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AMERICAN MORNING NEWSPAPER

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Blessing of Mary's chapel in Saint Vitus

During the month of May, Catholic minds and hearts turn to the mystery of life and work of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. The mystery of Mary consists in God choosing her to be the mother of His Son, and thereby a very important helper in accomplishing the work of salvation for humanity. Every Christian nation has its own image of the Blessed Mother which it venerates as worthy of imitation in doing the will of God. Slovenian people honor Mary under many images and titles.

The very first known church built by Slovenian people in the 7th century was dedicated to Our Lady, as they called her then. Since, our Slovenian ancestors built over 400 churches in honor of Virgin Mary, in an area which is one fifth the size of the State of Ohio. Besides the churches, there are innumerable smaller shrines honoring Mary scattered throughout Slovenia. At one time, there was hardly a family with children which did not have a child named Mary, such was our people's devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

And when in the last century our Slovenian ancestors began emigrating, they took with them the spiritual legacy of devotion to Mary. In our country the most noted are the shrines to Marija Pomagaj in Lemont, Illinois, and her chapel in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

St. Vitus Church in Cleveland, Ohio has the unique distinction of honoring Mary under several titles: the lovely Our Lady of Lourdes shrine which was erected many years ago by the St. Vitus Parish Ladies Sodality. For many people this is a perfectly quiet and a private place to pray. The side altar is dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, and on the opposite side of the church we can appreciate the beautiful statue of Our Lady of Sorrows.

The new shrine recently completed and waiting to be blessed, will honor Mary under the title of Marija Pomagaj, or Our Lady Help of Christians. The Slovenian Franciscan Fathers promoted devotion to her in America for over 80 years. Thus many parishioners grew up with this picture of Mary in their homes. Many Slovenian people in the "old country" took this image of Mary with them

to concentration camps and to refugee camps, and they believe, miraculously survived because of Mary's help.

Whatever the image of Mary we honor personally, the story is the same: the Blessed Mother has heard our prayers, helped heal spiritual wounds, reconciled families and individuals, given new hope to live in face of life's difficulties, allayed fears in face of sickness, watched over our wandering children and understood us even when we did not understand ourselves. We are indeed blessed to have such a rich spiritual heritage.

St. Vitus parishioners cordially invite former parishioners, friends of the parish and the Slovenian community in the Cleveland area to join in the blessing of the chapel.

The Marija Pomagaj Chapel will be blessed by Bishop A. Edward Pevec on Tuesday, May 24th at 7:30 p.m. There is ample parking, and security will be provided on the church grounds. The choir Lira will sing Marian songs one-half hour prior to the start of services.

Come and help us celebrate our common Slovenian spiritual heritage.

—Father Joseph Božnar

Garden purchases help Slovenian park

In an effort to help support the Slovenian Cultural Garden in Rockefeller Park, the Garick Corporation — landscapers wholesale, will donate 10% of your total purchase price to the fund to refurbish the Slovenian Cultural Garden in Rockefeller Park, Cleveland.

This offer is good from May through the 15th of June and is available at either location with the mention of this offer. The Garfield Heights store is located at 13600 Broadway Avenue (581-0100), or the Avon store located at 2100 Center Road, Avon (937-5450).

The Garick Corporation is the official landscape materials supplier to the Cleveland Browns and offers a complete supply of landscaping materials from annuals, perennials, fertilizers, grass, mulch, trees, shrubs, stones, timbers, herbs, lighting, soil products, water garden supplies, etc.

—L.H.



Ivana "Honey" Vegel displays her "seashell art" in her living room at Gateway Apartment. The 86-year-old Euclid artist has been making and selling three-dimensional collages using mollusks of varying shapes, sizes and colors for more than 30 years.

Honey Vegel Seashell Art Is A Natural

by Alicia M. Reale
Euclid Sun Journal

They come in various shapes, sizes and colors. Round and serpentine, smooth and grooved, each brings its own natural beauty from the salt water of the sea.

Captivated by the uniqueness of every seashell, Ivana "Honey" Vegel uses the hollow vessels to create vibrant works of art. With an artistic eye, the Euclid woman brings together an eclectic mix of shells and shades to form bold and beautiful three-dimensional collages.

Since she fell into the unique form of art more than 30 years ago, Vegel, 86, has created a variety of fascinating works which figuratively overflow with texture and color.

"I like the beauty of shells, the formation of each one," said Vegel of Gateway Apartments. "I like the thought that each shell has held a living thing until it was picked up."

Vegel, a Cleveland native, has always had artistic inclinations. Since she began working at age 15 in a photography studio and learned to tint photographs, Vegel has enjoyed conveying her spirited personality into art.

In between her duties as wife and mother, Vegel dabbled in acrylic and oil painting. In the 1960s, she was introduced to seashell art by a friend and was immediately hooked by the natural medium.

"I liked working with shells because of the colors," Vegel explained. "In each one of these was a living thing. This shell didn't just float around; it had a living fish inside."

Nowadays, Vegel enjoys

spending time creating "seashell art" in a spare bedroom at the senior citizen apartments. Her husband, Frank, passed away several years ago and her daughter, Patricia, lives in St. Louis, Mo. Consequently she spends a great deal of time pursuing her art, in addition to her involvement with the American Slovene Club and the American Association of Retired Persons.

She also enjoys traveling and during recent trips to ocean-side locations such as Florida, California, Hawaii, Cape Cod and Atlantic City, Vegel carefully selected seashells from shops to use in her works of art.

Vegel works shell by shell to create her natural collages, replicating the underwater world on 6-by-36 inch panels. Initially, she picks one mollusk to centralize the piece and then arranges coral, seahorses and other shells around the eye-catching object.

"I work around it just the way I see it forming," she explains. "I just know what piece of coral or shell to put next to it."

Vegel doesn't change the natural beauty of the shells. Besides dyeing some coral pieces in pastel shades of rose, violet, yellow and green, the artist uses the shells as she found them.

The saltwater mollusk collages reflect not only the loveliness of the natural world but the beauty of the human heart. Vegel's commitment to art and nature is manifested in her striking compilations.

"Every one that I have made

and given away is in a different town or state," she said. "When I give my shell art, I say "This is a gift from God, the sea and me."

Meaning of names:

Edward: A Teutonic word for a guard.

Belinda: An English name for shining bright.

Anita: A Spanish word for assertive.

Dina: A Hebrew word for judged, vindicated, avenged.

Sherlock: An old English word meaning fair-haired.

Attention: readers

This year, the American Home newspaper will publish a special Fourth of July issue and also commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day in Europe.

We are asking you, our wonderful readers, to send in your write-ups of your most memorable Fourth of July, whether it was in the good old U.S.A. or if you were serving Uncle Sam overseas in the Pacific or Atlantic theaters of war.

Please submit your articles by June 1. We ask you to limit them to 100 words or less.

Attention: Business Persons

If you wish to advertise your business firm in this Special 4th of July issue, please contact our Advertising Department at 431-0628 and ask for Mario. If by fax, dial 361-4088.

More about president Kučan's visit

Editor:
Listening to the reports on Ljubljana TV Dnevnikon SCOLA one gets an impression that he was welcomed with open arms by all of the Slovenian community. Let me quote the reporter Uros Lipušček on his coverage of the event (at the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair in Cleveland, Ohio on Palm Sunday), which I attended and recorded with my tape recorder.

"The immigrants handing out leaflets outside the hall which accuses communists in Slovenia of a planned purge, did not succeed with the boycott. Greeting the president were some hundreds (nekaj sto) Slovenians, among them also Slovenian Bishop Pevec. President's speech was sometimes (nekajkrat) interrupted with strong applause. Former mayor of Cleveland Perk gave Kučan the 'medal of freedom' award."

Most of this reporting is far from the truth! The immigrants in front of the hall were individuals who care enough to let others, those who do not read Slovenian well enough to keep up with the changes, to read about the events in Slovenia and have some information about the changes and events that were happening in their homeland at that time. They indeed accomplished their goal.

They also let Mr. Kučan know that here in a real democracy we stand united with our brothers and sisters in Slovenia who were at that time while he was conducting his 'public relations contacts' around the world, demonstrating against him and his comrades as a result of his and Mr. Drnovsek's ouster of the defense minister, Janez Janša.

Not one emigrant organization was represented inside the hall.

Unfortunately, both emcees of the program gave the false impression that the singing groups Korotan and Fantje na vasi were among those on the

stage toasting the visitor, even though they both declined the invitation. Also, when the young girls in narodna noša (Slovenian costume) presented the guest with red carnations, the emcee again made it sound as if they were representing the St. Vitus Slovenian School, which is not true. Their mother was singing on stage and brought them along. She was never told that they would be introduced as representatives of the school, though they do attend Saturday Slovenian School.

Bishop Pevec is a highly regarded spiritual leader in the Slovenian community, and the reason he was there is understood. Certainly it was not of a political nature, though the former communists like to place it in that light. To look back, when Bishop Pevec had a high Mass for the murdered Home-Guards (domobranci) at St. John Cathedral a few years back, he was approached by the then Yugoslav council, a Slovenian, and warned not to participate or the church in Slovenia might feel the repercussion. Why was he so warmly accepted now? It was for the show of communists warmly integrating themselves with their once proclaimed enemy.

As for the interruption of applause during the president Kučan's speech, the only interruption I heard were the constant interpretations into English every two or three sentences. My tape recorder can vouch for that. It reminds me of the 'doctorate' Mr. Kučan received from an imaginary university in New Orleans a couple of years ago.

Former mayor Ralph Perk, unfortunately, didn't have a clue to what was going on in Ljubljana. All he knew was that this was the first president of the newly independent Slovenia. Since the Nationality Movement always recognizes the advance of freedom for all members' homeland, he thought this was appropriate.

All this forces me to repeat the question I asked the

Foreign Minister, Mr. Lojze Peterle, last time he was in Cleveland. I asked him, as a representative of the current government of Slovenia: "How long before we can read and listen to the media without doubt, that the reports are not influenced by the government or the groups in the government, as it has been for decades under the communists?"

And a few more notes and quotes from the time of the Janez Jansa ouster. Four to five thousand people protesting by the Prešern statue (in Ljubljana, Slovenia) joined the eight thousand in front of the Slovenian Parliament, some yelling: "Down with Kučan!" and "We are not letting Janša go!" Also: "Down with the communists!"

Eighty-three political and cultural individuals signed the petition opposing Janša's dismissal that day.

Dr. Joze Pucnik (SDSS) to Drnovsek: "You are a leaf in the wind blowing in the direction of certain political interests and especially economic interest. You sold yourself to them. The question is: When will they settle the matter with you?"

