

UNA's Bicentennial Festival, February 21-22, 1976, Shamokin, Pa.

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СВОБОДА
УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ЩОДЕННИК



СВОБОДА
UKRAINIAN DAILY

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY EDITION

A PAST TO REMEMBER
— A FUTURE TO MOLD!
BICENTENNIAL OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
CENTENNIAL OF UKRA-
INIAN SETTLEMENT IN
THE U.S.

UNA Is Set For Bicentennial Festival In Shamokin This Weekend

Pliushch, Wife, To Arrive In U.S.
Ukrainian Mathematician to Address Rally in Manhattan Center



NEW YORK, N.Y. — L. Pliushch and his wife Tatiana are scheduled to arrive in the United States in March of this year for a brief sojourn that will include public appearances in New York City and possibly other cities, announced the Committee for the Defense of Soviet Political Prisoners here.

The Ukrainian mathematician, who was released by the Soviet authorities from the Dnipropetrovsk insane asylum last January 8th, was reunited with his wife, Tatiana, and two sons, Dima and Lesyk, in the town of Chop on the Soviet Ukrainian-Hungarian border and allowed to proceed to Austria, and then to France where the family now resides.

Pliushch made headlines in world-wide media following his press conference in Paris on February 3rd when he revealed both his own ordeal in Soviet prisons and psychiatric hospitals and those of other political prisoners still incarcerated. He called on the free world to continue to press for their release, stating that he himself will be in the forefront of actions in defense of human rights in the USSR.

Mrs. Pliushch will accompany her husband on the U.S. sojourn, said the committee. The exact date of the couple's arrival has not yet been announced, though they are expected to fly into New York in the second half of March.

Pliushch, said the committee, will be one of the principal speakers at a rally in defense of Soviet political prisoners, scheduled for Saturday, March 27, at 8:00 p.m., at New York's Manhattan Center.

The rally is being sponsored by the committee in cooperation with Jewish, Lithuanian, Latvian and other human rights groups.

Also scheduled to address the rally are: Senator Henry M. Jackson, Pavel Litvinov, Simas Kudirka, Bayard Rustin and Avgust Shtern.

The duration of Pliushch's stay has not been announced. It is expected that he will appear at a press conference and that he may visit Princeton University which had offered a position to the Ukrainian mathematician while he was still incarcerated.

Mother Tells of Son's Arrest, Incarceration

NEW YORK, N.Y. — A letter, dated October 29, 1975, written by Oksana Meshko in defense of her son, Ukrainian political prisoner, Oleksander Serhienko, recently found its way to the West.

Serhienko is presently incarcerated in the Vladimir Prison. He was arrested by the KGB in 1972, along with Ivan Svitlychny, Vyacheslav Chornovil, Evhen Sverstiuk and others, a campaign of arrests directed against Ukrainian intellectuals.

According to the letter of O. Meshko, Serhienko was charged with "agitation and propaganda in both oral and written forms, aimed at undermining and weakening the Soviet authority and with the preparation, concealment and dissemination of anti-Soviet documents."

Serhienko entered a plea of "not guilty" to the charges. He received the maximum sentence — seven years imprisonment and three years exile.

"Analyzing the essence of the matter, an objective observer will find no reason for the conviction," the letter continued, "Everything was automatic — a matter set in motion by the KGB had to be settled without obstacles in all stages and judicial instances."

In 1974, deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, writer Mykhailo Stelmakh, composer Dmytro Kobalevsky and the president of the Academy of Sciences, Borys Paton, wrote petitions asking for review of Serhienko's case. The case, however, was not reviewed.

"My son never concealed his thoughts and feelings about Ukraine, he was always convinced that they were honorable and just. On the way to the Perm Camp he wrote, 'Now I can boldly say, in the words of T. Shevchenko, that my fate is part of the fate of my nation,'" wrote O. Meshko.

WCFU Pursues NGO Status Despite 2nd 'No'

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Despite its intention to submit further information supporting its initial application for non-governmental organization (NGO) status, before further action would be taken by the United Nations, the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (WCFU) was informed by the Office of Public Information (OPI) for the second time that its application for membership has been turned down.

After receiving the first letter from the OPI, Mykola Plawuk, Vice-President of the WCFU, called the rejection of the application "an act of blatant discrimination against the 2 million strong Ukrainian community in the Western world."

He also pointed out the fact that the Ukrainian community has more members than forty U.N. member-states have populations. The WCFU has found several precedents of similar organizations which are accredited as non-governmental organizations with the Office of Public Information.

In the most recent letter from the OPI, one of the reasons given for the refusal was that "non-governmental organizations, because of their interest in the field of human rights, should have a general

concern in this matter, not restricted to the interests of a particular group of persons, a single nationality or the situation in a single State or restricted group of States."

Another reason given was that the WCFU in recent statements in its journals "failed to support the aims and activities of the U.N."

Upon receiving the second letter, a representative of the WCFU had a meeting with Mrs. Sally Shelley, on Friday, January 30. The WCFU takes the position that it complies fully with the OPI criteria and the U.N. charter. Mrs. Shelley, the new chief of the NGO Section of OPI, once again reiterated arguments presented in the letter.

The WCFU has been trying in good faith to obtain NGO status with OPI so that it can further promote an understanding of the aims and activities of the United Nations among Ukrainians in the West. Among its other interests, the WCFU is also concerned with the human rights of Ukrainians in the Soviet Union rather than merely a "general concern in this matter..." The WCFU intends to continue in its bid for membership, said a spokesman of its office here.

English Psychiatrist Urges Soviet M.D. to End Tortures

LONDON, England. — About five months before the release of Leonid Pliushch from Soviet imprisonment, Dr. Henry V. Dicks, an English psychiatrist, wrote a letter to his Soviet counterpart, Dr. A. V. Snezhnevsky, urging him to use his "great influence" to cease the psychiatric torture of political prisoners.

A copy of the letter, along with a covering statement by Dr. Dicks, was published in the February 6th edition of "Psychiatric News," the official newspaper of the American Psychiatric Association. The English doctor wrote Dr. Snezhnevsky that if he did not reply to the letter in a month,

he would "count himself justified to publish the letter."

Deeply Outraged

Dr. Dicks said that he "loves Russia," the place where he grew up, but he was "deeply outraged by the no longer disputable facts" of the psychiatric torture of dissident intellectuals.

He said the facts prove the "systematic antihuman and active collaboration of a number of Soviet psychiatrists with the organs of the KGB (or maybe MVD) in achieving the isolation, humiliation, and torture of persons by means

(Continued on p. 2)

Three Artists, Two Ensembles

To Appear in Two-Day Show

SHAMOKIN, Pa. — President Gerald Ford sent a congratulatory message to the Ukrainian National Association on the eve of its 82nd birthday and the Bicentennial Festival here, citing the numerous contributions by ethnic groups to the growth of America in the past 200 years.

The UNA Bicentennial Festival at the Shamokin Area High School today and tomorrow is the first large-scale program in Northumberland County dedicated to the 200th anniversary of America. The Centennial of the Ukrainian settlement in the United States will also be marked in the course of the two day event.

Both the county and state Bicentennial commissions helped local UNA activists in staging the festival.

Among the three individual performers who are appearing in the concert program are two well-known artists who were born and raised in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania.

Mary Lesawyer was born here and made her operatic debut on local stages. She subsequently moved to New York City to study voice and later became a soloist with the New York City Opera.

SHEVCHENKO SOCIETY TO HONOR MEMORY OF B. STECIUK, B. KRAWCIW

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The philological section of the Shevchenko Scientific Society will hold a special commemorative conference Saturday, February 21, in memory of the late Prof. Basil Steciuk and the late Bohdan Krawciw, who were both members of the section.

After opening remarks by Prof. Wasyli Lew, Prof. W.T. Zyla will speak on the life and scholarly work of Prof. B. Steciuk, while Dr. Luke Luciw will dwell on the contributions of B. Krawciw as a poet and a scholar.

The conference, slated for 5:00 p.m., will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America here. The session is open to the public and admission is free.



