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AMERICAN HOME

AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA

SLOVENIAN MORNING NEWSPAPER



USPS 024100

Vol. 104, No. 49

ISSN Number 0164-68X

AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA, DECEMBER 12, 2002

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70c

U.S. Deficit may reach \$900 billion next decade

WASHINGTON – Unless Congress gets some discipline, the federal deficit could balloon to a staggering \$866 billion in the next 10 years, according to analysis of Congressional Budget Office projections.

That would reverse the optimistic trend toward budget surpluses. It could require hefty tax payments to not only pay down the massive debt but also to guarantee Social Security's solvency, according to Sen. George Voinovich, who requested the new projections.

"For my children and grandchildren, this is going to make a big difference, because they're going to be saddled with enormous costs that they shouldn't be saddled with," the Ohio Republican said at a Capitol news conference.

Voinovich and Sen. Russ Feingold of Wisconsin requested the new projections to make a point about how the government spends more money than it has while predicting rosy economic times. The two have sponsored legislation, which they will

reintroduce next year, requiring more accurate projections and stricter controls on government spending.

Budget office projections show that the existing \$145 billion deficit will become a \$15 billion surplus in four years. But only if the government spends Social Security surpluses – money Voinovich says will be needed later for retirees.

And it assumes that spending will grow at a rate of 2.5 percent annually – even though federal discretionary spending has jumped by a yearly average of 8.5 percent since 1998, the budget office says. The current projections also don't account for possible large spending increases to pay for a prescription drug benefit for seniors, which Congress is likely to seek, and the possible war with Iraq.

If spending keeps growing at that rate and tax revenues fall because of an extension of tax cuts – which President Bush and most Republicans favor – the deficit could reach \$866 billion

in 2012, the Congressional Budget Office figures show.

"It just seems that around here, nobody wants to make the hard choices. Nobody wants to prioritize. No one wants to say no," said Voinovich, who was accompanied by Robert Bixby, executive director of the Concord Coalition. The coalition is a non-partisan group that advocates eliminating federal deficits.

Voinovich's rhetoric put him in an awkward position, in that he supported this year's tax cuts and said he might vote to make them permanent.

The senator conceded, "I'm not here today to tell any of you that I've got the solutions." But he said his "Truth in Budgeting" act would "create an environment where the public will have a much better idea about what a tremendous fiscal crisis that we have in this country. And that pressure will then cause us to make some of the tough decisions that we have to make." --Stephen Koff

The Plain Dealer



Edward Debenjak honored by Knights of Columbus

The Cardinal Newman Assembly, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus of Lake and Geauga Counties, held a banquet at the Croatian Hall in Eastlake, Ohio on November 1 honoring their Past Faithful Navigator, Joseph Gugliotta and also honored the members who have been 4th Degree Knights for 50 years.

Among those honored was Edward H. Debenjak.

The picture shows him being presented an official certificate for 50 years of honorable service.

Edward Debenjak joined the K. of C. in 1948 and after going through the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree membership, he became a 4th degree Knight in 1952. He currently resides in Fairfield Glade, TN.

Congratulations, Ed!

Canadian Slovenians trek to Bala

by OSCAR KOREN

TORONTO -- On October 19, members of Slovenian Dom enjoyed a wonderful day-trip to Bala, located on Lake Muskoka approximately 200 km north of Toronto.

We were picked up by a luxury coach at Toronto's two Slovenian churches. The first pickup was at Our Lady Help of Christians on Manning Avenue and the second at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal on Browns Line.

As soon as the coach reached the highway, we broke out into a chorus of traditional Slovenian song. After a brief stop for coffee near Orillia, we were bedazzled by the fall colors of the beautiful Muskoka. The colors became brighter as we approached the Shamrock Lodge where we had a reservation for lunch.

After lunch we toured the area's Cranberry Marsh

near Bala, and watched how cranberries were harvested. The people in the surrounding area were in a festive mood. Hundreds of visitors were roaming through gift shops and sampling the cranberry wine and juices. There were wagon and helicopter rides and a band provided the entertainment.

Our next stop was the popular Cranberry Festival in Bala. The festivities continued here as the arts and crafts merchants were delighted to see so many visitors. Local delicacies such as dried and fresh cranberries and a variety of cranberry-flavored candies and chocolates were in abundance.

At 4 p.m., we left the Festival for Cestnik's Lodge near Bala for a wonderful dinner, sponsored by Krek Slovenian Credit Union.

The menu consisted of barbecued piglet and turkeys, which included all the trimmings, salads, and of

course, fresh cranberry sauce and desserts.

Traditional Slovenian refreshments were served, and since we had a designated driver, we took full advantage of the offerings. Our hosts Joe and Sandy Cestnik and their staff went out of their way to make us feel at home.

Before leaving we expressed our gratitude to the Cestnik family, and all the people who helped to prepare such a lovely dinner. We would also like to thank Krek Slovenian Credit Union for sponsoring this very memorable event and to the Sajnovic family which donated the delicious turkeys.

I am sure that everyone who took part in this delightful day trip will always remember this very memorable event and the royal treatment we all received from our hosts and sponsors.

Enjoy the Christmas Holidays Listening to Glasbena Matica

The Christmas Holiday Season is probably the most meaningful and joyous time of the year not only with respect to family togetherness, but also in the religious sense. With this spirit in mind, the Glasbena Matica Slovenian Chorus wishes to extend a most cordial invitation to attend a Christmas Concert to be presented on Saturday, December 14 at the Slovenian National Home, 6409 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland.

Under the capable direction of Mr. Edward Ferrazzoli, the chorus is endeavoring to present a program which we hope will instill the "magic of Christmas" in the hearts of young and old alike. Several Slovenian religious numbers will be performed, such as "Bozicna Noc," an Italian number, "Gesu Bambino," Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus," and the traditional spiritual, "Go Tell It On The Mountain."

As a patriotic salute dur-

ing this troubled time in our history, Emma Lazarus' "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor," will be rendered, and our fervent prayer, "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

Doors to the SNH open at 5:30 p.m. with food and refreshments available in the annex. Following the concert, which begins at 7 p.m., Fred Ziwich will provide music for everyone's dancing and listening pleasure.

Tickets for this gala event are \$10.00 each and currently available from chorus members or by calling Lori at (216) 261-5248.

This will be an evening to be reminisced and relished with "glee." Reserve a few hours from the "hustle and bustle" of the holiday rush and celebrate the Christmas Season with Glasbena Matica on Saturday, Dec. 14. It is certain to be a very "merry" occasion.

Happy Holidays!

--Dolores Sierputowski

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Telephone: 216/431-0628 - Fax: 216/361-4088

AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA (USPS 024100)

James V. Debevec - Publisher, English Editor
Dr. Rudolph M. Susel - Slovenian Editor

Ameriška Domovina Permanent Scroll of Distinguished Persons:
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Louis B. Baznik, Michael and Irma Telich,
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AMERICAN HOME (ISSN 0164-680X) is published weekly for \$35 per year by American Home Pub. Co., 6117 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44103-1692. Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to AMERICAN HOME, 6117 St. Clair Cleveland, OH 44103-1692.

No. 49

December 12, 2002

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be no American Home newspaper printed the week of Christmas.

Remembering a very Special Christmas

by RUDY FLIS

My wife, Therese, and I just finished putting up our Christmas tree. This is very early for us, but our daughter Monica is coming home this week and our family will celebrate Christmas early, while she is at home.

From Thanksgiving Day through the Christmas holidays is memory lane for me. Childhood, young adult and family man all can give me pleasant flashes of my past, during Christmas season.

Gifts for and from loved ones, while eating, drinking and being together in the warmth that is home to us. Family is such a special blessing.

The memory of Christmas as described above, is not the Christmas memory I have now. I am remembering my first Christmas in the Army, far from home and those whom I love.

Finishing up 16 weeks of infantry basic training, which would keep us at Camp Rucker until January second, we had a special formation of our company one evening, about two weeks before Christmas. One hundred and twenty names were called out by our sergeant. The rest of the company was dismissed.

"You men are going to Korea. As I call your name, come up and initial the sheet as you receive your Geneva conventions I.D. card." This card was to be on us, in case of capture. I kept this card in my wallet next to my Army I.D. card, and I still have this card. It reminds me of a very special Christmas gift I received for Christmas, 1952.

When our orders came down, there were two sets of orders. One set was for the men going to Korea and the other was for the men who were going to Germany, a complete surprise to all of us. In that moment, 60 of us were out of harms way. I was going to Germany.

When I entered the Army, injury or death were not in my plans. Get out in two years, come home and marry Therese - was my sole goal. Going to Germany made the goal much easier.

This happened 50 years ago. Was it a Christmas gift? I believe so. Who was this Christmas gift from? God only knows, and God only knows how much I appreciate that very, very special Christmas gift, to this day.

Christmas gifts are great, but there were none greater than the one I just mentioned.

100 WORDS MORE OR LESS

by John Mercina

Christmas Eve at Grandma's House...