Dr. Franc Zagozen (SLS): "It is only an excuse for the future well prepared lynch."

Janez Podobnik (SLS): "Will Prime Minister Drnovsek at the same time also demand dismissal of other ministers, those who caused the continual financial crisis for the republic?" (No answer.)

Nace Poljanar (SKD): "We demand that president of the republic Kučan come in front of this Parliament and tell us his side of the story." (As we know, he was conveniently out of state.)

Janez Jansa, at the hearing: "We found some military installations bugged and would like to know if the court gave the order and why." Ivo Bizjak (Interior minister): "From our side, the ministry gave no judge the right to bug any military installations."

Frank P. Cerar

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The fire and the fury

by Stane J. Kuhar

(Continued from last week)

(Part II)

Cleveland Mayor Frank J. Lausche made sure that none of the former residents were cheated by lawyers, insurance companies, or the gas company who may have sought to convince them to sign away their rights. He made sure everyone was treated fairly and justly.

Father Marko then whispered into my ear one last sentence that the book was in a safe location.

He told me that I would know of its location by simply following the light and Word of God.

Within three months Father Marko passed away, the good soul that he was to many people.

My life is now almost at an end. I leave this diary so that the truth of what occurred over the past 80+ years will serve as evidence to those of us of Slovenian descent. That our current and future generations remain faithful and true to the faith of our forefathers for nearly 1,225 years from the rolling hills and unending plains in that small corner of the world simply known as Carinthia — Koroško.

Written in The Year of Our Lord 1992.

Father Gralc and John looked at each other with astonishment after coming to the end of Stara Mama's diary.

John let out a long "WHEW" sound from his tender mouth as if he had just traveled back into time and had come face-to-face with his ancestral past.

—End of Chapter XIV—

Chapter XV

Welcome The Evening

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child, a long way from home... way up in the heavenly land...

(Old Negro Spiritual)

Father Gralc looked at John again.

"You know John," he continued to say, "we have to figure out what Stara Mama meant by those last lines in her diary."

"But that will have to wait until later. We have to head to the funeral home. First things first."

"Maybe," said John, "we'll be able to finally figure it out after the evening wake."

Father Gralc and John made their way out of the church basement and headed out of the parish rectory.

The walk would be a short one as the funeral home was but less than 500 feet from the parish.

In terms of funerals the Slovenian tradition of wakes was a unique religious and social occurrence.

Once inside the funeral home the solemn air gave way to renewed family ties or past friendships that may have

ceased after childhood and adolescence but re-emerged with adulthood.

The handshakes were firm and smiles sincere.

After walking into and through the hallway the casket was in plain view. To the side of the casket was a small table with tightly wrapped palms looped together for the blessing on the person. Over on the side of the same table were also the "blessing cards" or "holy cards" that gave an abbreviated history of the deceased person and where their final resting site would be.

The open view of the casket had in front of it a more than ample kneeling pew where after blessing the deceased, a few prayers were offered for the departed soul.

By the side of the casket was an arrangement of flowers offset by a number of flags indicating what lodges the deceased had belonged to — consequently where he or she had participated in the life of the community.

One would state "SZZ." Another might read "SDZ" while yet another might state "KSKJ." The final flag near Stara Mama's resting place stated "Oltarno Društvo" (Altar and Rosary Society). While the other three flags indicated activity in three fraternal societies, this last flag prominently stated Stara Mama's devotion to her church and faith.

Father Gralc made his way to the casket and indicated to the gathering that the Rosary would begin within the next five minutes.

For Slovenians the Rosary was their manner of paraliturgical services whenever the Mass or Holy Eucharist was not available.

It was also through the Rosary that the full circle of the ministry and life of Christ came to life: Joyous, Sorrowful, and Mysterious occurrences of Christ; and Mary, Mother of God.

When the Rosary was completed, a small gathering of young men came forward to form in a semi-circle.

A small pitch sound was made. The voices joined in harmony and began to sing "Večerni Ave..." (Welcome the Evening...)

All of a sudden, Father Gralc hit his hand on top of his head and let out a "Majko, miko."

He motioned to John to come over toward him. In one quick motion and direct expression he whispered in John's ear: "I know where the Monuments of Freising were buried by Father Marko 50 years ago."

"Meet me," Father Gralc continued, "in the morning in the church. And bring your tool box with you."

(To Be Continued)

Humility and reverence for the Lord will make you both wise and honored.

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A far cry from the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria, the Ecstasy is a multi-deck marvel in red, white, and blue, glass and crystal, an atrium, shopping malls — a true SuperLiner. This Columbus Day cruise is your ticket to fun and adventure from October 7 - 10 in the Bahamas!

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space to relax.

Another good point is the airfare is included.

This special Columbus Day Cruise, October 7-10 is just \$579 per person for an inside cabin or \$629 per person for an outside cabin and is available only through Euclid Travel. Port taxes are \$65.50. A \$200 deposit is due by June 9. Book your cabin by calling Margie today at 261-1050 and discover the wonderful new world of cruising.

How does an aspirin work?

We pop two aspirin and within minutes the pain is relieved. How does this happen?

Researcher John Vane discovered that aspirin inhibited the body's cells from making prostoglandins. They are manufactured in a particular area that is in distress, such as the head or a knee or an injured area.

As soon as the aspirin dissolves in the stomach and is absorbed into the blood system, it is transmitted throughout the body, and all areas that are making prostoglandins are attacked.

Elderhostel explains no trips to Slovenia

In a letter to Edward G. Shusterich of Middle Village, NY the travel group Elderhostel explains why they don't sponsor trips to Slovenia.

Dear Mr. Shusterich:

We appreciate your recommendation of Slovenia as a venue for Elderhostel programs, and I'd like to provide you with some information about how we work in this regard. New program development hinges on several factors. First and foremost, we work through established educational institutions and other organizations, called Program Coordinators, with expertise and experience in given areas. While there are several Program Coordinators handling Elderhostel programs in various parts of Europe, we do not have educational contacts in Slovenia at this time. Second, we consider which courses of study and areas of the world are in high demand by our participants and could sustain a significant volume of programming. Third, as I'm sure you are aware, the political situation in the former Yugoslavia makes such a venture problematical at this time.

Michael Calmes
Assistant Director,
Program Services
International Dept.
Boston, Mass 02110

In Memory

Enclosed you will find check for \$35.00 for yearly subscription. The extra \$10.00 is in memory of the deceased members of Bubnick and Taucher Families.

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Mary Taucher
Maple Hts., Ohio

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DEATH NOTICES

JOHN WILLIAM PETRANGELO

John William Petrangelo, 84, died Monday, May 2 at Holy Family Cancer Home in Parma, Ohio. He was a retired truck driver.

His wife, Anne died in July, 1989. He is survived by daughters Evelyn Malloy and Christine Petrangelo; he is grandfather of four; brother of Alice Gantt and four deceased sisters. He was a brother-in-law of Frances Nemanich.

He was a member of St. Vitus Lodge No. 25 of the KSKJ.

Services were at St. Paul Church on Chardon Rd. on Thursday, May 5th. Arrangements were by Grdina-Faulhaber Funeral Homes, 17010 Lake Shore Blvd.

EDWARD VIDETIC SR.

Services for Edward Videtic, Sr., 80, of Willowick, a retired machinist, were held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 14 in St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, 460 E. 321 St., Euclid, Ohio.

Mr. Videtic died Wednesday, May 11 at home.

Born Nov. 26, 1913, in Italy, he lived in Cleveland before moving to Willowick 40 years ago.

He was a machinist at Parker-Hannifin Corp. in Cleveland for 20 years, retiring in 1978.

He was a member of Catholic Order of Foresters, St. Clair Rifle Club, and AMLA lodge No. 1.

Survivors are his wife, Lillian (Bone); sons, Edward Jr. of Mentor, James of Willowick and Robert of Glenn Allen, Va.; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

His brothers, Albino and Rudy Videtic, and Victor and Ludwig Kovacic; and sister, Frida Videtic, are deceased.

Friends called at Brickman and Sons Funeral Home, 21900 Euclid Ave., Euclid. Burial was in All Souls Cemetery in Chardon.

ZORA M. J. GRACHANIN MERHULIK

Services for Zora Marie Johana Grachanin Merhulik, 70, of Cleveland, a former secretary, were on Saturday, May 14 in St. Paul's Croatian Catholic Church, 1369 E. 40th St., near St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland.

Mrs. Merhulik died May 11 at home.

Born Nov. 26, 1923 in Bay Village, she lived there and near West Cleveland before moving to Cleveland 19 years ago.

She was a member of Zumberak Lodge 859 and Slovenian Women's Union of America lodge 10. She also attended classes at Case Western Reserve University.

She was a secretary for five years for the Cleveland School Board.

Survivors are her husband, Edward Thomas Merhulik; daughters, Angela Patricia Petro of Euclid and Katherine Mary Merhulik of Cleveland; sisters, Agnes Perc, Paula Dillon, Donna Scott, Angela Macek and Helen Yih; and brothers, Joseph Perc, Zvonimir Grachanin, Stanley Pierce, Vladimir Grachnin and Nicholas Grachanin Jr.

The Rev. Mirko Hladni of St. Paul's Croatian Church and the Rev. John Kumse of St. Mary Catholic Church in Cleveland officiated at services. Burial in Holy Cross Cemetery in Cleveland.

Arrangements by Golub Funeral Home in Cleveland.

FRANK J. GRACE

Frank J. Grace "Sonny," 54, formerly of E. 60 St., the last 23 years at Holmes Avenue in Cleveland died on May 18 in Meridia Euclid Hospital.

Mr. Grace was an independent insurance broker, having been associated with Gabriel & Associates for 25 years.

He is survived by wife Dolores (nee Manill); step-daughter Laura, (Mrs. Jim) Carrabine (Mentor); three grandchildren, Christin, Jaime and Nick Carrabine; mother Vera (nee Novak) Grace. He was uncle of Dennis, Andrew and Nicholas. His father Frank and sister Marilyn Nakonecny are deceased.

Funeral Thursday, May 18 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic

Church, 15519 Holmes Ave., with Rev. John Kumse officiating. Burial in All Souls Cemetery, Chardon, Ohio.

Zeke Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St., is in charge of arrangements.

Donations to St. Mary School Endowment Fund, 15519 Holmes Ave., Cleveland 44110 in his memory would be appreciated by the family.

ANTON HOCEVAR

Mr. Matija Hocevar of Richmond Heights, Ohio received the sad news that his brother Anton Hocevar passed away in Sv. Vid in Slovenia on May 7th.