"Echoes of Ukraine" Folk Dance Ensemble

Some 40 miles from Shamokin is the birthsite of Thomas Hrynkiw, internationally renowned concert pianist. He too had his first taste of concert appearances in and around the Wilkes-Barre area. Since then he has concertized around the world.

The third performer is Andriy Dobriansky. Since coming to the United States from his native Ukraine after World War II, Mr. Dobriansky, a bass-baritone, has built for himself a solid reputation as an opera singer. He has performed with many operas around the United States, and is currently under contract with the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York City.

Also appearing in the festival is the "Echoes of Ukraine" Folk Dance Ensemble and St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Choir and Youth Bandura Ensemble, which travelled some 400 miles to make their debut performances here.

The two ensembles, hailing from the Detroit-Windsor

area, are directed by Joanna Draginda-Kulchesky and Eugene Ciura, respectively.

Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. tonight and 2:00 p.m. tomorrow in the 1,250-seat auditorium at 2000 West State Street.

NEW YORK UNA'ers SLATE ANNUAL MEETING

NEW YORK, N.Y. — UNA's New York District Committee, headed by Mykola Chomanczuk, will hold its annual meeting Friday, February 27, at the home of the "Dniester" Branch 361, located at 119 Avenue A, between 7th and 8th Streets here.

In addition to hearing reports of the officers, the meeting will be addressed by supreme executive officers and field organizer Wasyli Orichowsky. After election of officers, the meeting will dwell on the plan of activities for 1976.

The session is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Mazurkevichs Prepare For March 6th Debut in N.Y.C.



Yuri and Dana Mazurkevich, concert-violinists who until 1975 were still in Ukraine and are currently residing in Toronto, Ont., will make their New York debut in a concert Saturday, March 6, at 8:00 p.m., at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. The duo, for years students of the world renowned virtuoso David Oistrakh, has already concertized in Canada receiving excellent reviews for both technical ability and originality. Last year, they made a brief appearance at the Ukrainian Festival in New Jersey. Tickets for the New York concert can be obtained at the box office of the Alice Tully Hall and in Manhattan's Ukrainian stores.

Winnipeg 'Kozaky' Conquer Newark 'Chornomorska Sitch'

NEWARK, N.J. — Winnipeg's "Kozaky", skating as skillfully as their historical namesakes used to ride the horses, conquered Newark's "Chornomorska Sitch" all-star team by scores of 5-2 and 9-0 in a two-game series played Saturday and Sunday, February 14-15, at the Branch Brook Park Ice Center here.

In doing so, the Ukrainian students from the University of Manitoba endeared themselves in the hearts of some 1,000 fans who turned out for the matches, as well as those who came in contact with them during the group's four-day stay in the area.

The series was the first of its kind between two Ukrainian teams from the U.S. and Canada, though both voiced hope that similar encounters will be staged with greater frequency in the future.



Exchange Mementos: Prior to the first game of the series, "Sitch" captain Val Olynyk (second right) presents banner to "Kozaky" captain Roman Hilbowych as Newark Councilman Michael Bottone (first left) and Union County League president Joseph Mello look on.

"We wanted to show that despite long distances and expenses involved, young Ukrainian athletes can meet on the field of play and establish friendly relations of lasting value," said Mr. Melnycky, echoing the views of the 14 players who came down for the series.

The youths had to dole out \$100 each from their own pockets to cover the traveling expenses. They did acknowledge the support of several Ukrainian and even non-Ukrainian organizations, but decried lack of it from Ukrainian national organizations

Mathew Kostyshyn, Outstanding Pioneer Poet, Dies at 87

LYNBROOK, N.Y. — Mathew Kostyshyn, an outstanding Ukrainian pioneer-poet, whose simple, warm verse reflects in vivid form the saga of early Ukrainian pioneer life on this continent, died here Monday, February 16, 1976, at the age of 87.

Mr. Kostyshyn, who was an active member of the Ukrainian National Association since his arrival in this country in 1914 and served as secretary of Branch 160 for 43 years, was honored by Soyuz and the Svoboda Press on August 10, 1973, when he reached his 85th birthday. He was then presented with a certificate of merit by the Association's President Joseph Lesawyer and with a Svoboda press card designating him as the "first honorary staff member" of the daily by its Editor-in-Chief Anthony Dragan.



Mathew Kostyshyn

of these publications are replete with his verse, some written on special occasion, others describing the pioneer life of Ukrainian settlers in the U.S. and Canada. All of them are imbued with the spirit of patriotism and devotion to the aspirations of Ukrainian people here and in their native country.

The life and work of the late octogenarian since his arrival in Canada in 1913 is typical of many other pioneers of Ukrainian organized community life.

Born on August 10, 1888, in the village Derehova near Rohatyn in western Ukraine, Mr. Kostyshyn settled in the U.S. after a short stay in Canada. With a only a few grades of schooling, he worked at various menial jobs, giving his free time to the budding community life.

Endowed with an innate talent for writing, he felt the lack of knowledge in his early attempts. So he read everything in sight — newspapers, magazines, books — gradually acquiring knowledge that was at least equivalent to college education. He published his first poems in 1918 and since 1923 he contributed regularly to Svoboda and UNA's almanacs.

As a delegate of Branch (Continued on p. 3)

СВОБОДА SVOBODA

UKRAINIAN DAILY

FOUNDED 1893

Ukrainian newspaper published daily except Sundays, Mondays & holidays (Saturday & Monday issue combined) by the Ukrainian National Association, Inc. at 30 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, N.J. 07303.

Publication Rates for the UKRAINIAN WEEKLY \$6.00 per year UNA Members \$2.50 per year

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EDITORIALS

UNA's Bicen Salute

The UNA is launching this weekend its observances of America's Bicentennial with a Festival in Shamokin, Pa., in the heart of Pennsylvania's anthracite coal region, which was the birthplace of our organized life in America.

Staged under the auspices of the Ukrainian Bicentennial Committee of America, the festival, featuring an outstanding array of talent, is a salute to early Ukrainian immigrants who made it possible for us to celebrate today the Centennial of our settlement in America, as well as the observance of Soyuz's own 82nd anniversary which coincides with the date of the festival. It is a proper point of departure for similar events in the months to come during what is bound to be one of the most memorable years in the history of this country.

In saluting our pioneers, we are telling America that our people, too, played a part in its flourishing rise to greatness and that their progeny, true to their precepts, continues to be a vital part of America's mosaic.

The Passing of an Era

With the demise of Mathew Kostyshyn we are witnessing the passing of an era which makes for a glorious chapter in the history of our settlement in this country. It was a harsh period in the budding life of our community, and Mathew Kostyshyn was part of it.

A poet-pioneer, whose very life and work reflects the entire saga of early Ukrainian immigrant life in this country, Mathew Kostyshyn shared the lot of his fellow Ukrainians and forged with them the fundamental facets of Ukrainianism as we know it and propound it now. A self-taught man, he more than made up what he lacked in erudition with candid, forceful and inspiring messages that sustained the spirit of his oft despairing kin.

But more than that, Mathew Kostyshyn belonged to that rare breed of men who not only spoke what they felt but did what they thought was necessary to establish a foothold for Ukrainianism in this land. He is now gone, having lived a full and fruitful life, and so is the era that he epitomized. But not to be forgotten and, above all, to be studied, its lessons to be passed on to the present and future generations.

An Encouraging First

The two-game series of ice hockey matches between Winnipeg's "Kozaky" and Newark's "Chornomorska Sitch" has broader ramifications than the mere score or the few crunching body checks tossed around the boards of the Ice Center rink.

Although it was the first meeting between two Ukrainian hockey teams, it was not the first international encounter between Ukrainian sports clubs. But in the absence of such meetings in recent years, the hockey series stands out both as a hopefully refreshing revival of that tradition and a forceful reminder of the benefits of such encounters. The value of direct confrontation of Ukrainian athletes on the field of play notwithstanding, there are many more benefits that have a lasting effect on the participants long after the scores are forgotten.

Despite the fact that there are hundreds of Ukrainian youths involved in hockey and other sports, with but few exceptions—"Sitch" and "Kozaky" among them—our sports community is failing to capitalize on the potential. In this respect, the ice hockey series—a taxing venture on both teams—should serve to inspire others to similar initiatives. We hope it will.

