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AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA

SLOVENIAN MORNING NEWSPAPER

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A GERMAN TALE

THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER

Once upon a time there lived a shoemaker who through no fault of his own had become poorer and poorer. He was at his wits' end. Now he had only enough leather left to make one more pair of shoes, and he would have to tell his family that they had no money for food.

He paced around his workshop, worrying and wondering what to do, and then, without an answer, he lay the last pieces of leather upon his workbench. "I shall make these in the morning," he said, and he softly closed the door behind him and walked upstairs where the family lived. "Tomorrow morning I will decide what to do next," he whispered to himself as he prepared for bed.

The next morning he went downstairs into his workshop. He still had no idea how he would make more money, but when he opened the door to the workshop, he stared in wonder. There, upon the workbench where he had placed his leather, stood a beautiful pair of shoes, sewn with the tiniest and most delicate of stitches, and most delicate of stitches, shined until they glowed. He had never seen such beautiful shoes.

"Who could have done this?" he whispered, and he peered around, checking the corners and beneath tables and chairs. But no one was about. Puzzled, the shoemaker placed the new shoes in his window, and within moments a wealthy merchant rushed into the shop. "Those shoes," said the merchant. "I must have those shoes. I will pay you anything you wish. They are magnificent."

The shoemaker was not a greedy man, but he sold the shoes for a handsome price, and then, his heart lighter, he closed the shop and walked into the village to purchase some more leather to make more shoes, and to buy, too, a feast for his family. They had not eaten a good meal for far too long.

That afternoon he cut the leather for two more pairs of shoes, and this he laid upon his workbench. He thought he might begin to make the

shoes, but when he remembered the sweet potatoes, potica and the ham he had bought in the village, his mouth began to water. And so he closed the shop and went upstairs. "How can we afford such delicacies?" his wife asked when she saw the ham, and the shoemaker happily told his wife of the magical appearance of the shoes.

His wife laughed. She did not believe a word he said. She was certain that her husband had himself gone into the workshop at midnight so that he might surprise his family with a treat. He worked far too hard, she knew, and she hoped that perhaps this meant their luck was about to change.

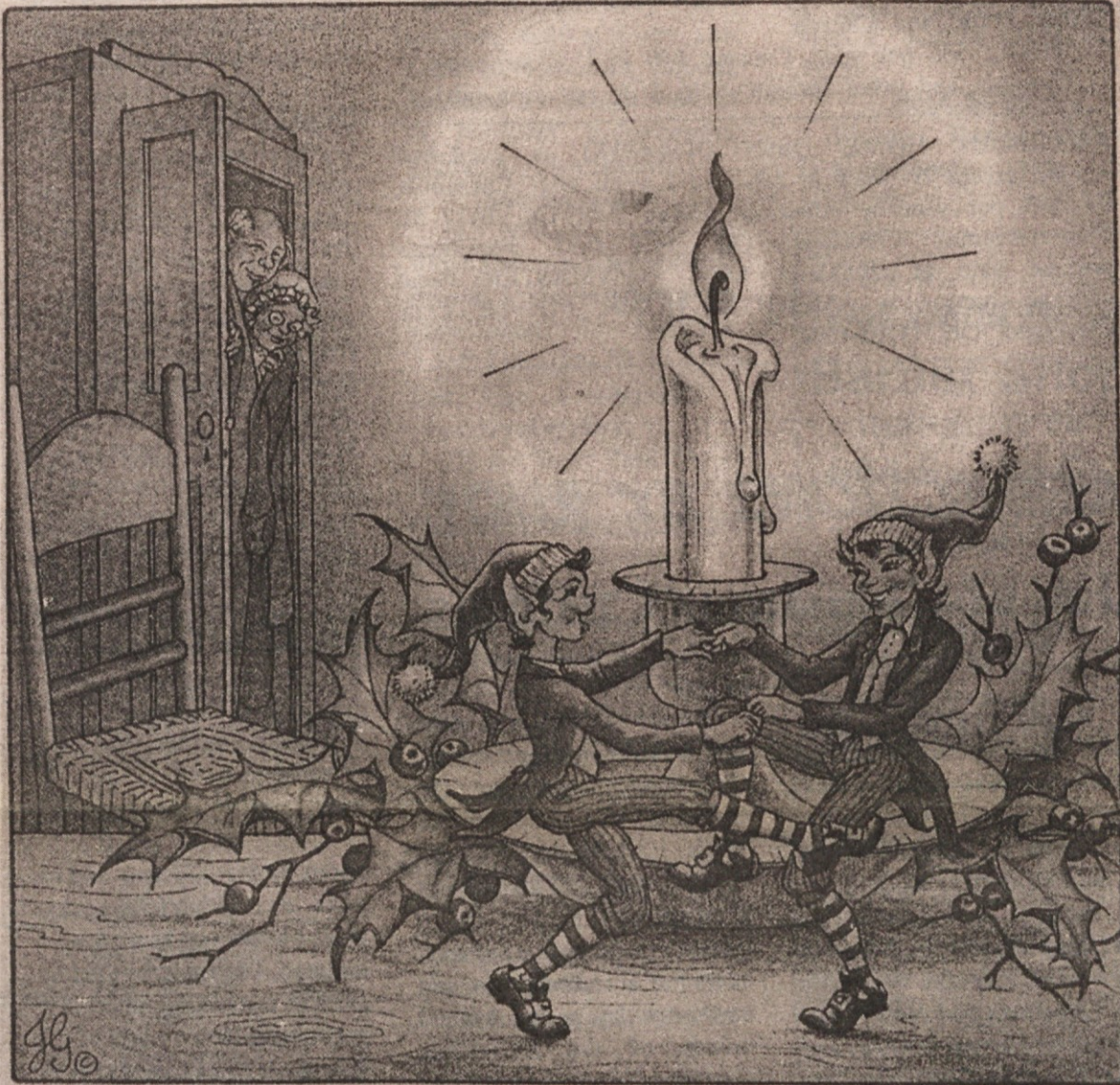
Sure enough, their luck had changed, for the next morning when the shoemaker walked into his workshop, he saw in the place where he had lain the leather two sparkling pairs of brand-new shoes, again with that delicate stitching. These he placed in the window, and within minutes, both pairs were sold.

Again the shoemaker went to the village and purchased more leather, and again, the next morning, there were, magically, another several pair of shoes. And so it went on. Whatever he cut out in the evening was sewn by morning.

Soon the shoemaker was earning enough money to feed his family well, and before long his shop was the talk of the town. All the young men and girls of the village wanted a pair of his shoes. No one made such beautiful shoes. Soon the shoemaker was a wealthy man.

One evening shortly before Christmas, the shoemaker said to his wife, "We must find out who makes our shoes," and she agreed. So that night they lighted a candle, left it on the bench, and hid in the coat closet and waited until all was quiet.

At midnight they heard a sound. A moment later two tiny elves crept beneath the door. They were small and bare, and worked nimbly using their own set of



miniature tools.

When the elves had finished sewing the shoes, they slipped beneath the door and disappeared.

"The little elves have made us rich. We must find a way to thank them," said the shoemaker. "They have been like Christmas angels to us."

His wife nodded. "Christmas is coming. They deserve a magnificent gift. They must be cold. Let us make them some clothes and boots."

So the shoemaker and his wife went to work at once. They sewed beautiful suits, and they made shoes, and the shoemaker's wife knitted hats and socks. Then they cooked a miniature feast of meats and breads and cakes, and that night they lay their gifts upon the workshop table and hid, once again, in the cupboard.

When the elves appeared, the shoemaker whispered, "I hope they like their gifts."

"Shhh," his wife whispered, but the elves did not appear to hear. They pounced upon the gifts, trying on their new suits and heartily enjoying the feast.

Then they hopped and danced about over the chairs and table and around the candle and sang, "Now we're boys so fine and neat, why cobble more for others' feet?" And they danced out the door and disappeared!

"We have been blessed," said the shoemaker, and he and his wife hugged each other.

The elves never returned to the workshop, but the shoemaker's business prospered and he and his wife and children never forgot the elves, and every Christmas they toasted their tiny friends with slivovitz and potica, and hoped that others, everywhere, would be so fortunate.



New 3 for 1 Campaign

Just in time for the holidays, the American Home newspaper is beginning a 3 for 1 campaign for **NEW** subscribers. 1) -- Our generous anonymous donor will pay \$15.00 toward a new subscription. 2) -- The American Home will contribute \$5.00. 3) -- All **NEW** readers will only have to pay **\$15.00** for a full year subscription.

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No. 47

December 4, 2003

REFLECTIONS BY RUDY

Joy of Christmas Customs

by RUDY FLIS

Another enjoyable four-day Thanksgiving Weekend is history. How sweet it was! Loving family, tasty food, and time to rest, is exactly what I enjoyed. I did it all.

Now, I look forward to the days ahead, which lead to two more four-day weekends of Christmas and New Year. It will be family, friends, and good eating, on not one weekend, but consecutive weekends, of all the above and memories galore.

All the years I have lived, all the years Therese and I have been married, the Christmas memories are the easy memories. Customs of our Christian faith, customs of our heritage, customs of this great nation we live in, with all its abundance and freedoms, present us with so many good experiences that transfer into memories. Blessings abound and these blessings are treasured and shared at the same time. It's Christmas spirit that warms

my heart at this special time of year.

I must not forget to mention what I consider a special Christmas blessing, the Christmas album from St. Vitus Christmas Choir, "Sveta Noč." This album soothes me now as I try to gather my thoughts. It captivates me; it refreshes me and eases my day as the trained voices of the St. Vitus Christmas Choir float off my CD and travels to my soul. I am looking forward to hearing the choir sing these beautiful songs at St. Vitus Church during the Christmas holidays.

You might not believe me, but they are just as good in church, if not a little better than on the CD. I pray I will be able to hear them again on a Sunday afternoon as I have in the past.

If "Sveta Noč" is sung at St. Vitus this year, it will be published in American Home newspaper. So keep your eyes open, and if you can be there that day, do so and treat yourself to the very best.

Jim's Journal

By Jim Debevec



Today's message is written in the wind. There has been a lot of strong wind blowing our way lately, and amazingly, it's not all coming from Washington.

I can't remember when this powerful a wind has descended upon our fair city for such an extended period. It has been blowing, on and off, for almost two weeks.

The fierce wind is coming from the west and it has already blown over three of our evergreen trees. Two of those trees were almost 30 feet tall. The third tree I discovered fallen over in the woods in our back yard. That tree was my special project. It was a "Charlie Brown" evergreen with not too many branches on it. About 10 years ago another powerful wind had knocked it over. I dug a larger hole and replanted the tree. Again it was knocked over. After about 10 attempts, and bracing it from a couple of angles, the tree finally took root again.

Throughout the years, it blossomed by sprouting many branches and became a beautiful sight to see. It's about 20 feet tall now and to discover it fallen over again, nearly broke my heart. Undaunted, I again struggled to lift it to a standing position, and arranged hundreds of pounds of bricks around it to hold the roots in place. Two days later, the wind knocked it down again. Right now I'm letting it rest on its side for a while until the wind subsides.

How strong is this wind? Well, we have learned to walk perpendicular. You pass a football in the air and somebody in Erie, PA has a good chance to catch it. The other day I sneezed, and a few days later I received a post card from Pittsburgh with the words, "God Bless You," written on it. Standing in the blowing gusts makes your knees knock, your teeth chatter, your eyes water, your nose run, and launches your ears to flapping.

I made myself a hot chocolate, carried it outside. When I tried to take a sip, it had metamorphosed into a Fudgesicle. – Clevelanders were talking about visiting the Minneapolis Ice Palace to warm up.

When parking you have to face the car away from the wind so you can open the door, then turn it around so the passenger can get out. You load groceries from the leeward side.

And the noise is like hearing a freight train continually screeching through the neighborhood.

And cold; the wind is so cold it takes your breath away. I thought all the terrible winds were limited to the East Coast, and Chicago

To comfort myself, I think of the people living in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan who get twice the wind, snow and storms that we do. This makes me consider Bishop Baraga and I

am in awe at how he administered to the Indians of

North America during a time when there were no SUVs, no snow-mobles, no super highways with snowplow service, and no gas furnaces. Why the church hasn't declared this man a saint, is a mystery that blows through my mind (and many others) like a bitter Arctic Wind.

Comments: Jim's Journal, 6117 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103, e-mail: ah@buckeyeweb.com

People are always good company when they are doing what they really enjoy.
—Samuel Butler



Left to right, Al Batistelli, Bob Hopkins, Rick Godic, Gary Miller, Jerry Godic.
(Photo by TONY GRDINA)

Dazzling Pre-Thanksgiving Night at Slovenian Home

What a night!

Over 300 persons packed into the Kenik Annex of the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue in Cleveland on Wednesday, Nov. 26 to enjoy a night of outstanding polka music. The list of players and people in attendance could have read from a who's who in the Slovenian polka world. This was the 14th Thanksgiving Eve Jam Session and many in the crowd believed it was the best.

Starting off the night, several of my students and myself put together a recognizable array of razzle-dazzle. By the end of the hour, the Rutar Harmonike were screaming.

Next on the agenda was – the popular "Captain's Crew." Ken Zalar leads the "Crew" and as usual they performed their polished set. Congratulations are in order to Ken Zalar for his Polka Hall of Fame Award for promotion; to the Captain's Crew for their award for Button Box Group, and to Kathy Hlad for her award as best individual musician.

The Pecon orchestra was the next group to bring their unique styling to the ears of those in attendance. The dance floor was packed. The Stan Blout original orchestra

followed. Stan came in from California and performed his magic on the piano accordion.

Joey Miskulin (Riders in the Sky fame) followed with Walter Ostanek (Canada), and Roman Possedi (Las Vegas) who lit up the place. Hank Thunander (Minnesota) and Eddie Rodick (Cleveland) were next on the bandstand and sent the crowd into a frenzy with their dazzling keyboard achievements on the piano accordions.

Bob Kravos and Al Batistelli followed and continued to keep the crowd on a "polka high." The night ended with Al Batistelli doing a set with Stan Blout. It doesn't get any better!

A special thanks to all the side musicians who contributed, especially Dave Wolnik who played the drums for over five hours that night. Also a special thanks to Al Batistelli for supplying the sound system.

We would like to thank Tony Petkovsek and Denny Bucar as well as the American Home for the publicity. What a great start to the Thanksgiving Weekend.

—Robert A. Hopkins,
President

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Life in the Refugee Camps

by ANTON ZAKELJ
translated and edited
by JOHN ZAKELJ

Thursday, Dec. 4, 1947

I made two pairs of slippers, one for Cilka's mother and one for her sister Manica, both of whom are still back in their home in Slovenia. I started working on a pair for myself. It's snowing outside.

Monday, Dec. 8, 1947

The post office was crowded. I mailed Christmas packages to Cilka's mother and sister.

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1947

At 2 p.m., I left by train for the refugee camp at Spittal. I arrived at 7:30. I visited Potocnik's barracks until 11. There were two other people visiting Potocnik, discussing the political situation. One of them had been a higher ranking official in the former Slovenian government and was certain that everything will work out for the refugees. He said, "One evening we will get the word over the radio that the time has come. They will bring us uniforms, weapons and munitions. Just think, 40,000 of us will make a wonderful armada to retake Slovenia." I looked over at Potocnik, who was smiling. I wonder if they were joking.

We don't have 40,000 Slovenians in Austria. And many of us are women, children and old people. God help us if we have leaders like you.

I am staying overnight with Max Petrov and Ani Tavcar. It's so cold I can't sleep.

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1947

This morning I visited Marica Peternej and one of her lacemakers who are helping fill the orders that I obtain in the Judenburg area. Mr. Mavric took me on a tour of the various homecraft workshops in the Spittal camp.

In the afternoon, I talked with Franc Stanonik, who told me how he met his wife, Minka. She was one of the thousands of refugees moving past Trzic in May, 1945. She is a nice, strong young woman.

In the evening, I visited the chapel in the Spittal camp. Even though it's not a holiday, there were many people in the chapel, praying.

After visiting the chapel, I talked with Potocnik from 8 - 11 p.m. He has decided to return to our home village in Slovenia, despite Mr. Mavric's warnings that it will be safer to wait until next Easter, when we will all

be able to return as free people. I advised him to take his chances and return now. I think it's not healthy for him to stay here.

Thursday, Dec. 11, 1947

After a good sleep, I got up at 5 a.m., to catch a train to Villach. From Villach I went to Celovec (Klagenfurt), where I visited some old friends. Then I took a bus to Feldkirchen, where I visited our friends Dora and Tomaz. We stayed up talking until 10 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12, 1947

I caught a train at 6:33 a.m. to St. Veit, where I waited three hours for another train back to Judenburg. I was traveling by myself, and it was boring.

Saturday, Dec. 13, 1947

This evening Cilka told me she is pregnant. This is happy, but worrisome news for me. How will we support a child when we sometimes don't have enough to eat ourselves? I also worry about Cilka - it's not unusual for women to die in childbirth. If she suffers and dies, I feel like it will all be my fault. But she doesn't seem to think about these things. She's just excited and happy.

(To Be Continued)



100 WORDS MORE OR LESS

by John Mercina

"SVETI MIKLAVZ" (St. Nicholas)

In the country of Slovenia from our youth, St. Nicholas Day (Dec 6) was probably the most favorite of all the holidays - for children. Many weeks before Dec. 6, parents would remind their children that St. Nicholas would only bring them goodies if they behaved themselves. As a result, children would be extra good. Children would also be reminded that "angels" and "little devils" would also accompany "Sveti Miklavz" and haul away those that misbehaved. St. Nicholas would bring fruit and food that was not ordinarily available during the rest of the year, and leave it in kid's shoes or caps that were placed near a window just for this occasion. Children hoped that the size of the shoe would determine the number of goodies they would get. Some children would only receive a "whipping stick" - to be used by their parents if the child misbehaved. As a result, some kids obviously feared the evening when St. Nicholas would visit the house, accompanied by "little devils". It would seem that 100 percent of American Home readers must have been good as children since none were taken away by the devil. What a frightening thought. St. Nicholas himself must have been poor since items that he left as gifts do not compare to the varied toys and technical devices that "St. Nick" brings in these modern times. Life was simpler then. Kids and adults alike were happy with small things in life.

Have a wonderful St. Nicholas Day!

Coming Events

Friday, Dec. 5

Dance West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland. Music by Fred Ziwich.

