalf of the Ukrainian Culture Center of Los Angeles was sent out to the Ukrainian people of California.

Signed by Mykola Novak and Ivan Dutka, president and secretary of the Center, respectively, the appeal reads in part: "[The building] which was being remodelled is almost ready to be officially opened to serve Ukrainian people of Los Angeles and California. Only one generous effort from every Ukrainian patriot is needed to achieve this. Costly remodelling has exhausted our funds. We require immediately \$10,000.00 for the necessary furnishings and equipment to make the building ready to serve our people."

Rather than build a new center, which would cost an estimated half million dollars, the Los Angeles group purchased an impressive-looking theatre of white stone or marble, with an attractive

Two Ukrainian Women Die As Tree Catches Fire

A mother and daughter were burned to death in Brooklyn on Monday January 2, while decorating a tree for their family's observance of the Ukrainian Christmas on Saturday.

The victims, Mrs. Jennie Popyk, fifty-nine, and Miss Vera Popyk, thirty-two, of Ukrainian descent, were hanging electric bulbs on the tree in the living room of their first-floor apartment at 276 Boerum St. in the borough's Ridgewood section when the branches suddenly burst into flames.

For a moment, they tried to put out the blaze, which was consuming the tree and the presents laid around it. They shouted for help and Michael Popyk, sixty-one, husband and father, who was in the basement, heard their cries. He ran into the apartment and went to the kitchen, hoping to reach the living room through the French doors.

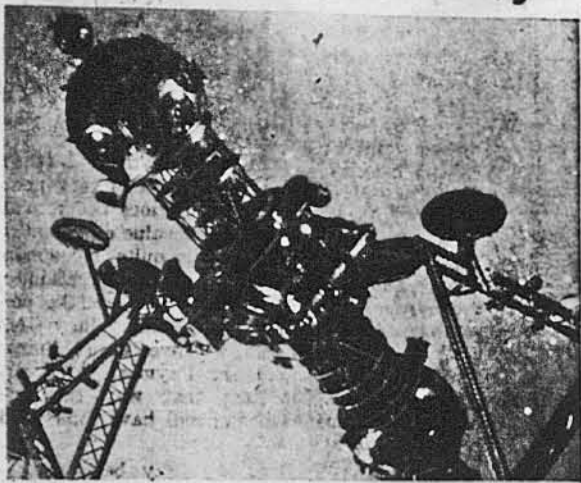
BUFFALO PROCLAIMS SHEVCHENKO YEAR

BUFFALO, N.Y. (By wire). —Mayor Frank A. Sedita of Buffalo proclaimed the year 1961 as Shevchenko Year, on Tuesday, January 3, according to Petro Samutyn, Chairman of Buffalo's Shevchenko Committee.

Dr. Nestor Procyk headed the delegation which visited the Mayor's office on the occasion of the proclamation.



The Star of Bethlehem; Was It an Actuality?



The projector in the Franklin Institute Planetarium. With it a picture of the heavens at the time of Christ's birth can be reproduced.

By GROVER BRINKMAN
Written Especially for Central Press and This Newspaper

WAS THE STAR OF Bethlehem, seen only by the Magi at the time of Jesus' birth, an actuality or a myth?
Science has a very plausible answer.

An old superstition persists that science always contradicts religion. But many noted theologians will tell you this is an untruth. They cite the Star of Bethlehem as an example.

Philadelphia's Franklin Institute Planetarium in its annual Christmas show, correlates the religious account of the star with a scientific explanation which takes much of the mystery out of this strange glowing light that led the wise men to Jesus' manger at Bethlehem.

Was it actually a star?
Scientists today believe it was not a star in the scientific tradition, but a rare conjunction or close passing of the planets, Jupiter and Saturn.

THIS CONCLUSION was reached after a careful study of all written records, ecclesiastical, scientific, historic and philosophical. Even the Scripture authenticates their belief.

The Bible reads: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

Scripture further tells us that the star went before the Magi, until they reached the place of Jesus' birth. This is how the wise men found the infant King.

For 2,000 years, men have puzzled over the Christmas star. Astronomers never recorded a strange light in the sky at the time year 1 B. C. dissolved into year 1 A. D. Few people realize that there is no evidence that anyone but the Magi ever saw the star. King Herod didn't, his high priests didn't, the shepherds out on the desert failed to see it. Only the wise men did. Why?

SOME SCHOLARS believe that this was so because the star was not a true star at all, but a rare triple conjunction of passing of the bright planets, Jupiter and Saturn. The Magi

without doubt were Persian astrologers who would see mystical significance in such a phenomenon.

Today, however, such mystical significance is not attributed to a triple conjunction, as science can explain it thoroughly. When viewed from the earth, Jupiter and Saturn pass each other in the sky. Triple conjunctions of Jupiter, Saturn and the earth take place every 125 years. The last one occurred in 1941.