Something To Cry About

By IHOR OSAKIWSKY

Ah! You have it made, don't you? Things are going just great in your studies. Next year you will be completing high school and entering university.

Life is good to you. Last year you finally completed your "matura" which officially ended your Ukrainian education. Now you are on your way to becoming a well-rounded Canadian of Ukrainian descent.

Mother and dad are proud of you. In their opinion they have been successful in implanting within you their heritage which they brought with them from Ukraine.

If They Knew

But if they only knew how you feel, and understood how you view the world, they wouldn't be proud. They might even shed a tear.

You're speaking Ukrainian less and less now. Slowly, you are beginning to forget how to read in the language of your parents.

Ukrainian books don't interest you, and Ukrainian newspapers, on well, they're a waste of time—too political, you say.

All those years of Saturday school are gradually going to waste. How many were there, twelve? Sure, they were not relevant. This is Canada. This is America.

Year after year you hear a faint cry from Ukrainian newspaper editors asking you to support their press. But you casually ignore their plea. Twelve dollars is just too much for a subscription in these times of double-digit inflation.

You're proud of your personal independence. No longer are you tied to the home. You make your own decisions. And you've single-handedly, without any pressure or guilt feeling whatsoever, have decided to pass the death sentence on the Ukrainian language press.

But just wait a minute. Think about what you are doing.

Why should you read a Ukrainian newspaper, you ask yourself.

The answer is simple. You read the Ukrainian press because you are of Ukrainian descent and it is your obligation to support it.

Maybe you're one, two or three generations removed from Ukraine, but the Ukrainian heritage is still in you, gnawing at your insides, reminding you of who you are or what you used to be.

Benefits

And what are the benefits of reading a Ukrainian newspaper?

It appears, you say, that the benefits are incalculable. Everyone has his own reasons and rewards for reading a Ukrainian newspaper.

But when it comes to the basics, you read it for information which you would

never glean from any other source.

Only in a Ukrainian newspaper will you learn that the Canadian federal government, has withdrawn, in its 1976 mini-census, questions which would establish indisputably the ethnic group you belong to.

There is one question in the questionnaire with which you can show your ethnicity, that is, provided you still speak and understand your mother tongue.

The question asks the Canadian his first language spoken and still understood. But why should this fluster you?

The newspaper—in this case it was the Canadian Farmer, January 26, 1976—quickly points out that in the 1971 general census there were 580,660 people who claimed to be of Ukrainian descent. Only 50 percent, 283,660 people, put down they spoke the language.

Since government grants to ethnic groups are calculated on the size of the ethnic community, you begin to realize that your community will be receiving the short end of the stick in the long-run. But your future taxes will still be flowing into the federal coffers.

Only in a Ukrainian newspaper will you learn that the Ukrainian population is Soviet Ukraine is still feeling the after-effects of the 1933 forced famine.

You read (in Svoboda, February 3, 1976) that the 1970 Soviet census numbered Ukrainians in the USSR at 40,753,000. But comparing it with the 1926 census figures this means a growth rate of only 1.8 million people in 24 years.

And this is no growth at all you find out. In 1945 about seven million Ukrainians, living in lands occupied by Poland, were annexed to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

With a bit of quick mathe-

Pliushch's Bank Account Grows, Reports Committee

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — The bank account opened in the name of Leonid Pliushch on the initiative of the local Committee for the Defense of Valentyn Moroz has grown to \$1,500 in slightly more than two weeks since its opening here, said Mrs. Uiana Mazurkevich, the committee's president.

The account, set up at the "Self-Reliance" Credit Union, 4814 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19141, bears the number 3900. It was opened on January 22nd of this year with the committee's first contribution of \$1,000.

Donations continue to come in said the committee which has made arrangements for Leonid and Tatiana Pliushch to avail themselves of the monies if they so desire. Contributions to the account are tax deductible.

The Way The Weekly Saw It

"...On this great day of the UNA—the 75th Jubilee Anniversary—our pledges and commitments should be real and solid: Let us increase our ranks, let us augment the UNA family and let us give our community spiritual and material benefits which will make every UNA member proud of his organization..."

May 24, 1969

English Doctor ...

(Continued from p. 1)

of false diagnoses of psychosis for their implementing their right to express their views on public topics."

Dr. Dicks, who has known the Soviet psychiatrist since 1954, admitted to him that prior to World War II he was one of the many "so-called liberal intellectuals" who refused to believe the stories about Hitler's concentration camps.

"So, imagine, Andrei Vladimirovich, how difficult was the mental acceptance by me and my colleagues of the truth that Russian psychiatrists—people like you—forgetting their sacred Hippocratic principles could become SS-like: docile servants of a cruel paranoid regime," said Dr. Dicks.

He further said that because of the conduct of Soviet doctors "communications of Soviet psychiatrists lost all credibility and the pronouncements of your government in relations to respect for the lawfulness of its judicial actions are exposed as perfidious and dishonest."

"If, for example, Bukovsky, Gluzman or Pliushch should die—be it in a camp or psychiatric ward—then the righteous indignation already existing in our national and international medical organizations would quickly turn into a resolve to declare a complete boycott of Soviet psychiatry, and to exclude the USSR from many organizations and conferences," warned Dr. Dicks.

"I beg you to use your great influence to end this disgrace which lowers the international image of the Soviet Union to a level of fascism, against which we fought together," he pleaded.

Shame Powerholders

In the covering letter to the "Psychiatric News," Dr. Dicks said that not only is he pressing for the release of dissidents detained and maltreated by Soviet psychiatrists, he is also attempting "to use national and international means of securing the cessation of these inhuman perversions of psychological medicine."

"I feel strongly that all of us—psychiatrists and other professionals in mental health in the West—should make every effort to shame the Soviet powerholders by the strength of our contempt for their primitive and double-faced attitude to human rights and freedom of conscience," wrote Dr. Dicks.

HAVE YOU BROUGHT YOUR FRIEND OR RELATIVE TO THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION? IF NOT, DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Centennial of Our Settlement Down Memory Lane

"Spirit of '76" With a Headache

By ROMAN J. LYSNIAK

Marblehead, Mass., is a town of about 14,000 people. It is found in Essex County on Massachusetts Bay, about sixteen miles northeast of Boston. The town, which was settled in 1629 and was part of Salem until 1649 when it was incorporated as a separate unit, lies on a rocky promontory overlooking the bay. It is a popular summer resort and yachting center, with a safe and picturesque harbor.

In addition to numerous summer homes and hotels, the town contains many interesting buildings from the colonial period, a time when the community was flourishing port and a shipbuilding center.

The Jeremiah Lee Mansion, built in 1768, houses the collections of the Marblehead Historical Society. Among the other interesting buildings are St. Michael's Episcopal Church (1714), the old Town Hall (1727), Fort Sewell (1742), and the Powder House (1755), which served as an arsenal during the French and Indian Wars.

Historically speaking, the town of Marblehead has several good reasons for a claim to fame.

Elbridge Gerry, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the fifth Vice-President of the United States, was born here. During the Revolutionary War many Marblehead vessels rendered valuable aid to the American cause, and the port is sometimes called the birthplace of the United States Navy, because the schooner "Hannah" of Marblehead was the first warship to receive a regular commission from American authorities. The vessel was commissioned by General George Washington on September 2, 1775.

The most singular reason, however, why thousands upon thousands of Americans and foreign visitors will be flocking to the town of Marblehead during this Bicentennial year is one painting. Yes, it is "The Spirit of '76," also known as "Yankee Doodle," the famous painting by Archibald M. Willard done in 1876.

It depicts a determined trio: an old drummer in the middle, flanked on one side by a boy drummer and by a man with bandaged head, playing a fife, on the other side—marching at the head of the flag carrying, attacking American revolutionary forces. This painting, which is usually described as the most inspiring patriotic picture in America, hangs in the Town Fathers' meeting room at Abbot Hall,

which to this day houses the town administrative offices and library, and contains the original deed of the site, which was purchased from the Indians in 1684. The original of "Spirit of '76" was presented to the town of Marblehead in 1880 by General John Devereux, whose son was the model for the drummer boy.