Friday, Dec. 5

Evening with Bishop Pevec, 7 p.m. at Center for Pastoral Leadership, 28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, OH.

Saturday, Dec. 6

Saint Nicholas visits St. Mary's (Collinwood). Short program, 6:30 p.m. by students of Slovenian School, followed by annual visit of St. Nicholas. Refreshments available. All welcome.

Sunday, Dec. 7

St. Nicholas visits St. Vitus Slovenian School children at 3 p.m. in auditorium. Play about St. Nicholas. Adult admission \$6, children free.

Friday, Dec. 12

Dance West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland. Music by Wayne Tomsic.

Sunday, Dec. 14

St. Vitus Altar Society Christmas Party in St. Vitus Auditorium, after 10:30 Mass.

Saturday, Jan. 24

Pristavska Noč at Slovenian National Home, St. Clair, Cleveland.

Sunday, Feb. 1

St. Mary's (Collinwood) Slovenian School annual dinner starting at 11 a.m. Tickets call (216) 381-4591.

St. Nicholas visits St. Vitus children

St. Nicholas visits St. Vitus Slovenian School children on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. in St. Vitus Auditorium.

A play about St. Nicholas will be performed in Slovenian.

Admission is \$6 for adults, children are admitted free of charge.

Everyone is welcome to attend this wonderful holiday event.

Feb. 6, 7, 8

Slovenian Ski Weekend at Windham Mts. Information call John F. Kamin, (212) 691-5553.

Saturday, March 20

Federation of Slovenian National Homes Banquet, Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Ave., Cleveland.

March 27 - April 3

Slovenian Ski Trip 2004 to Lake Louise, Canada. John F. Kamin (212) 691-5551.

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(Never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate virgin, assist me in my necessity. O star of the sea, help me, show me herein, you are my mother, O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven & earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity. (Make request). There are none that can withstand your power, O show me herein, you are my mother. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (Say 3 times) Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (Say 3 times). Thank you for your mercy to me and mine. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days, then you must publish & it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks.

A.S.M.

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HOLIDAY PRINTING SCHEDULE

THERE WILL BE NO AMERICAN HOME NEWSPAPER PRINTED THE WEEK OF CHRISTMAS (DEC. 25). THE NEXT AMERICAN HOME AFTER CHRISTMAS WILL BE DATED JAN. 1, 2004.

THERE WILL BE NO AMERICAN HOME PRINTED THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1.

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SCHOOL DAYS

by JOE GLINSEK

(Continued)

Starting high school at Cathedral Latin, a school for boys on East 107th between Euclid and Carnegie, I was the only one from St. Mary's class of 1943. Most of the boys went to Collinwood High School which was co-ed, free, and within walking distance. My trip to Latin by bus and streetcar averaged an hour and 20 minutes, and almost everyone was a stranger. I recognized a few upper-classmen, but they would have nothing to do with a lowly 'frosch,' even though they knew me from the neighborhood. It was months before they even acknowledged my presence on the streetcar.

There is one particularly vivid memory that really defines my freshman year. Everybody had to take gym class, something we never had at St. Mary's. There were gym shorts and shirts sold in the school bookstore, and these were in the appropriate school colors of purple and gold. In the interest of economy, Mom made my gym shorts by cutting off the legs from an old pair of white pants and neatly hemming the edges. Money mattered - tuition alone was a hefty \$70 a year.

In a canvas valise, Mom packed my shorts, tee shirt, socks and sneakers, along with a brown-bag lunch. Cathedral Latin was a highly accredited Catholic high school that enforced a year-round dress code of shirt and tie with either jacket or sweater; no exceptions, and no air-conditioning. Primarily a 'prep' school, many of the boys came from families of means. The teachers were priests and brothers of the Marianist order augmented by a handful of laymen.

On my first day at gym, I wasn't the only boy without the preferred Latin purple and gold gym outfit, but I was in a small minority. The homemade shorts that came down to my knees were completely unique, and packed with 235 pounds. They made me highly visible: I outweighed most of my classmates by 80 pounds or more. Until we all lined up shoulder-to-shoulder around the perimeter of the gym, I hadn't realized that my shorts were so different; I'd never worn shorts before. But everyone else's ended at mid-thigh. My shame knew no bounds when 'Coach Bill' Belanich first addressed me: "Hey, you with the

droopy drawers!" The snickering all around did nothing for my self-esteem. It was not an auspicious start for my freshman year.

My 'droopy drawers' were not the only reason he noticed me. Cathedral Latin was known for its powerhouse football team, and he was visualizing this fat hunk of beef filling the middle of the line as an obstacle to running backs. Never mind talent or agility, my size alone would be a large plus in the line. At the time, there weren't that many high school players over 200 pounds, and speed was not the first essential of a guard or tackle - football was not the game it is today.

The summer before I started high school, dad had paid the Collinwood Clinic for three 'stitching jobs' and a plaster cast. With bike and playground injuries, it had been an expensive summer for him, and there was no Blue Cross or insurance of

any color to pay the bills; green cash paid the bills. When the letter permitting me to play football arrived for his signature, dad's answer was an unyielding "NO!" Coach Belanich, reluctant to lose a chance at making something of my size, if only as a road block, made a follow-up phone call. It did not change dad's mind.

'Droopy drawers' never played high school football, nor any other sport. I was sort of disappointed, but after learning of the training routine, I was secretly pleased to have avoided the daily physical rigors of after-school practice. And then there would have been a long ride home on the streetcar and bus, followed by a late supper. Worst of all, my after-supper 'dessert' would have been homework and bed-time.

My football 'career' had been nipped in the bud. - tch, tch.

Of all the forces that make for a better world, none is so indispensable, none so powerful, as hope. Without hope men are only half alive. With hope they dream and think and work.
--Charles Sawyer

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Evening With Bishop Pevec

The Slovenian American Heritage Foundation extends a warm invitation to join in the annual Feast of St. Nicholas - Evening with Bishop A. Edward Pevec. This mass and reception will take place at the Bishop's residence at The Center for Pastoral Leadership (Borromeo Seminary), 28700 Euclid Avenue in Wickliffe, Ohio on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m.

This traditional Mass with our beloved Bishop Pevec has become the most perfect beginning to the holiday season. As in years past, the

members of Glasbena Matica - Slovenian Chorus, will lend their beautiful voices, providing music for the Mass, as well as a concert of Christmas Carols.

A reception will immediately follow the Mass in the Rappe Center, which is directly adjacent to the chapel.

Those attending are kindly requested to bring baked goods for the reception. Please drop them off in the Rappe Center prior to the Mass. Everyone is invited to attend what has become a most memorable evening.

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Final deadline for ads in Monday, Dec. 16

Lemont Center Marks 8th Anniversary



Young members of the Slovenian folklore group "Lipa" as they carried up the gifts during Mass: from left, Alena Lavoie, Maria Sovan, Andy Anzelc, Kristina Nyberg, and Lojze Schuck.

All photos by MARKO PUC



Celebration of the 8th Anniversary of the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, Illinois took place on Sunday, Nov. 9. A large crowd attended all the events beginning with Holy Mass celebrated by Franciscan Father p. Krizolog Cimmerman, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in New York City. Fr. Krizolog is seen on the above photo taken in the main hall during the opening blessing.



A group of 10 adorable toddlers made their first stage appearance, dancing with their moms and grandmothers. A few of them were caught by the camera of our photographer, Marko Puc. Left to right: Milena Zerdin, Clara Fellow, Nandi Puc, Eleanor Remec, Grace Puc, Madison Vuksinic, Brian and David Buh, Ivanka Buh, and Max Pecharich.



Marija and Stanley Vlasic



After a sumptuous dinner, guests enjoyed a delightful stage program that included folk dancing, singing and humorous dialogues, "On a Sunday Afternoon Under the Lipa Tree." Pictured are some of the junior folk dancers who performed: Alena Lavoie, Martin Novak, Kristina Nyberg, Lojzek Schuck, Maria Sovan, Andrea Novak, Eric Nyberg, Juliana Lavoie, Rob Zudic; at the extreme right is Mark Cepon who sang the Slovenian and American national anthems.



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Why Slovenia is NOT in the Balkans

AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA, DECEMBER 4, 2003

The modern history books will tell you that Slovenia was part of communist Yugoslavia until 1991, and thus part of the Balkans. You would never guess so from spending a few hours in Ljubljana, Slovenia's pocket-sized capital.

Architecturally, the city looks as though it is waiting for the Austro-Hungarian empire to sweep back and bring the latest gossip from Vienna.

Slovenia is the richest and primmest country in central Europe. It manage to side-step most of the problems associated with post-communism, and most of those associated with the collapse of Yugoslavia, too. Its neighbors in the western Balkans are doing less well. They, and Slovenia, make a study in contrasts.

The Hapsburg heritage helped Slovenia manage its transition well, though the empire had passed almost out of living memory by 1991, argues Rudolf Martin Rizman, a sociologist at Ljubljana University. The empire was a "Rechtsstaat," a state obeying the rule of law. Since the rule of law is usually seen as crucial to the consolidation of democracy in formerly undemocratic countries, it should not be surprising if a country sharing that legacy managed the process better than a country formed in an Ottoman tradition, or in a tsarist Russian one, Mr. Rizman says in a recent paper.

Relative wealth played a big part, too. When Slovenia declared independence in 1991, it was the richest part of Yugoslavia. Its income per person was about \$6,300 a year, similar to the level of wealth at which the demand for democracy has grown irresistible in other societies around the world, from Spain to South Korea.

Other regional powers could scarcely have been more helpful. The EU, emboldened by the success of its single market project, offered a new destiny to all central Europeans that wanted it. Germany was strong enough to push the EU into recognizing Slovenia's independence, and Croatia's, in January, 1992.

Geography has also helped, perhaps most of all. Slovenia presented no target for the ethnic land-grabs of Slobodan Milosevic's Serbia. It had no territorial ambitions to satisfy, and no ethnic schisms to resolve. It could preserve a functioning state throughout its transition, allowing state-building and democracy building to

reinforce one another. In Croatia, by contrast, democracy-building had to wait until the nation-state had been defined and secured through war.

A final factor in Slovenia's favor was the gradual return of its transition. Yugoslavia's pre-Milosevic communists allowed the republics a fair measure of autonomy. In 1987, when Slovenia's liberals called openly for democracy and independence, the local communist leadership let them do so, and the federal

government's attempts to clamp down merely speeded the process.

An American political scientist, Samuel Huntington, has used the term "transplacement" to describe this course: when a strong opposition compels a regime to accept fundamental changes in the political system. It is more radical than a "transformation," when the old regime controls the speed and character of the change, as happened in post-communist Central Asia. But it is less radical than

"replacement," where an opposition is strong enough to sweep the old regime from power, as happened in the Baltic states. It is that rare thing in revolutions, a workable compromise.

All this has enabled Slovenia to escape the "Balkans" altogether, if we define the Balkans by its ethnic conflicts and failed states. But even in the Balkans, some of the news is good these days. "The military are in the barracks. Milosevic is in The Hague, elections are regular," points

out Ivan Krastev, director of a think-tank in Sofia.

The bad news is that the succession of wars has kept most of the region dirt poor. War has meant weak states, and chaotic and violent conditions in which organized crime has taken deep root. Democracy prevails in form, but poverty is its enemy, just as wealth was its friend in Slovenia. Poverty breeds corruption, corruption breeds bad government.

Thanks to Tony Pechaver of Rancho Cordova, CA.

Slovenian Jesuit Artist Reflects on Faith

By CINDY WOODE
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Jesuit Father Marko Ivan Rupnik goes to work in chapels and churches dressed in red overalls. For a time, red also dominated his artwork, but he said maturity has brought a more balanced spectrum.

While vivid reds and rich blues stand out in his mosaics at the Vatican, they are tempered with creamy earth tones and sparkling gold highlights.

The results of his labors as an artist and as leader of an artistic team can be cyber-toured on the Vatican's Web site or studied in his new book, *The Color of Light*.

The 48-year-old Slovenian priest is director of Rome's Centro Aletti, a community of scholars and artists responsible for decorating the Redemptoris Mater Chapel in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace.

Unable to fulfill all of the requests to visit the chapel, which was dedicated in late 1999, the Vatican launched the initial stage of an online tour of the chapel in mid-October.

Access to the tour, which will be beefed up in December — if Father Rupnik meets his deadlines for writing the descriptions the Vatican has requested — is through a banner over the top of the main index on the Vatican site, www.vatican.va.

Photographs of Father Rupnik's mosaics from the chapel and his theological reflection on some of the details of the work also are given space in his new book.

The 285-page book includes close to 200 photographs of paintings, icons, mosaics and even liturgical vestments created by the Jesuit and by the Centro Aletti artists' studio.

Published by the center's Lipa publishing arm, the

book is available in English, Italian, Slovenian and Spanish. While the center seeks a U.S. distributor, the book can be purchased directly from Lipa in Rome.

The book includes some biographical reflections, original poetry, theological reflections, quotations from prominent theologians and the priest's reflections on art.

Acknowledging that the book shares some characteristics of a retrospective of an artist's career, Father Rupnik insisted he was not trying to give the definitive explanation for what he has seen, done and experienced.

"It is not the final summary, but what I have noticed so far," he said.

Two points are key, thus far, he said: God is light and the experience of light is color, and his own movement from being a "solitary painter" to leader of a team engaged in liturgical art has been an important step in learning the Christian meaning of love.

"We are not created for self-affirmation," he said, "but for love; therefore, I cannot put myself, my will, my ideas first."

Even facing the stones for making mosaics or the tubes of oil paints he squeezes on his palette is a lesson in giving way to something other than one's will, he said.

"In order to cut a stone, it is necessary to feel it, necessary to be aware of it, not to be too forceful, simply imposing our will," he wrote.

The Jesuit said he has learned that art cannot be just about himself and the material with which he works.

In his book, Father Rupnik wrote that "slowly I saw, ever more clearly, that my art found its reason for being" when it served the liturgy, "becoming a witness of human sorrow and of God's redemption."



Jesuit Fr. Marko Ivan Rupnik's mosaic at St. Michael's Church in Grosuplje, Slovenia, depicts an angel accompanying Christ in his descent to hell.

Beneath the depiction's of Christ, crucifixes, biblical personalities and ancient Christian symbols, Father Rupnik believes the colors artists choose communicate something of God and of the deepest conversations that take place between God and human beings.

A repeated image in Father Rupnik's paintings and especially in the mosaics he has done for churches and chapels in Italy, France and

Slovenia is a depiction of Jesus reaching into an abyss and pulling out the dead.

Jesus, he wrote, is "not a hero who fights death," but is the one who "descends into our tombs in order to grab us by the wrist" and pulls us from darkness into the light.

Thanks to James M. Cesnik of Leesburg, VA for this article.

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Recalling Ye Olde Collinwood

by JOHN J. LAURICH
(Reprinted from June 13,
1975 by request)

Born and raised in the Collinwood area, I have many vivid memories as far back as the late teens, especially about a section between Saranac Road and Holmes Avenue.

Residents in this area were mostly poor immigrant Slovenian families, striving to make ends meet.

In the summer months every yard was in bloom with roses, snowball bushes, oleanders, etc. Back yard gardens were supplying lettuce, beans, corn, carrots, cabbage, turnips, and other vegetables. Mothers canned sauerkraut, sour turnips, sweet jellies, tomatoes, etc.

Further back in the yard were shanties that sheltered chickens, ducks, pigs and rabbits. They not only supplied food for our tables, but fertilizer for the vegetable gardens from which their own food derived.

After the hogs were fattened, they were slaughtered and dissected by the local butchers. There were six meat shops in the area.

On Saranac Road were Mr. Andrew Mozina, Mr. Joseph Urbancic, Mr. Frank Ivancic, and Mr. Charles Lisjak.

On Holmes Avenue were Mr. Victor Bernot and Mr. John Asseg.

After the butcher completed his job, the family took over. The blood and intestines were used for sausage. Cooked and ground lung and liver were added to the rice, seasoned and stuffed into the casing. Parts of the porker were used in making the ever popular Slovenian Sausage (garlic added) and Zelodec.

The pigs knuckles, snout, ears, and part of the feet were boiled and seeped for hours (spiced), then cooled in soup plates. The result was Zuca, which we now jokingly refer to in English as Slovenian jello. The fat was slowly rendered to lard until all that remained were cracklings. These, too, were used for baking a delicious cverkova potica.

Beverages were also plentiful as the peasants would concoct their own wines from grapes, elderberries and dandelions. Some brewed their own beer, and others stilled the hard stuff.

In those days, Saranac Road received quite an adverse name for itself. When the trolley cars filled with passengers, riding to and from Euclid Beach Park, it would stop at East 152nd Street and Saranac. The con-

ductor would yell, "Raisin Jack Alley," - "Whiskey Boulevard," or insinuations of that nature.

It has been stated that, "In every other house lives a bootlegger and the one between sells the stuff."

Almost every dwelling housed a few boarders. These hard working men not only helped to consume the wines, etc., but also pitched in with the chores, such as house painting, garden spading, rug beating, etc.

Their most welcome assistance came in the fall of the year. There were no gas furnaces so coal was the main expensive fuel. Houses abutting the New York Central yards were conveniently located for obtaining car loads of used railroad ties. The boarder chipped in to cut the logs to furnace fire box lengths. Many families cut up enough wood to last the entire winter.

In our own humble abode, there was no hot water tank or bath tub. Water was heated on a gas double burner, then poured into a čeber (wash tub) for the occasional bath. Electricity was not as yet connected and a small gas pipe jutted from the wall to which a gas mantle was attached, emitting a dim noisy light.

Dirty clothes were boiled in a copper tub, then rubbed on a scrubbing board, so hard at times that a weary and tired mother's knuckles would bleed.

In the early 1900's our families heard nothing of relief, welfare, food stamps and such. Had there been any of these available, our people would be too proud to accept them. Their motto was, "Work for everything you get."

What Kids Played

Baseball, of course, was the favorite, if and when we had a ball to play with. Some kid would get one for a birthday present. It would be batted until the cover was knocked off. Sewn, and re-sewn, then finally friction tape was wound around it. The taped-up ball was also batted until it developed an egg shape and became useless.

Frankie Yankovic and Frank (Stancar) Kapel were good suppliers of baseballs as their parents had more generous boarders.

Other games were "Duck on the Rock," "Marbles," "Tops," "Tiddely" (not winks), "Chubbies," "Follow the Leader," "Leap Frog," "Pump, Pump, Pull Away," "Hide 'n Seek," "Sheeneg," "Snipe Hunt," etc.