Precious memories of childhood Christmas will forever be on my mind. It was the house setting itself, the religious significance as well as the poignant smell of special foods that created the proper atmosphere. For weeks before Christmas Eve, grandma would be cleaning the house and decorating with Christmas ornaments, some of which were home made and passed on from many previous generations. There was a story behind every ornament, every colorful crocheted doily that covered most of the furniture flat surfaces. In the corner of the living room, there was the massive wood-burning stove, with shining brown clay tiles surrounding the two sides and an opening into the kitchen. Grandma would have a reserved seating on a well-worn bench around the stove. She did all the baking and the aroma of the nut bread and cookies that she baked the week before Christmas stayed in the house for Christmas Eve. A short-needled Christmas tree, freshly cut on grandma's farm, occupied the familiar corner opposite the stove, with "God's corner", a shelf containing the nativity scene, immediately above it. As darkness descended on the farming community, the extended family gathered in the home and began to pray the rosary. This was followed by the blessing of the house, the family members, the barn as well as the animals, with holy water freely sprinkled on those present by use of a small pine sprig. Grandma used the services of the smallest child that could walk to assist her in blessing the home. Even the outhouse received the special blessing. More prayers followed, with a separate "Our Father" for everything and everybody, both living as well as those that have died. This was followed by the singing of the beloved old Christmas songs. Following above ritual, a small nap was in order so that we would be wide-awake for the midnight mass. It was a religious theme, with no shopping for weeks before, no Christmas sales, no blaring radios, TVs, CDs, DVDs. Ours was a preparation for Christ's birth.

As Christmas 2002 and the world events beyond our control are fast approaching, a fervent prayer for peace and for the well being of the men and women in our armed forces, would be an appropriate way to celebrate the coming of Christ.

HAPpy

Our November meeting was very short; we even dispensed with the minutes so we could enjoy the pot-luck faster!

After Pledge of Allegiance we silently remembered deceased faithful member Margaret "Marge" Hudock, sister of member Helen Suhy, and dear friend to many. She will be missed. May she rest in peace.

Many members are on the sick roster: Stan Gulick, Marie Kotar, Emeric Pausic, Justine Pekol, Frank Skoda, Josephine Souchik, Josephine Wuitchett, and Joe Zgonc. Get well, everyone, you are missed.

Ann Eichler is happy to send cards to our ailing members if she knows about them. Let's help her out - call her at 216-731-9433.

Happy Birthday was sung to a host of members. John Kozlevchar was wondering if all these births were due to New Year's celebrations, but his arithmetic is way off... More likely people got married before Lent started, like in February. Two plus nine, that comes out right... In the "golden olden" days no one partied during Lent or Advent, but they knew how to before and after!

Only one couple got serenaded for Anniversary,

News

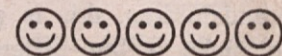
Theresa and Ed Petric, 48 yrs. Many happy returns!

Gus Petelinkar, chairman of the Nominating Committee, ceremoniously presented the slate of officers - the present board members, ALL unopposed. Recording secretary JennieTuma then cast one official vote to complete the election. No "chads" to worry about!! **Congratulations**, and a big hand to our able officers: John Kozlevchar, president; Matt Zabukovec, vice-president; Louise Fujda, treasurer; Ann Beckert, assistant treasurer; Jennie Tuma, recording secretary; and Fran Kajfez, sergeant-at-arms. Who says we don't know what is good for us?!

Remember, **Christmas dinner is December 11**; no meeting, just PARTEEEEE! **Matt Zabukovec** will still sell you a ticket for \$6.00, if you **call** him **BEFORE Dec. 3, 2002 440-943-3784**. After that, you're s...ooo out of luck!

We were entertained by Browning Center dancers, under leadership of Dolly Callabrese. They call themselves FYTs, Forever Young Tap dancers, ranging in age from 59 to 80. These gals can dance! The one who soloed as Minnie Pearl stole the

show. She certainly wasn't the youngest, but oh, what



legs!!! Many a 25yr old would love to look that good. It was a fun show, hope they come back again.

Finally, it was time to eat. The aroma from the kitchen had us all drooling already. **Thanks** to the skillful organization of **Mary Blatnik**, we had a **FEAST!** What a great job: it took months of planning and coordinating, but the result was fabulous. The tables were nicely set and decorated; the buffet tables were groaning with a variety of dishes; and the dessert tables were overflowing. Everything went well, ko po znorci. Mary and your helpers, take a bow! What a terrific job! When they say something can't be done - just ask a woman.... Also Many Thanks to all of our members that brought so many wonderful dishes.

Well, time to rest and digest. Wishing everybody a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving! Don't overdo that turkey.. Pa se vid'mo!

(still) HAPpy Wanderer

Christmas is perhaps the only time in the year when people can obey their natural impulses, without feeling self-conscious.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

Life in the Refugee Camps

by ANTON ZAKELJ
translated and edited
by JOHN ZAKELJ

(Continued)

Thursday, May 30, 1946

Since we are now down to 11 people in our room, we took out 2 bunk beds.

Friday, May 31, 1946

I went to 2 Masses this morning for my mother's name-day.

I've been too busy arranging employment for my fellow refugees to continue my driver's training. Besides they no longer have vehicles that we can use for on-the-road training.

Cilka has obtained part-time work sewing the upper parts of shoes for a shoemaker in the city. She gets a little pay and sometimes she is allowed to use his sewing machine to make things for refugees in the camp. This morning, I cut out some leather for him.

The representative from the Austrian work office is angry with me because I didn't provide any workers for the rock quarry. I told him that I went there and found the working conditions unacceptable. The pay is terrible, and our men don't get enough food or clothing for that kind of work. So far, he hasn't found a single good job for us.

Saturday, June 1, 1946

The camp is opening a new kitchen for the 50 refugees in our camp who are laborers, teachers and otherwise employed.

Sunday, June 2, 1946

Mire returned from a trip to Koroška and soon left

again. He makes enough by buying and selling things to people that he doesn't need a regular job.

I'm angry with our camp board. It's a month since we were elected and we haven't accomplished anything. I'm especially frustrated with my own lack of success in arranging employment for people. When we have board meetings, Dr. Erman talks and people just nod in agreement, but nothing gets done. Even when proposals are accepted, only a few of them are carried out. So, I proposed that the agenda for every meeting include a report on the status of previously accepted proposals.

Monday, June 3, 1946

This morning I went to the UNRRA offices and asked for permission to travel to the refugee camps at Lienz and Spittal, to see how they organize their camp workshops (where the refugees produce things to sell in the surrounding areas.) They told me to come back tomorrow. They're angry with me because I haven't sent workers to the rock quarry.

Tuesday, June 4, 1946

I met with UNRRA director Gilbert. He won't allow me to travel to the other camps; he says we don't have time for educational excursions. He says he'll figure out something for workers in our camp himself. There will be big changes coming soon.

I also asked the director if we could have some raw material so the refugees could have a workshop and make things to sell. He replied, "So you can take that

raw material to the local farmers and exchange it for bacon and potatoes? You don't know how to make anything, you don't have anything to show."

When I returned to my room, Felix (one of my roommates) attacked me wildly. Somehow he became convinced that I was trying to send him back home. He accused me of all sorts of things from the past 15 years. Some of them are completely impossible. He screamed and pounded on the table and finally went to see Dr. Est.

Felix is from our hometown of Ziri. He's smart, but there has been something wrong with him mentally since he was born. During the war, he had the job of town crier, informing everyone about the latest news. One Sunday he called out to people to stop growing red flowers because "The Führer doesn't like red flowers."

In the camp, Felix has always talked about how he will be condemned to death under "the eastern democratic system." He even gave Rev. Klemencic instructions as to how many candles there should be on his grave. He's hard of hearing and when he can't hear what we're saying, he always thinks we're talking about him. Once, Cene Kokelj was talking about something that had nothing to do with Felix, but Felix suddenly threw a knife toward Cene and yelled out, "You lie!"

(To Be Continued)

Thanks

Many thanks to the Slovenian Junior Chorus SNPJ Youth Circle 2 who sent in a check for \$30.00 as payment of their 2003 Roster PLUS a very generous \$70.00 donation!

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself. — Charles Dickens.

Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man.

Christmas Trees

Christmas trees date back to the 8th century when a group of Germans who were about to sacrifice a child to Thor were stopped by St. Boniface. The sacrifice was taking place under an oak tree, so St. Boniface cut down the oak, revealing a small fir tree, which he proclaimed a symbol of Christ and the spirit of love that Christ urges.

Another early legend tells that Martin Luther created the first Christmas tree. One Christmas Eve, he went for a late walk through the forest. Inspired by the sparkling, snow covered trees reflecting moonlight and the twinkling stars showing through the branches, he cut a small fir tree, took it home, and decorated it with candles.

The Christmas tree as we know it also descends directly from a representation of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden. It was featured in

the traditional medieval mystery play performed on Christmas Eve within a circle of lighted candles. The re-enactment of the story of Adam and Eve culminated in their expulsion from Paradise.

The play, however, ended optimistically with the promise of a savior sent by God who would be the incarnation of the Son of God. An evergreen tree was hung with apples and symbolized the temptation and fall of Adam and Eve.

Because of the fir tree's use in these religious contexts, candles came to represent Christ, the Light of the World.

In the early 19th century, the Christmas tree was widely accepted throughout Germany and Europe.

Prince Albert, the German-born husband of Queen Victoria, is credited with popularizing this custom with the English.

"The light that shines from the humble manger is strong enough to lighten or way to the end of our days."
—Vita-Rays

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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Friends and to All
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The custom of observing Boxing Day in Australia, Canada, Great Britain and New Zealand is said to come from the traditional British custom of handing out boxed gifts to servants and employees on the day after Christmas.

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MLAKAR'S Walk Down Memory Lane

by RAY MLAKAR

Well, the ship is at dock-side and before we continue, time out for a joke. An out-of-towner had a mishap and his car slid in an isolated area recounts Jim. Lucky a local farmer came to help with "Buddy" his strong horse. The farmer hitched Buddy to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, Pull." Buddy didn't move an inch. The farmer yelled, "Pull, Buster, pull. Buddy still did not move an inch. Then once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Cocco, pull." Nothing happened. The farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull." The horse easily dragged the car out of the creek. The motorist was most appreciative but very curious, too. He asked the farmer why he called the horse the wrong name three times. "Oh you see," the farmer explained, "if Buddy thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try."