Just recently I met John Subota on Third Avenue on the Lower East Side of New York and stopped to chat with him for a while. In the course of our friendly conversation, John informed me that he had quit his job as the assistant supervisor of porters at the Empire State Hospital. Then he added proudly: "I'm in the art business now. Such an uplifting business."

"What do you mean art business?" I demanded, still unable to imagine John Subota as having anything to do with art. "Where have you learned it and what do you exactly do?"

"Well," explained John Subota, "you must remember that for many years I've worked at the Empire State Hospital with other porters, many of them older Ukrainian artists. During lunch breaks they used to argue endlessly about art. And from them—here and there—I picked up some art pointers. As to what I do, well, I go to auction sales, and I buy pictures cheap; then sell them high. You know, like them stocks that they always saying on the television going up and dropping down or buying low and selling high. Yesterday I bought a picture for fifty dollars and today I sold it to one of my regular customers for a hundred dollars. Right now, I'm hard pressed to come up with an early reproduction of a picture from the American revolution."

"What is the subject?" I asked.

"It is no subject at all," said the self-styled art dealer, "it is a picture."

"Sure, I know that, John," I answered. "But every picture has got to have a subject or it is not a regular picture, you understand. Is this here picture that you are looking for a background, or a portrait of General George Washington—or what is it?"

"How should I know?" answered the puzzled ex-assistant supervisor of porters. "To me a picture is a picture. Now this customer of mine didn't tell me no name. He said to look for a picture of a boy and two fellows: the boy should have a drum, one feller a fife and the other feller a headache!"

SVOBODA Said ...

"...The revelation of secret information by congressmen increased during the terms of Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. These actions not only stir antagonisms between the White House and Congress, but they can also endanger American foreign and domestic policies..."

Wednesday, February 18, 1976

"...The new Cuban constitution is the same type of 'constitution on paper' as are those of the Soviet Union, its republics, and other Communist states..."

Thursday, February 19, 1976

Tell About Artist's Life in Soviet Union

Sasha and Leana Kaletski, two young Russian singers, recently arrived in the U.S. from the Soviet Union, bringing with them only their guitars, an antique lute, their songs and Sasha's paintings inspired by the songs.

In 1972, an international theater conference was held in Albany, N.Y. Theater companies from both sides of the Iron Curtain were represented. The leading role in the Soviet company was portrayed

by Alexander Kaletski, better known as Sasha. His wife, Leana, was a leading actress in a Moscow music company.

Although both enjoyed successful theatrical and musical careers, their main interest was writing contemporary folk songs. Their themes ranged by Borys Potapenko, president of the New York City branch of TUSM and a member of the editorial board of the organization's magazine, "Promin Voli" (Ray of Freedom).

The interview was conducted by Borys Potapenko, president of the New York City branch of TUSM and a member of the editorial board of the organization's magazine, "Promin Voli" (Ray of Freedom).

Question: As a stage and film actor, you were able to travel throughout the Soviet Union. What cities or countries did you visit and what were your impressions of Soviet cultural policy in the non-Russian republics?

Sasha: We traveled through many cities, Leningrad, Stalino, Kiev. In Kiev, for example, we did a film for television. We worked there for a long time and had the opportunity to observe cultural life in Kiev. What can one say

and are quite interested in their own Ukrainian literature, especially poetry.

Leana: They especially like poems by Lesia Ukrainka and have set her poems to music, naturally modern music, and sing it together.

Sasha: There is another interesting phenomenon. In Kiev there are many so called "student films" which the students themselves make during their studies. We have seen several of them and found them very interesting. These films depict student themes—mainly student life and early work experiences.

Leana: A similar situation exists in Byelorussia. Folk songs are quite popular and love of Byelorussian literature is quite extensive. Naturally, this literature stems from the pre-Soviet period because afterwards it was impossible for national literature to develop. But, in general, here and in the other republics, Soviet rule and influence prevail.

Sasha: I would like to say something about the Baltic republics. There life seems to be somewhat freer and consequently everything is on a

higher level. The exhibits and cultural life in general are more interesting and draw a larger audience. It is more interesting to appear there than in Russia.

Question: What are the main points of dissatisfaction in the non-Russian republics? Is it individual freedom or nationalism?

Leana: Some people think that the only reason for the repression of the artists in Ukraine is the subordination of this national republic to the Russian republic. This is an important reason but, in my opinion the Russian artists, too, are oppressed by the existing regime.

Sasha: Perhaps in the national republics this problem is more acute because of the national question. They feel the repression more sharply.

Leana: This is because the artists in the non-Russian republics are dependent on their local government which, of course, is powerless by itself, but is totally dependent on the central government in Moscow and cannot solve any problem without Moscow's permission.

Question: Did you have any

contact with the dissidents in Ukraine or the other republics? What about "samizdat" publications?

Sasha: From among the very well-known people, we know the film producer Paradzhanov, a man who tried to do extensive filming about the national cultures. He did it in a very talented fashion, but naturally anything talented meets with great opposition from the state.

The "samizdat" itself, is like a sip of pure water in this muddy river of propagandistic publications that flood the Soviet Union.

Question: How would you characterize your music, your interest in folk music, your choice of themes and your style?

Sasha: Presently, folk music has become, in fact, underground music. Even such talented creators as Okudzhava and Galich find themselves in a catastrophic situation.

Leana: But they are loved by all peoples in all the republics.

Sasha: Our songs have more social content and are

closer to folk themes than are most songs in the Soviet Union. Therefore, it was extremely difficult for us to try to sing these songs and avoid persecution or even prison. For many years we sang only for close friends, people whom we could trust. When we were scheduled to appear before the general public, we would change some of the lyrics or modify our songs so as not to offend the regime. But even in such a modified form, these songs dropped like bombs on our audience, and after such concerts, people would approach us and ask where they could hear these songs again.

(To be Continued)

WEST COAST COMMUNITIES HEAR SCHOLAR

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal. — Taking advantage of his participation in the annual convention of the American Name Society, Ukrainians in San Francisco hosted Prof. Yar Slavutych, Ukrainian Slavist, poet and translator at a literary evening Saturday, December 27.

Prof. Slavutych read a number of verses from his books "The Conquerors of the Prairies," a tribute to the Ukrainian pioneers in Canada, and from "Mudroshechi Mandriv" (Wisdom of Travels), containing reflections on his travels.

Next week Prof. Slavutych was hosted by the Ukrainian community in Los Angeles.

Twin Cities TV Program Honors Independence Day

On January 22, 1976, a successful television program was aired over station KTCA, under the auspices of the Youth Organization of Saint Constantine's Ukrainian Catholic Church here, where Rt. Rev. Stephen V. Knapp is pastor.

The program, entitled "The Spirit of Independence: America and Ukraine", was designed to inform the American public about the struggle of the Ukrainian people for freedom.

The participants were: Patricia Erko, Natalie Graskow, Maria Kmit-Senyk, Joe Kreschysien, Andrea Hricko-Hjelm and Dr. Michael J. Kozak. The program was enriched by the participation of the Folk Dancing Ensemble "Zahrava", under the direction of Myron Pawlyshyn, and the vocal octet "Accord" conducted by George Lucyk.

Proud Moment

For Ukrainian Americans it was a proud moment when at 9:00 p.m., to the melody of "Reve ta Stohna Dnipro Shyroky" the map of Ukraine was projected on the television screen, while Mrs. Hjelm made introductory remarks.

She pointed out that ancestors of Ukrainians have been a part of American society for more than 100 years. Their contributions can be traced in many aspects of America's life, and their rich cultural heritage has been enjoyed by many citizens. During this narration the television screen projected items of Ukrainian art — wood-carving, embroidery, ceramics, decorated eggs, and the like.

"Hopak Metelyk" and "Zaporozhian Kozak" were skillfully performed by the "Zahrava" dancers to the music of the youth orchestra under the direction of George Lucyk.

Dr. Kozak presented a condensed early history of Ukrainian people and stressed the fact that each time after the loss of independence, Ukrainians always awakened like a phoenix from ashes, and a new revival commenced.

