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Christmas Recollections

By Robert M. Debevec

"Twas the night before Christmas..." well, actually it wasn't exactly Christmas, but St. Nicholas Day, December 6th. This really started the Christmas season for us kids in the Slovenian neighborhood on East 61st street in Cleveland, Ohio back in the early 1920s.

As most people of Slovenian heritage know, the custom was to put a dish out the night before St. Nicholas made his yearly rounds. Each child placed a note with name and Christmas greeting in the dish. This was so that the good Saint would know exactly who was receiving the hard candy, mixed fruit and nuts, figs and assorted goodies. It was necessary to identify the dish as there was usually something practical besides sweets as a gift, such as stockings or underwear which required individual correct sizes.

I recall that one time my brother Ed, the oldest child in the family, decided to get a little more than his fair share. Instead of a dish he left a pretty good sized bowl with his name on it. I guess he learned an important lesson when he found his receptacle empty, much to the delight of his siblings.

After St. Nick's Day, the Christmas season continued as we made an annual excursion to the corner grocery store to purchase our Christmas tree. As I recall the tree cost around a dollar and it was pretty scraggly with lots of falling needles, but we loved it. Part of the excitement was loading the tree on our sled and hauling it back to Grandma's house on East 61st street where we

spent Christmas in those days. Dad, Uncle Mike (Kolar) and Ed usually erected the tree in the front room. They used a 2x4 wooden base which was homemade.

After the tree was up and pretty secure, the ladies of the household, along with the younger children, pitched in and did the tree decorating. (Known as "trimming these days.") The ornaments were mostly homemade but there was always a long garland rope of silver and gold winding its way from the tip to the base of the tree. Of course, there was an angel at the top and a Nativity Scene under the tree with appropriate statues of sheep, lambs, the Wise Men, Mary and Joseph, and their child in a tiny crib.

Electric lights? We didn't have such a modern innovation. Grandma's house didn't have electricity. It was equipped with a natural gas mantle for each room which had to be lit every evening and extinguished by bedtime.



Although it seems rather reckless now, we used tiny candles in clamp-on bases to illuminate our Christmas tree. There were about a dozen or so candles and the lighting was performed by one of the grownups. In spite of the old fashioned and dangerous way of lighting the tree, I recall that it looked very elegant with the flickering candles and the reflections on the ornaments and garlands.

I don't remember much talk about Santa bringing gifts in those days. It was our aunts, uncles and parents who wrapped and placed the gifts under the tree. The

custom was to open the gifts on Christmas Eve and it was an exciting time for sure. There were a few toys and also gifts of clothing in those practical times. It seemed that Christmas was not so commercialized in the days gone by, but the old fashioned Christmas was sure a lot of fun.

As a footnote, the house at 1025 East 61st street where we celebrated all those great Yuletide Seasons, was where I was born many years ago. (Those were the days of home delivery.) The house was destroyed along with a lot of Uncle Mike's possessions as he lived there with his own family at the time of the East Ohio Gas explosion and fire in 1944. The house is gone but, as they say, the memory lingers on.

A. H. Holiday Printing Dates

The next American Home newspaper will be printed on **Monday, Dec. 22**.

There will be **NO** paper published on January 1st because of the holidays.

The first paper of the new year will be printed on Thursday, January 8.

Have a nice holiday, too!

A Baraga Quote

Don't long for a lengthy life on Earth. See that you live honestly. At death, the new-born, whose life is innocent, is happier than the old man whose life was sinful.

BARAGA DAYS CLEVELAND - 1998

Christmas is coming,
the geese are getting fat,
Please to put a penny in
the old man's hat;

If you haven't got a
penny, --a half penny will
do,

If you haven't got a half
penny; God bless you!

--Beggar's rhyme.



Ray Novak, left, Trustee and Treasurer of the Richman Brothers Foundation presents a check for \$5,000 to Tony Rotola, Administrator of the Slovene Home for the Aged in Cleveland. Ray is also a member of Lodge No. 9 AMLA, and Lodge No. 25 KSKJ.

The Crèche

The crèche refers to the animals' manger in which, according to Saint Luke, the Virgin placed Jesus when he was born. It later came to mean the place of the Nativity and then the Nativity.

The two oldest depictions of the Nativity date from the 4th century.



The first is a wall painting which decorates the funeral chamber of a Christian family living around the year 380. This pictorial work was discovered in 1877 in the catacombs of Saint Sebastian in Rome.

The other reference is to a painted scene on a sarcophagus in the Basilica of Saint Maximin and depicts the three Wise Men worshipping the Christ Child.

The term crèche (from the German "Krippe") ap-

peared in the 12th century. Legend connects it to Saint Francis of Assisi: he was said to have celebrated Midnight Mass in 1223 with the approval of the Pope in Greccio, Italy in a stable where men and beasts re-enacted the Nativity.

Nativity plays date back to the Middle Ages when liturgical dramas, mysteries and plays were performed originally in churches and later just outside in the church porch or church square.

The first church crèches appeared in the 16th century and their mannered and stilted form replaced the theatrical style of medieval liturgies.

The fashion for family crèches expanded in the 18th century.

**PEACE OF CHRISTMAS
MAY IT BE WITH YOU
FOR NOW AND
FOREVER!**

"I heard the bells on
Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols
play,
And wild and sweet the
words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-
will to men!"

Henry W. Longfellow





Was reading with interest some of the old Christmas customs and shenanigans as recalled by writer Bob Debevec. With your permission, I would like to add a few comments of my own.

I've been stopped by a number of bums (excuse me, I mean home impaired) persons suggesting various reasons for taking money from my pocket and graciously depositing it into their palms. Usually, they want some change for a meal, gas for their car, or a hamburger for their hungry-looking kid desperately holding on to their mother's hand with a pleading look in their eyes.

Well, this week we heard a new one. Our computer expert Bob Mills and his lovely wife, Marcie, were walking down St. Clair Avenue when a person asked him for some change. Bob blurted out, "What for?"

The man replied, "For the bus. I'm getting tired of walking."

In the cold weather we've had last week, I don't blame the fellow. It's amazing he didn't ask for \$10 so he could take a cab. Or \$500 so he could fly to someplace warmer.

*
Anyhow, being Christmas and as is often the case, it is a time of nostalgia. When I went to St. Mary's there was no auditorium-gym attached, nor cafeteria. Those of us from the Netherlands (across the bridge) brought our lunch with us and we ate at our desks in the room. We had our breakfasts at home.

A good thing about bringing your lunch is you could finish it in a hurry and then rush outside to play baseball in the fall and spring, or cut-the-pie in the snow in winter.

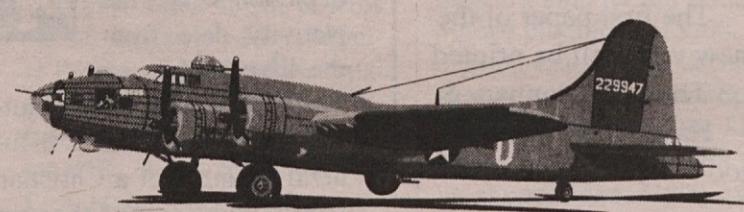
What did all this teach you? It taught you how to survive using your own wits. You took care of yourself, and that lesson lasted a lifetime.

One of my favorite days was the last day of school before Christmas vacation. That afternoon we walked over to the Holmes Avenue Slovenian National Home (because the school had no auditorium) where we watched a movie. At the conclusion we went forward, one row at a time, to talk with Santa Claus and receive a big net stocking full of hard candy, which lasted all week.

To this very day, a lot of people associate watching movies with Christmas vacations. Hollywood even brings out its best movies at this time, and people do attend the motion picture theaters in spectacular numbers.

The custom of watching movies on the last day before vacation even spilled over to St. Joseph High School. As a freshman I fondly remember the big assembly where they showed the movie, "Dodge City." A lot of the students were mad because they would rather have the time off to go to their jobs, or do some Christmas shopping, or such. A big stink was made about it, and consequently, they never showed another film prior to Christmas vacation. I guess I was the only one who liked the idea of showing a movie. Good thing I joined the Navy because they show a movie every day.

During Christmas vacation we try to see at least one new movie.



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bumps just thinking of it. Only John Mercina's fax from a deceased person in heaven was able to equal the fright.

On this week before Christmas, my wish is *your* holiday customs will all be peaceful and *delicious* ones, which as Vince Gostilna, our food expert, says, are the best.

Comments? Fax: (216) 361-4088; E-mail: jim@buckeyeweb.com

Speaking of movies, remember the TV series which ran on Sunday evenings called "Mysteries." One week they featured "McMillan and Wife." What were the two features shown the other two weeks? Do you remember? Drop me a line and let me know; you could be a winner.

*

My brother Bob flew B-17s during the Second World War. I sent him a clipping of one I found in the Wall Street Journal a couple weeks ago in an article about a new American Army Air Force Museum they're opening in England. He wrote back the photo was misidentified. He says the picture claiming to be of a B-17 G was actually a B-17 F (no chin turret).

Anyhow, after the war, one Christmas Eve, as was our custom, the family was over at our house, snacking, and getting ready to unwrap presents. It was late at night and someone was ringing the doorbell. Everybody in the house ignored it. (They were all in on the gag but me.) Seeing that no one wanted to answer the door, I got up, put on the porch light and opened it.

To my total astonishment and horror, standing before me was the most hideous monster I had ever seen in my life. I screamed and ran right through the laughing crowd into my room and hid in the bed under a blanket.

After a little while, they coaxed me out saying it was only a joke. It was my brother Bob who had stood outside wearing his old military gas mask, an air force pilot's hat and a long flying scarf around his neck. To this very day I get goose

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CHRISTMAS 1997

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THE PEACE
OF THAT
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WHEN
JESUS
WAS BORN!



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BLAŽENA
NOĆ. VSE ŽE
SPI, JE
POLNOĆ..."
the song that
reminds us of
the true spirit
of

From JOHN MERCINA

to YOU and YOUR FAMILY!

A CHRISTMAS FILLED WITH LOVE

and

a Peaceful 1998 !

Origins of Christmas

Across Europe, Roman, German or Celtic festivals marked the beginning of winter. Christianity originated and expanded in the ancient world by promising a new life, and by announcing a new light to the world in the person of Jesus Christ.

Little by little, a calendar of religious festivals was established from the 4th century, replacing ancient rituals and pagan celebrations.

Christmas is the festival of the *Nativity* and commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ in the Christian liturgy the night of December 24 to 25. Contemporary France and Canada have not forgotten past traditions and still keep the practices and beliefs associated with the Christmas festival alive.

As for the meaning of the word *Noël*, it could have three origins:

- ✓ A Judaic origin;
- ✓ A religious Latin origin, linked to *Dies natalis* (the birthday of Christ);
- ✓ More controversially, a Celtic origin derived from the Gaulish word *novo* (new) and *hel* (sun) corresponding to the winter solstice.

As Christian religion was establishing itself in the first centuries A.D., Christmas as such did not exist; the Church knew only the festival of the Resurrection which was solemnly celebrated at Easter.

The first celebrations of the birth of Jesus "Natale Christi" appeared during the 4th century in the West when Christianity became the majority religion.

The objectives were to Christianize the festivals of popular culture and pre-Christian cults which were celebrated during the month of December.

The liturgy or the interpretation of the scriptures would influence and determine how the scenes of the life of Christ would be represented and particularly that of the Nativity.

In 354, Pope Liberius instituted the *Nativity* on December 25 while the Eastern Church celebrated the birth and baptism of Christ on January 6 on the feast of *Epiphany*.

The choice of the date December 25 was based ultimately on the desire of the Church Fathers to turn the people of the Roman Empire away from idolatry.

From the 5th century, the festival of the Nativity took on such importance in the Christian world that it signaled the beginning of the liturgical year. This continued up until the 11th century when the period of *Advent* was added to the Christmas cycle and the first Sunday in Advent from then on became the start of the new liturgical year.

Mario's Christmas Show on WATJ-1560 am

WATJ-1560 AM radio in Chardon, Ohio will present 4 hours of Christmas music from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th.

The host of the holiday music will be Mario Kavcic who has selected Slovenian and American Christmas carols that will bring back many nostalgic and memorable Yuletide sentiments and recollections of past Christmases.

Slovenian Cultural Center Celebrates 2nd

The Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, Illinois celebrated the 2nd Anniversary of their beautiful heritage and cultural center called: "Slovenski Dom" on Sunday, Nov. 16th.

A large crowd filled the banquet hall that was converted into a beautiful church-like setting. At the altar, enhanced with flowers and plants, the commemorative Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Blase Chemazar, O.F.M., Superior of the Slovenian Franciscan Fathers in Lemont. Co-celebrating with Fr. Blase was Fr. David Srumpf, the Director of the Slovenian Catholic Mission who coordinated the liturgy. Deacon John Vidmar assisted. Music during the liturgy featured the men's chorus Vasovalci from Slovenia.

Following Mass, Fr. Blase led prayers in blessing the newly completed outdoor improvements around the Dom site.

Representing the Archdiocesan Office for Ethnic Ministries, Ms. Krystyna

Zambrzycki greeted everyone with a few salutary comments and best wishes for the future of the Slovenian Mission.

After a sumptuous dinner and efficient service in the hall, a cultural program ensued. The children of the Slomsek Slovenian School performed adorably in songs and recitations and the Vasovalci, a chorus of 10 young men from the Ljubljana area in Slovenia, added pleasure to the day by singing a program of favorite Slovenian folk-songs.

There's nothing that draws attention as does the sound of a peppy Slovenian polka and so it was as the performance of "Veselje," a new adult folk dancing group began. Three couples of our own SCC members danced out on stage to the applause and cheering of the audience, and when they ended, there were more calls and cheers of approval. The new group of "seniors" were a hit and hopefully, will be performing again soon.

To end the celebration, a

large cake was brought out; everyone sang a toast and the twin little Lavoie girls blew out the twin anniversary candles. The crowd enjoyed another hour of music and dancing before dispersing.

The Slovenian Cultural Center thanks all guests and those participants who came to make the Second Anniversary so enjoyable. It was especially nice to have the singers from Slovenia as our special guests.

Before the year is over we enjoyed the visit of St. Nicholas on Dec. 7th and the children's program prepared for that event by the Slomsek Slovenian School; and a week later on Dec. 14th, the Bishop John Gorman was scheduled to be at our Slovenian Catholic Mission for Mass and luncheon at the Dom.

The Directors of the Slovenian Cultural Center extends warmest wishes for the holidays. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope to see you often in 1998!

Donation from St. Vitus Alumni

A big thank you to the St. Vitus Alumni for their letter of Christmas greetings and a \$25.00 donation.

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A very big thank you to St. Anne Lodge No. 4 AMLA for their generous donation of \$100.00 as a Christmas gift.



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Host Mario Kavcic

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Almar with Guest Musician

3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Polkatime America

4 - 5 p.m. rebroadcast of a production from Radio Ljubljana, Slovenia in native language

Sunday

7 a.m. - 10 a.m. Memory Lane

Host Allen James

10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Magic Sound of the Button Box

Host John Pestotnik

10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Reflections of the New Slovenia

Hostess Linda Cimperman

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Polka Fun With Al & Harry

Host Al Markic & Harry Faint

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Polka Tributes

Host Al Markic

2 p.m. - 3 p.m. International Hour

Host John Krizancic

3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Polkatime America

<http://www.watj.com>

I love the Christmas tide, and yet...

I notice this, each year I live;

I always like the gifts I get,

But how I love the gifts I give! --Carolyn Wells

I like to take my Christmas a little at a time, all through the year.

And thus I drift along into the holidays... waking up some fine morning and suddenly saying to myself:

"Why, this is Christmas Day!" --David Grayson

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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4 Review of St. Vitus "Miklavževanje" program

On December 7, more than 450 people attended and witnessed a well-performed rendition of a version of the annual dramatic performance of "Miklavževanje" (Arrival of St. Nicholas) presented by the student body of Slovenska šola pri sv. Vidu (St. Vitus Slovenian School) at 3 p.m. in St. Vitus Parish Auditorium.

The gist of the performance, as outlined in the insert provided in the play guidebook, is that two novice angels are mandated to provide a mailbag of requested letters to St. Nicholas. They must pass three tests intended to discourage them in their mission. They encounter Lucifer and his cohorts of disguised devils.

With the help of an Archangel the novice angels successfully complete the task and are awarded their gold stars and wings, thereby joining the ranks of other angels who are the honor guards to meet and lead the procession for the special visitor from heaven, St. Nicholas.

Another special guest, St. Anthony, is called from Heaven by St. Nicholas to assist him during the remaining proceedings.

For the Miklavževanje performance the following students are actors: the teacher (Andrea Leonard); the students (Andrej Coffelt,

"Heap on more wood! -- the wind is chill;
But let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our Christmas
merry still.
--Walter Scott

David Cup, Marty Fuhr, Janez Jakomin, Alex McKinley, Janez (cek) Sršen and Janko Zakelj).

The novice angels of Miroslav and Božidar were respectively performed by Victoria Zalar and Sonia Domanko while the chief first and second devils were played by Daniel Lavrisha and Marko Sršen. Lucifer was skillfully portrayed by Franci Zalar while the Archangel was well-played by Peter Domanko.

The Clouds were Andreja Antloga, Monika Bratkovič, Rachael Gaser, Stefi Hebebrand, Monika Perčič, Rezi Skrabec, and Melissa Zupan.

The remaining cast of devils were Franci Antloga, Anton Dolenc, David Fuhr, Edi Mejač, Tone Ovsenik, Nick Perčič, Franci Sever, and Jože Skrabec.

