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ZARJA - THE DAWN

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Editor, CORINNE LESKOVAR

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Telephone (312) 847-6679

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb. 7 - DIME AUCTION - MEETING, Br. 35, Aurora, MN, 2 p.m.
Feb. 11 - MASS FOR AILING MEMBERS, Br. 2, Chicago, IL, 8 a.m. St. Stephen's Church
Mar. 26-27 - MIDWEST BOWLING TOURNAMENT, Br. 1, Sheboygan, WI, Hostess, Maple Lanes, Sheboygan.
Apr. 17 - PENNA-NY-DC STATE CONVENTION, Br. 71, Strabane, PA
Apr. 27 - ANNUAL BENEFIT PARTY, Br. 16, So. Chicago, IL, St. George Church Hall
Sep. 25 - OHIO-MICHIGAN STATE CONVENTION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY

National Officer:

- Feb. 17 - Sylvia Vukodinovich, National Treasurer, Crete, IL

Presidents:

- Feb. 5 - Ruth Sheck, Br. 1, Sheboygan, WI
Feb. 15 - Rose Maras, Br. 56, Hibbing, MN
Feb. 20 - Sandy Schatschneider, Br. 43, Milw., WI
Feb. 22 - Rosemary Gordon, Br. 55, Girard, OH
Feb. 22 - Anne Marie Wangler, Br. 24, LaSalle, IL
Feb. 28 - Mary Vollendorf, Br. 34, Soudan, MN
Feb. 28 - Josephine Artac, Br. 102, Willard, WI

Secretaries:

- Feb. 4 - Mary Brozinski, Br. 95, So. Chicago, IL
Feb. 5 - Rose Kraemer, Br. 43, Milwaukee, WI
Feb. 7 - Mary Mejac, Br. 103, Washington, D.C.
Feb. 13 - Anna Kerkovich, Br. 93, Brooklyn, NY

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!

NOTE: January Birthday dates were published in December, 1987 issue.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



INDEPENDENT SAVINGS BANK

1515 E. 260th, Euclid, Ohio 44132 731-8865
920 E. 185th, Cleveland, Ohio 44119 486-4100
2765 SOM Center Rd., Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44094 944-3400
27100 Chardon Road, Richmond Hts., Ohio 44143 944-5500
6650 Pearl Road, Parma Hts., Ohio 44130 845-8200

GREAT NEWS!

SWU HERITAGE MUSEUM ADDED TO THE ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR



The Illinois and Michigan canal was built during the late 1800s and during the course of construction many Slovenian immigrants participated in the enormous task of digging the canal by hand as earth movers were not yet in existence. The canal when completed would provide barge transportation for the industries located along this watery corridor.

The preservation of this corridor and the area within its vicinity has been one of the prime concerns of the State and therefore an organization had been formed to foster this historical project. Another function of the organization is to seek ways to promote jobs as well as recreation and tourism around this corridor.

Our Slovenian Heritage Museum, being within a block of this waterway, is now a part of this historical corridor and we are recognized by this organization and will be receiving needed assistance in completing our goals for a unique museum. There are many possibilities for developing our museum to a much greater extent with professional guidance. They will also offer the prestige of being associated with this statewide historical project and publicity for the museum which will be printed in their brochures.

How fortunate we are to have our home office and museum in this historically recognized area. Hopefully, we will make the most of it in the months ahead by developing its size, exhibition areas, collection of artifacts, enlargement of the reading and research section, additional displays, multi-media presentations, guided tours and publicity about our museum throughout the state.

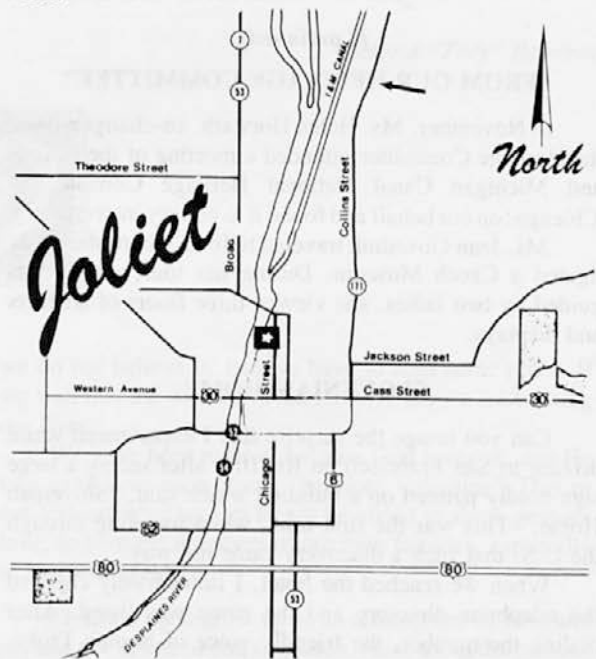
We request your continued support of our Slovenian Heritage Museum by sending artifacts, donating money for exhibits and perhaps by donating your time to work in the museum if you are within driving distance. We have the blessing of the State of Illinois in this venture, now the rest is up to our membership. Please help!

Recently our museum was enrolled in membership to the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums. The Congress was originated in 1967, under the sponsor-

ship of the Illinois State Historical Society and is composed of local societies, genealogical societies, museums and other non-profit educational organizations throughout the state.

Members of the Heritage Committee in Joliet attended one of the workshops sponsored by the Society and found it to be extremely informative. They were presented with a wealth of printed information that could be used in developing our museum.

The Society has expressed interest in helping us develop the potential of our museum and will be sending consultants in spring to assist in various aspects of this work.



Top photo: The Desplaines River is located right behind the SWU Museum and Home Office and St. Joseph's Slovenian Catholic Church whose twin towers are seen at right. Bottom: The waterway branches into the I.M. Canal (arrow) near our Home Office (star).



TORY'S GARDEN CAMPAIGN

We have just begun in earnest to work at another membership campaign and this one, a post-convention effort, is dedicated to our new National President, Victoria Bobence of Ely, Minnesota, an avid gardener. The name of the new campaign which began April 1, 1987 and will continue until March 31, 1988 is:

TORY'S GARDEN!

To give every worker a special incentive, Tory is offering a wonderful, unique prize...to the top worker with the most new members (minimum of ten points: 1 point for Class A new member, 1/2 point for every Class

A member and 1/4 point for every Junior member). ONE WEEK'S FREE CABIN ON CLEAR LAKE, at Bobence's resort in one of northern Minnesota's most beautiful areas. It houses from one to four people and is a beautiful, modern housekeeping cabin with a fishing boat included. The top worker and her family can go fishing, hiking, enjoy the scenery and the attractions which abound! The Cabin will be available next August, 1988, the best time of the year!

You may be the winner of this extraordinary prize!

So, get to work and accumulate your new member points!

And, sincere thanks to Tory and John Bobence for their generosity and goodwill to our members!



Heritage News and Views

(Continued)

"FROM OUR HERITAGE COMMITTEE"

In November, Ms. Helen Horwath, co-chairperson of the Heritage Committee attended a meeting of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, in Chicago, on our behalf and found it to be very interesting.

Ms. Jean Govednik traveled to Iowa where she investigated a Czech Museum. During her tour, which was guided by two ladies, she viewed three floors of artifacts and displays.

SLOVENIAN HOME

Can you image the surprise that I experienced while driving to San Francisco on Rt. 101, after seeing a large sign boldly painted on a building which said, "Slovenian Home." This was the first time, while traveling through the U.S. that such a discovery came my way.

When we reached the hotel, I immediately checked the telephone directory and the name was listed. After dialing the number, the friendly voice of Sophie Troha, answered and during the course of the conversation she began to describe the Slovenian Home on Portrero Hill.

This two-story building is equipped with kitchen, dance floor, stage, bar and meeting rooms. A number of Slovenian organizations meet there regularly and use the

TORY'S GARDEN Campaign of nine months resulted in 82 members. This comprises 15 Class A including six transferees, 35 Class B including sixteen transferees and 33 Juniors. Of the twenty-two branches participating, branch 32 of Euclid, OH thus far provided the most flowers for our president's garden, which is fourteen new members. The next five runners-up are:

35, Aurora, MN	9
14, Euclid, OH	6
20, Joliet, IL	6
2, Chicago, IL	5
102, Willard, WI	4

There were 49 gardeners with the following as the top growers:

Martha Koren (14)	5
Jonita Ruth (20)	4
Mary Staut (102)	4
Dorothy Jamnick (35)	3
Anne Orazem (35)	3
Irene Jagodnik (50)	3

Much tender, loving care is needed for a beautiful garden. And so it is with our Zveza, which needs each of us attending to and helping our organization grow and keep our heritage strong.

In our migratory world, it is imperative that we enroll our dear relatives and friends, thus helping them to keep in touch with their roots, primarily via the ZARJA.

Help Tory create a vari-colored garden of members!

OLGA ANCEL, Nat'l Secretary

facilities for all types of events. Had the home been open on a daily basis, as it is in some areas, I would have visited it that evening, but because it wasn't, I had to be content with just hearing about it.

The incident made me wonder whether our SWU branches are listed in the telephone directory in each city where we have membership. Would a visitor to your city be able to identify a Slovenian organization where you live? If there is a building, park, hall etc. owned by a Slovene group, does the sign boldly announce its ownership? It should state the premise: I AM PROUD TO BE OF SLOVENE HERITAGE, and make those that see it excited that they have found a friend.

"A Toast to Rose"

While Kenneth and I were on his business trip to San Francisco, we visited Portrero Hill, where many Slovenes, did and still do live, one of whom is my very good friend, Rose Scoff. I met her as a young girl at the Detroit Convention in 1952 so our friendship goes back quite a way. This was the first time I had visited at her home in San Francisco.

Rose's gracious hospitality included a bottle of champagne with which we toasted the occasion, our past friendship through the SWU and the year ahead. This vibrant, energetic lady is a wonder and if anyone can reach the magic number of a century, surely Rose will.



National President's Message

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

"Father, through our observance of Lent, help us to understand the meaning of your Son's death and resurrection and teach us to reflect it in our lives." (This quote is from the opening prayer for the Mass on the first Sunday of Lent.) With Ash Wednesday on February 17th another Lenten Season begins. We are called to an even deeper time of prayer, fasting and good works. How good the Church is to give us this season each year to renew ourselves.

The theme for the first two Sundays in Lent is "Our Victory and Transformation in Christ." The opening readings focus on the creation and fall of man and the call of Abraham. The gospel readings describe Jesus' temptation in the desert and his transfiguration. "Thirst for the Water of Christ" is the dominant idea in the third Sunday. The first reading describes Moses striking the rock and water pouring forth as a sign to the disgruntled Israelites, while the gospel relates the encounter of the Samaritan woman with Jesus. "The Light of Truth" is the theme reflected in the fourth Sunday whose readings recall the anointing of David by Samuel and the cure of the blind man. The message of the fifth Sunday proclaims "Arise and Live," with the first reading (Ezekiel)

prophesying the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gospel presenting the account of Christ raising Lazarus from the dead. On the sixth Sunday — Palm or Passion Sunday — the readings are the Isaiah prophecy of the suffering servant, St. Paul's account of Christ emptying himself and St. Matthew's account of Christ's passion. This helps us to remember that beyond suffering and the cross is resurrection and final glory.

The questions we might ask ourselves are: How do we handle temptation, those things that cause us to be less than God has called us to be? Do we recognize Christ in our lives and in the lives of others or are we blind and need to be healed? Are we continuing to move toward a new life in our groups, casting away envy and pettiness as we work and relate to others? Are we reflecting Christ in and through our Church community so that His word is carried to others? May we continue to be reflections of Christ as we meditate, listen and reflect on God's word in our lives this Lenten season. Let us pray unceasingly and when we have doubts or fears, may we call on the Holy Spirit to guide us and to ask God as the Apostles did, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Victoria "Tory" Bobence



Rev. Athanasius Lovrenčić, O.F.M.

Valentine's Day

In the middle of February we celebrate Valentine's Day and on that day we hear: "Be my valentine!" We bring sweets to our loved ones to show them that we love them. It is too bad that Valentine's Day is not every day. By saying: I love you, if we are sincere, it means that that person has a special place in our hearts, that we wish that person well, and most of all that we work for the well-being of that person.

Today we meet so much hatred, so much indifference, so that when we see genuine love, we become suspicious,

we do not believe it. But we have to start some place. If we wait that the world will start to love us, we are wasting our lives.

We were born to love, because God loves us, and He told us to love each other. Therefore Valentine's Day or not Valentine's Day, let us not be afraid to show genuine love, to love the members of our own families, especially to love our children.

Children must grow up in an atmosphere of love and joy and not in hatred and suspicion. How about the persons we meet every day? Why not to show them that we love them and care for them; in most cases the love you lavish on others will return back to you and your life will become much richer! Happy Valentine's Day to all of you who have love in your hearts!

Bernadette Kovacic

Greetings from the Co-Director of Youth

William Mandich, age 9, from Warrensville Heights, Ohio is a Junior member of Branch 73. He wrote me about the "All Nations Mass" at St. Jude Church on September 7, 1987 which he attended with his grandmother, Alouise Epley, Branch 73 Secretary, his brother, Christopher and cousins, Leo and Tracy Epley. William and his brother, Christopher took the offering of bread and wine down the aisle for this occasion. William wrote that his brother and cousins are also Junior members of Branch 73.



I received a beautiful photo that was taken at the All Nations Mass. Pictured in their Slovenian national attire are: left to right Billy (William) Mandich, Leo Epley, Tracy Epley and Christopher Mandich.

Thanks for your letter Billy, write again soon about your activities, sports, school and friends! Chris, Leo and Tracy, I'd love to get a short note from you, too. Did you have a fun winter sled-riding and making snow castles and tunnels?

JUNIOR MEMBERS -- Write me about your winter activities, ice skating, sled riding, skiing. What did you do this winter that was really fun? Write to Bernadette. CASH \$\$\$ PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WRITERS OF THE FUNNIEST STORIES. My address is 235 Hannes St., Silver Spring, MD 20901. I hope I get some great letters that will make me laugh out loud!

Living in Washington, we get only a couple inches of snow every year, so skiers head out to Western Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia for more snow and long slopes. My favorite winter sport is ice skating. Since it doesn't stay cold enough for lakes to freeze over completely, we don't depend on the cold to be able to skate, so we have man made ice skating rinks that are open from late October to mid March.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

----- L♥VE, BERNADETTE

WOMAN -

A Call To Beauty

IV.

Beautiful is the woman with a gentle spirit who can bring others into possession of themselves.

She is woman charged with sensitivity. She is woman who can stand without defenses because her inner creativity rests not in herself but in HIM. Like a green-covered mountain, with its inner core of power, her values and convictions too, are greatly camouflaged with delicacy and patience. In such stillness, the disturbed find rest and courage.

Beautiful is the woman who can stand quietly in the midst of confusion.

She is able to make decisions in the face of contradictions--- and let others grow in spite of mistakes and failures.

Like a tree that takes in sunshine, lightening, rain and snow,

she, too, knows how to change it all to sturdiness and color.

Submitted by Victoria "Tory" Bobence with permission from NCCW

HUGS

by Dan Walley

It's wondrous what a hug can do.

A hug can cheer you when you're blue

A hug can say, "I love you so,"

or, "Gee I hate to see you go."

A hug is "Welcome back again,"

And, "Great to see you! Where've you been?"

A hug can sooth a small child's pain

and bring a rainbow after rain.

The hug! There's just no doubt about it—

We scarcely could survive without it!

A hug delights and warms and charms.

It must be why God gave us arms.

Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,

Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers.

And chances are your favorite aunts

Love them more than potted plants.

Kittens crave them. Puppies love them.

Heads of state are not above them.

A hug can break the language barrier

And make your travels so much merrier.

No need to fret about your store of 'em;

The more you give the more there's of 'em

So stretch those arms without delay

And GIVE SOMEONE A HUG TODAY!!!!

Submitted by Vera Sebenik, Br. 50

Now Offered: Five \$1,000 Scholarships for High School Seniors

Dear Graduating Seniors:

The deadline for all required information is March 31, 1988 therefore, we urge you to send in your application request as soon as possible to allow time for transcript of grades, a brief autobiography and letters of recommendation from your branch president or secretary and from your school principal, advisor or teacher. The prerequisites for application are listed in the brochure available by sending the coupon below to Hermine Dicke, 3717 Council Crest, Madison, WI 53711.

If you are a member of the Slovenian Women's Union at least three years before graduation and plan to attend an accredited college or university in the fall, you are eligible to compete for a scholarship providing you are a graduating high school senior.

The 7-member Scholarship Committee will select the winners, based on scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, participation in the Slovenian Women's Union and financial need.

We extend best wishes for success, satisfaction and happiness during your final high school semester.

Sincerely,

Scholarship Committee:

Olga Ancel, Joliet, IL
Victoria Bobence, Ely, MN
Anna Hodnik, Aurora, MN

Rose Kraemer, Milwaukee, WI
Mary Muller, Riverdale, IL
Irene Odorizzi, Reston, VA

Hermine Dicke, Madison, WI, chairman

Thank You

Dear Hermine Dicke and Members of the Scholarship Committee:

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to those who granted me the Albina Uehlein Scholarship. This scholarship is greatly appreciated and has helped finance my first year of college at Kent University where I am majoring in Child Psychology. I would also like to personally thank Ann Tercek, President, and Irene Jagodnik, Treasurer, both of Branch No. 50 who encouraged me to apply for the scholarship. Once again, thank you kindly for choosing me recipient of the scholarship.

Sincerely,

SHERRI LYNN BENCIN



Sherri Lynn



Antony Santora, an appointee to West Point, is the grandson of member, Elsie Liska of Br. 73. Family enjoyed his holiday visit.

Request for Scholarship Application

I am considering applying for one of the S.W.U. scholarships which will be awarded to members who will be 1988 high school graduates. Please send me the official application form which must be completed by March 31.

- I am a high school senior planning to attend an accredited college or university

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE & ZIP CODE _____

Mail to: *Hermine Dicke, 3717 Council Crest, Madison, WI 53711*

OHIO-MICHIGAN REGIONAL NEWS

Here we are it's 1988, the years go by just too fast. Wishing all S.W.U. members and ZARJA readers a Very Happy, Healthy Blessed New Year! Many of our S.W.U. members have gone to their eternal rewards. God bless them and may they rest in peace. — 1987 has been a good and interesting year, especially since the National Convention took place in May in Joliet, Ill.

We are happy to have as our new National President, Tory Bobence from Ely, Minn. It already looks like she will be a very capable President and we hope that all the branches will cooperate, especially in our Membership Campaign called "Tory's Garden." The convention was a successful, happy occasion which enabled us to be with previous delegates and making new ones.

The Ohio-Michigan Regional Convention took place in Euclid on Sept. 27th with 147 ladies from 9 branches attending. There was a Holy Mass offered by our own Rev. Victor Tomc, followed by a luncheon and then the meeting. Keynote speakers were Frances "Tanny" Babic who spoke on Heritage and Culture and our guest was Victoria "Tory" Bobence. We would like to thank the ladies from all 5 branches who sang at this Mass; it was beautiful Slovenian singing. Thanks to our pianist, Jane Berkopec and to Marie Pivik who opened our meeting singing the Slovenian hymn "Hej Slovenci." Please keep the date in mind for the annual Regional Convention in 1988. It will be on Sept. 25th — it is always on the last Sunday in September. Mark it on your calendar.

Br. No. 14 celebrated their 60th anniv. in November with a delicious dinner and entertainment. The ladies did a super job!

We hope that all the ladies from Br. No. 41 that joined the branches of their choice will be happy, and you will make new friends, as we are all SWU sisters!

Last October Branch No. 73 chartered a bus to visit Br. 103 in Washington D.C., to attend their annual Anniversary and Dinner. It was a lovely affair and former Senator Frank Lausche was the guest speaker. We commend Bernadette Kovačič of Br. 103 for accepting the duty of our SWU Youth Director, and for her lovely informative articles in ZARJA as our Consumer Guide.

Evelyn Majersic was the "hostess with the mostest" and entertained on the bus, it was a lot of fun, and we saw Washington D.C. not only during the day, but on a breathtaking night tour as well. The wonderful guide with us was Ernestine Jevc's son, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert Jevc who works at the Pentagon. As usual, it did our hearts good to pray and sing at the Slovenian Chapel of Marija Pomagaj.

The twirlettes did extra well this past summer as they performed and marched in about 20 parades and festivals. They came in first place just about every time. Tim Mathis, director and Mary Gentile, baton instructor are doing a super job. They also performed for Br. 50's Christmas Party and were enjoyed by everyone. Our thanks to Cecelia Dolgan for her interest and help with the twirlettes; their daughter, Annie, one of the newer members, is doing very well.

The Combined Branch meetings still take place every three months at the Edward Kovacic Center on St. Clair Ave.

Before too long we will have to start planning on our next National Convention which will take place here in Cleveland.

This year the Combined Branches Christmas Dinner was held at the Hofbrau Restaurant with 31 ladies present from nine branches.

My "sincerest Thanks" to all the branches for all of the cooperation and for the invites to your affairs, meetings, lunches, dinners, etc. It is always a pleasure to be with you. I hope each one of you could sign up a new member, as we are looking forward to an even better year than 1987.

Finally, Reporters, keep getting those articles in our ZARJA Magazine, promote and sell our Pots and Pans cookbooks. They make lovely, lasting gifts and please donate to our Slovenian Heritage Room in Joliet, as this is our culture!

With Love and Prayers,

*Ann J. Tercek,
Ohio-Michigan Regional President*



*Irene Jagodnik, Tory Bobence, Marie Beck, Ann Tercek, Cirila Kermavner and Frances Babic
at the head table at the Ohio Convention held Sept. 27th, 1987*

INTRODUCING...

REGIONAL PRESIDENTS OF THE SWU ELECTED AT THEIR RECENT STATE CONVENTIONS



Sharon Naudziunas
Illinois-Indiana



Joan Yaklich
Wisconsin



Emily Skull
Minnesota

Sharon Naudziunas is the Treasurer of Branch No. 2 and is very active in the Branch. She is also an active member of Our Lady's Guild of St. Stephen's Church. Sharon has been the chairperson for St. Stephen School's Spring Festival for the past two years, which have both been successful. Her son, Paul, is a Cub Scout in the Walter B. Barc Memorial Troop and she helps the Troop at their different activities during the year.

Sharon is a statistical typist who has been employed by the firm of Bansley and Kiener, Certified Public Accountants, for the past eleven years. She enjoys listening to music, crocheting, baking and helping the School, Church and her friends whenever she can.

Sharon is a single parent and resides in Chicago, Illinois with her 8-year old son, Paul.

Joan Yaklich has been a member for the past 9 years, and became the secretary of Br. 17, West Allis, Wisconsin in March of 1985. She was a delegate to the National Convention held in Joliet. She says she really enjoyed it, meeting new friends and getting more involved with the organization. Getting out to meet members from the other branches is also a pleasant experience for Joan. As the new State or Regional President, she will have many opportunities to do just that. Our best wishes to her. Joan's address is 2417 W. Tripoli Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211.

Emily Skull was born in Ely, Minnesota and is a resident of Duluth since 1942. She and her husband of 45 years, John Skull, have three children and 6 grandchildren.

Emily is active in church groups, is past president of the Women's Council, helps with religious instruction and does the church dinners.

She has been the president of Br. 33 for three years and was recently re-elected. She is very interested in Slovenian heritage and hopes to increase this activity among Minnesota branches in the years ahead.

Congratulations Ann, Jennie, Rosemary and Frances!

Ann Tercek, popular Regional President of Ohio-Michigan has been re-elected by acclamation and we salute her for many years of dedicated service to her sister-members. At the National Convention, two new Regional Presidents were appointed, namely, Jennie Flisek of Oakmont, Pa. for the States of Penna-New York and DC and Rosemary Mlakar of Fontana, CA for the western states. Frances Simonich, a long-standing leader in the states of Colorado-Kansas-Missouri also has retained her position. To all, sincere wishes for success and many years of good work and fulfillment!

Watch for the dates and attend Regional Conventions in your states.



ACTIVITIES

NO. 1, SHEBOYGAN, WI

A Happy New Year to everyone! May you enjoy happiness, peace, health and prosperity through the coming year.

Our Christmas meeting and party was held in January due to a snow storm that paralyzed the city for two days.

Father Fale, our pastor and spiritual director, passed away on December 1, 1987. The memories of Father Fale will remain with us forever. Again this month, we lost two members Jane Gorenz and Johanna Mohar. Members of Branch 1 would like to extend their sympathy to the families. Our sympathy to Irene Stein and Stanza Moegenburger on the death of their husbands, Al Stein and Dick Moegenburger. Remember them in your prayers.

Pat Urayner has reported to me that the bowling tournament will be on March 26, 27, 1988 at Maple Lanes. Ham, potica, kranski will be sold on Saturday. Sweetrolls, coffee and juice will be served on Sunday morning. Come on, ladies, let's get those teams formed to bowl that 300 game!

Congratulations to Slovenian Women's Union, Branch 1 on their 61st anniversary. It was founded by Marie Prislant on December 19, 1926.

Respectfully,

AGGIE GRUENKE

NO. 2, CHICAGO, IL

Dear members, Happy and healthy New Year to all! I hope all of you enjoyed a festive holiday season. The weather held up, so many of us were fortunate to attend all the doings.

Our penny social was a success with a large crowd in attendance. The motif was Hawaiian and the entertainment was great. Our chairpersons were Sharon Naudziunas and Jean Zeleznikar. Thanks to all their helpers, too.

Sorry we were not able to have the Advent Tea as planned, due to the visit of Bishop Smej of Slovenia. A dinner was held in his honor that day in the Church Hall.

MEMBERS OF BR. 2 AND THEIR 100 YEAR OLD SISTER MEMBER



Anna Ahačič, 100 years old in October of 1987, is the oldest member of Br. 2, Chicago, and one of the oldest members in all the Union. At their meeting, the members presented Anna with a bouquet of red carnations and a Mass Card for her birthday. The party was jolly and attended by many members, some of whom are on this photo, as follows:

Mary Rigler, Julia Petrich, Mary Kosar, Elsie Ciszek, Millie Paisoli, Ann Scieszka, Katie Tuzek, Stella Longosz, Metoda Fischinger, Jean Zeleznikar, Agnes Kovacic, Frances Zibert and Ana Gaber.

Ančka is still a very active lady, attending mass daily at St. Stephen's church and you can see her smiling face at all the various functions in the parish. She also has been a very generous donor to causes for the church and the Slovenian people. Many more years, dear Ančka, in good health and happiness!

The children's Christmas party was chaired by Irma and Louis Pasderetz, and Ray and Gloria Nusko. Santa gave gifts to all members up to 10 yrs. of age. Hot dogs, cookies and soda were served. Fr. Kalist read the Christmas story of the birth of Christ and all sang to the Child in the manger.

The adult party was chaired by Sharon Naudziunas with the help of her volunteers. Jean Hraster did a great job with the ticket sales and seating arrangements. The dinner was buffet style and the food was great. Men and 7th and 8th graders served cake and coffee. The hall was beautifully decorated by Ray Nusko and helpers. Everyone enjoyed this party. Thanks to all, too numerous to name, for help and donations.

A number of our members went on the trip to the Museum of Science and Industry to see Slovenian Christmas Pageant and enjoyed caroling on the bus.

We wish Fr. Thad a belated Happy Birthday which was on Dec. 26th. Happy New Year Father. You're loved by all.

The Baraga Mass was held in Lemont on Sat. Dec. 26th. 25 members were present. Our President's 3 nieces were also in attendance. (Fran's god-child and Terry and Monica.) Everyone enjoyed visiting after Mass. Ann Sarn prepared a lovely setting of sandwiches and coffee. Thanks Ann.

Our members and friends celebrated the 100th birthday of Anna Ahacic, and a group picture was taken with her. Happy Birthday Anna.

Mass for sick and ailing members is on Feb. 11th at 8 a.m. On the sick list — Jennie Puhek, Katie Tuzek, Michaela Simrayh, Donna Elsberg, Adrienne McCormick, and Percy Morison. Remember them in your prayers.

Our sympathy to Frances Lak on

Dear Bowlers:

The next annual Midwest Bowling Tournament will be held on March 26-27, 1988 at the Maple Lanes in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Anyone interested, please contact me for information. Thank you.

LIL PUTZELL, Secretary
3731 Home Ave.,
Berwyn, IL 60402

the loss of her husband and Joan Muellemann on the loss of her father who was the husband of our late sister, Ann Vucko. Our prayers are with them and their families.