He is survived by his wife, Albina; sons Edi and Vili; and daughter Daria. He was the brother of Agnes Golobič in Cleveland, Jožefa Gombač in Chicago, Tončka of Toronto, and Angela Štrcel in Slovenia; and a brother Rudi in New York. Three brothers are deceased.

JOSEPH KLIR

Joseph E. Klir's trademark "Red Klir Was Here" signs sprouted on the lawns of homes wherever his company installed aluminum windows and doors or siding, or made other home improvements in the decades after World War II.

Mr. Klir was also a sports fan who sponsored numerous amateur athletic teams.

Mr. Klir, 80, died Saturday, May 14 at Meridia Hillcrest Hospital.

He was born into a family of six children in the Bohemian community near E. 55th St. and Broadway. They moved to Maple Heights in 1923. Mr. Klir graduated from Maple Heights High School in 1932. He has been enshrined in the school's hall of fame as a distinguished graduate.

As an adult, Mr. Klir was a volunteer coach at St. Wenceslas Elementary School and Chanel High School. He was also inducted into the Chanel High School Hall of Fame for his volunteer services.

Mr. Klir married the former Julia (Curly) Komora in 1935. He operated the Heights Tavern in Maple Heights from 1936 to 1943. He was a super-salesman who started his home-improvement business in 1946.

Mr. Klir coached or sponsored more than 60 baseball teams. He was named the Maple Heights Softball Backer of the Year in 1980. He also backed more than 300 bowling teams.

He was an associate scout for the Cleveland Indians in the 1950s and 1960s.

Mr. Klir traveled with many Kollander Travel polka tours and polka bands and recorded the trips with a movie camera. He was a member of the Czech Karlin Hall, where he received the "Good Joe Award."

He also belonged to the Slovenian National Home. In 1981 he received the United Slovenian Society Proclamation of Recognition and, in 1984 was named Man of the

Year by the Federation of Slovenian Homes.

Red Klir attended most Slovenian functions in the Greater Cleveland area then took movies of the event or still photos. Later he would present the photos to the people in the pictures as souvenirs of the event.

During Maple Heights' 50th anniversary celebration in 1982, he was given a special award for his many volunteer services.

Mr. Klir was a member of the Maple Heights Catholic Club and was its Man of the Year in 1978. He belonged to the Holy Name Society at St. Wenceslas Catholic Church and to the Knights of Columbus.

He was also a member of the Maple Heights Historical Society and the Maple Heights Rotary Club.

Mr. Klir's wife died in 1966.

He is survived by a son, Joseph R. of Maple Heights; two grandchildren; and a sister.

Services are at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 19 at St. Wenceslas Church, 17825 Libby Rd., Maple Heights.

JACKIE DORAN

Jackie Doran, 46, passed away suddenly at her home on Wednesday, May 11.

Jackie was born in Cleveland Nov. 24, 1947. She was a resident of Euclid for 20 years. She was a buyer for Pioneer Standard Electronics, and former buyer at TRW and Warner & Swasey.

Jackie was a member of Eastside Irish American Club, The Tradewinds Softball League, the Stevenson Breakfast Club, South Shore Tanning, The Stardust Slot Club of Las Vegas, and Mountaineer Park Club in West Va.

Jackie is survived by her husband Rick "Soak" Schivitz; sister, Gerri (Mrs. Pete) Joyce; and aunt of Darlene Soeder, Karyn Crow, Jackie Clark, Peter Joyce; godmother of Marisa Tomasic; great-aunt of five.

One of Jackie's greatest pleasures was to give her family and friends great bunches of balloons on their birthdays and special occasions.

Services were held Saturday at Zele Funeral Home, Rev. Joseph Bacevice of St. George Church officiated. Burial was in All Souls Cemetery.

In Memory

A subscription renewal was received from Mrs. Anne Golop of Willowick, Ohio plus two \$10.00 donations were given to the American Home newspaper in memory of her husband, Rudolph, and in memory of Mollie Postotnik.

In Memory

Mrs. Thomas Kapudja of Cleveland sent in a one year subscription renewal plus \$5.00 in memory of her husband, Tom, who passed away on July 12, 1993. The remembrance is also from the family.

Positive thinking will let you use the abilities you have.

Coming Events

Tuesday, May 24

Annual KSKJ Marija Pomagaj Observance at St. Vitus Church. Blessing of Marija Pomagaj Chapel by Bishop Edward Pevec. Services begin at 7:30 p.m. Security provided.

Wednesday, May 25

Slide presentation on Slovenia by Frances Babic at Euclid Public Library, 631 E. 222 St., at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day Polka Bash at AMLA Recreation Center, Kniffen Rd., Leroy, Ohio featuring two great bands: Fairport Polkateers at 1:30 p.m., Joe Fedorchak Band 4 to 8 p.m. Cash bar, sandwiches, snacks. Admission \$5. Sponsored by AMLA Grand River Valley Lodge 30.

Sunday, June 5

Opening Day of Slovenska Pristava in Harpersfield, Ohio with Crafts Show.

Sunday, June 5

Artists and Crafts Show & Sale by Slovenian American National Art Guild at Gateway Manor, 4 Gateway Dr., Euclid, O., 1-5 p.m.

Friday, June 10

Nite at Races at West Park Slovene Home, 4583 W. 130 St. at 7 p.m. Admission \$5.

Sunday, June 12

Annual Ohio KSKJ Day Picnic at Slovenska Pristava with food, beverages, and a good time for everyone.

Saturday, June 11

Spring Dinner Dance honoring "Holmes Hall Buttonaires" at Collinwood Slovenian Home, 15810 Holmes Ave. Music by Tony Fortuna Orchestra. Dinner served 7 p.m. Music at 8 p.m. Donation \$13. For tickets call 944-3697, 486-7551, or 531-6639.

Sunday, June 26

St. Mary's Slovenian Language Program annual summer picnic at Pristava. Dinner and music provided by the Alpine Sextet band.

Wednesday, June 29

Waterloo Pensioners Club Picnic at SNPJ Farm, Heath Rd. Dinner at 1, dancing from 3 to 6. Music by Lenny Anderson Orchestra. \$8.50 includes admission and dinner. Call Tillie 486-1505.

Sunday, July 3

Slovenska Pristava Day, Harpersfield, Ohio.

Monday, July 4

George Knaus Day at SNPJ Farm sponsored by the Slovenian Workmen's Home, Waterloo Rd., Cleveland as a "Fund-raiser for the new property." Roast beef and sausage dinners from 1 to 3 p.m. Dancing to Del Sinchak orchestra 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Dinner and admission \$8. Admission only \$3.00.

Saturday, July 30

Steak dinner, an evening at Slovenska Pristava.

Sunday, July 31

St. Anne's Lodge No. 150 KSKJ Annual Feast Day celebration with Mass at St. Lawrence Church at 10 a.m., followed by dinner at Sterle's restaurant at 12 noon.

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Slak marks 30 years; celebrates in Slovenia

by Linda Cimperman

The Republic of Slovenia's most prestigious cultural center, Cankarjev Dom will welcome 2,000 guests to Lojze Slak Ensemble's 30th Anniversary celebration on June 4th in Slovenia's capital city of Ljubljana.

Lojze Slak and the Ensemble have many good friends world-wide, but for this special occasion they have invited guest performers Canada's Polka King, two-time Grammy winner Walter Ostanek, and from the United States, Cleveland's 1991 Polka Hall of Fame "Lifetime Achievement Award Winner" Eddie Habat.

The Ostanek and the Habat families originated in Slovenia. Even now, they both have relatives throughout the regions. The father of Ostanek was from Velika Loka and his mother from Catez located in the region of Dolenjsko. Walter's father migrated to a small town, Duparquet in Quebec, Canada, where later Ladislav (Walter) John Ostanek was born in 1935.

Habat's father was from Trzin and his mother was from Domzale, now the "Sister City" of Euclid, Ohio. In fact Eddie Habat's wife, Pat Lenardic Habat, is Chairwoman of the Euclid-Domzale Sister City Committee. She assisted the Coordinating Director, Linda Cimperman with all the Sister City activities to date. One of the most exciting happened in Domzale, when an audience of 1,000 persons which included local dignitaries and representatives from the U.S. Embassy attended the performance of Euclid's SNPJ Circle 2 Children's Chorus.

Now after nearly 18 months of preparations Linda Cimper-

man has coordinated the guest appearance of fellow Slovenians Ostanek and Habat for the 30th Anniversary celebration of the Lojze Slak Ensemble. In addition to friends coming from the United States and Canada, others will arrive from Europe and as far away as Australia and Argentina.

Coming from Cleveland will be John Pestotnik and Tony Petkovsek who originally worked in 1970 with a committee to bring the Lojze Slak Ensemble to the United States.

This committee developed into a state chartered organization known as the United Slovenian Society whose current president is Linda Cimperman. She has asked Vice President John Pestotnik to present a special commemoration to the Ensemble, on behalf of the organization.

Buchner Globe Tours at the Euclid Square Mall cooperated with a Slovenian Agency in Domzale, Euclid's Sister City, to offer a super special two-three week "Journey through Slovenian History" tour arranged by Cimperman in cooperation with Eddie Habat. Planning to also attend the 30th Anniversary celebration is Tony Petkovsek with a few friends.

It is no wonder that the Encyclopedia of Cleveland credits the unique diatonic accordion style of Lojze Slak for creating a "new era" in the polka music industry. The Slak Ensemble has traveled world-wide taking Slovenian country music to other continents and cultures.

Their most recent 1990 visit to the U.S. and Canada impacted eight states and 22 cities including performances in Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, America's country music capital, where the

Ensemble received a standing ovation, and the WSM network of 12-15 million radio listeners heard music from Slovenia!

The Ensemble also appeared in Disney's Epcot Center, on a Caribbean cruise ship, at the University of Wisconsin, on Minnesota's Iron Range, the Cleveland's All Nations Festival and many cultural centers through the United States and Canada. That tour was organized by Linda Cimperman.

The current members of the Ensemble are: Lojze Slak on the accordion, Milan Ferlez on lead guitar, Tone Stritof on bass guitar, plus the singing "Lads from Propertna" Andrej Bergant 1st tenor, Franc Rebernik 2nd tenor, and the bass voices of Janez Dolenc and Janez Kalan, all blending together to create a very remarkable quality. Joining them for this special celebration will be retired bass voice Janez Habjan, clarinet and guitar player Niko Zlabko, second clarinet player, son of Niko, Tomaz Zlabko, and the original bass player Franc Sever. Together they will take a moment to remember their late good friend Joze Sifer

who was killed suddenly in a head-on car crash in the '70s.