Well, time to get back to New York and the ship tied to shore and it seemed that once again the officers, dependents, cats, dogs, and cars were unloaded, yet we enlisted men were still stranded aboard ship. What gives? We were the last ones to get on the ship at Bremerhaven and it seems now we are still on board. Everyone departed, the docks are vacant, and even the stevedores are all gone and yet we are not getting off this ship. Pray tell what is going on.

Again I heard the faint voice saying in the back of my mind in which the officers and the NCO's back in Germany echoes the phrases, "You will not be getting out."

Soon darkness set in and the captain of the ship came on the loudspeakers. "This is the captain of the ship speaking. All hands are hereby informed that you will remain on board this ship for the night and will disembark in the morning." He went on to say that Congress was in session and announced that due to the outbreak of the Korean War, no one will be discharged and will remain in the service for an additional year.

Oh, my God. Why? Why couldn't they wait a few more weeks when I would be out and discharged. Again the voices came back from Germany, "You will never get out." Somehow they knew, they knew the handwriting on the wall. Why? Why didn't I listen to them? pray tell, now where do we end up? I don't think many of the troops slept well that night, but were warm for

morning to disembark the ship to see what their future will hold.

After breakfast, we disembarked and there were trucks by the dock waiting for us and drove us to Fort Dix, New Jersey, the home of the 9th Division. We got off at a big parade field and were told to get in ranks, then open ranks with six feet between men to dump our duffle bags with all its contents on the parade ground.

Soon the officers came by with their swagger sticks like the Gestapo and flicked their swagger stick throughout the contents. There was a lot of mumbling going on and the officers stated that they were going through all bags and told us to undress down to our shorts for they wanted to make sure that we were not trying to get any handguns, American or German, into the country. That takes the cake for who in their right mind would even think of trying to bring home a German hand gun?

All they were able to confiscate were some small swords that some soldiers had gotten there and they planned on keeping as souvenirs to be used as letter openers. Soon they said we could get fully dressed and repack our duffle bags. They marched us over to the old World War II barracks like we had at Camp Breckenridge, up and down living quarters with wooden ladders nailed to the back of the barracks that would be used as a fire escape if need be. They said that through the course of the week each guy would be interviewed, his 201 file checked in order to determine just where they would ship us, either back to the units that we were from within Germany, or going to the Far East to Korea or some stateside camp.

After the third day which seemed like a long time to me, they finally got to Frank Serratore and me and surprising to say, they said we would remain at Fort Dix, right there along with approximately an additional hundred men.

Perhaps deep down I had wished that I could have been sent back to Germany for if nothing else, to hear them say, "I told you so." They said they would give us an immediate 10 day leave to go back home and return then we'd receive our job assignments. Frank tried to cheer me up and said, "Ray, how about you coming home with me, my sister has been postponing her Italian marriage until I got back to be in her wedding party and besides that, I promise you some real Italian spaghetti!"

"I can't do that, Frank, my family is expecting me home; maybe some other time after we get back to Fort Dix." "Okay," he said, "will see you when we both report back to Dix."

We were then bused to Trenton, New Jersey to the train station where we bought our respective tickets for home. Bennington Avenue, Cleveland, here I come. I bet that even the dogs back home won't recognize me and will bark, but I am still the same skinny Ray. One thing about wearing the Army uniform is that every one respected it, you were a friend to everyone for everyone wanted to do something for you, and once again the cab driver would not let me pay the cab fare from Penn Station downtown to Bennington Avenue. Thanks a whole bunch.

It goes without saying that Mom and Dad were at wits end, and when the cab pulled in, the lost son has returned. Time to kill the fattened pig. It goes without saying that I ate like there was no tomorrow. Over the next week or so, we made it a point to see all the neighbors, friends and relatives, they too were disappointed to learn I was going to have to be in the service for another year. But what the heck, this would be stateside and I would only have to deal with one kind of money... good old USA money.

Surprising to say, the time just flew by and in no time it was time to start packing for the trip back to the new fort... Fort Dix and wonder just what kind of assignment I would get. Surprises ahead and not all of them good, but that will have to wait for another column.

In closing may the Good Lord bless and watch over all of you for he has certainly watched over me these past two years.

P.S. - Want to acknowledge special thanks to John Zakelj from St. Paul, MN for his kind remarks regarding my column and his condolences in the loss of my wife, Josephine. Thanks, John; now I know I have one friend in St. Paul, Minn.

Thanks also to Donna Ohman, Eda Garsteck (Kovach), Joe Peresutti and the Pivics for their recent calls as well as their prayers. Guess only kind folks like them who have walked down that path of loneliness can imagine what it is like to lose one's better half.

Anything you are good at contributes to happiness.
-Bob Mills

Christmas in America

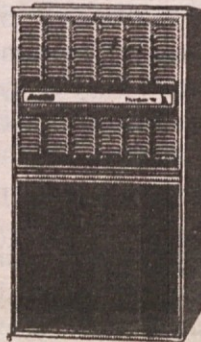
In America, Christmas is both a religious and a secular holiday, filled with significance for both young and old. As we know it, Christmas is a time for family and friends. It is a time for giving thanks and opening presents. And it is a time of song and lights and joy.

And many of the ways in which Americans celebrate came from the early settlers, who brought European Christmas customs with them across the Atlantic.

But it hasn't always been such a festive occasion. For the Puritans of New England, Christmas was indeed NOT a time for parties. In fact, it was banned in Massachusetts from 1659 until 1681. During that time, a fine of five shillings was assessed against anyone who dared to observe the holiday.

Christmas was first declared a legal holiday in America in 1836 in Alabama.

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Post-Depression Work

by JOE GLINSEK

Nowadays it seems that few people have a 'job' and 'go to work.' We keep hearing about 'careers,' 'clients,' and 'associates.' These words had different meanings when I was growing up.

During the 1930s and '40s the people in Collinwood had a job, if they were lucky, and went to work for as many hours and days a week as possible. At our house there were three men 'going to work,' one child in school, and a mother/housewife - the title 'homemaker' was not yet in use. If Mom were filling out an employment form, 'housewife' would be written in one of the blocks. But if one's 'life work' can be defined as a 'career,' I suppose she had one.

Her life's work was the difficult job of caring for three adult males and a rapidly growing fourth. She worked like a mule with three, but after starting school I added to her workload as much as another adult. We needed lunches packed during the week, and we made daily deposits in the laundry chute. Many of these required ironing as well as washing. There was the house to keep clean, and five hungry people to feed every day. Mom ironed at least a dozen white shirts every week, and they were washed, boiled, dampened and lightly starched before ironing. Our men didn't wear jeans and a tee shirt after work. Grandpa and Dad dressed in white shirts and trousers, and they did not miraculously materialize in closets and dresser drawers.

I would characterize my dad as fastidious, Grandpa as vain, and Uncle Mike as nearly neat. While I had instincts toward comfort over appearance, they were bred out of me by edict and example. For the evening meal, my father came to table wearing a clean shirt and insisted I follow suit, regardless of the heat.

Sunday dress was more formal: having worn a three-piece suit to morning Mass, Dad would shed the jacket at home, and perhaps the tie in very warm weather, but that was the limit of concession on a Sunday. For him, a vest was casual attire for Sundays at home. For me, the week-day rules applied, and I resented sacrificing comfort for neatness.

my parents were first invited to our home after Patt and I were married. Being a guest in someone's home for dinner required even more rigid adherence to his dress code. Dad was dressed in his Sunday suit and tie, and he shed nothing. It was a hot day and I came to table in a clean tee shirt. I suppose it was my way of announcing that, "I did it your way at table, but I'll do it my way at mine." He never mentioned my indiscretion, nor did he behave as if he disapproved. But I know that he did, and I regret my petty act of retaliation.

While still at home and going to high school, I acquired enough sensibility to be bothered by seeing my mother sweating over all those shirts. 'Wrinkle-free' and 'permanent press' did not exist. The ironing board in the kitchen wall was out of its hidden recess for two days of every week. She spent many hours keeping 'her men' in clean, starched and ironed shirts, and that was only part of her ironing chores. Sending shirts to the laundry would have been a great solution, but that was not financially feasible in our family. The Chinese laundry on E. 152nd Street catered to the lawyers, bankers, doctors, and wealthy bachelors in our area, but there were precious few of these in our circle of friends. Aside from some ladies pleated things, men's shirts were the most intricate to iron. Many other items were routinely ironed, things that few people would think of ironing today. Mom's 'work' was literally never done, though she never complained. One could stretch a point and say that she had a 'career' - in my opinion, an undesirable one.

My dad worked in the Enamel Products factory at Taft and Eddy Road. Except during the war years they made what their name implied and were famous for a product called 'Korok,' a durable porcelain enameled steel panel. It was inexpensive and popular to buy a table top with raised rounded edges and corners, that instantly converted an old kitchen table into one with a shiny modern top. You could buy these in a variety of sizes and colors, and they were quite common. However, the factory's main production was later converted to make Korok building panels. Gas stations and similar buildings were quickly and easily modernized by con-

verting their exterior walls with these shiny white panels and dark blue trim. Occasionally I see examples of this work that still looks presentable after 50 years.

When I was too young to remember, Dad built a child's table for me. Two feet square, it was covered with a Korok top colorfully decorated with 'Mother Goose' characters. It sat in a corner of the back porch from my earliest memory, but much to my regret, it disappeared. I wish it had been kept for our children and grandchildren.