Our Heavenly Angels were Kristina Antloga, Jessica Bratkovič, Andrea and Jennifer Dolenc, Kristina Jakomin, Nadi Lavrisha, Andrea Leonard (a second role), Anna Maria and Theresa Manfreda, Danielle Maurice, Kristina Mejač, Lisa and Pamela Ovsenik, Teja Petelin, Marija Plečnik, Kristina Slogar, Andreja Sršen, Elizabeth and Viktorija Yuko, Monika Zalar, Kati and Megan Zupan, and Ani, Mihelca, and Tončka Zakelj.

The rendition of "Miklavževanje" had the

Life is much like Christmas - you are more apt to get what you expect than what you want.

support of many helpers to achieve a truly unique dramatic presentation. This was accomplished by the directing, stage hands, scenery, lighting, costume design, dance coordination, singing direction, camera work and program design of the following: Martina Jakomin, Bernada Ovsenik, Jože, Martha and Tomaž Gaser, Tomaž Kmetich, Erika Kurbos, Cilka Kusold, Mojca Slak, Ani Sterle, Marjanca Domanko, Sonja Mejac, Matija Plečnik, Matija Plečnik, ml., Janez Sršen, Franci Coffelt, Tone Ovsenik, Niko Ovsenik, and Zalka Likozar. Our beloved SS. Nicholas and Anthony are, as always, open secrets.

We wish to thank remaining parent body who in any small or large manner assisted in the kitchen, package preparation work, auditorium setup / clean-work, treasury work, preparation of the social afterwards, or served refreshments. We also thank Ameriška Domovina, Nas Glas, Glasilo, WCSB, WCPN, and WELW for announcing this event. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

On behalf of the Parent Board, Slovenska šola pri sv. Vidu -- S. Kuhar.



CHICAGO, ILL—Governor Jim Edgar proclaimed November 12 as Ethnic Museum Day in Illinois. Over 30 ethnic museums participated in the Museum Exhibit at the James R. Thompson Center, where over 20,000 people visit a day. The Slovenian Cultural Center, located in Lemont, Illinois, received an award for their participation in Governor Jim Edgar's Ethnic Museum Day.

Pictured left to right; Donna Mulcahy Fitts, Executive Director, Office of the Governor; Vera Magajne, Nandi Puc, Slovenian Cultural Center; Pat Michalski, Assistant to the Governor for Ethnic Affairs.

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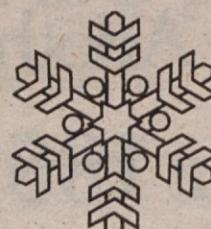
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Christmas in Finland

It has sometimes been said that northern people appreciate Christmas the most, and this does actually seem to be true. After the long, dark and often very wet autumn, Christmas marks the turning point of the year: light begins to win over darkness. It's time to celebrate. Preparing for the year's biggest festival also makes the autumn go faster.

Christmas in Finland is not just Christmas Eve and the two days that follow. It is preceded by a lengthy and cheerful period of busy preparation. For the Church, Christmas begins with the first Sunday in Advent, but long before this, as early as October, countless organizations have already set about getting into the holiday spirit.

The first off the line are generally the women's groups, planning their Christmas bazaars. Members get together in the old Finnish tradition, most often to make Christmas decorations. These evening gatherings could also be regarded as the first Christmas parties, called by the delightful name of "Pikkujoulu," meaning "Little Christmas," since they always include some type of Christmas program, talks, music and special seasonal delicacies.

The "pikkujoulu" has been part of the Finnish tra-

dition since the 1920's, and every employer of any size arranges one for his staff. Every organization throws a party, too. Even town councils may forget their political differences and join forces for one happy evening. They may put on a play or sketch for the amusement of their own staff.

The first Sunday in Advent officially opens the Christmas season, the church resounding to the strains of Vogler's "Hosanna." And people flock to hear it. All over the country there are advent concerts in the evening.

It is around this time that the Christmas lights come on in shops and offices. The centers of towns are full of light. Pietarsaari, a town on the west coast of Finland, has had a Christmas street (Storgatan) ever since 1840's. Suspended over the street are three giant decorations: a cross symbolizing faith, an anchor representing hope, and a heart, the symbol of love. In the olden days they were lit with candles; nowadays the candles are electric. Only war, the start of the oil crisis and the introduction of an outdoor Christmas tree have temporarily interrupted their use.

On December 13th the Swedish speaking schools and homes of Finland celebrate Lucia's Day, a practice

which spread from Sweden in the early 1920's. The daughter of the family wakes her parents with morning coffee, dressed in white, with a red belt and a crown of candle.

The costume is reminiscent of the virgin martyr of Sicily: the white dress her innocence, the red belt her martyrdom and the crown - symbol of a halo - her holiness. This crown is usually decorated with linen springs and threaded with a red ribbon.

Lucia is accompanied by her brothers and sisters in the role of servants and pages, all singing together. This custom is also becoming popular among Finnish speaking people. Lucia's Day used to coincide with the shortest day of the year, which is why Lucia, the queen of lights, has gained such popularity in the north.

Little by little the advent decorations are brought out. The children hang up their advent calendars, and families count the days to Christmas with the help of advent candles. The first candle is lit on the first Sunday, the first and second on the second Sunday, and so on until the fourth is lit on the fourth Sunday, forming a slanting row. This decoration originally came from Sweden and Germany and found its way to Finland in the 1930's.

Christmas cards are posted, decorations made or bought. The baking is also done well in advance.

On the last Sunday before Christmas it is time to start looking for a Christmas tree, ready to be carried in the house the day before



Christmas Eve, turned to show its finest branches, and decorated.

The Finns like to include rows of national flags, a reminder of friendship among peoples.

Another item is geometric mobile made of straw called a "himmeli" - very difficult and time consuming to make. The straw which must be straight and of good quality, is first softened in the warmth of the sauna, then cut into sections of equal length. The straws are then threaded to make triangles, squares and eight-sided figures. Finally these figures are combined to make bigger and bigger shapes. Wood shavings may also be cleverly molded to make stars with which to decorate the home, and of course there are many other trinkets, too.

Almost everyone puts out a bundle or two of oats for the birds.

The candles on the tree are lit for the first time the day before Christmas Eve.

The sauna is an integral part of the Finnish Christmas. Even in the early years of this century people were still expected to "attend" the sauna on Christmas Eve. And still, anyone traveling around the Finnish countryside on Christmas Eve will

see smoke rising from almost every sauna house.

Christmas Eve is the highlight of the year in Finland, and not Christmas Day. Families get together for the occasion, and children who have grown up and moved away from home try to be with their parents for the holiday.

Christmas Eve is still a working day, however; the shops are open only until midday. This provides one last chance to buy those few last gifts and dainties for the table.

At precisely 12 noon the "Peace of Christmas" is proclaimed in Turku, the former capital of Finland, along with admonitions and greetings dating from the Middle Ages. Most Finns listen to this ceremony on the radio, and it marks the beginning of the feast. Nowadays most

(Continued on page 11)

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William G. Howell, Executive Director, Ohio Lottery



Hostesses at Tony Petkovsek's Polka Party at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Cleveland during the Thanksgiving Weekend are, top, left to right: Rose Suchan, Alice Kuhar and Patty Sluga of radio fame, and Mary Marsic. Bottom row, left to right: Ann Tomsick and Barbara Strumbly.

Polkas On Cleveland Thanksgiving Menu

By TONY PETKOVSEK

They again came from every segment of North America and all of Ohio, as far north as Saskatchewan and as far south as Florida, to experience the longest running annual polka party festival of its kind, since the early 1960s, in Cleveland, Ohio.

A total of over 4,000 people were in attendance in our two polka radio dance and shows plus the Polka Hall of Fame spectacular Awards Show X in Euclid and the Winners Dance downtown. Everyone seemed to be really on a "polka high," for the Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend '97.

Real show-stoppers included the colorful Kres (bonfire) Slovenian folk dancers; an accordion virtuoso from Slovenia by the name of Toni Sotosek; Jennifer Deprez-Craig Ebel's "Squeeze Your A-Cor-Deen" vocal with Roger Bright; and the Friday night "ultimate" button box jam headed up by Joey T and Lynn Marie showcasing over

30 of the country's outstanding button accordionists at one time.

Interspersed were 15 outstanding polka band ensembles plus many guest artists like Frankenmuth's Linda Lee; the Cleveland husband-wife team of Don (accordion) and Rose (violin) Slogar serenading in the luxurious hotel lobby; along with Nashville's Cow Polka King Joey Miskulin and Canadian King Walter Ostanek.

Noticeably missing was America's Polka King who was ailing in Florida but captured the top honors for his "Yankovic and Friends" album. We wish Frankie the best in health.

As if the ultimate button box jam wasn't enough, three Cleveland groups really wowed them including the Lake Erie, Joe Novak and zany Zeke and Charlie Gang.

The special MC-hosts Joey Tomsick, Ray Somich, Denny Bucar (all night jams) and myself helped to keep the entertainment going non-stop while our polka radio colleague-announcers Alice Kuhar, Duke Marsic and Patty Sluga circulated with the crowds and amongst the

volunteer committee of our Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club both Thursday and Friday.

Saturday's events for the Polka Hall of Fame were coordinated by the Polka Foundation trustees and their volunteer staff.

Special appreciation goes out to all of the print and electronic media for the outstanding coverage and in particular the Plain Dealer newspaper and Fox 8 TV News. Kollander Travel handled all reservations and an acknowledgment to WELW-WDLW radio, our base for an unprecedented 36 years of daily polka programming.

We made merry all weekend at the Cleveland Marriott Hotel downtown at Key Center, for the sixth consecutive year. The 400 room modern facility was sold out over the holiday weekend as over a thousand polka fans danced and participated at each of the grand ballroom and surrounding foyer events. The classy atmosphere lent itself well for the classy entertainers who assembled right in the heart of our polka capital.

The Perfect Christmas Gift

A gift subscription to the American Home Newspaper is the perfect present that will last the entire year. Your recipient will think of your thoughtfulness each time the paper arrives.

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in

Sræčno Novo Læto 1998

z

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— Jozef Zelle —



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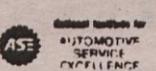
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POTICA

Traditional Slovenian Holiday Bread

Potica (paw tee' tzah) is a traditional Slovenian holiday cake. Variations of it are also common in several other Eastern European countries. When my Polish house cleaner saw it on the counter, she said, "Oh. Christmas Cake!"

Some of my fondest childhood memories are of being at my grandmother's house and helping with the potica, and then enduring the smell for hours before it was done and cool enough to eat. My grandmother came over from the old country when she was 20 and lived in a Slovenian neighborhood in my hometown, and could she make a tremendous potica.

Well, my grandmother has been gone for 20 years, but when I ran across a recipe for potica on the Slovenian home page (on the Internet), I had to try it. And I was disappointed. It just wasn't the same as my grandmother's.

So I challenged my mother to remember how her mother had made it. And we looked up a dozen or more recipes in cookbooks and from other family members and friends. And we made several poticas, refining the recipe until we had it right. And now I can make potica as good as grandma's.

The smell takes me back to my childhood and her kitchen, and so she is with me still. And my child will take the smell with him, too, but this time he will have the recipe.

One thing to note. Potica is supposed to rise very high, topping out an angel food cake pan. In Slovenia they use special ceramic pans which are higher still. To get the rise, the ingredients, the bowls, and the pans should

all be warm, at least room temperature, and the kitchen should best be very warm as well. This way the potica won't catch a chill and fail to rise to expectations.

YEAST:

- 2 pkgs. dry yeast
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/4 cup warm water

Sprinkle sugar over yeast and add warm water. Let it stand until twice its original volume.

DOUGH:

5 cups flour (4 cups to start, adding additional flour as needed)

- 1 1/4 cup warm milk
- 1/2 cup softened butter or margarine
- 3 egg yolks
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. dark rum (or vanilla)
- 1 grated peel of lemon
- Pinch of salt

Mix softened butter, sugar and egg yolks until the sugar is well dissolved and mixture is frothy. Set aside. Warm up the milk, mix in salt, lemon peel, and rum, and add to the butter mixture. Form the dough out of the 4 cups of flour, yeast, and milk mixtures. The trick is not to pour in all the milk mixture immediately; use about 1/4 to start with, then add more as the dough forms.

Beat with electric mixer until smooth and elastic. Then keep adding flour as needed, and mixing with a wooden spoon until of consistency that dough can be handled without sticking. Place dough on floured board and knead for about 15 minutes, adding flour as needed to make a non-sticking dough. Place dough in a well-greased bowl; turn dough upside down to grease

top. Cover and let rise in warm place for about 1 1/2 to 2 hours until double in bulk. While dough is rising, prepare filling.

FILLING:

- 6 cups finely ground walnuts (approx. 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 lb.)
- 1 cup finely ground golden raisins

- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. dry bread crumbs
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
- 1/2 cup honey
- 3/4 cup thick cream (or half-and-half)
- 1/2 cup butter (or margarine)
- 3 egg whites, beaten stiff

Mix walnuts and raisins, and grind them together to keep raisins from clumping. Combine all dry ingredients. Warm the cream and honey, and melt the butter in this mixture. Add cream mixture to dry ingredients and mix completely. Fold in beaten egg whites last. Let filling cook as you roll out dough.

Roll out dough on table covered with a tablecloth well sprinkled with flour. Roll out to 1/4" thick, 18" by 24" or bigger. Spread cooled filling over entire dough evenly. Start rolling up dough by hand, jelly roll fashion, stretching dough slightly with each roll. Start at an 18" edge and roll in the 24" direction. Keep side edges as even as possible. Continue to roll by raising the cloth edge slowly with both hands so the dough rolls itself. Dust away any excess flour on the outside of the dough with a pastry brush as you roll. Prick roll with a toothpick as needed to eliminate air pockets.

With the edge of a spatula (pancake flipper) cut off each end of roll to make it the length needed to fit around the inside of an angel food cake pan. Place in well-greased angel food cake pan or Bundt cake pan, being sure to arrange the seam where the roll ended against the center. If you have a two-piece angel food cake pan, it is easiest to roll the loaf onto and around the bottom plate of the pan, and then lower this into the body of the pan. Cover with a cloth and let rise in a warm place until double in volume. Bake about 1 hour at 325 degrees.

Put cut-off ends in

greased loaf pans, cover with cloth and let rise in a warm place until double in volume, then bake for 30 to 35 minutes at 325 degrees.

For a shiny crust, brush top before baking with 1 egg beaten with 1 Tbsp. milk, OR brush top with melted butter when taken from oven.

Let stand one hour before removing from pan. Loosen sides and bottom with knife. Turn onto wire rack to remove, then turn over again onto another wire rack to cool right-side up.

Once completely cool, turn upside-down on a cake plate and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

American-Slovenian Nut Horns

- 1 cup butter (2 sticks)
- 1 cup creamed cottage cheese (small curds)
- 2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt

NUT FILLING

- 1 cup ground walnuts
- 1 cup sugar (or more to taste)
- Milk to moisten (mix well together)

In a large mixing bowl, cream together butter and cottage cheese. With pastry cutter, add flour and salt, mix well.

On lightly floured board, knead dough until well blended and smooth. Divide dough in half, roll 1 part of dough into a circle and cut into 12 wedges as if you were slicing a pie.

Put filling on dough with a teaspoon at end of wedge and roll. Place on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake in pre-heated oven at 425 degrees 15 to 20 minutes.

Repeat with 2nd half of dough. Watch closely as they burn easily.

Remove from pan to wire rack, sprinkle with powdered sugar or granulated sugar. Yields 4 dozen or more depending on how thick you roll the dough.

(For variations on fillings – use any of the Bakers brand fillings or jarred fruit preserves.)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Stanley Erzen

Euclid, Ohio

Vesele Božične Praznike

Slovenian American Council

Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut,
California, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin,
Minnesota, Maryland, and Washington, DC

**BLUEBERRY
BRUNCH CAKE**

1/2 cup butter, softened
3/4 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup chopped pecans
1 cup blueberries
Preheat oven to 350°F.
Grease 9" square pan with solid vegetable shortening and dust with flour or use a vegetable pan spray.

Place butter and sugar in large mixing bowl, cream until light and fluffy, add eggs and vanilla, beat. Toss flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt with a fork. Add alternately with sour cream, to creamed mixture. Mix until smooth. Toss brown sugar, cinnamon and nuts together.

Pour half the batter into prepared pan. Mix blueberries and half the brown sugar, cinnamon and nut mixture, spread over batter, add remaining batter. Top with other half of nut mixture. Bake 35-40 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

8 servings.

STRAWBERRY-BANANA SMOOTHIE

1/2 pint strawberries, hulled
1/2 medium-size ripe banana, cut up
1 8-ounce container vanilla aspartame-sweetened nonfat yogurt
3 ice cubes
About 5 minutes before serving.

In blender at high speed, blend all ingredients 1 minute. Pour into 2 chilled glasses.

CHICKEN AND BROCCOLI STIR-FRY

1 Tbsp. oil
1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1-1/2 cups chicken broth
2 Tbsp. each soy sauce and cornstarch
1 Tsp. garlic powder,
3/4 Tsp. ginger,
4 servings cooked minute original rice

Stir-fry chicken in hot oil until browned. Add vegetables; cook and stir until tender-crisp.

Mix broth, soy sauce, cornstarch and spices; stir into skillet. Bring to boil; boil 1 minute.

Serve over rice.
Makes 4 servings.



Don't let poached eggs touch each other while they cook.

1/2 cup butter, softened
3/4 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup chopped pecans
1 cup blueberries
Preheat oven to 350°F.
Grease 9" square pan with solid vegetable shortening and dust with flour or use a vegetable pan spray.