The Lojze Slak Ensemble has recorded more than 500 songs, many of them originals. They have more than 40 albums and 15 of them have achieved "gold" record status! They have 2 CDs and 2 videos, with 2 more on the way. They have recorded dozens of television specials and have been interviewed by magazines and newspapers worldwide.

But the Slak Ensemble's greatest honor will come on the evening of June 4th at Cankarjev Dom, when they are presented with one of the highest awards granted in the recording industry, the prestigious "Diamond" award!

Bake Sale

St. Mary Altar Society is sponsoring a krofe and bake sale on Saturday, May 21 beginning at 9 a.m.

Seats available for Slovenian School bus trip

On Saturday, May 21 the St. Mary Slovenian Language Program students, teachers, and parents are taking an all day excursion to Dearborn, Michigan to visit the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

Additional bus seats are available for those interested in making the trip. Departure is scheduled for 6 a.m. from St. Mary's Church (Collinwood) on Holmes Avenue and return arrival time to Cleveland is expected to be at approximately 11 p.m.

For further details regarding this trip, please contact Tom Stepec at 731-5011 or Elizabeth Zalik at 486-4370.

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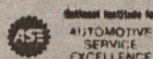
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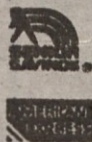
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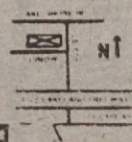
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U. of Ljubljana president lectures in Euclid, Ohio

The Slovenian American Heritage Foundation announces a lecture by the President of the University of Ljubljana, Dr. Miha Tišler on Tuesday, May 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Euclid Shore Cultural Center, 291 East 222nd Street. A reception will follow the presentation. The lecture is free and open to the public.

In his lecture, Dr. Tišler will discuss the educational system in Slovenia since its declaration of independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. He will also give his impressions on the role of higher education in Slovenia's continued evolution to a democratic, free-market country. Dr. Tišler's lecture will be given in the English language and he will answer questions from those in attendance.

Dr. Tišler has been the president (Rector) of the University of Ljubljana since 1991. Under his leadership, many changes have taken place in the university system, reflecting the new democratic Republic of Slovenia. Foremost among these changes has been the reinstatement of the College of

Theology into the University. This program had been banned from the University by the previous Communist government.

Dr. Tišler has also sought to expand the University of Ljubljana's relationships with other institutions of higher education. While in the Cleveland area, he will meet with his counterparts at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University and the University of Akron.

Dr. Tišler's academic career in Organic Chemistry has been recognized by numerous International honors and awards. He has authored or co-authored 51 books and has presented 350 scientific papers. From 1978-1980, Dr. Tišler was the President of the International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry. He has been a visiting professor at universities throughout the world, including: Brigham Young University, Utah; University of Trieste, Italy; United States National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC; and the University of Freiburg, Germany. Dr. Tišler received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Ljubljana and was a Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge in England.

Seniors Win Prizes at Wickliffe Country Place

Wickliffe, O. — Fifteen area seniors were awarded cash prizes, trophies and ribbons in recognition of their dancing or baking talents as Wickliffe Country Place celebrated National Nursing Home Week.

First place winners in the skilled nursing and rehabilitation center's "Big Band Blast and Dance Contest" on Monday, May 9 were Alice Ourednik of Euclid and Rudy Krupitzer of Mayfield Heights. Lucille Powers and Joseph Camarato, both of Wickliffe, won second place. Thelma Curtis of Cleveland and Dominic Molinaro of Euclid were the third place winners. All three couples took home trophies and cash prizes ranging from \$75 to \$25.

There were nine winners in Wickliffe Country Place's second annual "Senior Bake-off." Jane Kadonick of Wickliffe won first place in the cake category for her apple cake. Jayne Martorello of Euclid took second, and Ingrid Pipher of Wickliffe, third.

Mary Ann Yeckly of Wickliffe took first prize in the pie division, while Alice Ourednik of Euclid took second and Louise Stark of Wickliffe, third.

In the dessert category, Elsie Scott of Euclid won first place

U.S. Presidents

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James Earl Carter Jr., was the son of a merchant and farmer in Plains, Georgia.

In 1976 Carter was elected president with Walter Mondale serving as his vice-president. Voters pictured Carter as a Washington outsider which helped him to win.

In 1979 at the Camp David Accord he urged Israel and Egypt to overlook ancient disputes to sign peaceful ties. He also gave the Panama Canal to the Panamanians.

However in 1980 he lost the presidency to Ronald Reagan in a landslide defeat based on the country's failed attempt to rescue American hostages in Iran and from "stagflation" a non-moving economy with high inflation.

Ironically Carter finally succeeded in obtaining the release of the hostages on Inauguration Day, as the new President was taking the oath of office.

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Spaghetti Dinner

The Knights of Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine will sponsor a spaghetti dinner on Thursday, May 19 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Dinner will be served in St. Ann Dining Room on the Shrine Grounds.

Tickets are available from the Knights at the Shrine Office or at the door. Adults \$6, children \$4.

All proceeds are for the benefit of Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, 21281 Chardon Rd., Euclid, Ohio. Everyone Welcome.

Bus Trip to Lemont

The Slovenian Scholars of Geauga County are having a Bus Trip to Lemont, Illinois, home of the Franciscan Brothers and Sisters, on June 25 and 26. The cost of the trip is \$80.00 per person which includes transportation, three meals and lodging.

For more information please call Emily Pierce at 338-8134 or Gabrielle Germek at 352-2440.

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Sample Letter of Slovenia Support

The following letter is a sample a person may send to his/her Congressman or Senator seeking reasonable financial support for Slovenia. It was sent in by Mark Ryavec of Venice, California. He used it in a letter to his Congressperson Dianne Feinstein. If you live in Cleveland and have Louis Stokes as your Congressman, unfortunately you can rest assured he won't do a thing to help the Slovenian nation. Better send it to Senator John Glenn who was supportive of Slovenia right from the beginning.

Date

The Honorable _____
 United States Senate (or Congress)
 Washington, D.C. 20510 (20515 for Members of Congress)

Dear Senator (Congressman) _____,
 I am writing to ask that you vote to increase the level of U.S. foreign aid given to the Republic of Slovenia.

Of all the former Yugoslav and Soviet states and satellites in Eastern Europe, Slovenia receives the least amount of foreign aid from the United States. For example, Estonia, with only two-thirds the population of Slovenia, is projected to receive \$6,135,000 in the first half of 1994. On the other hand, Slovenia will receive only \$1,125,000 during the same period. State Department officials cite Slovenians relative high per capita income to justify this shortcoming in American support.

This rationale is faulty and a serious disservice to this new, struggling democracy. Unlike the former Soviet states and satellites, Slovenia (along with Croatia) carries a heavy burden from the tragic Serbian war of aggression against its neighbors. Slovenia cares for over 40,000 Bosnian refugees, a considerable undertaking for a country of only two million inhabitants. And due to the war, Slovenia is deprived of one-third of its export market.

Of course, Slovenia is blessed to have secured independence and to be out of harm's way. But the United States could considerably enhance peace and security in the region by fostering the development of what is already considered the most promising new democratic state in the area. With more financial and technical assistance, Slovenia can provide economic leadership in a post war period and be a democratic model for the other Balkan states. This assistance would go a long way toward helping Slovenia deal with the re-orientation of its economy and ensure Slovenia's economic and political success. This in turn would benefit the long-range development and stability of the area.

Thank you for your consideration of the Republic of Slovenia.

Sincerely,



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Chapel Cove hosts Button Box show

On Sunday, June 19 Chapel Cove will host the "First Annual International Button Box Review." Some of the finest local musicians and button box bands will join those from surrounding states to provide the music. Guests may choose to sit on the newly constructed deck or join the dancers on the large, new outdoor dance floor.

Chapel Cove, located on the shores of Lake Erie, is a recreation, entertainment and banquet facility at 5585 Chapel Road in Madison Township, Ohio. Owner is

John "Jack" Perme who can be reached at (216) 428-5585.

A highlight of the afternoon will be a concert performed by the highly regarded United Slovenian Society Band. The band, under the direction of Dr. Gordon Fouts, has traveled extensively, having performed in Europe and throughout the United States.

A taste tempting menu consisting of a variety of sandwiches and beer will be available for the guests.

The "International Button Box Review will take place on the grounds of Chapel Cove

between 1 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tickets for the "Review" are \$5.00 and are available at the gate, Podboy's Lounge, 20670 Lakeland Blvd., The Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame, 291 E. 222 St., or from participating members.

A partial listing of the participating bands include Button Box Buddies, Euclid Squeeze Boxers, Likovic/Perme Orch.; and button box clubs from Mahoning Valley, Pa., Northern Ohio, Western Pa., and West Park.

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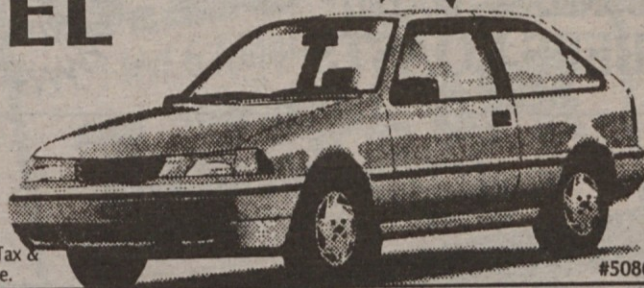
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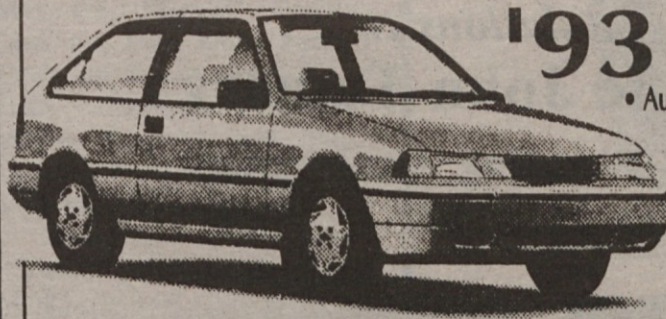
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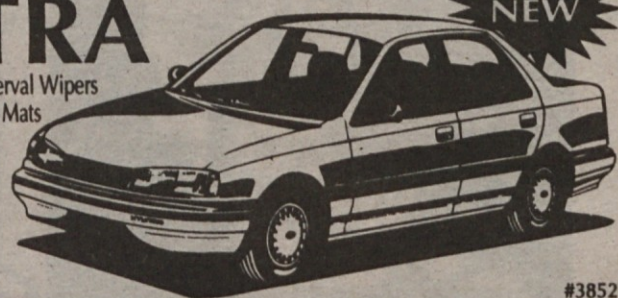
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George Knaus Day benefits SWH



Real estate man George Knaus is a native Cleveland born to Slovenian parents, Mary and Rudolph Knaus. True to his Slovenian background, he has tirelessly promoted polka music particularly during a 20-year sponsorship of his weekly 15 minute radio program on WELW Bucar Polka Show.