At the closing of this column, comes the closing of my term as reporter. Thanks to all who helped me with news and various information to pass on. Our new reporter is Jean Zeleznikar. Please give her the same cooperation I always received.

Sincerely,

ANN SCIESZKA

NO. 3, PUEBLO, CO

Anne Spelich opened the meeting on November 4 with prayers. There were fourteen members present.

Reports were given and approved. Theresa Burin, a long time member, is in the Four Seasons Nursing home and is doing well.

There was some discussion about the State Convention coming up in 1988. There will be more discussion later on.

Tickets for a blanket donated by Angela Meglen will be available soon.

There was no other business so after adjournment everyone enjoyed "B".

* * *

We had our meeting and Christmas Party, Wed., Dec. 2.

We had election of officers. Our current officers were willing to serve another year and we were happy to have them serve again as they did a wonderful job last year. Father Allen is our Spiritual Adviser and Pauline Pauchick will serve as reporter again.

We had a very nice party and a really good attendance. The meal was catered and enjoyed by nineteen members.

We have lost another long time member, Angela Medved. Prayers were said for her and we wish to extend our condolences to her family.

A new member, Vera Denny, was introduced.

Happy Valentine Day!

PAULINE PAUCHICK

NO. 10, CLEVELAND, OH

The meeting was held on Wed. Nov. 18th with Vice-President Danielle Susel presiding. Thirty four members attended with 2 members from Br. 41 also in attendance. After minutes were read and approved, a report was given by Ann Stefancic on the State Convention held in September. Also, a report was given on the 60th Anniversary of Br. 14 which was attended by 3 members. One of our members, Mary Krann, was a grand prize winner. We had an enjoyable evening, meeting old friends and members from other branches.

Louise Sauch read a verse in Slovenian. She also recited some old Slovenian verses.

Belated birthday wishes to November celebrants, Mary Strancar and Lucy Kolodovsky. Wedding anniversaries: Ann Stefancic, 47 years, Mary Krann, 51 years.

We had two members deceased and no one from the family notified us. So, please, members, keep in touch with the lodges. Check your policies for any change to be made in beneficiary. Also, dues for 1988 are now accepted. Election of officers was set to take place at the Jan. 20th meeting.

Plans were made for our belated Christmas Party on Jan. 20th. Marie Dular did the cooking. It will be at the regular meeting place, the Slovenian Home on Holmes Ave. Members and future members and guests were invited.

The new Pots and Pans cookbooks are available and can be purchased at any time.

We thank Ann Tomsick for her generous donation and the ladies who baked: Ann Stefancic, Jean Debevec, Rose Micklich, Stephanie Branisel, Fay Moro, Joyce LaNassi, Sylvia Jansa, Rezka Ferraciolli. Door prizes were brought in by the members. Thanks to all who stayed for refreshments. Have a Happy New Year. Good Health! See you soon.

ANN STEFANCIC

WE APPRECIATE YOUR LETTERS!

Dear Mitzi:

Just happened to glance at the *Learn Slovenian* column, and isn't "krompirjeva solata", potato salad rather than sweet potato? I usually don't pay too much attention, but I just happened to be reading ZARJA and caught it.

Marie Bombach Dye
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Marie:

Yes, you are right. Krompirjeva solata is potato salad! Just a typer's goof — that mistakenly dropped the line reading,

sweet potato — **sladek krompir**
How clever of you to catch it!

Dear Mitza:

Here I am again, writing to ask about my question in the May issue. I haven't heard an answer. I tried to find Jean Stueland's address in the Minneapolis phone book, no luck. I would like to know more about the American-Yugoslav Society, the address and phone number. Minneapolis is the sister city to St. Paul, but I can't find anything about it. Please help me.

I received an answer from M. y Lokar from Euclid about my mother's village. She knew exactly where it was and sent me maps of how to get there. I really appreciate it.

I just got back from Cleveland, Ohio and sure enjoyed the Slovenian shops on St. Clair Ave.

I do miss Mitzi's column and hope to see it again soon.

Thanks from

Frances Bogatich
West St. Paul, Minnesota

Letters to "Mitza" may be sent to the Editor, 2032 W. Cermak Rd., Chicago, IL 60608 or SWU Home Office, 431 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432.





50 and 60 year members of Branch 14, Euclid

Frances Prijatel, guest Regional Pres. Ann Tercek, Pres. Branch 14 & Mother of the Year Martha Koren, Pauline Krall, Frances Mochnick, Jean Roberts, Mary A. Novinc, Ann Rossman, Mary Novinc, Josephine Kozlevkar. Absent from picture is Mary Mrsnik.

NO. 12, MILWAUKEE, WI

Hope all your holidays were joyful. Our President, Stavia Dobersek, missed our Christmas party as her brother died that day.

Also, to past-president, Frances Plesko we extend our sympathy in the passing of her daughter-in-law, Janet. Janet was at our Convention banquet seeing that Frances was taken care of.

The members extend heartfelt sympathy to both families.

Our Christmas party was well attended on Dec. 17 at Bruno's Crystle Palace. We sang Happy Birthday to all who were celebrating birthdays in December, especially to Anna Gorishek who was celebrating 94 years in good health and spirits.

All officers will remain for another year; thank you.

We exchanged Christmas presents and enjoyed a lot of talking.

The meeting in January had treats on the birthday gals. We hoped the weather would cooperate with us.

To all our sick members and shut-ins a Happy and Healthful year.

M.K.

NO. 13, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

A Very Happy and Healthy 1988...

We met at noon with a bag lunch for our November meeting. We elected our slate of Officers for 1988 and we have: President: Jo Aiuto, Vice

Pres.: Anna Fabian, Treasurer: Michele Twers, Financial Secretary: Moreen Spencer, Reporters: Beverly Jackson and Poldica Podgornick, Auditors: Virginia Sustarich and Doreen Sustarich.

Eve Turcina has had to give up her job of Recording Secretary and at this time no one has offered to "fill her shoes". This lady has done a fantastic job!! Thank you, Eve. Thanks also to the new officers for taking on their jobs.

Our Mother of the Year will be Margie Schleiger, whose daughter, Krista is also a member. Margie is the daughter of Agnes Lovrin. This is another proud three generation family in our Branch. The Brunch will be May 15th; details at a later date.

We had three members receive 50 year pins.

Vica Curkov who is 95 years old, joined Branch No. 13 on January 13, 1938. She lived with her family on Athens St. in San Francisco for many years. She is now living in Santa Rosa in a convalescent home.

Albina Grimsich, 77 years old, joined Branch No. 2 Chicago, Ill. in 1937. She transferred to our Branch in July, 1984 and lives in Monte Serano, Calif.

Leopolda (Poldica) Podgornick is 81 years old, joined on May 6, 1937. I personally know Poldica to be a very dedicated and hard worker. She has written for Zarja in Slovenian for

many years. She was very active and sang in the Church of the Nativity Choir for as long as I can remember. Poldie has not been well lately and cannot attend many functions but you are not forgotten — God Bless you and thank you for your dedication.

Junai Frances Lavrich has been a junior member since she was 3 years old. She is now 18 years old and has joined our Branch as an adult member. She is attending college and her proud grandmother is our dear member, Frances Lavrich. Her parents are Mary and David Lavrich of San Francisco. Happy Birthday, Junai!

We hope to see more of our members at our meeting this year. We really have a nice time.

BEVERLY JACKSON

NO. 14, EUCLID, OH

The hectic holiday season has finally subsided leaving warm memories in our hearts, as we look forward to a bright and promising spring.

Looking back, we remember our Christmas in November Dinner celebrating Branch 14's 60th anniversary, which was an overwhelming success. The gaily decorated hall greeted the crowded house with a festive air. Numerous gifts were donated by members and friends for the Boutique along with a hand-crocheted afghan.

After a delicious meal the program and festivities commenced with presentations of a proclamation by then

Mayor Tony Giunta, who honored us by spending election evening with us, and a commendation by County Auditor Tim McCormack.

Vice Pres. Mary Strazisar's grandson painted a vibrant picture of the S.Ž.Z. banner and we extend our appreciation to him.

It's also time to thank all who worked so hard for countless hours to make this evening special. Ed Koren, Martha's husband for all around help, excellent cook Millie Krulc and her crew, Max Kobal for help on stage, all the ladies who helped with the enormous task of assembling gifts for the raffle, bartenders, musicians, and all who donated gifts and services. Also Tony Petkovsek for publicizing the event on his Slovenian radio program. And a special thanks to all supporters who attended.

In other news...members on the go are Angie Baranowski and Mary Krnel off to Columbia, S.C. to visit Angie's daughter, Jean for their annual Thanksgiving visit. World travellers Ileene and Jay Collins on their way to learn the hula in Hawaii. Enjoy, Enjoy!

Congratulations to Josephine Kastigar on becoming a new grandmother. Good luck to all!

Sec. Donna Tomc's daughter Michele, has won a scholarship from Villa Angela where Michele is a senior. Keep up the good work, Michele!

Deepest sympathy to the family of Rose Marich who passed away in December and also condolences to Agnes Tomc on the death of her sister in Slovenia. May our Dear Lord and Blessed mother lead our loved ones to Paradise.

Elections were held with the entire board being re-elected for another year after another excellent job: Martha Koren, President; Mary Strazisar (Arrowhead), Vice Pres.; Donna Tomc, Sect./Treas.; Addie Humphreys, Rec.

FROM THE HOME OFFICE:

Please be most thoughtful and cooperative by sending your yearly dues to your secretary today. Compared to other expenses, the dues are minimal and easily forgotten. If you would switch places just for a short time, you definitely would help make the secretary's job, one of joy and not a chore.

In January 50-year membership pins were mailed to members of branches celebrating their golden anniversaries in 1988. This year's celebrants are:

Branch 89, Oglesby, IL	May 9
Branch 91, Oakmont, PA	May 12
Branch 92, Gunnison, CO	October 18
Branch 93, Brooklyn, NY	November 26

Fifty-year members of one-time active branches as No. 88, Johnstown, PA, No. 90, Bridgeville, PA and No. 94, Canton, OH were also awarded. Pins are available to other 50-year members and will be gladly sent upon request.

For the Slovenian Miners and Laborers Tribute in Ironworld, USA, another page of donors will be engraved around July 1. If you wish your name to be included, please forward your \$100 donation, which will be appreciated.

Sect. Auditors are Vera Bajec, Frances Plut and Antoinette Zabukovic. Sunshine Committee are Rose Rodgers, Frances Erzen and Ileene Collins. Sentinel is Marilyn Fitzthum and Reporter is Alice Kuhar. Standard Bearer is Pepca Kastigar. Spiritual Advisor is the Rev. Francis Paik of St. Christine Church. Congratulations to all! We members *do* appreciate all the work the officers and the board have done.

It's that time of year when we once again stress that our members be prompt in making their dues payments. The secretary's job is a difficult one, so let's try to ease her load a bit. The address for Donna Tomc is 2100 Apple Dr., Euclid, OH 44143. Phone 481-9374.

A Happy St. Valentine's Day to all with wishes for joy and love in your hearts.

ALICE KUHAR

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

From "Big Nick" Maras and Rose,
Past Regional President of Minnesota
HIBBING, MINNESOTA

AMERICAN
SLOVENIAN
CATHOLIC
UNION



LIFE
INSURANCE
FOR THE
FAMILY

HOME OFFICE: 2439 GLENWOOD AVENUE • JOLIET, IL 60435 (815) 741-2001

A Dream Fulfilled!

A grandfather's dream resolved itself and gave three of our younger members the opportunity to visit and live in the land of our heritage.

The grandfather, RAY J. DELOPST, whose mother, GERTRUDE DELOPST, was the Charter President of S.W.U. #43, enriched the lives of three of his granddaughters by sending them to the land of their great-grandmother's birth, SLOVENIA.

The three granddaughters, JULIE RECHLITZ, her sister, JENNIFER RECHLITZ, and their cousin, GINA GIUFFRE, assured their grandfather it was an experience they will treasure forever.

This event began with a letter ROSE KRAEMER received from "SLOVENSKA IZSELJENSKA MATICA" an organization committed to the teaching and maintaining cultural ties between native Slovenians and Slovenes living abroad through the medium of the "POLETNA ŠOLA SLOVENSKEGA JEZIKA", or summer school of the Slovenian language.

Rose gave the letter to Grandpa Ray, he liked it, got his granddaughters together and discussed it with them. They were overwhelmed and immediately started laying plans for this event.

From departure on July 18, to their return on August 17 of this past year, their experiences rivaled traveling down the yellow brick road to OZ.

They headquartered at the MODESTOV DOM in CELOVEC (KLAGENFURT, AUSTRIA). The group numbering thirty-three students plus chaperones, landed at MUNICH, AUSTRIA, motored to CELOVEC by way of SALZBURG and arrived at MODESTOV DOM fully fatigued.

The following month was filled with learning both the language and customs, singing, eating, swimming, visiting, sightseeing, rap sessions, letter-writing (in Slovenian yet), shopping, snapping pictures, dancing and anything that enters the minds of thirty-three young people tossed together for the first time in an entirely new world.

Everywhere they visited, be it BLED, TRIESTE, PORTOROŽ, POSTOJNA, BREZJE, GORICA, LJUBLJANA, GOSPA SVETA, MARIBOR, LOČE, PODGORJE, SV. TROJICA, and countless other places, they were well received and made welcome. Hiking through the SLOVENIAN ALPS took its toll on the group.

Regretfully, the girls were unable to contact their relatives who live in ŠOSTANJ and VELENJE. This provided the only sad time of the trip.

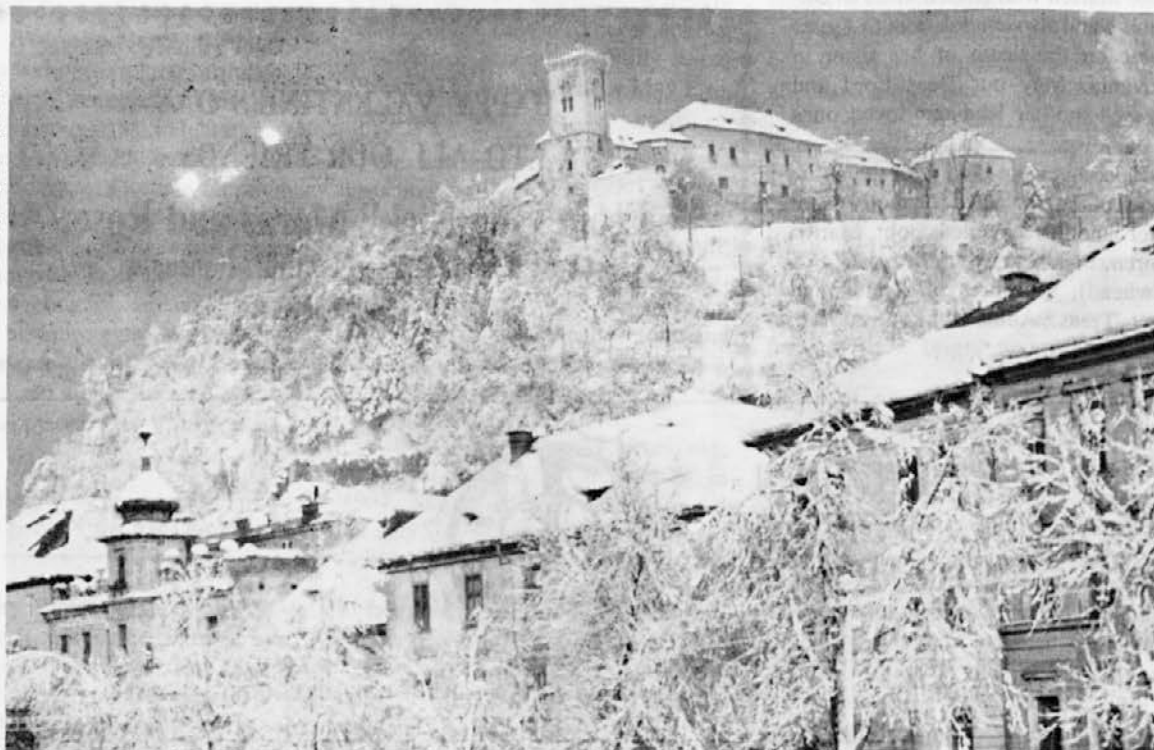
Understandably, the day of departure elicited another time of sadness. Parting is such sweet sorrow and that it was when it was time to go. The customary tears flowed and promises were made that these new friendships will endure forever and more promises that they will write one another were kept by the girls as they still correspond regularly with their new friends, both here in America and Slovenia.

To say this experience had a lasting effect on Grandpa Ray's granddaughters would be putting it mildly, but all good things eventually end, and end they must. They have returned and adjusted to the American way of life. Julie, a recipient of a scholarship from the S.W.U. in 1983, is graduating in 1988 from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in POLITICAL SCIENCE; Jennifer is graduating from St. Mary's Academy this year and is enrolling at the University of Wisconsin to pursue a career in law; and Gina has not quite made up her mind as she enters her third year at St. Mary's Academy this year.

Well done girls, NA SVIDENJE, and we hope you return again and again to the land of your heritage. I know you will.

Reporter

IN WINTER, THE CAPITAL CITY OF SLOVENIA, LJUBLJANA



Learning About My Slovenian Heritage

by

Andy Jagodnik

Bolton, Massachusetts

This summer I was one of 32 students from various cities in the U.S. and Canada who participated in a trip to Austria and Slovenia, which was sponsored by the League of Slovenian Americans. While all of the 14 Canadians came from the Toronto area, the 19 participants from the U.S. were from various cities, including one from Phoenix, myself from Boston, two from Los Angeles, and several each from Milwaukee, Chicago, and New York. The ages of kids on the trip ranged from ten to twenty, which was at times a source of trouble among different age groups, although the people at the two extremes of ages did end up being good friends by the end of the trip.

One of the major aims of this trip was to give students an opportunity to find out more about our nationality, and in this respect I would say it was a success. I had never really had any serious exposure to Slovenian language or food before, unlike most of the people on the trip, since I live away from any center of Slovenian concentration and don't see my grandparents as often as I otherwise would. Before going on the trip I knew only one or two words in Slovenian; when I returned I knew enough at least to more-or-less survive in a home with non-English-speaking relatives. Three weeks of classes really isn't enough to learn a new language, but I definitely learned more than I learned in the first month of foreign language in school.

Among the sights of historical interest that we saw during the course of the trip were Gospa Sveta, the site of the government of Slovenia when it extended into what is now southern Austria; Brezje, where we attended a pilgrimage mass which was to most of us an exercise in confusion; and Sveta Višarje, a mountain which has a village on the top, and which those of us who could endure climbed to go to mass on one Sunday. The mountain is on the border between Austria and Italy, and exists as a sign of international peace. Other places we visited include Bled, Postojna, Ljubljana, Maribor, and Trst.

One of the highlights of the trip was the last four days before going home, during which we went to visit with relatives. I went to Knezak with my great-grandmother's sister-in-law, who lives with her son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren, one of whom is 21 and went to school in England for 8 months, and the other of whom is 17. During my stay, I got to see the house where my great grandmother was born in Knezak, as well as to meet two relatives who live in the house where my great grandfather was born, in Podgrad. I also went to the wedding of a cousin of the relatives I was staying with, which was interesting because it requires a state ceremony and a religi-

ous ceremony is apparently optional. At the reception, I got into a conversation with some Slovenian kids who were there, and found out schools there must not be very good in English because some of them had studied seven years and could still barely speak it at all.

Before coming to Slovenia, I had images of soldiers marching through the streets and of being in someplace like Russia. Fortunately, it's not that bad, and my only experiences with the government were seeing some soldiers doing construction work in Knezak, and being forced to get off the bus on a return trip from Trst, when we were delayed for an hour so customs agents could search the possessions of Slovenian citizens. My cousin told me they do this to keep people on their toes and just to annoy them. One thing I did notice was the decline in the standard of living between Austria and Slovenia. In Austria the houses were all new and the cities and towns immaculate, you could buy the newest stereo equipment in stores everywhere, and about half the people drove Mercedes and other cars we consider expensive or "yuppie-ish". However, in Slovenia the houses were often smaller and older, the cities we saw and went through were run down and even dilapidated, everything in stores was of lower quality, and the Mercedes were replaced by Zastava and Yugos. The people want to get ahead but have no way to do so, or even to make improvements in the system.

This trip has provided me with my first real exposure to my nationality, and through it I have had a lot of fun, met many interesting people from many different backgrounds and countries, learned about where my family originally came from, and made some very special friends. During the last few days of the trip as we were on our way home, even the people who had been wanting to go home during the whole trip had changed their minds and now wanted to stay.

I have been a member of SWU Branch No. 50 since I was born, when I was signed up by my grandmother. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my grandparents, Tony and Irene Jagodnik, of Cleveland, Ohio, for sponsoring my trip. I thought it was well worth it and would recommend anyone given the opportunity to go on it to do so.

(Andy's grandmothers are Irene Jagodnik, Nat'l auditor and Marie Beck, correspondant of the Combined Branches of Cleveland, Ohio. Can't you just imagine how pleased they are to know he is interested in learning Slovenian and becoming acquainted with his ancestors? Editor)

ON THE COVER...

"Mary's Engagement to Joseph" is the title of Anton Cebej's painting, dated 1767 and kept at the church of St. Margaret in Rakek, Slovenia.

Slika Marijine zaroke v cerkvi sv. Marjete v Planini pri Rakeku.

NO. 16, CHICAGO, IL

Our November 15, 1987 meeting opened by Marge Prebil with a prayer for living and deceased members.

Antonia Dominikovich's family sent a thank you for Mass Card they received. A letter from Olga Ancel and Sylvia Vukodinovich regarding enrollment of new members was read. Olga Ancel also sent an explanation of scholarship awards.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Birthday celebrants Catherine Cerney, Jean Franko, Emma Kralj, Cathy Monihan and Maryann Sambo furnished our refreshments. Thank you ladies and many more happy birthdays.

Door prizes were awarded to Mary Gorenz our newest member (what better way to welcome her) and to Marge Spretnjak.

Our meeting prizes were awarded by drawing rather than playing "B" because we had a visitor, Phyllis Welby, Financial Consultant with SNPJ, who gave an educational and informative talk with a question and answer period following.

December 10, 1987 we had our Christmas party with members and guests enjoying a delicious dinner, beautiful sweets table and gifts for everyone. Maryann Starcevic's granddaughter's dancing class entertained us with several lovely dance numbers.

All attending our party signed cards for members Catherine Anderson, Mary Crnakrak, Jennie Glusoc, Frances Haffner, Pauline Klobucar, Emma Kralj, Mary Marisic, Tina Martin, Mary Palosa, Mary Stambulic, Zora Yurkas who were out-of-town members or confined to their homes.

A new grand baby for Helen Gornick was born in December. That makes two.

Sandi Britten's husband, Bruce entered Whiting's Mayor Grenchik's 5-mile Classic on October 31st. He was awarded a beautiful Trophy and Medal for finishing *first!*

Gloria Serapin and husband Tony returned from a 10-day tour of N. Carolina and Ohio.

Our sympathies are extended to the family and friends of member Anita Quilici who passed away on December 14, 1987.

We also extend sympathies to Elsie

Seiner whose husband passed away suddenly.

Get well wishes go to all our sick and home bound members. May we all have a Happy and Blessed New Year.

SPECIAL NOTE: — Our annual benefit party will be Sunday, April 27, 1988 in St. George's Hall, 96th and Ewing Avenue at 2:00 p.m. We need the prizes that you ladies so generously supply.

Don't forget the 2nd Thursday evening of the month is our meeting night. See you all there.

FRAN B. ZUPANCIC

NO. 17, WEST ALLIS, WI

Greetings and a happy new year! As I started to write this article, I glanced out the window. The snow was coming down with a vengeance! This is the time of the year when we must be content to sit indoors, watch TV or indulge in some sort of indoor hobby and dream of warmer days and summer fun.

Our Dec. meeting was well-attended and most enjoyable with Santa (Jackie Nimmer) and her helpers distributing gifts to the adult members and to the children. A lovely Christmas lunch followed. We have a slight shift in our officers' line-up for 1988. President Marion Marolt remains in office as well as Secretary Joan Yaklich and yours truly Fran Piwoni, Recording Secretary and Scribe in English. Lill Hartman is our new Vice-President with Vickie Kastelic, Katie Matzelle and Pauline Godec as Auditors. Josephine Imperl is our Scribe in Slovenian. Many thanks to our outgoing auditors, Robin Marolt and Helen Ruthenberg for a job well done. Also, to Mary Murn, our Slovenian Scribe for writing in ZARJA for so many years. Thanks, Mary, for a job well done. Your articles were most interesting and well-written. We have chosen Coletta Imperl as our honored Mother for 1988. She's very active not only for our branch but also in other fraternal organizations and civic affairs. We will honor her at a luncheon sometime in May at Kegel's Inn.

Recently, I had a nice long chat with my friend Mary Murn, our Slovenian poet. She and her husband, Frank, are now residents at the Forest Ridge Retirement Home in Hales Corners and are very happy and content having adapted very well to their new

environment. She does miss attending our meetings as she gave up driving for now. Good luck, Mary, and may you continue to regain your health and we look forward to your joining us at a meeting soon.

Mrs. Josephine Schlosar had a little mishap at the Health Care Center. She fell but sustained no injuries, not even a bruise and is feeling fine. She's quite a remarkable woman! At 97 years of age!

Happy Valentine's Day to all our members and friends!

As a suggestion, give the book of poetry, *Flowers from my Gardens* and/or the cookbook, *Pots and Pans*, as a precious gift to someone.

FRAN PIWONI

NO. 20, JOLIET, IL

Today the Chicago Bears are playing the Los Angeles Raiders. Can I concentrate? No, but I'm sure trying-- I'm listening, not watching, I don't want to get too involved!!! A local Bears fan was a winner at the last home game; Art Hrvatin, Jr., son of member Nikki Hrvatin, caught one of Walter Payton's touchdown footballs. After the game, Walter autographed it for him.

We've come through a lovely Christmas season; we even had snow--more than necessary, but we survived. Went to mass on Christmas Eve. Our pastor has initiated the practice of placing the infant Jesus in the crib before Mass begins, having a youngster carry Him in during the procession to the altar. After the gospel, and before the homily, he has all the little children in church come sit on the sanctuary steps while he tells them the story of Christmas and stresses that this is Jesus' birthday. He asks questions and the answers were hilarious. For a birthday, you have to have a cake; so three little girls, in their Christmas finery, made the long trip down the aisle carrying the cake and all the children sang "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. It was a touching scene; the children were so happy to have been part of it.

Our Christmas Brunch was a happy celebration. The Champagne Room was beautifully decorated, and members in their "Sunday best" completed the picture. Kathy Harvey was Chairman, assisted by Diane Kalcic and Ardis Gregorash. President Mildred Pucel extended Christmas greetings to all and all blessings for the coming

new year. The meal was served family style and enjoyed by all. Beautiful floral centerpieces adorned the tables and were given to seven lucky winners. Christmas carols were background music, with an occasional polka slipped in. We played games, exchanged gifts and of course talked a lot! We missed our Spiritual Director, Father David Stalzer, at the meal, but he did stop in to extend his wish for a happy holiday. Diane Govednik lead us in singing Christmas carols; we were in good form, 70 voices strong!!

During conversations, we reminisced about the early days of Branch 20--the first drill team. There were 24 members and their first uniforms were hand made by Mary Bistry, who has been a member for 52 years.

The last few months found several of our members off on trips to different parts of the country. A group of 23, including Marge Grayhack, Toni Petrovic, Marge Gasperich and Eleanor Smrekar, went to Dollyville. Dolores "Spike" and Ed Ambrozich went to Florida; Cynthia and Jim Karges went to Hawaii, Dolores and Alex Plut spent time in Denver, and Mary Ellen Anzelc is leaving the country for a 6 week visit with her brother and sister-in-law John and Linda Anzelc who live in Jakarta.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to the families who have suffered the loss of loved ones; to Mary Ambrozich, on the death of her brother; to Marge Gasperich, on the death of her father-in-law, Edward Bottari, who was the husband of Frances, a very active member for many years until her death; to Lillian Stefanich on the death of her husband, Louis (Curly) Stefanich; to Mary Ann Gregfory on the death of her brother; to Mary Ann Gregorich on the death of her father, Anton Russ and to Anna Marie McIntosh, on the death of her mother, Sadie Lopartz, to Mary Anzelc, on the death of her brother, Bernard Plut; to Mary Ellen Anzelc, Janet Burke, on the death of their uncle, and to Dolores Plut and Helen Plut, on the death of their brother-in-law. Eternal rest granted to all.

