







# New Era

ENGLISH SECTION OF  
Official Organ  
of the  
American Fraternal Union.

# Nova Doba



AMPLIFYING THE VOICE OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBERS

## "NEW ERA" — VOICE OF AFU

The official organs of various fraternal benefit societies are doing a great work in acquainting their members with the principles of fraternalism. They encourage the devotion of love and loyalty to our country and are based on a genuine patriotic spirit. They spread the gospel of love of fellowmen. A great number of these publications are published in part in foreign languages so that the old timers who came from "over there" may read and learn the principles and objectives of their adopted country.

Today our official organ, the New Era, presents to its readers all the rules and regulations of war time requests from our government. We feel honored to be in a position to serve our country. Recently our editor-in-chief, Mr. Anton J. Terbovec, was awarded by our government, the Army-Navy "E" pin for the New Era's contributions to our war effort. We know that we have behind us the full support of all AFU members who are also doing their share to keep America, the greatest country in the world, free from tyranny.

One of our freedoms is the freedom of speech and press. We invite our members to take the opportunity of using our paper to express themselves on any subject which belongs to the category of fraternalism. At present, many of our members and subordinate lodges as a whole, are expressing their thoughts as to how we can improve our present by-laws at our coming convention which will be held this August. This is as it should be; the more ideas and suggestions expressed and discussed, the better the final decisions which will be made along these lines.

Make the most of your official organ. The editors are eager and willing to serve all members who submit articles in accordance with our AFU by-laws. The New Era is the voice and public poll of the expression of AFU lodges and their members. We willingly translate articles from Slovene into English and vice versa whenever a contributor requests this.

The New Era is your paper. Its pages are open to all AFU members. It is truly the "voice of the American Fraternal Union!"

### Thought For The Day

Every American is pledged to do his or her part toward the attainment of Victory and Peace. Those in the service are doing more than their share. We salute all the men and women of our armed forces. Let those of us who have supporting roles to play so conduct ourselves that on their return they will be as proud of us as we are of them.

## CAMPAIGN BULLETIN

Reported by Anton Zbasnik, Supreme Secretary

June 13th was the name day of all Tony's, therefore my name day. I don't know whether it was a coincidence or intentional but Sister Fannie Jenko, secretary of Lodge No. 202 of Rock Springs, Wyo., sent me 30 juvenile applications for my name day. Of course I was happy and grateful to accept them. Thank you, Sister Jenko, for the contribution which you sent to our American Fraternal Union on the day of my patron. Moreover, your applications raised the number of our membership to more than 26,000 — the most we ever had!

Besides Sister Jenko the following qualified for the convention honor badge during the past two weeks: Supreme Judiciary Steve Mauser; Mary L. Bodack, secretary of Lodge No. 182, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Caroline Fink, secretary and delegate of Lodge No. 54, Hibbing, Minn.; Anton Ule, secretary and delegate of Lodge No. 45, Indianapolis, Ind.; Simon Marolt, delegate of Lodge 114, Ely, Minn.; Agnes Segota, delegate of Lodge No. 39, Denver, Wash.; Joseph Mismash, delegate of Lodge No. 21, Ely, Minn.; Frank Omahen, delegate of Lodge No. 21, Denver, Colo.; and August Stipetich, delegate of Lodge No. 57, Export, Pa. In one week Brother Stipetich enrolled 10 new juvenile members and four adult members making a total of 18 points!

The appeal for enrolling new members, which was sent by the Supreme President and Supreme Secretary to selected delegates, has been very successful thus far. To date — June 17th, we acquired in this campaign 556 new juvenile members and 216 new adult members making a total of 772. Therefore only 228 more members are needed to reach the quota of 1,000 new members. Since we have more than a month until the conclusion of this campaign, I have no doubt that the set quota will be reached.

### POTTERY FIGHTS

One of the most ancient and peaceful world arts has gone to war in the biggest and most conflict of all times. Pottery, one of the oldest arts has gone to war. Yesterday's vases were the finished product of the potter's skilled

hands. Today he is turning out such vital items as bean pots, acid vats, pitchers, perforated acid dripping baskets, stone piping for water systems, etc. One company, the Dorchester Pottery Works in Boston is 100 per cent on war production.

## Lodge No. 182 AFU To Elect Delegate

Pittsburgh, Pa. — At our meeting last month, it was decided to give the members attending the next regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 27th the very important task of electing a delegate to the 17th regular AFU convention.

This meeting cannot be put off or postponed, so please consider this a gilt-edged invitation to be present. Even those members who haven't been attending the meetings in the past, are requested to make it a point to be at the coming meeting. I vouch for the regular attendants at the meetings, that your presence will give us all a pleasant surprise. Also you will be here to discuss some very important items which haven't been debated about properly due to the poor attendance we have been having.

The undersigned was unanimously elected as nominee for delegate as last month's regular meeting and brother John Farar was elected as nominee for Lodge No. 196 AFU. At this coming meeting one of the nominees shall be elected delegate to represent both lodges. You can readily see why it is important that you attend this meeting in as large a number as possible to elect the delegate you wish to represent your lodge.

This invitation includes also all our new members, and those recently transferred from the juvenile department, as well as the old members.

The meeting will be held at the usual meeting place — at the home of the secretary, at 4917 Hatfield St., Pittsburgh, Pa., at 8:30 p. m.