I never knew exactly what kind of work my father did at Enamel Products. His education in the old country was more than equivalent to our high school. His English was excellent, but he never lost his accent. He was very intelligent, well-read, and took great pride in his work and appearance. Quite by accident, I saw him working during the war. A news photographer had taken his picture as part of a 'war production assignment,' and mailed us a copy. I still have the 8 x 10 glossy of Dad working at a big press that formed red-hot steel blanks into heavy cones that looked like the business end of an artillery shell. In the picture he is unloading one from the press with heavily gloved hands and a long pair of pincers. Both he and his surroundings look greasy, hot, and dirty - totally unlike I'd ever seen my father.

He left for work in the morning with immaculately clean hands and nails. Wearing a suit, shirt and tie, he carried a brown bag lunch and a paper parcel of clean work clothes. Every day before leaving his job, he must have showered and thoroughly scrubbed the grime from his hands before changing into his 'traveling clothes.' Walking home from the streetcar stop, he looked the same as when he'd left the house, except the parcel now contained dirty work clothes.

Today he would be called "Norbert Neat," and even Mom teased him by calling him 'The Princess and the Pea' whenever he bought a half-dozen pair of new socks. He would unwrap them on the kitchen table and turn them inside out. Using a pair of small scissors, he trimmed every dangling thread-end from the inside of those socks, and there were many. He patiently smiled and explained that these would irritate his feet.

Unlike many working men his age, he would never wear the one-piece, long-john BVD's with trap doors. He bought two-piece 'Jockey' underwear in both summer and winter-weights. There were cotton-knit underpants with elastic waistbands, and matching undershirts. The close-fitting drawers were three-quarter length and covered his legs to mid-calf. In answer to my curiosity about why he wore long underwear in the summer, he explained that it prevented sweat from staining his pants. And like me, he squirmed at the thought of feeling wool on his bare skin, and even summer suits were made of wool.

My father's hands always impressed me: they were large, strong, and clean as a surgeon's. Pride would not allow him to be seen with dirty fingernails or soiled work clothes. When I was a teenager, I thought his pride was somewhat extreme, but I came to understand that this had been bred into him as a child. At his funeral I met some of the men he had worked with, and they all spoke of his gentlemanly demeanor and careful grooming. We never knew this until he died, but the men told me they called him 'Duke,' and it was without derision.

Having spoken about my dad's extreme care for his appearance, my Uncle Mike was close to the opposite end of the scale. He went to work looking like a laborer, and came home looking worse. His job at Perfection Stove was in the 'pickling' department, where steel stove panels were acid-washed in preparation for enameling. He not only handled dirty oily sheet steel, but was also exposed to the added danger of acid. It splattered and perforated his clothes and was a constant threat to his eyes, skin and lungs. In his later years, he was promoted to operating a drill press, a job considered several cuts above the pickling room.

Mike always came in through the side door and went straight down to the basement. There he stripped to the waist at a recycled kitchen sink in one corner. A chipped enamel basin, once used as a baby bath, was placed in the sink as a reservoir for the running water. There was no need to be tidy in the basement, and Mike slopped water on the walls and floor as he vigorously washed his hair and scrubbed down to his waist. An ancient framed mirror and a tin comb-holder on the white-washed wall, completed the open 'wash-stall' that looked like it had been lifted from the set of an old 'Western' movie. One day in the future,

I would replace the sink with a shower stall.

Grandpa had a filthy job as a 'boilermaker' at New York Central Railroad's Collinwood repair shop. This involved working inside the huge cylinder which formed the upper length of a locomotive. Wielding a long pipe-wrench on rusty plumbing and chipping rust inside the boiler, he must have felt like the clapper inside a huge bell for half a day. No wonder he was partially deaf when he retired in 1937. I have only vague memories of him coming home from work, but I remember that he looked like a chimney-sweep, and his trip to the cellar and the clean-up routine was the same as Uncle Mike's.

I remember quite clearly when he retired. He never described what he actually did, but I knew he was called a boilermaker and have heard some of the job details from others. He started as a laborer with the NYCRR in 1902, probably a few days after arriving in America. He worked 12 hours a day at 10 cents an hour, and after a year his pay was raised to 12½ cents, an odd figure, but that's what I remember. The raise probably went along with his new title of boilermaker. Wages weren't very generous in 1937, but even as a child I thought that his early wages seemed pitiful. He often reminded me that "back then, a dollar was real money," and "the best cut of beefsteak was five cents a pound."

His job, like most other manual labor of the time, was not conducive to good health or long life. When I was a boy, most of the men I knew were dying in their fifties. If you made it to 65, you were very old, and looked it.

(Continued on page 8)

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Slovenian Genealogists Meet

Weather permitting, the Ohio Chapter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society International will meet in January as follows:

WEST SIDE group - Monday, Jan. 6 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Parma Regional Library, 7335 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio.

EAST SIDE group - Tuesday, January 7 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Euclid Public Library, 631 East 222nd Street, Euclid, Ohio.

The program for both meetings will be devoted to exploring the origin of Slovenian names using Janez

Keber's columns in past issues of *Slovenija* as the basis for discussion. Mr. Keber has accumulated information for hundreds of Slovenian surnames since he began writing for the magazine. Please join us for an interesting, informative evening. Maybe your surname will be among those we discuss.

If the weather is questionable, please call Rose Marie Jisa at (440) 230-2954 or email at bonitabser@ameritech.net to confirm that the meeting will take place.

SWU #25

Christmas Party

Slovenian Women's Union of America Branch #25, Cleveland, Ohio annual Christmas Party will be held at Sterle's Restaurant on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 1 p.m.



Lodge 2

Annual Meeting

AMLA Lodge Ribnica - St. Cecelia will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. at Sterle's Slovenian Country House, East 55th St. in Cleveland. Dinner reservations required. Please call Carole Czeck, Secretary, at 440-944-7965 for details and reservations.

Election of officers and lodge representatives will take place as well as other important business matters to be voted upon by the membership. We have invited our scholarship recipients as our guests.

Fraternally,
Carole Czeck, Secretary

Dr. Michelle Spech-Holderbaum Joins Lake System

Congratulations to **Michelle Spech-Holderbaum, MD**, a board-certified internist, who recently joined Lake Hospital System in Northeast, Ohio.

Dr. Spech-Holderbaum earned her medical degree from Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and completed her residency at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Her special medical interests include women's health, preventative health, and geriatrics. Dr. Spech-Holderbaum has an office in Willoughby (440-953-6294) and is accepting new patients.

Michelle is the daughter of Dr. Anthony and Mrs. Spech.

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Coming Events

Friday, Dec. 13

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 to 11:30 featuring Joey Tomsick.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Glasbena Matica Holiday Concert, 7 p.m. at Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair Ave. Tickets \$10. Call Vlasta at (216) 531-7326 or Lori at (216) 261-5248.

Saturday, Jan. 25

Pristavska noč at Slovenian National Home on St. Clair, Cleveland.

Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 2

Slovenian ski weekend and Giant Slalom Race; dinner and awards at Windham Mts., NY. Info: Ivan Kamin (718) 424-2711.

Sunday, Feb. 2

St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) Slovenian School dinner, school hall, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Feb. 15 - 22

Slovenian group organizing one week ski vacation to Lake Tahoe. Info: Ivan Kamin (718) 424-2711.

Saturday, March 15

Slovenian Man and Woman of the Year Banquet at SNH, St. Clair. Tickets \$22.

Sunday, March 23

St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) Slovenian School breakfast 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Sunday, April 6

Super Button Box Bash XXI at Slovenian Society Home, both halls featuring 15 button accordion bands.

Sunday, April 13

St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) Palm Sunday 9:45 a.m. blessing of butare and procession. 10 a.m. Mass.

Sunday, June 8

St. Mary's (Collinwood) Slovenian School picnic at Slovenska Pristava, 12:30 Mass followed by dinner.

Sunday, Sept. 21

St. Vitus Altar Society annual dinner.

Sunday, Nov. 9

Slovenian Junior Chorus Fall Concert, Slovenian Society Home, Euclid, OH.

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and Happy New Year

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Death Notices

ADOLPH L. PONIKVAR

Adolph L. Ponikvar, age 81, of Langhorne, PA died on Monday, Oct. 14, 2002, at his home in Middletown Township.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Ponikvar resided in Roslyn, Long Island, New York and Cary, North Carolina before moving to Langhorne 12 years ago.

He was an Army veteran of World War II. Mr. Ponikvar was Bureau Chief of the International News Service in Cleveland and New York City from 1946 to 1957. He was department editor of "Petroleum Week" at McGraw-Hill in New York City from 1957 to 1961 and associate editor of Modern Plastics from 1962 to 1966. He then went on to become manager of technical publications for the International Lead Zinc Research Organization, Inc. in New York City and Durham, North Carolina where he was employed from 1966 until his retirement in 1990.

Mr. Ponikvar was editorial consultant for the International Copper Research Association in New York City from 1984 to 1987. He was author and editor of several prize winning technical publications.

Mr. Ponikvar was President of the Flower Hill Association in New York from 1972 to 1974 and President of the Raleigh Symphony Guild in North Carolina from 1989 to 1990. He was a member of the Society for Technical Communication where he served as senior chairman from 1975 to 1977 and won the Best of Show awards in 1978 to 1979.

Mr. Ponikvar enjoyed reading, painting, golf and bowling, and was President of the Bristol Senior Bowling Association from 1997 to 1998.