Rose and Elmer Valek celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary; to them we extend our congratulations.

Nancy Callans and daughters, Christina and Sarah, are now making their home in Houston, Texas. They are the daughter and granddaughters of Mary and Stan Marolt.

We ask your prayers for our sick members; Dorothy Jursinic, Frances Stonich, Franz Fedo and Mary Terlep.

February ushers in another season of the church year. We have the feast of St. Blase, (do you get a sore throat *after* the blessing of throats? Me, too!) and Ash Wednesday is just a couple of weeks later--now we're into Lent which gives us 40 days to prepare for Easter by our extra sacrifices and an abundance of good deeds. Don't give up.

Our next meeting will take place on February 21, Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. at St. Joseph's Park Hall. The program for this meeting will be Handwriting Analyst, Barbara Ryan. Come find out what your handwriting tells about you. See you there.

HELEN PLUT

NO. 21, CLEVELAND, OH

On Wednesday, Nov. 11th, the members of Br. 21 were invited to attend a delightful luncheon at West Park Slovene Home. A total of 42 guests were present to enjoy seeing each other as they seldom do. Included were guests of honor from Br. 50 and Pres. of Ohio-Michigan, Ann Tercek. Ann was well-received as she spoke at length to the guests convincing us of our importance and the impact we Christian Women...that we must strive to continue in some capacity as that which our mothers initiated in 1928. This should be our prime concern. It is a regrettable fact that some of us are aging and in ill health as are our current President, Rose Kosko and Financial Secretary, Stella Dancull. Ann Tercek applauded the 35 years of service by Stella and the many loyal years of Rose's presidency.

Marie Pivik and Helen Konkoy gave some hope to the branch with their ideas of increasing membership. There is some spark of hope to regenerate the branch when two influential members offer assistance. However, it should be known that all members must make it their priority to solicit more young women, including those over 40, even prospective social members.

All this should be absorbed and contemplated earnestly until we meet again, the 2nd Wednesday in March.

We are grateful to Ann and her friends of Br. 50. May you be blessed and enjoy the New Year.

Reporter

NO. 22, BRADLEY, IL

If the largest room in the world is the room for improvement, I resolve in '88 to give no gray hairs to the editor of ZARJA by beating the deadline, even if only by a hair!

Our Christmas party was a grand success: the dinner at South China, the meeting and games at the home of Margaret Planton. Margaret and sister, Mary Rittmanic, as hostesses, added a lot of sparkle to the day.

Remembered in our Christmas giving were St. Joseph Church and United Parents. The WOMAN of the YEAR title was awarded to Doreene Althaus by unanimous vote, and by such a vote all present officers were chosen to serve another year.

Then came the social hour, the fun part, for all. Emma Lustig won the door prize of wine cooler and at the State Convention won a bottle of Paul Masson's. If likes attract, does that tell you something about the winner?

We all had a merry time, little dreaming that two weeks hence we would come together again to bid farewell to our dear Anna Jamnik, 89, who died Dec. 23 (stroke, ill six days). A few days earlier she had baked a potica for a son in Joliet, with intentions of baking more for the sons living here. A charter member of Br. 22, Mrs. Jamnik was the last Slovenian immigrant in Bradley. She will be sorely missed by her very devoted family and many friends. Another Slovenian, John Stefanich, 77, died in November, after a long illness. May they rest in peace, we pray; and we ask that they pray for us.

Congratulations to Louise Gerdesich of Franklin Park on her 101st birthday Dec. 6! She was a faithful correspondent with Mrs. Jamnik.

Thanks to Mary Ann Barothy, Indianapolis, we are well informed, and encouraged, with the news of Baraga Days through the very fine article in December's ZARJA.

Stop-lights aren't news, only when one, the first-ever, is planted in a small town, it stands out--sort of lonesome like. It is at North St. (reconstructed to four lanes) and Prairie Ave. Progress!!

Happy St. Valentine's Day! We gather together Sunday afternoon, Feb. 21, at Toni Legris'. God's blessings on all in 1988.

EMMA LUSTIG

MY VISIT TO RIO CLARO, BRAZIL

Would you believe I discovered and met twenty of my mother's step descendants in Rio Claro? To visit my grandparents' graves helped in deciding to join the Friendship Force Tour with sixty-seven tourists to Brazil last November. (The Friendship Force was organized to promote peace through friendship with people of other countries. Arrangements are made through the International Office in Atlanta, Georgia, to live with a family for one week in the foreign country scheduled to be visited. Dr. and Mrs. Bonno Van Bellen were our hosts in Embu, Brazil.)

My mother, Marie Cherne Prislund, at five years of age, saw her parents for the last time. Here are excerpts of her story written for the family:

"My father, Franz Cherne and his wife, Maria, moved to Trieste from Rečica, Slovenia where he became a custom's inspector. When Aunt Frances, also living in Trieste, went to Rečica for a vacation, she took me along. In the meantime a boat arrived in Trieste Harbor from Brazil. The captain let it be known that the boat was sent by the Brazilian government to look for people who would like to go to that country and acquire free parcels of land, to plant coffee. The government had much land but no one to cultivate it; therefore, they made this fine offer. In Austria, coffee was then \$2.00 a pound. The opportunity to get a coffee plantation free was too tempting to be refused. So mother and father decided to go to Brazil (in 1895). They sent a telegram to my grandmother that Aunt Frances should bring me back to Trieste immediately.

"Aunt Frances, however, had gone to a nearby city to visit a friend and had not left the address; she could not be located. Grandmother asked several town people if they would take me to Trieste, but people in those days were afraid to travel far; no one was willing to go. Since there was no time for father or mother to get me, I stayed with grandmother with the intention that I would follow my parents later.

"When my parents reached Brazil, they found that they had been misled. There was enough land and plenty of coffee bushes, also a lot of work, but the land belonged to the coffee barons and was not given to the people who cultivated it. The people, brought from Europe, had to work very hard for a few pesos a day. My father who was able to speak German and Italian received a position as secretary to a coffee baron. Mother, not knowing anybody in a strange land, stayed home alone day after day without friends with whom to talk. She wrote that with every spoonful of food she swallowed a tear. She longed for her only baby — me. A year after their arrival in Brazil, she died of yellow fever. At the time of my mother's death I was six years old. Father later married a woman of German nationality with whom he had four children. My father wanted me to be sent to Brazil, but grandmother whom I loved like a real mother refused to send me after my mother died. Franz Cherne died in 1940."



Hermine at her grandfather's grave in Brazil

Recently, my sister's daughter, Mary Turvey, in her enthusiastic and excellent genealogical pursuits, learned that my grandfather, whose name had by now become Francisco Tscherne, was buried in the German cemetery in Rio Claro, Brazil. Our host, Bonno and his wife, Manuela, graciously offered to drive us to Rio Claro, about 95 miles from Embu, that we might visit the graves. With their knowledge of the area and speaking fluent Portuguese, we made incredible contacts. From a taxi cab driver, Bonno located the well-kept, enclosed cemetery beautifully landscaped with a number of yellow hibiscus trees and pine trees. Impressive marbled tombs covered most of the graves. Since the caretaker was out for lunch the four of us scattered in different directions to read the names on the gravestones. Soon Manuela waved and we knew our mission was accomplished. The grave of Francisco Tscherne (Franz Cherne), my mother's father, was before us — a gray marbled tomb with a high marbled backdrop.

In the phone book Bonno found one "Tscherne" name. Soon he was talking to the great grandson and grandson of Franz. Incredible! Our next move was to visit Francisco Pedro Tscherne, 60-year old grandson of Franz. In the spotless kitchen we met the family who had gathered upon news of our arrival: Francisco, Leonida, his wife, and six children, ranging in ages of 38 to 23. No one spoke English, but Bonno and Manuela, our congenial interpreters, conversed fluently in Portuguese, the language of Brazil. Emotions ran high. I missed the golden opportunity to ask



**Dirce and Geraldo's families –
sister and brother of Francisco, III**

about my grandfather — what was he like? Bonno did recall their saying: "he was handsome and liked to dance". After becoming acquainted and enjoying Brazilian coffee, we took some photos before walking around the corner to visit Francisco's sister, Dirce. There we met twelve more relatives of all ages (they too had been alerted of our arrival). Geraldo, Dirce's brother, 52 years of age, wept openly as he hugged me, saying: "I never dreamed I would meet a relative from America." A son of Dirce, age 16, was interested in my husband's profession, Entomology. He will be writing to Bob.

My notes were sketchy during all the emotional greetings, but with the help of a Portuguese student in Madison, I hope to correspond with the families. I know Mary Turvey will be thrilled with the way her inquiry into the Cherne family has resulted.

According to the cemetery caretaker, grandmother



Francisco and Leonilda's family.

Marija Cherne, who died in 1896, is buried in an abandoned cemetery in Itirapina, about 20 miles from Rio Claro where she and Franz settled upon arrival. Since the caretaker was unable to escort us to that cemetery that day, Bonno and Manuela will visit the grandmother's grave at another time.

At 16, my mother "parted from Rečica" arrived in America on April 24, 1906, after saying good-bye to her beloved grandmother, aunt and cousins. After waiting one week for the boat in La Havre, France, Marie Cherne (Prisland) landed in New York on May 12th. She arrived in Sheboygan, WI, on May 16th where she lived until her death in 1979.

I contemplated, what would have been my mother's life had she gone to Brazil? Certainly, she never would have known the cultural satisfaction and joy she had in her contacts with Slovenian immigrant women and in the founding of the Slovenian Women's Union of America.

NO. 23, ELY, MN

Anne Saari, president, opened meeting with a prayer. Nice to have her back after her absence because of illness. Secretary Mary Folio gave report and treasurer Helen Strukel gave her report. Mary Folio read a nice article about a parish priest. A. Mobilia and M. Folio looked into places to have our Christmas party.

A prayer was read by President for a deceased member. S.W.U. Scholarship fund discussed. Only 1 member in Ely is eligible. Also told that there is a \$500 scholarship for Vocational School. Next National Convention is in Cleveland — at least 1 delegate for every branch. Members favored donating monetary gift to the parish. Nominating committee M. Petritz, A. Godec, T. Pengal gave the slate of officers: Pres.-A. Saari, V. Pres.-J. Polyner, Secretary-M. Folio, Treasurer-H. Strukel, Reporter-K. Garni. Correspondence asking for donations tabled. 50 members present. Rose Novak won door prize. Margaret

Grahek won a book. Adjourned—Nice dessert served. "B" played.

Dawn Club – Nov. 9

Pres. M. Zupec opened with a prayer. Treasurer's and Secretary's reports given. New officers are Pres., A. Mobilia, V. Pres., M. Grahek, Secretary, D. Popesh, Treasurer S. Davidson. Mary Palcher on sick list. We will have dinner in Feb. Door prize won by C. Deyak. 45 members present. "B" played.

* * *

Christmas party was held at Vertin's Cafe on Dec. 7. Ninety members were present. Delicious pork and chicken were served. Katherine Merhar played piano and we all sang Christmas carols. "B" was played and we all had a joyous time.

Dawn Club News – Dec. 14

Meeting opened with prayer by president Marcy Zupec. Secretary's report and treasurer's reports were given. No old business. Motion was made to donate a gift of money to St. Anthony's Parish. All agreed to it. 40

women were present. Door prize won by Beatrice Masnari and Angela Skala. M. Grahek and T. Bloomer will check into catering for Feb. party. Nice lunch served. "B" played.

KRIS GARNI

NO. 25, CLEVELAND, OH

We are trying to make a giant step into the New Year, into our future. All resolutions are made, let's hope we can keep them!

A little late, but here it is. Congratulations to Ann Tercek for being elected again to the state presidency — Ohio — Michigan. Just keep on rulin' and rollin' as till now.

Millie and Andy Slogar had their 50th wedding anniversary in November. Daughter, Dorothy and her husband, Steve Kotza of Carolina and son, Jim and wife, Kathy of Euclid surprised them with a party at the Spanish Manor. Congratulations and God's blessings for another 50 years!

Here is a good one. In the local paper we read of Helen Zele, as having

by – pass surgery. One day I saw her and asked – how she is coming along. She answered: "O, I am OK." Then I said: "You recovered pretty fast from your recent operation. Color in your cheeks, your walking, everything looks good." She put her arm on my shoulder and said: "I did not have an operation, somebody gave the wrong information to the paper. At least I heard from a lot of people, who were wishing me good health." Well, hooray for Helen!

Welcome back to Janet Krivacic, our recording secretary. She had a bout with illness, but is doing very well. She is recovering very steadily.

In December we had two funerals from Zaks. Two lovely ladies, Minnie Szatkowski and Jožefa Musar were called to the great beyond where there are no more tears and sorrows. Our deepest sympathies to their families.

We extend our sincere sympathy also to Theresa Buckley who lost her husband, Walter, and Ivanka Stupica her husband, Dominic. Our prayers are with you all.

Big thank you to the president of Branch 25, Josie Mohorcic, her sister, Jennie Strumbel for preparing such a wonderful Christmas brunch. Thank you also to the ladies who helped: Mary Turk, Fran Kotnik, Leslie Telich, Josie Ambrosic, Marie Orazem, Sophie Genovese and so on...

Sweet Valentine's day to all!

CIRILA KERMAVNER

NO. 32, EUCLID, OH

The November meeting was a busy one. Plans had to be made for the Christmas party plus election for another year. After all the amounts were read, that each officer is paid, a motion was made that everyone accept for another year. Everyone did accept but there will be a new reporter, who is Fran Ogorenc and also, new hostesses were selected, namely, Vicky Holny, Marge Sas and Helen Kovacevic.

In November, the 60th anniversary for Frank and Mary Drobnick was celebrated, on the 28th. The day before was Joe and Marge Sas' 52nd wedding anniversary and the 40th for Zani and Esther Garbincus on the 22nd. Congratulations!

Terri Stupica, the granddaughter of Mary Ster (our cook) was on Wheel of Fortune and won \$4,800. She had

just graduated from Loyola University of Los Angeles and is working as a tax consultant in Cleveland. She said the game is tougher than it appears.

Sympathy to the family of Erica Salnucci on the loss of son, James Orin Salnucci. Sympathy also to Angela Konte, his grandmother and Ann Marie Konte, his aunt.

The report of our Christmas Party will come soon. Wishing all the readers and happy and healthy New Year 1988!

JOHANNA WEGLARZ

NO. 32, EUCLID, OH

Our Dec. meeting was called to order by our Pres. Dorothy Lamm. It was a brief meeting as everyone was in a party mood to get our Christmas party going.

Our Vice Pres., Ceal Znidar, sent a congratulation card to Mary and Frank Drobnick, on their 60th anniversary. Belated congratulations go out to Esther and Zani Garbincus, on their 40th anniversary which was celebrated on Nov. 22nd. May these couples have many more years together with good health and happiness. Birthday cards were also sent to Mary Koss, Mary Kalen and Angela Zust. To all of our members who have birthdays this month, may they enjoy them with good health.

Our Sec'y, Josephine Comenshek, reported that we had two deaths in 1987. We also got two new members: Nancy Drobnick and Mary Drobnick's grandson's wife and Sharon Beck. We welcome our new members to our group.

Our hostesses, Josephine Skabar and Anna Brachlow, donated their hostess check back to the club to help pay the dues for the members that can't afford to pay. Thank you, ladies, for your donations! You both really work hard all year with the refreshments and pastry and we know you are very devoted to the club.

At the closing of the meeting Dorothy thanked all the members and guests for coming, especially the members that have been sick this year and were able to attend the meeting and party. In our closing prayer we remembered our sick members, asking that they return to good health. May deceased members rest in peace.

Now it was time for partying. We had a sit-down dinner which was served by Dorothy Lamm, Ceal Znidar, Ann Cooke, Josephine Skabar, Anna Brachlow and Frances

Ogoreuc. Dinner consisted of breaded chicken, home fries and salad made by Mary Ster, our member and her grandson, Gary, who is learning the trade of catering. He is doing a fine job. Just keep up the good work, Gary! The beets, green beans and peas were brought in by our members. Cheese and apple strudel were made by Mary Golobic and Mary Drobnick. There were a few other desserts made by our members that were passed among the tables. Refreshments were available for those who wanted to get in the holiday spirit. As usual we had our two faithful accordion players, Chuck Krivec and Hank Kersman. They always do a fine job. Got the group in a singing and dancing mood. Thanks to you both. We had a prize-project which was successful and door prizes given out that were donated by the members. Thanks to you all. There also was a \$2.00 gift exchange for those who wanted to participate. It really was a very nice party.

Some of our members who have been doing some traveling lately are Ann Rossman, with her daughter, Mary Golobic and daughter JoAnn; my husband Frank and I went on a trip to Wheeling, West Virginia to see the Christmas lights in Oglebay Park and the city lights which were beautiful. We also attended a Jamboree on Sat. night. This was an overnight trip. Ann Rossman went on a day trip to Mansfield to see the Christmas lights which were also beautiful. Mary Golobic and husband Frank, were in Virginia visiting with her son. Mary and daughter JoAnn left on Jan. 2, for Las Vegas for a week's vacation. Good luck to you both. Josephine Skabar and sister Millie were in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico for 2 weeks. They did a lot of sight seeing and relaxation. They saw a lot of poverty too. We are so fortunate to have what we do here.

With the New Year upon us check to see if your dues are paid up to date. It will make it a lot easier for Josephine, if dues are paid now.

Good health and happiness to all for the New Year.

FRANCES OGOREUC,
Reporter

S.W.U. INVITES YOU

Membership open to all members of the family.

Write to: SWU Home Office
431 N. Chicago St.,
Joliet, IL 60432

NO. 33, DULUTH, MN

Dec. 2 meeting — election of officers: remaining at office Emily Skull, president; Donna Carl, vice president; Stella Mattson and Doris Skull, auditors. Newly elected: Beverly Menart, 1111-98 Ave. W., Duluth, MN 55808, sec./treas. for dues; Jackie Rukavina, recording secretary, and Virginia Mikrut, auditor. Helen Cheetham will assist Sharon Bucar with Juniors.

Mary Pogorelec was honored as Dec. Queen and Jan. Queen was Florence Burger.

Rosemary Donald missed \$25.00 and Lucille Somin won the \$15.00 attendance prize.

Rose Borland and Martha Parenteau sent \$5.00 in cards as our gift to senior members for Christmas.

We had super entertainment by Delfeld Solid Gold Company. Songs, choreography by 18 high school students—showtunes. Many gifts were given out from "Penny Social."

A number of dolls brought by Sharon Baker were "dressed" by members and taken to Union Gospel Mission for Christmas gifts to the needy.

There were 42 on bus trip to Fanny Hill Dinner/Theatre in Eau Claire, WI, Dec. 17, to enjoy show "Plaza Suite."

Anna Samarzia is now at Nopeming Nursing Home.

Prayers of sympathy to Anna Strukle, on death of her husband, and to her daughters, Ann Menart and Polly Stojevich; Nina McNamara, sister; Evelyn Adameak, brother.

Congratulations to Althea Tverberg on the marriage of her son.

* * * * *

Mary Pogorelec was the Queen for December meeting.

Attendance Drawing: Ann Mrak missed \$10.00 and Gertrude Dunaiski missed \$25.00.

Prayers were said for sick members, Ruth Boben and Anna Samarzia, who has been moved to Park Point Manor.

Highlight of the November meeting was a slide presentation by Stella Mattson, narrated by Cyrilla Collard of their recent trip to Yugoslavia. On the trip also were Emily and John Skull, Helen Mosack, Rose Borland, Virginia Mikrut and Rose Krall, with Rose's two sisters from Ely.

It was decided to have members add \$1.00 a year to a Funeral Fund so that

for several years we will be able to build up the fund. There will be \$1.00 due now, payable to Lois Pelander, Funeral Fund chairman, or please include it with dues to Sandy Malmquist. Be sure to add the yearly \$1.00 if you are in arrears.

Happy New Year to one and all!

LOIS PELANDER, Reporter

NO. 34, SOUDAN, MN

If any of you are wondering why there wasn't a report from Branch No. 34 for September, I want to let you know that it was sent in but never got to the Editor's office—it is lost somewhere. We were disappointed because the envelope also contained a picture taken at our September meeting honoring our 80 year-olds — Helen Chiabotti, Angeline Morin and Angela Planton — maybe we can get another one in yet!

On our meeting day, November 18, we had our Founder's Day Mass said at 7:30 a.m. and had a breakfast afterward. Helen Adkinsson, in her travel to Yugoslavia, said they eat hard-boiled eggs, cheese and salami and hard rolls for breakfast. So, our hostesses, Marcella Rooney, Ann Stefanich, Frances Tanko, and Angela Jamnick made us a Slovenian breakfast — only Ann "Inky" Stefanich got up at three o'clock that morning to make us the most delicious cinnamon and caramel rolls. This was such a hit with all the ladies that I highly recommend anyone else to try it. Marcy Rooney set up the tables and they looked lovely. Fr. LaPatka joined us also. Maybe we can make this an annual affair. Jean Zupanich brought the door prize and it was won by Ann Stefanich.

After our breakfast, we had our meeting and we are happy to announce our new officers: Adeline Mustonen, president; Angeline Morin, vice-president; Mary Vollendorf, secretary-treasurer; recording secretary, Lorraine Berg; and auditors, Sophie Zavodnick, Angela Planton, and Mary Gornick. It is wonderful to know these people are willing to take on these offices.

As I am writing this, my sister and a member of our branch, Mary Inzerello is very ill; Charles Svatos, husband of Lucille Svatos is in the Eveleth-Fitzgerald Hospital and has been ill for so very long. Let us always remember the sick in our prayers.

We made a monetary donation to the Girl Scouts of Tower-Soudan and also will remember Fr. LaPatka at Christmas. Father, by the way, is going to Medjugorje next April 25-May 2 as a tour guide, so anyone wishing to go may contact him as follows: Medjugorje Tour, Fr. Gerry LaPatka, St. Martin's Church, Tower, MN 55790, telephone: 218—753-4310.

The Anton Zollar family hosted a retirement party for their sister, Dorothy Zollar, on Sunday, November 22. Their mother, Julia, was once a member of our branch, and Marcy Rooney, Dorothy's sister, is a member of our branch. The church hall was filled with people, the Poderzay Brothers played their accordions throughout the afternoon — what a happy time. We wish Dorothy many years of enjoyable retirement from her nursing duties.

Our January meeting was on Wednesday, January 20, with Tory Bobence and Agnes Mesojedec as hostesses and Sophie Zupanich to bring the door prize.

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season with your loved ones.

Srečno Novo Leto!

ADELINE MUSTONEN

NO. 35, AURORA, MN

Saturday, Dec. 12th concluded a week-long celebration of Heritage Days in Aurora. The Union Hall was decorated for Christmas. Santa welcomed everyone and the children had their pictures taken with him.

Many people had tables laden with arts, crafts and ethnic bakery for sale. Our Branch had a very interesting table decorated with a Slovenian Christmas tree and a Manger, thanks to Anita Vovk. Some of our workers wore their Slovenian costumes and many people stopped to "inquire and admire" the tree, manger and costumes. The Slovenian tree was taken to our church hall for our Christmas party and then to the rectory for Fr. Sustersic and Fr. Vovk to enjoy. Our thanks to everyone who made all the delicious poticas, krofe, apple strudels, kifels and noodles, plus so many Christmas breads, rolls, bars and cookies. Everything was sold as soon as it was put on the table!

The Festival Singers, wearing their Slovenian costumes, added to the festivities with their beautiful singing of Slovenian and English Christmas

Carols. Josephine Trost's husband, Stanley, provided accordian music all afternoon. Thanks to Stan and our Festival Singers!

On Saturday evening, a delicious ethnic dinner was prepared by one of our new members, Joyce Zelesnikar, assisted by Joanne Plevell and our Legion Auxiliary. Two of our members belong to a singing group called the "Tac a Notes", Phyllis Turk and Jen Grebence, and they entertained us after dinner. Three exchange students from Finland, Sweden and Germany shared their Christmas traditions. Much emphasis was on families gathered during this beautiful celebration of Christmas. A sing-along completed this beautiful celebration.

Sunday, Dec. 13th we met at the Church Hall for a short business meeting and Christmas party. We were happy to have fifty members present.

President Holland opened our meeting with prayers. Election of officers was held and all our present officers agreed to remain in office for another year; thank you, ladies.

President Holland appointed a "steering committee" for our State Convention. Ladies, watch for meeting notices in the church bulletin.

Welcome to our new adult members, Linda Orazem, Anna Mae Lyle, Joyce Zelesnikar and three who transferred from the Junior department, Karen McGauley, Michelle Klandar and Jeff Kulaszewicz. New Junior members are Joseph and Robert Orazem, David Wheeler and Maria Menart.

Congratulations to the following young people and good luck to our new Mayor, Alan Hodnik, whose wife, Erica and daughter, Alysa, are members of the branch. His mother, Anna Hodnik, is well known to all.

Michelle Klandar won first prize in the Christmas window painting contest. Her beautiful artwork was on the Calvin Lumber Co. window. Brent Kalar is in the 11th grade at Aurora Hoyt Lakes High School and was chosen "Student of the Week" for his positive efforts in striving to attain academic excellence. Cindy Kalar deserves a salute for her performance in the Holy Rosary Youth Group skit, "The Least of These". We are proud of you!

Holiday greetings were sent to all of our "over 80" members.

Our sympathy is with the families of Fr. John Dolsina, John Voiovich and Frank Glavan. May they rest in peace.

A dime auction will be held at our February meeting on the 7th. Hostesses will be Connie Menart, Nancy Martinetto, Barbara Kalar and Carole Ferris.

Meeting was adjourned and it was time for our party. Fr. Vovk and Fr. Sustarsic joined our Festival singers singing beautiful Slovenian and English songs. We also were entertained by three lovely junior members, Katie Martinetto, Janelle Antilla and Courtney Kalar. They were all so pretty dressed up in velvet and lace. They are in the 1st grade and sang several Christmas carols for us.

Fr. Sustarsic led us in prayers and grace before dinner. Thanks to the ladies who prepared the delicious Chicken Kiev dinner. The door prize was won by Martha Gunderson.

Our monetary gift, instead of a gift exchange, totalled \$84 for the Arts, Crafts and "B" for the Board and Care Unit of our local hospital. Thank you, everyone.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

ANNE M. ORAZEM

NO. 38, CHISHOLM, MN

Branch 38 of Chisholm, Minnesota, extends wishes to all for a happy 1988. This is the Marian Year and surely our prayers and devotions in praise of Mary will grant us many blessings.

Our annual Christmas party was attended by 64 members who enjoyed a lovely meal at Valentini's Supper Club. Mrs. Frances Setina was the oldest member present — she is a young 99 years of age. The Christmas decor filled us with a holiday spirit. The incoming officers baked Christmas cookies, and Florence Tramontin made Italian Pizzelle as a special after dinner treat.

Many lucky members received cash prizes. Mrs. Mildred Bashel and Mrs. Anne Walach won a year's paid membership for 1988. There was a Christmas gift exchange, after which cash "B" was played. It was 5 cents a card, "winner take all". It was fun, and all in all, the party was a beautiful social event.

Our Jan. meeting was scheduled for the 6th. On the lunch committee were to be officers, Kathy Knuth and Ann Nusich.

We hoped to have a film strip related to the Marian year for our program and a nice attendance.

Well, the elements finally won out, and Br. 38 had to cancel their regular monthly meeting on Jan. 6, 1988. It was a mere 27 degrees below zero during the day with a prediction of colder by evening! So our meeting, as well as many other social doings in Chisholm, were postponed. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 3. Fran Bizal had planned to present a tape of Mother Angelica, entitled "The Role of Women in our Society", but, hopefully, she can present it to us next month. Fran is our historian, and has a lovely scrap book begun. Incidentally, she is our National President Tory Bobence's sister.

I attended my cousin's funeral in Ely a week ago. Mary Zgonc was an active member of Br. 23. Members had a very impressive service after the Mass at St. Anthony's Church. I was happy to hear the revised SWU prayer of farewell. The choir sang the Slovenian hymns which we no longer hear. Branch 23 is really keeping our heritage alive. They are to be commended.

On our sick list we still have Mayme Gazvoda. Fran Techar's husband, Joseph, has been seriously ill. Our prayers are for the speedy recovery of all our ill members and their relatives.