Holiday Greetings**Nottingham Tavern**

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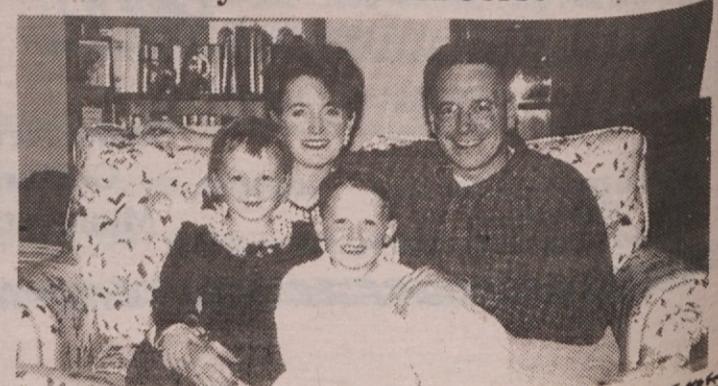


Happy New Year

Mrs. Dorothy URBANCICH

Euclid, Ohio

HAPPY CHRISTMAS from
Ed, Shannon,
Teddy and Mairin Jerse



Don't let poached eggs touch each other while they cook.

Christmas for French Colonists

Christmas was essentially a religious festival in the early days of New France. In 1645, French colonists gathered together in a little church in Quebec City to attend Midnight mass and began to sing *Chantons Noé*, an old Christmas carol that they had brought from their native land. The medieval words *Noé! Nau!* Are still used to refer to Christmas.

The custom at this time was to distribute consecrated bread to those attending Midnight Mass. However, the distribution and particularly the privilege of pre-

Generous Donation

Lucky Stars Lodge 61 of AMLA sent in a beautiful Christmas card with a generous donation of \$25.00. Thank you very much.

Great Year

The following note was written on a beautiful Christmas card: "Wishing you the love of God, the peace of heaven. Merry Christmas - also a Happy New Year. Thanks for another great year of publishing. We love the paper." Included was a \$20.00 donation.

Julie and Eddie Harbie
Seven Hills, Ohio

Generous Donation

A very big thank you to the Progressive Slovenian Women of America who donated \$100.00 to the American Home newspaper as a Christmas gift.

Generous Donation

A big Thank You to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kosir of Kirtland, Ohio who donated \$60.00 to the Ameriška Domovina.

St. Mary's videos available

Give your family and friends a gift of St. Mary's (Collinwood) this holiday. The video story of the parish, "Many Voices, One Heart," is a delightful way to share the spirit with unforgettable scenes of Slovenian and holiday traditions, vintage movies, friendly faces and more.

It is a perfect gift for anyone who misses St. Mary's and the old neighborhood. The hour-long program is \$29.95 and is available at the parish house, 519 Holmes Ave., Cleveland, OH 44110, or call (216) 761-7740.. They will mail the video.

paring this bread sometimes gave rise to quarrels among the settlers.

A story about this is recounted in the 1660 volume *Relations des jésuites* (Relations of the Jesuits). At Christmas, the soldiers who had been given the task of making the bread, brought it to the altar during the Offertory to the sound of flutes and drums which greatly shocked the bishop of Quebec. But as the soldiers had brought him a piece of the bread, the bishop gave them in return two jars of brandy and a pound of tobacco.

Generous donation

A very big Thank You to the Slovenian American Primorski Club who donated \$75.00 to the Ameriška Domovina.

Donation

A big thank you to Anthony Pozelnik of Cleveland who donated \$20.00 to the American Home newspaper.

Donations

A big thank you to the following for their thoughtful Christmas donations:

Nace Omahen, Euclid, Ohio -- \$10.00

Ivana Kopec, Cleveland, Ohio -- \$10.00

Hinko Zupancic, Cleveland, Ohio -- \$5.00

Cyril and Mary Grilc, Cleveland, Ohio -- \$5.00

Louis Hlad, Cleveland, Ohio -- \$5.00

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Antonia Hrvatin, Cleveland, Ohio -- \$5.00

Ivan Novak, Euclid, Ohio -- \$10.00

St. Mary's Altar Society -- \$10.00

Ljudmila Bohinc, Cleveland, Ohio -- \$15.00

St. Mary's Seniors Meet in January

The St. Mary's Seniors (Collinwood) will start the year of 1998 with a meeting on January 6 in the school cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.

Guest speaker for the meeting will be our own member Chris Chermely - Income Tax expert, who will talk on the do's and don'ts in filing your 1997 Income Tax. Please be present because it is something that concerns us all.

Refreshments and bingo will follow the meeting.

--Jennie Schultz

Krofe Sale

St. Mary's Collinwood Altar Society will have a Krofe Sale on Saturday morning, December 20th in the school cafeteria. This is a great opportunity to buy krofe for the holidays.

Lavrisha on WKTX

Paul Lavrisha can be heard on WKTX Radio AM 830 on your dial.

He broadcasts on Sundays from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. His program is called "Slovenia."

Paul can be reached at (216) 391-7225. His address is Lavrisha Construction, 6507 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103.

WKTX Radio serves Cortland, Warren, Youngstown, Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Northeast Ohio and Western Pa.

A. H. Holiday Printing Dates

The next American Home newspaper will be printed on Monday, Dec. 22.

There will be *NO* paper published on January 1st because of the holidays.

The first paper of the new year will be printed on Thursday, January 8.

Have a nice holiday, too!

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Christmas Greetings



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There is no lesser or greater gift if the gift is love.

Coming Events

Friday, Dec. 26
St. Vitus Choir's Annual Christmas Concert at St. Mary's Church at 7:00 p.m. Free admission. Free-will donations accepted.

Sunday, Dec. 28

St. Vitus Choir's Annual Christmas Concert at St. Vitus Church at 3 p.m. Admission free. Free-will donations accepted.

Wednesday, Dec. 31

New Years Eve Party at Lemont, Illinois Slovenian Cultural Center featuring 3 course meal plus band from Toronto. Doors open at 7 p.m. Adults \$35. Table reservations at (630) 243-0670.

-- 1998 --**Sunday, January 18**

St. Mary (Collinwood) annual benefit dinner for its Slovenian School held in auditorium from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Family style meal: Breaded pork chops, Swiss steak.

Saturday, Jan. 24

Dinner-Dance sponsored by Slovenska Pristava at Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Ave., Cleveland.

Sunday, Feb. 15

Orchestra-Choral Concert sponsored by SNH, St. Clair, Contact Bob Hopkins 361-5115

Sunday, March 15

Man/Woman of the Year sponsored by Federation of Slovenian Homes. Contact Patricia Ipavec-Clarke 321-5327

Saturday, March 21

Dinner-Dance sponsored by Primorski Club, Contact 732-7527.

Sunday, June 14

St. Mary's (Collinwood) Slovenian School Picnic at Slovenska Pristava.

Saturday, Sept. 5

Slovenian Mass honoring Bishop Baraga, 6:30 p.m. in St. Vitus Church, Cleveland. Social will follow in auditorium.

Sunday, Sept. 6

Mass honoring Bishop Frederic Baraga in St. John Cathedral in downtown Cleveland at 2 p.m., followed by banquet and annual Bishop Baraga Association meeting in Slovenian National Home, St. Clair Ave., Cleveland.



If a piece of holly from the church is kept in the house it's good luck year round. Legend has it that domestic animals thrive when they see a piece of holly hung on Christmas Eve.

Vavpetic-Spetz

Lisa Spetz married Chad Vavpetic Sept. 13, 1997, at St. Mary Church in Painesville. The Rev. Joe Mecir and Deacon Thomas Hupertz officiated.

The bride is the daughter of John and Elizabeth Spetz of Painesville. The bridegroom is the son of Nick and Christine Vavpetic of Madison.

Joanna Spetz of Boston served her sister as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Kristi Ward of Stow, friend of the bride; Christina Spetz of Painesville, sister of the bride; Kristy Vavpetic of Madison, sister of the groom; and Kate Basso-Lucca of McClean, Md., friend of the bride. Junior bridesmaid was Marie Spetz of Painesville, sister of the bride. Flower girl was Katie Spetz of Painesville, sister of the bride.

Blaz Vavpetic of Charlotte, N.C., served his brother as best man. Ushers were Pete Novak of Mentor, Scott Zamer of Washington, D.C., Tom Hupertz of Kent, and Charlie Becks of Strongsville, all friends of the groom. Ring bearer was Danny Spetz, brother of the bride.

A reception was held at St.

**Mr. and Mrs. Chad Vavpetic**

Noel's Parish Hall in Willoughby Hills to honor the couple before a wedding trip to Costa Rica. The couple will live in Stow.

The bride is a 1994 graduate of Kent State University. She is a teacher at Bolich Middle School in Cuyahoga Falls. Her husband is a 1994 graduate of Ohio State University in Columbus. He is a student foreign exchange coordinator at Adventures in Real Communications in Chagrin Falls.

Canadian Christmas Tourtiere

2 lb. potatoes, peeled
1 lb. ground pork
1 clove minced garlic
1/4 tsp. ginger
1 recipe for 2-crust pie-crust
1/2 c. finely chopped onion
1/2 c. beef broth
1 bay leaf
1/8 tsp. cloves

Cut up potatoes; cook in boiling water 20 minutes. Drain; mash. Brown pork; drain off fat. Stir in the rest of the ingredients, 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Cover; simmer 20 minutes, stirring often. Discard bay leaf. Stir in potatoes; cool. Roll half the pastry into 12-inch circle. Line a 9-inch pie plate. Trim even with rim. Fill with meat mixture. Roll out remaining dough; slit. Place atop filling; trim to 1/2-inch beyond rim. Seal; flute. Cut out decorative shapes from dough scraps. Bake 400 degrees for 30 minutes. Makes 6 servings.

To All Our Customers and Patrons**MERRY CHRISTMAS****MAIL BOXES ETC.**

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Manager

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Sunday (No wine sold) 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Owner - David Heuer

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Assembly Workers

Cleveland company needs approximately 30 people for long term assignment, 1st shift, to make 50-gallon drums. Steel-toed boots and transportation needed. Pay rate \$7.50/hour, plus overtime. Call the downtown office of Olsten Staffing Services at (216) 861-1900.



The first known Christmas card was created in 1843 by John Cattcott Horsley, an English illustrator.

DEATH NOTICES

LOUIS JOHN JARTZ

Louis John Jartz, child of immigration and depression, was a long-time member of the Slovenian National Benefit Association. Mr. Jartz is known for his column "My Mixed Up World" which appeared in SNPJs newspaper *Prosveta* for over 50 years. Mr. Jartz also served briefly as an editor of the *Prosveta*.

During the 1950s along with Blas Novak and Jacob Strelak he found the land for the Slovene Home for the Aged located on Neff Road in Cleveland. He was one of the first board members.

Mr. Jartz was a member of Comrades (SNPJ), and at the time of his death was a member of V Boj Lodge 53 which he had served as president. Louis, as he was affectionately known, was a former vice-president of the Waterloo Pensioners, and a delegate to several SNPJ national conventions. He with Mrs. Jartz were caretakers of the Slovene Recreational Grounds on Chardon Road during World War II.

Mr. Jartz "worked for every factory in Cleveland," but retired from Euclid Road Machinery in the early 1960s. He was an active member of the UAW. Louie was active in union affairs throughout his entire adult life.

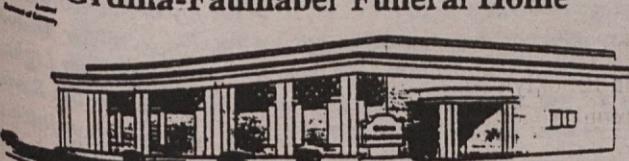
Mr. Jartz was a member of the Unitarian Church of Cleveland since the early 1950s where he worked with the youth and led discussions. An avid dancer, he was well known in the local international and square dance communities. He taught international dances to the youth of the SNPJ and the elders at the Lake Shore Golden Age Center. He is also a past officer at this senior center.

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Louie was active in local Democratic politics, and ran for councilman in the old Ward 32. He rebuilt most of his home, and continued to repair it in his 90s. Mr. Jartz's other passion was the out-of-doors. He loved nature, and had an extensive and varied garden.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Elizabeth; daughters Louisa Horvath of Canton and Eleanor Manire-Gatti of Amherst, Massachusetts; two grandchildren; and two sisters. He was born in Slovenia, but his family settled in Hermanie, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Jartz died Tuesday, Dec. 9 after being stricken the previous Friday. Funeral arrangements are being made through Zele Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held for him on January 4, 1998 at the Unitarian church of Cleveland at 2728 Lancashire Road, Cleveland Heights from 2-4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be given to the Slovene Home for the Aged, 18621 Neff Road.

In Memory

Enjoy reading the American Home. Enclosed is my check for renewal of my subscription. Let the balance of the check (\$10) be in memory of the Salomon Family.

Joseph Salomon
Newark, Ohio

In Memory

A \$100 donation was received from Stan and Donna Unetic of Eastlake, Ohio. It was given in memory of John and Ursula Unetic, and John and Verne Krince.

In Memory

Lewis Kapel of Cleveland, Ohio donated \$100 to the Ameriška Domovina in memory of the Louis Kapel Family.

Christmas was close at hand... the season of hospitality, merriment and open heartedness.

--Charles Dickens

Christmas in Finland...

(Continued from page 5)

families take the first part of their Christmas meal at this point.

At sunset on Christmas Eve, families make their way to the churchyard, where a service is often held at around 5 o'clock. Candles are placed on the graves of loved ones, sometimes possibly a wreath, but most families have already done this on All Saints Day.

A Finnish graveyard is a breathtaking sight on Christmas Eve. Thousands of candles shining out across the snow are a sight no foreigner will ever forget. In many towns former soldiers go in procession to visit the graves of fallen comrades, and a guard of honor stands with drawn swords by the large cross dedicated to their memory.

In Helsinki representatives of various social organizations and army officers stand guard by the tomb of Marshal Mannerheim. Usually a hymn or two is sung, including Luther's "Ein' feste Burg." For many Finns this is the most serious moment of the entire holiday.

Back at home, the excitement mounts as the family awaits a quite different aspect of Christmas: the arrival of Father Christmas.

The Finnish Father Christmas is a more earthly equivalent of St. Nicholas. Finland differs from most other countries in that Father Christmas really does visit the home in person on Christmas Eve. Most often it is in fact father dressed up, but it may be a neighbor or relative.

The children dress up as Father Christmas' little helpers: red tights, a long red cap, and a gray cotton suit also decorated with red.

On his arrival, Father Christmas always asks the same question: "Are there any good children here?" The answer is always an enthusiastic "Yes."

Father Christmas generally brings in a big basket with all the presents, the children sing to him and may even sing a ring game with him. Then Father Christmas tells them how far he has come, all the way from Lapland, a long, long journey. He lives at Korvatunturi, a town in eastern Lapland. (The Finnish Broadcasting company placed him there in 1927, and he has had his headquarters there ever since.)

Father Christmas can't afford to spend too much time in any one place. As

soon as the children and adults have sung him one last song, he takes up his stick and tramps off in his felt boots and furs. His little helpers are left to hand out the presents.

Not until this most important event on the program has been taken care of is the main Christmas meal served. Now the table is decked with the best mother can provide.

Christmas Day itself, which in many countries is the high point of the holiday season, is almost an anticlimax in Finland. It has traditionally been a quiet day of devotion, when the only activity used to be attendance at church. Even today the churches are full on Christmas morning, even though in many places the service begins at 6 a.m. Some people prefer to read the Christmas story and sing hymns at home. Today, Christmas Day is a time to spend with family and relatives.

The day after Christmas, which the Finns know as St. Stephen's Day, is also a holiday which used to be the day for sleigh rides. Nowadays, however, there are few horses left.

The New Year is a kind of repeat Christmas, and all the Christmas fare is once more brought out. But New Year's Eve is also a time for magic. Fortunes in the coming year are told from objects hidden under cups, or by interpreting the meaning of tin molten over the fire and cast into a bucket of cold water. The resulting piece of "sculpture" is held up to the wall, and the im-

ages formed by its shadow are omens of the future. Christmas ends with Twelfth Night.

Christmas is a festival centered on the family and in particular the children. It is the season to recall what tends to get forgotten the rest of the year but which is nevertheless important: other people, roots and traditions, and the idea of peace on earth and goodwill to all men.

In Memory

Mrs. Mildred Zupancic of Euclid, Ohio sent in a \$10.00 donation in memory of Rudy Zupancic.

GM Doing Well in SE Europe

A reorganization of General Motor's Adam Opel AG subsidiary to group of nine countries in southeastern Europe is paying off in sales and efficiency of operation, an Opel executive told Reuters News Service.

Thomas Olmsted, operations manager of an Opel subdivision which groups eight of the nine countries, said the creation of Opel Southeastern Europe Ltd. had led to a stronger dealer network, speedier deliveries and better co-ordination of advertising.

"In the old days it took eight to 12 weeks to get a car; now it only takes two or three weeks."

Slovenia is included in this group.

Thanks to Robin Verhoeve of the Business News Network for this news item.

Christmas Memoriam

In Memory of Deceased Members of Spech Family

FATHER — JOHN
MOTHER — MARY
BROTHER — FRANK
BROTHER — JOHN
BROTHER — JOSEPH
SISTER — JEAN ZADELL

*May God in His infinite mercy
Keep you in His loving care,
Grant you peace and happiness
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MASSES - SV. MAŠE

Please follow the regular weekly schedule of Masses up to Wednesday, December 24th.

Prosimo, sledite do srede 24. decembra, spored sv. maš v Oznanihu.

CHRISTMAS EVE - SVETI VEČER

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 11:30 p.m. | Christmas songs by church choir - božične pesmi |
| 12:00 a.m. | Midnight Mass-Polnočnica |

CHRISTMAS - SVETI DAN

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Mass in English |
| 10:30 a.m. | Mass in Slovenian |
| 11:30 a.m. | Sung Litany |

On Wednesday, December 24th, there will be NO Vigil Mass for Christmas.

