

Veselka Dancers: A Rainbow Of Ukrainianism in New Haven

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The current surge of "ethnecity" — a concept evolved by sociologists after a painstaking search for a definition — finds its expression almost everywhere: in fashions and music, in home decoration and foods, in literature and the arts. It is "in" today to wear an embroidered blouse, a skirt from some heretofore "exotic" land, to play music with some "ethnic" motif, to adorn a home with ceramics and carpets that reflect one or another people's ethnos. And it all seems to be novel, modern, a "unique discovery" for curiosity seeking copywriters.



This is part of "Veselka's" 85-member folk dancing ensemble. The dancers, both male and female, range in age from 6 to 21. Photo above shows the advanced group during one of their performances.

filled to overflowing the exquisite Lyman auditorium on the campus of Southern Connecticut State College to see a concert sponsored by New Haven's Ukrainian Dance Ensemble "Veselka." Three-fourths of the audience was comprised of non-Ukrainians, mostly students and faculty members, who made no attempt to hide their admiration for the zestful performance of the 85-member "Veselka" ensemble. Marvelling at the dazzling display of costumes and choreography, Scott G. Swanson, a student from Yale, said that what he saw was "an exciting introduction to the folklore of Ukraine." Standing ovations, often interrupting the performances, were the reward for the nine Ukrainian folk dances performed by the ensemble in this March 11th concert.

A sampling of Ukrainian choral music — an equally rich treasury of Ukrainian heritage — was given by the all-girl "Yevshan Zillia" chorus from Newark, N.J., under the direction of Borys Sadovsky. Abetting on that day "Veselka's" charges were guest performers, Zirka Hloba, Nataalka Ptashynsky, Mark Komichak, Orest Ruzynko and Slawko Bilyj, partners of Roman Strockyj. "Veselka's" current choreographer and dance master. And Mike Kozziupa was there with his music. The entire program was masterfully conducted by Ron Rohmer, a popular radio personality on New Haven's station WELI, who plugged the concert weeks in advance on his program.

It's Been Here

Well, not exactly so, at least as far as the Ukrainian people are concerned. It's all been here for decades, nourished, cherished and preserved with loving care and passed on like a piece of family heirloom from generation to generation of Ukrainian Americans. The Ukrainian folk dance, the Ukrainian music, the language, the customs and traditions brought here from Ukraine by the early immigrants are an indelible part of our heritage. Novel? By no means, except for those of our fellow citizens who have suddenly become "aware" of what has been there all the time. This kind of discovery was made recently by a large portion of a 1,600-strong that

Roman Stachura, 72, Dies

YOUNGSTOWN, O. — Roman Stachura, a one-time Uzhhorod lawyer and an officer in the Ukrainian Galician Army, died Wednesday, April 12, 1972, in Newark, N.J., at the age of 72. A resident of Newark since 1970, Mr. Stachura headed the local chapter of the United Ukrainian War Veterans of America. Before coming to Newark, he lived in Youngstown, O., where he came from Europe in 1949. Born in Peremyshl, western Ukraine, on October 17, 1899, he was an attorney and a bank officer for the National Bank in Uzhhorod and served in the Ukrainian Sich Rifleman (USS) and in the Ukrainian Galician Army during Ukraine's war of liberation. Active in Ukrainian community life since his arrival in the U.S., Mr. Stachura was a member of the Ukrainian National Association Branch 218, served in various capacities with the Veterans organization, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, in Youngstown and in Newark. His wife Valentyna died in 1960. He leaves three sisters Mrs. Alexandra Terlecky of Newark, Olga and Stephanie in Europe, a niece and nephew. After Requiem services in Newark, the body was flown to Youngstown, where funeral

STUDENTS TO SPEAK AT HUNTER COLLEGE

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Two doctoral candidates in the field of Ukrainian studies, Orest Subtelny and Lubomyr Hajda, will address a meeting of the Hunter College Ukrainian Club Friday, May 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the Roosevelt House, 47 — 49 East 65th Street. Messrs. Subtelny and Hajda, both of whom have studied under the Ukrainian Studies Program at Harvard University, will speak on the current drive for the Ukrainian Studies Chair Fund.