Joe Kreschysien added that in the 19th century the liberating slogans of the French Revolution and the success of the American Revolution inspired Ukrainians to wage the struggle for freedom, while the new trend of Romanticism which came to Ukraine from the West, brought a literary and cultural revival.

Secret Society

As early as the 1820's the secret society in Ukraine, known as the Southern Decembrists, organized the rebellion against the Russian tsarist rule in the Kiev province. They considered George Washington as their hero, and the pattern and the ideas of the American Declaration of Independence were integrated into the project of state reforms.

Later, another secret society emerged in Ukraine, the St. Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood, which also included Washingtonian ideas. Very influential in this Brotherhood was Ukraine's most famous poet, Taras Shevchenko. In

striving for freedom for the enslaved he drew his inspiration from the West and from the ideals of the American Revolution. In the poem "The Feeble Minded" he directs his verse against the oppression and cries out: "When shall we get ourselves a Washington to promulgate his new and righteous law?"

Maria Kmit-Senyk informed that after Shevchenko, his worthy successor, Ivan Franko, continued to spread liberation slogans, while poetess Lesia Ukrainka called on the people to fight for freedom.

While Mrs. Hjelm, Patty Erko, Maria Kmit-Senyk and Joe Kreschysien interchangeably recited in English appropriate poems, the television screen projected the images of Shevchenko, Franko, and Lesia Ukrainka.

Dr. Kozak stressed that it was from these seeds, planted by Shevchenko, Franko, and Lesia Ukrainka, that the modern revival commenced after many years of life without freedom.

When in 1917 the Russian tsarist empire collapsed, Ukrainians were the first to react. In Kiev a provisional government was formed, and on January 22, 1918, the restoration of Ukraine as a sovereign Ukrainian National Republic was proclaimed. When these remarks were made, the Ukrainian "Trident" appeared on the screen, while the singing ensemble "Accord" performed a marching song.

At the end of the program, Mrs. Hjelm concluded that even though Moscow pledged to respect the independence of Ukraine, the Russian troops soon attacked, and after almost four years of war, U-

kraine fell to the forces of the Red Army. She pointed out that today Ukraine is a captive nation, under the rule of communism, and those Ukrainians who speak for freedom are jailed, exiled, executed, or placed in psychiatric institutions supervised by the Russian secret police.

Moroz's Boomerang

She stressed that in spite of this the desire to be free is alive and intense in Ukraine. Just recently, the most famous of all political prisoners in the Soviet Union, a young Ukrainian historian, Valentyn Moroz, defiantly told his oppressors: "You wanted to hide people in the forests of Moravia; instead you placed them on the stage for all the world to see... You hurled the stone at every spark of life on the Ukrainian horizon, and every stone became a boomerang."

Mrs. Hjelm reproached that unfortunately not much is being said in the West about the life in Ukraine. Therefore, during this Bicentennial year, the fate of Ukrainians and of other peoples who are deprived freedom, should be recalled. As Saint Paul in his epistle to the Corinthians said: "If one suffers, we all suffer."

During this statement, the television screen showed the image of Valentyn Moroz, while the singing group sang a beautiful, deeply sentimental Ukrainian song, "To My Mother".

Community response to the program was overwhelmingly positive. Both the participants and the television station received many compliments.

Chicago Institute Fetes

Dr. Myron Kuropas

CHICAGO, Ill. — The Institute on Pluralism and Group Identity honored Dr. Myron B. Kuropas at a luncheon Friday, January 23, at the Continental Club in Chicago.

As had been announced earlier, Dr. Kuropas was appointed by President Ford to the post of Special Assistant to the President for Ethnic Affairs.

It should be noted that the appointment of Dr. Kuropas is bi-partisan: the day the announcement was released by The White House, Congressman E. Derwinski, (R-Ill.) and Congressman F. Annunzio, (D-Ill.) endorsed President Ford's appointment of Dr. Kuropas.

In addition to the Ukrainians in attendance at the luncheon, prominent leaders of 12 other nationalities, as well as Blacks, were present.

Dr. Kuropas briefly outlined his duties and ultimate aims in his new assignment.

Drama Studio to Stage "Hryts" in Irvington

IRVINGTON, N.J. — After highly successful performances in New York and Philadelphia last year, the Ukrainian Drama Studio of Lydia Krushelnicka will stage M. Starytsky's popular drama "Oy Ne Khody Hrytsiu" in

During the question-and-answer period following his address, the assemblage found him to be sensitive, pragmatic and realistic. These observations were not confined to the Ukrainians in attendance alone, but of Blacks, Orientals and South Europeans as well.

Most felt that while his assignment is complex, Dr. Kuropas, a former educator and Midwest Regional Director of ACTION where he was responsible for many innovative and bold programs, is not one to side-step knotty problems. This was best evidenced when he requested of those present to submit their respective concerns and problems to him directly at The White House.

In attendance at the luncheon were the following Ukrainians: Messrs. Stephen Kuropas, Atty. Julian Kulas, John Gawluch, Michael Kos, and Nicholas Olek.

Irvington, N.J., on Sunday, February 29, at the Irvington High School auditorium. Curtain time is 4:00 p.m.

The five-act play features a cast of many outstanding performers, topped by Metropolitan Opera bass-baritone Andriy Dobriansky who is guest-starring in the principal role.

Mrs. Krushelnicka, is the show's producer. Musical director is Lev Struhacky, choreography is by Roma Pryma - Bohachevsky, costumes by Slava Gerulak, stage lighting effects by Maria Shust.

The production is sponsored by the "Self-Reliance" Credit Union of New York and the performance in Irvington is held under the auspices of Newark-Irvington branch of the UCCA and its component organizations. Tickets are available at all Newark-Irvington Ukrainian stores.

HAVE YOU BROUGHT YOUR FRIEND OR RELATIVE TO THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION? IF NOT, DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Johnstown Mayor Hoists Flag to Mark January 22nd Date



Johnstown, Pa., Mayor Herb Pfuhl raises the Ukrainian flag atop the City Hall mast Thursday, January 22, in observance of the 58th anniversary of Ukrainian independence proclamation. He is assisted by Very Rev. Hieromonk Nicholas, pastor of St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and Barry Gorzelsky, nine, a parishioner. Church services were slated for that day in memory of those who died fighting for Ukraine's freedom and those now imprisoned under Soviet rule.

Observe Ukrainian Independence Day in Scotch Plains



The proclamation, marking the 58th anniversary of Ukrainian independence, was signed for the first time by Scotch Plains, N.J., Mayor Noel Musial, whose mother is Ukrainian. Taking part in the ceremony Tuesday, January 20, were several local Ukrainian activists, among them George Drebych, Wasyl Bahriy, Michael Lewenetz, Joseph Krysa, Jaroslawa and Irene Lemega, and Hilda Meunch. Mayor Musial had the Ukrainian flag hoisted up on the City Hall flag pole, but due to several protests by area veterans' organizations, who claimed that the American flag cannot fly over another national standard because it implies that the U.S. conquered that state, the blue and gold banner was lowered after an hour. Above Mr. Musial poses for photos after signing the proclamation with Miss Meunch, left, and Miss Lemega, right.

Ohio Communities Mark Independence Date

COLUMBUS, O. — The Governor of Ohio, James A. Rhodes, and Mayors Ralph J. Perk of Cleveland and John Petruska of Parma were among the scores of governors, mayors and county officials across the United States to issue proclamations designating January 22nd as "Ukrainian Independence Day."

"The people of Ukraine have withstood considerable hardship in their struggle for human rights; and the Ukrainian Revolution was greatly influenced by the American Revolution, it is fitting that we commemorate the anniversary of their independence struggle during this Bicentennial year," wrote Gov. Rhodes.

Mayor Perk wrote: "The anniversary of Ukrainian Independence Day provides an opportunity for all the free world to demonstrate sympathy and understanding for the just aspirations of the Ukrainian people."

Mr. Petruska noted in his proclamation the persecution of Ukrainians, the colonial status of Ukraine within the Soviet empire, and said that "only outside Ukraine can Ukrainians and their descendants scattered throughout the world speak of the freedom and independence of Ukraine."

All three public officials called on their respective communities to join with Ukrainian Americans in celebrating the anniversary.