V sredo, pred Božičem, NE bo večerne maše za Božič.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - NOVEGA LETA DAN 1998

Please note, that January 1, 1998, is a holy day of obligation for Catholics to attend Mass.

Novega leta dan je za katoličane zapovedan praznik.

The schedule of Masses is as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| December 31, 1997: | 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass |
| January 1, 1998: | 9:00 a.m. (Eng.)
10:30 a.m. (Slov.) |

CHRISTMAS * BOŽIČ 1997

Church of St. Mary of the Assumption - Cleveland, Ohio
Župnija sv. Marije vnebovzete



MASSES - SV. MAŠE

CHRISTMAS EVE - SVETI VEČER

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 5:00 p.m. | Children's Mass - Otroška maša |
| 11:30 p.m. | Christmas Songs by the Choir - božične pesmi |
| 12:00 a.m. | Midnight Mass - Polnočnica |

CHRISTMAS DAY - SVETI DAN

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 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 and Benediction |
| | Pete litanije Matere božje z blagoslovom |
| 12:00 noon | English Mass - angleška maša |

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - BOŽIČNI KONCERT

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 7:00 p.m. | Friday, December 26, 1997 (St. Vitus Young Adult Choir - Refreshment following concert in the school hall) |
|-----------|--|

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - PRAZNIK SV. DRUŽINE

Vigil and ordinary Sunday Mass schedule, with coffee and donuts served in the cafeteria after Sunday Masses.

Običajen nedeljski urnik. Po mašah bodo na razpolago krofi s kavo v šolski dvorani.

NEW YEAR'S DAY 1998 - NOVEGA LETA DAN 1998

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| December 31 | 5:00 p.m. | Vigil Mass - angleška maša |
| January 1 | 8:00 a.m. | English Mass - angleška maša |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Slovenian Mass - slovenska maša |
| | 12:00 noon | English Mass - angleška maša |

Christmas - Božič - 1997

Dear Parishioners, Dragi župljani!

As your pastor, I wish to invite you and your families to join our parishioners and friends of our parish in observing Christmas together. Please come! Father Victor Cimperman, Father Ted Marszal, Father Vincent Moraghan and I wish you and your families a most joyful and grace filled Christmas. May the good Lord bless you and protect you in the New Year of 1998.

Your priests at St. Vitus

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Spovedovanje

SATURDAY/SOBOTA, December 20, 1997

- | |
|-----------------------|
| 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. |
| 3:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. |

SUNDAY/NEDELJA, December 21, 1997

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

PLEASE NOTE - Confessions will NOT be heard on December 24th, and on December 31st. Do this important spiritual work on the forementioned schedule.

POZOR - Spovedovanje NE bo 24. in 31. decembra. Opravite to pomembno duhovno delo v zgoraj omenjenem urniku.

Vaši duhovniki,
Father Jože Božnar
Father Victor Cimperman
Father Ted Marszal
Father Vince Moraghan

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ZAKRAMENT SV. SPOVEDI.

Sunday, December 21, 1997 - Nedelja, 21. decembra

- | |
|-------------------------|
| 9:30 a.m. — 10:00 a.m. |
| 11:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. |

Monday, December 22, 1997 - Ponedeljek, 22. decembra
7:00 a.m. — 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 23, 1997 - Torek, 23. decembra
7:00 a.m. — 7:30 a.m.
7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Please note: There will be NO Confessions on Wednesday, December 24.

Bodite pozorni: V sredo, 24. decembra NE BO spovedovanja!

Once again it is our privilege to invite you to join with us in the joy of this Holy Season and greet our Lord Jesus. What an incomparable gift we receive from our heavenly Father - the gift of his only begotten Son who is God from God and Light from Light. During these last days of Advent, how better can we prepare our souls for the Savior's birth than through the Sacrament of Confession. What greater way can we rejoice and give thanks to God for Jesus and the gift of our Catholic Faith than joining together with family and friends to celebrate the Holy Eucharist on his birthday. May the birth of Jesus Christ bind us together in peace, fill our parish and our homes with joy, and sustain us in hope during this holiday season and throughout the New Year 1998! God Bless you all with Christ's peace and goodness,

Fr. John Kumse
Fr. Jože Černe

Sr. Nina Vitale, OSU
Sr. Mary Ellen Brinovec, OSU

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No. 50 Thursday, December 18, 1997

NAŠLI BOSTE DETE

»Oznanjam vam veliko veselje, ki bo za vse ljudi. Danes se vam je v Davidovem mestu rodil Zveličar, ki je Kristus, Gospod. Po tem znamenju ga boste spoznali: našli boste dete, povito v plenice in položeno v jasli« (Lk 2, 10-12). To je osrednje sporočilo božičnega večera, ki je »sveti večer«, in božične noči, ki je »sveta, blažena noč«.

Z očmi vere zremo znamenje—dete, v plenice povito in v jasli položeno. Že 800 let prej je napovedal prorok Izaija: »Vsemogočni sam vam bo dal znamenje: devica bo spočela in rodila sina, ki se bo imenoval Emanuel« (Iz 7, 14).

Betlehemskega dete je *znamenje, da je Bog Emanuel* — Bog z nami, Bog s človekom. Na začetku našega stoletja je zapisal francoski mislec Leon Bloy: »Bog je odsoten. Ni ga v mestih ne na deželi ne v hribih... Ni ga v znanosti, umetnosti, politiki. Ni ga v vzgoji in morali... Bog je odsoten kot nikoli v zgodovini. Človek je odslovl Stvarnika, ker si je sam naredil nebesa. Človek je odslovl Odrešenika, ker se hoče sam odrešiti. Boga je odslovl iz javnega življenja, iz srca in vesti...«

Da, stoletje božje odsotnosti! Ni čudno, če ugotavljamo ob njegovem koncu, da bo zapisano v zgodovini kot stoletje krvi, sovraštva, vojn, nasilja, strahu. Toda Bog je tudi v tem stoletju Emanuel—Bog z nami, Bog s človekom. Bog ni postal sistem ne ideologija ne ekonomija ne politika ne oblast. Bog je postal človek in s tem razodel, da je človek za njim najvišja vrednota, edina stvar, ki jo je Bog hotel zaradi nje same (CS 24, 3). Zato je vzkliknil sveti Leon Veliki: »O, človek, spoznaj svoje dostojoanstvo!« in sveti Irenej: Živi človek je božja slava!«

Betlehemske dete je *znamenje življenja in novosti*. Rojstvo otroka vse spremeni, vse se pokaže v drugačni luči. Z otrokovim rojstvom se začne nekaj novega. Mož in žena postaneta oče in mati. Nista več sama. Zakon postane družina. Otrok ima moč. S svojo nebogljeno razoroži vsakega odraslega človeka. Zaradi otroka marsikdo obišče družino, marsikdo pride k hiši, ki ga sicer ne bi bilo. Rojstvo otroka je velika novost in sprememb.

Koliko večja novost in sprememb je bilo rojstvo betlehemskega otroka za vse svet, za družino vseh narodov. Vse se je spremeno in postal novo, tako novo, da so od tega dogodka zopet začeli šteti leta. Zgodovina se je razdelila v dva dela, v čas pred tem rojstvom in čas po njem. Vse se je pokazalo v drugačni luči.

Novorojeni Odrešenik je stalna novost za vse rodove in čase. Z njim se je začela pesem miru, sreče in veselja. »Slava Bogu na višavah in na zemlji mir ljudem.« V Betlehemu se je začelo novo neustavlivo gibanje, tolilikrat napadeno, a nikoli zatrto. Rojstvo v Betlehemu ni uspavanka, marveč velika budnica. Razodeli sta se ljubezen in dobrota Boga do človeka, razodela se je moč uboštva.

Betlehemske dete je *znamenje odrešenja*. Nekdo je zapisal: Ce bi ljudje potrebovali napredek, bi Bog poslal znanstvenika. Ce bi potrebovali moč in oblast, bi poslal vojskovodja in politika. Ce bi potreboval imetje in denar, bi poslal bogataša. Toda človek je potreboval ljubezen, dobroto, usmiljenje, odpuščanja, mir, zato

je poslal Odrešenika, da bi svet odrešil, da bi ljudi spravil z Bogom in da bi ves svet napravil za svet bratov in sestra.

S temi mislimi želim vsem vam doma in po svetu: Blagoslovljene božične praznike! Novorojeni Odrešenik naj bo Emanuel—Bog z nami tudi v novem letu, da bo za vse srečno, zdravo, veselo in mirno!

Franc Kramberger
mariborski škof
Družina, Božič 1996

BOŽIČNO RAZMIŠLJANJE...

SVETA NOĆ

F. S. FINŽGAR

Sweta noć, blažna noć...

Od kdaj si spočeta, ti skrivnostna noć? Od kdaj pričakovana, od kdaj zaželena, kolikokrat hrepeneče prerokovana — ti sveta noć, blažena noć? Iz vseh duš bednega človeštva so poganjale tvoje kali; v umu modrijanov si se lesketala kot daljna lučka, v srcih pastirjev si brlela po pergamentih božjih vidcev si bila oznanjena.

In prišla si. Nebo je zažarello, zvezde zamigljale, hribčki so se posuli s cvetjem, novi studenčki so privreli iz tal, skozi tiho noć je šlo čudežno, neslišno petje ptičkov, vesoljstvo je od veselja vztrepatalo, da se je soha Jupitrova v velikem poganskem mestu zamašala, padla s podstavka in se razbila na kosce. Z neba je prihitel kot svetel meteor angel in razodel pastirjem: »Naznajnam vam veliko veselje. Noč vam je rojen Zveličar, ki je Kristus Gospod!«

Sweta noć, blažena noć!

Skoraj dva tisoč let stara in vedno mlada; velemesta so se sesula v prah, a ti, noć, žariš. Kraljestva so padla, ti vstajaš vsak božič pred nami živa in blagoslovljena. Človeštvo rije in se vije v bojih in bolečinah, ti ljubo prepevaš: Mir ljudem na zemlji, ki so blage volje! Zares, mir v svetu bo ljudem le, če je v njih volja do miru.

Sweta noć, blažena noć.

In v melodijo se je izlilo, kar je bilo v srcu. V srcu vaškega župnika Jožefa Mohra, ki se je vozil o božiču leta 1818 na saneh po belem snegu, pod nebom, posutim z zvezdami. Prav nič drugega nimamo od njega. Samo ta topli vzdih, to otroško začudenje: Sweta noć, blažena noć!

S to toplo mislio, zares počno in verno občuteno, ki se mu je zlila v kitice, je prišel od prijatelja Franca Gruberja. Ta je sedel za orgle, tipal in tipal; dve misli, dve sriči, dvoje občutij se je strnilo, še tisto božično noć je izvzenelo v akorde in ljudstvo je ostrmelo pri polnočnici, ko je s kora zaplavala pesem: Sweta noć, blažena noć!

Iz te vaške cerkvice je šla pesem po vsem svetu; ni več zemeljske celine, kjer bi je ne peli: v katedralah velemest prav tako kot v indijski in afriški misijonski kapelici. Pred jaslicami v leseni koči, pred dreveščkom v gosposkem saloru — povsod: Sweta noć, blažena noć!

Pred seboj imam pismo slovenskega dekleta. Pisala mi je nekoč iz Južne Amerike, tamkaj izpod ekvatorja, kjer je o

božiču največja vročina. Popisuje svojo sveto noć v tujini. Dva delavca in ona se dogovorijo, da zbeže iz velemesta za sveti večer v pragozd. Pod stolnim drevesom se taboré. Na deblo priprnó jaslice, revne jaslice, skromno, majčeno pobobico.

Pod drevesom zakurijo ogenj, k jaslicam prižgo dve rdeči svečki. Nato stopijo vsi pod drevo, odkrijejo se in zapojljo: Sweta noć, blažena noć! — Samo prvo kitico, dalje ne morejo. Vsem teko solze po licih, vsi so v duhu doma, na slovenski zemlji, v rodni hiši. Delo, trud in hrup velemesta jih omamlja, da ne utegnejo misliti na dom. Ta noć, ta samsota, daleč od milijonskega mesta jih pokliče v domovino.

Kaj vse bujno cvetje in zelenje pragozda! Kaj vsa opojna toplota — vse nič, vse sama bolečina! Kje je naša polnočnica, kje naš sneg, naše zvezde, naše planine, naše snežene gazi in plamenice, gredoč s hribov proti cerkvi? — Razjokajo se, solze si otarejo — in spet pojo, pojo, dokler svečke ne dogorijo. Nato posedejo. Škatla konserve jim je čaša za vodo, ki si jo zajamejo iz studenca, kos kruha in slanine božični obed. Poskušajo se šaliti. Ne gre.

»Oj, naše jaslice,« zavzdihne prva dekle.

»Oj, naša polnočnica,« dodala drugi.

»Oj, tiste naše koline,« toži tretji.

Tako pismo slovenskega dekleta. Sweta noć, blažena noć, v zibki si nam bila dodeljena, z nami hodiš, duši te naše trdo življenje, a spet in spet zagoriš v duši kot večna skrivenost, kot goreča ljubezen iz onstranštva — za vse, za vse brez izjem: za vse verne in maloverne, za vse trudne in obupane, za otroka in za starčka, za mater in za očeta, za domače in izgnance, ki so se raztepli po svetu v boju za vsakdanji kruh.

Sweta noć, blažena noć!

Postojmo še za hip ob jaslicah. Ne pri betlehemskej, pri naših, pred katerimi smo stali kot otroci.

Ko se zgrne noć na zemljo, je po hišah že vse umito: javorova miza se belo blešči, vsa navlaka pod klopni je zginila, v kotu že rastejo jaslice iz gore mahu. Družina je vsa praznčna, vsa mirna in slovesno pričakuje skrivenostne polnoči.

Sedaj je čas. Sveti večer se začel. Gospodinja natrete v posodo žerjavice, gospodar nasuje nanjo kadila, hčerka

ima že pripravljen rožmarinov vršiček in blagoslovljeno vodo. Gospodar se pokriža in začne: »Ki si ga Devica rodiла.« Vsa družina se uredi v sprevod, vse sobe, vse shrambe obhodi, pokadi in pokropi. In nato gredo ven v hlev, h konjem, h govedi, k ovčicam: vsa živila naj zve, da je nocoj svedti večer.

Ko so opravili, obstanejo ponekod pred hišo. Gospodinja prinese jerbas pogače in ga postavi na sneg. Vsi poklekajo kar v sneg in molijo, molijo in z molitvijo blagoslovljajo kruh, ki ga bodo uživali na božični dan. Ne samo ljudje, vsaka živalca v hlevu bo dobila kos pogače za ta sveti dan. Frančiškova misel živi še danes, misel na odkletev sveta po rojstvu božjega deteta, odkletev za vse: za človeka in živali.

Po opravljenem domačem obredu se vrnejo v hišo. Luči goré, na to noč mora goreti svetilka brez prestanka. Kaj malega popravijo še pri jaslicah, dokler ne zapoje veliki zvon. Vse se razgiblje, vse oblači in vsa družina razen varuha odhaja k polnočnici. Od povsod, iz vseh vasi, iz vseh naselij, vse, vse vre proti razsvetljeni cerkvi. Polnoč odbije. Orgle zadone in po cerkvi se razlije iz vseh src pesem: Sweta noć, blažena noć!

Polnočnica je dokončana. Ljudje hité domov. Pesem zvonov jim potrkava koračnico, goste zvezde na nebu jim svetijo. In doma: na mizi pranžni prt, na njem koline. Ne, to ni večerja, to je pesem, to je lepotna in dobrota, ki je vsa slobodna tehnika, vse razkošje ne more pričarati človeku, ki je izgubil najdražje, kar imamo: otroško živo vero v božje betlehemske Dete.

Dete svete noči, budi nam moč v bojih življenja, budi nam luč v temnih zablodah, budi nam tolažba v bridkosti, daj nam voljo do resničnega miru, po katerem veseljni svet tako hrepeni.

Sweta noć, blažena noć, stoisokožrat pozdravljen!

Vzeto iz knjige Božič na Slovenskem. Knjigo je izdal 1989, verski list Družina v Ljubljani.

Izpod zvona Sv. Marije Vnebovzete

CLEVELAND, O. - Mesec decembra je poln raznih prireditv. Tako se je že na prvo soboto ustavil sv. Miklavž v šolski dvorani. Otroci slovenske šole so podali kratko igrico, kaj vse so prosili svetnika, da jim prinese, in kako so se trudili, da bi bili pridni. Parklji so iskali le njihove napake, angeli varuhi so jih pa napodili. Hvala vam, otroci, za lepo podane vloge, in vsem, ki ste se trudili z njimi ter pripravili dvorano in oder. Polna dvorana otrok, starčev, sorodnikov in prijateljev Slovenske šole je bila zahvala za vše trud.

Takoj naslednji dan je bila nedelja Oltarnega drušva. Prav lepa udeležba pri sv. maši, popoldne pri uri molitve, in na sestanku, kjer smo

(dalje na str. 16)

Baragov Dom v Clevelandu je zaprl svoja vrata

»Največji slovenski ameriški center, kulturno in društveno središče ameriških Slovencev je Cleveland. Kar pomenja Sloveniji Ljubljana, to je ameriški Sloveniji Cleveland, saj mu naši rojaki tudi pravijo 'ameriška Ljubljana'... V Clevelandu je leta 1939 živilo okoli 28.000 Slovencev,« je zapisala v svoji razpravi »Slovenski izseljenici«, Geografski vestnik, Ljubljana 1950,

Slava Lipoglavšek-Rakovec.