His popular annual "Upstairs-Downstairs Dance" held at the Slovenian Society Home in Euclid has resulted in donations in excess of \$9,000 for the benefit of the National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame. Also through his generosity rotating crystal balls adorn a number of Slovenian Homes in Cleveland. He also makes annual monetary donations to various Slovenian singing groups.

For his work on behalf of polkas, he has been awarded two coveted awards from the Polka Hall of Fame in the "Support and Promotion" category.

Mr. Knaus is also a shareholder in the Slovenian Society Home, Euclid, Holmes Avenue Slovenian Home, Cleveland, and the Slovenian Workmen's Home on Waterloo Road in Cleveland.

On July 4, the Board of Trustees of the Slovenian Workmen's Home, Waterloo Rd. will pay tribute to George. A full course roast beef or sausage dinner for the low cost of \$8.00 will be served from 1 to 3 p.m. at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. Other food and drinks will be available all day long.

The Del Sinchak Orchestra from Youngstown, Ohio will be playing for dancing from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 4th. The occasion will be a fund-raiser for the Slovenian Workmen's Home to help defray the cost of land purchased last October for parking space.

For further information call 585-2331 or 383-0604.

Maple Hts Pensioners visit West Point

The Maple Heights Pensioners visit Hudson Valley and New York City from June 6 to the 9th. A few more spaces are available.

On June 7 following breakfast buffet, they tour the historic United States Military Academy at West Point. On Wednesday the group ventures through New York City including Ellis Island where most of our ancestors landed as they immigrated from Europe.

Included are motorcoach transportation, 3 night accommodations, 7 meals, New York City Tour, Ellis Island, West Point Tour, FDR Mansion & Museum, Vanderbilt Mansion Tour, Dinner with Dan, Callies Candy, American Candle Co., and baggage handling. Price is \$345, pp/d.

For more information about the Cleveland Southeastern Trails mini-vacation call Mimi Stibil at 843-8727.

Slide Tour of Slovenia

A slide tour of Slovenia with Fran Babic as the photographer-guide is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 25, at Euclid Public Library.

Mrs. Babic, well-known throughout the area for her involvement in art and handicrafts, will show and discuss Slovenia and its many attractions.

Euclid Public Library is located at 631 East 222nd Street. The program is free and open to the public. Reservations are not necessary, but seating will be on a first come/first-served basis.

Catholic Movie Reviews in Cleveland

The Diocese of Cleveland is one of four U.S. Catholic dioceses in which the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) is launching 1-800-54-MOVIES, a new toll-free number providing reviews of the summer's leading box office attractions. The pilot test, which runs from May 12 through midnight September 11, is designed to assess the popularity of the new movie review service as it is considered for national availability.

"We hope that individuals and families will find the service useful in making decisions about which movies to see," said Ramon E. Rodriguez, national director of the CCC.

"The information they receive will help them determine how well these movies fit their own standards for viewing. Parents, especially, should find the movie reviews useful when helping their children decide which films to see."

You don't persuade by telling; you persuade by asking.

Congratulations to Mildred and John Tumbry on their 61st Wedding Anniversary May 25, 1994



May 25, 1933



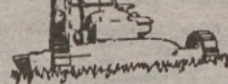
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Frank Zigman



AMERICAN SLOVENE CONGRESS HOLDS FIRST MEETINGS

The first meeting of the interim Council of the American Slovene Congress (ASC) was held at 10:00 a.m. on April 23, 1994 at Columbia University in the City of New York. The meeting was chaired by I. Hilary Rolih. Seven Council members were present (Messrs. Barbarich, Kravanja, Lango, Lencek, Malensek, Rolih, and Susel) and one member was represented by proxy (Mr. Pregeelj).

The discussion and decisions reached related to the following topics:

1. Committees. No committee will be established initially, but will be organized as the need arises. At the beginning, most of the activities will be conducted at the local level by the Branches and on the national level by the Council.
2. Academic Advisor. Dr. Rado L. Lencek was nominated and was unanimously elected to be the Academic Advisor to the Council on the academic activities of the ASC.
3. Membership Form. A proposed membership form was reviewed and modified, based on comments made. The approved form will be distributed to all persons who expressed an interest in becoming

ASC members.

4. Branches. The organizational procedures to establish ASC branches were discussed and a recommended outline of the required actions was agreed upon.

5. Bank Account, Stationery, Address. A bank account will be opened requiring two signatures to withdraw funds. Details of the type of stationery to be printed and address to be used will be resolved by the members by phone or mail.

6. Officers. The ballots received from the council members for the election of the officers were presented. Eleven members voted for the proposed slate. The elected officers are: Chairman: Dr. Silvester Lango; Secretary: Dr. Joseph Bernik; Treasurer: Dr. I. Hilary Rolih.

7. Directors. It was agreed that the officers will also be the directors of the ASC.

8. In a letter to the council, Dr. Bernik noted that before being approved by the World Slovene Congress, the ASC must submit its constitution and bylaws for their review and approval.

There being no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

I. Hilary Rolih

Academic Working Group Meeting

The workshop following the meeting of the interim ASC Council was devoted to discussion of the Academic Working Plan of the American Slovene Congress. The discussion began at 11:30 a.m. and ended at 2:30 p.m. It was chaired by Professor Rado L. Lencek and consisted of presentations by five members of the Academic Working Group of the ASC. The five programs discussed were:

1. A research program to investigate the Slovene heritage in America and the contributions of Slovene immigrants to America.
2. An action committee to defend the interests of a free and democratic Slovene nation in its own state, and the rights of the Slovene minorities outside the Republic of Slovenia.
3. An advisory committee able to provide Slovene scholars information on American foundation support for research activities.
4. An advisory committee able to provide Slovene academic and learned societies, as well as individual scholars outside Slovenia information on research possibilities in the United States.
5. A working plan to establish and maintain contact with the Slovene communities in America, their organizations, and, in particular, with Slovene Americans residing outside of established Slovene American communities. The aim also is to develop and maintain contacts with those Slovene Americans of the second and later generations.

These five programs were outlined by Professor Peter P. Remec (Fordham University), Dr. Hilary Rolih, Dr. Silvester Lango, Prof. Rado L. Lencek (Columbia University), and Mr. Peter Rolih.

The discussion following the presentations was lively and constructive. By common consent the individual programs will be discussed further by the ASC Academic Working Group with specialists in the individual areas, and formulated in a program of action to be presented at the next workshop of the group this fall.

**Rado L. Lencek
New York, N.Y.**

Slovenian stock report

LJUBLJANA, May 17 — Slovenian share prices were mixed on steady turnover, the Ljubljana Stock Exchange said. Five shares rose, eight fell and three were not traded.

Mateja Gubanec, a broker of A Banka said the shares are most likely to advance are Dadas and SKB while the ones most likely to fall are the Terme Catez and Rogaska Slatina RGS preferred, as both spas have still not worked out their privatization programs thus ownership remains unclear. —Robin Verhose

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Ohio KSKJ Day Set

The 43rd Annual Ohio KSKJ Day will be held on Sunday, June 12 at Slovenska Pristava Slovenian Recreation Center in Harpersfield, Ohio. It is sponsored by the Ohio Federation of American Slovenian Catholic Union Lodges as a social event for all KSKJ members, their families, and friends.

Everyone is kindly invited to come and join the get-together to renew old acquaintances and enjoy good fellowship.

The Holmes Hall Buttonaires will furnish music for your

listening and dancing pleasure from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

There will be food and liquid refreshments available. A Bake Sale will feature homemade delicacies by the members. Free refreshment tickets worth one dollar will be given to children, 0 to 14 years of age, until 5 p.m. Games and contests for children will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The picnic is from 12 noon to 8 p.m. and admission and parking are free.

Joseph F. Rigler
Publicity Chmn.

Ohio Town Meeting set

Ohio Governor George V. Voinovich announces the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) with director James Conrad will host a Town Meeting in Painesville, on Wednesday, June 22 from 1:30 to 3:45 at Lake Erie College, 391 W. Washington St.

The DAS Town Meeting is free and open to anyone interested in attending.

DAS will report on several key issues being undertaken by the Voinovich administration. At 2:30 participants will have the opportunity to attend one of five concurrent breakout sessions: *How to Do Business with Ohio* • *Strategies for Opportunity: Ohio's High Quality Workforce Initiative* • *State Construction: Outlooks and Opportunities* • *Cooperative Purchasing*.

American Slovenians of So. Florida

The purpose of the American Slovenian Club of South Florida, Inc. is to enroll and unite people of Slovenian origin. The time spent reaching out, connecting, and interacting with one another, has produced great friendships.

This month of Memorial Day, we honored the deceased members with a short program of special tribute to our members. Mary Grlic officiated. In addition to reading the names of 51 deceased members, she read an appropriate verse to commemorate them. Flowers and candles flanked the plaque bearing their names. Ann Madey and Ed Phillips died this past year. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

May also has a day set aside to honor Mothers. This special day is to give thanks and express our appreciation for Mothers and all those who have helped us be the best that we can be.

Winner in the Mother's Day drawing was Mary Premru. Mary is our oldest member. How fitting that she was a winner. Mike Ondo took home the prize in the Father's Day drawing.

Members who were born in May are "Beenie" Gregg, Olga and John Ribic, Agnes Davis, Ed Blatnik, Anna Carzillo, Florence Lehman, Marion Wojtyna, and Ellie Meuser. Vivian and Al Nels were married in May, 1939.

First time guests were "Woody" McCall and Adella Majka.

Frances Vranicar and Paula Beavers prepared the delicious oven roasted chicken. And many others contributed tasty, abundant dishes of both old-time and new recipes.

The City of Sunrise has assured the club that the hall renovation will not begin this year. Our meeting space is secure at least through the end of this year.

Walter Olszewski is recuperating from surgery. May he soon be basking in good health.

Many school children are euphoric when summer recess arrives. This mood is in contrast to the regrets felt by most club members as they face the next three months of no scheduled meetings. You are

encouraged to keep in touch with friends with phone calls, notes, and get together to CELEBRATE LIFE!