If a boy was seen playing

with girls he was branded a sissy. The girls who played in the rougher sports would be called, "Tomboys." Believe me, "You've come a long way, Baby."

At a very young age, my brother and I (Big Ham and Little Ham) were paper boys for Ameriška Domovina. The route extended from two isolated homes across from Glen L. Martin Aircraft (eventually evolved to Lockheed Martin, the biggest US defense contractor) (E. 170th and St. Clair) to Kuhlman Car (East 136th and Aspinwall). Local people can visualize the immense territory covered.

After completing the paper route we'd hurry home, grab a hunk of ham and a piece of home-made bread, then run to the Collinwood Slovenian Home bowling alleys to set pins.

The hall had three lanes. Numbers 1 and 2 were equipped with pull down racks that occasionally worked. Alley 3 had to be set by hand. In those days all stores would close at noon on Wednesday. A group of area businessmen and friends would meet at the hall for an afternoon and evening of strikes and spares.

Many of you readers will recall some of the participants: Messrs. Matt Kastelic, August Svetek, Mike Telich, Anton Baraga, Joe Plevnik, Tony Vidmar, Anton Logar, John Debeljak, Joe Bizjak, Frank Mocilnikar and son Phil, Ray Breskvar, Frank Marzlikar, Kausek brothers, Frank, Joe, Leo and John. There were also Messrs. Bruss, Petrich, Maurič, Ogrin, Jurecic, Sepic, Pozelnik, and others.

Along about that time, the local mailman Lester Novak (of Bohemian descent) saw the possibility of forming a Collinwood Slovenian Home boys band. Mr. Novak was a talented trumpet player and proved well qualified for the undertaking. A group of organizers volunteered to help put it all together. Among them were Mr. Prusnik, Mr. Sega, Mr. Vraneza, Mr. Zalar, and others. They encouraged the parents to enroll their sons. And so the band was formed.

Most of the instruments were purchased ("na poof" of course) from H. N. White Company located at East 53rd and Superior. Prior to obtaining said instruments bandleader Novak would study the features of each lad then suggest which one he should learn.

Band Members:

When formation was completed, the band con-

sisted of 37 eager lads between the ages of 10 to 16. Here follows the entire list of musicians:

TRUMPET SECTION:

Charles Tercek
Frank Perme
Otmar Jevnikar
Joe Strauss
Al Gornik
Joe Vraneza
Frank Baraga
Gus Prusnik
George Močnik
John Bradač

CLARINET SECTION:

John Zurga
Bill Kozel
Vic Sustarsic
Frank Nachtigal
Tony Kastelic
Louis Brezic
Ed Kolar
John Prusnik

TROMBONE SECTION:

John Nainiger
Stan Kozel
Frank Sustarsic
Tony Klun
Tony Yerman
John Mah

BARITONES:

Matt Kastelic
John Perme

SAX:

John Gornick

TUBA:

Jack Strauss
John Rusnov

ALTO HORN:

Bill Kastelic
Tony Boldin
Tony Pizmoht
Frank Perme
John Laurich

DRUMS:

George Vraneza
Tony Perme
Dan Zalar

After many months of hard work and practice, the band was ready for its first concert.

Successful yes, as they were soon after hired for various occasions. One of our first engagements was to play for the grand opening of Grdina Furniture Store on Waterloo Road. As bizarre

as this may seem, we also played for funerals.

The band would gather at East 152nd and Holmes Avenue and await the funeral cars from either the August Svetek or Joseph Zele undertaker parlors. The musicians would lead the cortege to St. Mary's Church for the Mass services. The playing of funeral marches attracted hundreds of mournful spectators.

The band disbanded as the boys grew older.

In the late 1920's, many of the fellows quit school in search of employment. Jobs were available at the A.B. Box Co., Snell Lumber Box Co., and Murray Ohio Mfg. Starting rate for the first two was 35 cents an hour.

After 90 days of productive service, a 2½ cents an hour raise was granted. Wow.

With weekly paychecks coming in, parents permitted their sons to keep later hours. During the winter months, the Collinwood Slovenian Hall held dances most every Saturday and Sunday.

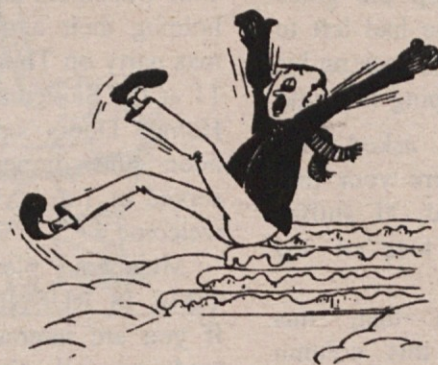
Featured polka bands then were Jackie Zorc, Johnny Grebenc, Kristoff Brothers and a little later, Yankovic and Pecon.

Saturday night weddings lasted until dawn. Two fine button box players were in great demand. They were Rudy Kozel and Frank Schmidt. Pillow dance (an expense fund raiser), would continue for over an hour.

Summer Sunday afternoons and early evenings found many of the same people at the picnic grounds.

Polka dancing was featured at the following: Mocilnikar's Grove (now KSKJ), Pintar's Farm, Stusek's, Strumbly's, Gorisek's, Recher's and others. The bands would play from 1 p.m. until dark.

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8 Mlakar's Walk Down Memory Lane



by RAY MLAKAR

Ray is back and here is hoping all of you had a pleasant Thanksgiving Day celebration and even though maybe the Italian Meatballs Recipe appealed to you, I hope you did not stuff the turkey with meatballs. In time I will give you the recipe for Josephine's Special Turkey Stuffing.

Well, I don't think I want to return to the Walk Down Memory Lane and the December of 1957, so let's hold off for a while. I will tickle your fancy with a good joke. This one you will like and I might add that I dedicate this joke to all the kindergarten and first grade teachers. May they rest in peace. Are you ready?

Did you hear about the Texas teacher's aid who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his cowboy boots? He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boot did not did not want to go on. Finally when the second boot was on, she had worked up a sweat.

She almost cried when the little boy said, "Teacher, they are on the wrong feet." She looked and sure enough they were on the wrong feet. She managed to keep her composure as together they worked to get the boots back on - this time on the right feet. Then he announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to and once again struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner had she got the boots off when he said, "They're my brother's boots, my mother made me wear them."

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry but she mustered up the grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots back on his feet again. Helping him into his coat, she asked him, "Now where are your mittens?" He said, "I stuffed them in the toes of my boots."

Well, with that, this should make this column short and here is hoping Jim Debevec fills in for me. Got to make something for "Happy Harry" (Josie's Cairn Terrier) and another helping of turkey. I am sure that if he never sees turkey again, it won't be too soon. In the meantime May the Good Lord Bless and Watch over all of you. Guess that

sooner or later I am going to have to get back to the Christmas of 1957 with much regret for from that point on, it was all up hill and the hill to Calvary is steep. I know that only too well, and to this day it seems I am still climbing up that hill, some 47 years later and can only hope that God sends his "Simon" to help me the rest of the way.



Can't say my Thanksgiving was a complete loss. Had the Half Turkey but did not roast it. The flu really has me down. Not much of an appetite - period.

After playing with the computer the good part of the day, felt it was time for me to just get out. The roads were deserted to say the least and it was approximately 04:15 p.m., when I went down York Road and past the American Legion, which I had joined a few weeks back. I thought, "Well, I don't know anybody, but will drop in anyhow." There were about a dozen vets there, maybe all lonely souls like myself but little did I realize that they were setting up a Thanksgiving Day Banquet table.

I never seen so much food in my life (not even at my wedding), and the Bar Mistress says, "OK, everybody, don't be bashful. Go on and load up your plates." I really thought I died and was at a banquet that Christ himself had prepared for me. Real turkey with real mashed potatoes, real sweet potatoes, you name it and it was on that banquet table. If that was to be my "last supper" I was now prepared to die.

For a guy who did not

St. Clair Pensioners News

The St. Clair Pensioners Club (members only) will be holding their annual Christmas party on Thursday, Dec. 11 at the Slovenian National Home. Doors open at 12 noon and dinner will be served at 1 p.m. Guests are welcome.

Members please note: **TIME IS RUNNING OUT.** If you are interested in attending, call Sylvia Plymmer (216) 391-9453 for further information.

Middle Age Lady Looking for Job:

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have much of an appetite, I certainly sampled everything they had available. In leaving, I tried to pay them at least \$10. But they said, NO WAY.

The American Legion

always puts on a feast for the men on Thanksgiving. I would have asked for a doggie bag for I knew "Happy Harry" was home waiting for me, but decided against it

and made him a sirloin hamburger when I got home. It was one Thanksgiving I won't forget for if nothing else, the "American Legion" remembered me.

Comments on 'Jim's Journal'

Editor,

Beginning with John Mercina's whisper to Jim, "When you hear hoof-beats, think of them as from horses and not zebras." Right on. I'd rather hear the comforting, rhythmic sound of horses than the fierce sound of zebras hoof-beats since the zebra is a wild horse - also defined as a wild ass! Hmmm. Puts me in mind of the wealthy, political war-crazed "zebras" in the White House who are running it, or is it "ruining" our beloved America.

Jim is correct in his observation that U.S. Treasurer John Snow's job under President Bush is to give us a snow job. The government with \$30 trillion in red ink - billions being spent to rebuild Iraq which we bombed - supposedly to find weapons of mass destruction. (I wonder if WE have any.) Also so that we could bring about democracy in Iraq. Do we really have democracy in our own country when it takes money, money, money, to "buy" the Presidency, or is it Plutocracy, government by the wealthy. In my more cynical moments, I think what we have in America is De Mock Racy. Democracy is defined as government by the people, for the people - rules by the majority.

Jim writes that workers "being in debt during prosperous times is unheard of"... that Americans are taking their cue from the government which is in debt "up to their eyeballs." I also blame the credit card industry and the "Keep up with the Joneses" mentality which is rampant in our country today. The

saddest development has been the permanent loss of jobs for millions of workers - manufacturing jobs which corporations have relocated offshore where they can reap excessive profit by hiring "slave" labor at minimum wages. (If so many people here are without jobs, who will buy the products?)

As Jim wrote, every depression in history has been the result of excessive debt, and he predicts that the next catastrophe will occur in 2005 or 2006 (after the next election). This brought to mind a book published in 1985 by Economics Professor Dr. Ravi Batra titled, "The Great Depression of 1990" in which he wrote that great depressions occur every sixth decade.

In one chapter, he discusses the concentration of wealth and Depression. That the 1930's Great Depression was caused by business mergers - history repeats itself. Batra further writes that eventually people will demand an end to the political dominance of the wealthy, and the beginning of the 21st century will bring on a new socio-economic system which will lead to a future "golden age." That thought is as comforting as listening to horses hoof-beats rather than running like mad to escape the ferocious zebras.

God bless and watch over our troubled America!

--Jennie Mramor
Euclid, Ohio

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

WITH A VISION TO THE FUTURE

St. Vitus Lodge #25 K.S.K.J.



Top Row, left to right, Al Orehek, Treasurer, Joseph Baskovic, President, John Hocevar, Recording Secretary, Joe Hocevar, Vice President; and John Turek, Financial Secretary.
Front Row, left to right, Ralph Prawdzik, Athletic Director, Marty Turek, Auditor, James Debevec, Sgt.-at-Arms, Fr. Joseph P. Boznar, Spiritual Director, and Charles Winter, Auditor. Absent is Auditor Brian Fabo.

Feast of St. Virgil

Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving Day this year) was the feast day of Saint Virgil, an Irish monk who is the patron of Slovenians.

He was the archbishop of Salzburg, who sent missionaries to the area that is now known as Slovenia. This background is found in my missal referenced below. His efforts were apparently successful.

Reference: Dom Gaspar Lefebvre, O.S.B., Saint Andrew Daily Missal, 1952.

--Jim Snyder

"It is not even the beginning of Christmas unless it is Christmas in the heart." - Richard Roberts.

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Circle the following words in the puzzle. They can be arranged horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward.

ANGEL, BELLS, BETHLEHEM, CELEBRATION, CHRISTMAS, COOKIES, HOLLY, JESUS, MANGER, MISTLETOE, NATIVITY, ORNAMENT, PRESENTS, REINDEER, SANTA, SLEIGH, SNOWMAN, STAR, STOCKING, WREATH

C A B L K M B R B S H N C F S
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 W V O N D I V N L I B S R R E
 S Z G K N A E D T L U E I A I
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 N E W R E B S J A E I F M T K
 R C P I E T T G M S R O A I V
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 G C H T A E R W E M D A S T Y
 S N O W M A N P M H A I T A L
 G N I K C O T S Y Q E N A N L
 A N G E L C N H V V K M R U O
 M C N C O T A O R H F Q Q O H

ANSWERS:

- 1) We Three Kings
- 2) The Twelve Days of Christmas
- 3) Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem
- 4) Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- 5) Angels We Have Heard on High.
- 6) O' Come All Ye Faithful.
- 7) Little Drummer Boy
- 8) Walking in a Winter Wonderland.
- 9) Let it Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow.
- 10) God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.

Thanks to Phil Hrvatin for these Christmas songs brain teasers.

I expect to pass through life but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.

--William Penn

Christmas Brain Teasers

Name that Christmas Carol... for instance, the following: "Bleached Yule" would be, "White Christmas."

Can you figure out the rest?

- 1) Our Monarchical Triad
- 2) The Dozen Festive 24 Hour Intervals.
- 3) Minuscule Hamlet in the Near East
- 4) Listen, Aerial Sprites Vocalize Musically.
- 5) Cherubim Providing Audio Input to Us from Aloft.
- 6) Assemble, Everyone Who Loyal Believes
- 7) Vertically Challenged Adolescent Percussionist
- 8) Bipedal Traveling Through an Amazing Acreage During the Period Between Dec. 21 and March 21st in the Northern Hemisphere.
- 9) Allow Crystalline Formations to Descend in Triplicate
- 10) Omnipotent Supreme Being Elicit Respite to Ecstatic Distinguished Males.

St. Nicholas Celebrations

Austria

St. Nicholas, the special children's saint, is honored throughout Austria. It is said that God rewarded Nicholas' generosity by allowing him to return to earth each year to bring gifts to all the good children.

St. Nicholas comes on his feast day, a special holiday apart from Christmas. Some places he comes on St. Nicholas Eve, December 5, and other places on the day itself, December 6.

St. Nicholas (or Nicolo or Niklaus) is dressed as a bishop with flowing robes and a miter. He carried a big book and a bishop's crozier. During the year angels, who sometimes come with him, write children's good and bad deeds in this book.

In Austria a strange and frightening creature, Krampus, is usually with St. Nicholas. This devil figure, often in chains, is dressed in fur with a scary mask and a long red tongue. Krampus carries a wooden stick or switches to threaten children who misbehave or do not know their lessons.

St. Nicholas never lets Krampus harm anyone. In some areas, though, hooligans dressed as Krampus, do cause distressing havoc. When children promise to be good and study hard, St. Nicholas rewards them with a treat. He may come by himself or with angel helpers.

Austrian *Chriskindlmarkt* opens before St. Nicholas Day. There one finds delightful St. Nicholas delicacies - chocolates, marzipan, decorated cookies, even bread shaped like the good saint.

The treats can be very small, just a single wrapped chocolate turned into a handmade little Bishop Nicholas. Spiced *speculatus* cookies are shaped like the saint and Krampus. These are decorated with colored icing, fruit, and nuts.

Children leave shoes for St. Nicholas on the windowsill or outside their bedroom doors. In the morning they find the good saint has filled good children's shoes with oranges, apples, nuts, sweets, and small toys. Of course, all the children are good.

In some towns St. Nicholas proceeds from the church before giving little presents to all the children. Saint Nicholas, and Krampus, may also visit in homes to ask children if they have been naughty or nice and perhaps to recite their prayers. Or the children may simply find treats in their shoes in the morning.

Croatia
 In northern and central Croatia, St. Nicholas (Sveti Nikola) brings gifts to children on his feast day, Dec. 6th. It is the main day for gift-giving.

Even though Christian holidays were out of favor under Communist rule, many families still celebrated privately. On the eve of St. Nicholas Day, children polish their boots until they gleam before placing them on a windowsill to wait for the good saint.



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BEST WISHES

for the

Holiday Season!



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Overweight and Other Problems

by PATRICIA COIL
Euclid Travel

Air travel within Europe in October was a sharp contrast to travel between the United States and England. My family had experienced only a few problems such as tighter security in Newark and packed planes, when traveling back and forth to England. Getting to and from Venice was a real nightmare.

Our difficulties began on our last day in London. We had arranged to be picked up and taken to the airport before our flight to Venice. Unfortunately for us, the driver never showed up and could not be located anywhere. Once we realized he was not coming, we had to make alternate arrangements and wait for that driver.

Instead of getting to the airport in plenty of time to get our British Airlines flight, we got there about 45 minutes before the last flight of the day. If that wasn't bad enough, the ticket agent informed us that our tickets would only allow us to have 50 pounds of luggage and our excess baggage would cost us \$500 a couple.

This was a real shock, since we had never been asked to pay for overweight baggage. Of course our luggage was overweight. We had to pack clothes for two different climates (London in October which is like Ohio,

and the Greek Isles which are like the Caribbean). We had books to read, wine and Coke to drink, and games to play on the cruise.

We were already frazzled from our 70-80 mph ride to the airport and probably looked it. So my daughter and I whined, cried, and appealed to the agent, who grudgingly took pity on us. He said we wouldn't have to pay on this flight, but it would be in the record and we would have to pay on our return flight. The security was tight, but we got through in record time and made the plane.

Now the specter of an additional \$500 affected the rest of our vacation. Every time we would consider buying something to bring home, the first consideration was how much did it weigh. The result was that we purchased very little on this flight.

Before we left the cruise ship for our return flight back to England, we dumped everything that we could think of such as the paperback books, sun screen, and aerosol cans of deodorant, shaving cream, etc. Every-

thing that we could easily replace was thrown out. To lighten the load even more, we each wore our heaviest sweaters and jackets to the airport even though the temperature was in the 70s.

We had not booked the early flight to London because we were afraid we would miss it if the ship docked late. As it turned out we had a five hour wait for our flight. When we got to the airport, my daughter and I stood in line to see if we could go standby on the earlier flight. After a long wait, we discovered we had been standing in the wrong line and had to go to another window. After another long wait we were told that the plane was completely booked and we would have to wait for our original flight.