MRS. SURMACH-MILLS OPENS ONE-WOMAN SHOW

WEST NYACK, N. Y. — Mrs. Yaroslava Surmach-Mills will be showing her latest glass paintings in an one-woman exhibit at the Rockland Foundation's Heaton Gallery, 27 South Greenbush Rd., West Nyack, N.Y. The exhibit, scheduled to open Sunday, April 30, will continue through Saturday, May 20. A reception is slated for the opening day between 3-5 p.m.

arts festivals, Kiwanis clubs and many other places across New England and on tours to New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Ohio. Hardly a Ukrainian function in the area goes by here without the participation of the group. The phrase "generation gap" is something that these people only hear about. The Ukrainian dance is a binding tie for youngsters aged six to 21, all rehearsing diligently and performing enthusiastically. Of course, one would not expect a seven-year-old to make a costume — and the group has four types, representing the Hutsul, Podolian and Poltava regions of Ukraine, as well as a stylized attire for the choral dances. It has to be the mother's chore. Pleasant, to be sure because it is done for a worthwhile purpose. That's togetherness.

Tickets, posters, travel arrangements, etc. — this is the committee's job, a group consisting of both parents and youngsters, headed by Roman Hezzy, Mr. Gina is the director, Michael Husak, secretary and Mrs. Slava Jachynyck, treasurer.

Rapport

There has to be rapport, because Mr. Hezzy's daughter Anne, a dancer, is also on the committee, so is Roman Kyzuk, so is Roman Lysniak, and Jerry Lodynsky — just to mention a few. There are families that have as many as three children in one of the ensemble's three groups: the Berezowskys, the Kyzuks, the Dolishneys, the Mandyczas. And there is more than a dozen with two. "Dancing is not only something that keeps our children busy. It is a way of keeping our heritage alive, of instilling pride in our culture, and of telling others about it," says Mr. Hezzy. "Veselka has never swerved from its purpose and continues — often at its own expense — to spread the Ukrainian culture."

Do Their Thing

A debut for "Veselka," one might ask. Far from it. For more than eight years now, the ensemble has been doing its thing. It is best captured in the group's own program booklet — designed, by the way, by Jerry Lodynsky, one of the "Veselka" dancers — "the development of a mutual spirit of understanding and cooperation... and the fostering among our youth and neighbors knowledge and appreciation of Ukrainian culture." It all started at the New York World's Fair in 1964, when the group, then 25-strong, performed for the first time under the tutelage and direction of its founder Wasyl Gina. Since then this youthful, colorful "Rainbow of Ukrainianism" has taken the dancers to university campuses.

Tennis Camp...

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Photo above shows the group of campers with their instructors at last year's Soyuzivka tennis camp. This year's one-week camp starts June 24th.

yzuvka can avail themselves of all the other facilities at the estate. The camp will conclude Friday afternoon, June 30, on the eve of the season's first tournament for the eastern championships. Soyuzivka is already accepting registrations for the camp. The children's camp for boys aged 7 to 12 will also open Saturday, June 24, for a tour of three weeks to be followed by another three-week tour for girls of the same age group. The completely refurbished "Lviv" villa, nestled cozily among the pine trees, will again be the site for the children's camp. The floors,

the walls, the stairs and the facilities have been completely renovated during the winter and early spring months as part of Soyuzivka's overall "beautification" program. The smell of fresh paint, varnish and lumber is quickly dissipating in the spring's natural aroma. The boys will conclude and the girls will take over the "Lviv" premises on July 16th. Yet another turnover will be accomplished over the weekend of August 5-6, as the girls conclude their camping tour and the students of the Ukrainian Cultural Courses come in for a program of Ukrainian studies — and a bit of enjoyment — scheduled to last through August 31st.