Mr. Ponikvar was the beloved husband of the late Helen Leona Ponikvar (nee Zabukovec). He is the loving father of Alan Ponikvar of Lawrenceville, NJ, Dale L. Ponikvar of New York City, Dianne Carlivati and her

husband Peter of Reston, VA, and Lynn Povinelli and her husband Paul of Trumansburg, NY. He will also be sadly missed by four grandchildren; one brother, Leon Ponikvar of Vero Beach, FL; three sisters, Frances Ponikvar, Daniella Nealon, and Florence Straub, all of Cleveland; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions in memory of Adolph and Helen Ponikvar to the Alzheimer's Assoc., Inc., 100 North 17th St., 2nd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

ANNA M. LUCIC

Anna M. Lucic, 90, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2002 at Geauga Regional Hospital.

Anna was born on June 27, 1912 in LaSalle, IL. She resided in Claridon, Ohio for 11 years and formerly was a resident of Euclid.

Anna was employed by General Motors Coit Road Plant for 38 years.

She is survived by children Patricia Murphy and Anthony (Sandi); grandchildren Cynthia, (Donald) Sheets, Kimberly (Kurt) Epprecht, Susan (Anthony) Percic, Steven (Lynn Marie) and Kristin Lucic; eight great grandchildren; brother Matthew (Ann) Povse; and sister-in-law Emma Povse.

Deceased family: parents Anna (nee Kastigar) and Anthony Povse; and a brother Vincent Povse.

Friends called at The Dan Cosic Funeral Home, 28890 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills on Friday, Dec. 6.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 in St. Vitus Church, 6019 Lausche Ave., Rev. Joseph P. Boznar, officiating. Interment All Souls Cemetery, Chardon, OH.

In Memory

Thanks to **Emma Dalpiaz** of Port Charlotte, FL who renewed her subscription and added a terrific \$40.00 donation in memory of the **Batič and Dalpiaz Families**.

In Memory

Thanks to **Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Jagodnik** of Sleepy Hollow, New York who sent in a \$15 donation in memory of **Mr. and Mrs. Anton Jagodnik and Mr. and Mrs. Anton Mlach**.

In Memory

Thanks to **Val Baznik** of Euclid, Ohio who renewed her subscription plus added a nifty \$15.00 donation in memory of her wonderful sister **Jean Brodnik**.

In Memory

Thanks to **Joseph Jenko** of Euclid, OH who renewed his subscription plus enclosed a \$20.00 donation in memory of parents **Joe and Flora Jenko**.

In Memory

Editor,
Hello. The enclosed check is for my subscription for another year plus \$15.00 in memory of my late husband, **Louis Mole** who is missed very much.

Enjoy the paper very much. Love all the articles.

--**Frances Mole**
Cleveland, Ohio

In Memory

Editor,
Enjoy the paper very much. Enclosed is \$50.00 for renewal and \$15.00 in memory of my husband, **Joseph J. Brodnik**, and mother **Louise Raddell** who was a subscriber for over 60 years!

--**Molly Brodnick**
Highland Hts., OH

In Memory

Thanks to **Jean Samsa** of Cleveland, OH who renewed her subscription plus enclosed a \$25.00 donation in memory of **John H. Samsa Senior, Nancy Samsa and Shawna Mills**.

Donation

Thanks to **Stefanija Vidmar** of Perry, Ohio who renewed her subscription plus enclosed a \$20.00 donation.

Christmas donation

A big thank you to St. Vitus Altar Society who sent a beautiful Christmas card with a very generous \$100 donation enclosed.

Christmas Donation

Thanks to the **American Slovene Club** for the beautiful Christmas card and the great donation of \$50.00!

... the star rains its fire
where the Beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a king.

--**Josiah G. Holland**

In Loving Memory of

STANLEY J. UNETIC

Born Aug. 14, 1923
Died Feb. 23, 2002

O Father in your great mercy
Accept our prayer that the Gates
of Paradise may be opened for
your servant. In our turn, may we
be comforted by the words of faith until
we greet Christ in glory and are united
with you and our departed.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

In Loving Memory

Of the 12th Anniversary
of the Death of Our
Beloved Father,
Grandfather, and
Great-grandfather



Louis Oswald

Passed away Dec. 11, 1990

*As we loved him, so we miss him;
In our memory he is near;
Loved, remembered, longed for always,
Bringing many a silent tear.*

Sadly missed by:
Wilma — daughter
Walter — son & wife Alberta
grandchildren and
great-grandchildren

In Loving Memory

of the 1st Anniversary
of the death of our beloved
mother, grandmother,
and great-grandmother.



Antoinette Gerbec

Entered into rest
December 12, 2001

*In our hearts your memory
lingers,
Sweetly, tender, fond
and true.
There is not a day,
dear mother,
That we do not think of you!*

Sadly missed by:
Loving daughter
Nancy Slapnik;
son-in-law Don Slapnik;
Granddaughter —
Shelli March,
Grandson — Louis Slapnik;
Great-granddaughter —
Lisa March;
Daughter-in-law
Dorothy Gerbec; and the
Gerbec Grand and
Great-grandchildren

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Joe Glinsek...

(Continued from page 5)

An example of health and job conditions is a story he told me about something that happened before I was born. Grandpa had severed half of his thumb during his 'career' with the railroad. If he was true to his own medical advice, the first thing he did was pee on the stub, but this wasn't part of the story. No mention was made of any medical first-aid on the job, or riding to a hospital in an ambulance. Grandpa was not the kind of guy that told phony tales, so I believe what I heard. After wrapping it in his handkerchief, he pocketed the severed thumb. When I asked him why, he looked puzzled by this silly question and gave me an obvious answer, "It was mine!" How can you argue with that logic? It gets even better. Someone gave him a towel to wrap around the stump, and holding his arm aloft to slow the bleeding, he walked to the emergency clinic near Five Points. Possibly a much younger Dr. Slaughter stitched and cauterized the stub. Grandpa said he gave the missing part to the doctor, but never saw it again. Maybe he thought the doctor could sew it back on.

As for Grandpa walking that distance with such a wound, one can only attribute this to his innate 'Old Country' survival instincts. There they would have to deal with serious injury, often without help, and almost certainly without the services of a medical doctor or facility. I'm sure he knew the basics of how to stop the bleeding and avoid shock or other serious trauma, although pocketing the end of

his thumb was kind of funny. The stub never gave him any real problem, and he was able to use it without difficulty. After living a peasant farm life all during his childhood, it's an example of what immigrants thought of as routine.

Grandpa was barely 60 when he retired in 1937. It might have been for medical reasons, but he had worked there for 35 years, which could have been reason enough. I don't know much about the benefits of his coverage by the Railroad Retirement Act, which remained separate from Social Security, even in the later years. His monthly pension was \$98, a fair amount in 1937. He was also given a lump sum of just over a thousand dollars at retirement.

The latter fact is only relevant because he insisted on being given a one thousand dollar bill when he cashed the check at the bank. As a resident of Cleveland, perhaps he thought it fitting to own a portrait of Grover Cleveland. He brought it home and proudly displayed it to one and all. None of us had seen anything larger than a twenty, so this was an event. Moreover, he carried the folded bill in his watch pocket and proudly showed it to all his cronies with never a fear of being mugged. A thousand dollars in 1937 would buy a new car and enough gas to go half-way around the world. To give it another perspective, a nice bungalow on the next street was going begging at \$1,800. Grandpa wasn't stupid, and no stranger was shown the bill, still it was really foolish. But he was proud of that bill and it was a real conversation piece.

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In Memory

Thanks to **Vincent Yurkovic** of Rutherford, NJ who renewed his subscription plus enclosed a donation of \$10.00 in memory of **Mr. and Mrs. Angelo and Josephine Jazbec.**

In Memory

Thanks to **Valeria and Dominic Cekada** of Euclid who sent in a \$10.00 donation in memory of their **parents** who instilled a great love for their heritage.

In Memory

Thanks to **Mrs. Michael Sadowsky** of Mentor, OH who sent in a \$25.00 donation in memory of **Sadowsky and Medved Families.**

In Memory

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

In Memory

Thanks to **Virginia M. Sirc** of Westerville, OH who sent in a \$15.00 donation in memory of **Andrew Sirc.**

Donation

Thanks to **Joseph Kastelic, M.D.,** of Akron Ohio for the \$50.00 donation.

Newburgh - Maple Pensioners Party

The December, January, and February meetings will be at the Slovenian National Home, 3563 East 80th off Union Avenue. They are all at noon.

The December Christmas Dinner meeting is on the 18th. Dinner tickets for members are \$6 in advance. The attendance prize for December is \$30. The January meeting is on the 22nd.

Back Home News

Editor,
Enclosed find check for the renewal for another year.

There may be many miles between us but the great newspaper takes me back home to Euclid, Ohio.

--**Amelia (Molly) Habjan**
Lebanon, Oregon

Donation

Thanks to **Stana Oven** of Monterey, CA who renewed her subscription and added a \$20.00 donation.

Donation

Thanks to **B. Sveltic** of Baltimore, MD who renewed the subscription plus added a \$25.00 donation.

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St. Stanislaus Classical Gymnasium Mixed Chorus Cleveland Tour

October was a month of visits and beautiful music from Slovenia for the parish of St. Mary's in Collinwood, as well as for the Greater Cleveland Slovenian community. On Saturday, October 12th, the well-known popular Slovenian singer, Ivan Hudnik presented a well attended concert with selections of his own music.

A few days later, the Mixed Chorus from the Classical Gymnasium St. Stanislaus from Ljubljana, Slovenia arrived in Cleveland from Toronto, Canada where they had a number of successful concerts. Here in Cleveland the 41 members of the chorus, accompanied by their director Damjan Mocnik, Barbara Kink and director of the Classical Gymnasium, the Rev. Anton Jamnik, were graciously received into the homes of the parishioners of St. Mary's.