Razmere v Clevelandu se od tedaj pa do konca štiridesetih let, ko so začeli prihajati v Cleveland Slovenci, ki so se pred komunističnim nasiljem umaknili iz svoje domovine in so potem, ko so uvideli, da komunistične oblasti v Sloveniji ne bodo kmalu konec, začeli iskati nova domovanja preko morja, niso bistveno spremenile.

Slovenska naselbina v Clevelandu ob koncu 2. vojne

Sredi stoletja je živilo v Clevelandu in njegovi neposredni okolici verjetno nad 40.000 Slovencev, priseljencev iz Slovenije in njihovih otrok. Precej strnjene naselbine so bile vzdolž St. Clair Avenue med E. 36. in 78. cesto, v Collinwoodu, v Nevburgu in v Euclidu. Središča teh naselbin so bile slovenske farne cerkve sv. Vid, Marija Vnebovzeta, sv. Lovrenc in sv. Kristina ter slovenski narodni domovi.

Poleg v teh štirih glavnih središčih so živeli Slovenci tudi v drugih delih Velikega Clevelandu. V zahodnem delu mesta so se zbiralni in družili v Slovenskem domu na Denison Avenue in v Narodnem domu v West Parku, v jugovzhodnem delu pa v Slovenskem narodnem domu na Maple Heightsu.

Za versko življenje Slovencev v Clevelandu in okolici so skrbele slovenske fare, družabno, kulturno ter narodno politično življenje pa se je odigravalo v devetih slovenskih narodnih domovih.

V Clevelandu sta tedaj izhajala dva slovenska dnevnika: katoliško usmerjena Ameriška Domovina in »napredna« Enakopravnost ter trije tedniki: Amerikanski Slovenec, Glasilo KSKJ, Glas SDZ in Nova doba, glasilo SBZ. Pevski zbori: Glasbena Matica, Zarja, Slovan, Jadran, Triglav, Zvon in še par mladinskih so gojili slovensko petje. Odrsko življe-

nje je bilo zelo živahno med obema vojnoma, po odprtju velike, krasne dvorane novega Slovenskega doma na St. Clair Avenue.

Znani pevec in pevovodja Anton Šubel, ki je učil in vodil pevske zbole Matico, Triglav in Slovan, je z vsakim od teh priredil vsaj po en koncert na leto, nekaj let po vrsti pa z zborom Glasbene Matice pomagal tudi opero, enkrat celo Pajon.

Razmere ob prihodu povojskih političnih izseljencev

Slovenski politični izseljeni so ob svojem prihodu v Ameriko naleteli med svojimi rojaki na različen sprejem. Katoliški del staronaseljencev jim je bilo splošno naklonjen, napredni nenaklonjen ali celo sovražen. Ta je bil pod močnim vplivom titovske propagande, ki sta jo širila dnevnika Enakopravnost in Prosvesha. Prva je izhajala v Clevelandu, druga v Chicagu. Titovska propaganda je širil tudi v New Yorku izhajajoči slovenski dnevnik Glas naroda.

Protititovsko stališče je zavzemala od vsega začetka Ameriška Domovina, v katere uredništvo je stopil leta 1948 po svojem prihodu v Cleveland bivši jugoslovanski minister, predsednik SLS in Slovenskega narodnega odbora dr. Miha Krek. V uredništvu je ostal do pomladi 1950, ko je odšel v New York k »Free Europe«, katere cilj je bil širiti in utrjevati svobodo in demokracijo v delu Evrope, ki je bila pod komunistično oblastjo.

Ameriška Domovina in Amerikanski Slovenec, Glasilo KSKJ, sta se zavzemala za slovenske protikomuniste in jim po svojih močeh pomagala. Ti so se jima oddolžili s tem, da so postali njuni naročniki in v veliki večini tudi člani Kranjsko Slovenske Katoliške Je-

dnote - KSKJ, bratske podporne in zavarovalne ustanove.

Narodni domovi v Clevelandu so bili z izjemo SND v Nevburgu in Slovenskega doma na Holmes Avenue v Collinwoodu v rokah titovcev, kot so tedaj na splošno imenovali rojake, ki so zagovarjali partizanstvo in novo komunistično oblast v Sloveniji. Novi priseljenci v Narodnih domovih niso bili dobodoši, to velja prav posebno za Slovenski narodni dom na St. Clair Avenue.

V slovenski naselbini vzdolž St. Clair Avenue se je naselilo največ novih priseljencev. Ti so čutili potrebo po nekem skupnem domu, središču kulturnega in družabnega življenja. Cerkvena dvorana pri Sv. Vidu za to ni bila primerena, prav tako ne par drugih manjših dvoran, ki bi jim bile na razpolago. Tako se je rodila misel za lasten Društveni dom.

Ustanovitev Baragovega doma

Jeseni 1956 se je nekaj posameznikov odločilo za nakup primerne hiše. Ustanovili so korporacijo »Baragov dom« in kupili veliko enonadstropno hišo sredi slovenske naselbine na 6304 St. Clair Avenue.

V prvem odboru so bili: častni predsednik Anton Grdina st., predsednik Frank Jaksic, podpredsednik Jakob Žakelj, tajnica Ivanka Pograjec, blagajnik Anton Jeglič, odborniki Matt Intihar, Vinko Lipovec, Edmund Turk, Marija Ošaben, Anton Nemeč, Alojz Hribar, Matt Grdadolnik in Ferdo Gospodarič. Baragaov dom je bil slovesno odprt 7. septembra 1957. Blagoslovil ga je škof dr. Gregorij Rožman.

V preurejeni stavbi je bila lepa dvorana s 150 sedeži, prostori za Slovensko pisarno, ki se je vselila v Baragov dom 1. februarja 1957, za knjižnico z nekaj tisoč knjigami in gostinski prostori Družabnega kluba.

V Baragovem domu so dobila prostore za svoje delo novonaseljenska društva in organizacije: pevski zbor Korotan, Mladinsko društvo Kres,

ZAHVALA IN BOŽIČNA VOŠČILA

Vsem, ki ste na zadnjih volitvah za predsednika slovenske države glasovali, in tistim, ki ste s svojim glasom ali drugače podpirali mojo kandidaturo, se najlepše zahvaljujem za izkazano zaupanje.

S skupnimi močmi moramo še naprej delati za povezavo vseh Slovencev na skupnih narodnih vrednotah in za blaginjo slovenskega naroda v bolj pravični, zdravi in pravni slovenski državi.

Skupaj z ženo želiva prijateljem in vsem Slovenkom in Slovencem po svetu in doma blagoslovljene Božične praznike ter vse najboljše v prihodnjem letu.

JOŽE BERNIK
Škofja Loka



korporacija je to uvidela, ga zaprla in stavbo prodaja skoraj točno štirideset let po njegovem slovesnem odprtju septembra 1957.

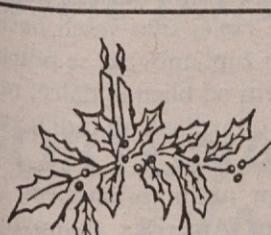
Današnja raven slovenstva v Velikem Clevelandu

Slovenstvo v Clevelandu še ni mrtvo, v njem je še življenje, toda nekdanje podjetnosti in dejavnosti ni več. Stari rod hitro odhaja, mladina pa se vživlja v ameriško sredino, v kateri se je šolala in v kateri živi. V njej je še vedno slovenska zavest, čeprav slovenčina kot pogovorni jezik na slovenskih prireditvah izginja. V slovenskih cerkvah sv. Vida in Marije Vnebovzete je bogoslužje razdeljeno med slovenščino in amerikanščino, pri društvih pa z izjemo novonaseljencev občevalni jezik že dolgo amerikanščina.

Od novonaseljenskih skupin redno delujejo še pevski zbor Korotan, pevski zbor Fantje na vasi, Dramatsko društvo Lilija in plesna skupina Kres. Družabno življenje je poleti v glavnem na Slovenski pristavi, drugače pa v narodnih domovih, kjer je sedaj dovolj prostora za vse in kjer so vsi dobrodošli.

Slovensko pisarno se je preselila iz prostorov Baragovega doma v bivši samostan šolskih sester na 6104 Glass Avenue, nasproti cerkve sv. Vida (telefon 216-361-1603; faks: 216-361-1608). Preudarjajo, da bi samostan predelali v stanovanja za starejše Slovence, ki želijo živeti v bližini svoje cerkve. Vera v bodočnost slovenske cerkve sv. Vida ter naselbine okoli nje torej še obstaja.

Fara Marije Vnebovzete je kupila večje zemljišče na vzhodni strani mesta Clevelandu z namenom, da tam zgradijo novo narodno, versko in kulturno središče za vse Slovence Clevelandu. Zamisel kaže podjetnost in vero v bodočnost slovenstva v Clevelandu, seveda prilagojenega ameriškim razmeram in novemu ameriškemu slovenskemu rodu. Če bo država Slovenija hotela in znala ohranjati ter utrjevati slovensko zavest, se bo v Ameriki, posebej še v Clevelandu, slovenstvo v neki obliki ohrnalo tudi v bodočih rodovih.



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Razne in različne vesti iz Slovenije in Slovenije v svetu

Strojniki o tehnoloških dosežkih v ZDA

Ljubljana — V torek je skupina absolventov Fakultete za strojništvo v Ljubljani — nekateri med njimi so se predstavili javnosti kot uspešni kreatorji poskusnega robota, primernega tudi za uporabo v industriji — si je nedavno pod strokovnim vodstvom v petajstih ameriških mestih ogledala številne svetovno znane tovarne, razvojne inštiteute oziroma univerze.

Med njimi so bile MIT, General Motors, Chrysler, Pako, Fanuc Robotics, Case Western Reserve University, Levis, NASA Research Center, Cincinnati Milacron, Boeing in še nekatere druge ameriške posebnosti.

Trgovci jezni na novi obratovalni čas

Ljubljana — Po več letih nezadovoljstva in iskanja ustreznje ureditve so slovenski trgovci končno dobili nov pravilnih o obratovalnem času prodajaln. Vendar so z novim aktom še bistveno manj zadovoljni, ker menijo, da bo ne red na trgu še večji kot doslej.

Med drugim so se zavzeli, da nedeljsko delo za trgovine z živili ne bi veljalo za redni obratovalni čas. Zahtevali so, naj bi bile trgovine zaprte ob večjih državnih in cerkevih praznikih. Menili so, da predlagani pravilnik daje prevelika pooblastila lokalnim skupnostim, opozarjal so tudi na neustrezen postopek prijave in podobno.

IZPOD ZVONA...

(nadaljevanje s str. 14)

razpravljale o tekočih zadevah. V sosednji sobi je nekaj članic pripravljalo zavitke za naše bolnike in ostarele po domovih. Po sestanku so vsa dala naše članice raznesle na naslove. Hvala vsem za vso pomoč in dobro voljo.

Po vsem tem si se lahko udeležil božičnice društva sv. Jozefa, ki je bila v šolski dvorani.

Ne pozabite, drage sestre, da je naslednja naša nedelja 4. januarja 1998. leta. Zopet se bomo udeležile desete sv. maše, kjer bomo prosile blagoslova za leto 1998. Popoldne ob pol dveh bo ura molitve, litanij in blagoslova z Najsvetijšim. Nato se bomo podale v šolsko dvorano na sestanek, občni zbor in božičnico. Pridite, iskreno vabljene!

Vam vsem, ki berete te vrstice, želim v imenu odbora Olтарnega društva, prav lepo praznovanje Jezusovega rojstva. Ob jaslicah bomo prosile Novorojenega ena za drugo, da bi ostale zveste članice. Daj Bog, da bi bilo leto 1998 mirno, zdravo in blagoslovjeno!

Lavriševa

In kakšne bodo spremembe v obratovalnem času? Redni obratovalni čas prodajaln bo od ponedeljka do petka med 7. in 21. uro, ob sobotah med 7. in 18. uro, ob nedeljah pa za prodajalne z živili med 8. in 13. uro. Zunaj tega časa je obratovanje dežurno.

O rednem obratovalnem času odloča vsak trgovec samostojno glede na svoje poslovne interese, medtem ko na dežurstva vplivajo značilnosti območij (turizem, tranzitni promet, mejni prehodi, varstvo pred hrupom, gostota naseljenosti, običaji ob praznikih itd). Merila za določanje dežurstev oblikuje lokalna skupnost.

Slovenski astronom odkril nova asteroida

Ljubljana — V Cambridgu, Massachusetts, so potrdili odkritje dveh novih asteroidov, ki ju je 2. novembra letos odkril slovenski astronom Herman Mikuž, strokovni sodelavec na Oddelku za fiziko Fakultete za matematiko in fizičko FMF. Asteroida oziroma planetoida, kot se tudi imenujejo majhni planeti, imata navedeni sij 17 oziroma 18 magnitud in pripadata glavnemu pasu asteroidov med Marsom in Jupitrom.

Statistični letopis 1997: Slovenci živijo dlje

Ljubljana — V Sloveniji sme zdaj rojeni otrok pričakovati, da bo doživel 70 let, če je fantek, oziroma 77 let, če je punčka. To obljudljajo najnovješe tablice umrljivosti prebivalstva Slovenije, ki so jih 2. decembra predstavili v sloven-

skem statističnem uradu oz. ob izidu Statističnega letopisa 1997.

Tablice umrljivosti prikažejo življenjske dobe po upravnih enotah in ti podatki kažejo, da se umrljivost znižuje od slovenskega vzhoda proti zahodu. V zahodnem delu države sme otrok pričakovati dve do tri leta daljše življenje, kot njegov vrstnik v zahodnem delu.

Nasploh pa podatki potrjujejo, da se povprečno življenje tudi v Sloveniji podaljšuje. Tako je smel pred 60 leti v Sloveniji rojeni otrok pričakovati precej manj, namreč 50 let življenja. Kljub napredku pa se Slovenija na evropski lestvici še ne uvršča zelo visoko.

Statistični letopis 1997 je tiskan v slovenščini in angleščini, uporabljati ga je mogoče tudi z interneta.

Pretovor bo presegel sedem milijonov ton

Koper — V enajstih mesecih so v koprski Luki pretvorili 6.391.789 ton blaga, kar je v primerjavi z enakim obdobjem lani 7 odstotkov več. Pričakujejo, da bodo v pristanišču zanesljivo izpolnili letošnji plan pretovora in presegli 7 milijonov ton. Na podlagi za decembra napovedanih pošiljk kaže, da bodo v tem mesecu pretvorili 731.000 ton blaga. Razen v silosu za žita so domala v vseh terminalih presegli lanski promet.

Pismo Billu Clintonu in Hansu van den Broeku

Ljubljana (2. dec.) — Društvo izgnancev Slovenije 1941-1945, ki združuje 23.530 še živečih prvih množičnih civilnih žrtev nacizma in Hitlerjeve genocidne politike do Slovencev v drugi svetovni vojni, je pred kratkim poslalo v svet dve pismi. Prvo je bilo naslovljeno na ameriškega predsednika Billa Clintonu, drugo na evropskega komisarja za srednjine in vzhodnoevropske države Hansu van den Broeka.

Na oba moža svetovnega slovesa so se izgnanci obrnili s prošnjo, da podpreta njihove zahteve do vojne odškodnine. Tako Clintonu med drugim opozarjajo, da je po svetu dobro znana tragedija, ki jo je med drugo svetovno vojno doživljalo židovsko prebivalstvo, da pa se malo ali nič ne govori o strahotnem nasilju nad slovenskim narodom.

»Nemški in avstrijski nacisti in italijanski fašisti so hoteli zbrisati slovenski narod z zemljevida Evrope,« pojasnjujejo ameriškemu predsedniku. Izgnanci so izrazili upanje, da bo Clinton opozoril na odprtva vprašanja neporavnanih odškodnin za slovenske žrtve vojnega nasilja, zlasti nemškega predsednika, saj ta po njihovem podpisu pogodbe napravili pomemben korak za prihodnost Save. Sodelovanje z novim partnerjem ji bo namreč omogočilo ohranitev blagovne znamke, zagotovitev dolgoročne socialne varnosti in še boljše poslovne rezultate v prihodnje.

Kranjska Sava je postala del Goodyearove družine

Brdo, 10. decembra — Z današnjim podpisom pogodbe o dolgoročnem sodelovanju z ameriškim Goodyearom so v Savi zaključili pogajanja s svojim novim partnerjem. Od vključitve v enega največjih gumarskih koncernov na svetu si v kranjskem podjetju veliko obetajo, saj naj bi jim omogočilo nadaljnji razvoj in uveljavljanje na svetovnem trgu.

O partnerstvu z Goodyearom so v Savi začeli razmišljati že pred tremi leti, resnejše pogovore o tem pa so se lotili pred dvema letoma. Tedaj se je izteka 25-letna pogodba o sodelovanju s Semperitom oziroma njegovim naslednikom Continentalom in je kazalo, da pogajanja o nadaljnjem sodelovanju z nemškim koncernom ne bodo uspešna.

Z novim partnerjem so najprej letos maja podpisali tako imenovano pismo o namerah, čas do 10. decembra t.l. pa so porabili za pripravo obsežnih in zahtevnih besedil pogodbe.

S pogodbo o dolgoročnem sodelovanju so določili ustavitev dveh skupnih družb z omejeno odgovornostjo, in sicer za avtomobilske gume ter za gumenotehnične izdelke. V prvi bo imel Goodyear 60-odstotni delež, v drugi pa 75-odstotnega.

Za delež v obeh skupnih družbah je ameriški partner prispeval 120 milijonov dolarjev, ki jih je v celoti plačal v gotovini. Na današnji slovensnosti, na kateri so se zbrali vsi vodilni ljudje tako iz Save kot tudi iz Goodyeara, je Janez Bohorič, predsednik uprave Save, poudaril, da so s podpisom pogodbe napravili pomemben korak za prihodnost Save. Sodelovanje z novim partnerjem ji bo namreč omogočilo ohranitev blagovne znamke, zagotovitev dolgoročne socialne varnosti in še boljše poslovne rezultate v prihodnje.