We are hoping for a good attendance at our next meeting. Plans will be made for our annual spring card party.

Now to try to eat all the dessert which Kathy, and I made for tonight!

ANN NUSICH, Reporter

NO. 40, LORAIN, OH

I wish you all a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year!

It's been a whole year already since I took over for Mary Ploszaj as a reporter, hoping that she may be back soon. But 1987 was not a good year for Mary because she was hospitalized two times and has since left to spend the winter in Florida.

I wish to thank the members for bearing with me. So here goes.

There were so few at our Nov. meeting that we decided to elect officers at a later date.

Birthday girls who served refreshments were Agnes Tomazin and yours truly.

Thanks to Genevieve Wenzel and Mary Ploszaj for prize donations. Angie Kozjan also donated prizes.

Our Christmas Tureen was a beau-

Learn Slovenian!

This year I am making a serious attempt to sort out my recipes in some orderly fashion, go through a box full of pictures and put them into albums for my children and distribute others to family and friends whom they concern and go through the box marked Slovenian Women's Union. While looking through the latter I found this article written by our founder, Marie Prislant which I thought would be really fitting to start out the new year. I am using it for the column this month. Let us all try to use these "gifts of words" and see what a difference they will make in our lives, the lives of our families and friends and also in our branch meetings and activities.

MARIE PRISLAND:

Capsules

The Gift of Words

Words are powerful! They are our most potent means of communication. Too often we don't make — or take — the opportunity to give words of warmth or appreciation or *encouragement* or thanks to those people in our lives: husbands, wives, friends, children, parents or co-workers.

May be it is because we've forgotten to say — — —

"Thank you.

I love you.

You did an excellent job.

You are of great help."

Those are all simple statements that come from the heart and speak of our warmth and caring.

The gift of words is perhaps the only one you can give every day. Words are gifts which will never show their age, wear out, or become too small. They are gifts forever!

* * *

words--**besede**

powerful, potent--**močan**

communication--**sporočila**

opportunity--**priložnost**

appreciation--**očenitev, spoštovanje**

encouragement--**v spodbudo**

because--**ker**

statement--**izjava**

we've forgotten--**smo pozabili**

Thank you--**hvala**

I love you--**Jaz te ljubim, Imam te rad (a)**

You did an excellent job--**Naredil si odlično delo**

You are of great help--**Ti si zelo dober pomočnik**

The gift of words is *perhaps* the only one you can give everyday.

Lepe besede so mogoče edini dar, ki ga lahko podariš vsaki dan.

I would like to say Hvala to my secret helper of this column. He wanted to remain anonymous.

Zahvalim se mojemu pomočniku, ki hoče ostati anonimen.

tiful affair. There were 22 present. Father Krajnik, our Spiritual Advisor came and helped us sing Christmas carols in Slovenian.

Our junior member, Debbie Shullick, came early with Grandma Francine and helped get the tables decorated. Thanks for a job well done.

We were glad to see Sophie Pogacher looking so well after her recent illness.

Our dinner was delicious. Now I know why so many wanted this "Tureen" instead of going out to eat in a restaurant. They wanted to show what good cooks we have in our midst!

Thanks to Agatha for the beautiful favors she made and for the beautiful centerpiece which was won by Francine; and to Mary Ploszaj for the door prize, won by Angie Tomazin.

We had a gift exchange and everyone seemed to be happy with what they got.

We also played travelling "B" and a good time was had by all.

Since we had so many present at our dinner we decided to elect our officers for 1988.

All of our officers accepted for another year, except Angie Kozjan who has been our Secretary and Treasurer for many years.

We were sad to hear that she is resigning because of ill health. We hope that her health improves and she will be able to attend our meetings once in a while. It's going to be hard to get along without her guidance.

Our officers for the coming year are as follows: President-Agnes Tomazin, Vice President-Agatha Dongas, Recording Secretary-Mary Matos, Auditors-Mary Terlec and Sue Tomazic, Reporter-Mary Matos. Rev. Fr. Paul Krajnik is our Spiritual Advisor.

There were no takers for the secretary-treasurer's position. We will try again next month and maybe someone will come forward and accept.


We picked Agatha Dongas for the "Mother of the Year" award. Congratulations, Agatha. We wish you a happy reign!

Lots of happiness to our 95 year young Katie Tush who became a great-grandma to twin boys recently. This is a repeat for twins in Katie's family, because Katie gave birth to twin daughters about 67 years ago!

Eight-pound Melissa Marie Myers has been welcomed by Denny and JoAnn Myers. Great-grandma is our Frances Tilosanec.

Hermine Dicke
3717 Council Crest
Madison, WI 53711

Pots and Pans



I was so pleased that a single recipe, APPLE CRUNCH, in the POTS AND PANS cookbook (page 113) sold four copies! The husband said it was the best APPLE CRISP (as he called it) that he ever tasted. Apparently the brown sugar makes the difference. His wife, who had borrowed the book, bought four copies for herself and friends.

The Pillsbury Co. has approved my using one of their prize-winning recipes, BEEF 'N BISCUIT CASSEROLE. Sometime ago, Josephine Mistic of Cleveland, OH, sent me her PRUNE BREAD (Kruhek iz suhe slive) recipe which won a third place ribbon in CREATIVE CATEGORY. Shirley Schulta of Milwaukee shares her popular PIZZA SALAD while Jean Kocaja of Greenfield, WI sent her unusual and tasty LEMON CHIFFON CAKE.

Affectionately,

Hermine

BEEF 'N BISCUIT CASSEROLE

1 1/2	pounds ground beef	1	can (8 ounces) refrigerated buttermilk or country style biscuits
1/2	cup chopped onion or 2 tablespoons instant minced onion	1 1/2	cups shredded Monterey Jack or Cheddar cheese
1/4	cup diced green pepper	1/2	cup dairy sour cream
1	can (8 ounces) tomato sauce	1	egg, slightly beaten
2	teaspoons chili powder		
1/2	teaspoon garlic salt		

Preheat oven to 350°. Brown beef, onion and green pepper in large frying pan; drain. Stir in tomato sauce, chili powder and garlic salt. Simmer while preparing dough. Separate biscuit dough into 10 biscuits; pull each apart. Press 10 biscuit halves over bottom of ungreased 9-inch square baking pan. Combine 1/2 cup cheese (reserve remaining cheese for topping), sour cream and egg; mix well. Remove meat mixture from heat, stir in sour cream mixture and spoon over dough. Arrange remaining biscuit halves on top and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake at 375° for 25-30 minutes uncovered or until biscuits are deep golden brown. Makes 5-6 servings.

PRUNE BREAD

1	rounded tablespoon margarine	1	teaspoon baking soda
1	cup sugar	1	cup bottled prune juice, heated
1	egg	1	cup cooked pitted prunes, cut up
2 1/4	cups sifted all-purpose flour	1/2	cup chopped walnuts
1/2	teaspoon salt	1/2	teaspoon vanilla
1	heaping teaspoon baking powder		

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease two 9 x 5-inch loaf pans. Cream shortening and sugar and beat in egg. Sift flour, salt and baking powder together. Add baking soda to hot prune juice. Alternately add flour mixture and prune juice to egg-sugar mixture beginning and ending with flour. Stir in prunes and nuts. Stir in vanilla. Pour into loaf pans and bake in preheated 350° oven for 30 to 35 minutes until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Frank Pavlovic III, member of Brighton, Mich. High School Marching Band was in the Thanksgiving parade in Detroit. He is the grandson of our Francine.

Agnes Bucher and husband are spending the winter in Florida. Her health is not too good. Although she was unable to be at our Christmas Dinner, she left a monetary donation with Francine who bought the necessary ingredients for a "Fuzzy Navel Punch" which she served us at our holiday Dinner. We drank a toast to all our sick members.

Francine also brought a covered dish to our dinner for her daughter, Kathy Shullick, who wasn't able to

attend, but celebrated her birthday on Dec. 23rd.

Thanks to all who helped make our Christmas Dinner a memorable event.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Jean Balogh on the recent death of her sister-in-law.

Congratulations to Angie and Frank Tomazine on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Genevieve Wengel was visiting her son in Colorado over the holidays.

Angie Voytko wishes to express her gratitude to all for their monetary donations to her Slovenian Folk dancers. The money will be put to good use.

In behalf of our granddaughter, Lisa Mercurio, who underwent a Liver Transplant on Nov. 13th, we extend

a sincere and loving thank-you to all of you for your prayers, cards and generosity during her confinement in the hospital and above all to God for granting her a second life.

She left the hospital after 3 weeks and is doing well and is looking forward to enrolling in Cosmotology school in the fall.

Thanks again and God bless you all. Have a Happy Valentine's Day!

Lest we forget: Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Slovenian Home. See you there!

Love,

MARY MATOS

PIZZA SALAD

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 2 | packages refrigerated crescent rolls | 1 | package Hidden Valley Ranch dressing |
| 2 | packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese | | |
| 1 | cup mayonnaise | | |

Spread out crescent rolls dough on ungreased cookie sheet or jelly roll pan and bake at 375° for 8 to 10 minutes until brown (watch). Beat together cream cheese, mayonnaise and dressing. Spread on cooled crescent rolls. Chop in small pieces as much as you wish of the following and put on top: green pepper, celery, cauliflower, cherry tomatoes, mushrooms and onion. Top with shredded carrots. Cut as desired to serve.

LEMON CHIFFON CAKE

Crust:

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|---|-------------------|
| 2 | cups flour | 3 | tablespoons sugar |
| $\frac{1}{3}$ | cup butter | | |

Work ingredients like pie crust until mixture is crumbly. Butter well a spring from pan without hole in center. Pour in crumbs; press crumbs firmly up $\frac{3}{4}$ of sides and bottom of pan. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes. Set aside.

Filling:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------|---|
| 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | envelopes Knox gelatin
Scant cup of cold water | $\frac{1}{2}$ | cup lemon juice
Grated rind of 1 lemon |
| 6 | egg yolks | 6 | egg whites |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ | cup sugar | 1 | cup sugar |

Mix gelatin and cold water. Let stand. In double boiler mix egg yolks, sugar, lemon juice and grated rind. Cook over boiling water until thick, like custard, stirring constantly, about 10 to 15 minutes. Remove cooked mixture from fire and stir in gelatin and water (mixture will become thinned down). Let stand in refrigerator about 1/2 hour. Beat egg whites until stiff then slowly add sugar and continue beating with each addition. Slowly add egg-gelatin mixture to egg whites, beating at lowest speed on mixer. Pour over baked crust. Refrigerate for several hours or overnight; cover with Saran Wrap. Top with whipped cream.

Special Offer

The Ameriška Domovina newspaper is published on Tuesdays entirely in Slovenian and on Fridays, half Slovenian, half English. It is dedicated to preserving the Slovenian heritage and culture and dedicated to freedom and justice among the Slovenian people. The paper also serves as a communication vehicle from person to person and community to community throughout the United States, Canada and the rest of the world.

Do not be left out on what is going on among the Slovenians. For first time readers, a trial subscription for six months for the twice weekly paper can be purchased WITH THIS AD for only \$15.00 — or every Friday's English Language edition for only \$10 for six months.

Sent to American Home, 6117 St. Clair., Cleveland, OH 44103.

PRESERVING YOUR HERITAGE THROUGH A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE AMERICAN HOME MAKES AN EXCELLENT GIFT.

NO. 42, MAPLE HGTS, OH

The December meeting was well attended. The membership agreed that all officers remain for 1988. Olga Ponikvar will be in charge of the Sunshine Fund.

Officers for 1988 are:

President, Millie Lipnos, Vice-President, Mitzi Champa, Financial Secretary, Marge Church, Recording Secretary, Donna Stubljer, Auditors, Mary Yemec, Mary Filipis, and Mary Fink. Spiritual Advisor is Msgr. Heriday. The Maple Hgts., Slovenian Representatives are Mitzi Champa and Ann Perko. Sargent at Arms is Vida Shega.

We extend our best wishes for a Healthy and a Happy New Year.

Birthday greetings to the January birthday ladies: Lao Camille, Pat Wenckus, Elizabeth Shega, Beth Ann Harr, Karen Lockhardt, Anna Rezin and Ann Marie Buehner.

February birthday greetings to Diane Balach, Joanne Kosak, Lil Sadowski, Niki Lerachbacher and Edna Scotton.

Mary Stimetz and Ann Rezin are recuperating from a stay in the hospital. May God give you a good recovery.

We extend our sympathy to Albie Mrocicka and family on the loss of her brother, George Hribar. Our condolences also go out to Pat Wolf and family on the loss of her sister-in-law, Rita Metejka. May they rest in peace.

Welcome to Branch 42, new members Marge Zupancic, Ann Zupancic and Marie Vercek.

Ann Keglovic's daughter, Debbie, husband, Tom and son came in from Columbus. While here they celebrated their son's first birthday.

Eugene and Vida Vercek will spend ten days at Clear Water Beach in Florida. Betty Gaver's children gave her a surprise birthday party. Happy Valentine's Day.

DONNA STUBLJER

NO. 43, MILWAUKEE, WI

The December meeting was held before our Christmas Luncheon. It was short, and as soon as the business part of the meeting was completed we had election of officers. Our president is Sandy Schachtschneider, Vice-President Mary Martino, Secretary

Rose Kraemer, Treasurer Christine Kokalj, Recording Secretary Mary Musich, Auditors Fran Sagadin and Josephine Zahn, Sargeant of Arms Mary Pucel, and Mother of the Year, Christine Kokalj. We closed our meeting and a delicious lunch was served. There were 52 people who attended, door and raffle prizes were given.

Congratulations to Mary Musich, who became a great-grandmother. Mary was vacationing and visiting brothers and sisters in Florida when she received the good news.

Mrs. Fritzel is also great grandmother. Her grand-daughter and her husband came with their 4 month old baby from Florida to visit grandma Fritzel. To the two great-grandmothers our congratulations! Mary Martino also had company. Her daughter, son-in-law and grand-daughter were here from California during the holidays. What a wonderful way to spend the holidays. The Bregant's, Mitzi and Ed, her husband, vacationed in Florida.

A surprise party was held for Ceil Groth on December 13, 1987 for her 80th birthday. About 40 of her friends really surprised her. All she did was to shed tears of happiness. A delicious lunch was served by her daughter Shirley. Keep it up Ceil, you're doing great.

Mathilda Simcic's husband was in the hospital, but is now at home. Helen Rudzinski is still on crutches and her husband, Stanley is home from the hospital. He had surgery and it will take quite sometime before he will be able to walk. Get well wishes to the above.

Our sincere sympathies to Jenny Pugel and Family on the death of her grandson, to James Otto and Family on the death of his father. May their souls rest in peace.

Next meeting will be held on February 24, 1988 at 1:00 p.m. Happy Valentine's Day.

R.K.

NO. 47, GARFIELD HTS., OH

Our yearly meeting and pot luck Christmas party held on Sunday December 6th was well-attended. President, Mary Mundson opened our meeting with prayer and lighted a candle in memory of our living and deceased members. Officers for year 1988 were elected namely, President Mary Mundson, Vice President Olga

Dorchak, Secretary and Treasurer Mary Taucher, Recording Secretary Jennie Praznik, Representatives to Slovenian National Home in Maple Hts. Jennie Gerk and Mary Taucher, Auditors Ann Harsh and Elsie Lovrenic, Reporter Mary Taucher. Chosen Mother of the Year is Olga Dorchak.

Going back to our Christmas Party, our main meat dish was breaded chicken with cabbage rolls, hot rice casserole dishes, jello salads, desserts and delicious bakery prepared and donated by our ladies. This all added to our party. Jo Walters brought along her accordion so we had a sing along of both Christmas carols and Slovenian songs.

Happy birthday and good health to our January and February ladies, Diane Funaro, Mary Mundson, Helen Jerman, Antonia Davis, Antonia Dolinar, Jo Lea, Agnes Zagar, Jessie Pigot, Cheryl Pinter, Mary Sholar, Mary Ferfolia, Annie Kemmerling and to Twins Sarah and Kristin Green, who will be 5 years old on Feb. 17th. Proud grandma, Antonette Janders.

Sick list: Mary Zeleznik broke her hip, is in a rest home in California. Mary Vidakovich is recuperating at home from a stroke after spending sometime both at Marymount and Metro General Hospital for therapy. She is getting along nicely. Mary Evanovich is presently at Oakwood Health Center rest home.

Jennie Mezgec celebrated her 99th birthday with her family and many, many friends. She is a resident of Slovene Home for the Aged. Happy birthday, again.

To all our sick members we wish you better health in the New Year.

Members on the go: Mary Mundson and husband spent 2 weeks vacationing with friends in Florida. Mary and Casey Mundson, Mary and John Taucher attended Br. 14's 60th anniversary dinner party at Recher Hall. Antonette Janders and daughter Jo Ann Green went on bus trip with Br. 73 from Warrensville to Washington, D.C. They went to the Shrine, also attended Br. 103's dinner dance which they enjoyed very much. Mary Prosen is visiting her daughter in San Diego, California for the winter months. Mary Sholar and son, Ray have permanently relocated to their home in Spring Hill, Florida.

Our sincere sympathy to families: Catherine Perko, Frank Mareda and Mary Cergol on the recent passing of their beloved ones. May their souls and the rest of the souls rest in peace.

Would like to close my books for 1987. Please check your dues book if you are up to date. Wishing you all a Happy Valentines day; also St. Joseph's day! Next meeting is March 13, one o'clock S.N.H., Maple Hts. Will have coffee and cake after meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY TAUCHER

NO. 50, CLEVELAND, OH

I just got home in time to write for the ZARJA as Frank and I were in Colorado visiting our son and family at Christmas time, showing my grand-daughters how to stretch strudel dough, potica and make krofe. A person just has to try to keep up Slovene traditions or they are easily forgotten. They really love to bake and even invite neighbors to see how we celebrate Christmas with good eating. We were fortunate with our travels during the two weeks, weatherwise, leaving with nice weather and coming home with good weather. While there we missed two terrific snow storms in Denver as we were in the ski resorts further southwest. Just lucky!

But, in Washington, D.C., Rose Bavec and Albina Mrsnik, who had gone on a pilgrimage with Adolph Somrack tours and Legion of Mary, really hit the biggest snow storm there in 35 years. No snow plows ready and instead of a half hour it took them 5-1/2 hours to keep their reservations for dinner and then to find it closed. No help. It was an adventure to remember and because of a competent driver and guide, they were carefree and enjoyed the fun on the bus. Another trip to remember was when the Somracks had 40 people to Washington D.C. to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and because of Fr. John Brennan who had worked with Mother Theresa years ago, they were invited to a special audience with her at the Mother House where 11 nuns took their first vows and 14 nuns took their final vows. Missionaries of Charity has 2,000 nuns in 72 countries and Adolph said when in her presence, you feel her holiness.

Mary Budas and Stella Baum took a vacation to California visiting Los Angeles, Palm Springs and Las Vegas. Bet they left some dollars there. They stayed in Calico Ghost Town and having time, they even toured Tijuana, Mexico and Universal

July 1 — December 31, 1987 Financial Scholarship Report

Dear Contributors:

Through the Scholarship Program, your financial support since 1949 has made it possible for the Slovenian Women's Union to award scholarships totaling \$64,000 to 133 outstanding high school graduates. Heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation are extended to each of you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

May you enjoy God's richest blessings in 1988.
Sincerely,

Hermine Dicke

Names of contributors from July 1— December 31, 1987 follow:

CONTRIBUTORS	IN MEMORY OF:	AMOUNT
1, Sheboygan, WI	Rev. Richard Fale	\$25.00
2, Chicago, IL		500.00
16, South Chicago, IL	Antonia Dominikovich	5.00
Branch 16	Anita B. Quilici	5.00
25, Cleveland, OH	Antonia Turek	10.00
42, Maple Heights, OH		100.00
"from our Scholarship fund raisers"		
47, Garfield Hgts., OH	For Antonia Turek Fund:	
	Ann Mareda	5.00
Branch 47	Katherine Perko	5.00
Branch 47	Victoria Williams	5.00
105, Detroit, MI	Johanna Bole	5.00
Mr/Mrs Edward Ancel, Joliet, IL	Edward Kompare	15.00
Caroline Braddock	Sister, Molly Braddock	50.00
L. Fay Craig, Dearborn, MI	Johanna Bole	5.00
Mr/Mrs Robert Fischer, Kohler, WI	Francis Ribich	5.00
Mr/Mrs Robert Fischer	Jane Gorenz	5.00
Mr/Mrs Ralph Hodnik, Aurora, MN		5.00
"50th wedding anniversary of Mr/Mrs Rudy Smolich"		5.00
Mr/Mrs Ralph Hodnik	Ann Kocyon Lindahl	5.00
Mr/Mrs Ralph Hodnik	Frances Tanko	3.00

Dorothy Jamnick, Aurora, MN		10.00
Albert J. Jelinek, West Allis, WI	Mary Ermenc	10.00
Albert J. Jelinek	Sophie Turck	10.00
Anna M. Jelinek, West Allis, WI	Mary Ermenc	10.00
Anna M. Jelinek	Sophie Turck	10.00
Pauline Klobucar, Chicago, IL	Mamie Sterbenc Judnick	25.00
Pauline Klobucar	Anton Skull	20.00
Ann Ksiazek, Chicago, IL	Rev. Jerome Sellak	10.00
Rose Maras, Hibbing, MN		
"in honor of our 48 wedding anniversary, Nick and Rose"		10.00
Katherine Michalic, Warren, MI	Johanna Bole	10.00
Mary Muller, Riverdale, IL	John Sudruff	10.00
Mr/Mrs Anthony Orazem, Aurora, MN	Anna Ellioff	5.00
Anna Pachak, Pueblo, CO	"V spomin soproga in 5 otrok"	100.00
Ann Pobanz, Warren, MI	Johanna Bole	10.00
Margaret Prebil, Chicago, IL	Rev. Jerome Sellak	5.00
Mrs Graham Schadt, Arlington Texas	Mamie Judnick	35.00
Anna Rose Smolich, Aurora, MN	Louise Nisen	5.00
Mrs Eli Smolich, Aurora, MN	Louise Nisen	5.00
Mrs. Rudy Smolich, Aurora, MN	Parents: George and Martha Voivich	10.00
Marge and Sylvia Spretnjak, Chicago, IL	Antonia Dominick	10.00
Mr/Mrs Joseph Winters, Chicago, IL	Antonia Dominikovich	5.00

Honoring the memory of Antonia Turek, the following donors contributed a total of \$70 at the Christmas luncheon of combined Ohio S.W.U. branches: Lavona Avitt, Vera Bajec, Mary Chesnik, Josephine Comenshek, Alouise Epley, Mary Facult, Justine and Sutton Girod, Emily Heidtman, Irene Jagodnik, Cirila Kermavner, Sharon Kobal, Marty Koren, Gertrude Laurich, Evelyn Majercik, Mildred Pike, Ann Ryavec, Vera Sebenik, Danielle Susel, Rosemary Susel, Mary Taucher, Ann Tercek, Mary Turk, Sylvia Turk, Ann Winter, Kay Yuratovac.

Studios in spite of a few upsets arrived home safely.

Christmas in the country for John and Christine Nestor who travelled to Pa. to spend the holiday with their son, Gregory and wife, Joyce and family who enjoy a gentlemen's farm while also working for Water Purification at Drew Chemical. Chris said they love to work on the farm.

Dorothy Hribar and husband went on a tour with Frank Kalik to Rio de Janiero and Buenos Aires; they didn't get to any Slovene clubs but enjoyed a good trip. Now they are contemplating moving back to Johnstown, Pa. from Florida to be together again with relatives and friends they left behind.

Mary Klemencic of Calif. wrote thanking us for remembering her on

her 50th anniversary of membership. Glad to hear from you, Mary.

Anne Ryavec had a beautiful "Christmas Lights Tour". I heard only good comments about it and was sorry I couldn't make it as that night Lodge 566 of SNPJ honored me, a 60 year member. Anyway, whenever Anne has a tour, if possible, GO - You won't be disappointed. Good time on the bus and off the bus and worthwhile places to visit.

Next time you see Anne and she is smiling, you will know she is thinking of her two little "grandbabies", Meredith Anne and Lauren Marie, who weighed 4# 3 oz. and 4# 13 oz. at birth, a complete surprise for all. Too bad they live in Columbus or she would bring those tiny babies to the

meeting to show them off! Gus and Anne are happy to finally get into the class of grandparenthood. Now we will wait for pictures. Those little babies could both fit in one shoe box!

Houston, Texas - which is farther than Columbus, Anne! - was the birthplace of a first time great granddaughter for Mary Hrovat who is feeling better after her cataract operation and couldn't help but feel proud to be a "great grandma"!

Irene and Paul Meden welcomed a double whammy - Oct. 14th, when their son, Dr. Glenn and daughter-in-law, Dr. Dudzinski, became parents to Justin Edward, 8# 3 oz. and two days later, when their son, Robert and Maryellen proudly presented them with another grandson, Patrick

Michael, 7# 8 oz. Each family already has a daughter. Helen Palmer, who is grandma several times, became a great grandma when Jason Kromar was born in Abilene, Texas. I am sure the parents and grandparents know that these babies specialize in sleeping, crying and eating. Have fun - these are only little troubles.

Sisters Anne Kristoff, Mary Petrich and Vickie Pianeki reported their father celebrated his 104th birthday and is adjusted to living in a home and doing well.

Mary Sherry is at Western Reserve Convalescent Home on Chillicothe Rd. and surely would appreciate hearing from friends and members.

Honey Vegal is back from St. Louis, missed Euclid and friends here - will live on 200th Place, she says it is beautiful, and will attend our meetings again.

Rosemary Marn and husband will move to Fla. Hope you like it and enjoy the warmth.

Cynthia Jagodnik Jones was saved from serious injury or death by wearing her seat belt. On the way to work, a semi-truck side swiped her and drove on. Discomfort all over and a painful neck was her injury and reminder of the hit and run. Wear your belts!

A 44 ft. decorated spruce tree was standing in Cleveland's Old Arcade because our member, Vera Nosan and her husband, Vincent, donated it from their front yard in memory of their niece, Dr. Mary Ann Jerse O'Connor, a psychiatrist who was murdered by one of her patients in 1983. Also, some of the tree branches were used to decorate the Lawnfield Home of our 20th US President, James Garfield in Mentor, Ohio. Vera planted the tree 32 years ago, now a fine tribute.

Rose and Joe Zuzek were winners at Great Lakes Mall for their three miniature rose arrangements. Received a gold certificate and double blue ribbons from the American Rose Society. Their son-in-law, Ed Kostansek, was promoted at Rohm Haas Chemical Co. from agriculture to the plastics division in research.

Lynn Fowler, daughter of Frances and Charles Kikel, has a new position at Commercial Art Advertising. Nice going and good luck.

Our Combined Branches' Christmas party with about 25 ladies had a great time at the Hofbrau House. A good menu and good fellowship ensued. More should attend and enjoy good times and friendship.

Departed Members

1 - Jane Gorenz (78) 60-yr member	34 - Mary Inzerello (64) 7-yr member
Ivana Mohar (93) 59-yr member	47 - Mary Cergol (71) 51-yr member
2 - Ann Kosmach (82) 55-yr member	Anna Mareda (77) 52-yr member
Angela Simec (89) 36-yr member	Catherine Perko (84) 55-yr member
Mary Tomse (81) 39-yr member	50 - Frances Drenik (94) 53-yr member
3 - Angela Medved (74) 35-yr member	Mary Pucel (73) 15-yr member
Mary Patrick (86) 51-yr member	64 - Anna Peresic (73) 33-yr member
7 - Christine Kotar (87) 35-yr member	67 - Gloria Perrone (65) 8-yr member
10 - Mary Cimperman (84) 39-yr member	73 - Jennie Nosse (80) 53-yr member
14 - Rose Atkins (71) 48-yr member	88 - Edna Markum (84) 33-yr member
Rose Maurich (88) 55-yr member	89 - Anna Krancic (92) 52-yr member
15 - Angela Ajnik (98) 52-yr member	91 - Mary Flais (80) 34-yr member
19 - Catherine Pollach (82) 45-yr member	Mary Zakrajsek (85) 48-yr member
23 - Victoria Skala (81) 48-yr member	97 - Leopoldina Lickar (90) 36-yr member
33 - Dorothy Brulla (86) 53-yr member	100 - Elizabeth Marinovich (76) 17-yr member

Over 200 people attended the Christmas party on Holmes Ave. It was one of our best. Twirlettes performed and Ann Cern's granddaughters' dance class showed us how much they have learned in a short time. Singing was great and enjoyed and of course, the dinner was perfect.