The group received a whirlwind tour of the Cleveland area, including a visit to the Amish country (pictured above). Also on their agenda were the Warther Carving Museum in Dover, Ohio, and sites of Cleveland, including the Museum of Art, the Great Lakes Science Center, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland Zoo, and downtown Cleveland.

The chorus was also treated to its first experience

of American high school football at Mentor stadium and mall shopping.

On Saturday evening, Oct. 19, the chorus filled the acoustical perfect St. Mary's Church with a wonderful musical experience. The concert began with the members of the chorus lining the side aisles of the church, surrounding the concertgoers with a beautiful rendition of "Kyrie Eleison." The concert continued in front of the sanctuary with selections in Latin, German, Slovenian and English.

The chorus was enthusiastically received by the large number of people in attendance, and the chorus members also stated that they were energized by the attentiveness and enthusiasm of the audience.

After the concert, one gentleman who had come to the concert after seeing the notice in the Cleveland Plain Dealer remarked that in his 30 years of teaching music and singing with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, this had to be one of the best choral groups he had ever heard. It was a tremendous compliment for a tremendously talented group of singers who represented Slovenia and Cleveland's Slovenian community very well.

The chorus also sang at the 10 a.m. Sunday Slove-

nian Mass and the 12 noon Mass for St. Mary's School Alumni Association. Afterwards, they attended a benefit dinner at St. Vitus and sang at the Slovene Home for the Aged. Wherever they went, these spirit-filled young people would break into song, surprising and entralling their listeners with their style and professionalism.

On Monday evening, the chorus attended the opening of the City of Cleveland Council meeting where they once again received a standing ovation from all in Council Chambers and request were made for more songs. Slovenian Cleveland Councilmen Michael Polensek and Joseph Cimperman welcomed the group in the name of the Council and presented the chorus with a Proclamation from Council.

It was a packed few days in Cleveland, but the members of the St. Stanislaus Chorus left a marked impression on Cleveland's Slovenian Community and returned to Slovenia with many fond memories of the people of Greater Cleveland. These are the cultural events that hopefully will create lasting bonds of friendship.

--Rev. John Kumse
Pastor, St. Mary's
Collinwood

CHRISTMAS CANES

This is Mom's friend Alice Poremba's specialty. Since these are a yeast dough, plan ahead when making them or allow a few hours.

Ingredients:

DOUGH:

- 1 C milk, scalded
- 4 C unsifted flour
- ¼ C sugar
- 1 t salt
- 1 t grated lemon peel
- 1 C butter
- 1 pkg. dry yeast
- ¼ C warm water
- 2 eggs beaten

FILLING:

- 1½ C cranberries, chopped fine
- ½ C sugar
- ½ C raisins
- 1/3 C pecans, chopped
- 1/3 C honey
- 1½ t grated orange peel



Kim Ann

Directions:

Scald 1 C milk, cool to lukewarm. In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, salt and lemon peel. Cut in butter until like coarse meal. Dissolve yeast in warm water. Add to flour mixture, then add milk and 2 beaten eggs. Combine lightly.

Cover dough tightly and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to 2 days.

Combine cranberries, sugar, raisins, pecans, honey and orange peel in a pan. Cook over medium heat and bring to a boil, and cook for about 5 minutes. Cool.

Divide the dough in half. On a floured surface, roll half of dough to 18"x15" rectangle. Spread with half the filling and fold into a 3-layer strip, 15" long.

Cut dough into 15 strips. Hold the end of each strip and twist lightly in opposite directions. Pinch ends to seal. Place on greased cookie sheet. Shape the top of each to form a cane. Repeat with the rest of the dough and filling.

Bake at 400° 10-15 minutes, or until done. Cool on wire racks. Before serving, frost with confectioner's sugar frosting.

--Kim Ann Kaifesh
Our Family and Friends Recipes

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A Winter Day

Snowflakes glisten like prism lights
Reflecting sunshine - Nature's sights,
Drifts up high on country lanes,
Blankets of white like counterpanes,
Mountains of snow beside the stream,
High as the roof where blizzards teem,
Ponds so solid that skaters glide
Round and round -- from side to side.
Trees iced like feathered plumes,
Magic forest - snow-filled blooms,
Country scene - with icy way,
God created a Winter day.

--Marilyn McNeil de Latour

Walk, Don't Run for Health

You want to get healthy. You know you need to exercise more. You may have even jump-started your New Year's resolutions by joining a gym.

There's growing agreement among exercise researchers that the intense physical activities offered by most health clubs is not the only – or even necessarily the best – path to better health. In fact, the best thing most of us can do, say the experts, may be to walk.

Yes, walk. Not run or jog or sprint. Just walk, at a reasonably vigorous clip (3 m.p.h. - 4 m.p.h.) for half an hour or so, maybe five or six times a week.

You may not feel the benefits all at once, but the evidence suggests that over the long term, a regular walking routine can do a world of preventive good, from lowering your risk of stroke, diabetes and osteoporosis to treating arthritis, high blood pressure and even depression.

Walking, in fact, may be the perfect exercise. For starters, it's one of the safest things you can do with your body. It's much easier on your knees than running and, beyond an occasional stitch in the side, doesn't trigger untoward side effects. "Regular physical activity is probably as close to a magic bullet as we will come to in modern medicine," says Dr. JoAnn Manson, chief of preventive medicine at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital. "If everyone in the U.S. were to walk briskly 30 minutes a day, we could cut the incidence of many chronic diseases 30% to 40%."

If Americans want to do that, they have a long way to go. Fewer than a third of adults in the U.S. get the recommended amount of exercise each day, and 40% are almost completely sedentary. The result, as reported by the Surgeon General recently: a nation in which obesity may soon overtake cigarette smoking as the leading cause of preventable death.

Because walking affects you in so many ways at once, it can be difficult to determine precisely why it's good for you. But much of

the evidence gathered so far is quite compelling.

Heart Disease: Brisk walking is known to be good for the heart, which makes a lot of sense. The heart is a muscle, after all, and anything that makes the blood flow faster through a muscle helps keep it in shape. Regular walking lowers blood pressure, which helps decrease the stress on the arteries. It can boost the amount of HDL cholesterol (the good one) in the blood.

Stroke: In an analysis of the health habits of 70,000 nurses over the past 15 years, researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health found that those who walked the most – 20 or more hours per week – decreased by 40% their risk of suffering strokes caused by a clot.

Weight Control: The older you get, the harder it is to maintain your weight simply by restricting what you eat. Walking briskly for at least half an hour not only consumes a couple of hundred calories, but it also boosts your metabolic rate for the rest of the day, giving you a better chance of winning the battle of the bulge.

Diabetes: Two studies last year provided strong evidence that brisk walking 30 minutes a day can postpone and possibly even prevent the development of Type 2 diabetes in people who are overweight and whose bodies have already started having trouble metabolizing glucose.

Osteoporosis: Walking not only strengthens the muscles but builds up the bones to which they are attached. Studies show that women who exercised regularly in their 20s and had a healthy intake of calcium decreased their risk of developing osteoporosis in their 70s by more than 70%.

Arthritis: More than 3 million Americans suffer osteoarthritis – the wear-and-tear kind of arthritis – of the knees. Walking reduces the pain by strengthening the muscles around the joint. Walking in a pool or gently lifting weights can also help.

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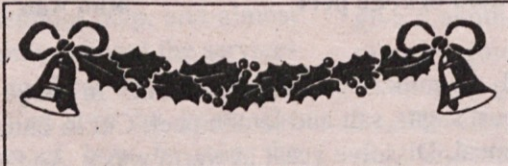
Christmas is not just a day... It is a spirit which should permeate... our lives. To believe that the spirit of Christmas does change lives.. is the essence of our faith in Christ.

Wishing Everyone Happy Holidays

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Cyprus, Slovenia Sign Anti-Drug Agreement

NICOSIA, -- Cyprus and Slovenia signed an agreement here Wednesday to fight international terrorism, drug trafficking and other organized crimes, the Cyprius News Agency reported.

The agreement was signed between Cypriot Justice and Public Order Minister Alecos Shambos and Slovenian Interior Minister Rado Bohic.

Shambos said the agreement will strengthen cooperation between the two countries in their course leading to their entry into the European Union (EU).

Bohinc said the agreement will facilitate exchanges of information, experience, knowledge between the two countries.

The European Union is expected to invite Cyprus, Slovenia and eight other candidate countries to join the bloc at its summit in Copenhagen on Dec. 12.

Thanks to Phil Hrvatin for this news item.

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Winter's Colors

Some call Winter Dismal,
I surely disagree
Winter has its colors
If you only stop to see.

Red cardinals skipping
Through the hedge,
The shimmering blue
Of the pond water's edge.

The mallard's head
Of velvet green,
Made brilliant by the sun's
Golden sheen.


The color of Winter
Is not dead,
But filled with colorful
Hues instead.

---Hancy W. Tant

Krofe Sale
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St. Vitus Church – Cerkev Sv. Vida

Christmas – Božič – 2002

Dear Parishioners,

In a few days we shall be remembering the birthday of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus the Christ, the fulfillment of God's promises to the chosen people, the One who will take away the sins of the world.

May the joy of Christ's birth come in great abundance upon our parish and neighborhood, upon our families and friends. May He continue to bless and watch over our city and our neighborhoods. May His loving hand guide our lives and our labors throughout the coming new year. A most joyful Christmas to everyone, and many blessings in the New Year 2003!

Your Priests and Parish Staff
at St. Vitus Parish

Dragi farani!

Čez nekaj dni bo Božič in spomin Jezusovega rojstva v Betlehemu. Jezus Kristus, učlovečni Sin božji, je Očetov odgovor, da bo poslal na svet Odrešenika, ki bo spravil grešno človeštvo s Bogom. Njemu se zahvalimo za dar odrešenja.