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Slovenia poised to expand trade as economy gains

by John Zarocostas

The Journal of Commerce

GENEVA — The Slovenian economy has shaken off the loss of more than 40% of its export markets in war-torn former Yugoslavia and is headed for a period of growth, the country's Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek said.

In an interview, Mr. Drnovsek who has led the nation of 2 million since May 1992, said the economy survived in very difficult circumstances and was now in a position to compete internationally.

"At this point, the majority of companies are becoming more optimistic. There is an increase in export orders," he said.

Textiles, furniture, chemical products, pharmaceuticals and electrical equipment are Slovenia's major exports.

The major destination for Slovenian exports is the European Union, which is also its major importer, and accounts overall for about 60% of its total trade.

He said association agreements with both the EU and the European Free Trade Area nations will be negotiated and come into force by Jan. 1, 1995. The medium-term goal, Mr. Drnovsek said, was full EU membership for Slovenia. But

he stressed, "We don't want to push for it now." He implied Slovenia might be in a better position to negotiate full EU membership three to four years from now.

In its pursuit of new markets, Slovenia has signed free-trade agreements with the Czech and Slovak republics and last week announced it was entering into a new economic cooperation agreement with its neighbor Croatia.

Mr. Drnovsek said Slovenia was also expected "to sign very soon" free-trade agreements with Hungary and Poland. Talks aimed at bringing Slovenia into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade are expected to be completed over the next two to three months, he said.

Despite successful negotiations intended to ground Slovenia firmly into the Western European economy, the prime minister said the bloody civil war in the former Yugoslavia "was a serious economic shock.

"Many companies that were dependent on the Yugoslav market had to restructure themselves very quickly and find new markets, if not, many risked going bankrupt, and many did," he said.

As a result, Slovenia, which previously had close to full employment, saw the level of

unemployment shoot up to about 14% to 15%, he said.

Slovenia's gross domestic product this year is projected to grow by 1%, which Mr. Drnovsek referred to as "very encouraging growth." For the first time in four years, he said, GDP in 1993 did not decline.

Expectations, he said, are that inflation this year will average 1% a month (12.7% annually), down from last year's annual rate of 22.9%.

The prime minister, who also was the principal negotiator in talks which secured Slovenia's independence from the former Yugoslavia in June 1991, pointed out since statehood, Slovenia had attracted more than \$1 billion in foreign investment.

The prime minister said privatization is going on, but the process is still not finished. He said about 30% of all

former state enterprises are in private hands but stressed privatization was expected to be completed by the end of 1994.

He acknowledged that the big increase in wages, which according to recent estimates rose from 30% to 50% in different sectors, to roughly \$560 to \$600 a month, was "a major problem."

He also admitted that some exporters complained the overvalued Slovenian tolar was a handicap. He argued, however, the government did not want to devalue the currency because such a devaluation could have inflationary consequences.

When we identify the problem, we've taken a major step toward solving it.

When you've got expectancy, things are going to happen.

Meeting

The next monthly meeting of Newburgh, Maple Heights Pensioner Club will be held on Wednesday, May 25 at 1 p.m. in the Slovenian National Home on E. 80th St.

Meeting Change

The date of the American Slovene Club meeting has been changed to Monday, May 23rd at 7 p.m. at Gateway in Euclid, Ohio.

Non-Parent's Day

An advocacy group for people without children is planning its own holiday: "ChildFree Adult Day" June 5 between Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Wiping out workplace discrimination against childless employees is among the top priorities of ChildFree Network, Roseville, Calif.

Recalling total impact of the California earthquake

On Monday, January 17 at 4:20 a.m., I was awakened because my dogs were barking. An automobile drove by, so I got up to see if there might be someone dumping trash or stealing. Blackwelder Street is an industrial alley-like street. There is very little reason why people should be on the street after 10 p.m.

While outside I first felt a strong jolt, then shuddering and quaking. The street is well lit with sodium floodlights. The street is an east-west street about 1,200 feet in length and 70 feet wide. It is asphalt covered.

As I was looking down the street, I felt the jolt and I saw the street bend and bow up and down like ocean swells. The waves moved across the street one after another, seemed like about 50-60-miles-an-hour. I could look down the troughs of the waves and they were parallel with the street at just a slight angle. The waves were about 50 feet apart, about 2-1/2' to 3' high or deep. The buildings on Blackwelder Street buckled with the waves.

I watched this for about 5 or 10 seconds. Then the high tension wires were crossing and arcing and the transformers were humming and flashing, building alarms were sounding, glass and marble and roll-up doors were rattling and smashing; lots of noise and

commotion was happening all at once. Then all the lights went out on the street. The quake lasted another 15 seconds or so.

A diagram showing the phenomenon of "standing waves" is attached. This occurred just two blocks from Washington and Fairfax where the Hwy. 10 Freeway overpass went down.

John Maljavec
Culver City, CA

Thanks to John for this eyewitness account of the damaging earthquake in California in January. John is from Barberton, Ohio, a Korean Veteran, and served as a U.S. Marine assigned to the White House as Presidential Security.

—Ernie Rjavec

In Memory

Enclosed is a check for one year's subscription and a \$10.00 donation in memory of my husband, Boltizar Hozjan.

Anna Hozjan
Cleveland, Ohio

In Memory

Enclosed is my subscription renewal plus a \$25.00 donation in memory of Fr. Rudy Urbic who spent his winters in Miami and died in Slovenia last October.

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JOŽE KOVAČ

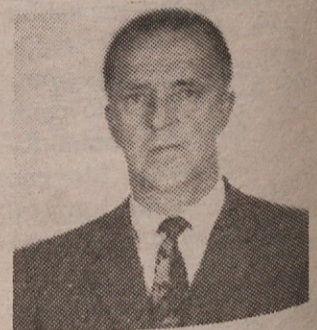
Izdihnil je svojo blago dušo
na binkoštno nedeljo,
dne 20. maja 1956.

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

Žalujoča:

Josephine — žena
Cleveland, Ohio 19. maja, 1994.

LJUBEČIH SRC SE
SPOMINJAMO OB DEVETI
OBLETNICI SMRTI NAM
DRAGEGA MOŽA, OČETA
IN BRATA



JANEZA TOMCA
Zapustil je dolino solz in se
preselil nebeščanom — v to
verujemo — 25. maja 1985.

Sladka nam je misel na Te,
na ljubeči Tvoj nasmeh,
na besede ljubeznive,
ki imel si jih do vseh.

Za Teboj žalujoči:

ANA TOMC, žena;
IVAN, ADOLF in JOŽE
TOMC, sinovi z družinami

Cleveland, Ohio — Ivan Rigler, glasbenik, pevec, ljubeči mož, skrben družinski oče, prepričan kristjan, borec za pravico in svobodo, načelno trden, ki je vedno odločno odklanjal vse krive in zgrešene ideje, ter mnogim iskren in dober prijatelj, je po dolgem križevem potu dočrpel in kot naš odrešenik Jezus Kristus, na sam veliki petek 1. aprila umrl in odšel domov k Očetu, katerega mu je zvesto služil vse svoje življenje. Osebnost sem prepričan, da ko je Ivanova duša prišla pred nebeška vrata, ni imela zaprek in jo je sv. Peter z veseljem pustil v raj, kateri je pripravljen za vse dobre in zveste duše, in eden takšnih je prav gotovo bil Ivan.

Prvi stiki

Z Ivanom sva se osebno spoznala nekako proti koncu leta 1950 in to na seji društva Kristusa Kralja, števil. 226 KSKJ. Oba sva bila rojena v slavni Ribniški dolini: Ivan v fari sv. Gregor, jaz pa v Ribnici. Tako sva se našla kot ožja rojaka v daljni deželi Ameriki. Takoj, ko sem ga prvič srečal sem dobil vtis, da je človek vesele narave, prijeten družabnik in vedno pripravljen, da zapojemo eno prav po domače, čeravno smo bili takrat še v zelo težkih razmerah. Bili smo ljudje brez prave domovine. Rodna domovina Slovenija nam je bila sovražna, Amerika pa nas je sprejela le bolj iz usmiljenja kakor iz ljubezni.

Vzrok, da so se po več letih odprla vrata za vselitev v ZDA je verjetno bil v dejstvu, ker so gospodje politiki končno spoznali, da je bila medvojna zavezniška politika zgrešena in kriva žalostnega stanja stotisočev brezdomcev.

Po najinem prvem srečanju, sva se pozneje z Ivanom večkrat redno srečevala in vedno je bilo prijatno. Zakaj kjer je bil Ivan, tam je bila slovenska pesem in kjer je bila slovenska pesem, tam je bilo lepo. Na vseh društvenih

sejah smo na koncu vedno zapeli pol dučata slovenskih pesmi. Že samo zato je bilo vredno iti na društvene seje.

"Fraternalist" v polnem pomenu besede

Takoj ko je prišel v Cleveland, je po zaslugi Mary Zupančič, takratne tajnice društva Kristusa Kralja, pristopil k društvu. Ivan je bil v vsem natančen in v njegovem značaju je bilo: ko se enkrat za nekaj odločiš, izvršuj to 100 odstotno! Tako je bilo tudi s članstvom pri KSKJ. Od leta 1952 naprej je bil član nadzornega odbora in to več kot 32 let. Dokler mu ni bolezen preprečila, se je udeležil prav vsake društvene seje. Prav tako je bil vesten v vseh službah, ki jih je v življenju vršil. To lahko potrdijo vsi, ki so Ivana od blizu poznali.

Poleg tega, da sva bila oba rojena v Ribniški dolini, je bila še ena reč, kar sva imela skupnega. Oba sva doživela kar lepo starost, akoravno so nama v času druge svetovne vojne stregli po življenju. Po načrtu komunistične partije bi Ivanovo življenje moralo biti končano že, ko je nastopil prvo službo organista v Prečni pri Novem mestu, meseca junija 1942. Takrat, ko so partizani odpeljali njegovega župnika č.g. J. Komljanca in farovškega oskrbnika. Moje življenje pa je bilo na nitki že leta 1942 od Italijanov in 1943 od komunistov in nacistov. Zakaj nama je bilo dano toliko let življenja je bila za

Prijatelju v slovo



1919 Ivan Rigler 1994

naju vedno uganka in sam Bog ve za odgovor.