THE NEXT QUESTION that comes to mind is: why are there no written astronomical records about such a rare celestial event occurring in 1 A. D.?

Because, according to some scholars, this conjunction appeared in the year 7 B. C. and it seems possible that Jesus was born in the spring of the year 7 or 6 B. C. Scholars substantiate these findings by referring to the major tax collections of the period.

The Gospel of Saint Luke refers to this time, but the exact year was unknown until 1923, when, near Ankara, Turkey, a tablet was found in a Roman ruin that contained an inscription which, when deciphered, relates that in the reign of Caesar Augustus there were three great tax collections, the first in 28 B. C., the second in 8 B. C. and the third in 14 A. D.

THE TAXATION in 28 B. C. was much too early to have been the one mentioned in the Scriptures. The one in 14 A. D. was much too late as it followed too long after the death of Herod. The only tax that fits the description is that of 8 B. C. It is then conceivable that Jesus was born a year later, about 7 B. C., as it probably would have taken a year for the taxation decree to have reached Galilee. And this date would coincide with the date of the planets' conjunction, forming the bright "star."

However, the calendar date of Christ's birth is far less important than the fact that He was born. And while it is fascinating to probe the past and ask who the Wise Men were, and what was the star they followed, it is not the star, but the scene it illuminated that has captured men's hearts down through the centuries.

That is the true Christmas story.

Young Ukrainian Intelligentsia Prefer Cosmopolitanism, Says Pelensky

NEW YORK, Dec. 30, 1960 (Staff) — There is a definite move among the young intelligentsia in the United States, away from the Ukrainian nationalism, and towards the Ukrainian cosmopolitanism. This is a one-sentence summary offered by Dr. Yaroslav Z. Pelensky of King's College, Wilkes Barre, Pa. to his talk on the problems of young Ukrainian intellectuals in the USA, at the regular meeting of the Round Table Discussion Club.

The latest gathering of this discussion group took place today at the Ukrainian Institute on East 79th Street, with approximately fifty members and guests in attendance.

Dr. Pelensky, who is one of members of the group of people of whom he was speaking, explained that he based his conclusions on his own observations and on those of his acquaintances. In the estimation of this young generation historian, there are about 500 Ukrainians in the United States, who fit into the category of the young intelligentsia.

Among other things, he stated that there still exists a strong anti-Ukrainian attitude in the scholastic field of this country, and it places the Ukrainian humanists at least, in an awkward position. In their respective fields as university and college professors, or as researchers, they are labeled as Ukrainian nationalists by their American colleagues. On the other hand, Ukrainian community looks at them as too liberal-minded, or as passive participants in the Ukrainian cause.

Turning to the Ukrainian community in general, Dr. Pelensky observed that it seems that the Ukrainians are concentrated in the American lower middle class where they remain contented, while the Americans in general in this category strive to better themselves and reach a higher rung. In recent years such symbols of culture as increased interest in classical music and writings is prevalent, he said.

Answering his rhetorical question, What is to be done? Dr. Pelensky said that he feels there will be no improvement in the situation, and nothing much may be done about it. The young intellectuals will not take a more active part in the Ukrainian life, because among present leaders and the majority of the people there is no desire to change the status quo.

As is usual at the Round Table Club meetings, discussion followed the talk. Of those who took the floor, some supported the Speaker's views, while others added their own observations, or criticized the young intelligentsia for showing faults, but not remedies. There were also those who advocated the taking over of community institutions by the younger generation through concentrated effort, and running these in accordance with the new and better ideas.

In his concluding statement, Dr. Yaroslav Pelensky emphatically dissociated himself from this idea of breaking down and taking over. He called it a nationalist mentality and a historical tragedy of our nation.

Unlike at other meetings of the Club, the majority of those present at this one were of the younger generation.

BOOK REVIEWS
Wira Selanski, ed. *Antologia da Literatura Ucrainiana*. Rio de Janeiro, Companhia Brasileira de Artes Graficas, 1959. 171 pages.

In spite of fragmentary presentation, Dr. Wira Selanski succeeded in filling a long void — an anthology of Ukrainian literature translated into Portuguese.

The selection begins with a fragment of Nestor's chronicle. Then examples of folk songs, epics, and writings of some fifty poets and writers follow. Taras Shevchenko is represented with seven poems, and Lesya Ukrainka with five. Most of the other authors are represented with only one piece, either poem or fragment of prose. The translations are done by Helena Kolody (poetry) and Anna Maria Muricy (prose).

The book has a brief survey by the editor of Ukrainian literature from the eleventh century until today. Several reproductions of Ukrainian art pieces and views of Ukraine add effectiveness to this very timely and worthy publication.