Veliko zadovoljstvo ob podpisu pogodbe je pokazal tudi Samir G. Gibara, predsednik koncerna Goodyear, ki je poudaril, da podpis pogodbe veliko obeta tako Savi kot tudi Goodyearu in da je to znamenje zaupanja v kranjsko podjetje ter v slovensko gospodarstvo in slovensko državo kot celoto.

Po njegovem podpisu pogodbe odpira obema partnerjema nove priložnosti za razvoj novih trgov, razvoj kadrov, tehnični razvoj in širitev blagovnih znamk. Savina blagovna znamka se bo s tem okreplila in vstopila na nove trge kot članica Goodyearove družine blagovnih znamk. Status kranjskega podjetja se tako spreminja od močnega nacionalnega podjetja v sodelavca v rastочem svetovnem podjetju.

Za Goodyear pa bo to partnerstvo prineslo prvo proizvodnjo gumenih tehničnih izdelkov v Evropi.

»Skupaj bomo Sloveniji odprli nova vrata na svetovne trge. Slovenija je že na pragu

članstva v Evropski uniji in bo v bližnji prihodnosti, o tem sem prepričan, postala članica Nata. V času, ko se vaša država pripravlja na pridružitev tem političnim in gospodarskim zavezništvom, je Goodyear po svojih najboljih močeh pripravljen prispevati za razvoj in krepitev vezi s trgi in državami po vsem svetu,« je dejal prvi mož Goodyearovega koncerna. *Lado Stružnik*

Delo, 11. dec. 1997

Vesti iz župnije Rojstva Gospodovega v San Franciscu

SAN FRANCISCO, Kal. — V cerkvi Rojstva Gospodovega smo župljani — Poljaki, Hrvati in Slovenci — skupno poskrbeli za izboljšanje dvorane in župnišča. Od slovenske in hrvaške strani je spretno organiziral delo Peter Pečavar. Pri ogromnem in zahtevnem delu mu je pomagalo 20 prostovoljev in prostovoljk. Z veseljem dodajamo denarne prispevke za poravnavo precej visokih denarnih izdatkov.

V novembру smo zbrali zelo veliko raznih potrebščin za bosanske reveže, kar organizira naša hrvatsko-angleška skupina »The Family«.

Ob obletnici odprtja naše cerkve za lanski božič, bo prišel k nam to nedeljo, 21. decembra, ob 10. uri maševat tu kajšnji nadškop William Levada. Somaševala v angleščini bosta Fr. Janko Žagar, dominikanec, in naš župnik Fr. Rybacki.

Ob udeležbi vseh treh skupin, torej Poljakov, Hrvatov in Slovencev, bo prepeval slovenski cerkveni zbor pod vodstvom našega spretnega organista Aleša Simanca. Sta pa v tem zboru tudi dve Hrvatci in dva Hrvata. Ob posebnih prilikah pojeta solo Diane Fir in oz. ali Aljoša Ravnik. Dobro se poskrbi za čiščenje prostorov in olješavo oltarjev, kakor tudi za kavo s priboljškom v dvorani vsako nedeljo po sv. maši.

Po nadškopovi maši to nedeljo bo adventno-božična pogostitev. Vselej smo veseli naših zvestih župljanov, ki se potrudijo priti od blizu in daleč, nekateri ob palicah ali tudi v vožčku.

Vsem našim prijateljem in bralcem Ameriške domovine želimo božji blagoslov za božične praznike in vse dni novega leta. Pa se kdaj zahvalite z nami Bogu, da imamo spet našo ljubo cerkev tu v San Franciscu odprto. Hvala vam za prijateljstvo!

Angela Gospodarič

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in bož živel do konca naših dni.

Zalujoči:

Andrej in Lojze — sinova
Marija Sever — hči
ter ostalo sorodstvo tu
in v Sloveniji.

Euclid, Ohio, 18. decembra 1997.

(dalje na str. 18)

Petindvajseto letno zborovanje Družbe za Slovenske študije na Konvenciji AAASS v Seattlu, Washington

NEW YORK, NY — Konec prejšnjega meseca, od 20. do 23. novembra, se je v Sheraton Seattle hotelu v Seattlu, Washington, vršila štiridnevna vsedržavna konvencija Ameriškega združenja za pospeševanje slovanskih študij (American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies). Pod njenim okriljem je Družba za slovenske študije (Society for Slovene Studies) imela svoje petindvajseto redno letno zborovanje, na katerem je gostovala vrsta uglednih slovenskih znanstvenikov iz Republike Slovenije.

Na konvenciji je bilo še s t panelskih diskusij o slovenskih zunanjopolitičnih, manjšinskih, izseljeniških, ekonomskih, kulturnih, književnih in jezikoslovnih problematikah.

Med najuglednejšimi sodelavci konvencije — gosti iz Slovenije — so bili: dr. Dimitrij Rupel, veleposlanik Republike Slovenije v Washingtonu, in slovenski znanstveniki: prof. dr. Mirko Jurak, prof. dr. Jernej Petrič, prof. dr. Peter Vodopivec — z Univerze v Ljubljani; prof. dr. Matjaž Klemenčič z Univerze v Mariboru; dr. Marjan Drnovšek, Irena Gantar-Godina, Marina Lukšić-Hacin in prof. dr. Janja Žitnik z Inštituta za slovensko izseljenstvo Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti v Ljubljani.

Program prve sekcijske Družbe za slovenske študije, ki ga je vodila prof. dr. Carole R. Rogel (Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio) in to, ker je bil napovedani predsedujoči, prof. dr. Charles Jelavich z Indiana univerze tisti dan bolan, je bil posvečen *Perspektivam slovenskih mednarodnih od-*

nosajev. Na sporednu so bili trije referati: referat z naslovom »Slovenci in Čehi: dolgotrajno prijateljstvo«, ki ga je prispevala Irena Gantar Godina; referat »Slovenija in Združene države«, ki ga je pripravil prof. dr. Karl W. Ryavec (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), in referat z naslovom »Slovenci in Francija: Pobozne želje in resničnost«, ki ga je prispeval prof. dr. Peter Vodopivec. Diskusijo po teh referatih sta razvila dr. Dimitrij Rupel in dr. Rudolph M. Susel, urednik slovenskega dela tednika *Ameriška domovina* v Clevelandu.

Program druge sekcijske Družbe za slovenske študije je obravnaval *Probleme slovenskih priseljenskih skupnosti in manjšin in neodvisne Slovenije*; sekcijski je vodil prof. dr. Matjaž Klemenčič. Na sporednu te sekcijsko sta bila dva referata: predavanje »Slovenske manjštine v Italiji in neodvisnost Slovenije«, Milana Buffona, člana Znanstvenega in raziskovalnega centra Republike Slovenije; in predavanje »Slovenske skupnosti v Clevelandu in neodvisnost Slovenije« dr. Rudolph M. Susla. Diskutant te sekcijske je bil prof. dr. Jože Velikonja (University of Washington, Seattle).

Tretja sekcijska Družbe je bila posvečena *Vprašanjem slovenske privatizacije*. Sekcijski je predsedoval Evan Kraft, predstavnik Narodne banke Hrvatske. Sekcijski je imela tri referate: Ivana Svetlika (Univ. v Ljubljani) z naslovom »Mobilnost dela v času prehodne dobe v Sloveniji«; Milana Vodopivca (Center za podjetništvo, Slovenija): »Privatizacija in učinkovitost v času prehodne

ga štadija v Sloveniji«; in predavanje Kennetha Zappa (Metropolitan State Univ.): »Vprašanja slovenskega notranjega lastništva«. Diskusijo referatov je vodil Michael L. Wyman, sodelavec International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

Cetrto sekcijsko — razgovor za okroglo mizo o *Slovenski književnosti v angleških prevodih* — je vodil prof. dr. Tom M.S. Priestly (Univ. of Alberta, Edmonton, Kanada). Na programu te sekcijske so nastopali: prof. dr. Mirko Jurak, prof. dr. Tom Ložar (Vanier College, Montreal, Kanada), Jernej Petrič, in prof. dr. Timothy Pogacar (Bowling Green State Univ.). V Seattle pa iz Slovenije zaradi bolezni v družini ni mogel priti prof. dr. Igor Maver z Univerze v Ljubljani.

Peti panel Družbe je bil posvečen *Slovenskim izseljencem v evropskih državah*; vodil ga je prof. Timothy Pogacar. Panel je imel predavanja treh članov Inštituta za slovensko izseljenstvo SAZU v Ljubljani, in to: prvega o »Zadržanostih države in Cerkve do slovenskih razseljencev med obema svetovnima vojnami« dr. Marjana Drnovška, drugega o »Slovencih na Švedskem« Marine Lukšić Hacinove, in tretega, prof. dr. Janje Žitnikove o »Slovenski izseljniški književnosti v Evropi«. Diskutantka tega panela je bila prof. dr. June Granatir Alexander z University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Šesti in zadnji panel, ki je bil na sporednu konvencijo in to v nedeljo, 23. novembra, je bil posvečen *Slovenskemu jezikoslovju*. Zasedanje je vodil prof. dr. William W. Derbyshire (Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ). Na sporednu so bila tri predavanja. Prof. dr. Marc L. Greenberg (University of Kansas, Lawrence) je predaval o »Slovensko-al-

Zaključni podatki o udeležbi na volitvah po svetu živečih rojakov

Volitve v tujini

BUENOS AIRES, Ar. (*Svobodna Slovenija*, 4. dec. 1997) — Po prizadevanju naše sodelavke Vide Petrovič smo dobili od Republike volilne komisije končne podatke o volitvah po svetu. Številke so zanimive, zelo podučne in jasne. Poglejmo.

Vsega je bilo oddanih direktno na voliščih 442 glasovnic, poslanih po pošti (na veleposlanštva ali v Ljubljano) 2033; neveljavnih pa je bilo 13 glasovnic. Tako je od 2020 veljavnih glasov po vsem svetu dobil Jože Bernik 1182 glasova, Milan Kučan 553, Janez Podobnik 198, Cerar 31, Miklavčič 15, Peršak 21, Kovač 13 in Poljšak 7 glasov.

Najbolj pa je zanimiva analiza po posameznih krajih. Na voliščih v bivši Jugoslaviji (Zagreb, Sarajevo, Split in Skopje) je od 264 glasov dobil Kučan 242, Podobnik 15, Bernik pa nič.

V ZDA je volilo samo 137 državljanov od vseh nekaj stotisočev Slovencev, kolikor pravijo, da jih je. Tam je zmagal Bernik z 98 glasovi, Kučan pa je dobil samo 23. Še manj volivcev je bilo v Kanadi: v Ottawi je volilo reci in piši 54 ljudi, od tega 27 za Bernika, 20 za Podobnika in 3 za Kučana. Tudi v Avstraliji ni bilo boljše: v Canberri je od 23 glasov dobil Bernik 11, Kučan 9 in Podobnik 2.

Če pogledamo države Zahodne Evrope (razen Francije in Italije, kjer je dobil največ glasov Bernik), je povsod (Anglija, Nemčija, Madžarska, Rusija, Grčija, Poljska, Češka, Avstrija, Belgija, Švedska, Portugalska, Španija pa še Egipt) z ogromno večino zmagal Kučan — 223 glasovi, Bernik pa 72.

Kot vidimo, smo v Argentini oddali skoraj polovico vseh glasov. Čudno se nam zdi, da je v drugih državah kot so ZDA, Kanada in Avstralija, tako malo volivcev. Saj je tudi naše politične emigracijske tam veliko in tudi imajo starejši naseljenici demokratično podlogo. Da v bivši Jugoslaviji prednjacija levi, je razumljivo, enako pa tudi med zdomci.

Vendar bi lahko tudi med nami dosegli boljše rezultate. Več naših rojakov si mora potrditi državljanstvo, več jih prositi za prijavnice in tudi več glasovati. Glasovanje je bilo sedaj izpeljano v redu, treba bi bilo le najti način za overovitev glasovnic rojakov, ki živijo raztreseni v notranjosti države, saj volijo lahko po pošti). Vedeti moramo, da bodo čez nekaj let spet nove volitve v parlament in da so se zadnje končale v pat poziciji. Prihodnost pa je lahko drugačna, če se bomo potrudili.

T(sine) D(ebeljak)

banksih vzporednicah in njih latinskih posredovalnih stopnjah»; prof. dr. Raymond Miller (Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine) o »Ruskem dojemanju slovenskih dialektov sredi preteklega stoljetja«; in prof. dr. Tom Priestley o svojih »Kritičnih pripombah k teoretičnim posplošitvam o slovenskih koroških dialektih Johna J. Gumperza (1970, 1972)«. Diskusijo te sekcijske je vodil podpisani Rado Lenček (Columbia University

v New Yorku).

Poleg teh šestih znanstvenih sekcijskih je Družba za slovenske študije imela še oba svoja letna organizacijska sestanka: sejo članov izvršnega odbora in širši organizacijski sestanek svojih članov, udeležencev konvencije AAASS v Seattlu. Na tem širšem sestanku je prof. prof. dr. Francetu Berniku, predsedniku Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti v Ljubljani, od 1992 dalje rednemu članu Družbe, podeljen naslov Častnega člana Družbe za slovenske študije.

Rado L. Lenček

Raziskovalnodokumentacijski center
Družbe za slovenske študije

(Op. ur. AD: K poročilu bi omenil le spremem, ki ga je za navzoče člane Družbe za slovenske študije v soboto, 22. novembra, priredil veleposlanik dr. Dimitrij Rupel, pridružila se je tudi njegova žena Marjetica-Ana.)

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BENEŠKA SLOVENIJA

Z nasprotnega brega opazujem vas Topolovo (it. Topolo), ki v sebi zrcali vse plasti življenja Beneških Slovencev. Na strmem pobočju pod vaško cerkvijo se hiše, ki so strnjene ena k drugi, vrstijo na terasah, vsekanih v strmino. To so značilne mediteranske hiše z zidovi iz obdelanega kamna ter s položnimi strehami. Prisojne strani hiš dopolnjujejo leseni ganki v posameznih nadstropjih, ki so med seboj povezani s strmimi lesenimi stopnicami. Preko rezljanih ograj gankov se vzpenja vinska trta. Dostop do strnjene hiš omogočajo strme, vijugaste, kamnite ulice, ponekod pokrite z lopo in trto. Vas obdajajo male razdrobljene njivice, pozidane v terase, ki so razmetane po strmih slemenih in dolinah. To vas lahko doživljamo in razumemo kot odsev davne preteklosti Beneških Slovencev, ki so kljub pritiskom in zatiranju ohranili svojo slovensko identiteto s svojo materialno in duhovno kulturo.

Ime Beneška Slovenija predstavlja ponazoritev ločnice med romansko ravnino in s Slovenci poseljenimi griči, v obdobju srednjega veka ter kasneje stoletja trajajoče pri-padnosti Beneški republiki. Beneški Slovenci živijo v Nadiških in Terskih dolinah ter v Reziji. Slovanski naselitveni val je potekal po Vipavski dolini ter preko idrijsko-škofje-loškega hribovja, medtem ko je bila dolina Rezije naseljena preko Koroške.

Naj iz bogate zgodovine omenimo le samoupravo, ki so jo predniki današnjih prebivalcev Nadiških dolin dosegli pod oglejskimi patriarhi in kasneje Beneško republiko. Stopnja samostojnosti je bila tako velika, da je Beneška Slovenija živila povsem ločeno od Čedada in preostale Furlanije.

Temelj samouprave so predstavljale vasi (sosednje), ki so bile povezane v landarsko in mersinsko veliko županstvo (banka). Župani so se zbiralni okoli velike kamnite mize pod lipom ter odločali v civilnih in kazenskih pravdah. O skupnih zadevah obeh velikih županij so župani sklepali na sestankih pred staro cerkvijo sv. Krna v bližini Špetra (San Pietro al Natisone), kjer so se zbirali vsaj enkrat na leto.

Usodno prelomnico predstavlja 2. maj 1804, ko so se pri sv. Krnu zadnjič sestali. Leta 1805 so Francozi odpr-

vili sosednje, posekali lipe in razbili kamnite mize. Kasneje niti Avstrija niti Italija na tem območju nista obnovili nikakršne avtonomije.

Zgodovino Beneške Slovenije so usodno zaznamovali emigracijski tokovi. Ena izmed prvih oblik izseljevanja je bilo krošnjarstvo. Od hiše do hiše, predvsem na podeželju, so prodajali raznovrstne izdelke. Revščina in naraščanje prebivalstva sta prisilila Beneške Slovence v stalno emigracijo.

Sprva so se preseljevali v Sjeverno in predvsem v Južno Ameriko. V času med obema vojnoma, ko zasledimo tudi intenzivno žensko emigracijo v italijanska meta Neapelj, Rim, Turin in Milan, so moški odhajali na delo v francoske in belgijske rudnike.

Ta proces je povzročal izumiranje podeželja, saj so iz vasi odhajali predvsem mladi in zdravi ljudje. Skozi stoletja je bilo največ emigrantov ravno iz Rezije. Poleg trgovskih so bili znani brusaški, zidarški, steklarski in kleparski poklici.

Predvsem brusači so se ponavadi v zimskih mesecih vračali domov. Sprva so potovali peš, da so lahko obiskovali tudi najbolj odročne kraje. Včasih se je zgodilo, da je bila njihova pot dolga tudi več let. Rezijanski brusači se niso omejavali samo na svoj poklic, ampak so bili cenjeni tudi

po svojih spremnostih pri popravljanju orodja in ostale hišne opreme.