While my husband and I found a place to sit with the luggage, my daughter and her husband went off to find the VIP club for British Airlines and to make sure their Continental Airline President's Club membership would be honored for all of us.

They never got past the lobby. The attendants did not want us coming in with all our luggage and waiting all day for the plane. Instead they said they could get us seats on the early, supposedly completely booked plane.

We rushed over with our overweight luggage and waited for the boarding passes. They took our luggage, put VIP tags on them, and didn't even weigh them. We never had to pay the \$500 excess baggage fee. What a relief and let down after all that worry.

In addition, they apologized because they had only one seat in business and the rest of us would have to be in coach. My husband got the seat in business.

Because the plane was boarding at that time, we were told to hurry as fast as possible so we would not miss it. Getting through the security checkpoint was nerve wracking. There was no organized line. Just a mob

of Europeans pushing and shoving up to the front. It took us 45 minutes to get through.

You had to go through the final check point with your airline ticket in your hand and your hands above your head; very strange. By the time we got through security we had already heard the last boarding call for the plane. But we raced to the gate anyway, and they did another security check. A shuttle bus took us and three other people over to the waiting plane. We were among the last passengers to arrive. The plane was very late taking off. Many of the already seated passengers gave us really nasty looks while we took our seats.

I dreaded the middle seat, which on British Airways is really small near the front of the plane. The aisle and window seat were the regular size, but the middle one was about 1/3 smaller than normal. I am about average size and my hips were pretty well jammed into the seat. My husband would never have been able to sit down at all.

Even the tray table was small. It had little wings on it that folded down when it was open. The people on either side of me were married, but they didn't offer to switch seats so they could sit together. They weren't stupid. They were probably upset that someone came at the last moment and got that middle seat.

Luckily it was a fairly short flight from Venice to London. A plus was that I did get to see the Alps for the first time.

A great way to minimize travel problems is to deal with a reputable travel agency such as Euclid Travel, which was named Best Business of the Year 2001 by the Euclid Chamber of Commerce. When planning your next trip, call them at 1-216-261-1050 and discover the pleasure of working with agents who know what they are doing and want to make sure your vacation is everything you desire.

Carrot Cookies

1 cup butter
¾ cup sugar
2 eggs
1 cup cooked mashed carrots
2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Mix shortening, sugar, eggs and carrots. Sift flour, baking powder and salt. Blend into shortening mixture.

Drop by teaspoon about 2 inches apart on lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes at 400 degrees, or until no imprint remains when touched lightly. Cool and frost with orange icing.



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Also, we have butter, dairy products, yogurt, white cheese, chocolate cheese balls. In the meat section, we have head cheese, smoked sausages, salami, Greek cheese, goose-liver, smoked hot and cold fish, caviar from Russia. There are bottled pickles and cucumbers, also various teas, including herbal teas. Various candies and jellies. There are also many other imported items that are too numerous to list here.

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Death Notices

GUS R. PETELINKAR

Gus S. Petelinkar, 86, passed away on Friday, Nov. 21, 2003 in Euclid Hospital.

Mr. Petelinkar was born on Aug. 14, 1917 in Cleveland.

Mr. Petelinkar belonged to G.E.P. (General Electric Pensioners), Holmes Avenue Slovenian Pensioners, St. Mary's Catholic Church Seniors, St. Mary's Holy Name Society, St. Mary's Ushers, A.M.L.A. #8. In 1982 Mr. Petelinkar was named Man of the Year for the Collinwood Slovenian Home.

Mr. Petelinkar was a veteran of the U.S. Army during World War II, serving in the European Theater of Operations.

He was employed by General Electric (Lamp Division) as a supervisor for 30 years, retiring in 1972. He was formerly employed by the New York Central Railroad.

He is survived by daughter Mary Ellen Rossi (husband, Mark) of Mentor, OH; a son Richard of Wilmington, NC; granddaughters Mary (husband Mike), Carol (husband Leo); grandsons Ken (wife Cindy), Bob (wife Linda), Ryan, and Michael; great-grandsons Thomas, Colby and Sean; great-granddaughter Lindsay; sister Renee Bonnell; sister-in-law Marion Erjavec; brother-in-law Tony (Oners) Erjavec (wife Betty).

Deceased family: Wife Mary (nee Erjavec); a son, Kenneth; sisters Ann Greecher and Molly Petelinkar.

Friends called at Zele Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St., Tuesday, Nov. 25 from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 9:30 a.m., at St. Mary's Church (Collinwood) Rev. John Kumse, pastor, officiating. Burial in All Souls Cemetery.

ROSE A. RODGERS

Rose A. Rodgers (Grill), 88, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2003 at Gateway Healthcare Center in Euclid, OH. Rose was born on Aug. 12, 1915 in Cleveland, OH.

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She was a 46-year resident of Euclid, formerly of Cleveland.

Rose was employed by the Euclid City School System for 10 years, retiring in 1968.

She belonged to KSKJ, AMLA Lodge #8 Ilirija, Progressive Slovene Women of America, Slovenian Society Home, St. Christine's Ladies Guild, and Holmes Avenue Pensioners.

She is survived by children Thomas F. (wife Nancy) and John L. Rodgers; grandchildren Joseph and Tonya.

Deceased family members are husband Frank G.; sisters Alma Tercek, Frances Erzen, and Helen Yenc.

Friends were received at The Dan Cosic Funeral Home, 28890 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills, OH. Mass of Christian Burial was on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at St. Christine Church in Euclid, OH. Burial in All Souls Cemetery, Chardon, OH.

JOHN ANTHONY OREHEK

John Anthony Orehek, 80, passed away on Friday, Nov. 21st at United Community Hospital in Grove City, PA. He formerly lived in Euclid, OH.

Mr. Orehek was employed at Gould (Graphite Bronze) as a Senior Tool Designer with 40 years of service. He retired in 1987.

Mr. Orehek belonged to K.S.K.J. St. Vitus Lodge No. 25.

He is survived by wife, Florence (nee Sustar); son John (wife Paula) of WA; daughters Claudia (husband Bill), Sigmund of Grove City, PA and Cynthia (husband Ken) Zajackowski; grandsons Barrett, Brent, Michael and Matthew; granddaughters Lauren, Alyssa and Rachel; and a brother Albin (wife Betty).

A brother, Fred, is deceased.

Friends were received at Zele Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St., Monday, Nov. 24 from 4 - 8 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial was on Tuesday, Nov. 25 in St. Vitus Catholic Church in Cleveland. Burial in All Souls Cemetery.

Donation

Thanks to the Stajerski-Primorski Klub for their magnificent \$100.00 donation.

Remembering Brother Lawrence

Brother Joseph Lawrence, OCSO, age 74, was a Trappist Monk for 53 years, died on Monday, Oct. 27, 2002 in Moncks Corner, SC at Mepkin Abbey.

He was a graduate of Collinwood High School in 1946 and joined the U.S. Marine Corps that same year. He reached the rank of Private First Class and was honorably discharged in 1948.

After entering the Poor Brothers of St. Francis in

Cincinnati on July 10, 1949, he went to the Trappist Abbey of Gethsemany near Bordstown, KY. In August, 1952, he traveled to Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner, SC. He transferred Stability of Simple Vows on Sept. 8, 1953 and Solemn Vows on Nov. 1, 1956. He was part of the woods team, loaded the egg truck, and was director of the laundry for the community and guests.

He corresponded faithfully with friends of the



community. Very frequently, I wrote to him and he would write back verses from the bible that were always what I needed to hear at that moment.

In April, 2002 he became ill and was in the Senior Wing until he passed away. His brothers cared for him around the clock at this time. His funeral and interment were at Mepkin on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2002 at 10:30 a.m.

As of note, Claire Booth Luce, ambassador for many years to Luxemburg for the USA, and her husband, owner of the Time Building in NYC, donated 25,000 acres for the Mepkin Abbey. They were devout Catholics and are both buried at Mepkin Abbey.

--Albina M. Zimmerman
Euclid, Ohio.

In Loving Memory



Ella Skoda

Died Dec. 4, 2000

Your memory to us is a keepsake.

With which we will never part.

Though God has you in his keeping,

We always have you in our heart.

Sadly missed by:

Husband: Frank

Son: Frank,

Daughter:

Charlotte Clebenger,

Son-in-law:

Wayne Clebenger,

Grandson: Patrick,

Granddaughter: Lisa

sister: Ann Bouha

In Loving Memory

The 8th Anniversary of the death of our beloved Mother, Sister, Aunt, Great-Aunt, and Grandmother



Josephine "Pep" Flaisman

Died Dec. 1, 1995

Though her smile is gone forever

and her hand we cannot touch

We will always have happy memories

of the one we loved so much.

Missed by:

Sons - Alan and Aldon

Daughter - Alana Wallin

Sister - Sylvia Plymesser

Son-in-law - Robert

Daughter-in-law Karla

and Grandchildren

In Memory

Thanks to Agnes Flanders of Yukon, PA who renewed her subscription and added a \$15.00 donation in memory of Albina Mrsnik. Agnes writes, "Enjoy reading your paper immensely. Thank you so much."

In Memory

Thanks to Veronica Maurer of Wickliffe, OH who renewed her subscription and added a \$30.00 donation in memory of loved ones John and Vera Benchina, and Daniel and John Maurer.

Kindness is the golden chain by which society is bound together. --Goethe

St. Nicholas

visits St. Mary's

St. Nicholas will be visiting St. Mary's parish (Collinwood) on Saturday, Dec. 6th. The Slovenian School children will present a short play at 7 p.m. in the school hall, followed by a visit from the saint himself.

Parents who wish to meet with Sveti Miklavz should come to the outside stage entrance between 6 and 7 p.m.

Cemetery Lots

3 lots in Garden of Gethsemane, section 3, lot #36 B, units 1, 2 and 3 in Eastlawn Memorial Gardens, Brunswick, Ohio. Sell together or separate. \$800 each.

318-347-7607

Rudy Konchan

March 06, 1908 - December 07, 1989



Dad: December 07 is the 14th Anniversary of your passing. Not a day goes by that we don't remember you and wish you were here. You would be very proud of your family and grandchildren. I have just visited your family's village of Butanjeva in Slovenia. I also visited Ellis Island and saw where your father and relatives landed in America. Thanks for everything you gave us and thanks for the memories left behind.

Your loving wife and son...
Mom and Jimmy

Nice weather, specially this far into November, brought 175 members and a guest to the meeting. We have 70 hopefuls waiting in the wings, and 110 honorary members. If everyone showed up, the walls would burst.

After Pledge of Allegiance, we paid silent respect to Frances "Honey" Tomle; may she rest in peace.

No Sunshine report this month: Ann Eichler was absent, because she is caring for her sick sister. Heard on the grapevine that Rose Silva is under doctor's care, and Gus Petelinkar is back in ICU. Get-well wishes to everyone.

On a happier note, we sang Happy Birthday to quite a few members; November was a fruitful month...

Happy Anniversary wishes go to Dorothy and Bob Edmiston, 49 yrs; Theresa and Ed Petric, 49 yrs; Lillian and Hank Pugel, 55 yrs; and Phyllis and Al Tomsic, 45 yrs. May you celebrate **MANY** more!

Mary Lou Sullivan from Tri-C spoke about many classes offered to seniors, to keep our mind fresh and active. Nov. 21 is (was) designated "Guest Day", where one could check out a variety of classes at no cost. A class session worth \$69.00 was raffled off, and Lillian Homar was the lucky recipient. **Thank you, Mary Lou,** for an interesting presentation. By the way, Mary Lou is the daughter of proud mama Ruthie Hribar. Speaking of luck and win-

ning: some big pots were won by several Kewadin trippers!!!! That IRS doesn't miss a trick - gotta fill out forms right away. It was a fun trip for most; too bad Ronnie Pestotnik suffered a broken leg in a fall. She needed surgery, and had to be hospitalized. Of course, Al wasn't about to leave her by herself. We were all sorry we had to return home without them. What a bummer... Heard they are back home, but Ronnie still needs to recuperate. Get well soon!

Fran Kajfez says this was our last trip this year, but Windsor Casino is planned for spring. Watch your monthly bulletin. If you have any trip suggestions, tell Fran and Matt Kajfez, or drop a line in the suggestion box, if you're shy...

Remember, Christmas dinner and party December 10; if you don't get your ticket before Dec. 2, you're out of luck.

Many thanks to Myra Jerkic and Irene Gulick, her helper of the month, for another job well done! The 50-50 raffle just about covers refreshment expenses for our meetings. This month we feasted on a marvelous variety of pastry; who cares to count calories at our age??? Love handles can be fun... Besides, if cookies are broken, all calories run out.

Hope everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving weekend!

H.W.



Left to right, Rev. Paul Krajnik, 60th anniversary celebrant Father Victor Cimperman, Bishop A. Edward Pevec, and pastor Rev. Joseph P. Boznar, in St. Vitus Church at the conclusion of Fr. Cimperman's 60th anniversary Mass on Sunday, Nov. 16.

(Photo by TONY GRDINA)

Krofe Sale

St. Vitus Altar Society will hold a krofe and noodles sale on Saturday, Dec. 13 in the auditorium social room.

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joy, happiness

peace and

good will



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Ray Mlakar's Corner:

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember when...

Postal cards cost 2 cents?

First class stamp cost 3 cents?

Air Mail stamp cost 7 cents?

Bread: 16 cents a loaf?

Gasoline, 29 cents a gallon?

Min. wage was 75 cents an hour?

Milk was 94 cents a gallon?

Paul Revere 11-piece sauce-pan set cost \$39.95?

Coronado 9 cubic foot refrigerator: \$199.00?

Chevrolet Corvette = \$3,498.00?

Average income was \$4,706.00 a year?

A house cost \$17,400.00?

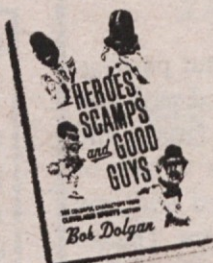
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— Vesti iz Slovenije —

Slovenska ljudska stranka zelo pridobila na popularnost po svojem kongresu

Največja sprememba v novembrskem Politbarometru (javnomnenjska raziskava, ki jo plačuje vlada, 1002 udeležencev) je skok SLS. Ljudska stranka je dobila kar 11 odstotkov podpore, ko je v oktobru (te raziskave so opravljene mesečno) imela 6 odstotkov. S tem se je SLS prebila na drugo mesto od vseh strank – LDS 24%, SDS 9%, ZLSD 6%, NSi pa 5%. Vlado je podprla 49% (v oktobru 43%), pri politikih je predsednik državnega zbora Borut Pahor prehitel predsednika Slovenije Janeza Drnovška in tudi premiera Antona Ropa.

Volitve slovenskih poslancev za evropski parlament bodo 13. junija 2004

Volitve sedmih slovenskih poslancev za evropski parlament bodo v nedeljo, 13. junija 2004. Na vsako poslansko mesto bo prišlo 291.023 prebivalcev. Stranke lahko kandidirajo z listo sedmih kandidatov s podpisi 4 poslancev ali s podpisi tisoč volilcev, volilci pa morajo za listo zbrati 3000 podpisov. Volilna kampanja se bo sicer uradno začela 13. maja in končala 24 ur pred volitvami, neuradno pa se je kampanja seveda že začela. Volitve za novo štiriletno mandatno dobo državnega zbora bodo verjetno novembra 2004.

Janez Drnovšek se srečal z veleposlanikom ZDA Johnnyjem Youngom

Predsednik Janez Drnovšek in veleposlanik ZDA Johnny Young sta odnose med Slovenijo in ZDA ocenila kot dobre. Young je izrazil zadovoljstvo s tem, da je Slovenija poslala sicer številčno manjšo vojaško enoto v Afganistan. Pozdravila sta tudi odlok

predsednika Georgea Busha, po katerem je Bush zamrznil prepoved o vojaški pomoči šestim članicam Mednarodnega kazenskega sodišča (Slovenija je ena teh držav), ki ne priznavajo nedotakljivosti ameriškim vojakom. Slovenija bo tako dobila dva milijona dolarjev za opremo za odkrivanje kemične in biološke nevarnosti ter za vojaško izobraževanje in urjenje. (gl. str. 18)

Janez Stanovnik na čelu Zveze borcev

Zvezo združenj borcev NOV bo odslej vodil Janez Stanovnik, ki je nasledil dolgoletnega predsednika, bivšega generala Ivana Dolničarja. Kakor je dokazal z daljšim člankom v nedavni Sobotni prilogi Dela, Stanovnik še vedno strogo zagovarja tradicionalno borčevsko oz. partijsko razlago medvojnne zgodovine.

Muslimanci zasedli halo Tivoli ob koncu verskega meseca ramadana

Za muslimanski bajram oz. konec enomesečnega posta se je v dvorani Tivoli zbralo k molitvi več kot 4000 muslimanov iz vse Slovenije (v državi jih je menda 47 tisoč vernikov). Mufti Osman Đogić je izrazil pričakovanje, da se bo končno premaknilo pri gradnji verskega središča v Ljubljani, vrednega ok. 10 milijonov dolarjev. O tem naj bi se ljubljanski mestni svet odločil prihodnji ponedeljek, 8. decembra.

Vatikanski sporazum skladen z ustavo

Tako se je končno in soglasno odločilo Ustavno sodišče Slovenije. Zadevo so sodniki prejeli v presojo že 24. januarja 2002, torej vzelo je polnih 22 mesecev za odločitev, ki je vendarle bila soglasna. Več v dopisu na str. 16.



SPOŠTOVANJE ZAKONA ALI SODNA FARSA – Na sodišču v Murski Soboti so 32-letnega Tomija Slugo iz Gornje Radgone obsodili na štiri mesece ječe, pogojno za dve leti, ker je ogrozil varnost predsednika Georgea Busha. Sluga je namreč Beli hiši 20. maja 2001 po elektronski pošti poslal sporočilo: "Predsednik, rešite Zemljo, vi riti, ubili vas bomo v Ljubljani. Dobrodošli." Sluga se je branil, da je bil opit in da se je šalil, spregledal pa je, da je za take "šaljivce", ki ogrožajo osebe pod mednarodnim varstvom, predvidena kazen od enega do 10 let ječe. V pravniških krogih sta nasprotujoča si tabora, ali gre za sodno farso ali za spoštovanje zakona. Na fotografiji je tkim. "teroristična kuhinja", ki je bila 21. novembra postavljena pred stavbo ljubljanskega sodišča. Organizatorji so se oblekli kot domnevni teroristi v podporo Slugi, prinesli so mizo, plinsko jeklenko, kuhalnik itd. Nabirali so tudi prispevke, da bi obsojencu pomagali kriti menda precejšnje sodne stroške. Da bi bila zadeva še bogatejša, je oče obsojenca do svojega protestnega odstopa služil kot sodnik porotnik v Murski Soboti. Časopisno poročilo dodaja, da protestniki niso imeli veliko obiskovalcev in tudi prispevkov ne.