CARNEGIE OBSERVES FETE

CARNEGIE, Pa. — Members of the Carnegie Ukrainian community joined together with Mayor Chris H. Keisling in a ceremony marking the 58th anniversary of Ukrainian independence proclamation.

In the presence of 11 community representatives, including Msgr. Russell Danylchuk of the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church and Protospesbyter Andrew Beck of St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Mayor Keisling signed the proclamation designating January 22nd as "Ukrainian Independence Day."

The document cited the Ukrainian contributions to world culture and Ukrainian

"courage, valor, heroism and indelible determination to obtain freedom and to preserve the dignity of the individual while exemplifying the principles of brotherly love."

The Ukrainian flag was also raised atop the City Hall mast to commemorate the anniversary. The Ukrainian American Citizens Club presented the flag to municipal officials, who said the flag will be raised "to honor those who helped make this country and Carnegie a great place to live."

News of the Ukrainian observances was reported in The Signal-Item, including a photo of proclamation signing ceremony.

Pennsylvania Senatorial Candidate Visits UNA, Svoboda Offices

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Frank Elliot, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, visited the UNA and Svoboda offices Thursday, February 12, in the company of UNA Supreme Advisor John Odezynsky and Zenon Mazurkevich, and discussed with UNA Supreme Officers and Svoboda editors some aspects of his campaign platform.

Mr. Elliot, who hails from Doylestown, Pa., feels that more government emphasis should be placed on the importance of neighborhood communities. He said that he is angry about "how the federal government attacks neighborhoods," and does not like "to be told what to do with tax monies."

He also believes that the neighborhoods or ethnic groups should play a larger role in the formulation of foreign policy.

"We should take advantage of all cultural heritages of the United States, and use the power of that inheritance in foreign policy," said Mr. Elliot.

The senatorial aspirant said that bunching Americans together according to race and color is incorrect. He suggests that ethnic heritage is a closer mirror image of the American society.

"We should draw upon the

M. Kostyshyn . . .

(Continued from p. 1)

160, Mr. Kostyshyn took part in UNA's 19th convention, held in Washington in 1936, which voted a special commendation to him for "his contributions, through the medium of his patriotic and inspiring poetry, to the development of the UNA and to the preservation of Ukrainian identity."

Because of old age, Mr. Kostyshyn felt that he could no longer serve as secretary of Branch 160 and merged it with Branch 327. He spent his last years living in retirement with his daughter and her family.

He is survived by two sons, Walter and Bohdan, two daughters, Mrs. Maria Zembruski and Mrs. Olga Lysy, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Thursday, February 19, from St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hempstead, L.I., to the cemetery in Flushing, N.Y., where the remains were interred alongside those of his late wife.

LASS WINS AWARDS



Lydia A. Myzak

WHITEHALL, N.Y. — Lydia A. Myzak is one of several successful area students who have been the recipients of numerous awards and prizes presented by Washington County organizations.

Miss Myzak was inducted into the Skene Mountain chapter of the National Honor Society while she was a junior at Whitehall High School.

This year she was one of four students to receive a nursing scholarship awarded in the county. Miss Myzak was also selected for the ninth edition of "Who's Who Among American High School Students."

Last December, Miss Myzak was chosen second runner-up in her hometown's Bicentennial Junior Miss Pageant. She received a trophy and a \$50 scholarship.

She and her parents are members of UNA Branch 361.



Senatorial candidate, Frank Elliot, center, poses with UNA Supreme Advisor John Odezynsky, Supreme President Joseph Lesawyer, Zenon Mazurkevich, campaign aide, and Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Anthony Dragan during visit to Soyuz and the Svoboda Press.

ethnic roots in America before they get lost," he said.

He said that everyone should study the contributions of immigrants to the American way of life, and stated that the American spirit and soul "is a combination of all ethnic groups."

Mr. Elliot said that Jews are not the only ones who are oppressed in the Soviet Union, and he added that Americans should fight the Soviet system with "butter and our democratic examples."

He said that the American government should not trust the Soviet regime because "it is not reliable."

"Before we sell more wheat to Soviet government, we should make sure that they sell or give away all they have stored," he said.

Mr. Elliot would also sug-

gest to the Soviet government that in order to improve agricultural productivity "in the richest agricultural belt in the world — Ukraine" they should "improve the morale of the populace."

Mr. Elliot is a farmer and businessman by profession. He is a graduate of the Teachers College in Connecticut, and holds a master's degree in public administration from the Maxwell School of Public Administration at Syracuse University.

He and his wife, Stephanie, are the parents of four children: Bradford, 17, Krista, 15, Warren, 12, and Richard, 9.

Messrs. Odezynsky and Mazurkevich, a Ukrainian architect from Philadelphia, are assisting Mr. Elliot in his campaign.

Dr. J. Daczewycz, Teacher At S. Basil's College, Dies

STAMFORD, Conn. — Dr. Joseph Daczewycz, professor of classical and modern languages at St. Basil's College, died in St. Joseph's Hospital Tuesday, February 10, after a brief illness. He was on the faculties of St. Basil's College and St. Basil's Preparatory School for the past 27 years. He was 66 years old.

Dr. Daczewycz was born in Ukraine on September 10, 1909. He received his elementary schooling in Yariv Novyi, Ukraine, and his secondary education in the Academic Lyceum in Lviv. He then entered the University of Lviv where he earned a degree in Philology.

Shortly after, he was an instructor in a secondary school in Poland. Later, Dr. Daczewycz received a fellowship to study in Greece and in the Balkan countries.

During World War II, he was an instructor at a teacher's college for a short time. He was then assigned to teach in a refugee camp in Austria. After the cessation of hostilities he enrolled in the University of Innsbruck from which he received his doctor's degree. He then migrated to France and studied at the University of Nancy where he received a Diplome d'etudes Francaises.

Dr. Daczewycz arrived in the United States in 1949 to St. Basil's College in Stamford. He also did postdoctoral studies at Fordham University in New York.

Funeral services were held at St. Basil's College on Thursday, February 12.

Dr. Daczewycz is survived by a brother, Michael, in Chicago, and a nephew, Roman Daczewycz, M.D., in Montclair, N.J.

'Kozaky', 'Sitch' Series . . .

(Continued from p. 1)

despite earlier assurances. "There are hundreds of young Ukrainian hockey players in Canada, apart from those who have already made the pros," said the students.

"But our sports clubs and civic organizations are indifferent to the fact, forcing the kids to play hockey for non-Ukrainian teams."

The members of the "Kozaky" team were as fast on the ice as they were off it. They tried to see as many things as possible during their stay here. Among the first organizations they visited was the UNA and Svoboda Press in Jersey City. Regrettably, the team's coach, Rev. Michael Wiwchar, could not make the trip from Winnipeg because of illness.

Led by its captain, Roman Hrabowich, who emerged as the top scorer in the series with four goals, "Kozaky" dominated both matches, though in the first encounter "Sitch" made a game of it for two periods, keeping the score at two-all thanks primarily to its goalkeeper M. Smokowsky.

But two goals by M. Dawydowsky in the third period broke "Sitch's" back. M. Budny and I. Swiatyk were the scorers for "Sitch," whose team included many of its former players since the current aggregation plays in an 18-and-under league.

Sunday's encounter turned into a rout in the second period when "Kozaky" scored five times to win the match 7-0, rounding out the evening

with two more in the final stanza.

Quite deservedly, R. Hrabowich and M. Smokowsky were the recipients of the MVP trophies at the conclusion of the series. Prior to the game on Saturday, team captains R. Hrabowich and V. Olynyk exchanged club banners, while their teammates exchanged souvenirs of this memorable series.

Prior to the match, brief statements were made by Myron Stebelsky, president of "Sitch"; P. Melnycky, Councilman Michael Bottone who praised both clubs for staging this international series; and league president Joseph Mello. It was face-off time after the playing of the American, Canadian and Ukrainian national anthems.

Line-ups: "Kozaky": J. Kohut, N. Budyk-goals; P. Pyrobyk, M. Dawydowsky, P. Bazan, S. Holowka, R. Hrabowich, M. Zatzwarynsky, D. Lega, M. Kuzyk, Z. Romaniuk, E. Tymo, J. Berchok.