Naj Božič podeli obilo nebeškega blagoslova, miru in radosti naši župniji, družinam, prijateljem in še prav posebej bolnikom in osamljenim. Naj Božični mir vlada nad našim mestom in sososko. Naj božja roka vodi vse naše življenje in dobre napore v Novem letu 2003. Vesel Božič!

Vaši Duhovniki in farno osebje
pri fari Sv. Vida

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - SPOVEDOVANJE

SATURDAY-SOBOTA, December 21, 2002

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY - NEDELJA, December 22, 2002

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Please follow the regular weekly schedule to Tues., Dec. 24, 2002. Sledite spored v oznanilu do torka 24. dec. 2002.

CHRISTMAS EVE – SVETI VEČER

Tuesday, December 24th, NO Christmas Vigil Mass.
V torek 24. decembra, NE bo večerne sv. maše.

11:30 p.m. - Christmas Choral singing
Božično zborovsko petje
12:00 a.m. - Midnight Mass - Polnočnica

CHRISTMAS DAY – SVETI DAN

9:00 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass (Eng.)
10:30 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass (Slov.)
11:30 a.m. - Christmas Day Sung Litanies

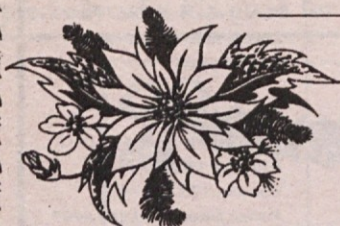
SUNDAY DECEMBER 29, 2002

3:00 p.m. - Annual Christmas Concert
at St. Vitus Church

NEW YEAR'S DAY – NOVO LETO ♦ JANUARY 1, 2003

Follow the regular weekly schedule to Tuesday, December 31, 2002. No Vigil Mass for New Year's Day. Sledite spored do torka 31. decembra 2002. V ponedeljek ne bo večerne sv. maše za Novo Leto.

10:00 a.m. - All Parish Mass
Vsežupnijska sv. maša



CHRISTMAS • BOŽIČ • 2002

Church of St. Mary of the Assumption • Župnija Sv. Marije Vnebovzete • Cleveland, Ohio

Dear parishioners and friends of St. Mary's,

The people that walk in darkness have seen a great light, and that light is Jesus Christ. War, terrorism, abuse, scandal, poverty, prejudice and personal sin darken our world, but it is Jesus our Savior who dispels this darkness with his peace, with hope, with love. This is the message of Bethlehem, a message that poor shepherds rejoiced to hear while the rest of the world slept, a message that we embrace with joy, while the world still sleeps in disbelief. As Christians, we find Christ in our world as it is, and not as it might be, because divinity is always where you least expect to find it. Who would have thought to look for it in a stable in Bethlehem? That the peace and hope and light of this holy season may be yours, we invite you to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as your humble gift to Jesus. We invite you also to celebrate with us the presence of Emmanuel, God with us, in the Christmas liturgies. Christ is born! Come, let us adore Him!

Wishing you the peace and holiness of Christmas,
Fr. John Kumse and the staff of St. Mary Parish

Dragi farani in prijatelji župnije Marije Vnebovzete!

Ljudstvo ki je hodilo v temi je videlo veliko luč, in ta luč je Jezus Kristus. Vojne, terorizem, zloraba, škandali, ubožstvo, predsodki in osebni grehi temnijo naš svet, ampak Jezus, naš Odrešenik je tisti, ki prežene to temo z njegovim mirom, z upanjem, z ljubeznijo. To je sporočilo Betlehema, sporočilo nad katerim so se radovali ubogi pastirji ko so ga slišali medtem ko je ostali svet spal, sporočilo katerega mi objemamo z radostjo medtem ko svet še spi v dvomu. Kot kristjani mi najdemo Kristusa v našem svetu kot je, in ne kot bi lahko bil, saj božanstvo je vedno tam kjer ga najmanj pričakujemo. Kdo bi si mislil da bi ga iskal v stalci v Betlehemu? Da bo mir, upanje in luč tega svetega časa z vami, vas vabimo da prejmete zakrament svete spovedi kot vaše ponižno darilo Jezusu. Vabimo vas tudi da praznujete z nami pričujočnost Emanuela, Boga z nami, v božični liturgiji. Kristus je rojen! Pridite, molimo!

Želimo vam mir in svetost Božiča,
g. Janez Kumše in ostali v župnišču

MASSES – SV. MAŠE

CHRISTMAS EVE – SVETI VEČER – DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Children's Mass – otroška maša
11:30 p.m. Christmas Prelude Music – božične pesmi
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass – polnočnica

CHRISTMAS DAY – SVETI DAN – DECEMBER 25

8:00 a.m. English Mass – angleška maša
10:00 a.m. Slovenian Mass – slovenska maša
11:00 a.m. Sung Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary –
pete litanije Matere Božje z blagoslovom
12:00 noon English Mass – angleška maša

CHRISTMAS CONCERT – BOŽIČNI KONCERT

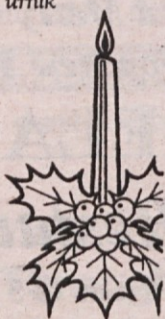
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27
6:30 p.m. St. Vitus Christmas Choir

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – PRAZNIK SV. DRUŽINE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
Ordinary Sunday Mass schedule – običajen nedeljski urnik
5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil, 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
and 12:00 noon

NEW YEAR'S DAY – 2003 – NOVEGA LETA DAN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2002
5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass – angleška maša
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2003
8:00 a.m. English mass – angleška maša
10:00 a.m. Slovenian Mass – slovenska maša



**Sacrament of Reconciliation
Zakrament sv. spovedi**

Monday, Dec. 16
ponedeljek,
16. decembra
Collinwood
Cluster Advent
Penance
Service
Holy Redeemer
Church
Kipling Avenue
7:00 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 20
petek,
20. decembra
7 – 7:30 a.m.
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 21
sobota,
21. decembra
4 – 4:30 p.m.
6 – 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 22
nedelja,
22. decembra
9:15 – 9:45 a.m.
11:00 – 11:30
a.m.

Monday, Dec. 23
ponedeljek,
23. decembra
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

SLOVENIAN KIFELCI

From Sylvia Pisorn's kitchen, this is a flaky pastry also called Kolachki (pronounced KEE-fell-tsee) or horns. They are the first to disappear off a plate of cookies and pastries. I like it because there aren't a lot of ingredients to measure, and they aren't too sweet, and low salt.

Ingredients:

DOUGH:

- 2 sticks butter (1/2 C)
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 2 C flour

FILLING:

- 1 can Solo brand filling (any flavor: apricot, blueberry, pineapple, prune)
- Granulated sugar (to roll after baking)

DIRECTIONS:

Blend the ingredients by cutting the butter and cream cheese into the flour with a pie cutter. Form ball. Refrigerate the dough for 2 hours. Flour work surface and roll out the dough medium-thin (like for cookies). With pastry cutter, cut into 2-inch squares. Place 1/2 teaspoon filling in center of each and fold one corner toward center, and opposite corner toward center to overlap. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 350° for 20 minutes. When these are still warm, roll in regular granulated sugar. Makes 4 dozen.

--Kim Ann Kaifesh

Our Family and Friends Cookbook



Holiday Fruit Salad

- 2 cups fruit cocktail
- 3 oz. package lemon jello
- 3 oz. package cream cheese
- 1/2 cup salad dressing
- 3 oz. package cherry jello
- 3 oz. package lime jello

Drain fruit, heat to boiling 1 cup of syrup. Dissolve lemon jello in hot syrup. Soften cheese with salad dressing and add to lemon jello. Dissolve cherry and lime jellos according to package directions.

Place half of fruit in large or individual molds. Cover with cherry jello. Chill until set. Pour cheese mixture on top, chill until set. Pour lime jello on top. Chill. Unmold and serve on lettuce leaf.

--Brother Richard

Gilmour well seasoned Golden Anniversary cookbook

CHOM'S CHEESE BALL

This is from my friend Leslie Chom, whose family serves it at every holiday gathering.

Ingredients:

- 12 oz. tuna
- 2 - 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 T Louisiana hot sauce
- 1 t Tabasco sauce

Directions:

Mix together and roll in chopped nuts. Serve with crackers.

--Kim Ann Kaifesh

Our Family and Friends Recipes



The first Christmas tree was probably of German origin, created by Boniface, an English missionary to Germany. He created the Christ tree to replace the pagan custom of a sacred tree dedicated to the Norse god Odin.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Vesele Božične Praznike

To Our

KSKJ Members and Friends

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and the
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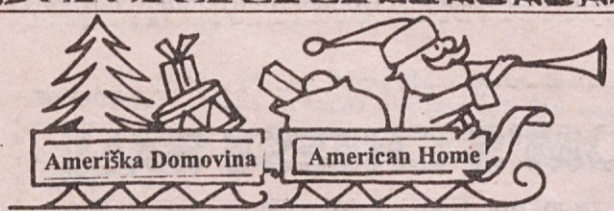
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Božične Praznike
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

from
Your Cleveland Ward
13 Councilman
Joe Cimperman

This time of year we all share our happiness with those around us. And, for those who are struggling to find happiness after the loss of a loved one, we offer our warmest wishes for your holiday season.

May the spirit of healing find you this Christmas.