Lviv Spic and Span

Appeal

(Continued from p. 1)

in Ukraine for their resolute stand against the Russian occupier and to strengthen their faith that the day of liberation, freedom and independence is coming. — To assure the Ukrainian people that their brothers and sisters in America, who came here or were born here, will continue to assist them in the struggle for liberation to disseminate the truth about Ukraine and to seek true friends in the English-speaking world. We are approaching the XIth Congress of Americans of Ukrainian Descent. All participants at this Congress will have an opportunity to review and assess the activities of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The delegates in session should also determine, through common effort, the program of the UCCA for the future. We trust that every member organization in the UCCA system be concerned that their representative organization, keeping the interests of the United States in mind, will function most effectively and be guided in its work and objectives by the welfare of the enslaved, but undefeated, Ukrainian people. Taking all this into consideration, we call on you for a full consolidation of all our national forces to active participation in the forthcoming XIth Congress of Americans of Ukrainian Descent. Let this Congress become a powerful manifestation of free Ukrainians in this great Land of Freedom.

New York, April 15, 1972 Board of Directors Of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and Ukrainian Central Organizations and Institutions:

- Ukrainian National Association; Ukrainian Workingmen's Association; Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics; Ukrainian National Aid Association; Ukrainian National Women's League of America; Women's Association of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine; Ukrainian American Women's Relief Organization; Shevchenko Scientific Society; Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A.; Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine; Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine; Ukrainian National State Association in the U.S.A.; Ukrainian Hetman Organization; Association of Ukrainians of Revolutionary-Democratic Convictions; Ukrainian Peasant Party; Ukrainian Institute of America; Association of Ukrainian Cooperatives; Association of American Ukrainian Professionals; Ukrainian American Lawyers' Association; Ukrainian Medical Association of North America; Ukrainian Engineers Society in America; Ukrainian Journalists Association of America; Ukrainian American Association of University Professors; Association of Ukrainian Veterinarians of America; Association of Actors of Ukrainian Stage; Association of Workers of Ukrainian Culture of North America; Association of Ukrainian Librarians of America; United Ukrainian American Relief Committee; Self-Reliance Association of Ukrainians in America; Ukrainian Orthodox League of the U.S.A.; Ukrainian Evangelical Alliance of North America; League of Ukrainian Catholics; Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna; Ukrainian Gold Cross; Carpathian Alliance; Ukrainian Youth League of North America; Young Ukrainian Nationalists (MUN); Association of Ukrainian Academic Societies "Zarevo"; Ukrainian Student Association of Michnovsky (TUSM); Ukrainian Youth Organization PLAST; Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUMA); Association of Ukrainian Democratic Youth (ODUM); Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations in America (SUSTA); Association of Former Ukrainian Political Prisoners; Association of Veterans of Ukrainian Armies; Brotherhood of Ukrainian Sichovi Striltsi; Brotherhood of Former Soldiers of the First Ukrainian Division — UNA in the U.S.A.; Association of Former Soldiers of UPA in the U.S.A.; Ukrainian American Veterans; Brotherhood "Brody-Lew"; Association of Former Members of Ukrainian Resistance; Association of Ukrainian Sports Clubs-East; Association of Ukrainian Sports Clubs in North America (USCAK).

SPORTS SCENE

Soccer Moves to Long Island

Professional soccer has moved to Long Island. The New York Cosmos of the North American Soccer League will open their 1972-1973 season on May 7 at Hofstra University Stadium against the St. Louis Stars. Unable to come to terms with the New York Yankees, and remembering the costly postponements of last year due to "wet grounds," the Cosmos decided to move all the way to Hempstead, Long Island, in hopes of capturing the sports minded population there.

Fertile Ground. The Cosmos are not the only ones who think there is fertile ground, entirely untapped, on that sliver of land that lies on the other side of the East River. According to some officials, there is a much better chance of success there than in the old metropolis.

The Nassau Coliseum, a beautiful arena that can accommodate all kinds of sporting events indoors is a major attempt at capturing the spectator on Long Island. It hopes to have a major league hockey team and has the Nets of the American Basketball Association.