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Večer s škofom Pevcem—

Jutri zvečer ob 7. uri se bo pričel že tradicionalni večer s škofom A. Edwardom Pevcem, ki ga prireja Slovensko ameriški kulturni svet, to v centru za pastoralno vodstvo oz. Borromeo semenišče na 28700 Euclid Ave. v Wickliffu. Škof Pevce bo daroval mašo, glasbeno ga bo spremljal zbor Glasbena Matica, ki bo po maši podal še koncert božičnih pesmi. Maša in koncert bosta v kapeli, sledil bo sprejem v Rappe dvorani. Javnost je vabljen, vsotopnine ni. Dobrodošli bodo pa prispevki peciva za sprejem. Odločite se in pridite na vedno lep večer.

Miklavževanji—

To soboto, 6. decembra, vas vabi Slovenska šola pri Mariji Vnebovzeti na miklavževanje, ki se bo pričelo zv. ob 6.30. Učenci bodo podali igrico, nato jih bo obiskal in gotovo razveselil sv. Miklavž. Vabljeni.

Slovenska šola pri sv. Vidu pa priredi miklavževanje to nedeljo popoldne ob 3h, v farni dvorani. Lahko boste kupili tudi domače krofe. Javnost lepo vabljen.

Zadnji letošnji AD—

Naš list bo v letošnjem letu izšel še dvakrat in sicer 11. in 18. decembra. Na božični dan, tj. 25. decembra, ne bo izšel, bo pa pozdravil novo leto, kajti je tudi 1. januar 2004 četrtek.

Božični oglasi—

Zadnji dan je prejem božičnih oglasov je ponedeljek, 15. decembra.

Popust za nove naročnike—

Še vedno poteka kampanja za nove naročnike, ki bo trajala ali do 19. decembra ali pa do takrat, ko bomo dosegli številko 30 v tej kampanji.

Božičnica—

Oltarno društvo fare sv. Vida ima božičnico v nedeljo, 14. decembra. Vse podrobnosti v dopisu na str. 14.

Pravočasno za praznike—

Naprodaj so zelo okusni jabolčni in sirovi zavitki oz. štrudelnji. Vsaka stane le \$6. Za naročitev in vse podrobnosti, kličite 216-392-7191.

Krofi in rezanci—

Oltarno društvo fare sv. Vida ima prodajo krofov in rezancev v soboto, 13. decembra, v društveni sobi ob običajnem času.

Spominski darovi—

G. John in ga. Silvija Klopčič, Parma, O., sta darovala \$25 v podporo našemu listu, v spomin sina Johna Yesenko. Veronica F. Petrič, Euclid, O., je darovala \$15, v spomin očeta Johna Petrič. Ga. Antonia Topolnicki, Garfield Hts. O., je darovala \$20, v spomin staršev Josepha in Antonije Rolih. Ga. Emma Simončič, Willoughby Hills, O., je darovala \$25, v spomin svakinje Mary Črtalič. Ga. Albina Cendol, Willowick, O., je darovala \$10, v spomin Paole Rijavec. Iskrena zahvala vsem.

Novi grobovi

Rose A. Rodgers

Dne 22. novembra je umrla 88 let stara Rose A. Rodgers iz Euclida, rojena Grill v Clevelandu 12. avgusta 1915, vdova po Franku, mati Thomasa in Johna, 2-krat stara mati, sestra Alme Tercek, Frances Erzen in Helen Yenc (vse že pok.), članica AMLA št. 8, KSKJ, Progresivnih Slovenk Amerike, SDD na Recherjevi ulici, Kluba upokojencev na Holmes Ave. in Ilirije. Pogreb je bil 26. novembra v oskrbi Cosicevega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Kristine in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Gus Petelinkar

Umril je 86 let stari Gus Petelinkar, vdovec po Mary r. Erjavec, oče Richarda, Mary Ellen Rossi in že pok. Kennetha, 6-krat stari oče, 4-krat prastari oče, brat Renee Bonnell ter že pok. Ann Greecher in Molly, veteran 2. svetovne vojne, v kateri je služil v ameriški vojski, član DNJ pri Mariji Vnebovzeti in več drugih farnih organizacij, AMLA št. 8, Kluba upokojencev na Holmes Ave., leta 1982 izbran za moža leta Slov. doma na Holmes Ave. Pogreb je bil 26. novembra v oskrbi Želetovega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi Marije Vnebovzete in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

John A. Orehek

Umril je 80 let stari John A. Orehek, rojen 1. februarja 1923 v Clevelandu, mož Florence, roj. Sustar, oče (dalje na str. 20)

PAVLE BORŠTNIK

Perry, Ohio

Dve novi knjigi

Slovenski prevod Metodove knjige

Menda vsak med nami ve, kaj imam v mislih. Knjiga, ki jo je napisal Metod Milač in je lani izšla v angleškem jeziku, je zdaj doživela tudi slovenski prevod in bo torej dostopna vsem, ki morda ne obvladajo angleščine do zadostne mere.

"Prevalje," piše Metod, "kjer sem se rodil, niso znane po tem, da bi privlačile obiskovalce od daleč zato, ker bi se kdo navduševal nad njimi..." Ah, ampak to je bilo pred skoraj 80 leti. Danes so Prevalje lahko za zgled, kako so ljudje v tem slovensko-koroškem kraju pravilno zaznali, da je iz njihovega okolja izšla nenavadna, tragično-triumfalna usoda, ki jo je nosil – Metod Milač.

S skoraj rekordno naglico namreč, je tamkajšnje kulturno društvo "Mo-

horjan", katerega predsednik je Jožko Kert, našlo ne le prevajalca iz angleščine – Jožeta Plešeja, temveč tudi zagotovilo finančna sredstva, da je knjiga izšla v založbi Celjske Mohorjeve družbe v uredništvu Igorja Bahovca in Tadeje Petrovič Jerina. Knjigo je lektorirala Marjana Lavrič, opremil pa Jure Kocbek. Rezultat dela daje čast ne le založnikom, temveč seveda in predvsem – avtorju samemu. Posebej je treba omeniti tudi številne fotografije, ki jih v angleškem originalu ni.

Za razliko od tega, ki je izšel pri newyorški založbi Peter Lang in je že po zunanji obliki knjiga, namenjena študiju, se pravi ljudem, ki raziskujejo pojave in dogodke med drugo svetovno vojno, je slovenski prevod

pripravljen na reprezentativen način in bo zato gotovo odgovarjal vse širšim krogom, predvsem, seveda, slovenskim.

V prevodu tudi nosi nov oziroma drugačen naslov: "Kdo solze naše posuši" (iz Metodove kantate "Pozdravljena zemlja"), medtem ko je originalni angleški naslov vključen kot podnaslov. Spremno besedo je napisal dr. Janez Rotar.

Knjiga je bila slovenski javnosti predstavljena 5. novembra letos, v knjižnici Škofijske klasične gimnazije v Šentvidu nad Ljubljano, kjer je Metod sam nekoč "trgal hlače". Predstavili so jo prof. Justin Stanovnik, dr. Peter Vodopivec, mag. Tine Golež in predstavniki Mohorjeve družbe.

Vsebina, kot vemo, nakazuje najusodnejše leto Metodovega življenja, ki ga je zaznamovalo za vse čase in se vključuje v mozaik slovenske in svetovne groze našega stoletja. (Preveč je eno samo življenje, pravi dr. Rotar.)

Odmev, ki ga je angleški original dosegel v akademskih krogih (eno merilo je morda v dejstvu, da si je zunanji minister dr. Dimitrij Rupel v času najhujšega pritiska v zvezi z vstopanjem Slovenije v NATO, vzela čas, da je knjigo ne le prebral, temveč napisal tudi značilno recenzijo), je vsakakor spodbuden tako za avtorja, kot za vse, ki si prizadevajo, da bi resnica o dogajanju v zasedeni Sloveniji, neokrnjena prodrla v svet.

Samo to: resnica brez pretiravanja, brez skrivenčenega tolmačenja dogodkov, brez maščevalnosti, pa z veliko vero v lastni narod, upanja v njegovo lepšo prihodnost in ljubezni do vsega, kar je – slovensko.

(Prodaja Metodove knjige v ZDA še ni urejena, zaenkrat jo je možno nabaviti pri Mohorjevi družbi v Ljubljani, Poljanska cesta 4.)

Pavle Rant: *To sem bil*

Zasebna založba, Buenos Aires, 2003, 300 strani

Te knjige pravzaprav ni napisal Pavle Rant, slovenski časnikar v Argentini, ker je že vrsto let mrtev, temveč je njegovo korespondenco z različnih

področij zbral in uredil njegov brat Jože, kot zanimiv dokument "našega" časa. Jože Rant ji je dal namreč podnaslov: "Prispevki z zgodovini slovenske politične emigracije."

Vsako pisanje, ki nekaj doprinese bodisi "zgodovini politične emigracije" bodisi splošnemu pregledu dogodkov na Slovenskem med drugo svetovno vojno in po njej, je treba pozdraviti in ta načelna ugotovitev velja tudi za Rantov prispevek. Moti pa način, kako je to izvedel. Pisem, ki jih je pokojni Pavle Rant pisal ali prejemal, namreč ne podaja v celoti, temveč okrajšana in tu in tam opremljena z njegovim (Jožetovim) lastnim komentarjem, kar pa ni vselej jasno razvidno.

Pavle Rant je bil poznan predvsem kot urednik argentinskega *Vestnika*, glasila Zveze borcev, prav v času, ko je v njej prišlo do preloma. V resnici bi mu lahko napravili celo odgovornost za ta razcep, ker se je uprl volji Konzorcija tega časopisa in objavil določene članke, ki jih je Konzorcij zavrnil.

Ne bi kazalo stvari pogrevati po vseh teh letih in zbuhati slabo voljo med nami. Gre pa za zanimivo čtivo, predvsem še, ker se iz nekaterih pisem kažejo skoraj neverjetne netočnosti (tu in tam bi lahko govorili celo o lažeh), ki so jih zagrešili protagonisti, predvsem v Buenos Airesu.

Drug zanimiv aspekt je v dejstvu, da je v knjigi ponatisnjena cela vrsta pisem, ki jih je Pavletu Rantu pisal minister dr. Miha Krek. Znano je namreč, da o njegovem arhivu ni sledu, odnosno, da je sam (tudi v knjigi je to potrjeno), zapisal, da nima skoraj "ničesar". Iz pisem, ki jih navaja Jože Rant, pa bi se moglo sklepati, da je nasprotna stran ministra Kreka morda preostro sodila in da ni bil SLABO informiran o položaju v domovini, temveč, da ga sploh ni razumel, kar tudi sam potrjuje v nekaterih pismih.

In tretja zanimivost, ki prihaja človeku na misel ob prebiranju te knjige, je izrazita podobnost med položajem v emigraciji, recimo v drugi polovici

(DALJE na str. 15)

Članicam Olt. društva sv. Vida

CLEVELAND, O. – Vse članice Oltarnega društva sv. Vida ste lepo vabljenje, da pridete na našo božičnico, ki bo v nedeljo, 14. decembra, v šolski dvorani sv. Vida. Kar na koledar si zapišite, da ne boste pozabile. Še posebej ste vabljenje vse tiste, ki ste bile sprejete v članstvo v zadnjem letu in bo to vaša prva božičnica z nami. Priliko boste imele se srečati z vsemi sočlanicami.

To naj bi bil dal oddiha za nas, v družbi prijateljev. Saj drugače moramo vedno samo hiteti. Ta dan bo pa lepo miren in sproščen v res lepi družbi.

K sv. maši bomo šle ob pol enajstih, takoj nato pa v šolsko dvorano. Č.g. Jože Božnar bo blagoslovil jaslice in s petjem lepi božičnih pesmi se bo pričela naša božičnica.

Za prigrizek bo vse poskrbljeno. Obujali bomo spomine na preteklost. Imele bomo žrebance in bo vsak tudi najmanjši dar hvaležno sprejet.

Pridite torej v čim večjem številu. Zelo vas bomo vesele. Pripeljite s seboj tudi prijateljico, čeprav še ni članica v našem društvu. Vsaka bo dobrodošla.

Vsem bolnikom želimo hitro okrevanje. Molimo pa tudi za njih zdravje. Vsem želimo blagoslovljene božične praznike v veliko zdravja v prihajajočem letu 2004. Enako pa seveda velja vsem vsam, ki čitate te vrstice.

Ivanka M.

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Deseta obletnica ustanovitve Škofijske klasične gimnazije

Ljubljana – Spomin na deseto obletnico ustanovitve ŠKG v Zavodu sv. Stanislava 13. novembra je obsegal mašo v župnijski cerkvi sv. Vida ter akademijo s pestrim programom, ki je zarisoval podobo zavodovih ustvarjalnih dejavnosti.

Škofijska klasična gimnazija 1993 – 2003 je pokazala, da je naslednica prve in edine slovenske popolne gimnazije, da izobrazuje in vzgaja mlade rodove na krščanskih temeljih, trdnih in zanesljivih, stoletja preizkušenih moralno etičnih načelih.

To je bilo tudi izhodišče skoraj vseh govornikov, ki so se zvrstili na večernem slavnostnem shodu v športni dvorani Zavoda sv. Stanislava. Saj je v Sloveniji dandanašnji veliko gimnazij, vendar je ŠKG popolnejša zaradi pouka klasičnih jezikov (latinščine in grščine), predvsem pa zaradi predmetnika z veroukom, ki se s šolskim letom 2003/2004 imenuje **vera in kultura**.

Direktor zavoda dr. Anton Jamnik ter njegov predhodnik prelat dr. Borut Košir sta na večerni prireditvi odstirala v pogled v vnovično oživiljanje Jegličeve stavbe ter z njo povezanega poslanstva prve slovenske gimnazije in drugih enot Zavoda sv. Stanislava. Pohvalno se je o desetletnem delovanju gimnazije v svojem nagovoru izražal tudi dr. Slavko Gaber, minister za šolstvo, znanost in šport.

Kaj dijaki zmorejo, so med drugim pokazali pri maši v župnijski cerkvi sv. Vida (komorni dekliški zbor ŠKG – Missa Nona Gyorgyja Orbana) in pri akademiji, kjer so razni pevski zbori dovršeno nastopili pod vod-

stvom profesorja glasbe Damijana Močnika. Nastopili so tudi učenci Glasbene šole; orkester je vodil prof. Marko Hribernik.

Gimnazija je v desetletju prehojene poti dajala enega osrednjih poudarkov: skoraj polovica dijakov poje v šolskih pevskih zborih – dekliškem, komornem, mešanem, ki združeni nastopajo pod imenom Pevski zbor "Matija Tomc".

Poleg glasbe so zaznane še druge znamenitosti: glasilo Kažipot, Domače vaje, občasne publikacije (zbornik simpozija, zgoščenka Nove orgle, Še vedno živo drevo), zbornik Megaron, ki vsebuje podatke o gimnaziji (letos je vpisanih 678 dijakov, doslej jih je uspešno opravilo maturo 1043, od tega je bilo 116 zlatih maturantov) in drugih enotah, predvsem o življenju in delu v enem šolskem letu, o dejavnostih in uspehih dijakov.

Priznanja najboljšim prve in druge stopnje sta na slavnostnem večera podelila direktor dr. Anton Jamnik in nadškof dr. Franc Rode. Odličje sv. Cirila in Metoda – najvišje priznanje, ki ga podeljuje Slovenska škofovska konferenca – pa je nadškof Rode podelil ravnatelju šole prof. Jožetu Mlakarju; proustanavljanju gimnazije (pripravi programa, učnih načrtov, vstopanju v mednarodna združenja šol) je Mlakar izpolnil pomembno poslanstvo. ce

Družina, 23. nov. 2003



Ustavno sodišče Slovenije se opredelilo...

Sporazum Slovenija-Sv. sedež ni v neskladju z ustavo

Ljubljana – Vatikanski sporazum oziroma pet členov tega sporazuma, ki jih je na zahtevo vlade presodilo ustavno sodišče, ni v neskladju z ustavo. Vendar soglasno sprejeto mnenje ustavnega sodišča o sporazumu vsebuje interpretativno odločitev o 1. členu, ki je ključnega pomena tudi za presojo drugih določb sporazuma.

Citirani člen pravi: "Slovenija in Sveti sedež potrujeta načelo, da sta država in Katoliška cerkev, vsaka v svoji ureditvi, neodvisni in samostojni in se zavezuje k polnemu spoštovanju tega načela v medsebojnih odnosih in k sodelovanju pri napredku človekove osebe in skupnega dobrega. Katoliška cerkev v Sloveniji deluje svobodno po kanonskem pravu, v skladu s pravnim redom Republike Slovenije."

Člen ima po ugotovitvi ustavnega sodišča dve možni interpretaciji o delovanju Cerkve na tako imenovanih mešanih področjih, kot so vzgojna, karitativna, socialna, gospodarska, zdravstvena dejavnost. Besedilo bi bilo namreč mogoče razumeti tudi tako (tudi zaradi večje v drugem stavku), da je Cerkev dolžna delovati v skladu s pravnim redom Slovenije samo na tistih področjih, ki jih sama šteje za posvetne zadeve. Taka razlaga ne bi bila skladna s slovensko ustavo.

Druga razlaga, ki je ji je bližje originalno italijansko besedilo sporazuma, pa je, da sporazum Katoliški cerkvi dopušča delovanje v skladu s kanonskim pravom na t. i. mešanih področjih, dokler to delovanje ne trči ob slovenski pravni red. Od tod naprej pa bo tudi Katoliška cerkev pri svojem delovanju spoštovala slovenski pravni red.

V prid tej drugi razlagi citira ustavno sodišče pravila dunajske konvencije o pogodbenem pravu, ki ga je podpisal in ratificiral tudi Sveti sedež, in dokumente Katoliške cerkve, iz katerih izhaja, da tudi Katoliška cerkev razume svojo neodvisnost in samostojnost in s tem

razmerje do države kot dinamični proces, ki upošteva različnost dravnih ureditev, in se je pripravljena prilagajati veljavnemu pravnemu redu države, v kateri deluje.