Ivan študent glasbe

S pomanjkljivo izobrazbo je bilo težko priti na glasbeno višjo šolo. Toda Ivan je imel odločno voljo in željo postati organist. Po težavah in prošnjah je končno uspel in bi sprejet na konservatorij cerkvene glasbe v Mariboru. Če je Ivan imel kaj kvalifikacij za šolo, je bil to dar in izredno veselje za petje in glasbo. Pravil mi je, kako zahteven in težak je bil študij. Živel je v velikem pomanjkanju finančnih sredstev. Sošolci so si lahko privoščili zabave in priboljške, on tega ni mogel. Zato je ves prosti čas porabil za študij in priložnostni zaslužek in tako je končal šolo z odliko. Profesorji so mu v spričevalni diplomi zapisali: **Odlično sposoben.** Ivanova srčna želja je bila, da bi vršil službo organista, kar sta pa svetovna vojna in begunstvo preprečila. Razen zelo kratek čas organistovske službe leta 1942, je Ivan prišel do zaželjenega poklica šele leta 1972.

Takrat se mu je izpolnila srčna želja, da je postal organist in pevovodja pri fari Marije Vnebovzete v Clevelandu, Ohio, kar pa je na žalost trajalo samo deset let, ko se je moral radi možganske kapi tej službi odpovedati. Mnogokrat je izjavil, da so bila leta cerkvenega orgljanja in petja njegova najlepša leta.

Ivan je vse življenje sodeloval pri

raznih pevskih zborih in nekaj let je bil pevovodja poznega moškega zbora Slovan.

Resnično, Ivan je imel talent in glas ki ga je vedno uporabljal v čast božjo ter v veselje in razvedrilo s ojemu bližnjemu. Na magnetofonskem traku imam nekaj posnetkov dueta Ivana in Tilke Špehar s spremljavo orgel. Kadar koli poslušam omenjeni duet me popolnoma prevzame; to je nekaj tako lepega, da ne rajdem pravih besed, kako bi to opisal in se prav izrazil.

Resnično, Ivan je bil človek s pesmijo v srcu in to v dobrih in težkih časih, prav do konca svojih dni. Nekaj ur pred smrtjo na veliki petek sta ga obiskala č.g. Franci Petrič, urednik slovenskega verskega tednika DRUŽINA in g. Lojze Bajc. Lojze mi je o tem obisku pravil: "Ko sva prišla k Ivanu, je ta izgledal zelo slab, ampak kljub temu nama je zapel pesem "Duša, le pojdi z mano, z menoj na božjo pot" in to vse tri kitice." Ali ni to nekaj izrednega in skoraj neverjetnega, kakor je tudi izredno, da je Ivan po 12 letnem križevem potu umrl prav na veliki petek, kot Kristus Zveličar.

Počivaj v miru, blaga duša!

Družini brata Ivana izrekam v imenu uradnikov in članstva društva Kristusa Kralja iskreno sožalje! Ivana in njegovo pesem bomo pogrešali še mnogo let in tolaži naj nas misel, da je prišel na cilj, domov k Očetu, kjer ni več krivic, sovražstva in trpljenja. Tam je sreča, ljubezen in večno veselje, ki ga svet ne more dati.

Dragi prijatelj Ivan, delo si dokončal, tek dotekel in vero ohranil. To so vrline, ki imajo na koncu življenja največ veljave.

Naj ti bo nebeški Kralj za vsa tvoja dobra dela in zglede bogat plačnik!

Bog živi! Tvoj prijatelj

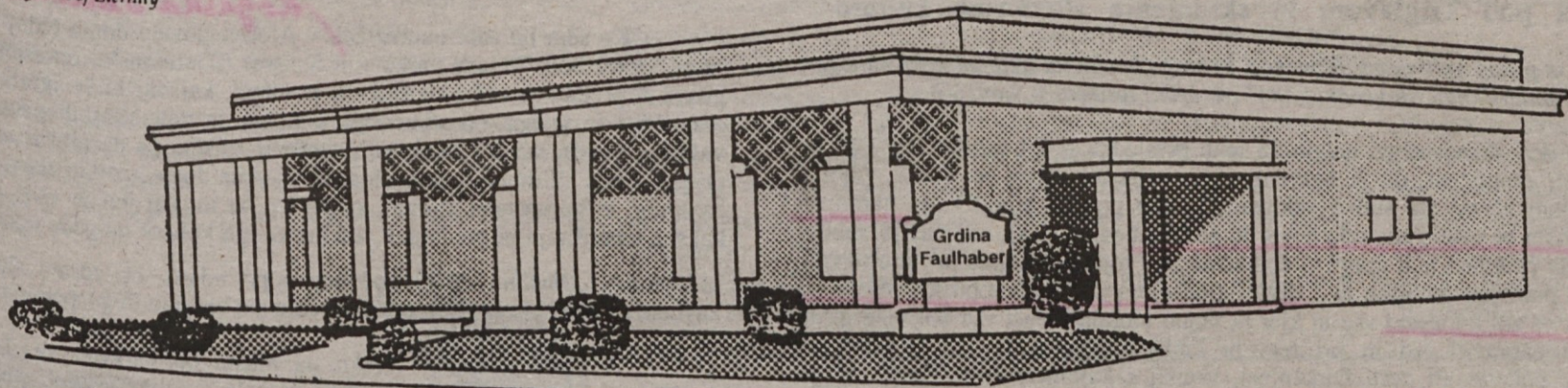
France Šega

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Korotanov koncert v Clevelandu

Dr. Edi Gobec

V soboto 14. maja zvečer se je v Clevelandu zbralo toliko ljubiteljev slovenske pesmi, da je v veliki svetovidski dvorani zmanjkalo sedežev. Pod vodstvom Rudija Kneza je na bogatem in kvalitetnem sporedu trikrat nastopil Korotanov mešani zbor. Vmes so navdušili še otroci šolskega zbora od Marije Vnebovzete in od Sv. Vida (slednji pod vodstvom Janeza Sršena) in Korotanov ženski zbor. Po kratkih pozdravih Korotanove predsednice Rezike Jarem in enega vodilnih pevcev in kulturnih delavcev Janeza Hauptmana smo z užitkom spremljali razkošje programa -- od uvodnega Pozdrava Gorenjski dr. Gustava Ipavca do zaključnega Moellerjevega Veselega popotnika v izvedbi mešanega zbora in solista Nejči Slaka, ki so ga morali na željo občinstva ponoviti. Poslušalce so zelo navdušili tudi ostali solisti: Janez Šemen, Martina Jakomin, Mimi Kozina, Nada Gregorc in Zdenka Zakrajšek. Spored je obogatil še mladi nadarjeni pianist Dominik Gorše, zaključni del pa priljubljeni Alpski sekstet.

Zraven več duhovnikov in sester so bili na koncertu tudi Korotanov prvi pevovodja muzikolog dr. Metod Milač, oče in mati pred kratkim ponovno povišanega slovenskega ameriškega admirala Ronalda Zlatoperja (čigar življenjepis bo izšel v nadaljevanju naše serije življenjepisov vrhunskih slovenskih uspešnikov na tujem), nad 90-letni starosta slovenskih Orlov in Zveze fantovskih odsekov Janez Varšek in, iz Washingtona, znana kulturna delavca bivši predsednik Korotana dr. Stane Šušteršič in prof. dr. Ciril Mejač z gospo Marijo.

Na koncu koncerta sta deklica in fantek v narodnih nošah ob burnem ploskanju občinstva izročila pevovodji Rudiju Knezu šopek rdečih nageljčkov. Ta večni mladenič, ki je baje prekorajčil 75 let, se je že v dijaških letih pri salezijancih naučil ljubezni do prosvetnega in glasbenega dela, s katerim je več let uspešno nadaljeval na Koroškem in potem nad 40 let v Ameriki. Kot vodja Mladih harmonikarjev, farnega zbora Ilirija, šolskega zbora in mladinske Pasijonske skupine in kot farni organist in režiser in upravitelj Slovenske šole pri Mariji Vnebovzeti je odločilno pomagal vzgojiti na stotine mladih narodno zavednih družin, pevcev in glasbenikov (zlasti še harmonikarjev), katerih slovenska pesem še vedno mogočno odmeva v cerkvah in dvoranah, pa tudi v slovenskih domovih in na številnih družabnih srečanjih. Med njegovimi bivšimi učenci so tudi Janez Nemeč, glasbeni učitelj in urednik nastarejšega Slovenskega lista *Amerikanski Slovenec*; inženir in izvedenec v računalništvu Dominik Gorše, nadarjeni pianist in organist; in višji računovodja in priljubljeni učitelj otroškega šolskega in cerkvenega zbora in moškega zbora Fantje na vasi Janez Sršen. Naj bi priljubljeni gospod Knez ob svoji dobri ženki Anici v tej svoji slovenski kulturni "kneževini" zdrav in nasmejan vzgajal in dirigiral še dolgo vrsto let!

VTISI IZ OBISKA V SLOVENIJI

Nebesa pod Triglavom in skrunjenje slovenske kulture

Povzetek iz pisma vplivnemu Slovencu, ki so ga zanimala mnenja podpisane ameriškega Slovenca, kako izboljšati turizem v Sloveniji

Obisk v domovini po dolgih 28 letih presledka je bil čudovit, saj smo po njem še bolj prepričani, da je Slovenija ena najlepših dežel na svetu (tudi v Ameriki rojeni hčerki sta stalno vzklikali, "Polno prgišče lepota!") in narod na splošno se nam še vedno zdi zelo dober in gostoljuben. A to ali ono nas je motilo in mislim, da podobno tudi druge -- domačine in rojake iz tujine in tuje turiste. Naj niti ne omenjam politike in divje (samo)morilne avtomobilske vožnje po cestah, kjer se zdi dopustno vse in kjer bi nujno morala oblast vse bolj energično nastopiti in napraviti red in pri tem bi lahko istočanso še kaj zaslužili za vzdrževanje policije ali cest. Dirkanjem, skupaj s kajenjem "kot Turki", ki ga Amerika na vso moč zavira v svoji deželi, ker ve, kako pububno je za zdravje in drago za ekonomijo, ga pa njeni kapitalisti naravnost zločinsko širijo n.pr. tudi v Sloveniji in pijančevanje, vdor zločinstva, mamil in mafije in udbomafije, skupaj z neprestanimi aferami ali zločinstvom na vrhovih, to spada med (samo)morilna slovenska izživljanja in me zelo zaskrbuje za usodo Slovenije.