"Sitch": M. Smokowsky, R. Wasserman — goals; D. Surovich, B. Dzman, B. Kraesinger, V. Olynyk, M. Budny, A. Balycky, I. Swiatyk, J. Broncato, J. Hudak, S. Biganowsky, D. Koch, A. Popowych, M. Quinn, W. Zaliako.

Serving as announcer was P. Semenik, who headed the hosting club's committee for this series. "Sitch's" officers and members did yeoman's work in providing all accommodations and local transportation for the visitors.

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Shamokin—The Cradle Of The Ukrainian National Association

GREETINGS

From the Supreme President of the UNA

Michael Luchkovich—

(Below is an Excerpt from M. Luchkovich's book

"A Ukrainian In Parliament", dealing with his early childhood in Shamokin, Pa.)

Outstanding Shamokinite

SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Michael Luchkovich, who was born in Shamokin, Pa., in 1893, became the first Ukrainian to be elected to the Canadian Federal Parliament. He arrived in Winnipeg, Man., in 1907, completed his education at the University of Manitoba and taught school in Alberta. He was actively involved in Ukrainian community life and authored numerous articles on Ukrainian themes and translated several books into English. In 1926 he accepted the nomination of the United Farmers Party in Alberta and was elected to the Federal Parliament representing Vegreville, Alta. He held that seat until 1935. He was noted for his eloquence and his pursuit of various Ukrainian causes. He published his memoirs in 1965 under the title of "A Ukrainian Canadian in Parliament." In 1967 he was award-



MICHAEL LUCHKOVICH (1893-1973)

ed Canada's centennial medal for his public service. Mr. Luchkovich died in 1973.

The town of Shamokin was nothing to look at, flanked as it was by huge dirt banks, towering high up into the sky, whence the slag and slate of a hundred years of coal-mining had been hauled from the breakers and dumped, thus obliterating the gorgeous sun that showered its beneficent golden rays down on the valleys beyond the hills instead. During the summer vacations I worked in those coal breakers picking slate; and from my seat by a chute I saw the cars pass by with loads of useless slate to be emptied on those high banks.

There used to be an old saying that "nothing good can come out of Nazareth". Any traveller seeing Shamokin for the first time might get the impression that "nothing good could come out of Shamokin", but, nevertheless, in this drab town the greatest Ukrainian association on this continent, the "National Association" was first organized, with Ardan as one of the leaders and my father Ephraim as one of the first members. Here it was that the lovable Father Konstankevich officiated as priest until his death; here it was, too, that Mr. Stekevich acted as choir-master, later on becoming an associate editor of *Svoboda*; and from here it was that an efficient body of executive men emanated in subsequent years. They all spoke "po Ruskiy" with a Lemko' accent, so thick that you could almost cut it with a knife.

Nature being what it is, the same the world over, we had our quota of characters. There was "Peter the Grave-Digger," or "Saint Peter", as some people called him. He was a highly ethical person albeit quite humorous at times. We used to exchange

stories together. I remember once telling him a story to which he made a very characteristic protest, a pet phrase of his: "Aby psy tak travu pasly!" (May dogs graze thus on grass!). And then with a twinkle in his eye he would add: "Have you been christened? You had better thus beware, for who knows when your turn to be buried will come!" Later on in Canada, when I learned my Ukrainian with enough facility to make speeches in that language, I often found myself using Old Peter's pet phrase when I wanted to emphasize my disagreement with some opponent's remarks: "Aby psy tak travu pasly!" Then there was "Anton, the drunkard", whom I once helped pull out of a pot-hole into which he had inadvertently fallen. He was a comical figure as he lay head foremost in the hole with his legs wiggling spasmodically in the air, yelling for help. Two of us youngsters kept pulling him up by the legs while he dug into the walls of the hole with his hands, thus forcing himself out with something more than the usual agility expected of a drunk. In his regular job he was a skilled artisan, never failing to impress upon us youngsters how necessary it was to do a job thoroughly no matter how small it might be. That was the basis of character building, he used to tell me; and in later years I was to find out how true that was even if the advice did come from an inebriate.

I have said that Shamokin, with the sulphurous creek running through the center of town, its encircling rocky hills, and its immense dirt banks on both sides, was not much of a place to look at; and yet, after seeing such beautiful resorts as Lake Louise and Banff, I nevertheless have often been drawn to it in later years for reasons that I have never been able to explain. Perhaps it is because I spent some of the formative years of my life there, or because the scenes of my boyhood days kept obtruding into my mind. I must have re-visited Shamokin at least four times since I came to Canada. And each time the first place I visited was the beautiful church in the middle of the town. There I used to listen to my sister, Slava, singing in the choir, and I thought that hers was the most beautiful of all the voices in that choir; and when Mr. Kolody boomed out with that deep bass of his I thought that there was no other man like him. I didn't understand what the words were about but their sound had an intense appeal to me. It is strange how such little things keep crowding back into my memory, and how much in awe I used to regard everything that went on in that church in those days; and also how dear to my heart had become the scenes of my childhood, "when fond recollection re-



Joseph Lesawyer

insurance society that has grown from several hundred members to over 88,000. Present assets amount to over \$40,000,000 and life insurance in force exceeds \$155,000,000. UNA not only provides low-cost life insurance but operates a senior citizens home, a children's camp, conducts Cultural Courses for high school and college students, grants university scholarships to needy and gifted students, and publishes a daily newspaper in Ukrainian, a weekly in English, and a children's magazine.

Our membership is dedicated to good citizenship, fraternal brotherhood, individual freedom with justice, and equal opportunity for prosperity and happiness for all. We present our Bicentennial Festival in that spirit and sincerely thank all those who helped in this effort.

stored them to view." I used to like going out to pick huckleberries with my father, or else with the other boys. The hill sides then were full of poisonous snakes, and I remember how one of our group was once bitten by one. We tied his arm above the elbow with a shirt and then carried him down the hill to the nearest doctor who quickly examined the wound. Luckily for the boy he got over the bite and we were all congratulated on our presence of mind in tying up the boy's arm; but it was the usual thing that was done around those hills in case of snake bites, so we just casually sloughed off this praise.

My father was a miner turned saloon keeper. He had been an illiterate man, was strongly built, courteous, generous and with an aptitude for picking up knowledge quickly. My mother taught him how to read and write. For all his quickness of perception my father was a very naive man in many respects and too prone to trust his fellow men. For instance, the men who borrowed money from him without any intention of ever repaying it. My mother was a practical woman who knew how far a dollar could be stretched. Our town was subject to periodic coal strikes, one of which lasted six months; during that period she somehow managed to meet her financial obligations. It was at this time that I managed to get a job after school hours stripping tobacco leaves in readiness for rolling into cigars, the earnings of which I handed over to her after each week's pay. I'd cut through the stem in the middle, yank it off, smooth the leaves down and lay them carefully on the table; and whenever I had a pile big enough I'd take it to the boss who would usually meet me with a smile, patting me on the shoulder, saying: "Good boy!" He was a common, ordinary man, but he left an indelible imprint on my mind that has remained with me up till this present day, that you do not have to brow-beat an employee to get work done.

And as I sat on my stool, hunched over my fixed allotment of leaves for the evening, I could hear the voices of the children outside as they played or sang snatches of the popular songs of that period. I longed to be outside, too, but the work had to be finished, and finished it was on time, although there were moments when I dragged my feet, as it were, resentful of the fact that I had to be cooped up in that room while my contemporaries were relaxing in other ways. I became an introvert, keeping much to myself. It all ended abruptly when one day my boss, an Italian, told me that he was transferring his business to San Francisco and asked whether I would like to go along with him.

My mother refused to let me go, although I myself was anxious for an adventure of that kind in face of the drab days I had spent at this work. My boss went on alone. In later years I often thought that if all the people in the world were like my boss there would be no wars and dissension. I believe that it was he who instilled in me the conviction that small businesses are essential for the maintenance of free enterprise and democracy; that free enterprise is not free unless men are allowed to enter it on their own account; that it is not free if every man is really only an employee who cannot rise above that status. Thus it was that when I was first elected to the Canadian House of Commons my burning desire was to propagate the Christian concept of society to counteract the false notion of "Bigness as Being a Good in Itself" leading as it did to the concentration of economic and political power in fewer and fewer hands.