Če določbi 1. člena sporazuma razlagamo tako, potem ga ni mogoče razumeti drugače, kot da bo Katoliška cerkev pri svojem delovanju na t. i. mešanih področjih spoštovala slovenski pravni red. Pri tem pa ima pravico, da v okviru tega pravnega reda in z ustavnopravno dovoljenimi sredstvi (mednje sodi tudi prizadevanje za spremembo ustavnih določb), deluje v smeri uresničitve svojih ciljev in poskuša z državo doseči sodelovanje na mešanih področjih.

Tako razumljeno načelo neodvisnosti in samostojnosti ni v neskladju niti s 3. niti s 7. členom ustave.

Ustavno sodišče je interpretativno mnenje sprejelo, da bi preprečilo, da bi bila v pravni red Slovenije v primeru ratifikacije sporazuma ob njegovi uveljavitvi sprejeta vsebina, ki bi nasprotovala slovenski ustavi. Ni pa ustavnopravne ovire, da bi bila v notranji pravni red privzeta določba mednarodne pogodbe, kolikor se razlaga ustavnoskladno.

Mnenje ustavnega sodišča, ki ga izreče po presoji mednarodne pogodbe, ima le notranjepravni učinek. Torej zavezuje le slovenske državne organe, na mednarodnem področju pa nima učinkov. Državni organi bodo zato morali pri izvrševanju sporazuma, če bo ratificiran in uveljavljen, upoštevati vsebino ocenjevanih določb, kakršno je z razlago določilo ustavno sodišče.

Še prej bo moral to razlago upoštevati državni zbor pri ratifikaciji sporazuma. Morebitna nesoglasja, do katerih bi utegnulo priti med pogodbe-

Dve novi knjigi

(nadaljevanje s str. 14)

70-ih let, in položajem v domovini danes.

TAKRAT si je osrednja slovenska politična stranka prizadevala, da bi se sebe sprala vsakršno odgovornost za tragedijo na Koroškem in obdržala vodilni položaj vsaj v emigrantskih krogih; DA-NES si komunistična kontinuiteta prav tako prizadeva, da bi ohranila "pridobitve revolucije", pa "zgodovinski sloves" slovenskih partizanov, in si zagotovila še vnaprej osrednji, vodilni, odločujoči položaj v slovenski družbi.

Jože Rant se v knjigi ne spušča v raztegnjene komentarje in nepotrebne opombe. Toda z objavo teh pisem je vendarle ustvaril neko enostransko podobo določenega razvoja v emigraciji. V interesu resnice in v pomoč prihajajočim zgodovinarjem, bi bilo zato primeren izčrpen in dokumentiran prikaz "druge strani" te zgodbe, spričo navedb, ki prihajajo na dan v Rantovi korespondenci.

Poglavje o sporu med borci pa ni edino, ki je obravnavano v knjigi. Jože Rant objavlja tudi dolgo vrsto drugih pisem, ki se nanašajo na delovanje Pavleta Ranta na drugih, nekaterih specifično "argentinskih" področjih. Tako je, nesporno, poskrbel za dostojen spomin na svojega brata in občutno prispeval "zgodovini slovenske politične emigracije".

nima strankama zaradi drugačnega razumevanja vsebine sporazuma, pa ne morejo biti predmet ustavnosodne presoje, ampak politične presoje parlamenta ob ratifikaciji sporazuma.

Delo fax, 26. nov. 2003

Prve reakcije na odločitev

Ljubljana (27. nov. 2003) – Ljubljanski nadškof dr. Franc Rode ni komentiral odločitve ustavnega sodišča o skladnosti vatikanskega sporazuma s slovensko ustavo. Kot je pojasnil po srečanju s predsednikom vlade An-

(dalje na str. 16)

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Volitve na Hrvaškem prinesle zmago nacionalistični HDZ

V nedeljo, 23. novembra, so bile v Hrvaški parlamentarne volitve, na katerih je socialdemokratsko stranko dosedanega predsednika vlade Ivica Račana (SDP) premagala Hrvaška demokratska stranka oz. HDZ, ki jo vodi Ivo Sanader. Slednja stranka je močno nacionalistično usmerjena in izhaja iz tradicije že pokojnega prvega predsednika neodvisne Hrvaške Franja Tuđmana. O izidu volitev je takole v *Delu* 25. novembra poročal listov dopisnik v Zagrebu Peter Žerjavič:

"Glede na ponedeljkove izjave predsednika SDP in dosedanega premiera Ivica Račana je po nedeljskih volitvah glavna bitka za oblast končana. Račan je po seji predsedstva SDP priznal poraz in izjavil, da bo njegova stranka odšla v opozicijo. Poleg tega je predsednik (tj. Hrvaške, op. ur. AD) Stjepan Mesić napovedal, da bo v skladu z ustavo najverjetneje dal mandat za sestavo vlade predsedniku zmagovite stranke HDZ Ivo Sanaderju.

Na ravni vse države je HDZ dobila okoli 35 odstotkov glasov ali 12 več kakor Račanov SDP. V saboru (tj. parlamentu) bo sedelo 151 poslancev (140 izvoljenih po volilnih enotah, osem manjšincev in najverjetneje trije predstavniki izseljencev). Med njimi 65 hadezejevcev, ki so od leta 2000 povečali število mandatorov za 19 mest. HDZ bo morala sestaviti koalicijo, da bo njena vlada izglasovana v saboru z zahtevanimi 76 glasov. Kljub veliki zmagi HDZ koalicija v saboru ne bo imela prepričljive večine.

HDZ si bo partnerice najverjetneje izbrala med Hrvaško stranko prava (HSP), ki je dobila osem mandatorov ali enkrat več kakor leta 2000 (med novimi poslanci je tudi Slaven Letica), Hrvaško kmečko stranko (HSS) z devetimi mandati in koalicijo Hrvaške socialno-liberalne stranke (HSLs) z Demokratičnim centrom (DC), ki je največje razočaranje volitev. Skupaj sta dobila le tri mandate in med njimi ni voditelj strank Dražena Budiše in Mateja Granića. Med prihodnjimi partnericami HDZ se omenja tudi Srbska samostojna demokratska stranka, ki je dobila vse tri mandate, ki pripadajo srbski manjšini.

Račanova SDP je dobila le 34 mandatorov ali za četrtno manj kakor na volitvah leta 2000. Njenim partnericam, s katerimi je imela skupne kandidate - Istrskemu demokratičnemu zboru (IDS), Libri in Liberalni stranki - je uspelo dobiti devet poslanskih mest. V sabor so se uvrstile tudi Hrvaška narodna stranka (HNS) Vesne Pusić z enajstim, stranka upokojencev (HSU) s tremi in Hrvaška demokratska kmečka stranka (HDSS) z enim poslancem.

Časopisni analitiki sodijo, da je Sanaderjevi HDZ, ki še vedno ni povsem obračunala z negativno dediščino tuđmanizma, uspelo pridobiti na svojo stran nacionalistično usmerjeni del volilnega telesa in uspešno izkoristiti neuspehe Račanove vlade, ki ni izpolnila predvolilnih obljub. Med prvimi koraki prihodnje izvršne oblasti je Sanader napovedal znižanje DDV (tj. davek na dodano vrednost) z 22 na 20 odstotkov, zmanjšanje obsega vlade, reformo pravosodja, rast življenjskega standarda in spodbujanje podjetništva. Kakor napoveduje HDZ, bo sodelovala s Haagom, vendar Sanader ni hotel komentirati primera pobeglega haaškega obtoženca Anteja Gotovine. Po besedah vodje HDZ bo Hrvaška leta 2006 stopila v NATO in leto pozneje v Evropsko unijo."

V drugih časopisnih poročilih po volitvah je Sanader obljubil, da bo ukrotil nacionalistične težnje na Hrvaškem, kajti so bile v raznih evropskih državah reakcije na njegovo zmago oz. zmago njegove stranke dokaj kritične. Med prvimi reakcijami v Sloveniji je bila izjava zunanjega ministra Dimitrija Rupla:

"Za nas je vsak izid sprejemljiv in dober. Ljudje, ki so zmagali, poznamo še iz časov osamosvajanja in prvega obdobja po njem, tako da vemo, s kom bomo delali. Pričakujem, da bo stvari mogoče premakniti naprej." Premier Anton Rop je poudaril, da bo treba glede neurejenih zadev med Slovenijo in Hrvaško počakati na sestavo koalicijske vlade. Dejal je tudi, da Slovenija nima namena odstopiti od parafiranega sporazuma o meji (to je bilo dejanje takratnih premierov Janeza Drnovška in Ivica Račana), ki bo eden od temeljev morebitne arbitraže.

Sporazum Slovenija - Sv. sedež

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 15)

tonom Ropom, je sporazum o pravnih vprašanjih med Slovenijo in Svetim sedežem sporazum med dvema subjektoma mednarodnega prava, Slovenijo in Vatikanom. "Dokler nimamo izjave Svetega sedeža, si jaz ne bi dovolil dati kakršne koli izjave, ker nimam pravice govoriti v imenu drugega," je dejal nadškof Rode.

Premier Rop je zadovoljen z odločitvijo ustavnega sodišča, upa pa tudi, da bo sporazum zdaj kmalu ratificiran v državnem zboru. Premier je še izrazil prepričanje, da bo vatikanski sporazum pripomogel k boljšim odnosom z Rimskokatoliško cerkvijo v Sloveniji. Kot je dodal, se bo vlada danes na seji uradno seznanila z odločitvijo ustavnega sodišča. "Ta odločitev je potrdila skladnost sporazuma z ustavo in to se mi zdi zelo pomembno," je še izjavil Rop.

Predstavniki vlade in Cerkev so na včerajšnjem sestanku govorili o več odprtih vprašanjih v odnosih med državo in Cerkvijo. Premier Rop je pogovore označil kot "konstruktivne" in dejal, da poskušajo odpra vprašanja reševati "z dobro voljo". "Na številnih področjih se stvari premikajo na bolje," je ugotovil premier.

Nadškof Rode je povedal, da so govorili o več konkretnih problemih. Omenil je mariborsko cerkveno gimnazijo, ki deluje v neprimernih prostorih, želi pa si, da bi Cerkve dobila nazaj nekdanje semenišče in tam uredila škofijsko gimnazijo.

Poleg tega so, kot je povedal nadškof, govorili o duhovni oskrbi v vojski, policiji in zaporih. Medtem ko se duhovna oskrba v vojski dobro razvija, pa s policijo še ni bil sklenjen noben sporazum. Duhovna os-

krba v zaporih, do katere so, kot je poudaril Rode, zaporniki upravičeni v skladu z mednarodnim pravom, pa je v Sloveniji še povsem neurejeno področje in oskrba je v celoti odvisna od dobre volje pristojnih.

Ljubljanski nadškof je izpostavil še davke, ki jih morajo plačevati duhovniki. Kot je dejal, je v zadnjem času nekaj problemov, saj davčna uprava zaradi nekaterih nejasnosti duhovnikom ne priznava pravic, ki jih imajo. Rode je poudaril, da je bil leta 1973 sklenjen sporazum med RKC in tedanjo versko komisijo, ki ureja to vprašanje. Ta sporazum, čeprav so nanj skoraj pozabili, po nadškofovih besedah velja, dokler ne bo sklenjen nov dogovor, primeren sedanjemu trenutku. STA



V blag spomin

ob 2. obletnici, odkar se je od nas poslovil ljubljeni naš mož, oče, stari oče in brat



JOŽE BOJC

Umrl je 2. decembra 2001.

Leti dve sta že minili,
odkar Te več med nami ni.
Žalostna so naša srca,
ko se spominjamo na Te.
V raju prosi zdaj Boga,
da raj nebeški nam da,
kjer bomo zopet združeni,
veselje večno uživali.

Tvoji žalujoči:

Žena Poldi, rojena Žitnik
sinova Joseph in John
z družinama
hčerka Marjeta Laughlin
z družino
sestri v Sloveniji Ani Bojc
in Francka Turk z družino
ter ostalo sorodstvo.

Cleveland, O., 4. decembra 2003.

V BLAG IN LJUBEČ SPOMIN JOŽE IN FRANČIŠKA GAZVODA



umrl 2. marca 1970



umrla 6. decembra 1996

Gospod, daruj jima mir,
naj večna luč jima sveti;
ker si dobrote vir
uživata raj naj sveti.

Žalujoči:

hčerki FRANCES in MARTINA STEPEC
sin MARK, zet ANTON
vnuki, vnučkinje, pravnuki in pravnukinje
ter ostalo sorodstvo

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SSK: dialog in povezovanje

Ljubljana – "Preden sem odšel na Japonsko, mi je neki starejši diplomat toplo položil na srce, da morajo biti Slovenci, ki živijo daleč po svetu, ena mojih prvih skrbi. To je bilo moje pomembno vodilopri delu v diplomaciji tudi pozneje v Iranu in enako bi lahko trdil tudi za sicer krajša obdobja, ki sem jih še pred tem kot zdravnik preživel v severni Ameriki. Zato menim, da bomo lahko s svojimi izkušnjami in sodelavci v Svetovnem slovenskem kongresu uspešno nadaljevali kar številne zastavljene aktivnosti in projekte, med njimi predvsem za Slovence brez slovenskega državljanstva."

Tako neposredno po izvolitvi za novega predsednika Slovenske konference Svetovnega slovenskega kongresa (SSK) razmišlja dr. Stanislav Raščan; že doslej podpredsednik SSK je državni podsekretar na ministrstvu za zunanje zadeve. Dela v centru za raziskave in se ukvarja z vlogo ZDA v sodobnem svetu, z varnostnimi vprašanji in transatlantskim sodelovanjem.

Med njegovim službovanjem na japonskem veleposlaništvu na Japonskem v letih 1995-1999 je bila tam dejavna skupina približno tridesetih Slovencev. Večinoma je šlo za študente, nekaj je bilo znanih rojakov, ki so na Japonskem preživeli daljše obdobje in se tudi uveljavili na različnih strokovnih področjih.

Med njimi je zagotovo treba omeniti prof. Vladimira Kosa in prof. Janeza Mihelčiča. Prof. Andrej Bekeš, ki je japonske študente poučeval slovenščino, se je, pravi dr. Raščan, "k sreči že vrnil v Slovenijo". Tu zdaj slovenske študente seznanja z japonsčino in prav tako dela tudi na univerzi na Japonskem.

Ker se je iz tako oddaljenih držav, kot sta Japonska in Kitajska, vrnilo še nekaj profesorjev, so lahko tudi z njihovim sodelovanjem v Sloveniji odprli oddelek za azijske in afriške študije.

Med bivanjem v tako različnih okoljih, kot sta Japonska in Iran, je bilo zelo pomembno "spošto-

vati številne kulture in tradicije ter razumeti, kako nujen je dialog med civilizacijami".

Severno Ameriko je kot podoktorski raziskovalec v zgodnjih devetdesetih letih dobri dve leti spoznaval predvsem iz kanadske perspektive. V Torontu in drugih večjih mestih so že od nekdanje zelo dejavna številna slovenska izseljenska društva.

"Kot Prekmurec, rojen pred 40 leti v Veliki Polani, sem se med raziskovalnim delom v Hospital for Sick Children, eni svetovno najbolj uglednih otroških bolnišnic, veliko družil z rojaki v prekmurskem slovenskem kulturnem društvu. Vendar smo imeli zelo dobre stike in veliko sodelovali še z drugimi društvi in združenji slovenskih izseljencev v Kanadi," pripoveduje dr. Raščan.

Razlaganje v Ljubljani dr. Petra Klopčiča

O kanadskih Slovencih

(To sicer nepodpisano poročilo je vzeto iz argentinskega tednika *Svobodna Slovenija* z dne 20. nov. 2003. Tekst kaže, da je čakal precej časa na objavo, je pa kljub temu zanimiva predstava, a s kar nekaj nenavadnimi trditvami, nekatere morda povezane z netočno uporabo besed "svet" in "kongres". Ur. AD)

◇ ◇

V ponedeljek, 8. septembra, so se zbrali udeleženci Večera izza Kongresa, ki so redno vrši v Ljubljani. Omenjene večere, na katerih predstavljamo delo in življenje naših rojakov po svetu, pripravlja Svetovni slovenski kongres.

Med gosti smo lahko tokrat pozdravili dr. Petra Klopčiča, podpredsednika Slovensko kanadskega sveta. Vabilu se je odzval tudi slovenski škof Alojzij Uran, ki se odpravlja na pot v Kanado, kjer bo obiskal slovenske župnije. Tematika tokratnega večera je bila namenjena Slovincem v Kanadi in delovanju Slovensko kanadskega sveta še posebej v luči osamosvojitvene vojne za Slovenijo in podpori kanadskih Slovencev.

Spominja se, da so tedaj čas, namenjen kosilu, velikokrat izrabili za ulične proteste proti vojni na območju nekdanje Jugoslavije. V Torontu se vrača še zdaj in z veseljem ugotavlja, da so slovenske skupnosti tudi danes precej dejavne.

V Svetovnem slovenskem kongresu bi radi presegli vsakovrstno razdeljenost, zgodovinsko, geografsko, versko, ideološko. Radi bi postali stičišče različnih interesov, prostor za povezovanje. SSK ima po besedah dr. Raščana dobro razvito sodelovanje po vseh celinah in v različnih evropskih državah, ker jih predstavljajo "v svojih okoljih spoštovani in ugledni Slovenci". Tako naj bi tudi usmeritev SSK ostala prepoznavna; zavzemali se bodo za različnost, saj je ta pogoj za demokracijo.

Dragica Bošnjak

Delo fax, 24. nov. 2003

POJASNILO...

TORONTO, Ont. – Ker je prišlo do različnih interpretacij glede moje razrešitve s funkcije častnega konzula-gospodarstvo, Generalni konzulat Republike Slovenije -2 -8 King Street v Torontu, kar je bilo objavljeno v Ameriški Domovini 11. septembra 2003, in povzeto od Delo faxes, posredujem sledečo razlago:

Razrešitev (Uradni list Ljubljana 5. 9. 2003) je bila odobrena na mojo željo, da se odpovedujem funkciji častnega konzula - gospodarstvo.

Odstopno pismo je bilo poslano ministru za zunanje zadeve. Vzrok za odstop je bil, da je ministvo izjavilo, da nima materialnih možnosti, da bi predlog sprejeli, kjer bi v bodoče krili operativne stroške poslovanja pisarne z materialnimi nadomestili. Te so prvo leto delovanja pokrili donatorji - iz Kanade in Slovenije. Prav tako ni bilo odgovora na povabilo za sodelovanje od MG, GZS.