Fanny Kaltenbach was chosen to be Mother of the Year. Let's give her a helping hand if needed.

At our November meeting all the officers were re-elected except Dorothyann Winter will be our new sentinel. New secretary (part of Irene Jagodnik's position) will be Diane Bencin, 6826 "C" Colonial Dr., Mentor, OH 44094, phone (216) 255-4724. She will be handling all our membership dues. Diane is a capable young lady and hopefully, will later assume responsibility as treasurer,

too, which position Irene Jagodnik is still handling for the time being. **Note her address if you are mailing your dues!**

Sympathy to Josephine and Joe Mole upon the death of their daughter, Loretta Landry who passed away at age 48. Also, to Ann Jersan whose sister, Ann Goga, passed away. Our condolences.

Members who always attended our meetings in the past and are convalescing a long time were visited by the branch with fruits and cookies and we are hoping Frances Marolt, Jean Tomsic, Helen Hraster and Katherine Dissauer will be able to attend soon. February meeting, wear something red for Valentine's Day or pay a dime! Have a happy and healthy New Year. Remember, instead of pointing a finger, why not hold out a hand.

VERA SEBENIK

Irene M. Odorizzi
2362 Paddock Lane
Reston, Va. 22091

THE IMMIGRANT

FRANCES FROM ZAGREB

My arrival into this world on April 9, brought much sorrow as my mother died immediately after I was born. My life began in a world of tragedy.

Father, who was a farmer and also worked as a tanner, making leather, eventually remarried. Fifteen children followed this second union. Unfortunately, I was the oldest child and there was a strained relationship that existed with my stepmother. In Slovenia nearly a century ago, this was not an unlikelihood. Many such situations existed but this fact did not make it any easier for me. My memories of childhood were sad and most unhappy. Life was difficult for the entire family as there were too many mouths to feed and too many growing bodies to clothe. Father struggled with the low wages he received as a tanner and tried to increase our income by selling some of the crops he raised, although much of what we grew and raised was used for our own family's consumption.

Work and more work. There was never an end to it, whether it was assisting with the care of the younger children, washing clothes, cleaning the small house, cooking or helping with some of the farm work chores. My youthful vision of life was merely one of hard work. Perhaps this work load would have been more bearable had my life been filled with loving affection within family life. But, I felt least loved of all my stepbrothers and sisters. This period of my life was perhaps the most painful and is etched most memorably in my mind.

By the time I was twenty years old, the poverty and strain of the relationship with my stepmother was unbearable. Thank heavens there was an alternative way of life, a place to go that looked bright and promising, one that supposedly held a happier future for me. A relative who lived on Washington Street in Pennsylvania had arranged for my departure from Slovenia to America. I didn't know a word of American and had never traveled such a distance before. This new experience frightened me, while still exciting me, with the possibility of a happier life. I don't remember all the details upon my arrival in America, except that my travel arrangements when leaving New York City had been altered and instead of being put on a train to Pennsylvania where I could eventually reach Washington Street and my relatives, I was sent to Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania Ave. There was no one to meet me. Everyone in our family now jokes about this mistake, but at that time, I felt that I was in a very bad predicament. How much worse would life treat me? Eventually, I arrived in Cleveland, where I soon obtained work as a housekeeper and cared for children.

© Irene M. Planinsek Odorizzi, 1988



Frances Kavc

Nearly four years after arriving in America, I married Frank Kavc, at St. Lawrence church on E. 80th St. He was employed for the New York Central Railroad. My life had now changed for the better. Frank was a hard worker and a good provider, making our life in America much happier with our own family of nine children, and the four children from broken homes which we had cared for along with our own.

This family of thirteen required much space and much food. We acquired a farm, raised cattle and sold milk. Our children worked along with us but such hard work was not new to me. Love made this struggle more bearable.

No life is without tragedy for with good comes the bad. When my eleven-year-old son had touched a high tension wire in 1924, he was instantly electrocuted. The first of our children had passed away.

I was one of the early immigrant arrivals in America, arriving soon after the turn of the century. Fraternalism and our Parish community were important to all the immigrants. Living together in a Slovene community kept us closer to our roots and I became one of the organizers of Sacred Heart Lodge and later in the 1920's became a member of the Slovenian Women's Union Branch No. 21 in the West Park Avenue.

In 1958, after I had been widowed for some time, I decided to return with a tour group to my birthplace in Zagreb. I visited with two half-sisters one of whom was a nun and the other a school teacher. One of my brothers owned a tavern and a half brother who was born six months after I left for America I met for the very first time. My father had lived long to the age of 97, and I have also been blessed with a long life. These later years are being spent in the Slovenian Home for the Aged in Cleveland.

At this time, I have survived many of my children and at present have three daughters, 26 grand-children and 41 great grand children. I have attended the advanced age of 96 years despite all the hard work and sorrow in my life.

THE END

Mrs. Kavc has since passed to her eternal reward. We sent our appreciation to Bernice Bryda, her daughter, for extra information about her mother's life.

Our Christmas Party was a great success. There were 35 members present. We had a very delicious dinner. Gifts were also distributed at our center and decorated with Christmas lights and tinsel. Cards were played and our hostesses were Ann Mansfield, Lu Strom, Mildred Barbatto, Ann Roberts who made the pohanje. Millie Barbatto did not spent time with us as she was on her way to California for the holidays. Hope she had a merry time. That goes for all of you!

We resumed our meeting Jan. 6th and held election of officers. They are the same for 1988: Rose Trombley, Genevieve Zidarich, Vice-President, Jenny Crea, Secretary-Treasurer, Dorothy Russo, Recording Secretary, Gertrude Kochevar (yours truly) is Reporter and Auditors are Margaret Kochevar, Ann Mansfield and Ann Roberts. We have selected Patricia Chisholm as Woman of the Year. We all know that she will reign and do her part in serving us. Our January meeting was well attended despite the cold temperatures. But this was our last meeting in the cold month of January. We voted to drop the January meeting in the future. The weather that month is the coldest ever!

We'd like to take this time out to wish all our sick members Godspeed to a rapid recovery, Murial Sabitini and Katherin Dolinich. Katy is at the leisure Hill Nursing Home. Hope we'll get to see her soon. We miss you and wishes for good health. God bless you all and hope and pray you are on the road to recovery.

After the business session was over, we commenced with the social hour. Our hostesses were sisters: Rose Trombley, Dorothy Russo, Jenny Crea, Margaret Andrican, our officers. A delicious lunch was served. Then we played cards with honors going to the following sisters: Terry Oberstar, Alice Baratto, Rose Trombley, Ann Roberts and door prize to Gertrude Kochevar. Our next meeting will be on the first Wednesday of the month. Hope you all will attend. It will be at the Senior Center. The more the merrier.

May God bless you all and keep you in the best of health until we meet again. Drive safely for the life you save may be your own.

Best wishes to all!

GERTRUDE KOICHEVAR

Our November meeting was well attended and it was good to see our president, Jo Kassin, with us after having major surgery. She is doing well and thanked all for the flowers, cards, gifts and visits while she was recuperating.

We shall change our meeting day from Tuesday to Wednesday and our next meeting will be on Feb. 15th. We shall honor two members this year as Mothers of the Year, Mary Diana and Stephanie Spelich. We'll be making plans for a luncheon in May to honor them.

On a trip again is Ann Brdek, going to Las Vegas. She surely does get around and loves to travel.

Happy Valentine's Day to all and to those ailing, get well soon.

JOANNE PONIKVAR

NO. 56, HIBBING, MN

Cold weather didn't stop the ladies from coming to the meeting so we had a nice turn-out; the meeting was opened with a lighted candle for all deceased members.

We heard a very nice report on the life of our older member, Barbara Dosen, who is now recuperating in the nursing home. She is 87 years old. We have two very dear members who had surgery: our financial secretary, Liz Spolar and Mary Johnson.

We discussed our entertaining at the nursing home in February.

We also had a very interesting and informative guest, Darlene Fetzik, Activities Co-ordinator at Mesabi Regional Center, who spoke on Adult Day Care services and activities offered by MRMC. Questions were asked and well-answered.

We also talked about our election of officers and told members to be prepared for elections in December. We planned our Christmas party to be held at the KC building on our meeting night.

Enjoyed the letter that Cirila Kermavner wrote on Christmas customs in Slovenia that was in the Dec. ZARJA.

At our last meeting, Edith Jones served, not Romela Pepruner as reported. Our hostesses at this meeting were Verona Marter, Anna Pintar and Mary Masich. Prizes were awarded to Mary Sikich, Rose Vukich and Agnes Barkis.

Greetings! We still have beautiful weather, just a little snow. We need lots, otherwise our pipes will freeze.

Opened the meeting with a prayer then held our Christmas party. It was at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Dec. 7th, not as many ladies attended as last year due to sickness and trips. It was a nice party - we all enjoyed it.

We had our election of officers. Sad and sorry to say Ann Satovich, after all these years, gave up her job as secretary. A young lady, a beautiful and vivacious girl, full of energy, took her place. She is Joan O'Neil. Congratulations from all of us. Mary Sikich became our new auditor. I tried to get someone to take my job but to no avail. So, ladies, thanks again! Love you all. But, really, you know I'm getting old!

The speaker at our State Convention in Biwabik, was our lovely State Representative from Hibbing. Her name was misspelled. It is Lonna Minne. Door prize was won by Val Carlson. Prizes in other games went to Verona Marter, Rose Vukich, Mary Michelletti, Mary Maganja, Amelia Domen and Frances Tobey. Our meetings will start at 7:00 p.m. A new social member, Jennie Sater is welcomed. Nice to have you. We know you will enjoy all of us ladies and we will enjoy having you. You are so full of pep and energy!

At our meeting we also read the letter from national secretary, Olga Ancel and national treasurer, Sylvia Vukodinovich, wishing us all the Happy Holidays and remembering Dec. 19th as our 61st Anniversary. We say: "Živela!"

Am enclosing a parody written by our Sunshine Lady, Ann Selvo. It's beautiful. Hope you all enjoy singing it. It goes like this:

Sing to the tune of

"A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY"

*It's a long time since we were founded
it's a long time ago.*

*It's a long time since we got started -
on a membership to grow.*

*Let's clasp hands with other members
give our branch a cheer!*

*It's a long, long time we've been to-
gether -*

with memories held dear! —

Best wishes to all and Happy New Year!

R.M.



My China Diary

My little "guide" at the Children's Palace wore a red scarf tied at the neck, identical to those worn by all the children in this Shanghai recreation center.

If you thought that you would come to Shanghai and see rickshaws, Chinese peasants limping around in rags, narrow alleys and slums, and dark, smoked-filled rooms with seedy-looking, opium-smoking street people, you better think again. Shanghai is a modern city, with average looking people, no winos, no beggars, no dirty streets and no visible decadence. The people are moderately dressed and all you see are smiling faces. It is true that the old parts of the city have a dingy look, and even the newer apartment complexes lack "spiffy" landscaping, as our western cities have. I did not see any upper or lower class areas in the city, only "older and newer". It's hard to tell a hospital from a factory, buildings have no big illuminated signs, but...all in all, Shanghai is a city coping with a gigantic population of 12 million and an economy that has no hard currency for trade. Shanghai, Canton and Beijing are City-States, meaning they have their own metropolitan governments and are self-sufficient. They do the best they can as descendants of a centuries-oid culture and history.

And, did I say they were proud? Proud of their families, their jobs, of their children! Grandmas and grandpas line all the streets with their little grandchildren in tow. They are the baby-sitters for working parents. Children are very well cared for. I wanted to photograph them more, but it was difficult. Tho they love to pose, it seemed the best shots were those I would miss because I was never fast enough with the camera! Their babies are dressed in the most simple, practical way. They do not use diapers on them, but dress them in open-crotch pants, long or short legged, so when the baby does his "business", there is no clothing to clean! It was always worth a smile to see the mommies and babies on the various parking lots, gathering places, parkways, etc., even at the famous Tianenman square in Beijing. When it was time, the baby crouched down and did it! Momma then dabbed a little and walked away with the child in her arms. Cleaning the street didn't seem to be a problem; there are always people with brooms, constantly at work.

We were taken to the "Children's Palace" in Shanghai, a show-place for western tourists. It is a school occupied by hundreds of children who come there after their regular school hours are over for the day. At the Children's palace they learn art, dance, music, crafts, drama, acrobatics, and many other individual talents can be exercised. We came there on a sunny afternoon, pulled up to the building and found throngs of people waiting for us on the sidewalks. Most of them were fathers and mothers holding

their little ones in their arms. They smiled and waved in greeting. We were shown the entrance, a gate that opened into a driveway and there, lined up, were these darling children, a band, an orchestra, playing a peppy march and giving it their all! We were delighted. We walked thru their guard of honor and into an auditorium. When we came in, there were children already in the hall, all clapping their hands. They were so enthusiastic and smiling, all sitting in the upper rows of the big auditorium. Their greeting was indeed appealing. Soon, we found ourselves clapping, too, and smiling up at them. We really get a big



Another class at the Children's Palace delighted us with music played on these string instruments. Their teacher sat quietly apart from the students, but just his presence was authority enough for them. Teachers are the most revered class of professionals in all China.

welcome! Soon, a little girl about 8 years old came onto the stage and spoke in Chinese, a loud, well-enunciated speech. An interpreter was near at hand to translate her greeting. Then the show began. A simple stage, simple scenery and very simple costumes, but the children were adorable. First three little ones portrayed a fairy-tale, all characters being dressed in identical suits, but each wore a headpiece covering the entire head. It was like a large child's head, painted hair, eyes, mouth, etc. These little heads (or large heads) wobbled on the necks of the real children. They neutralized the children into becoming neither boys nor girls, but just "children". They were the

most graceful I have ever seen. Another act brought out a little 5 year old girl who was really a "China Doll". She played an electronic instrument, like a zither. She held her little head so straight and had an ever-present smile on her face. She delighted us so! Her last song was "Oh, Suzanna," which the entire audience began to sing along. She played it over and over again. We could not let her go! She could have kept us there all night! Other acts were of little girls dancing to classical music all in all, a delightful musical show. As we left the theatre, the children came and mingled among us. A sweet little girl, about 10 years old, took my hand and began escorting me into the school. I was happy to be in such good hands. She took me up and down, in and out, so I saw all the classrooms and followed all the things going on. As we parted we hugged and she imitated all the sounds of words I used to try to communicate to her. Long after we parted, (I really could have taken her home with me!) I heard the sound of her little voice calling, "Bye-bye", in the crowd, waving farewell.

We visited the Chinese Acrobatic Circus, too. It was another children-oriented show. The pandas were almost human, the tumblers were graceful and the balancing act was the most enthralling we had ever seen. The circus floor was covered with an immense red silk carpet, which I did not fully appreciate until the following day when we visited a silk carpet factory and I saw what it takes to make one!

A visit to the Jade Temple was the third highlight of the day. It is a famous monastery where are enshrined two white jade statues of Sakyamuni, one reclining and the other sitting – both so large that this in itself is rare.

The Palace stands right on the edge of a roadway, in the middle of the city. Big green gargoyles guard the entrance. We stepped into the garden and entered the temple from the back. There, as at every temple we visited in the course of the trip, the threshold at the doorway is raised, so that you have to step high and over to enter. This temple had very high thresholds. Ancients were fearful of evil spirits and thought they would be protected

The "Children's Palace" is a place where the children spend after-school hours taking lessons in music and the arts. This "band" welcomed us at the doorway!



Jade Buddha Temple is a famous monastery where I got my first look at ancient Chinese rituals.

better if the evil spirits had a hard time entering.

The rooms were filled with Buddhas, symbolic gods against war, fear, the elements, from all kinds of dangers. A very pleasant old monk stood at the main altar and passed us each a stick of incense. He waved to show that it was free of charge, so Rudi and I each lighted one and placed it into an urn on the altar. We said our own prayer, of course.

We were the guests of the Shanghai branch of the China Tourist Service at a banquet that night where we were served a menu of local food. This is where the chopsticks came into the picture again. I can't remember how everything tasted, but the dissimilarity of this food to our own was striking. I tried it all and found that the best thing served with the food was their Chinese beer! We could have Coca-cola, too, served in bottles with the logo in Chinese. We had lots of rice which I found out later was a staple in this part of China close to the rice paddies. In northern China, where they grow wheat, we got our fill of noodles and dumplings.

On the outskirts of Shanghai are the newer "Suburban" areas and some grand new hotels. The American Sheraton chain has a beautiful one and some of our party enjoyed going there later, by cab, to dance and eat. They laughed telling us that the menu featured Mexican dishes!

(To be continued)



UREDNIKA

Moj dnevnik — Kitajska



Šanghai, nepozabno mesto, mesto v ki ga ne pričakuješ v podobi kot se prikaže. To ni mesto bogatašev, to ni mesto v katerem bi se zbirali reveži in po ulicah prosili za denar ter hrano. Nekaj znamenitega ima to mesto, nekaj česar nismo vajeni. To je namreč mesto v katerem se ti nenadoma zazdi, da so vsi ljudje enaki, da med ljudmi ni pravih razlik in tedaj sem res pomislila, le kaj nas naredi različne, je to denar, slava, lepa obleka, lepa hiša, najnovejši avto..... morda se tako zdi tu in tam, vendar temu se zdaleč ni tako, kajti vse to so samo zunanje podobe, tisto pa kar nas res naredi ljudi, drugačne in živali, to je vse kaj drugega kot kos blaga..... srce je namreč tisto, ki je najboljši razsodnik in to je sporočilo velemesta, ki se ponaša z 12 milijoni prebivalstva, to je sporočilo Šanghaia, to je sporočilo tisočletne kulture, ki je ne bo uničila nobena, civilizacija, nobena nova tehnika.

Nihče nikoli tem ljudem ne bo mogel iztrgati ponosa pa naj jih zatira, naj jim vsiljuje nov gospodarski, politični, socialni sistem, saj to so ljudje, ki spoštujejo svojo sedanost, spoštujejo stare in mlade in se drug od drugega vedno znova in znova učijo, učijo se tudi od nas in mi se učimo od njih, kako bi sicer človeštvo še obstajalo. Da, zares čudno, da se tega večkrat bolj živo ne zavemo. Ko skušam v mojo kamero z nespretnimi rokami ujeti majhno punčko, ki se mi skrivnostno in prijazno nasmiha, mislim na mojega vnuka, ki bo nekoč užival, ko mu bom pripovedovala o velikih doživetjih daljnega vzhoda, ko mu bom pripovedovala o otrocih, ki živijo tu v tem svetu, ki je za nas tako oddaljen in vendar so tudi ti otroci majhni, neboljeni, pa nič zato, če ne poznajo plenice in vozičkov ter oh kaj vse imajo naši otroci, naši malčki, odrasli bodo kot otroci modernega zahoda in se zato ne bodo čutili prikrajšane, le čudno se jim bo zdelo, če nas bodo kdaj obiskali, kot se mi čudimo njihovemu načinu.

Ko sem se tako zamišljena sprehajala po tem mogočnem velemestu, sem naenkrat zaslišala glas vodiča, ki nas je opozoril, da

smo ravno dospeli do velikega prostora, kjer bodo otroci pokazali svojo umetnost. Sprejeli so nas nadvse slovesno, peli so, plesali, igrali na instrumente. Bili smo vzradoščeni, presenetila nas je njihova prisrčnost, njihova igrivost, njihovo navdušenje, pokazati svetu kaj zmorejo. Dovolili so nam celo, da smo si ogledali notranjost njihovega "templja učenosti" — notranjost njihovih šol, pokukali v učilnice, telovadnice, kuhinje. Desetletna punčka, ki me je za roko popeljala skozi njej tako poznani svet učilnic, skozi veliko stavbo, ki je očitno njena šola, mi je brez znanje mojega jezika razkazala vse, iskreče oči so govorile tako glasno, da je bila vsaka govornica odveč. Le vzdih in tu in tam glasno začudenje je pomenilo vse in ko sva se poslovili mi je naenkrat postalo tako teno pri srcu kot da za vedno izgubljam dragocen zaklad in res sem ga izgubila, vedela sem, da bom odslej ponovno uporabljala na tisoče besed pa me morda ljudje ne bodo razumeli, ne bodo začutili tistega najglobljega kar bi jim rada povedala.

V tistem trenutku se mi je zazdelo, da ves svet dobiva drugačno podobo, da vsa množica, ki stoji in se preriva po tem širnem svetu zamolklo pritrjuje mojim mislim..... kaj pomenijo vse besede, vsi izrazi, pa naj bodo še tako visokoleteči, če v njih ni več pravega pomena..... veš, moja draga, mlada prijateljica, vedno mi bo ostal spomin nate, vedno te bom nosila v svojem srcu in ko me ljudje ne bodo razumeli, ti morda pošljem skrit pozdrav, ki ga boš razumela samo ti.

Obiskali smo še mnoge znamenitosti, se narahlo poklonili preteklosti, ki je tu tako veličastno zarisala svoje sledi. S prijateljico Rudi se kar nisva mogli ločiti od vseh teh čudés, srečali Buda in končno dospeli v naše hotelsko zavetišče, kjer so nas hoteli prijazno presenetiti z mexikansko hrano. Seveda smo spoštljivo prikimali in kar malo zatajili našo udomačenost z našim vsakdanom doma.

(— se nadaljuje)



ZARJA reporters were especially honored at the Ohio-Michigan State Convention for their work in keeping the branches informed and in the news. To them and all reporters, our salute!

NO. 57, NILES, OH

Our November meeting had a few more members than previous meetings. Try to keep it up as we look forward to seeing you. Our meeting was opened with a prayer. We finalized our plans for our Christmas party. It was our last get-together of the year. Please girls, if you are behind in your dues, please take care of this as we will not be meeting until March.

We had elections of officers and am happy to say the present officers are going to take over the jobs another year. I shouldn't call them jobs - it should be a pleasure to serve your branch!

We sent cards to Mary Young and Mary De Capua who are on our sick list. Hope you are well on the road to recovery. If there are other members on the sick list, please let us know as I am sure they would love to get a card from us.

As we had no further business to discuss, our meeting was closed with prayer wishing all our sick members a speedy recovery. We then played "B" and later were served a lovely lunch by members, Viola Logar and her daughter, Mary Ann Leonard.

Birthdays celebrated in November were Julia Yakop and Frances Stanec. Our March committee will be Ann Pease and Mary Strah. Wish you all a Happy New Year.

There are many ways to say thank you but sometimes a smile says it best.

Our Christmas Party was held on December 2nd at Applewood Gardens with a good turnout. After a lovely lunch, we each received a gift. Some

of the members brought in door prizes there were the special prizes too. We also picked a Mother of the Year at the Christmas Party and she is Mary Ann Leonard. We will honor her on Mother's Day.

FRANCES STANEC

NO. 73, WARRENSVILLE HGTS., OH

A New Year, a new beginning. That should be everyone's motto at this time. Let's strive to make S.W.U. a better-than-ever organization during this year! Attend those meetings, participate in those events and pay those dues! It will be a year you will long remember!

CHRISTMAS PARTY: It was so well-attended. There was enough food to feed many more (thank you, ladies, for all the goodies), the kids were delightful, Santa made his usual visit and we sang like we were all professionally trained. We were happy to see Mary Ann Pikus, Elsie Liska, Joanne French and Marge Kozelka again. We hope they will join us many times during 1988. Our guests (Jean Kozelka, Trudy Jaskiel) enjoyed our fun. Seven junior members were present, and the youngest one, Jeremie Michael Francisco, stole the show in his Santa sleeper. If you enjoyed this party - just wait til the next one!

CONDOLENCES: While we celebrated Christmas, we mourned the loss of a fifty-year member, Jennie Nosse. The rosary was recited at the funeral home and a few of us were able to attend the funeral. Our prayers to the family.

CONGRATULATIONS: We have added three members to our Fifty-

Year Member group. Ann Yane (Past President), Josephine Novak (Florida) and Rose Zabaznik. Thank you for your loyalty to S.W.U.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Sally Kunka (Youngstown) celebrated her seventieth birthday in a special way. She traveled to California with her daughter, where other members of the family gathered, the first time they had ALL been together in several years. How nice!

GET WELL WISHES: Victor Sray, husband of Olga, recovering from surgery. We are sure there will be plenty of TLC on hand. Louise Zabukovec's daughter (Mitzi, Ormond Beach, Florida) is recovering from extensive surgery. Our best wishes to each of them, and our prayerful support to their families.

GRANDMOTHER TIME: Betty Bayus has a new granddaughter to love. Also, Betty's youngest son, David, is doing well in the Army, stationed in California.

SPECIAL PRIDE AND PRAISE: Paul Dusek, son of our secretary Gloria, recently received a full-paid three year Army-ROTC scholarship to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He was acknowledged as the top scholar in his class and awarded a medal and ribbon for his excellence in leadership and military bearing. Embry-Riddle is considered the top aviation school in the nation. He has been on the dean's list since his enrollment. We are so proud of you, Paul. Keep up the good work. Gloria and Tim, congratulations to you, also.

Many of our college and military people, sons, daughters, grandchildren, etc. were home for the holidays.



OUR MARIAN YEAR SHRINE

Mary Lou and Lou Prhne of Englewood, Florida, have this darling shrine in their back yard. Mary Lou always decorates the Blessed Mother's altar with flowers as the season changes.

The flowers grow all winter long so she has a lot of enjoyment with her gardening hobby. She used to do this at her Cleveland (Maple Heights) home, too. A bit of tradition for the Prhne's.

Thanks, Mary Lou, for sharing this with us.

It is impossible to name them all. We are glad you arrived here safely and hope that your return trips were smooth. The same for any and all relatives who visited the Cleveland area in December.

No meeting in February — we will start up again in March. Our anniversary mass is set for St. Jude's Church, Sunday, April 10th, 1988, 10:30 AM. BE THERE! have yourself a good day, everyday.

Respectfully submitted:
EVELYN A. MAJERCIK

NO. 79, ENUMCLAW, WA

At our December meeting the same slate of officers was re-elected for 1988 headed by Mary Mehelich, President. Mary has been President of our branch for at least 40 years and we all appreciate all of her good work for these many years. Georgene Pearson is Vice-President, Anna Mae Anderson is Secy.-Treas. and Mary Bratovich, Recording Secy.

Kelly Sleigh, one of our younger members, has set March 5th as her wedding date. Best wishes to Kelly from all of us. Steffie Dime of Renton will be our Mother of the Year — more to come on Steffie — for now, congratulations.

Remember, all members, the next meeting is at the home of Frances Potocnik in Enumclaw on March 20th — let's see all of you there.

What a fun Christmas party was

held during our December meeting! We really enjoyed our Santa and his No. 1 helper, Dorothy Sleigh, did her usual good job. The young, and not so young, enjoyed the candy sacks, the food and music added to the festivities. Thanks to Tony Mylnar and Bill Just for those good sounds.

MARY BRATOVICH,
Reporter

NO. 81, KEEWATIN, MN

Since we do not meet in the summer, we had our first fall meeting in October. Fifteen members attended Minnesota Day in Biwabik. Everyone enjoyed Minnesota Day. The Biwabik group is to be congratulated for a job well done!

Plans were discussed for our Christmas party which was held on December 4th.

In November the members attended our Mass for our deceased members.

Our December meeting was held on December 4 in conjunction with our Christmas dinner. Our guests were Father Tom Foster and Rose Maras. It was held at the "Open Pit" in Hibbing. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and the "socializing."

The election of officers for 1988 was held and the present officers were unanimously elected. The officers are: President-Josie Kapla, Vice-President-Molly Boben, Secretary-Blanche Laurich, Treasurer-Anne Dickovich, Auditors-Mary Michelich, Anne

Michelich, and Sophie Michelich.

After the meeting was adjourned we went to the "Homer" where we were guests of Rose Maras. An enjoyable time was had by all.

We hope you all had a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season, and may 1988 hold much good health and happiness in store for you.

Respectfully submitted,
MARY MICHELICH, Reporter

NO. 85, DE PUE, IL

Another year has gone by and as I was reflecting on all the nice things that happened to me this past year, I thank God for the blessings He has bestowed on me. First, my retirement and the two retirement parties, one at the Red Door given by Mobil and the other, given by my brother and sister-in-law and my sister and brother-in-law which my cousins and friends attended. It is always so good to see them and we always have such a good time when we are together. Next came the SWU National Convention and that was so very interesting; just meeting all the National Officers and the nice ladies from the different branches, the wonderful talk given by Frances Babic, the beautiful banquet and Mass were all so inspirational and something I shall never forget. Then, my trip to Yugoslavia in August and meeting so many cousins, going to Medjugorje and the tour of Yugoslavia that we took were really good. My

brother and sister-in-law's surprise anniversary party last September ended the year's festivities.