Jakubs & Son FUNERAL HOME 16 East 184th St. Cleveland 216-531-7770	Jakubs Danaher FUNERAL HOME 36000 Lakeshore Blvd. Eastlake 440-953-4600
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Happy Holidays
from your friends at
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*Donna, Rose, Mary, Marilyn,
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Closed Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 (No fish fries)

BEST WISHES
for the
Holiday Season!

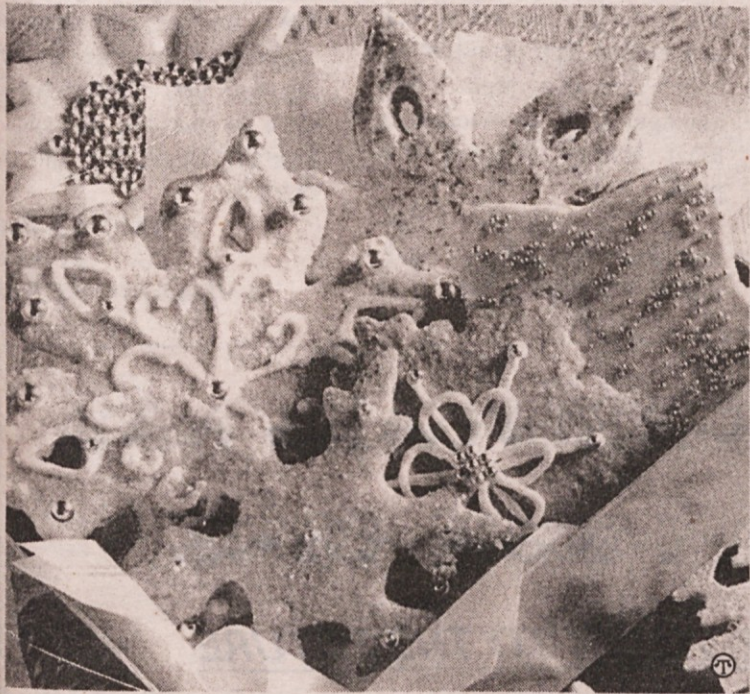


The Frances and
Jane S. Lausche
Foundation

Trim The Tree With Snowflake Cookies

(NAPS)—Cookie baking is one holiday tradition that most of us are reluctant to give up, even if it means making just one special cookie. Since kids love to help with holiday projects, plan now to set aside one weekend afternoon and bake beautiful snowflake-shaped cookies that can be used as tree ornaments or as gifts for favorite teachers.

Sparkling Snowflake Cookies were developed in the Quaker Kitchens to be extra-easy. A packaged cake mix limits the number of ingredients needed to five, and these are mixed by hand in a single bowl. Rolled oats add a naturally nutty flavor to these buttery cookies.



SPARKLING SNOWFLAKE COOKIES
About 2 1/2 Dozen

- 1 pkg. (18.25 oz.) white cake mix
- 1/2 pound (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups Quaker oats (quick or old-fashioned, uncooked)
- Assorted sugars, candy sprinkles, decorator icing

Heat oven to 350°F. In large bowl, combine *half* the dry cake mix with butter, egg and vanilla; mix thoroughly with large spoon. Stir in remaining cake mix and oats; mix well. Divide dough in half. On well-floured surface using a well-floured rolling pin, roll each half 1/8 to 1/4-inch thick. Cut dough with 3-inch snowflake or other large holiday cookie cutter. Place about 1-inch apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Sprinkle with sugar, if desired. For ornaments, poke a hole at the top of each cookie with drinking straw. (Repeat immediately after baking if hole closes.) Bake 6 to 8 minutes or just until set (centers may still be soft). Carefully remove to wire rack; cool completely. Decorate unsugared cookies with frosting and sugar or candy sprinkles.

COCONUT MACAROONS

This recipe is from Patty Biggs, a friend of Marien's. (This is a great way to use leftover egg whites when making Christmas cookies that use only yolks in the dough!)

- Ingredients:**
- 2 egg whites
 - 1/2 t vanilla
 - 2/3 C sugar
 - 1 1/3 C coconut

Directions:
Beat the egg whites. Add a dash of salt and the vanilla and continue beating until peaks form. Gradually add the sugar. Beat until stiff. Fold in coconut. Drop (or pipe) onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 325° for 20 minutes.

—Kim Ann Kaifesh

Our Family and Friends Cookbook

Old Fred's Death

Old Fred had been a faithful Christian and was in the hospital, near death. The family called their preacher to stand with them. As the preacher stood next to the bed, Old Fred's condition appeared to deteriorate and he motioned frantically for something to write on.

The pastor lovingly handed him a pen and a piece of paper, and Old Fred used his last bit of energy to scribble a note, then he died. The preacher in his wisdom thought it best not to look at the note at that time so he placed it in his pocket.

At the funeral, as he was finishing the eulogy, he realized he still had the note in his pocket. He said, "Old Fred handed me a note just before he died. I haven't looked at it, but knowing Fred, I'm sure there is a word of inspiration for us all."

He opened the note and read it. "Get off my oxygen tube."

Thanks to Emma Pogachar of Toronto for this bit of humor.

Merry Christmas

Paul J. Hribar
Joyce Ann Hribar

— Attorneys at Law —

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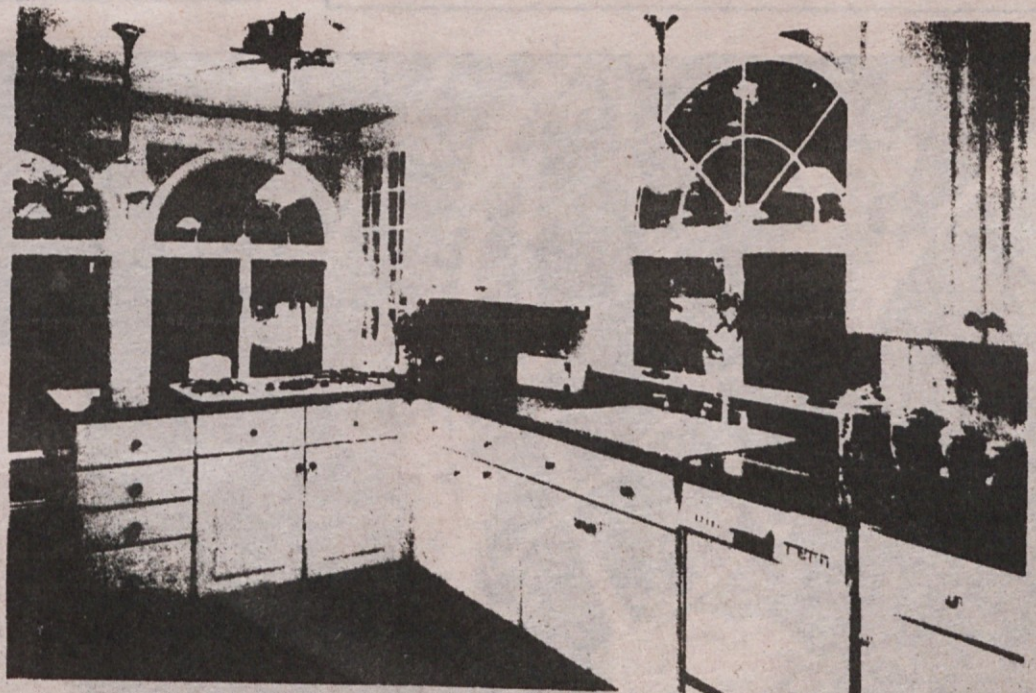
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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Highlights of Portugal & Southern Spain

Mid March is a perfect time to enjoy the beauty of the Iberian Peninsula. Spring flowers are in full bloom, the crowds are sparse and the locals are friendly and welcoming tourists.

Marija Tomaskovic, international agent at Kollander World Travel and host of the Croatian Melodies Hour, WELW 1330 AM (heard Sundays 2-3 p.m.) will be escorting this excellent tour from its departure from Cleveland on March 14 until its return from Madrid on March 23.

Travelers are welcome to join from nearly any major U.S. airport as we can arrange convenient connecting flights at our pre-arranged discount fares. By planning the trip to take advantage of low season airfare and discounts at the wonderful first class hotels we have chosen for the tour, the complete tour price including airfare from Cleveland is only \$1,299.00 (government taxes and airport security fees of

approximately \$99.00 not included).

Our group will fly to the capital and ancient city in the center of Spain, Madrid. After sightseeing here, we will also visit the Gothic Cathedral in Toledo and continue to Granada, former Moorish capital of Southern Spain. The fantastic and varied history of Granada and Seville will be on display as we spend the next two nights at the wonderful Hotel Grand Renacimiento in Seville.

We then navigate the southern coast of Portugal and then north along the Atlantic to the bustling capital city of Lisbon. A day of exploring this wonderful city with its many monuments to famous explorers will be followed by an afternoon tour of Sintra with its beautiful seaside views.

From Lisbon we visit the Basilica at Fatima, commemorating the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1917. We then cross the

border back into Spain to visit the golden city of Salamanca. After Salamanca we will visit the perfectly preserved 11th century walls surrounding St. Theresa's city of Avila. Then return to Madrid for a final highlight

dinner with specialties from the region.

We have had many requests the last few years to offer a tour to these inter-

esting regions and you will find that traveling in the company of friends, new and old, makes for a wonderful experience. You can be assured that this is a first class tour featuring excellent hotels in the city centers as well as a deluxe European touring coach and experienced tour manager with knowledge of local history at your disposal.

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and your luggage delivered to your room, gives you more time to enjoy the sites and to socialize with your fellow travelers.

We encourage you to call toll free today at 1(800)800-5981 for the complete and descriptive brochure and encourage you to sign up as soon as possible as space is limited. Thank you and best regards.

--Michael J. Benz,
President
Kollander World Travel



Merry Christmas!

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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.

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