I have always believed that instead of adjusting man to economic conditions, that economic conditions should be adjusted to the small business man; otherwise you will have a combine telling us what we should think and reducing us to begging for the crumbs that fall from the master's table. This is the argument that I as head of the small storekeepers presented to the Edmonton City Council last year, and I am pleased to note that my contention received the serious consideration of that body.

My mother, Maria Steranka, came from the village Nova Vis, Novyi Sanch District. Her father was the "vit," or mayor of his village and earned his living by running a saw mill. She had a fair education and could also speak fluent Polish. She was an intensely patriotic Rusynka. There was nothing of the fawning attitude in the presence of the Pole such as I have noticed in the case of many Ukrainians. She was always ready with an adequate reply whenever she thought her people were being maligned by a Pole. At such times my father would quietly stand by with a twinkle in his eye knowing full well that the Pole would ultimately get the worst of the argument. But strange to say, the Poles in our saloon never resented her. They'd merely shrug their shoulders good naturedly and say: "I guess we'd better leave Maria alone!" Mother had the greatest influence on the moulding of my subsequent character.

Of my three sisters, Yaroslava, Solomea and Olga, Yaroslava was the intellectual of the family; Solomea, the sparkling, ebullient, effervescent type, extremely optimistic, with a genius for making friends. Olga was strong-willed, practical, and ever ready to help some of our promising but poor students to com-

plete their education, as many of them still alive testify to the fact.

My sister, the present Yaroslava Novak, was born in 1888; my sister, Solomea, now Mrs. Berezynska, was born in 1890; and my youngest sister, Mrs. Olga Arsenych was born in 1894. My only brother, Ephraim, was born in 1896. He now resides near Seattle, Washington, where he manages a youth organization.

I always got along well with my sisters, upon whom I always looked with a sort of hero worship. It has always been a source of great wonder how my two older sisters were able to speak such perfect Ukrainian in such heavy Lemko surroundings. I cannot explain this phenomenon unless it was by reason of the fact that they moved about in the company of the priest and his family and the few other intelligentsia that resided in our town. Be that as it may their facility in the use of the language inspired in me the earnest desire to learn it. This was a matter that I set my mind on with great zeal when I came to Canada. How I learned the language will be related duly in subsequent chapters of this book.

It was in Shamokin that I learned the Ukrainian alphabet; or what was then called the "Rusky vocabulary"; but I didn't get much further than that. Teaching then was based on the rule: "Spare the rod and spoil the child." I suspect that education was imparted more through the posterior than the head. If any of the pupils got too recalcitrant he was ordered to lie down on a bench while some of the other pupils were asked to hold him by the arms and legs while the teacher flogged him without mercy. That's not the way I learned my A, B, C's, but to my eternal shame I confess that on several occasions I was one of the pupils who helped hold others down while they were being "educated".

Before I left Shamokin for Winnipeg my knowledge of Ukrainian was limited to a few words like "khata" (house), "stil" (table), "krislo" (chair), "hovoryty" (speak), "yisty" (eat) and "pyty" (drink), but I lacked the ability to combine them into grammatical sentences.

I mentioned the perfect command of the Ukrainian language possessed by Yaroslava and Solomea. Was it by a process of being taught or being caught? How is it that some of our immigrant children come to Canada and within the space of one year they learn English with great facility. Is it through being taught or being caught? I do not believe that any teacher has the genius to perform that miracle within one year. I was a

teacher for many years in the early years of Ukrainian immigration to Canada and I never learned the secret formula for making such progress even within the span of many years. Children learn readily from other children, especially in a mixed community. They do it subconsciously, and if teachers could only master that subtle process, they would be classed as super teachers. Perhaps democracy, too, must be caught rather than taught, although we must not be lax in the teaching of that ideology.

There is one thing I will say for our teachers in Shamokin: they were intensely patriotic, never tiring of telling stories about Washington and Lincoln. I was asked to learn Lincoln's Gettysburg speech by heart, the one that begins with the words: "Four score and seven years ago," and ends with the words: "and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." I was asked to recite it, which I did with such gusto that my teacher remarked: "Ho there, not so fast! Do you want to raise Lincoln out of his grave?" And I'll never forget the time that the teacher read the words that were engraved on the bronze tablet affixed to the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your shore. Send these the homeless, the tempest-tossed, to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Shamokin was a town of immigrants, with a large base of native-born inhabitants. The educational and the political system was indigenous, based mostly on the philosophical heritage left us by Benjamin Franklin and Jefferson. The Americans prided themselves on a "free school system which knows no distinction of rich or poor, or between those who, in the imperfect light of the world, are seeking through different avenues, to reach the gate of heaven. Without money and without price it throws open its doors and spreads the table of its bounties for all children of the state. Like the sun, it shines, not only upon the good, but upon the evil, that they may become good; and, like the rain, its blessings descend, not only upon the just, that their injustice might depart from them and be known no more."

These are noble words, but democracy will not be real democracy until some provision is made for stopping the tremendous wastage of human material of great potentiality that is lost to us because our students haven't the financial means to continue their education. I have always considered this an inexcusable omission of our governments no matter of what political stripe.

After I finished Grade 10 I began to worry seriously about my future. What was there for me to do in Shamokin? Outside the coal mines and the silk mill, or clerking in one of the stores, the place offered no great opportunities of any kind. So what was I to do? My sister, Yaroslava had gone to Canada where she taught school in a place called Brokenhead, Manitoba; and then my sister, Solomea, followed suit, and she too, began teaching school at Stuartburn, Manitoba. Next my turn came, and then that of my sister Olga, and she was followed by my mother and Ephraim. Olga taught school in Manitoba, somewhere near Dauphin, Manitoba.

It was with a mingled feeling of sorrow and a spirit of adventure that I left Shamokin. Mr. Kopysciansky was at the station with his son John who was on his way to Harrisburg to complete his final year in law. I regarded him with envy that he, from among the many in Shamokin, was able to graduate into the class of the elite.

I left Shamokin fully aware that my parents were Greek Catholics, and that inwardly I was a Christian of sorts. It was not until many years later that I had developed or caught some of the contagion of "spiritual facelessness and anonymity" so prevalent among our intelligentsia, and which put them in the position where they could not truthfully say they were for or against any particular creed.

Up until the time that our Ukrainian Canadian Committee (KUK) came into being I felt that there was too much internecine warfare among our various organizations for us to achieve any common purpose, and that fact alone had much to do with my mental attitude. As for religious faith, I am still seeking for some ethical psychological security, some haven of refuge that we are all looking for.

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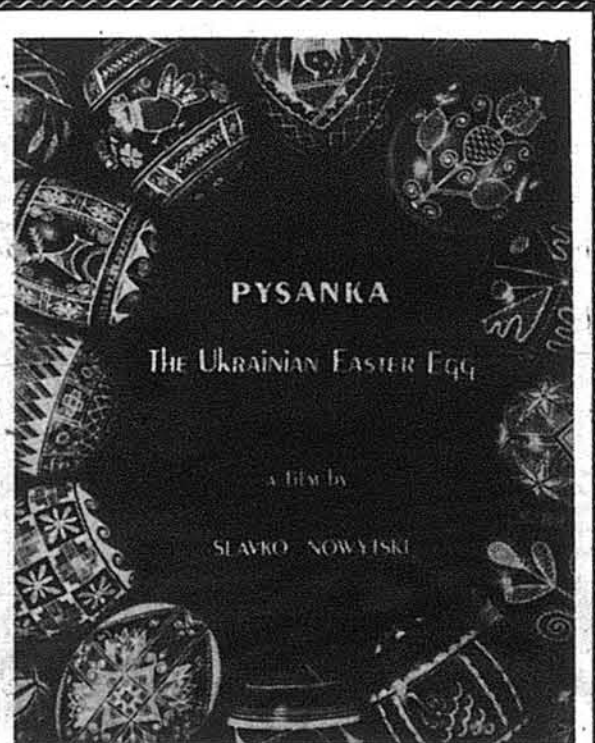
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