Our branch had a meeting at Yuvan's Supper Club on Dec. 8th. After a delicious dinner we had an election of officers. The same officers remained tho we were unable to get a recording secretary. It was decided that we would try to hold meetings every month. The first meeting was at the home of our president, Gen Grilc on Jan 21st and from then on, it will be each month on the third Thursday at 7 p.m. We have so few members who are able to attend. Fran Machek was not feeling well so she was unable to make it. Another member, Mrs. Slatner, also has not been too well so we hope they will both be feeling better soon. Another member, Mary Pettko, has been having problems with her eyes so we wish her good health soon, too.

I thought all the articles in the last ZARJA were so good. Everyone enjoyed reading about the Christmas Memories in Slovenian. Thanks, Cirila.

My best wishes to all the members for a happy, blessed and especially healthy new year, 1988.

MARY JERMENC

NO. 89, OGLESBY, IL

Our meeting was held on Nov 9th at Dickinson House. Rose Ann Prey, Pres., presided. Opening prayers were led by Frances Gorisek, chaplain. A pledge of Allegiance followed. Roll call was taken with one officer absent and nominations for new officers were moved and carried to have all of the

CONGRATULATIONS, CELEBRANTS OF BRANCH 89!

Mr. & Mrs. Frank (Mary Stock) Kotar celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Oct. 13, 1987. Mary has been a long time member of our lodge. She and her husband operated the Vermillion Inn, Rte 1, Oglesby, IL for 45 years, retiring in 1984. Their establishment was well-known in this area for its excellent food and fine service. They now reside in Granville, Illinois and are enjoying their retirement. Their daughter Mrs. John (Rita) Ossola and 4 grandchildren live in Mark, Illinois.

Branch 89 sends you their best wishes! Congratulations and may you have many more happy years together, Frank and Mary!

* * *

Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph (Mary Kuhar) Stubler were united in marriage in St. Constantine Church, Oglesby, IL on Nov. 8, 1947. This year they are

celebrating 40 years of marriage. They have 4 children and 2 grandchildren. Rudy and Mary have operated the Royal Lanes Bowling Alley in Oglesby since 1961. Their sons, Jim and Bob, are associated with the business.

Our branch members have spent many happy hours bowling there. The Slovenian Bowling Tournaments were often held there, as were our bake sales. Their banquet hall was a much used room for many functions. Rudy retired in November from the Oglesby School Board and has assumed the presidency of the Illinois Bowling Proprietors Association. Mary and Rudy have been active volunteers for Horizon House and Lighted Way and participated in many successful fund drives for the two organizations.

We, of Branch 89 send our congratulations and best wishes to Rudy and Mary for many more happy years!

E.K.

1987 officers on the roster for 1988. They are, Rose Ann Prey, President, Mitzi Banich, Vice President, Eunice Komater, Secretary and Reporter, Josie Argubright, Financial Secretary and Scrap Book, Emma Foly, Treasurer, Helen Komater, Sunshine Chairman, Frances Gorisek.

Chaplain, Rev. Denis Mackessy, Spiritual Advisor, Josephine Morrison, Helen Komater, Ann Batty, Auditors.

There was no meeting in January nor will there be one in July. Our first meeting for 1988 will be held in February when the books will be audited.

Ann Batty received a round of

applause as congratulations because her son-in-law Michael Dooley was elected to the Oglesby Public School Board, coming in to first place. Congratulations, Michael, we are proud of you!

We are hoping to see Darlene Wasielewski with us before long. Darlene is recuperating from a stress fracture. Hurry back, Darlene! Emma Foly is a visitor in Texas. She's taking time out to visit her brother. Have fun, Emma.

November birthday dates were Honorine Corpus, Barbara Sitar and Mitzi Banich.

For our December 14th meeting we had as a guest, Mary Mozina, daughter-in-law of Frances Mozina, one of

VALENTINE GREETINGS from members of Br. 50 Cleveland, Ohio

and welcoming NEW officers:

Diane Bencin, Secretary, Mary Miller, Auditor, Dorothyann Winter as Sentinel. Best wishes to them and the officers remaining in the same positions as before!

Our hope for peace, happiness and many new members in the New Year!



MEMBERSHIP
CAMPAIGN
IS ON NOW!

our deceased members who passed away in August of last year. Mary showed slides of Poland and Czechoslovakia from her recent trip to Europe. Members invited guests.

EUNICE KOMATER, Reporter

NO. 92, GUNNISON, CO

The monthly meeting of the SWU was held in the home of Rose Caricato, with Frances Somrak as co-hostess. Twelve members were in attendance. Betty Stefanic presided as chairman in the absence of Fran Austin, who has been traveling and had just returned from a trip to New Zealand. We are anxious to hear about her trip. Fern White led the group in prayer and also reported that Elsie Massaro was in Grand Junction with her daughter. Elsie had surgery recently. We wish her a speedy recovery and let her know how much she was missed. Elsie has been one of our faithful members throughout the past years.

The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved. Nine members were present at the meeting which was held in the home of Margaret Malensek. They discussed plans for the Christmas party which would include a gift exchange, a gift certificate for Father Vanderberg, donations for needy family, and entertainment. Door prizes were won by Margaret Malensek, Fran Austin, Bunny Spritzer, and Frances Guerrieri. Rita Bartelli won the mystery gift. "B" was played after the meeting adjourned.

During the November meeting an election of officers was held. The following were elected for 1988: President — Bunny Spritzer; Vice-president — Loretta Szaller; Secretary — Betty Stefanic; Treasurer — Rita Bartelli; Caller — Margaret Malensek; Reporter — Frances Somrak; Auditors — Beth Weaver and Kathy Adamich. Chairmen for special committees were appointed with Margaret Depew, Frances Guerrieri, and Fern White in charge of the Mother's Day Luncheon; Beth Weaver will head the Christmas party and the summer picnic will be planned by Frances Somrak and Fran Austin.

Final plans and invitations were given out for the Christmas party on December 5, to be held in Keating Hall on the Western State College campus. After dinner music was to be provided by Loretta Szaller's father

and his band. A gift exchange was also planned.

The names were drawn for gift exchanging and the mystery box was won by Frances Guerrieri. It was donated by Rita Bartelli. The door prizes were won by Kathy Adamich, Margaret Malensek, Bunny Spritzer and Betty Stefanic. The meeting closed with a prayer and the group enjoyed Rose's hospitality and refreshments. Thank you, Rose.

We'll report later on our Christmas party. Any time we get a chance to hear Emil play his accordion, we make sure we are there.

I enjoyed visiting with Evelyn Mraule from Delta. She was in Crested Butte attending the funeral of a dear friend of ours, Frank Orazem. Many of our members were there, also. Happy Valentine's Day to all the members and their families.

FRANCES SOMRAK
Reporter

NO. 95, SO. CHICAGO, IL

Highlight of November meeting was three members, Evelyn Driscoll, Frances Benkovich and Betty Markusic winning the turkeys. Thirty-five members were present. Hostesses were Dolores Hennelly, Amelia Cuzella, Helen Price, Mary Brozynski, Mary Possedi and Harriet Isek.

Lu Goldina and Marge Simunich thanked all for their lovely cards. Michael Toporis and Carmella Caporale were married October 31st-congratulations.

* * *

Installation of officers by Trustee, Amelia Cuzella, took place at the December meeting.

Re-elected were President, Mary Brozynski; Treasurer, Helen Golich; Recording Secretary, Frances Benkovich. After ten years, Vice President Sylvia Vukodinovich retired. Newly elected was Helen Alb.

Big vote of thanks was also extended to Millie Poropat, Financial Secretary for 30 years who also chose to retire. Her office was taken by Dolores Hennelly.

Trustees are Mary Toporis, Mary A. Perkovich and Mrs. Cuzella.

Reported ill was Anne Hlacar. Welcome was extended to new member, Delphine Stemple. Informative literature on Medjugorje was passed out by Fran Benkovich, for which we thank her.

A Marian Year pilgrimage visit to Fatima was made by Marie Maras.

Hostesses were Lois Chereso, Betty Markusic, Mary Toporis, Marge Simunic and Helen Alb. Monies were donated by Millie Poropat, Tillie Martin and Dolores Hennelly. Branch 2 Penny Social was enjoyed by Helen Alb, Sylvia Vukodinovich and husband, Mary "Matt" Perkovich and Mary Brozynski.

"Fun and Games" was the theme of our annual Christmas party, which was arranged by the "old" officers. Grab-bag was ably handled by Helen Santy, Marge O'Connor and Anne Josue. Welcomed guest was Helen Pesut, among others.

News items were that the Santy family will be reunited for Christmas. Californians Candy and Ken Pravitz with baby Earl, Sophia Rose and Kevin McHugh and Helen's son James were in town.

She finally got her wedding cake after 45 years! War Bride Marge O'Connor and husband were surprised by Smoljan clan.

We all rejoice with Betty Markusic on her son-in-law, Rich Stelmazek, coach for the victorious Minnesota Twins.

Ill but getting better was Chestra Graczyk, mother of Virginia Kwiatkowski.

Passion Play in Bloomington, IL. April 10th, was announced by Frances Benkovich. Bus will leave Sacred Heart parking lot 10:30 a.m. Included bus, play and dinner will be \$32. Money must be in by Feb. 28. Reservations can be made at 721-5058 with Fran. If not enough participants, guests will be included.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to one and all!

MARIE MARAS

NO. 103, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Since an article wasn't submitted for some time, I'd like to mention some belated news. It was a pleasure to hear first-hand about the National Convention in Joliet, Illinois this past May. Our delegate, Bernadette Kovačić, told us of her many experiences, and gave very favorable reports of the many activities, and of meeting so many lovely members of other branches. She considered this a very rewarding experience, and, of course, we are proud to have had her as our representative.

In Memoriam

The members of the Slovenian Women's Union, Branch 103, Washington, D.C. mourn the loss of their sister member, Miss Ida Gregoric. She died on August 13, 1987, near Boston, Mass. while on vacation at the home of her employers.

Her remains were returned for burial to Nova Gorica, Slovenia, accompanied by family members.

A Mass was said in her honor by Fr. Raymond Wadas on the feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15th at the Slovenian Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje, in the Immaculate Conception Shrine in Washington.

We shall miss your quiet demeanor, dependability and friendship over these many years, dear Ida. Our Lord grant you eternal rest in your homeland. F.M.

Our December meeting was well represented. After the very productive business meeting, we conducted our election of officers for 1988. This was our Christmas meeting. Our custom has been to exchange gifts; however, we changed our format this year and, in lieu of exchanging gifts, we made a financial donation for "Christ House", an organization which gives assistance to the Homeless. We wish to thank Mollie Thomas for the suggestion to participate in this worthwhile activity.

Immediately after our business meeting, several guests arrived to join us for a presentation by Mary Lou Terselic on her recent two visits to Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, where the Blessed Virgin Mary reportedly appeared to a group of six young children. We first viewed a Video Film of the place of the apparition, the many people, and two young children who were shown viewing the apparition. Mary Lou then gave a discourse on her experiences, with the help of her daughter, Nancy. We want to express our thanks once again to Mary Lou for sharing her most vivid description of her experiences.

We then enjoyed socializing and partaking of the delicious snacks. This

SOCIAL EVENT BRINGS MEMBERS TOGETHER

NO. 103, WASHINGTON, DC

Our annual Dinner Dance was held on October 10th at the Little Flower Church Hall.

Once again, it was a very special evening with our esteemed Senator Frank J. Lausche being present with friends and so graciously agreeing to extend greetings and speak to so many guests present from his native state of Ohio.

Approaching his 93rd birthday, he continues to speak eloquently. It is always a privilege to have you in our midst and we extend our best wishes always for your presence and support, Senator Lausche!

We are impressed by the rapport established between our own delegate to the Convention, Bernadette Kovacic, and others present at the memorable event in Joliet and hosted by Br. 20 last May.

Evelyn Majercik of Br. 73, Warrensville, Ohio, delegate and reporter, with much enthusiasm spearheaded arrangements which resulted in our greeting 30 ladies, some with husbands and relatives from the Cleveland area as our visitors. They were a big boost to our special evening with their friendliness and love of a good time.

Mr. John Dubrovec and his "Polka Express" played for our dancing pleasure and they participated fully from beginning to end.

Among those attending was our newly-elected National Vice-President, Cirila Kermavner of Br. 25, Cleveland. She spoke to the audience in Slovenian, encouraging all to preserve their heritage and Slovenian language. She seems very energetic and has the spirit to get things done. Thank you, Cirila, for coming and letting us get to know you.

Speaking later was Ann J. Tercek, much-loved Regional President of Ohio and Michigan. She has quite a responsibility. The Greater Cleveland

was, indeed, a most gratifying Christmas event.

Our best wishes to all for a most Happy New Year.

MATILDA AUSICH

Area numbers 12 branches alone! She stressed the importance of working together and keeping in touch. She is a very vital person, giving so much of herself to the SWU. Thank you for your many efforts on our behalf, Ann.

Evelyn Majercik, true to Slovenian tradition, brought a little something along for the main money-maker of the evening. It was a beautifully crocheted green and white wool afghan, diagonal in design, completed by Evelyn herself. Sincere thanks from our hearts to you, dear lady.

Present also was Irene Jagodnik, 2nd National Auditor, and member of Br. 50, Cleveland. She won the coveted prize but in great generosity, returned it to give someone else a chance. It was then won by one of our guests, to her delight. Irene, we sincerely thank you from our hearts, also.

We hope our guests enjoyed their trip and sorry that Mass could not be held in the Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje. We hope that you enjoyed the services in the beautiful main church in your reserved seats.

We appreciated having Mr. & Mrs. Florjan Bevec, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Kovacic and Bernadette join them and to bid them a safe trip home.

It was the first time we had the opportunity to meet our newest member, Martha Springer and her husband, Arthur. They are a handsome couple and come from Minnesota.

Other guests who hail from Minnesota were Judge and Mrs. David Markun and their special guests, Mrs. Virginia Usenick. We hope to get to know her better. Also, Mr. Walter Cambic and Mr. Layton.

We enjoyed having Mr. Tony Terselic; tho still in his wheelchair he enjoyed mingling with friends and listening to Slovenian music. His wife, Tillie, does a very good job. Many thanks to their son, Richard, for helping to look after our funds. Mary Lou Terselic, our Treasurer, was absent due to her trip to Medjugorje.

Our ladies worked so very hard to prepare for this occasion. We thank you so much for sharing your time and talents to make this affair a success. Thanks to non-members also. Our sincere acknowledgement to all those who attended. We appreciate your support.

FREDA H. MICHELITCH

NOVA ŠTIFTA — SLOVENSKA BOŽJA POT

V Sloveniji je veliko romarskih cerkva, majhnih kapelic, ob cestah stoje tudi križi, ki so jih postavili verni ljudje. Nekatere cerkve so kot božja pot pozabljene ali zanemarjene, druge dobro ohranjene. Radoveden popotnik se ustavi, da si ogleda pokrajino, arhitekturo iz davnih časov, tudi notranjo opremo cerkve. Umetnik ni nikoli razočaran. Radovednost ga ponese v raziskavanje in najde, da je vzrok zidanja cerkve kak čudežen dogodek. Nadalje išče podatke, letnice, bodisi ustne ali zapisane, ki jih hrani zgodovina. Z leti se vršijo spremembe in izboljšave; iz preprostih podatkov dobimo večjo, bogato in lepo zgodovino.

Tako je tudi pri cerkvi v Novi Štifti na Dolenjskem.

Cerkev stoji na visokem griču, ki se je nekoč imenoval "Brenov grič", bržkone je tam pred stoletji raslo brinovo grmovje. Na zahodu je v dolini Ribnica in veliko majhnih in večjih vasi; na vzhodu je trg Sodražica; na severu je Travnica gora, Loški potok; na jugu je mesto Kočevje, kjer so se pred nekaj stoletij naselili Nemci.

Iz Ribnice, enako iz Sodražice pelje pot nekako eno miljo po ravnini mimo majhnih vasi, nato nas ozka stezica po strmini pripelje do cerkve. Iz nekdanje stezice je nastala zložna pot za manjši avto. Že daleč v dolini vidimo v nebo kipečo kupolo s ponosnim zvonikom, ki žari v soncu kakor nebeški žar. Ko pride romar na vrh griča, zagleda prekrasne stoletne košate lipe, ki varujejo Marijino svetišče in nudijo utrujenemu romarju majhen odpočitek. Njegove oči občudujejo krasno svetišče iz 17. veka.

Zgodovina piše, da se je na tem griču prikazala Marija nekemu pobožnemu kmetu z imenom Matija Furlan iz dolinske vasi Sušje in mu naročila, naj na tem griču zidajo cerkev njej na čast. Mož je kot omamljen tekel v Ribnico to povedat ribniškemu graščaku, ker je bil ta grič njegova last. Kmet je tukaj slabo naletel. Graščak in njegovi pisarji so rekli, da je možak zgubil pamet in ga kar vtaknili v ječo, da bi se tam spametoval. Toda na poti v ječo, je ječar oslepel. Graščaka je to pretreslo in kmeta so izpustili. Graščak je dal kmetu dovoljenje, da prične s pomočjo vaščanov zidanje cerkve na griču in tudi denarno pomoč. In ječarju se je povrnil vid. Legenda zopet pripoveduje, da je pobožni kmet bil pokopan v cerkvi pod kupolo.

Druga legenda zopet pripoveduje, da so ljudje na Brinovem griču videli prikazovanje svetlobnih lučic. Ko je to prišlo na uho grofu v Ribnici — z imenom Jurij Jakob Kizelj — se je odločil, da pozida na griču novo cerkev. Toda bela žena mu je predčasno pretrgala nit življenja in zidanja ni dokončal. Toda njegov sin Jurij Jernej Kizelj je izpolnil očetovo željo in je 31. marca 1.1640 dobil dovoljenje od patriarha v Ogleju (Marco Androniha) skupno z oblastilom ribniškemu arhitektu in župniku v Ribnici Francu Vaccana, da blagoslovi temeljni kamen nove cerkve na griču. Začeli so z zidanjem in cerkev dogradili po tridesetih letih in jo izročili v varstvo Marije Vnebovzete. Da se je zidanje cerkve vlekel trideset let, zgodba pripoveduje več verzov.



Grof Kizelj je imel namen prodati svoj grad v Ribnici. Po nekaj letih je le našel kupca barona Jurija Trilek, ki je bil pobožen in veri naklonjen, da se zidava nove cerkve dokonča. Delo je počasi napredovalo, stroški pa veliki. Baron je poprosil ljudi za pomoč in sam največ daroval. Arhivi o gradnji so še sedaj skrbno shranjeni v Ribniškem gradu.

Kakor je zunanost tako je tudi notranost cerkve dobro ohranjena. Takoj, ko stopiš v cerkev, se tega zavedaš in občuduješ krasoto in umetnine. Vidiš pozlačene in posrebrene kipe svetnikov, prižnico, poslikane stene. Kot v sanjah vidiš Marijo, ki se dviga proti nebeškemu Očetu v neminljivo slavo.

Leta 1780 so k južni steni prizidali "svete stopnice". Kot otrok sem tudi jaz drsala po njih na kolenih in na vsaki stopnici zmolila Očenaš in Češćena Marija. Zdelo se mi je, da je stopnic na stotine in da nikoli ne phridem na vrh. Pa sem ga dosegla vsa rdeča in ko sem prišla do glavnega oltarja sem čutila, da so duše vseh do čista oprane.

Najbolj se spominjam praznika Marije Vnebovzete ali na Veliki šmaren, ki ga obhajamo 15. avgusta.

Dec. 6, 1987

Dear Corinne,

Priložene so slike Nove Štife in dopis kakor tudi ček \$5.00, G. Trošt mi je podaril slike, ko sem ga obiskala; tudi slike iz Sodražice in upam, da bo ena in druga dobra.

Na Tvoje vprašanje domovine, sproročam da je bila moja (adaptiv) dežela. Znano ti je, da nam je ogenj uničil skoro polovico hiš v Chisholm Min. in tudi moji starši so zgubili vso lastnino. Moj stari oče Matheu Skull je nekaj mesecev poprej odšel v domovino. Ko so se starši na novo opomogli, so se odločili, da poskusijo srečo v tedanji Avstriji. Kmalu za tem je izbruhnila vojna in oče je mahnil skozi Triest nazaj v Ameriko. V Triestu je živela sestra in svak in mu pomagala. V šolo sem hodila v Sodražici, v Ribnici so tedaj zidali meščansko šolo (High school), nato v Marijinem domu v Kočevju. Po maturi sem se vpisala na mariborsko učiteljsko. Zaradi denarne krize sem morala šolo pustiti in nato sem odšla k očetovi sestrični v Milwaukee. Seveda zgodovina mojega življenja s tem ni končana.

Te lepo pozdravlja,

Marie Beck

M.B.

Romarji so se vozili mimo hiše. To je bilo Sodražici. Bistri konji so bili vpreženi v veliki vozove, na katerih so sedeli ljudje eden poleg drugega. Vozili so se ob sobotah na dan pred praznikom. Peli so in peli in se bližali griču. Prenočevali so po gostilnah, na vozovih, tudi v cerkvi. Zgodaj zjutraj so se množice zgrinjale okrog cerkve, se drenjali vanjo in vsak je bil zelo srečen, če je našel klop. Mnogi so ostali zunaj, pa zbrano prisostvovali sveti maši. Na levi strani cerkve so bili postavljeni štanti (booth) za prodajo peciva, bonbonov in raznih spominčkov — odpustkov, da so romarji razveselili svoje domače. Od cerkve je stala stran Fajdigotova gostilna, kjer si lahko naročil kosilo in pijačo.

Največji romarski shod pri Novi Štifi je bil na praznik Marije Vnebovzete kakor sem ga opisala; popoldanske procesije so bile na nedeljo po prazniku Karmelske Matere božje in na Rožensko nedeljo. Ob nedeljah so svete maše ob sedmi in deseti uri dopolne.

Za zgodovinske podatke o romarski cerkvi v Novi Štifi se moram zahvaliti moji dragi prijateljici kolegici Tenki Lovšin, ki je učila v Ribnici in Sodražici in je žal letos umrla; za krasne slike-darilo mojemu nekdanjemu učitelju Ivo Troštu, ki sem ga 1.1964 obiskala. Se še dobro spominjam pesnika T. Klinarja, ki je v Novi Štifi spisal pesem: "Še enkrat bi videl, kak sonce gor gre".

D O P I S I

ŠT. 10, CLEVELAND, OH

Včeraj smo imele sestanek naše podružnice. Udeležba je bila kar precejšnja; članice so prišle tudi iz drugih podružnic. Imele smo razgovor, kje in kako bi pripravile kosilo za vsakoletno božičnico? Pristale smo na to, da bo letos v Slovenskem domu na Holmes Ave. Katera ni bila prisotna, naj pokliče Ani Stefancic za informacije. Bo tudi objavljeno v Domovini. Upamo, da se tam vidimo. In smo se! Hvala vsem članicam za dobro pecivo in za tisto, ki namoči grlo. Imele smo žrebanje in tudi jaz sem bila med srečnimi. Zadelala sem steklenico dobrega vina. Hvala vsem darovalkam!

Nekaj me je pa pretreslo na Dan mrtvih v novembru. Šli smo na pokopališče na grobove prijateljev in naših članic. Obiskala sem grob svoje tete Angele Strmole in ji položila šopek rož. Dalje sem obiskala mnogo grobov naših članic in kako sem bila žalostna, da so bili prazni — brez rožič. Znani grobovi:

Zofi Magajna, Ani Marković, Mary Črnigoj, Joži Alic Joži Koren, vse te in tako dalje. Zofi Magajna je bila tako popularna oseba med nami, pa ni bilo nobene, da bi se spomnila nanjo. Ani Marković, 20 let predsednica pri podružnici, priljubljena oseba, s katero smo se tako razumele! Zakaj so danes mnoge tako pozabljene? Na nekatere grobove sem položila podobice. Bila nas je skupina, ki smo obstali pri znanih in nepoznanih grobovih: grob ge. Zrim in njenega nadvse ljubega sina Milana ter grob ministra g. Kreka. Tako je to naše življenje! Mi izseljenci naj se držimo starih navad, naše tradicije za Vse svete! V tujini si takoj pozabljen! Naša mladina tega ne pozna.

Hodila sem pred leti na obisk ene teh imenovanih, ki je imela ljubeče hčerke in sedaj so na dobrih položajih. Sedaj, ko dobra mama počiva na božji njivi, se je domači ne spomnijo in grob je bil brez rožice. Mnogim mimo idočim, ki so bili brez cvetja, sem jih darovala za njihov grobove. Še več rož bi odnesla od doma, če bi prej vedela, da so naši grobovi tako prazni. Zame je

obisk pokopališča težak, ker ne vozim sama avta in sem odvisna.

Naj bo dovolj. Pa brez zamere! Vsem želim srečno novo leto 1988!

T. FERRACCIOLI

ŠT. 17, WEST ALLIS, WI

Da bi vam članicam voščila vesele praznike je prepozno, vendar je še čas, da vsem članicam širom Amerike želim blagoslovljeno in zdravo novo leto 1988. Bolezen me je potrla, da se nisem toliko časa nič oglasila z nobenim dopisom. Sedaj imam vse drugačno življenje. Moj vrt je bil ves zaprašen, katerega sem s takim veseljem vedno obdelovala ter uživala njegovo krasoto, ki mi je dajala toliko veselja v mojem življenju. Teško mi je bilo slovo od doma, ki mi je bil tako pri srcu. Teško sem rekla "z Bogom" mojemu vrtu, pa srce ni zmoglo več trgeda dela. Prodala sva dom ter se preselila z mojim zvestim soprogom — 60 tih let — v apartment za "retired people" nad 60 let. Tukaj je kar lepo

in oba sva zadovoljna, da sva enkrat brez dela in v miru živiva. Končno sva oba spoznala, da se da živeti, ako nisva vsako minuto zaposljena. Ako bova še mogla, bova pa hodila cvetje občudovat v sloveči Whithnol Park, ki je samo tri bloke od nas.

Veliko leph spominov sva prinesla s seboj, ki bodo nama drag zaklad. Ako bo nama dal Bog še kaj življenja, bo kar lepo. Prebiram svoje stare pesmi in se kratkočasim in se tudi večkrat iz srca nasmejem vsem tistim pesmim, ki so bolj za smeh. To je dobro zdravilo. Premišlujem mladost. Pregledujem, kaj sem vse dala na papir in mi ni žal. Tudi sedaj, ako se mi vrne zdravje, bom še kar nadaljevala s to zabavo in tratila čas s pisanjem.

Knjiga Rože iz mojih vrtov gre počasi v promet. Draga ni, saj za \$8.50 danes ne dobite nobenega darila. Sezite po njej in pomagajte Slovenian Heritage.

Želim obilo uspeha S.Ž.Z. in vam vsem iz vsega srca želim srečo ter zdravje. Molite za zdravje bolnih članic in ne pozabite mene, da se mi zdravje popolnoma vrne. Molite tudi za umrle.

Prisrčne pozdrave še enkrat!

MARY MURN

ŠT. 25, CLEVELAND, OH

Recept za srečno novo leto.