Omenim pa naj še en sporeden in popolnoma nepotreben minus za slovenski turizem, namreč uvoženo nemogočo, neznosno, primitivno ameriško najstniško glasbo, ki prevladuje v slovenskih gostiščih. Zdi se, kot da bi tekmovali, kako naj osvojimo ravno najslabše iz uživaške kapitalistične družbe, kot so rdeči voditelji prej osvojili žal tudi pokolje in druge najslabše pojave komunistične! V prijaznem mestecu K., ki ima tudi za nas zgodovinsko in sentimentalno vrednost, smo želeli kje blizu Gregorčičevega spomenika na kosilo, a je bila močno ozvočena tuja glasba, ki je bobnela po vsem trgu, tako neznosna, da smo se raje lačni odpeljali dalje (gotovo bi tudi Gregorčič pobegnil, če bi bil še živ) in drugod poiskali mimejšo restavracijo. Upam, da ni vsak dan tako, a mi smo pač skušali prekrizariti čim več Slovenije in ni bilo časa za ponovni obisk. V prelepem štajerskem zdravilišču smo šli na kosilo v restavracijo B. Spet nemogoča primitivna glasba, kot so jo v Ameriki igrali za najstnike pred leti ali desetletji (sedanja je še hujša, le da nam navadno v restavracijah z njo prizanesejo) in ki jo menda iz posebne radijske postaje noč in dan "pumpajo" v

lokale! Ko je simpatični natak ar vprašal, kako nam je všeč, smo pohvalili vse in rekli le, da bi bilo brez take glasbe še lepše. Ker smo bili skoraj sami, nam je ljubeznivo ustregel. Mislim, da s tako glasbo Slovenija ogromno škoduje svojemu turizmu in odbije goste z nekoliko bolj kulturnim poslušom ali vsaj omeji dobo gostovanja. Še bolj grozljiva pa je primitivizacija slovenske kulture in zlasti še duševnosti mladih. Ko sem leta 1963 en semester poučeval v Islandiji, sem občudoval islandsko odločnost, s katero se se upirali taki primitivizaciji in ko smo lani na povratku v Muenchen mimogrede obiskali še Tirolsko in turistični Innsbruck, smo opazili živo nasprotje: povsod njihova prijetna domača kultura in glasba in nikjer ni bilo slišati nič primitivnega uvoženega, a tudi majc in kap Chicago Bulls, Jordana, itd., zlepa nismo videli, v Ljubljani jih je pa najbrž sorazmerno več kot v Chicagu, komaj pa kje vidiš kako s slovensko zastavico, da ne omenjam slovenskih športnikov ali naših naravnih in kulturnih znamenitosti. Res, še vedno zaslužimo Prešernov očitek: "Kar ni tuje, zaničuješ!"

Bolj postransko je, če je primitivno najstniško ropotanje všeč slovenskim najstnikom ali pubertetnikom, ne glede na njih starost, ki pri radijskem vodstvu izbirajo in "pumpajo" tako glasbo v slovenska gostišča, saj ti bi jo lahko igrali ali poslušali v svojih lokalih, čeprav bi človek, ki je kdaj čital Platona ali pa tudi moderne študije o vplivu glasbe na ljudi in celo na živali tudi tega ne priporočal niti za najstnike, niti za kravice, ovčke ali koštrune. Končno je cilj glasbe, da razvedri, pomiri, opogumi, ali poglobi, ne ponori in ogluš! A gostje, ki prihajajo iz vsega sveta, skupaj z domačini, v ogromni večini niso pubertetniki. Če jih hočemo pritegniti, je gotovo treba misliti tudi na njihov okus. Mnogi slovenski in tuji turisti želijo slišati kaj pristno slovenskega (saj končno večina potuje, da odkriva nove kraje in nove kulture) in gotovo je tu poleg bogate stare narodne in umetne glasbe in poleg Avsenikov in Slakov in raznih drugih slovenskih ansamblov še marsikaj lepega in pestrega. V Modestovem domu v Celovcu smo n.pr. od koroških Slovencev Štemovih dobili kasete ženskega Obirskega okteta, ki so se zdele čudovito lepe nele nama z ženko, ampak tudi našim hčerkam, ki so zrasle v Ameriki in pozneje njihovim ameriškim prijateljicam. Dermota, Lipovškova, Nanut, Lajovic, Slovenski oktet, itd., da ne omenjamo glasbenikov iz zamejstva in izseljenstva, od dveh kraljev polk do skladateljev in opernih pevcev, od Fileja in Gallusa, Finkovih, Osane, Špendova, Potočnika, Šublja iz Carnegie Hall ali Siflerja v Hollywoodu do Jezovška v Nemčiji in, kot pišejo Francozi, slovitega Emila Davorja-Bizjaka v Parizu, -- vsi ti in številni drugi bi gotovo mnogo bolj kot tuji najstniški ropotarji zadovoljili tudi goste v slovenskih gostiščih in nam posredovali, ne skrunili, glasbeno kulturo.

Na potovanjih križem Slovenije smo prvič slišali slovensko glasbo v vrtni restavraciji pri znamenitih Škocjanskih jamah in se je vsi iz srca razveselili. Ko se malo ozremo naokrog, opazimo pri zvočni napravi g. Cirila Soršaka iz Toronto, ki je tja pripeljal svojo skupino v Kanadi rojenih slovenskih plesalcev. Ne vem, če je kdo sploh opazil ironijo, da v tujini rojeni mladeniči in mladenke posredujejo čudovitemu turističnemu kraju v Sloveniji nekaj pristno slovenskega, kar domovina Slovenija vsaj v gostiščih tako brezvestno zanemara! Nekega večera je ženka in mene vendar pritegnila prijetna domača glasba tudi v Bohinju (pred hotelom Jezero se je žal sam sebi drl nek uvoženi "umetnik") in sva pohitela v gostišče Pod Skalco, kjer sva odkrila mlade in zelo simpatične slovenske vaske folklorne plesalce. Misli la sva skočiti po hčerki, ki v Clevelandu plešeta v slovenski folklorni skupini Kres in sta se v hotelu pripravljali na pot na Triglav naslednje jutro. Komaj sva napravila nekaj korakov, že je bilo slovenske glasbe in nastopa plesalcev konec in začelo se je divje drenje in razbijanje, kot da bi se sam hudič zarotil zoper čudovita nebesa pod Triglavom! Ko sem o tem pripovedoval clevelandskemu primorskemu prijatelju Jošku Jerkiču, mi je še on opisal svoje doživljanje. S hčerko Miro, učiteljico, ki je poučevala v Ameriki in celo na Japonskem, sta tudi bila v domovini -- hčerka prvič v življenju. Po mučnem poslušanju skoraj najslabše najstniške glasbe (le "metal rock" bi bil še par stopenj nižje), je končno šla učiteljica Mira k vodji podjetja in mu povedala, da bi zelo rada slišala kaj domačega. Le-ta se je opravičeval češ, da bi izgubili vse plesalce, vendar bo njej na ljubo dal zaigrati nekaj slovenskega. G. Jerkič je navdušeno nadaljeval: "Plesišče se je napolnilo kot nikdar prej in ostalo polno ves preostali večer, medtem ko so igrali samo slovensko glasbo!" Pa ni treba iti tako daleč -- nekaj kozmopolitanskega je na mestu v gostiščih kulturno razvite turistične dežele. Zakaj bi ne bilo v Sloveniji praviloma mnogo slovenskega, kar tudi tujce zanima in vmes kaj lepega iz drugih držav -- in to morda s kratko napovedjo in pozdravom gostom tiste narodnosti v slovenščini in še v tujem jeziku. Okusna posvetila te vrste vedno ogrejejo, celo navdušijo! To bi bilo neprimerno bolj kulturno, gostoljubno in tudi bolj privlačno in zabavno kot primitivno drenje in ropotanje -- in še neprisiljeno vzgojno!

Ko sem bil sam natak arček v Aleksandrovem domu (zdaj ima dosti lepše ime, "Hotel Soča"), je v parku v R.S. igral filharmonični orkester, kjer so lahko gostje v predalček odlagali listke s predlogi, kaj naj bi še igrali. Bilo je precej domačega in tujega, od slovenskih venčkov in dalmatinskih pesmi do dunajskih valčkov, čeških maršov in slovitih simfonij, mislim pa da nikdar nič degenerirano primitivnega. V mnogih državah se za mnenja domačinov in zlasti še turistov zelo zanimajo in neprestano zbirajo odgovore na to, kaj jim je všeč in kaj jim ni in kakšna izboljšanja bi predlagali, zaključke pa kolikor mogoče upoštevajo v svojih ukrepanjih. Mislim, da bi podobno odprt odnos, ob zdravi slovenski kulturni zavesti, lahko zelo koristil tudi slovenskemu turizmu in gospodarstvu.

V Bohinju smo v mraku na mostu ob cerkvici sv. Janeza ogovorili ženičko, ki se je z orodjem na rami vračala s polja. Zvedeli smo, da je vdova, Anica R. iz Gorjuš, ki zdaj domuje v bližini jezera. Med pogovorom, ko nam je povedala, da je bila ves dan na njivi in mora zdaj še doma opraviti živino, je kar bruhnilo iz nje: "Ljubim polje!" In ob pogledu na gručo precej glasnih mladcev, je dodala: "Skrbi me za našo mladino. Preveč pijejo in kadijo. Veste, poznala sem tako dobrega dekleta, pa so ji na Voglu ponudili mamila. Zdaj je osvojena in je čisto propadla. Vedno več takega se dogaja med nami!" Teh besed ne bom nikdar pozabil. V 1960-ih sem kot sociolog in socialni psiholog začel proučevati nekaj podobnega v ogroženih predelih ameriških mest. Cele generacije so žal doslej postale degenerirane -- zaostale v vzgoji, spolno okužene, osvojene, celo zločinske, kar je celo za mogočno Ameriko grozljivo. Koliko bolj bi bilo grozljivo za majhno Slovenijo! In vendar je majhnost tudi prednost, kajti odgovorno vodstvo v Cerkvici, občilih, radiu in televiziji, vzgoji, kulturi, gospodarstvu in politiki v malem narodu dosti lažje spremeni smer. Upam, da se bo Slovenija osvestila, predno ne bo preveč nepopravljive škode! Harvardski socialni psiholog Gordon Allport priporoča "napad na vseh frontah". Morali bi ga skupaj z vabilom slovenskih škofov k moralni prenovi in s pozivom staroste slovenskih socialnih znanstvenikov dr. Antona Trstenjaka, naj se vrnemo, dokler ni prepozno, k pristni slovenski poštenosti, poslušati tudi mi -- za boljšo bodočnost našega naroda, ki je že vse preveč pretrpel in zasluži lepše čase!

Dr. Edi Gobec