Svoj rokodelski poklic so dopolnjevali s trgovsko dejavnostjo. Tako so preprodajali nože, škarje, srpe, kose in druga rezila. Mnogi so iz te faze prešli v odpiranje brusaških delavnic in trgovin, kar je kasneje pomenilo trajno odselitev. Seveda pa je v največ primerih brusaška dejavnost obdržala potupoči značaj.

Skozi celotno obdobje se je izpopolnjevalo brusaško orodje, kar je močno vplivalo na razvoj tega poklica. Prisotni so bili na območju celotne Avstro-Ogrske, poznali so jih tudi drugod na Balkanu in pot jih je zanesla celo v Rusijo. Rezijani so bili vedno svetovljani, ponosni na to, da so domljivi za tuje jezike, da se v širnem svetu znajdejo in preživijo.

Ena izmed najpomembnejših znamenitosti Beneške Slovenije je cerkev sv. Ivana v Čele (s. Giovanni d'Antro) v Landarski jami v Nadiški dolini, ki je zanimiva predvsem radi religioznega, zgodovinskega in pripovedniškega videnja.

Tu nam prazgodovinski ostanke izpričujejo, da so bile Nadiške doline naseljene že zdavnaj. Nedvomno so jamo uporabljali tudi Rimljani in Langobardi. Skalna votlina ob izhodu podzemnega hudournika, do katere se vzpnemo po strmih stopnicah, je skozi stoletja predstavljala varno zavetišče pred sovražnikom.

V naravni dvorani ob vhodu v jamo, ob svetišču sv. Janeza Krstnika, ki predstavlja najstarejšo cerkev v Beneški Sloveniji, je mojster Andrej iz Loke leta 1477 prizidal kapelo sv. Janeza Evangelista. Andrej iz Loke, ki je v bistvu prenesel gorenjski arhitekturni tip v bližino Furlanije, je kapelo mojstrsko sezidal ob navpični skalnatni steni v obliku, ki spominja na prezbiterij. Strop tega gotskega svetišča oblikujejo zvezdnati oboki s čudovitimi sklepniki v obliku znamenj.

Izpostavljena, osamljena mesta na travnatih pobočjih Beneške Slovenije poživljajo majhne gotske cerkvice z značilnimi linastimi zvončnicami. Bogato okrašene strope prezbiterijev dopolnjujejo zlati oltarji. Tu lahko na vsakem koraku spoznavamo, kako tesno se prepletajo umetnost, vera in kultura. Tu lahko doživljamo simbiozo alpskih in mediteranskih kultur med Gorenjsko in Furlanijo z vsemi krajevnimi značilnostmi, ki se med seboj bogatijo in plemenitijo.

Stara gora (Castelmonte) v Nadiški dolini nas s svojim videzom spominja na staro srednjeveško trdnjava. Veličastno zidovje se harmonično vklaplja v razgiban svet, ki jo obdaja. Tu je bila nekdaj zelo znana božja pot, ki je združevala kranjske, koroške in furlanske vernike. Na vrhu obzida s stolpi stoji samostan in velika cerkev.

Kadar govorimo o Beneški Sloveniji, imamo vedno v mislih tudi njihova narečja. Najbližji slovenskemu knjižnemu jeziku je nadiški dialekt, medtem ko je terski predmet raziskovanj sedanjih in bodočih jezikoslovcev.

Svojevrstno jezikovno območje v okviru slovenske skupnosti v Italiji predstavlja Rezija. V okviru rezijanskega dialektu poznamo vsaj tri dokaj različne govore. Izredno občutljiv jezikovni prostor so poleg nacionalne zavesti oblikovali tudi geografski položaj ter vpliv jezikovnega raziskovanja.

Geografska zaprtost je skozi stoletja predstavljala oviro večjim komunikacijam. Rezijani so iz roda v rod prenašali spomin na »ruskega« jezikoslovca Jana Baudouina de Courtenaya, ki je vrsto let (1873-1887) prihajal k njim in takrat znanstveno dognal, da Rezijani izvirajo iz Rusije. Neglede na dejstvo, da je Courtenay pred smrto svojo teorijo preklical, je danes še veliko Rezjanov, ki so prepričani, da so ruskega izvora.

Že od nekdaj rezijansko uporabljaljo le za osebno komunikacijo, v javnosti pa v cerkvenem bogoslužju.

V okviru rezijanskega dialektu vsi razumejo različne govore, ki jih uporabljajo v svojih vaseh. Vendar, tudi če se preselijo v drugo vas, natančno in dosledno uporabljajo svoj govor. Prav v tem se odraža edinstvenost pristnega rezijanskega jezikovnega ponašanja.

Seveda pa bi moral rezijanski dialekt v italijanskem jezikovnem okolju najti svoj status v obliki popolnega knjižnega jezika, kar bi predstavljalo poroštvo, da se bo ohranil za prihodnje rodove. Mnogi poskusi, da se za dialekt pripravi črkopis, slovnica in slovar, so obrodili sadove in rezijanska slovnica je v tisku. Za aktivnejše stike z matično Slovenijo bi bilo pomembno načrtno poučevanje slovenskega knjižnega jezika v Reziji.

Beneško Slovenijo je v letu 1976 močno prizadel potres. Najbolj prizadeti so bili kraji v Terski dolini in v Reziji. Nekdanje vasi so močno spremenile prvotno podobo. Stara tradicionalna arhitektura se je dokaj dobro ohranila le v Nadiških dolinah, kjer v strnjeneh vaseh lahko še danes občudujemo čudovite freske.

Neglede na krhko demografsko ravnoštevje tega gorskega sveta se zavest Beneških Slovencev krepi. Poleg folklorne skupine Vas Resia, ki nepreklenjeno deluje že več kot stopetdeset let in s tem ohranja specifično folkloro, ples in jezik, deluje tudi veliko kulturnih društev. Vsako leto organizira strokovno srečanje Benešanski kulturni dnevi, ki so posvečeni problematiki Beneške Slovenije. Vasica Topolovo v poletnem času postane naravni ambient številnih mednarodnih slikarskih, kiparskih in video prireditev.

V Špetru Slovenov je organizirana dvojezična šola, ki predstavlja sožitje na tem jezikovno mešanem območju in je pomemben dejavnik medsebojnega spoštovanja in poznavanja. Na Veliki Smaren, imenujejo ga Smarnamiša (15. avgust), se vrnejo Rezijani iz širnega sveta, takrat plešejo in pojajo, trgovci pa postavijo stojnice. Na isti dan se zborejo Beneški Slovenci iz nadiških in terskih dolin ter Slovenci iz matične domovine na gori Matatjur, ki predstavlja simbol povezovanja.

Milan Grego

Razne in različne...

(nadaljevanje s str. 16)

vem mnenju ravno Nemčija in Avstrija največ dolžni.

Hkrati Clinton opozorjajo, naj ne dovoli, da bi zdaj tisti, ki so med drugo svetovno vojno izvajali genocid nad Slovenci, postavljali nekatere zahteve do slovenske države in ovirali vstop Slovenije v Evropsko unijo.

Hansa van den Broeka pa so zaprosili, naj bo pošten in pravičen tudi do malih narodov in žrtev vojnega nasilja ter naj pomaga Sloveniji, da se enakopravno vključi med demokratične evropske narode.

»Podprite Slovenijo, da bo po petdesetih letih rešila tudi vprašanje vojnih odškodnin,« pozivajo van den Broeka. V pismu so izrazili še upanje, da bo evropski komisar preprečil izsiljevalcem blatenje Slovenije v Evropski uniji in da bo povabil, kakšna so zgodovinska, pravna in humanitarna dejstva pravičnih argumentov in zahetov slovenskih izgnancev.

Mateja Babič, Delo, 3.12.1997

Predstavnika Srbske pravoslavne cerkve pri nadškofu Rode

Ljubljana — Ljubljanski nadškof in slovenski metropolit dr. Franc Rode je v prostorih nadškofijskega ordinariata sprejel predstavnika Srbske pravoslavne cerkve v Sloveniji, in sicer zagrebško-ljubljanski mitropolita Jovana in prototjereja Perana Boškovića. Sprejemata se udeležila tudi predsednik slovenskega ekumeničkega sveta prof. dr. Bogdan Dolenc in vodja tiskovne urade Slovenske škofovske konference dr. Janez Gril.

Kot je v sporočilu za javnost zapisal tiskovni urad SSK, je dr. Rode »izrazil veselje, ker vladajo v Sloveniji zelo dobrí ekumenični odnosi med sestrskima cerkvama«, in gostoma med drugim zagotovil, da bo prizadavanje Katoliške cerkve za ureditev odnosov z državo, potrjeno z mednarodnimi pogodbami med Svetim sedežem in Republiko Slovenijo, pripomoglo k ureditvi odnosov med Srbsko pravoslavno cerkvijo v Sloveniji in slovensko državo.

Tudi mitropolit Jovan je ugodno ocenil odnose med obema Cerkvama, sicer pa sta ugledna gospoda povedala, da si tudi pravoslavni prizadavajo za novo evangelizacijo in verski pouk v šoli.

Vesele Božične praznike in Srečno Nouvo Leto



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Ljubljana — Iz ZDA se je sedem dveh velikih festivalov tradicionalnega jazza vrnilo sedem poklicnih glasbenikov Greentown jazz banda, vrhunske slovenske skupine, ki jo že osem let vabijo na največji jazzovski festival bluesa in swinga na svetu v Sacramento, Kalif. Za prihodnje leto imajo Ljubljaničani že vabila za tri velike ameriške festivalne take glasbe.

Stevilni znani evropski glasbeniki bi močno zavidali Greentown jazz bandu, saj kaj takega, kar je uspelo Ljubljaničnom, njim najverjetne ne bo nikoli: igranje na nekaterih najbolj znanih ameriških jazzovskih festivalih.

Z dveh se je te dni vrnilo sedem ljubljanskih jazzarjev: klarinetist in vodja ansambla **Borut Bučar**, trobentar **Dominik Krajčan**, trombonist **Peter Hudobivnik**, pianist **Blaž Jurjevič**, kitarist **Primož Grašič**, basisti **Aleš Avbelj** in **bob Salih Sadikovič**.

Od 10. do 25. oktobra so delovali najprej na festivalu tradicionalnega jazza v Medfordu v ameriški zvezni državi Oregon, potem še na podobnem festivalu v Sun Valleyu v Idaho. Med 25 ameriškimi orkestri in skupinami so bili edini Evropejci, ki so jih povabili tja po njihovem letošnjem, že osmeh nastopu na največjem festivalu klasičnega jazza na svetu v Sacramento.

»V Sacramento povabijo izključno najbolj kakovostne orkestre, kar je seveda za našo skupino lepo priznanje,« pravi vodja Greentown jazz banda Borut Bučar.

Pod tem imenom so začeli nastopati leta 1982, ko v Sloveniji po razpadu Ljubljanskega jazz ansambla ni bilo več skupine, ki bi se na tako visoki kakovosti ravni ukvarjala s to glasbeno zvrstjo.

Vodja ansambla je vseskozi Borut Bučar, pod to ugledno jazzovsko blagovno znamko pa se je v 15 letih zvrstilo več kot 20 glasbenikov. Zdaj igrajo pri »ljubljanskih zelencih« izključno poklicni glasbeniki in se odzivajo le na vabila na najkakovostnejše velike jazzovske prireditve v tujini in kajpada na vsa resna vabila iz slovenskih krajev. Doma so doslej izdali tri velike plošče, sedem kaset in štiri zgoščenke.

Medtem ko v Sloveniji razen Greentown jazz banda ni glasbene skupine, ki bi na tako višoki ravni igrala tradicionalni

jazz, se pravi predvsem blues in swing, je samo v ZDA vsako leto več kot sto velikih festivalov takšne glasbe, kar pomeni, da je zanjo ustrezno veliko zanimanje.

Na dveh, s katerih so se zdaj vrnili, so ljubljanski glasbeniki imeli v dvanajstih dneh 20 nastopov; večkrat so igrali dva-krat na dan, en dan celo tri-krat, kajti organizatorji so skupine razporejali glede na zanimanje poslušalcev. Ljubljanski Greentown jazz band pa ameriški spremiščevalci tradicionalnega jazza dobro poznajo tako z nastopov v Arizoni, Kaliforniji in Novi Mehiki kot s plošč, kaset, kompaktnih plošč ter televizijskih in radijskih predstavitev.

»Na festivalih, na kakršnih smo bili zdaj, nastopa po 25 vrhunskih orkestrov z mednarodnim ugledom in okoli 250 glasbenikov, kar daje možnost, da se nastopajoči primerjajo med seboj,« pravi Borut Bučar.

»Po vseh merilih smo člani naše glasbene skupine lahko karseda samozavestni, saj v nobenem pogledu ne zaostajamo za drugimi nastopajočimi. Potrdilo je med drugim prišlo le nekaj dni po naši vrnitvi iz Amerike: v žepu že imamo vabila na tri festivala v ZDA: maja gremo v Sacramento, oktober v Oregon in Idaho. Organizatorji nas zanesljivo ne bi povabili, če ne bi računali, da bodo z nami napolnili dvorane.«

Klub takšni nedvoumni prepoznavnosti po svetu člani Greentown jazz banda še nima potnih listov slovenskih kulturnih ambasadorjev.

*Marjan Raztresen
Delo, 7. nov. 1997*

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21. — *Društvo SPB Cleveland* ima božičnico ob 2.30 pop., v šolski dvorani pri Sv. Vidu.

— 1998 —**JANUAR**

18. — *Slovenska šola pri Mariji Vnebovzeti* vabi na košilo v šolski dvorani. Serviranje od 11.30 do 1. pop.

24. — *Slovenska pristava priredi* tradicionalno »Pristavsko noč«, v SND na St. Clair Ave.

FEBRUAR

15. — *Slovenska šola pri Sv. Vidu* postreže s košilom v auditoriju. Serviranje od 11. dop. do 1.30 pop.

MAREC

15. — *Federacija slovenskih narodnih domov* priredi letni banket v SND na St. Clair Ave.

21. — *Primorski klub prireja* vsakoletni »Primorski večer«, v SND na St. Clair Ave.

APRIL

18. — *Tabor DSPB* priredi družabni večer v Slov. domu na Holmes Ave. Pričetek ob 7. zv. Sledi ples. Igrajo Veseli godci.

25. — *Slovenska šola pri Sv. Vidu* priredi materinsko proslavo v farni dvorani. Pričetek ob 6.30 zv.

JUNIJ

14. — *Slovenska šola pri Mariji Vnebovzeti* priredi poletno veselico na Slovenski pristavi.

20. in 21. — *Tabor ZDSPB* priredi spominsko proslavo na Slovenski pristavi.

JULIJ

26. — *Slovenska šola pri Sv. Vidu* prireja piknik na Slovenski pristavi.

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Host Mario Kavcic

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3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Polkatime America

4 - 5 p.m. rebroadcast of a production from Radio Ljubljana, Slovenia in native language

Sunday

7 a.m. - 10 a.m. Memory Lane

Host Allen James

10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Magic Sound of the Button Box

Host John Pestotnik

10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Reflections of the New Slovenia

Hostess Linda Cimperman

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Polka Fun With Al & Harry

Host Al Markic & Harry Faint

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Polka Tributes

Host Al Markic

2 p.m. - 3 p.m. International Hour

Host John Krizancic

3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Polkatime America

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Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

1212. Ko bo izšla ta četrtkova Ameriška

domovina, bo samo še teden dni do božičnega praznika. Med tem se bo že večina naših misijonarjev na terenu veselila MZA daru, ki ga bodo prejeli in morda tudi že za božič marsikoga razveselili.

Radi poštne stavke v Kanadi, ki je končno le prenehala, kakšnih posebnih novic misijonarjev še ni. G. Rudi Knez je sporočil telefonično, da je neimenovan iz Wisconsina daroval za misijonarja Pepija Lebrehta \$500, za sestre Karmeličanke v Sori \$500, in onim v Mirnji Peči \$500. Iskrena hvala. Vse je bilo takoj odposlano, kot je dobrotnik želel.

Nadaljujemo z zanimivim
pismom misijonarja Vladimira Kosa:

Se razume, da igra pri tem bistveno vlogo Učlovečeni Božji Sin, ki je del Svojega kraljestva napravil viden v Svoji Cerkvi. Po njej vidno nadaljuje Svoje odrešilno delo: »Moj Oče neprehomoma dela in tudi jaz delam.« (Jan 5:17)

Po Svoji božji radodarnosti se poslužuje vidnih oseb, vidihih dejanj, otipljivih besed - naj pričajo o Njem posebno s svojim prepričanjem, ki - potopljeno v milost - najlaže najde pot v sočlovekovo srce. Tudi na daljavo, v neznane čase in neznane kraje.

In zato je važno, da MZA sodelavec in sodelavka iz prepričanja sodelujeta, pa čeprav pripravlja le piknik. Iz prepričanja, da je Gospod Jezus vreden naše ljubezni, vreden česarkoli, kar lahko pomaga Njegovim misijonom. Ker je takšno prepričanje ljubezen, kot magnet pritegne božje delovanje milosti, ker je »Bog Ljubezen« (1 Jan 4:8). V tem je tudi bistvena razlika med Bogom in hudobnim duhom: tudi najmogočnejši hudobni duh - ne more ljubiti!

Iz plakatov, iz ekranov, iz knjig in ilustriranih revij nam vpada v oči beseda »ljubezen« - v smislu, ki ga pojmuje človek na široki cesti sveta. Pri vsem praznovanju ljubezni ostane Sveti pismo realistično: »Kako more biti božja ljubezen v človeku, ki ima premoženje in vidi, da je brat v poštanju, pa zapira svoje srce pred njim? Otroci, ne ljubimo z besedo, tudi ne z jezikom, ampak v dejanju ni resnici.« (1 Jan 3:17-18)

Največje človekovo pomanjkanje je nepoznanje resnično pravega Boga. MZA nam pomaga, da se zavemo svojega »premoženja«, tako snovnega kot duhovnega, in preidemo v dejanje.