NEWS WITHOUT COMMENT Americans "Admire" Khrushchev, Says Alexander Korneichuk

Several Soviet public figures who recently visited the United States are telling the peoples of the USSR that American people are fed up with the cold war, want disarmament, crave friendly relations with the USSR and are filled with deep "admiration" for Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev.

Such reports were brought by Alexander Korneichuk, prominent Ukrainian playwright and president of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, who recently visited the United States for a Ford Foundation - financed meeting at Dartmouth College with an American delegation headed by Norman Cousins, editor of *The Saturday Review*.

While telling about the warm feelings the Americans had for the USSR, Korneichuk signed a front-page statement in *Pravda* denouncing the United States as the main barrier to the USSR's disarmament scheme.

Speaking at the Polytechnic Museum in Moscow, Korneichuk declared:

"Everybody we met denounced the Eisenhower administration for the bad act of the government."

This was in relation to the travel restrictions imposed upon Khrushchev by the U.S. when he came to the U.N. last September.

Mr. Korneichuk further stated that some "great American public figures" — he did not identify them — said the Soviet Premier is widely admired and respected in the United States for "his frank and realistic approach to the problem of peace."

Cleveland U.N.A. Branch Votes Contributions at Annual Meeting

MICHAEL MOLESKY IS PRESIDENT

The Brotherhood of Sts. Peter and Paul Branch 102, UNA held its annual meeting on Monday, December 26, 1960 at the Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall on W. 7th Street.

Wasył Kuchta and Mykola Kawka served as chairman and secretary, respectively, at this annual meeting. The proceedings included the annual reports of outgoing officers, election of a new Executive Board for 1961 and the discussions of new and old business. The newly elected officers for 1961 are Michael Molesky, president; John Klypchak, vice-president; Nicholas Bobeczko, financial secretary; Wasył Kaminsky, recording secretary; Steven Kosyk, treasurer; Gregory Holubec, assistant treasurer; Wasył Kuchta, Walter Pankiw, and Wasył Zuk, auditors; Michael Molesky, Gregory Holubec, and Wasył Kaminsky delegates to the

Ukrainian United Organizations of Cleveland and the committee for visitors of the sick are Nicholas Bobeczko, Wasył Zuk, Steven Kosyk and Anatoly Kokodyniak.

The members of Branch 102 have always taken active part in Ukrainian affairs and as is customary it was voted upon to give donations to Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Church, the Ukrainian Congress Committee, the Ukrainian Relief Committee, Ridna Shkola (Ukrainian School) and the Shevchenko Memorial Committee.

Dues will be paid to the Ukrainian United Organizations of Cleveland and to the Ukrainian Youth League of North America.

Discussions were held on ways and means of increasing our memberships and on actions to be taken to activate the Branch.

Nicholas Bobeczko

Long-Time Resident of Lviv Arrives in New York



Reunited with her daughters after 16 years, is Natalia Lewycka of Lviv. Stefania Siryj is standing on her mother's right, while Jaroslawa Krawczuk, who sponsored the immigration, is on Mrs. Lewycka's left.

NEW YORK — This city's International Airport was the scene of a family reunion after sixteen years of separation.

Eighty-one year old Natalia Lewycka arrived here from Lviv, Ukraine, on December 1, 1960 by KLM, Royal Dutch Airlines, to join her three daughters who now reside in Philadelphia, Pa. Mrs. Lewycka was born in Kulykiv, Western Ukraine, but for many years and right up to her immigration, she lived in Lviv, according to Vera K. Shumeyko of the Kowbasniuk Agency in New York, who handled the necessary arrangements for Mrs. Lewycka's arrival.

Mrs. Shumeyko explained that Jaroslawa Krawczuk sponsored her mother's immigration to the United States. Mrs. Lewycka's other two daughters are Stefania Siryj and Maria Kyweluk. All are residents of Philadelphia.

Of interest to some readers may be the fact that the newly-arrived immigrant's three daughters are all former displaced persons who themselves emigrated to the United States not too long ago. Their late father and Mrs. Lewycka's husband was a priest — Rev. Ilija Lewycky.

Mrs. Shumeyko did not state how long it took her agency to complete the immigration pro-father and Mrs. Lewycka's case.



Winter Wonderland is SOYUZIVKA—Open all year 'round, the Ukrainian National Association Estate in the Catskills is just the thing for a weekend of fun: ski lifts, toboggan slopes, cheerful atmosphere in the heated premises. The roads are good, and the snow is crisp.

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SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 7th, 1961
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UKRAINIAN COMPOSERS ON THE PROGRAM.
Carnegie Recital Hall
154 W. 57th Street — New York
TICKETS: \$2.00 at Carnegie Recital Hall the day of performance.

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Music by
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Elizabeth, N. J.
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