Just recently it staged a table tennis match between the touring Chinese ping-pong team and an American squad drawing some 12,000 spectators.

Cosmos vice-president and general manager Clive Towe, when asked about the choice of the Hofstra University Stadium, which is covered with astroturf, said that many people suggested Randalls Island as an alternate to Yankee Stadium. But, he said, the club's concern was for gaining new fans and the feeling was that they were on Long Island.

Towe said that the club was seriously considering purchasing Singer Bowl near the old World's Fair grounds. If that is correct it would indeed be a great turn of events for soccer in the New York area. It would draw fans from Long Island as well as those from New York.

Fanfare. The Cosmos are planning much fanfare for the opening game. May 7 has been designated "Youth Soccer Day" with "hundreds" of soccer players from the island taking part in opening ceremonies. There will be a preliminary boys soccer game before the main event at 3 p.m.

Nassau County Executive Ralph G. Caso will kick out the first ball and greet the Cosmos to their new home. The team has signed a new goalkeeper, a husky 6-footer from England whom coach Gordon Bradley saw playing. His name is Dick Blackmore and he is 18 years old. He was a back-up goalie for Birmingham City when they played for the English Cup.

Other area players on the roster will be Siegy Stritz, Charlie McCully, Emanuel Kofie, William Mfum, Randy Horton and Karol Kapcinski.

BUFFALO UNA DISTRICT COMMITTEE announces that ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING will be held Saturday, May 6, 1972 at the UKRAINIAN NATIONAL HOME 840 William Street, Buffalo, N.Y. at 7 P.M.

All members of the District Committee, Convention Delegates and Branch Officers and Delegates of the following Branches are requested to attend: 40, 60, 87, 127, 149, 299, 304, 351, 360 and 363.

- PROGRAM 1. Reports and discussions 2. Election of District Committee officers 3. Addresses by Supreme Secretary Jaroslav Padoch and Field Representative Wasyl Orichowskyj 4. Adoption of District Program for 1972 and Spring Membership Campaign Meeting will be attended by JAROSLAW PADOCH, UNA Supreme Secretary, and WASYL ORICHOWSKYJ, Field Representative All Members and Non-Members are Welcome. A. Kobryn, President M. Harawus, Secretary

SOYUZIVKA THE VACATIONAL RESORT OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION at KERHONKSON, N.Y. is accepting applications for THE CHILDREN'S CAMP open to children from 7 to 11 years of age BOYS: June 24 — July 15, 1972 GIRLS: July 16 — August 5, 1972 Address all applications to: UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ESTATE Tel.: (914) 626-5641 Kerhonkson, N.Y. 12446

PARENTS CARE FOR YOUR CHILDREN! Teachers Make sure that your Children and pupils get the illustrated THE RAINBOW UKRAINIAN CHILDREN'S DIGEST Published monthly by Ukrainian National Ass'n. Yearly subscription \$5.00. By subscribing for two years you receive 10% discount. Send in your subscription: THE RAINBOW 81-83 Grand Street Jersey City, N.J. 07303

TRAVEL TO UKRAINE Departures for 22 days in 1972 I. Tour of Western Europe and Ukraine Price \$1,199.90 Departures: June 28, July 12, July 26, August 9 Countries visited: England, Italy, Poland, Ukraine, Holland II. Tour of Ukraine and Poland Price: \$934.90 Departures: June 27, July 18, August 1 Prices for the tours include: Round-trip Economy jet transportation, Sightseeing and transfers throughout First-Class Hotels, Two Meals daily in Europe, Three Meals daily in Ukraine & Poland. Immigration Specialists We will bring friends and relatives for a visit or for Permanent Residence in the U.S.A. For further information please contact: CAPITOL TRAVEL 830 S. Broad Street Trenton, N.J. 08611 (609) 599-3882 or 599-4533

7th UNA National Bowling Tournament May 26-27, 1972 4200 Allen Rd., Allen Park, Mich. Today - Last Day of Registration