Milost v obliki zmožnosti molitve za misijone je tudi »premoženje«, morda edino, kadar nam okoliščine, npr. bolezen, onemogočijo dostop do ostalih možnosti premoženja, se pravi do ostalih možnosti, da nekaj premoremo. Zaučna molitev kot edino premoženje v danih okoliščinah predstavlja pravo bogastvo: Božje Srce lahko prosimo, da omogoči finančno pomoč, ki je sami trenutno ne zmoremo. Bog sam nas je učil prosi, npr. s prispevkom o vdovi in sodniku-agnostiku, ki mu je vdova »šla na živce« (Luk 18:5). »Vendar, kadar bo prišel Sin človekov, ali bo našel vero na zemlji?« (Luk 18:8)

Vladimir Kos

(s prisrčnimi pozdravi)

Nadaljujemo z darovi,

ki smo jih poslali z letno razdelitvijo MZA sledečim misijonarjem:

Bocvana: Sr. Zora Škerlj, uršulinka, \$500.

Tanzanija: Misijonar Emil Cuk, \$500.

Uganda: Misijonar Rafko Rupert, \$500.

Zair: Misijonar Jože Šöman \$500. Z njim deluje laični misijonar Ivo Čerček, ki je prejel \$250.

Slonokoščena obala: Brata Ivan in Pavel Bajec sta prejela vsak po \$500, Janko Kosmač \$500 in še osebni dar \$50 od gdč. MaryAnn Mlinar in za sv. maše \$550 (od katerih pet od gdč. Mlinarjeve). Iste razdeli med vse tri misijonarje, da jih opravijo po namenu darovalcev.

Prav tako na Slonokoščeni obali v istem kraju delujejo sr. misijonarke Hermina Nemšak, dr. Anica Starman in Stefana severa, vsaka po \$500.

Tajska: Sr. Frančiška Novak, naša dolgoletna pionirka, \$700.

Japonska: Misijonar Vladimir Kos, v Tokiu, \$1000 (polovico od darov pok. g. Karla).

Hong Kong: sr. Anica Miklavčič, ki še ima veliko željo, da bi se ji odprla pot, da bi šla misijonarit na Kitajsko, \$500.

V Hong Kongu med mladino deluje tudi Rev. Stanko

Pavlin, salezijanec, in je dobil \$500.

Bangladeš: Rev. Jože Cukale \$750, od tega \$250 za maše.

Nekje se je ujelo tole pismo od Rev. Cukaleta od maja meseca:

»Glede mene pravijo, da sem mladenič. Pomišli, jaz, ki sem bil v prvih letih indijskega misijona slabič. Pa se me je Gospod usmilil in se je usmilil prošnjá mojih dragih. Sicer čutim v nogah težo in počasnost, spomin mi odreka pokorčino, utrujenost leze v kosti.

Obiskal sem M. Terezijo z našimi novinci, bila nas je vesela in ko sem se slednjič ozrl, je še zmerom stala med vrati in nam mahala v pozdrav. Taki obiski mi povedo veliko in menda je njena molitev in prijateljstvo, ki mi daje elan, da nadaljujem delo v tem Dhyan Ashram, Diamond Harbour Rd., Kochowki, Bishunupur, Dt. 24 Parganas(S) West Bengal, India.

Bangladeš je za meno. Gospod mi je dal moči, da sem položil prvi kamen in zdaj so na poti tja: škof Linus Gomes, DJ, in Fr. Joe D'Souza. Kmalu, to se pravi čez nekaj let, pa bodo odšli novi kadri, ki se pripravljajo v Dhyana Ashramu, v Delhiju in Puni za apostolat med Adibasiči in če Bog da, med muslimane. Jaz sem še vedno vabljen tja, ker sem sam pustil mnogo prijateljev, morda se jim enkrat le pridružim.

Koncem junija me boš dobil spet blizu Keorapukurja, kjer je majhen hostel za hindujske obubožane študente. Bo pa tudi precej lepega dela na periferiji župnije, kjer so naši kristjani bolj zapuščeni. Delo pa ne bo lahko in se Tebi in vsem okrog MZA iskreno priporočam. Hvala!

Ce te utruja zbiranje starih poročil, se ne trudi, zdaj rabiš poštenega počitka, ki ga nikdar nisi bil vajen.

Pozdravljam vse po vrsti in Tebi in vsem dobrotnikom še enkrat en velik Bog povrni! Tvoj stari prijatelj,

Jože Cukale, DJ«

Darove MZA so prejeli še
slediči misijonarji:

V Indiji sledeči salezijanci: Rev. Pavel Bernik, ki je bil letos na misijonsko nedeljo na Koroškem z nekoliko indijskimi duhovniki in škofje, ki so bili podpirani od koroških Slo-

Najina božična slika

*Kot jezik naš je Božič ljuba slika:
na slami Božji Sin spokojno spi;
Marija, Božja mati, srajčko plete;
s poleni sveti Jožef ogenj hrani.*

*Pastirjev tropa s hriba v hlev hiti,
in z ovčjim sirom v zveznjene kaftanah,
z Božiča prvim darom za to Dete,
sveta resničnega Odrešenika.*

*In zvezdice vso noč se veselijo,
nad starimi drevesi vriskajo.
Nekje v daljavi sveto mesto sanja,
nekje v puščavi Modrih karavana.*

*Brez naju nekaj večni sliki manjka:
pojdiva k Njemu s tisto melodijo,
ki znova angeli Mu jo pojo,
z ljubezni melodijo, o kristjan!*

*Rev. VLADIMIR KOS
Tokio, Japonska*



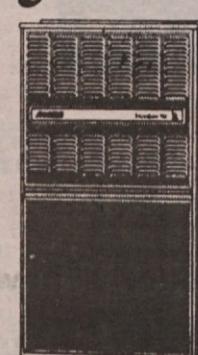
Sr. Ivana Cvijin, za 30-letno delo med ubogimi, \$500.

S tem smo zaključili razdelitev darov MZA, ki so se nabrali čez leto od mnogih dobrotnikov, ki želijo pomagati preko slovenskih misijonarjev uboge in potrebne. Božji Misijonar pa naj vsakemu posebej stotero povrne na način kot on najbolj zna. Hvala vam, dragi prijatelji ubogih! Nebeško kraljestvo se je približalo in razodelo ubogim.

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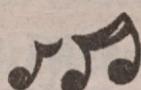
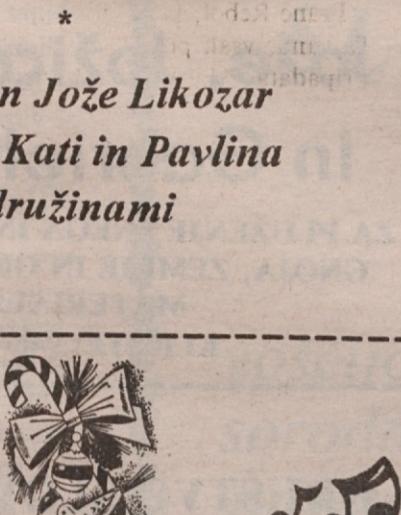
ŽELIMO VSEM SORODNIKOM
IN PRIJATELJEM IN ZNANCEM

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IN SREČNO LETO

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Blagoslova in miru polne božične praznike, ter srečno Novo leto 1998
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želijo Olga, Toni, Diana, Andrew
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in srečo v novem letu!



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Fantje na Vasi

iz Cleveland

AMERISKA DOMOVINA 21
DECEMBER 18, 1997

Čuden božični večer

Dolgo se je pripravljala na božični večer, skrbno je izbirala darila za vsakogar posebej, izbirala blešeče papirje in svelte pentlje, na skrivaj ponoči zavijala vse bogastvo igrač in sladkarij, da bi bili na božični večer vsi presenečeni, ko bodo pod jelko našli kup daril, kot v ameriških filmih. Pod božičnim drevesom, se je popravila, zdaj praznujemo božič in postavljamo božično drevo.

Ko si je ogledovala vse bogastvo stojnic po mestu, je vedno znova videla tudi jaslice, najrazličnejše hlevčke in pisano ponudbo figuric iz lesa, gline, mavca in plastike; množico ovčk, pastirjev in pastiric, osličke in voličke, kamene in tri kralje...

Ne, letos tega še ne bo kupila, ne upa si. Že tako jo Aleš stalno špika, da je ponorela zaradi tega božiča, prav dobro so živelji tudi prej, pravljičnosti je dovolj prinesla tudi novoletna jelka, pa dedek Mraz in darila. Otroci seveda morajo imeti svoje veselje, iskrice in lučice in pričakovanje daril, odrasli seveda morajo imeti svojo zabavo v novoletni noči in slavnostno večerjo pred njo — zakaj bi bilo vse to potrebno tudi teden dni prej, ne, tega Aleš ni hotel razumeti.

»Mi nismo verni, kaj bomo s tem praznikom?« je natančeno spraševal, vendor se je počasi vdal njenemu prepričevanju, kako je božič največji družinski praznik in kako ga zdaj praznujejo vsi... O, ko bo dobil na božično večer najlepšo pipi, kar jih je kdaj videl, se bo tudi on omehčal, si je govorila, ko je zavijala dragocene darilo.

Mitja se je z očkom kar strinjal, od vedno je bil proti vsem ceremonijam in razneženim trenutkom; ko je moral, na primer, ob rojstnem dnevu dovoliti, da so ga poljubljali in objemali, se je še prav majhen izvijal iz objema in se izmikal nežnostim, ki bi mu jih drugi tako radi izkazovali. »Pravi očka,« so rekle tete in obrnile k Mojci, srkljani najmlajši, ki se nežnosti ni nikoli branila.

Olga se je kmalu navadila, da je sin pač podoben očetu in

(dalje na str. 22)



Družina
Janez Šemen
Willoughby Hills, Ohio

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AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA
DECEMBER 10, 1997

Cuden božični večer

(nadaljevanje s str. 21)

da ne prvi ne drugi ne marata kaj veliko za take otročarije, kot so rojstni dnevi in sploh prazniki. Navadila se je živeti v urejenem, hladnem domu, kjer so vse stvari sicer na mestu in res odigrajo svojo vlogo, kot je treba, topline in nežnosti pa primanjkuje na vsakem koraku.

Prav ko se je že za silo navadila, pa ji je usoda namenila še enega otroka, deklico, ki je kmalu ves red in ves hlad v domu postavila na glavo. Dekletce je neštetokrat na dan od veselja zavrsnilo, se glasno zasmajalo in od navdušenja ploskalo z drobnimi rokami. V dom je ta mala punčka prinесla smeh in tudi nežnost.

Prav nič ni pomicljala, pogumno je zlezla očku v naročje, se ga oklenila s svojimi drobnimi ročicami in ga vsega zmočila po licih s svojimi otroškimi poljubi. »Nežnica,« ji je govoril Aleš, vendar je ni odrinil in ni se namrščil, češ, kakšne neumnosti pa so to?

Punčka je razbijala ustaljene navade v hiši in talila led prevelike resnosti in urejenosti. Njene igračke so ležale vse povsod, če pa jih je kdo hotel pospraviti, se je uprla, češ, da danes stanujejo njene punčke pod mizo...

Njeni prisrčnosti se ni bilo mogoče upreti, celo častitljiva gospa, ki jo je morala punčka klicati »mam«, se je odtajala iz svoje vzvišene zadržanosti in je otroku celo mirno dovolila, da je plezal na stolček pred klavirjem in kar s dlanjo tolkel po dragocenih tipkah. Res, ta otrok je prinesel v hišo smeh in sproščenost.

Olga se je nasmehnila ob misli, kako veselo bo dekletce vriskalo, ko bo odvilo svoje darilo: v njem je lepa punčka z dolgimi lasmi in mehko obledo, prav tako punčka, kakršno sta videli pri prijateljici...

Ko je imela vsa darila pripravljena, se je lotila načrtov za večerjo. Ker so letos povabili tudi »mam«, mora biti vse prav izbrano...

Mnogo dni se je ukvarjala z jedilnikom, mnogo časa je porabila, da je naročila vse potice in piškote in torto in najboljše meso. Za pijačo bi moral poskrbeti Aleš, pa je kljub temu kupila nekaj steklenic izbranega vina, da se ne bi pritoževal, da hoče za nepomembne praznike prazniti njegovo zalogu. Ja, vse je pripravila, na vse je mislila. To je bilo njen prvo božično praznovanje in nič ne sme biti narobe ali samo povprečno.

Potem je Aleš zadnji teeden izvedel, da bo na božični večer moral dežurati — in na božični dan tudi. »Mam« je ob tej novici olajšano oznanila, da je bila že prej povabljena k ne-

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Cuden božični večer
(nadaljevanje s str. 22)

kim prijateljem — če torej Aleša ne bo doma, bo šla ona raje tja...

Zdaj se Olgi ni več ljubilo pripravljati izbrane hrane za goste; poklicala je še druge povabljene in odpovedala večerjo.

Tako so na božični večer ostali sami, ona, Mitja in Mojca. Večerja je bila sicer skromnejša, a še vedno slovesna, smreka se je lesketala od vseh okraskov in lučic in otroka sta nestrpno pogledovala k daram pod njo.

Prižgali so televizijo in se zazrli v zaslon, vse postaje so imele božični program, povod so vrteli božično glasbo in nekateri so prikazovali običaje, povezane z božičem. In prikazali so mnogo jaslic: cerkvene in družinske, jaslice v naravnih velikosti v naravi, žive jaslice v kraški jami, rojstvo, kar so ga v stoletjih naslikali veliki umetniki, in domiselne jaslice, ki so jih naredile otroške roke.

»Zakaj pa mi nimamo jaslic?« se je razčalostila Mojca.

»Zakaj pa so jaslice? Mi nismo verni!« ji je zabrusil Mitja in Olgi se je za hip zazdelo, da je bilo celo glas podoben očetovemu.

»Rada bi jaslice!« najmlajša ni popustila in niti ozrla se ni na brata.

»Povsod jih imajo, Ana jih je naredila kar sama, iz gline. Ce bi imela glino...« je sanjala, vendar jo je Olga prekinila:

»Ce jih je Ana naredila iz gline, jih ti lahko narediš iz plastelina! Pomagala ti bom!« To je bil zelo zanimiv, vendar čuden božični večer. Miza v jedilnici je bila prekrita s stariim časopisnim papirjem, povod so ležali koščki plastelina. Olga in Mojca sta usvarjali figurice, kakor sta vedeli in znali, Mitja pa ju je vzvišeno opazoval. Pa ni zdržal dolgo:

»Iz vžigalične škatle bi lahko naredila posteljico namesto jasli,« je obotavljivo rekel, saj je bil že velik, ni bil veren in vse otročarje so mu šle vedno na živce.

»Bi posteljico lahko naredil ti?« ga je upajoče vprašala sestrica in ga gledala z velikimi prosečimi očmi, ki se jim nihče ne bi mogel dolgo upirati.

»Pa bom, da bo mir in da bomo čimprej pospravili tole zmešnjavo,« je godrnjaje privolil in kmalu je pod njegovimi spretnimi prsti začela nastajati prav ljubka posteljica. Ko so bile jaslice narejene, jih je Mojca skrbno razpostavila na parket pod smreko in vzklknila:

»Mahu nimamo in hlevčka tudi ne!«

»Jutri bomo šli v gozd, nabrali bomo mah in našli kakšen lep štor, ki bo postal hlev-

(dalje na str. 24)



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24 AMERISKA DOMOVINA
DECEMBER 18, 1997

Cuden božični večer (nadaljevanje s str. 23)

ček,« je Mitja že popolnoma pozabil, da se mu vse skupaj zdi prav otroče.

»Matej ima tako narejeno, videl sem, ko je delal,« je še dodal.

»Pokliči ga, morda mu je ostalo kaj mahu,« je vzkliknila Mojca.

»Nocoj? Zdaj se on že ne bi ukvarjal s tem, oni praznujejo, jo je zavrnil Mitja.

»Kako praznujejo? Drugače kot mi?«

»Seveda, molijo in ogenj nosijo po hiši in vodo in opoločni bodo šli v cerkev,« je rekla mama.

»Zakaj pa mi ne praznujemo tako? Zakaj ne gremo v cerkev?

»Mi nismo verni, sem ti že povedal! Se pojma nimamo o vsem tem!« je vzvišeno reklo Mitja.

»Jaz bi pa rada vedela vse o jaslicah! Ana ve vse in tudi ve, kaj se dogaja v cerkvi. Še pogovarjati se ne morem z njo o vsem tem,« je potarnala Mojca.

»Vse to se učijo pri verouku. Kaj nimaš dovolj krožkov: balet in risanje, angleščino in rokomet, saj te že zdaj ni nikoli doma,« je reklo Mitja.

»Rada bi samo vse vedela, tako kot Ana,« Mojca ni odnehala.

Mama Olga pa je kar molčala. Vsa njena tako skrbno izbrana darila pod smreko so se ji hipoma zazdela brez vrednosti, vse priprave nesmiselne in še okraski na smreki so izgubili lesk. Otrokoma je dajala toliko vsega, kar največ, kolikor je mogla, nečesa jima pa le ni dala in zdaj se njen sončno dete počuti opeharjeno za stvari, ki jih sosedovi imajo, njen otrok pa ne.

Res, bil je čuden božični večer in Olga je sklenila, da bo o vsem natančno razmislila in popravila, kar se popraviti še da.

md
Družina, božič 1996

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