Vzemi 12 mesecev. Razdeli jih na 30, 31, 28 ali 29 dni. Vsakemu dnevu dodaj:

par zrnc pozornosti

ščepec strpnosti

čajno žličko potrpežljivosti

jedilno žlico pameti

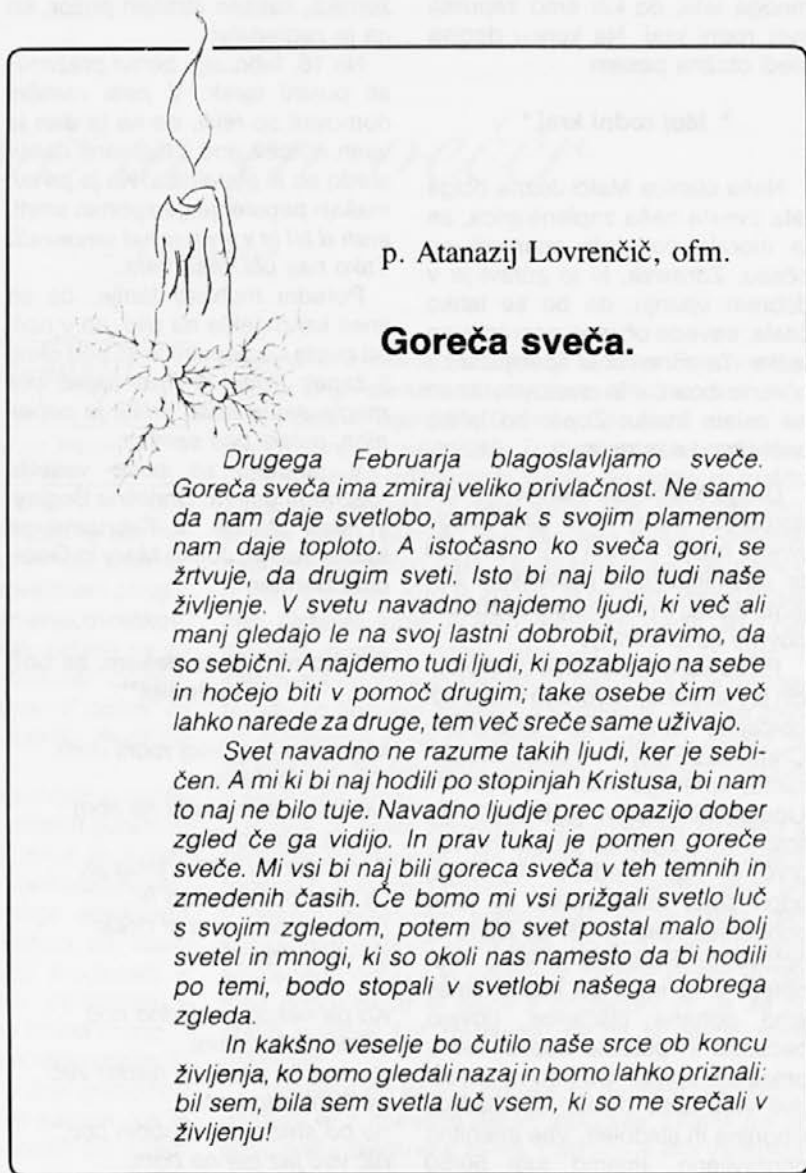
Oblij vse z ljubeznijo in postrezi z nasmehom in dobro voljo.

Srečno kuhanje!

CIRILA KERMAVNER

ŠT. 68, FAIRPORT, HRB., OH

Ko se pripravljam k pisanju tega dopisa se spodobi najprvo se zahvaliti urednici gospej Corinne Leskovar, za ljubeznivi poklonovrstice pripisane spodaj mojega dopisa, od naše podružnice št. 68 v decemberski Zarji. Srčna Vam hvala. Res je, da lepa beseda lepo mesto najde in spodbuja do veselja k pisanju; v opomin drugim



p. Atanazij Lovrenčič, ofm.

Goreča sveča.

Drugega Februarja blagoslovljamo sveče. Goreča sveča ima zmiraj veliko privlačnost. Ne samo da nam daje svetlobo, ampak s svojim plamenom nam daje toploto. A istočasno ko sveča gori, se žrtvuje, da drugim sveti. Isto bi naj bilo tudi naše življenje. V svetu navadno najdemo ljudi, ki več ali manj gledajo le na svoj lastni dobrobit, pravimo, da so sebični. A najdemo tudi ljudi, ki pozabljajo na sebe in hočejo biti v pomoč drugim; take osebe čim več lahko naredo za druge, tem več sreče same uživajo.

Svet navadno ne razume takih ljudi, ker je sebičen. A mi ki bi naj hodili po stopinjah Kristusa, bi nam to naj ne bilo tuje. Navadno ljudje prec opazijo dober zgled če ga vidijo. In prav tukaj je pomen goreče sveče. Mi vsi bi naj bili goreca sveča v teh temnih in zmedenih časih. Če bomo mi vsi prižgali svetlo luč s svojim zgledom, potem bo svet postal malo bolj svetel in mnogi, ki so okoli nas namesto da bi hodili po temi, bodo stopali v svetlobi našega dobrega zgleda.

In kakšno veselje bo čutilo naše srce ob koncu življenja, ko bomo gledali nazaj in bomo lahko priznali: bil sem, bila sem svetla luč vsem, ki so me srečali v življenju!

članicam, katere imajo tudi priliko napisati iz svoje podružnice, o njihovem delovanju in novicah. Mnoge bi rade čitale v slovenskem jeziku. Tukaj ni več dosti Slovencev v naši okolici, da bi se zanimali za slovenske časopise. Druga generacija ne obvlada slovenskega branja.

Tukaj v naši okolici smo imeli zelen Božič, bo pa Velika noč bela, tak je pregovor. No pa bomo videli, čas hiti in so prazniki kar hitro za nami. Pišem na Novega leta dan, prvi moj dopis v letu 1988 in prvi dan v tem letu. Prvi sneg je zapadel 30. decembra in do sedaj še nismo imeli hudega mraza. Športniki, smučarji in tudi otroci nimajo radi take zime. To pa najbrže ne bo dolgo, ko se bo tudi njim želja izpolnila.

Polnočnica v naši St. Mary cerkvi, kako lepo nebeško razsvet-

jena, vsa v cvetju in "posentijah" rdeče barve in bele. Okrašena v vsem ospredju glavnega oltarja (na levem oltarju tudi same rudeče posentije) in okrašeno veliko božično drevo. Pri desnem oltarju v revni štalici na slamici pa božja Mati Marija z novo rojenim detetom Ježuškom. Pred mašo jih je šel obiskat Father Hanso in jih blagoslovil.

Pred polnočnico nam je Father Capileti med petjem božičnih pesmi kazal na projektor slike iz Rima in Svete dežele, prav zanimive stvari. Tako smo bili zbrani pri tej sveti daritvi v naših srcih, je bila ta sveta noč blažena noč.

Vsako leto v teh lepih praznikih nam uhajajo naše misli tja v rodni kraj. V duhu smo med svojimi dragimi. Objame nas kar malo domotožje, čeprav so minula

množa leta, od kar smo zapustili svoj rodni kraj. Na koncu dopisa sledi otožna pesem

* Moj rodni kraj.*

Naša članica Malči Južna dolga leta zvesta naša zapisnikarica, se je morala podvreči operaciji na očesu. Zdravnik, ki jo zdravi je v dobrem upanju, da bo še lahko čitala; seveda očesne operacije so težke. Ta zdravnik je specialist za očesne bolezni in svetovno znan na celem svetu. Zopet bo lahko prišla med nas na seje.

Draga Malči: vse članice in tvoje sorodnice tukaj in v Clevelandu smo v mislih z teboj in v molitvi se te spominjamo z najboljšimi željami, da naj ti novo rojeni Jezušček povrne ljubo zdravje.

Pa še kaj o slovenskih upokojencih iz Fairporta. Na drugo sredo kot običajno, smo imeli Božičnico-Christmas Party – v Vough Restavrantu, katerega vodi Joe Pirman. Udeleženi članov je bilo 82. To smo imeli v zgornjih prostorih. Najprvo je naš predsed. Vukčević odprl sejo; razmotrivalo se je o prihodnjem letu 1988, za izlete in potovanja. Potekalo je kako uro, potem smo imeli pa kosilo. Imeli smo pohane piščance, govejo pečenko in pohane ribe in kar k prikuham spada. Od peciva sta bili dve vrsti torte (Cake) čokoladna, limonina in sladoled. Vse imenitno pripravljeno. Imamo tudi 50/50 igro, katero vodi Mrs. Ann Cicelic, tri osebe so bile srečne. To pot si pa imen nisem zapomnila, ker je bila precej glasna družba.

Strašna nesreča iz starega kraja, je opisana v pismu, ki je prišlo pred Božičem. Zgodila se je na Dolenjskem v Strugah. Dva zakonca sta šla, mož in žena gobe nabirat. Ker on je imel težave z nogami radi operacij, ji ni mogel dosti pomagat, je šel pa domov. Žena pa še dalje nabira, češ bom že prišla, čez nekoliko časa tudi jaz domov. Ker je pa le ni bilo domov, mu je bilo pa težko, da bi sam šel po njo. Javil je na policijo. Po 24 urah so jo našli mrtvo. Medved jo je udušil in bil še pri njej, ko so jo zagledali. Medveda pa niso smeli streljat, ker je bil zaščiten po lovskem zakonu. In 14 dni pred to nesrečo so medvede v Kočevju spustili na prosto, tako so ljudje prec po tej nesreči govorili. Uboga

ženska, kakšen strašen prizor, ko ga je zagledala!

Na 16. februarja bomo praznovali pustni torek. V naši matični domovini so rekli, da na ta dan je vseh norcev god. Naslednji dan v sredo pa je pepelnica. Ko je pri sv. mašah pepelenje, je spomin smrti, *prah si bil in v prah se boš spremenil*. Tako nas uči naša vera.

Poredni muhasti fantje, če so imeli kako deklo na piki, so v noči od pusta na pepelnico šli pod okno ji zapet: *Prišel je Pust rogat, boš mogla sama spat, prišla je pepelnica, ostala boš samica*.

V januarju se bodo veselile rojstnega dneva: Christine Begley, in Mari Mahne. V Februarju pa Malka Južna, Jopko Mary in Georgine Bender.

Kako mila je ta pesem, še bolj pa melodija

*Moj rodni kraj, moj rodni dom.
Kako si te želim,
nič več v tujini ostal ne bom
spet k tebi pohitim,
Tam, kjer mi zib'ka tekla je,
Oj, tam bom srečen le;
tja kjer izbral sem si deklo
tja vleče me srce.*

*Ko pa nekoč posledno noč
mi navček zadoni.
Ko vse bo proč, ko nikdar več
ne bom odprl oči;
ne bo stezic, ne drobnih ptic,
nič več jaz pel ne bom,
takrat bi rad poslednji krat
objel svoj rodni dom*

*Poj mi, zapoj, škrjanček moj,
kot pel si mi nekoč,
saj jutri spet tja v daljni svet
bom šel in vse bo preč.*

Iskrene pozdrave vsem, ki čitate našo Zarjo od

JULKE KLAMMER

ŠT. 100, FONTANA, CA

December je skoro že tukaj in božični prazniki so prav blizu. Vem, da ste vse zaposlene kakor tudi mi tukaj. Zadnje čase imamo kar precej potresov. Zadnji je bil nekaj dni nazaj. Moja nečakinja Ann Zerbian iz Willowick, OH je tukaj na obisku za deset dni. Potres jo je malo os-trašil in tudi hudo sapa smo imeli in tako je videla, kaj imamo v

Kaliforniji, kadar pride do tega.

17. novembra je umrla naša članica Elizabeth Marinovich. Že se je pripravljala, da obiše Jugoslavijo, a je zbolela. Pogrešale jo bomo na sejah, ker je redno hodila. Naj počiva v miru, družini pa izrekamo sožalje.

Prvo nedeljo v decembru se bomo članice zbrale skupaj in šle na obed in imele "Pot luck" večerjo. Na oktoberski seji so vse iste odbornice prevzele, da bodo vodile dalje. Vse so rekle, naj ostane po starem. Vse smo zadovoljne in prav lepa hvala vsem za prevzem.

Upam, da bo v našem angleškem poročilu kaj več novic iz našega kraja. Vse ne berejo slovensko.

Moram omeniti, da sem pozabila, da Zarja ne izide v januarju. Moj dopis in častitke za Božič boste brali v februarju; to mi oprostite. Ob praznovanju Božiča smo imeli lep dan. Skupaj smo se zbrale in bila nas je lepa družba. Z nami je bila Mrs. Ed Kinkopt, katera je od naše predsednice sister-in-law. Upam, da ste se vse dobro imele za praznike, saj za te praznike vedno pripravimo dobro hrano. Ne pozabite naše prihodnje seje!

Vsem članicam želim srečno novo leto in bolnim zdravje.

Pozdrav vsem članicam S.Ž.Z.

JEAN KURILICH



Čestitke k obletnici! Rose in Nick Maras

Hibbing, Minnesota
praznujeta 48-letnico
zakonskega življenja!

Srčno želimo še mnogo let
zdravega in srečnega življenja!



Tisoč in en večer

— nadaljevanje

Bilo nas je enajst ali dvanajst

Otroštvo v Kropi — Mali hlapec na Bledu

Moja otroška leta so tekla v revščini, v taki revščini, kakšno si danes komaj lahko predstavljamo. V malem slovenskem trgu Kropi v radovljiškem okraju, kjer sem se rodil 4. junija 1910 v znamenju dvojčkov, je živelo šest sto ljudi v sto štiri hišah, od teh pa so se tri že podirale in nihče ni v njih stanoval. Zemlja, na kateri stoji ta kraj, je trda in skopa. V občini so živeli le trije kmetje, od teh eden župnik, drugi pa krčmar.

Drugi prebivalci Kroke so se preživljali z žebliji, to se pravi z železarsko obrtjo. V gozdnatih gorah, ki oklepajo dolino, so že pred stoletji našli in kopali železovo rudo. Toverili so jo v vas in jo tam predelovali. Ostanke železarskih topilnic iz poznega srednjega veka, ki so jih nedavno odkrili, kažejo na staro železarsko izročilo. Železo so kovali predvsem v žeblje raznih vrst: v tesarske, ladijske, čevljarske, v žeblje za železniške pragove. Vse so kovali ročno.

Še danes me ob spominu prešine rahla groza, ki je popadla nas pobiče ob pogledu v čno globočino opuščeni jaškov. Če smo vrgli vanje kamen, se je zdelo, kakor da bi padal v neskončnost. Še slišim nenehne, stoterne glasove kladiv, še zmeraj vidim pred seboj žareča ognjišča obdana s preprostimi, iz desak zbitimi lopami. Okrog teh kovaških ognjišč so se gnetli delavci drug ob drugem, zakaj dragoceni ogenj iz lesnega oglja je bilo treba preudarno rabiti. Mehove pri ješah je gnala voda. Eno od tistih starih lopatastih koles se v Kropi še danes vrti kot zanimivost iz nekdanjih časov.

Skozi preproste lesenjače, ki so obdajale ognjišče, je pozimi vel leden veter, tako da je delavcem v obraz žarela vročina, v hrbet pa jih je mrazilo. Ješam z lesenim ogrodjem vred smo rekli »vigenjc«. Vigenjci so dali kraju značilno podobo. Stali so na obeh bregovih Kroparice, občinskega potoka, od izvira do konca trga. Kroparica nam je bila vodni potoka, od izvira do konca trga. Kroparica nam je bila vodni vir, pili smo jo, z njo smo zalivali, se umivali, hkrati pa je gnala kladiva in druge naprave pri kovačnicah. Bila je res vir življenja in pomoč pri delu.

Skoraj vse življenje prebivalcev v Kropi je potekalo v vigenjcih. Delati so začeli ob štirih zjutraj, nehali pa so večinoma šele pozno zvečer. Petnajst ur in še več so imeli ljudje »ogelj v oče«. Urejenega opoldanskega odmora ni bilo, kuhali so pri ognju ješe. Vsaka družina je imela tam železne lonce, v njih so grel najboljši preproste jedi — kisle zelje in repo, fižol,

krompir in žgance, koruzne ali ajdove. Pojužinali so kar na kraju samem skupaj z vso družino, tudi če ni imela dela v vigenjcih. Otroci so se rodili skoraj kar med delom v kovačnicah. Tudi jaz sem se rodil sredi pehanja, med udarjanjem kladiv, ob ognju in trušču. Zakaj ob nakovalu ni delal samo oče, postaven mož iz leta 1880, temveč tudi štiri leta mlajša, šibkejša mati. Bilo je težko delo. Družbenih pravic ali pomoči ni bilo nobenih. Kdo je zbolel, je bil sam sebi prepuščen. Ostareli ljudje, ki niso več mogli delati, so v najboljšem primeru dobili svoj »kot« v hiši, kjer je stanovala družina in kjer so jih pač trpeli. Če pa tega ni bilo, so beraško životarili v sirotišnici. Tam so živeli od milodarov, ki so jih nabirali pri kmetih v okolici, če so lahko hodili. Še danes jih vidim, upognjene postave, z malho na hrbtu.

Kropa ni imela zdravnika, šele več let pozneje je prihajal zdravnik dr. Jan Voves iz Radovljice enkrat tedensko v svojem malem vozu. Sprejemal je tri ure v nekem zasebnem stanovanju. Bil je strog, redkobeseden gospod stare šole, po rodu Čeh, ozkega, koščene obraza in negovan. Doktor Voves je bolnika pogostokrat le ošinil s pogledom in ga že pri vratih odsvolil kot zdravega, ne da bi ga bil zares pregledal.

Nekako do konca stoletja so delavce plačevali v gotovini le z manjšim delom zaslužka. Glavni del so prejeli v blagu in v živilih. Odmerna je bila velikokrat zelo svojevoljna: »Ta mesec si že dobil moko, koruzo, krompir in slanino. Konec sedaj!« Tako se je pri nas ravnalo še kot v časih tlačanstva, ki ga je cesar Jožef II. vendar že zdavnaj odpravil.

Prvi v občini je bil župnik, ta je živel od svoje nadarbine, polja pa so mu obdelovali svojci. Drugi v tej krajevni hierarhiji je bil nadučitelj, nato pa »gospoda«, podjetniki in lastniki vigenjcev in plavžev, največkrat tudi posestniki hiš, v katerih so delavci stanovali. Zaščite pri najemu ni bilo nobene. Če so bili otroci preglasni ali če hišnemu gospodarju ni bilo kaj po volji, je stanovalcem odpovedal. Čas odpovedi je bil navadno spomladi za sv. Jurija. Večkrat je moral oče miriti našo glasno živahnost: »Mir, sicer nam bo gospodar napovedal sv. Jurija!«

Večina prebivalcev našega kraja je bila tej gospodi prepuščena na milost in nemilost. Tudi družina Dermota se je morala z velikim številom otrok vsakih nekaj let seliti. To se je spremenilo šele tedaj, ko se je nekaj pogumnih mož združilo in ustanovilo zadrugo hkrati z vse večjim uvajanjem strojev, ki so deloma nadomestili ročno delo. Moj oče je bil med prvimi, ki so ročno kovaštvo zamenjali s tovarniškim. Tam je končno prejel plačo »na roko«, česar do tedaj skoraj ni bilo: gotovino. To pa je pomenilo neko sicer skromno, vendar dotlej neznano svobodo.

Oče je bil zvest podanik cesarja; bržkone so ga krstili po cesarju v Schönbrunn² — Joža. Mati pa je dobila ime po cesarici Elizabeti. Četudi so naš del Slovenije — Gorenjsko — Karavanke ločile od sosednjega Koroškega, je naša dežela sodila do konca prve svetovne vojne k avstroogarski monarhiji. Tako sem kot tretje rojeni prišel na svet še kot star Avstrijec.

Bilo nas je enajst ali dvanajst otrok — prav natanko tega več ne vem, zakaj nekaj jih je umrlo že zgodaj, še kot dojenčki. Leta 1907 se je rodil prvi otrok — deklica — in krstili so jo po očetu: Jožefa. Leto pozneje je prišel na svet brat Hijacint, ki je 18 let star stopil na zarjavel žebelj-podkovnik in je umrl za tetanusom. Med brati, ki so se rodili za menoj, je bil četrti po vrsti Leopold, pozneje pevec kakor jaz, nato »sveti trije kralji«, Gašper, šesti otrok in dvojčka Miha in Boltežar. Toda svetopisemska imena jim niso prinesla sreče. Boltežar je umrl še kot dojenček, Miha devetleten, Gašper pa je bil žrtev avtomobilske nesreče hkrati s svojim sinom.

Več kot dvanajst let zaporedoma smo v družini vsako leto čakali na »veseli dogodek«. Nismo občutili tragično, da več otrok ni živelo niti tako dolgo, da bi zlezli iz plenice. Bog je dal in Bog je vzel. In če je vzel, so bila pri hiši ena usta manj. Da bi ob pičli hrani malo več jedli, so starši nas otroke pošiljali v sosednje bogatejše vasi, na Dobravo, Češnjico ali na Jamnik, da bi nabirali odpadlo sadje — pobiravčke — in da bi paberkovali po poljih, kjer so že bili pripravili krompir in repo, če so kmetje to dovolili. Včasih pa smo pobirali tudi, kadar niso dovolili.

Razmerje med otroki in starši je bilo patriarhalno. Očeta in matere nismo tikali, temveč vikali. Ugovarjati nismo smeli, očetov ukaz je bilo treba molče ubogati. Oba, oče in mati, pa sta bila polna dobrote — to smo čutili. Toda bila je sramežljiva dobrotarica, nista je kazala. Otroci smo začeli svoj dan z mašo ob sedmi uri zjutraj, kamor so nas vsak dan pošiljali. Na poti v cerkev smo v župnišču oddali prazno mlečno kanglo. Župnik je imel kakih osem krav in njegova sestra, župniška kuharica, nam je delila dragoceno mleko, ki je bilo namenjeno vselej le najmanjšemu med nami. Obratčunali smo konec tedna. Po maši, kjer sem ministriral, smo šli iskat polno kanglo. Ko smo odšli iz župnišča, nas je dan za dnem vselej popadla skušnjava. Zraven kravjega hleva je namreč stal svinjak, kjer so pripravljali tudi hrano za svinje. V velikem kotlu je vrela repa, korenje in krompir. Zapeljivi vonj je včasih zmotil celo našo pobožno zbrano v cerkvi. Skušnjava pa je bila prevelika, da ne bi včasih hitro na skrivaj izmaknili iz kotla kak košček. Pozneje mi je v življenju redkokdaj kaj tako čudovito teknilo kot ti ukradeni kadeči se grizljaji iz kotla za prašiče, s katerimi smo tolažili svojo jutranjo volčjo lokoto.

Po skromnem zajtrku, največkrat kar v vigenjcu, smo šli in ljudsko šolo, po šoli pa na delo. Morali smo prinesiti oglje za kovačnico iz oglarskih kop, te pa so dostikrat stale tudi po dve uri daleč v gozdu. Ali pa smo šli s krošnjo na hrbtu nabirat dračja za zimo, zakaj da bi kupili les za kurjavo, na to nismo smeli misliti. Ker pa so vsi otroci iz vasi trumoma hodili v gozd po les, smo med seboj tekmovali in dostikrat je dolgo trajalo, da je bila krošnja do vrha naložena.

Nekoč sem smel z materjo v Ljubljano, kamor je

nesla in oddala žebelje, v zameno pa je dobila nekaj živeža. Nasproti železniške postaje me je posadila na rob ceste in rekla: »Tu ostani, kmalu se vrnem!«

Toda to je bila le pobožna obljuba, dolgo je ni bilo. Postajalo mi je tesno in tesneje. Promet na cesti, hrup tujega in, kakor se mi je zdelo, velikanskega mesta, prah in vročina — vsega sem se bal. Če sem le kdaj v življenju občutil, da me je poleg vseh drugih še Bog zapustil, je bilo to tedaj na robu ceste v Ljubljani.

Skoraj prav tako hudo mi je bilo, kadar me je oče kot zastopnik Vzajemne zavarovalnice vzel s seboj po svojih potih h kmetom v okolici. Tudi on se je večkrat zamujal. Potem se je zmračilo, sedel sem osamljen in zapuščen v kaki kmečki izbi pri čisto tujih ljudeh. Slišal sem zvoniti avemarijo, ob tem času bi bil doma že v postelji. Z očetom pa sva imela še dolgo pot pred seboj, skozi tajinstvene, temne gozdove. Strah in domotožje sta me prevzela, bridko sem jokal. Ko je oče končno prišel, sem, ga milo prosil: »Domov, oče, domov!«

Še dveh dogodkov se spominjam. Nekoč bi bil moral pred začetkom šolskega pouka prinesiti oglja iz zaloge. Toda bila je zima in mraz, da je vse škripalo. Skozi naš kraj teče, kot sem povedal, Kroparica. Za vasjo izvira iz gore in — kakor poroča Valvasor v svojem znanem delu »Slava vojvodine Kranjske« — pomaga ta voda proti težavam v očeh. V vigenjcu sem oddal oglje in preden bi šel v šolo, sem si hotel še hitro umiti od oglja črne roke. Stopnice k vodi pa so bile poledene, v coklah sem zdrsnil, košek na rami se mi je zavihtel čez tilnik in na glavo sem se zvrnil v ledeno, deročo vodo. Na srečo je bilo tam nekaj ljudi, ki so me privlekli iz potoka in me posušili pri bližnjem kovaškem ognju. Doma me je mati vtaknila v posteljo in niti nahoda nisem dobil, pač pa mi ni bilo treba v šolo. Tako se je izkazala zdravilna moč vode, ki sicer od nje — vsaj na očeh — nisem kaj dosti občutil.

Drugi dogodek pa je imelo resnejše posledice. Bilo je pozno jeseni in poslali so nas nabirat lesa. Dan je bil kratek, zgodaj se je mračilo. Kako naj bi v pičlem času do vrha naložili krošnje? Tedaj me je nenadoma prešinila grešna misel, da bi kurjavo nabrali kar v šupi našega soseda. Ta si je nakopičil že lepo zalogo. Med redkimi letvicami v šupi bi zlahka z rokami dosegli nalomljeni les. To smo tudi storili. Hlastno in molče smo povlekli ven kos za kosom in naložili svoje krošnje do vrha.

Doma je nič sluteči oče pohvalil lepi les, ki smo ga tako vneto nabrali. Toda stvar je prišla kmalu na dan in doživeli smo strašno nevihto. Seveda je sosed dobil nazaj svoj lepi les, mi pa smo prejeli pravično kazen. Oče je bil lahko zelo strog. Klečanje v kotu je bila takrat še premila kazen. Pod kolena smo dobili še robato poleno, da bi nam za vselej prešle skomine po tujem lesu. Pri tem pa smo morali ostati še lačni, kar je bilo najhujše, zakaj da bi bila kazen večja, nam niso dali večerje. Hvala bogu, imeli smo mater, ki je pokoro natihem omilila, čeprav jo je prej od očeta za nas terjala. Ponoči je prišla k postelji grešnika in mu vtaknila kos kruha pod ožjo. Tako je v tem našem svetu spet nastalo ravnovesje po božji volji.

In še en dogodek, ki je navidez nepomemben, pa je vendar zbudil v naših otroških srcih prvokrat

grenko razočaranje: bilo je sredi prve svetovne vojne, ko se je razvedelo, da je župan v javnem oglasu objavil, da potrebuje za zdravstvene namene posušeno listje šmarnic, ki ga bo primerno plačal. Z vso vneto smo se vrgli na to, da bi kaj zaslužili. Dolge tedne smo blodili po gozdovih, nabirali bojda zaželeno listje, ga sušili na soncu in tlačili v vreče, dokler se ni pokazalo, da je bilo vse skupaj le prevara, le govorica in da se ni nihče zanimal za posušene šmarnice. Tako so naš trud, delo in upanje vzeli konec na smetišču.

Kljub temu je bilo moje otroštvo srečno. Saj nismo mogli svojega življenja z ničemer primerjati, saj tudi drugim ni šlo bolje. Posesti in lastnine za otroke ni bilo. Obleke, čevlji, celo igrače, vse to je bilo otrokom v družini skupna last. Hlače in krilca smo drug za drugim podedovali, dokler ni razpadlo. Nazadnje prvotnih hlač od samih krp sploh ni bilo več videti. Živelimo brez zavisti, brez želja in jemali vse, kakor je pač prišlo. A najmanjše veselje nas je bogatilo.

Ko se je stemnilo, smo začeli prepevati. Luči nismo imeli, sveče in petrolej — to je bilo predrago. Torej smo peli, da bi pregnali strah pred temo. Peli smo ljudske in preproste umetne pesmi, enoglasno in večglasno. Zaloga pesmi je bila neizčrpna. Sicer pa nismo peli le doma, temveč vedno in povsod tudi na vasi. Čeprav smo tolkli hudo revščino in živeli neumljeno trdo življenje, smo bili vendarle dovezetni za petje in igro. V naši občini ni obstajal le cerkveni zbor, marveč tudi pevsko in poleg tega igralsko društvo, ki sta ga vodila župnik in učitelj. Igre so bile v nedeljah popoldan ob treh »po blagoslovu«, v združenem skladišču. V »parterju« so poslušalci sedeli na zabojih za žeblje, v »parketu« na stolih, ki smo jih privlekli iz vseh hiš. Nanje so lastniki s kredo napisali svoja imena, da bi jih nihče ne zamenjal. Stole smo šli iskat mi otroci in to je bila za nas naloga, ki smo se je vneto lotili. Potem pa smo splezali na »galerijo«, na pač kake štiri metre visoko nagradene zaboje, kar ni bilo povsem brez nevarnosti. Včasih je zgrmel kak otrok sredi dramatičnega prizora hkrati z zabojem v »parter«.