Dr. Zlatko A. Verbič

dve slovenski "fari"). Na ravni politične pripadnosti obstajajo tri močnejše skupine: krščanski demokrati, Stražarji in komunistična stranka.

Slovensko kanadski svet širi zavest o slovenstvu in kanadske Slovence spodbuja, naj se na popisih opredelijo kot Slovenci. Opazna je sprememba med zadnjima dvema popisoma v Kanadi. V popisu prebivalstva l. 1996 se je 8000 oseb opredelilo za Slovence, v zadnjem popisu 2001 pa je Slovencev v Kanadi že kar 28.000.

Marjan Schiffrer iz Argentine je povedal, da med Slovenci tam vlada neka pregrada predvsem med ekonomskimi emigranti, ki so tja prispeli v predvojnem valu, in političnimi priseljenci, ki so se tja preselili predvsem po drugi svetovni vojni.

Zanimalo ga je, ali je podobna problematika prisotna tudi v Kanadi in kako jo tam rešujejo. Dr. Klopčič je povedal, da razlike seveda obstajajo, da pa Cerkev igra osrednjo povezovalno vlogo med skupinami. Maša je seveda osrednji dogodek, vse pa se začne že pol ure prej s pogovori in se po bogoslužju nadaljuje ob pomenkih.

Prof. dr. Plesković, predsednik Svetovnega slovenskega kongresa, je iz svojih izkušenj povedal, da žal še vedno gledamo na Slovence, ki se vračajo v domovino, kot na tujce in ne kot na naše rojake. Tisti, ki pa se že želijo vrniti, se morajo soočiti z ogromnimi problemi ratifikacije spričeval, iskanjem službe, stanovanja in včasih

celo pridobitvijo državljanstva.

Slovensko kanadski svet je ob osamosvojitvi Slovenije v pičlih štirih dneh organiziral shod v podporo priznanju Slovenije. Poleg tega Slovensko kanadski svet skrbi še za organizacijo prevozov in prenočišč pevskih zborov, ki prihajajo iz Slovenije.

Po raziskavah dr. Klopčiča so Slovenci iz Kanade v domovino poslali že za 500 milijonov dolarjev pomoči, kar je resnično velika vsota. (Ali je poročevalec ali pa sam govornik tu naredil večjo napako, saj bi prej bilo verjetno 500 milijonov slovenskih tolarjev. Morda je pa šlo tudi za tiskarski škrat, op. ur. AD.)

Dr. Klopčič se je dotaknil tudi perečega problema ekonomske cone na morju in prehoda na morje s Hrvaško. Kanada se je soočila s podobno izkušnjo, ko je sama razglasila ekonomski pas na morju, sosedom pa dovolila koridor izstopa na odprto morje. Kanada je država, ki vedno išče rešitev problema skozi miren kompromis.

Upam, da nam večer ne bo ostal le v lepem spominu, ampak da bomo lahko iz izkušenj in pripovedi kanadskega rojaka gradili toplejše odnose s Slovenci po svetu.



Odločitev predsednika Georgea Busha...

Izjema tudi za Slovenijo

New Orleans, La. – Predsednik ZDA George Bush je s predsedniškim odlokom odobril vojaško pomoč šestim vzhodnoevropskim državam, ki so članice Mednarodnega kazenskega sodišča (ICC) in ne priznavajo imunitete ameriškim vojakom. Med njimi je tudi Slovenija.

Ameriška administracija je pred dvema letoma uradno odstopila od rimskega sporazuma, s katerim je bilo ustanovljeno Mednarodno kazensko sodišče za vojne zločine in zločine proti človeštvu. ZDA so takoj začele pritiskati na druge države, naj storijo enako ali pa z njimi podpišejo posebni protokol, ki bo ameriškim vojakom in politikom dal imuniteto pred pregonom za najhujše zločine.

Argument, ki so ga predložile, je bil nekoliko paradoksen. Zahtevale so, naj se druge države zavežejo, da ameriških državljanov ne bodo postavile pred sodišče, ki ga ZDA ne priznavajo, čeprav so bile med njegovimi najbolj zavzetimi ustanoviteljicami. Podpis dvostranski pogodbi o imuniteti so utemeljevale na 98. členu rimskega statuta, s katerega je Bush umaknil podpis

prejšnjega predsednika Billa Clintona. Člen so napisali Američani, v statutu pa je prišel na njihovo izrecno zahtevo.

Že s sprejetjem tega člena je bila univerzalna jurisdikcija sodišča zelo omejena. Še bolj se je skrčila, ko so Združeni narodi na ameriški pritisk dali imuniteto pred sodiščem vsem vojakom, ki sodelujejo v mirovnih operacijah.

ZDA so napovedale tudi sankcije. Zakon o varstvu ameriškega vojaškega osebja, ki ga je prav za nevtralizacijo mednarodnega sodišča sprejel kongres, je prepovedal vojaško pomoč vsem državam, ki Američanom niso priznale imunitete. Na njegovi podlagi so letos zamrznili vojaško pomoč petdesetim državam. Vendar je predsedniku ZDA hkrati omogočil, da pri nekaterih državah naredi izjemo, če bi bili sicer ogroženi ameriški interesi.

Bush je ta teden podpisal predsedniški odlok in z njim naredil izjemo pri šestih državah. Odločil se je, da je "za nacionalne interese ZDA pomembno zamrzniti prepoved za Bolgarijo, Estonijo, Latvijo, Litvo, Slovaško in Slovenijo".

Izbor teh držav ni ključen. Prepoved vojaškega sodelovanja od vsega začetka ni veljala za članice NATA. Vse razen Turčije so pristopile k sporazumu, nobena pa z ZDA ni podpisala posebnega sporazuma.

Šest v obrambno zavestno povabljenih držav pa je bilo letos v vmesnem prostoru, ko so pravila zanje hkrati veljale in ne. Predsednik Bush je tudi natančno pojasnil, zakaj je naredil izjemo. "Odločil sem se, da bom podprl samo nekaj projektov, ki so potrebni za integracijo teh držav v NATO ali za podporo operacijama Trajna svoboda in Iraška svoboda."

Kljub usodnemu jeziku so vsote pri ameriškem obrambnem proračunu, ki je letos presegel 400 milijard dolarjev, skoraj zanemarljive. Slovenija je dobila milijon dolarjev pomoči za nabavo opreme za odkrivanje kemič-

ne in biološke nevarnosti in nekaj manj kot milijon za vojaško izobraževanje in urjenje. Slovaška, ki z nekaj enotami sodeluje pri okupaciji Iraka, je dobila 14,5 milijonov dolarjev.

Ervin Hladnik Milharčič
Delo fax, 26. nov. 2003

Stališča ameriških škofov

Po Družini, 23. nov. – Ameriški škofje so na zasedanju v Washingtonu odločno nasprotovali izenačenju homoseksualnih partnerskih zvez z zakonskimi, obenem pa poblastili posebno komisijo, naj o tem perečem vprašanju pripravi posebno publikacijo.

Škofje so dali vedeti, da istospolne partnerske zveze nasprotujejo sami "naravi zakonske zveze", ki je temelj vsake družbe. Tako imenovani "homo-zakon" namreč ne temelji na "naravnem dopolnjevanju moža in žene", ki je "naravni cilj človekove spolnosti".

Politike so posvarili pred tem, da bi z zakonom istospolne življenjske skupnosti pravno priznali. Če bodo to naredili, bodo s tem tudi "zagovarjali homoseksualne aktivnosti". V preteklih letih je bila že tako znižana vrednost zakonske zveze, kar je imelo tudi negativen družbeni vpliv.

Škofje so se zavzeli za poostreitev cerkvenih pra-

vil glede vlaganja denarja. Tega naj ne bi vlagali v tiste gospodarske veje, ki so v nasprotju s katoliškim in moralnim naukom oziroma v njih vladajo neprimerne delovne razmere, zaradi česar je teptano človekovo dostojanstvo.

Takšna področja so raziskovanje genetskega materiala, kloniranje in druge veje tako imenovane "bio-biznisa", prav tako tudi pornografija.

Škofje so tudi opozorili na dolžno skrb in varovanje zdravega človekovega okolja in pravičnega razvoja.

Levičarji ne odnehajo...

Protifašistični boj in ustava

Ljubljana – Ob koncu dvodnevne zasedanja, na katerem so poslanci državnega zbora odločili o predlogih za spremembe ustave, je bilo slišati tudi ostre besede ob predlogu za spremembo preambule ustave, s katero naj bi na predlog skupine poslancev s prvopodpisanim Aurelijem Jurijem (ZLSD) vanjo kot enega izmed temeljev slovenske državnosti zapisali tudi narodnoosvobodilni in protifašistični boj.

Spremembi, ki na koncu ni dobila potrebne dvotretjinske večine (zanjo je pa glasovala večina poslancev, op. ur. AD), so v razpravi najbolj odločno nasprotovali poslanci NSi, proti pa so glasovali tudi trije poslanci LDS: Jožef Školč, Ciril Pucko in Maks Lavrinc.

Jožef Bernik (NSi), ki je predlagani spremembi najbolj glasno nasprotoval, je povedal, da gre za zgodovinsko in kulturno izpostavljanje s komunizmom zaznamovanega zgodovinskega obdobja ter za poskus izkrivljanja resnice o tem obdobju, ki je neločljivo povezano s komunistično revolucijo.

Predlog je označil za odsev prejšnje dobe in režima ter kot akt ideološkega terorizma do tistih, ki zavračajo eno državno resnico in zahtevajo svobodno razpravo o teda-

njih dogodkih. Navzoče je posebej opozoril, da govori v imenu desetisočev, ki so bili pobiti v prejšnjem režimu in so še vedno nepokopani.

Kot je povedal Jelko Kacin (LDS), je bil rojen deset let po vojni in ni nikoli usmrtil nikogar, zato ne dovoli, da kdor koli o tem govori v taki konotaciji. Razpravo, ki se je že skoraj sprevrgla v državnem zboru večkrat slišane polemike, je nato z nekaj težavami prekinil predsednik DZ Borut Pahor.

Ob 85 navzočih v dvorani je za predlagane spremembe preambule glasovalo 51 poslancev, 31 pa jih je bilo proti, med njimi tudi trije člani LDS, k Školč, Pucko in Lavrinc. Jožef Školč je na vprašanje, zakaj je glasoval proti, povedal:

"Razprava o tej zadevi, ki se je tokrat ponovila v državnem zboru, se je zgodila že ob prvem oblikovanju ustave oziroma njene preambule in zame je bila takrat tudi konzumirana. Moj glas proti nikakor ni glas, s katerim bi podcenjeval NOB, ampak je glas proti provokaciji, ki so jo poskušali izvesti predlagatelji. Po moje ni bila uspešna.raven poslanske razprave je bila prenizka, poleg tega pa ni prispevala ni-

(dalje na str. 19)

V BLAG SPOMIN

17. obletnice smrti našega ljubljenega moža, očeta, starega očeta, brata in strica



PAVEL DOLENC

ki umrl 8. decembra 1986.

Gospod, daruj mu mir,
naj večna Luč mu sveti,
ker si dobrote vir,
uživa raj naj sveti.

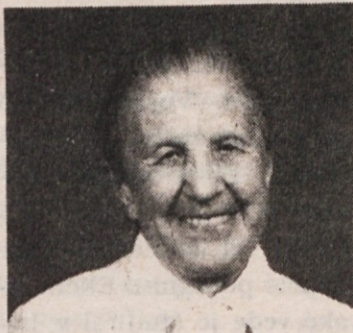
Žalujoci ostali:

Antonija, žena
Sinova in hčere: Maria
Yaecker, Josie Taricska,
Pavel ml., Anton in Ann
Bloom, vsi v ZDA
Vnuki in vnukinje

S. Euclid, O., 4. decembra 2003.

V BLAG SPOMIN

3. OBLETNICE SMRTI
naše mame, stare mame
in prastare mame



ANA MEDVED

ki je umrla 6. dec. 2000.

Dve leti sta že minili, odkar
Tebe več med nami ni.
Le pri Bogu mirno zdaj
počivaj in sveti raj uživaj.

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v Sloveniji, sinova Nace in
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Ivan Štanta, misijonar na Madagaskarju, umrl

Ljubljana – Enainštideset let je prebil na Madagaskarju – od septembra 1962 do smrti 11. novembra 2003. Že tretje leto po novi maši se je odpravil na Rdeči otok kot član turinske province lazaristov in deloval na različnih misijon-skih postajah, ki jih upravljajo italijanski soprobratje. Ponekod se je posvečal rednemu misijon-skemu delu, drugod pa se je izkazal z nenavadno iznajdljivostjo in izjemno vztrajnostjo.

"Sredi telesno šibkejših Italijanov je Ivan s svojo orjaško postavo, s svojo zdravo pametjo in neposrednostjo nekakšen Martin Krpan; vendar se z njimi zelo dobro ujame; Italijani pohvalijo njegovo pridnost in podjetnost."

Tako ga je posrečeno opisal dr. Rode ob srečanju z njim pred dobrimi 25 leti v Ihosyju. To je samo potrditev prijaznega vzdevka, ki so mu ga dali slovenski misijonarji in mu rekli "buldožer".

To hudomušno podrobnost je povedal misijonar Janez Puhan, ki se je sam zaradi bolezni po 30 letih vrnil z Madagaskarja in se je udeležil "pogrebne" maše 15. no-



V BLAG SPOMIN

OB 34. OBLETNICI, ODKAR JE V GOSPODU ZASPAL NAŠ LJUBLJENI SIN, BRAT IN STRIC MILAN ZRIM

Svojo plemenito dušo je izdihnil 5. decembra 1969

Preteklo štirinadeset let je že, ko hladna zemlja krije Te.

Zelo vsi smo Te ljubili, in prezgodaj izgubili.

Oh, grenko je spoznanje to, da Te med nami več ne bo;

čeprav v hladnem grobu spiš, v srcih naših še živiš.

MARIJA -mati; ERNEST -oče dve sestri in brat, z družinami

6 nečakov, 1 nečakinja V starem kraju žalujejo za njim številni sorodniki.

Cleveland, O., 4. decembra 2003.

vembra v Ivanovi rojstni župniji Miren pri Gorici, kjer je zahvalno somaševanje 25 duhovnikov vodil vizitator slovenske province MD Lojze Gajšek, dan po pogrebu v Ihosyju. V misijonih je pač potrebno ob podobi "buldožerja" vztrajati v neugodnih razmerah.

Misijonar Ivan bo ostal zapisan kot miren velikan z dobrim srcem, ki je začel graditi naselje za gobavce v Isoanali, kjer mu je nekaj let pomagal rodni brat Lovrenc kot laiški misijonar in gradbeni tehnik. Puhan je posebej poudaril njegovo zavzetost za postavitev doma za starce in starke, ki veljajo na Otoku za najbolj zapuščene in jim tudi država ne namenja potrebne skrbi. Ostarili v tem domu v kraju Zazafutsi – kar pomeni "Beli otroci", kjer je deloval zadnjih enajst let – gotovo najbolj žalujejo za svojim očetom, kot so ga imenovali.

Dobro srce je pokazal tudi pred leti, ko se je zaradi tega moral seznaniti z novo izkušnjo telesnih in duševnih bolečin v zaporu. Pomagal je Slovanoma, ki sta se tam znašla brez dokumentov – za oblast dovolj, da je bil obtožen sodelovanja s tujimi vohuni.

Uporabili so preskušene metode duševnega mučenja in pritiskov, ko so predvajali montirane radijske posnetke in so ga po zvočniku morali obtoževati celo njegovi ljudje. Ko je bila nekako po treh mesecih dokazana njegova nedolžnost in je bil spuščen, so mu mnogi svetovali, naj se vendar odpravi na dopust v domovino, da si opomore. Pa ni hotel. Predvideval je namreč mož-

nost, da mu oblastniki potem ne bi dovolili vrnitve.

Ko je sredi marca praznoval 70-letnico, je pač moral obujati spomine na osnovnošolska leta v domači vasi, na vse nadaljnje šolanje v italijanshčini, na mašniško posvečenje v Genovi leta 1959, ko je zatem prišel tudi domov za novo mašo. Pričakala ga je mati z njegovima bratoma, saj je oče izgubil življenje v mauthausenskem krematoriju.

Prav gotovo je očetov smrti dan na sam praznik Gospodovega razglasenja (6. januarja 1945) pozneje obhajal kot poseben misijonski praznik "za razsvetljenje narodov".

Skromno novomašno kosilo je bilo v porušenem samostanu na Mirenskem Gradu, v za silo urejenih prostorih, kjer so bile malo prej odstranjene glavne ruševine. Morda je tudi to nakazovalo njegovo pregovorno skromnost, saj je vse darove dobrih ljudi uporabil izključno za reveže, kjer je misijonaril.

V Betroki je deloval dobri dve leti, v Isoanali devet let, zatem po kakšno leto ali dve na postojankah Ihosy, Ivohibe, Ranotsara, od leta 1992 pa je bival na postojanki Zazafutsi, od koder se je enkrat na teden odpravil v mesto nabavljat hrano in zdravila.

Pri delu in v preizkušnjah ga je krepilo veliko zaupanje v Boga. Posebna oblika molitvenega doživljanja je njegovo pesnikovanje v italijanshčini, francoščini in slovenščini. V domači besedi je sicer čutiti okornost, vendar še veliko bolj njegovo otroško zaupanje v Gospoda in prisrčno povezanost z domačo grudo.

Oboje prihaja krepko do izraza v pesniških zbirkah *Proti domu* (1997) in *Krizanteme* (2000). Nekatere njegove pesmi so bile objavljene v *Prijatelju* in *Ognjišču*, v zamejskih revijah in seveda v *Misijonskih obzorjih*, kjer se je hvaležno oglašal tudi s kratkimi poročili.

V zadnjih mesecih so mu skušali odkriti in ustaviti bolezen s štirite-denskim zdravljenjem v Veroni. Naporno delo v nemilem podnebnju tudi njemu ni prizanašalo s posledicami.

Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

(nadaljevanje s str. 20)

Takšen je včasih lahko moj delavnik. Vse tole je trajalo samo dobri dve uri. Podobnim, čeprav popolnoma drugače obarvanih doživetij imam na tisoče. Kako se počutim sredi vsega tega? Imam zmes lepih in bolečih čustev. Me ne trpljenje drugih "primora" v pomoč, v sodelovanje, v sočutje in dobrotelost. Če ne bi postoril tako, bi me pekla vest. "Karkoli ste storili enemu teh malih, ste Meni storili" – pravi Kristus. Jaz to vzamem dobesedno, kot je to jemala dobesedno Mati Terezija. Takoj, ko začnemo evangelij zavijati v razne razlage in izvlečke, ga pačimo in ne razumevamo. Tudi za Sandija bom poskušal skrbeti, dokler ga bo Bog ohranjal in sem mu rekel, da naj se ne matra več, da bi hodil tako daleč do mene, da ga bom že jaz kdaj pa kdaj prišel pogledat, kako mu gre in kaj rabi. Saj za petdeset dolarjev mu lahko nakupim hrane skoraj za tri mesece.

Hvala Bogu za taka doživetja. Ohranjajo me v naročju človečnosti in normalnosti. Saj po vladnih statistikah kar 83% ljudi živi v tem lusaškem obroču revščine in dnevna kupna moč posameznika ne presega enega dolarja. Na državnem povprečju je pa 76-odstotna revščina. Bog pomagaj in se vsega skupaj usmili – usmili po dobrih Samarjanih, ki imajo srce, da kaj postorijo za lajšanje tegob in nadlog. Nihče ne more vsem pomagati, vsakdo pa lahko pomaga vsaj nekaterim. Ko bi bilo tako, bi bilo manj gorja in življenje bi lahko bilo lepše, ljudi bi pa bili človeško bogatejši, bolj srečni, bolj veseli nad veseljem drugih, bolj hvaležni Bogu za srečo, ki se jo da doživljati v dobrotelostjo in bolj bi bili Bogu podobni. Saj Kristus naroča: "Zastonj ste prejeli, zastonj dajajte!" Tudi ta izraz sledim dobesedno in poznam žegen, ki ga ta modrost garantira vsakokrat ko se pokaže potreba. Bog pomagaj, takšen sem in takšen bom – upam! – ostal vse do svojega groba.

Poleg revnih starčkov jaz z vašimi darovi podpiram begunske sirote v raznih šolah v Lusaki in okolici. Letos imam na seznamu kar 10 deklet-sirot in 5 fantov-sirot. Zato vam tudi pošiljam pismo ene take sirote. Srce se mi zgane, ko vidim, kaj vse se dogaja s človeškim življenjem tukaj v tej revščini in v nenehnem strahu prred preganjanjem, pred lakoto in s tem pred smrtjo. Naše takole delo mi pa daje tiho zadovoljstvo, da vendarle nekaj skupno postorimo za dobro tistih, ki sicer ne bi našli nikakršne pomoči. Bog vam povrni.

Pa brez zamere, ko ste morali tako dolgo čitati moja premišljevanja. Pač rad govorim o tem, kar se dotakne mojega srca. Vsem sem hvaležen za kakršnokoli darežljivost in podporo mojega dela za revne, lačne in naše tako zelo preproste črne zemljane tukaj v sicer tako lepi Zambiji. Srečno vsem in lep pozdrav. Lojze Podrajšek"

Pripis z dne 18. maja 2003: "Tri dni po mojem srečanju s Sandijem so ga roparji ponoči napadli in mu vse pokradli, kar sem mu bil jaz nakupil. Sedaj sem bolj previden. Več ne hodim k njemu. Po ženi, ki pride občasno, pošljem nekaj denarja za nakup hrane. Tako "barabe" ne vedo, da ima staršek vsaj nekaj podpore in pomoči. Bog pomagaj. Dostikrat gre tukaj za golo preživetje. Borba za skorjo kruha človekovo obnašanje pozverini in pohudiči. Revščina je pravo prekletstvo."

Dar: N.N. \$760 (\$60 za Radio Ognjišče, \$200 za Rev. Jože Horn, \$500 po odločitvi MZA s pripisom: "Naj dobri Bog blagoslovi vse naše požrtvovalne misijonarje in vse sodelavce in dobrotnike te dobrovoljne organizacije." Za bogati dar Bog plačaj.

Vse starejše in bolne, ki prosijo molitve, toplo priporočam v molitev. Saj nekateri bolni nimajo nikogar, da bi zanje molil, sami pa radi bolezni ne morejo.

Hvaležen pozdrav vsem in prisrčna zahvala vsem, ki darujete preko MZA za misijonarje.

Sonja Ferjan

79 Lunness Rd., Toronto, Ont.
M8W 4M7 Canada

Protifašistični boj

(nadaljevanje s str. 18)

česar k temu, da bi preambulo dejansko dopolnili s predlaganim. Če opozicija ne bi nasedla provokaciji, bi po mojem prepričanju proti glasovalo še bistveno več poslancev."

Marko Jakopec

Delo faks, 20. nov. 2003

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Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

1503. "Happy Thanksgiving!" kličemo vsem

in vsakemu posebej. Ob tej priliki tudi naša iskrena zahvala za vse darove, ki ste jih poslali za misijonarje tekom leta in jih bomo v teh dneh pred božičem razposlali. Zahvalo pa smo dolžni tudi Nebeškemu Očetu za vse darove, ki smo jih bili deležni v tem letu. Hvala Ti, Nebeški Oče, za življenje, ki si nam ga podaril, in za Tvojo milost odrešenja. Nauči nas, da bomo znali biti hvaležni za vsak Tvoj dar.

Od srca do srca iz misijonskega sveta

Misijonar Lojze Podgrajšek se nam je oglasil že v maju iz Lusake, Zambija (radi odsotnosti pismo objavim danes. (Ur.: Pismo je sicer osebnega značaja in datirano 18. maja, priloženo je neki drugi tekst, ki pa nosi datum 11. aprila 2003.)

"Spoštovana Sonja,

Lep pozdrav iz Lusake. Hvala za pismo. Iskrena hvala tudi za letošnji dar MZA. Ko je Francka sporočila, da je denar prišel, je tudi omenila, da bodo iz Clevelanda poslali listke za podpis prejetega denarja. Do sedaj niso prišli tisti "odrezki", ki smo jih svoj čas podpisovali in potem pošiljali nazaj v pisarno MZA. Torej, čakanje tega "odrezka" je tudi botrovalo moji pozni zahvali.

Kaj je novega tu med nami? Pionir slovenskih misijonarjev v Zambiji Ratko Rudež ima že čez osemdeset let. Še vedno pa pomaga na fari v Chelstonu in je kar dobrega zdravja. Tudi Lovro Tomažin je že bolj v letih in bi si zaslužil, da bi ga dali kam na kako lažjo faro. Še vedno je namreč sam na zelo veliki in zahtevni fari Matero. In kakor da to še ni dovolj, si je Lovro, v svoji predanosti delu in razvoju infrastrukture, nadel še delo z razširitvijo že sicer velike farne cerkve, ki jo je pred 23 leti zidal Jože Kokalj. Lepo je od njega, da je tako prizadeven, vendar ga vse to izčrpava in gotovo tudi utruja.

In jaz! Še vedno sem na univerzi, v bogoslovju in povrh sem še predstojnik naše osrednje hiše tu v Zambiji. Letos grem za eno leto v Ameriko, da bi se pripravil na pastoralo mladih duhovnikov. Tega se malo bojim, kajti sliši se zelo zahtevno in morda celo nemogoče delo za enega misijonarja – tujca. Edina kar mi lahko pomaga, je moja 13-letna izkušnja poučevanja v bogoslovju, saj sem s tem spoznaval vse naše mlade duhovnike. Upam, da se prihodnje leto, na poti nazaj v Zambijo, ustavim pri vas v Torontu. Morda bova potovala v Cleveland, kaj?

Pa lepo pozdravite vašo prijateljico, go. Francko Kramar, ki je pred leti šla z nama na tisto lepo pot v Cleveland. Še enkrat hvala za MZA dar meni in vsem ostalim, še posebej me je Ratko Rudež prosil, da naj se zahvalim tudi v njegovem imenu. Bog vas varuj in blagoslavlja.

Hvaležni – Lojze Podgrajšek"

Sedaj drugo pismo, tudi iz Lusake, datirano 11. aprila 2003, z naslovom "Nepozabno srečanje", ur. AD.)

"V petek, 11. aprila, sem srečal starčka in zvečer opisal dogodivščino. Dogodka dolgo ne bom pozabil. Kaj vse človek doživi sredi naše daosti obložene s trpljenjem in bedo. Zapis je brez strogih slovničnih pravil. Želi ponazoriti dogajanje, kolikor je to doživljajsko sploh mogoče opisati.

Okoli enajste ure sem se odpravil v mesto po nakupih. Ko sem šel ven iz našega dvorišča, pred vrati zagledam upognjenega starčka, ki se opira na svojo tanko in nekam predolgo palico. Postanem, gledam, nakar se mi nekam zamegljeno zdi, da poznam tega človeka: ime mu je menda Sandi, v davnih 1983 do 1986 je bil kuhar na fari, kjer sem takrat služboval. Kako zelo se je postaral, ves siv, star precej čez osemdeset let, sklonjen skoraj v dve gubi, opiral se pa ni na železno palico, ampak je v rokah držal staro palico za igranje golfa. Spogledala sva se, nasmehnila, si podala roke in pogovor je stekel.

Seveda je to bil Sandi, pravilno sem ga prepoznal. Povedal mi je, da je od takrat marsikaj hudega doživel. Trije njegovi sinovi in dve hčerki so pomrli od Aidsa – se pravi, vsi njegovi otroci. Doma pa da je še žena in trije vnuki. Jamral je, da je v hiši lakota, da nima nič, nobene hrane, nobene podpore, nobene penzije, nobene zlahte, nobene varnosti, toži, da že sedem let ne dela več, da so ga zaporedne smrti otrok popolnoma potrle in čuti, da ne bo več dolgo živel. Tudi videz je dajal, da je utrujen in popolnoma izčrpan, kakor da se je prišel posloviti od mene. Bil je priden kuhar in čistilec hiše. Tudi pral je perilo za naju dva duhovnika v tistih davnih letih. Spomnim se, da je parkrat v mojih hlačah našel denar, in mi ga je vsakikrat vrnil, češ, "father, vi ste preveč utrujeni, saj celo pozabljate, kje imate denar."

Najin pogovor se nadaljuje in Sandi toži: "Sedaj bi morali otroci za mene skrbeti, pa moram le jaz skrbeti za

njihove otroke, moje vnuke," je dejal, ves zamišljen. Ker ni imel denarja, je začel jutranjo hojo zelo zgodaj: ob petih zjutraj je šel od doma in prispel do naše hiše ob enajstih. Pred kratkim je baje zvedel, kje da jaz sedaj živim in delam in me je hotel videti, da malo potoži in za kaj poprosi. Jaz ga pa tudi nisem videl že celih osemnajst let in sem bil prepričan, da je že umrl. Rade volje se je spomnil na najino sodelovanje pred osemnajstimi leti. Pripovedoval mi je tudi o zidani "hiški", ki sem mu jo pomagal postaviti v tistih letih. Odpre avto, da vstopi. Komaj je zmožil v avto. Nato sva se peljala na univerzo. Pokazal sem mu svoj urad, cerkev, okolico. Nič kaj ga ni zanimalo. Dvakrat je pojamaral, da je lačen in žejen, da ga v prsih boli in da želi čim prej domov.

Nato sem ga vprašal, kaj rabi. Hrane, hrane gospod, hrane nimam že skoraj cel teden. Že tri dni da ni skoraj nič jedel. Spet sva se odpeljala domov, kake pol milje daleč. V mislih se mi že ponuja načrt, kaj bom storil zanj: najprej grem v garažo, da mu dam eno lepo palico za hojo. Tisto palico mi je dal nadškof. On jo je dobil v dar na neki fari. V garaži že sloni več let. Dal mu jo bom za oporo pri hoji. Nato bom doma "vzel" nekaj hrane in jo naložil v prtljajnik, nekaj bom pa kupil, saj še imam nekaj denarja. Odpeljeva se domov in storiva vse zamišljeno, nakar nadaljujeva pot proti njegovi revni četrti na severnih obronkih Lusake.

Ko je v avtu gledal "svojo novo palico", mi je začel pripovedovati o svoji čudni "gorjači", s katero je bil zjutraj hodil tako dolgo pot, češ da je tista golf palica svoj čas baje bila moja. Ko sem leta 1986 odšel, je mojih par palic za golf ostalo v farovškem skladišču. Z leti so baje tiste palice propadale in tako je Sandi, ko se je upokojil, prosil za eno, da bi jo imel za spomin name. Nisem mogel verjeti. Pa vendar je ves zardel od veselja in živega spomina. Iz naše hišne shrambe sem v avto naložil nekaj hrane. 30 kg koruznega zdroba, pet litrov belega olja, šest kil sladkorja, in deset velikih kosov "žajfe". Nato sem ga peljal domov v revno četrt Cajisa. Na poti taj sem kupil še nekaj nezluščenih arasidov (20 kg za tri dolarje), bonbone za njegove vnuke, in dve kili mesa. Seveda nisem pozabil tobak za njegovo pipo, ki sem mu jo bil dal davnega 1985 leta in ki mi je rekel, da jo še ima. Doma mi jo je tudi pokazal. Nato sva se podala proti njegovemu domu. Komaj sem prilezel do bajte. Ozka pot, poslana z vsakovrstnim dračjem, kamenjem, plastiko, jamami, in smetmi vseh sort, – ta pot se je vila kaka dva kilometra, ob poti pa množice ljudi, otroci, žene preprodajalke belega olja, soli, sladkorja, vžigalic, oglja, koruzne moke, mila, blaga, paradajza, čebule, sveč, tobaka, banan, stare obleke in starih čevljev, drv, petroleja, in kaj vem kaj vse so še imele naloženo na obpotne kamne, na škatle, na navadne konce blaga ali cunj, otroci so pa švigali sem in tja, jaz in Sandi sva pa po polzevo lezla počasi in bila deležna silnega začudenja in občudovanja navzočih domačinov.

Otroci so vriščali "mzungu", kar pomeni "belec", in so vsi začudeni, mnogi z odprtimi usti, strmeli in zijali v starčka, ki je sedel poleg mene na prednjem sedežu, češ, kdo je to, da ga vozi belec, a je to kak poglavar, čarovnik, vrač ali pa morda samo berač. Dobesedno na tisoče otrok vsepovsod: umazani, nekateri nagi, raztrgani, a na obrazih pa vselej človeški izraz: zanimanje, radovednost, iskriki nasmeh, in nenehne prošnje: dajte mi kruha, dajte mi hlače, bonbone, knjigo, čevlje, copate, žogo, vse povrsti so naštevali. Ko sva prišla do hiše, ni bilo nikogar. Žena ni bila doma, vrata na stečaj odprta. Sandi se čudi, kaj da je bilo. Vpraša sosede in potem mi pove, da so bili roparji v hiši pred par urai. Ko je pogledal naokoli v bajti, je povedal, da so mu odnesli obleko, klobuk, njegov sedež, tudi majhno mizo, en stari kovček, ki sem mu ga dal jaz pred leti, in en majhen štedilnik. Kaj so vzeli ženinega, pa ni vedel povedati. No, bil je vesel, da sem mu jaz nakupil hrane, tako da bo lahko sedaj nekaj tednov brez skrbi. Ko sem odhajal, se mi je zasmilil. Izgledal je zelo slab, na obrazu sem videl bolečino spričo ropanja hiše. Dodal je, da se bojita z ženo, da ju bodo enkrat sredi belega dne popolnoma ukradli, ker sta stara in si ne moreta pomagati. Bog se usmili. Kako revščino tolčejo ljudje v takih revnih četrtih! In Lusaka je obkrožena s takimi "shanty towns". Saj imamo 13 takih revnih naselij vsenaokoli kot obroč revščine 83% lusačanov živi v takih pogojih. Že dolgo nisem bil sredi tako revnih razmer. Kar zastudilo se mi je vse skupaj. Hkrati so se mi pa ljudje zelo zasmili. Ko sem odhajal, sem Sandiju obljubil, da ga bom prišel gledat čez kake tri tedne. Dodal je, da seveda prosi, da pridem. To je rekel, ker gotovo upa, da bom pripeljal ka-ko pomoč v hrani. Seveda bom storil tako.

(NAZAJ NA STR. 19)

Z Ameriško Domovino ste vedno na tekočem z dogajanjem v Sloveniji in tudi med nami samimi

NOVI GROBOVI

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 13)

Claudije Sigmund, Johna in Cynthije Zajackowski, 7-krat stari oče, brat Albina in že pok. Fred-a, veteran 2. svetovne vojne, v kateri je služil v ameriški vojski, član KSKJ št. 25, zaposlen 40 let pri Graphite Bronzeu oz. Gould, do svoje upokojitve 1. 1987. Pogreb je bil 25. novembra v oskrbi Železovega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Vida in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Stephen R. Novak

Umril je 80 let stari Stephen R. Novak, mož Pat. roj. Snelling, brat že pok. Georgea, Johna in Frances Prijatel, stric in prastric. Veteran 2. svetovne vojne, v kateri je služil v ameriški vojski. Pogreb je bil 20. novembra s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Gregorija Velikega s pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Anthony F. Potocnik

Umril je 76 let stari Anthony F. Potocnik, vdovec po Ceciliji, roj. Smith, oče Johna, Tonyja, Ann Mary Wolk, Carol (Cavanaugh) Beall in Sharon Delli, 17-krat stari oče, 5-krat prastari oče, brat Ann Marie Kurzinger, veteran 2. svetovne vojne, v kateri je služil v ameriški vojski. Pogreb bo jutri, 5. decembra, s sv. mašo dop. ob 9.30 v cerkvi St. Clare s pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

V LJUBEČ SPOMIN

Ob 7. obletnici smrti ljubečega moža, očeta, starega očeta, sina, strica in brata



OTTO C. SUŠEC

5. decembra 1996

7 let že te med nami ni, v dušah naših z nami pa še živiš.

Z Božjo pomočjo vodi in pomagaj nam.

Z Bogom in Marijo uživaj rajski mir.

Tvoji žalujoči:

Žena: Marija

Sinovi:

dr. Otto C. Sušec ml.

odv. Martin D. Sušec

dr. Tom M. Sušec

Snahe: Jayne, Christy,

Heather

Vnukinje: Mandy, Alexander

in Abigail

Vnuk: Martin V

Mama, bratje, sestre

Sorodniki v Ameriki in

Sloveniji