Spominjam se še igre, ki je pripovedovalo o tragični usodi Andreja Hoferja. Naš oče je imel vlogo tirolskega junaka in bojevnika za svobodo, jaz pa vlogo njegovega sina. V ganljivem prizoru sem se moral posloviti od njega. Neka druga drama me je posebno ganila, njen avtor je bil slovenski, velikokrat izvajani dramatik, duhovnik Franc Saleški Finžgar.

Oče je bil suhoten, srednjevelik, žilav mož črnih košatih las in temne polti. Bil je gibčen, živahen, marljiv, zanimal se je za vse in imel je lepo izrazito pisavo. Tudi bral je veliko: časopise, časnike in knjige. V Kropi smo imeli javno knjižnico, ki jo je naša družina vneto obiskovala. Pozneje, ko se je oče povzpел do družbeno pomembnejše službe zastopnika v edini omembe vredni slovenski zavarovalnici, je postal celo zvest naročnik Mohorjeve družbe, kar nam je letno prineslo v hišo štiri do pet knjig.

Tudi glasbena nadarjenost je bila skrita v njem. Ni bil le prizadeven junaški oče v igralski družini pač pa tudi cenjeni bas-baritonist, še v poznih letih član cerkvenega zbora in kulturnega društva. Umril je v 76. letu. Sicer pa je bila tudi moja sestra Jožefa igralsko nadarjena in je večkrat prevzela v igrah dekliške vloge.

Z drugimi mojimi sestrami vred je bila redna članica cerkvenega zbora.

Štirje otroci naše družine še danes živijo. Dva brata sta se odločila za isti poklic kakor jaz, Leopold in Gašper sta postala lirična tenorista in Leopold, četrti otrok, je nastopal v dunajski Volksoperi,³ v deželnem gledališču v Salzburgu, v Innsbrucku in v nemških in švicarskih gledališčih, nekoč celo hkrati z menoj na salzburškem festivalu. Z imenom Leo Cordes-Dermota je pel poleg solističnega tenorskega parta v Mozartovi c-mol maši še vlogo Arbacesa v »Idomeneu« z dirigentom Georgom Soltijem. Pri tem pa je žalostno naključje hotelo, da je prav na dan predstave »Idomenea« prišla iz Kroke bridka vest, da najina mati umira. Ker sem tedaj pel v treh vlogah, v Čarobni piščali, Otellu in v Beethovnovi »Deveti«, sva sklenila, da naj se Leopold odpelje domov, jaz pa bom prevzel njegovo nalogo. Tako sem moral v nekaj urah prevzeti še vlogo Arbacesa.

Brat Leopold je prišel o pravem času, da je mater našel še živo, jaz pa sem šel samo še za pogrebom. Tedaj sem se še le jasno zavedel, kaj je ta žena zmogla v življenju, ki je bilo le žrtvovanje za družino. Nikoli ni zase nič zahtevala in komaj zase kaj dobila. Svoje moči je razdala v vigenjcu in pri domačih delih kot sveča, ki gori na dveh koncih.

Leopold se je izučil za strojnega ključavničarja, obenem pa kot privatist opravljal izpite na gimnaziji v Kranju razred za razredom, dokler ni maturiral. Še v domovini je začel obiskovati tudi pevski pouk, potem pa ga je nadaljeval na Dunaju pri isti učiteljici kakor jaz. Pozneje je petje opustil in je danes vodja muzeja v Kropi.

Tudi Gašper, eden od »treh kraljev«, je najprej delal v domači tovarni. Tudi on se je izučil za strojnega ključavničarja. Nato je dokončal tehniško strokovno šolo v Ljubljani in nazadnje predsedal k petju. Več let je bil uspešen član Narodnega gledališča v Ljubljani in prvi tenor v slovitom Slovenskem oktetu, s katerim je prepotoval velik del sveta, dokler se ni, 50 let star, obenem s svojim sinom smrtno ponesrečil. Da bi se ognil pijani ženski, ki se je nenadno opotekla na cesto, je Gašper silovito obrnil krmilo in čelno trčil v neki italijanski avto, ki je prihvajal nasproti. Bil je takoj mrtev, sin pa je umrl, ko so ga peljali v bolnišnico.

Moj domači kraj je vedno slovel kot kulturno razvit. Iz vseh sosednjih, večkrat zelo oddaljenih vasi, so prihajali ljudje k našim prireditvam. Pevsko društvo je nastopalo s koncerti v podeželskem duhu, predvsem s štiriglasnim moškimi in mešanimi zbori. Tudi cerkveni zbor je pel štiriglasno. Ceciljanski čas nam je zapustil bogato število takih skladb, skladatelji ali prireditelji so bili veščidel duhovniki. Tri od njih bi rad tu navedel: monsignor Stanko Premrl, stolni organist in pozneje častni kanonik; stolni dekan Franc Kimovec ter frančiškanski pater Hugolin Sattner, ki je za podeželske zборе komponiral prav »po meri« in bil pač eden najbolj plodovitih skladatejev take ljudske smeri. Vsi trije so bili pozneje moji učitelji.

²Schönbrunn — bivša rezidenca avstrijskega cesarja, sedaj muzej.

³...je nastopal v dunajski Volksoperi — die Volksoper, tj. ljudsko operno gledališče, eno od precej številnih dunajskih gledališč.

NAŠA POT PO SLOVENIJI

Iz "Slovenske ure" na radio oddajah v Chicagu

PREKMURJE

Potovali bomo od vzhoda proti zahodu Slovenije. Sončni žarki v Sloveniji se najprej zjutraj dotaknejo Lendavskih goric in po 13 minutah obsijejo Kobariški Stol na zahodnem koncu naše domovine. Prekmurje ločimo po gričih in ravnem svetu na Goričko in na Ravensko.

Goričko je najbolj severna pokrajina Slovenije. Več kot tisoč let se tukaj stikajo trije narodi: Slovenci, Nemci in Madžari. Prekmurje je dobilo svoje ime po reki Muri, ki priteče iz Avstrije in katera je pred letom 1918 ostro mejila Prekmurje od Štajerske ali boljše povedano: Ogrsko (Budimpešta) od Avstrije (Dunaj). Mura je dolgo stoletja ločevala Slovence na Ogrskem od Slovencev, ki so spadali v nekdanje habsburške dežele. Še danes tako radi ločimo Slovence na Prekmurce, Štajerce, Kranjce, Korošce, Primorce — in od vsakih vemo povedati kaj dobrega, še rajše pa kaj slabega. Res se nekoliko ločimo po narečjih in po značaju. Po 1.1918 smo vsi Slovenci združeni v Slovenijo — žal ne vsi; slovensko manjšino imamo na Koroškem (Avstriji), v Italiji, nekaj na Madžarskem.

Več tisočev Slovencev nas je razkropljenih po vsem svetu med raznimi narodi. Potrudimo se kazati tujim narodom svoje dobre korenine. Šele 1.1924 je stekla železnica iz Štajerske preko Mure v Mursko Soboto. Zaradi izoliranosti od drugih slovenskih pokrajin so ohranili Prekmurci svoje narečje. Prekmurje je nadvse zanimivo. Hišice so bile nekdanj majhne in nizke, pod streho — ostrešjem je visela koruza, na strešnem slemenu je gneznila štorclja. Na Muri so se gibali plavajoči mlinci. Pokrajina je ravna-večkrat s hudimi ledenimi vetrovi in s poletno sušo. Ob ravnih cestah so dolge vasi in drevoredi z visokimi jagnejadi. Ljudi je bilo nekoč za ta majhen kos zemlje preveč. Hodili so množično s trebuhom za kruhom v tujino, po Evropi in čez morje.

Ker so Prekmurci delavni, so se v tujini—zlasti v Ameriki—gospodarsko zelo opomogli. Med nami živijo in mnoge zelo cenimo.

Prekmurje je slovenski pojem zvestobe. Pehali so se ti Prekmurci pod ogrsko oblastjo, zanje imenitna Budimpešta in bogata, pa vendar so vztrajali kot Slovenci. Vztrajati kar tisočletje v svojem narečju ni majhna stvar, ampak res velika zvestoba.

Branko Šömen

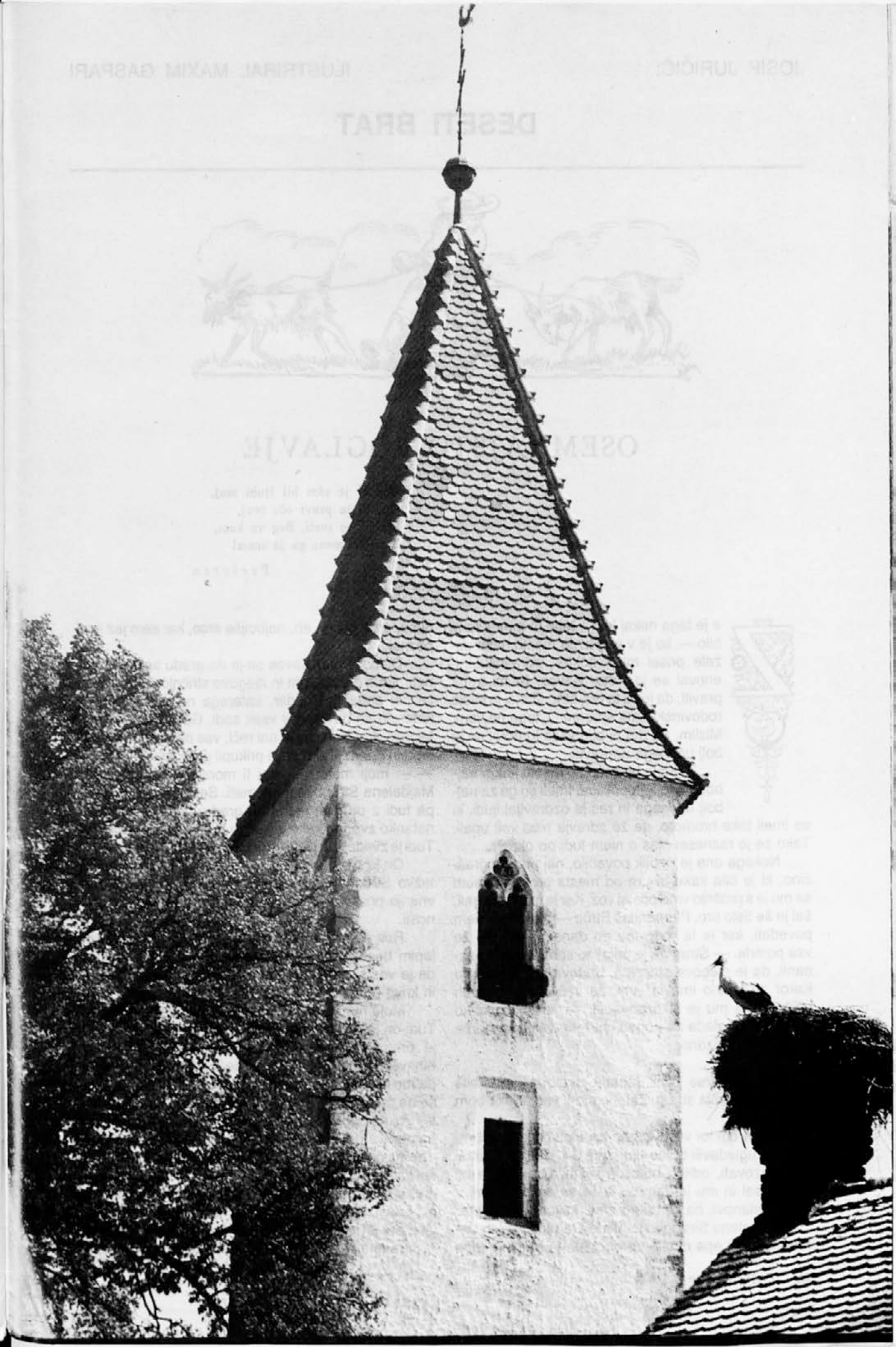
ŠTORCLJE

*V življenju je malo enakih cest,
malo takih topolov kot naši,
malokje taka tožeča bolest,
prepasana s sezonskimi časi.*

*Na svetu je malo takih streb,
nad katerimi gnezdijo štorclje
in odletijo v odlistanih dneh
s črnimi krili čez morje;*

*ko pa pride pomlad med vasi,
ko v ogradih češnje vzcvetijo,
prek vseh križem razpetih poti
v kraje domače spet priletijo.*

*V življenju je malo takih krajev,
malo štorcelj, ki se vračajo vanje
in v gnezdih razpredajo sanje
mladih ljudi in mesecev majev.*



DESETI BRAT



OSEMNAJSTO POGlavJE

On, ki je sám bil ljubi moj,
On, ki je pravi oče tvoj,
Šel je po sveti, Bog ve kam,
Tebe in mene ga je sram!

Prešeren



Ze je tega nekaj let — tebe in mene še ni bilo — ko je v poglavno mesto naše dežele prišel mlad doktor, zdravnik; imenoval se je Peter Kaves. Ni mi treba praviti, da je bil to tvoj stric. Zakaj je svoje rodovinsko ime spremenil, tega ne vem. Mislím, da mu ni bilo všeč in hotel se je bolj učenega napraviti.

Hitro je bil znan po mestu kakor najboljši svojega poklica. Imeli so ga za najbolj učenega in res je ozdravljaj ljudi, ki

so imeli take hromote, da že zdravja niso več upali. Tako se je raznesel glas o njem tudi po okrožju.

Nekega dne je dobilk povabilo, naj pride v graščino, ki je bila kake tri ure od mesta proč. Obenem se mu je s prošnjo vred poslal voz. Ker je ravno utegnul, šel je še tisto uro. Plemenitaš Strug — tudi ime smem povedati, ker je ta rodovina do današnjega dne že vsa pomrla. — Strug ga je prijazno sprejel in mu naznanil, da je njegova stričnica, bratova hči, katero pa kakor za lastno ima in ljubi, že več časa na očeh bolna. Tudi mu je tako povedal, da je doktor lahko umel, da ne gleda za noben, še tako velik denar, če se le deklica ozdravi.

Doktor Kaves je bil denarja lakomen. To je bila njegova največja strast. Zato je storil vse, kakor bom še povedal.

Ker je doktor videl, da bo tukaj plača jako dobra, dejal je, ugledavši bolne dekličine oči, da mora nekaj dni opazovati, odkod bolezen izvira. Graščak je bil tega vesel in mu je zatrdil, da če se za nekaj dni v gradu ustanovi, bo se dobro imel, kakor bi bil doma.

Majdalena Strugova je bila stara tačas kakih devetnajst let. Lepa ni bila po obrazu, pa imela je lepo

dušo, srce dobro, ah, najboljše srce, kar sem jaz ljudi poznal.

Doktor Peter Kaves se je na gradu seznanil bolj natanko z graščakom in njegovo stričnico. Bog mu je bil dal dober jezik, dar, katerega ne dobi vsak, po katerem se pa vendar vsak sodi. Govoril je doktor v tej mali družčini o tej in oni reči, vse pa je znal govoriti lepo in dobro. Tako se je prikupil graščaku in moji ma — — moji materi —, saj ti moram povedati, da je Majdalena Strugova moja mati. Seznanil se je Kaves pa tudi z drugimi rečmi na gradu, tako na priliko je natanko zvedel, kako veliko je premoženje Strugovo. Tudi je zvedel, da bo po stricu dobila vse Majdalena.

On je bil lakomnež. Koj je sprevidel, da ne bi bilo težko Strugovo premoženje priženiti. On je bil lepe vnanje postave in zaupal je tudi veliko svoji zgovornosti.

Res se ni motil. Moja mati je verjela prilizljivim, lepim besedam mladega doktorja. Revica je mislila, da je ves svet tak ko ona, da ne zna goljufati, legati in krivo prisegati!

Moja mati ga je ljubila v resnici in z vsem srcem. Tudi on je dejal in kazal, da jo ljubi tako in tako. Ona je premalo poznala ljudi in svet, da bi bila ločila hinavščino in pravo misel. Ko se je doktor tako preveril, da mu ne eni strani ni nobene ovire, potipal je nalahko še na drugi, da bi zvedel, kako njen stric misli, varoval se pa naravnost vprašati in povedati, da ravno on namerava dobiti bogato Strugovo. Ali tukaj je zvedel, da stric nikakor ni namenjen s svojo deklico tako nizko sestí, da bi jo dal temu ali onemu, ki nima ni gotovega premoženja niti vsaj njemu enakega imena. Vendar ni obupal. Plemenitaš je bil star. Dolgo ni mogel živeti. Čez pet let pak je bila deklica zadosti stara, da se je lahko sama odločila. Tako je sklenil čakati, kaj pride.

Oko je bilo ozdravljeno in doktor je moral zopet v mesto. Plemenitašu se je bil znal toliko prikupiti, da ga je pri odhodu vabil, naj pride večkrat v njegovo hišo. Sicer pa je imel tudi po zimi priliko govoriti z mojo materjo, ko je s stricem prihajala v mesto.

Tako jo je tri leta slepil s svojo ljubeznijo, ki je bila, to se vé, samo navidezna. Vse to zaradi bogastva!

Moja mati je bila dva in dvajset leta stara. Ženini so se jeli oglašati. Marsikateri med njimi je morda iz ravno tako nepoštenih razlogov snubil kakor Kaves. Vendar vem, da bi bil najslabši med njimi boljši od doktorja. Pa moja mati je vero imela, da boljšega in blažjega nima vesoljni svet. Zato se ni vdala v stričevo voljo, ki je, že slaboten in postaren, želel, da bi se omožila pred njegovo smrtjo in ji je zdaj tega, zdaj onega izmed tistih nasvetoval, ki so mu bili pogodu.

Stric je bil že nevoljen in je pretil tako in tako.

To je doktor vse zvedel. Ker se je bal, da ne bi mu spodletelo, česar je čakal že tri leta, da bi namreč stric moje matere ne prisilil katerega drugega vzeti, sklenil je kaj takega nemogoče storiti. To, kar je malopridnež naredil, zgodi se v naši deželi težko še kdaj. Pregovarjal je mojo mater, da bi se natihem z njim poročila. Mati moja je bila preveč vestna ženska, da bi se temu koj vdala.

Ko je razvidel, da sam ne opravi ničesar, dobil je za denar nekega malopridnega duhovna, ki ni hotel poznati svetosti svojega stanu in je bil zaradi tega po višji duhovski oblasti od službe odstavljen zaradi več pregreškov, ki so vsi izvirali iz pijanstva. Ta je moji materi skazoval, da tako dejanje v teh okoliščinah ne bi bilo niti zoper cerkveni niti zoper deželni zakon če se le poroka čez nekaj let očito razglasi ali na videz ponovi pred svetom. Ker je doktor to obetal, privolila je moja mati in domenjeni duhovnik ju je poročil.

Pač se je moja mati jokala in grenke solze točila, ko je bilo to končano. Nekaj ji je menda v srcu dejalo, da ta reč ne more srečnega konca doseči. Tudi se ji je koj zdelo, da se je doktor, popred ves ljubezniv in prijazen, po poroki vidno spremenil. Pa revica je molila in Boga prosila, da bi vse na dobro obrnil in molitev ji je dajala upanje. Upanje. — Upanje! Neumnost! —

Od strani je slišala, da doktor Kaves, o katerem ni živ krst vedel, da je njen zakonski mož — da ta doktor Kaves ne živi posebno v strahu božjem in pošteni čednosti, kar se ženstva tiče. — O, zakaj ni tega pred slišala! — In vendar tudi zdaj ni verjela, ni mogla verjeti! — Ko sta se sešla, kar pa je malokdaj bilo, vprašala ga je, ali je to res ali ne. On je sicer tajil, pa ne veliko. In ko se je začela bridko jokati, pustil jo je in »Neumnica!« to je bila vsa tolažba, vse opravičevanje.

V enem pogovoru jima je govornica prišla na sv. vero in na Boga. Iz nekaj besedi, katere je govoril, razvidelo se ji je, da nima nobene vere. Ko se je s strahom od njega obrnila, roki sklenila in zavpila: »Jezus, kaj bo s teboj!« zasmejal se je zaničljivo, vstal in šel, pozdravivši jo z lepo besedo: »Ti si neumna!«

In vendar ga je rada imela. Molila je zanj, molila je tačas in še potlej v drugačnih časih in še jaz sem moral z njo moliti zanj!

Kakih šest mesecev po oni nesrečni poroki je stric moje matere zbolel. Naredil je testament. Moja mati ga je ljubila kakor očeta, ker ji je vest vedno

očitala, da se je zelo pregrešila v poslednjem času zoper njega, stregla mu je še z večjo neutrudnostjo noč in dan.

Doktor Kaves je bil poklican k staremu gospodu. Do tega je imel stari največje zaupanje. Misli je, da je to njegov prijatelj, da ga bo on še smrti otel, če ga bo le kdo. Kako strahovito se motimo na tem svetu!

Moja mati je doktorja, preden je bolnika videl, na stran poklicala ter ga je s sklenjenimi rokami prosila: »Peter, ljubi Peter! Skrbi z vso svojo vednostjo, da boš strica ozdravil. On je moj dobrotnik in bo tvoj. Bog naju varuj pregrešne želje, da bi umrl! Temveč jaz rada čakam še deset, dvajset let, da so le stric živi in zdravi!«

»Skrbel bom!« — dejal je on.

Dal mu je nekega črnega zdravila. Polovico je bolnik v dveh dneh popil, tretji dan je umrl. Tačas moja mati ni slutila nič hudega. Pozneje pak je v svojih burnih dnevih govorila, da je Kaves stricu zavdal. Skazati mu ne morem! Enkrat sem mu to omenil in na obrazu sem mu bral, kakor bi bilo res! Bog bo sodnik! Naj bo milostljiv!

Sodnija je po stričevi smrti vzela testament in premoženje v svoje varstvo. Magdalena Strug je bila imenovana v poslednjem stričevem sporočilu za edinega dediča. Doktor Kaves je mislil, da je na koncu svojega namena.

Pa Bog je drugače obrnil.

Skazalo se je, da plemenitaš Strug, moje matere stric, vprek svojemu bogastvu ni nič lastnega premoženja imel. Vse je bil namreč podedoval po neki teti. Ta pak je imela sina, za katerega se ob smrti materini ni vedelo, kje je, in so ga sorodniki za mrtvega razznanili.

Leto pred starčevo smrtjo je bil z daljnega prišel v svojo domovino nazaj. Ker pa je videl, da je stric že na koncu svojega življenja ni hotel precej svoje pravice tirjati. Zdaj pa po Strugovi smrti se je očitno oglasil in skazal. Testament je bil ovržen. Magdalena ni imela nič, razen zapuščine svojega očeta, katera pak ni bila veliko večja ko dota vsake boljše kmečke hčere.

Pravda, katero je moja mati po priganjanju doktorijevem začela, iztekla se je na njeno izgubo prav v kratkem času, ker je bilo vse očito po zakonu.

Zdaj šele je prišlo moji materi spoznanje, popolno, pa strašno spoznanje!

Ko je doktorja, ki se je je odslej čisto ogibal, iskala in ga opomnila, naj se sklenjena zveza razznani, ko mu je povedala, da bom jaz prišel v kratkem času na svet kot sad te zveze: tačas se ji je pokazal pravi doktor Kaves.

»Jaz te zdaj ne poznam! Beračice ne maram, posebno grde ne!« To so bile zadnje besede, ki jih je z njo govoril. Ta skušnja je bila pač poučilna, ali draga moja mati bi bila skoro življenje dala zanjo. Morda bi bilo bolje!

Ko je ozdravela na vročinski bolezn, pokazala se je druga bolezen, blaznost. Razum in zdravje na duhu se ji je za nekaj časa povrnilo, ko sem se jaz rodil. Pa ne dolgo potem in zopet se je je lotilo. In vse njeno življenje se je menjavalo zdravje in blaznost.

— NADALJEVANJE —



LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP COMES TOGETHER AT CHRISTMASTIME!

Branch #35 Christmas dinner party was held in Aurora, MN at Holy Rosary Church Hall. The focal point was the Nativity Scene and the traditional Slovenian Christmas tree with lighted candles, home baked goodies and hard candies. This display was put together by our thoughtful and energetic member, Anita Vovk.

Pictured, back row l-r: Martha Gunderson holding our youngest junior member, Maria Elizabeth Menart, Spiritual Advisor, Fr. John Sustersic, Fr. Joseph Vovk, Allyson Ferris holding Alyssa Marie Hodnik, and Adam Ferris;

Front row l-r: Janelle Antilla, Courtney Kalar, Katie Martinetto and Connie Menart holding her daughter, Jenny.

PAY TO THE ORDER OF GOD

This morning a thought came to me as I was issuing a check - what if I had to write God a check for all He has done for me? How much would it be?

What price would I pay for each new day, for my family and friends? What would I give?

What would I pay for all my dreams, for all my ambitions, for all the love He has filled my heart with? What would the price be?

What would I pay for the knowledge that He is always with me and with those I love?

What would I pay for the realization that He will always take care of me and guide me, that He will always bring to me the fitness of body and soundness of mind to do whatever I must do? What would be the price?

The only price I can pay is to live each day for Him and in His honor, to love Him with all my heart, soul and being, to let Him know of my faith in Him, and to help others know that to have complete peace all they need to do is to love God with all their hearts. He will do the rest.

Pay to the Order of God:

*Love, Honor, Faith, -
worth more than all the gold in the world!*

SANTA'S DARLING!



Br. 73, junior member, Jeremie Michael Francisco, "took over" at their Christmas Party in his mini-Santa suit!

"FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART"

DAVY'S COLUMN

Love: A Thought for Any Season

Due to the deadline for the February issue to go to press, I had to start thinking of February's issue in December, in the midst of Christmas preparations.

As I sat down to my typewriter, I thought how can I think of Valentine's Day, and signs of Spring when Winter isn't over officially here, despite the fact that my fingers are a bit frost bitten.

Valentine's Day, a holiday for lovers; Spring is a time of new beginnings, but then again, isn't that what Christmas is all about? Isn't Christmas about love and a new beginning for God and mankind?

Perhaps a reminder of the message of Christmas in February wouldn't be so bad. Now, when we don't have the hype from the advertisers for the best

buys for gifts... now, that we don't have to worry about buying walnuts for potica... now, that we don't have to deck the halls or send out Christmas cards or packages. Now, if you think about it, that first Christmas was also the first Valentine.

What a better way to say I love you, than to send His only Son as an ambassador, to work, play, and sleep with us.

In a couple of months we will be celebrating the fulfillment of God's promise when Jesus suffered and died for us. Let's not forget how much God loves us, and the best way to show we love Him is to care for our fellow man.

Happy Valentine's Day!
'til next month.

DAVY

CHUCKLES!!

A teacher, annoyed with his clockwatching students, covered the clock in the school room with a sheet of cardboard. On it he lettered these words: "Time will pass. Will you?"

When you help out a man in trouble you can be sure of one thing, he won't forget you—the next time he's in trouble.

I took her to a night club
I took her to a show
I took her almost everywhere a girl and boy could go
I took her to nice dances
I took her out to tea
When all my money was gone I saw she had been taking me.

The easiest way to keep up with the Joneses is just slow down. Soon you'll meet them coming back.

—Quote

The two best times to fish are "right before you get there" and "right after you leave."

The old narrow roads where two cars could barely pass without colliding are being replaced by splendid highways on which six or eight cars can collide at one time.

The question should never be *who* is right, but *what* is right.

—Glenn Gardiner, Bits & Pieces

A man arose early one morning in order to surprise his family with hot oatmeal for breakfast.

He was dishing out a bowl for Jimmy, 3, when Jimmy walked into the kitchen.

"Want honey on it?" his dad wanted to know.

"Yes," said Jimmy.

"And milk?"

"Yes."

He gave the bowl to Jimmy. The youngster stared at it, then pushed it away.

"What's wrong?" I put everything you wanted in it," his dad said.

Answered Jimmy, "I don't like oatmeal!"

—Parts Pups



Junior Members, Melanie and Leslie Dusek, were in attendance at the Christmas party of Br. 73, Warrensville Hts., Ohio.

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