Hoping to see you all present on Tuesday, June 27th, at the designated place, I remain, Yours fraternally,

Mary L. Bodack, Sec'y  
Lodge No. 182, AFU  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

## Give Your Child a College Education

### Save Yourself A Lot of Expense for Ten Years

If you buy one \$18.75 United States War Bond each month from the time your baby is born until he or she is 10 years old, re-investing only the bonds maturing between his tenth and twentieth birthdays, he will have an income of \$400.00 per year between ages 20 and 30. Entirely aside from helping your country now, \$400.00 annual income at that time could be helpful to your child and to you.

P. S. — \$37.50 per month invested by you now will buy your child \$800.00 worth of education and financial assistance annually at ages 20 to 30. It's the patriotic thing to do!



## American Fraternal Union Members Serving Our Country



2,136

## Notice of Federation Meeting

Pittsburgh, Pa. — Notice is hereby given that the next meeting of the Federation of AFU Lodges of Western Pennsylvania will be held at the Slovene Hall, Center, Pennsylvania on Sunday, June 25, 1944 at 1:00 p. m. for the purpose of reviewing proposed amendments to the By-laws of the AFU, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

All lodges in Western Pennsylvania are requested to send their lodge representatives to this meeting. Delegates-elect are also invited to attend.

The Invasion War Loan Drive is on now. The President put his finger on one of the most important factors in our entire war effort when he said "Lost ground can always be regained. Lost time—never." Your navy needs ships and planes now. Your army needs planes, guns, tanks now. Your government needs the money for them now. Hundreds of thousands of our fighting men are really enduring hardships, living under the worst possible conditions, and buying War Bonds besides.

What about those of us at home, living in comparative comfort and security, many of us earning more than we ever earned before? We should consider lending money to the Government a privilege as well as an obligation. And then we should keep lending every cent we can possibly spare until the war is over and won.

F. J. Kress  
President, Federation of  
AFU Lodges, Western  
Pennsylvania

## New Treasurer For Lodge No. 2 AFU

Ely, Minn. — At the regular meeting of Lodge No. 2 AFU, which was held on June 11th, 1944, brother Joseph Pechaver resigned as lodge treasurer. Members attending elected a new treasurer who will perform the duties of this office for the ensuing six months. The new treasurer is: Stanley Urbas, 11 Lawrence St., Ely, Minn.

Members are requested to take note of this change of office.

Fraternally yours,  
Anton Knapp, Sec'y  
Lodge No. 2, AFU  
Ely, Minn.

## Lodge No. 75 AFU To Hold Picnic On June 25th

Meadowlands, Pa. — I wish to notify all the members of Lodge No. 75 AFU that the last dance which our lodge held was very successful. The coming affair will be a picnic, as in this warm weather it is much more pleasant to enjoy a good time outdoors than indoors.

The picnic will be held on Sunday, June 25th on the farm of Mike Franko, and will begin at 1:00 o'clock p. m. All proceeds of the picnic are intended for the fund for a Slovene Home. The picnic grounds, besides boasting a wonderful shady spot, have a place for lawn bowling (balincanje). Of course, there will be plenty of various refreshments for all guests. Members and friends from the neighboring towns are cordially invited to attend the picnic. Everybody is invited to share in the good time!

Joseph Murn, Sec'y  
Lodge No. 75 AFU  
Meadowlands, Pa.

## Napredek Notes

The Napredek Lodge No. 132, AFU wishes to call the attention of its members to the fact that because the 25th of this month falls on Sunday, lodge dues will be collected on Saturday, May 24th at 6:30 p. m. until 8 p. m.

We had one of our members home on furlough who attended the meeting of June 9, 1944. He is Cpl. Frank J. Tanko, son of our vice-president, John Tanko. Good luck and God-speed Frank, and we hope to see you again soon.

Our Lodge No. 132, AFU of Euclid, Ohio wishes to express its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Frances Erzen, our English Editor of the Nova Doba, in the loss of her beloved mother, Mrs. Mary Samsa, who passed away last week. May her soul rest in peace. — Fraternally yours,

Adolyn B. Cecelic, Treas.  
Lodge No. 132, AFU  
Euclid, Ohio

## Missing In Action

Export, Pa. — The Kepchia family, of Greensburg, Pa., received word that their son Bob was missing in action.

At the regular meeting of Lodge No. 138 AFU of which the missing Navy man was a member, the members bowed their heads in prayer for his safe return.

Bob was a fine member, loved by everyone. He was an all-around good sport. He entered the Navy during Navy Enlistment Week, September 14, 1942, and was an aviation radioman. Our sincere hope is that the Kepchia family may soon be notified by another telegram, giving them the happy news that their son is alive and well. Bob has a brother in the navy and another brother and three sisters at home. His parents, brothers and sisters are all members of our lodge.

Rose J. Kuznik,  
Lodge No. 138, AFU

The new Army rifle is said to weigh 8.69 pounds. After it has been carried about three hours the decimal point falls out.

## A BIT O' THIS 'N THAT—

By Tommy Turk

Today was one of those I-don't-know-what-to-do days that we all get once in awhile. It rained all morning, but after lunch the sun began to shine so I hid downtown (downtown being Johnstown, Pa., about two miles away) to see the passing parade of "just people" in the heart of the city. It's surprising how many types of human beings one can see just by standing alongside a five-and-dime or a department store on Main St. Personally, I get a different slant on things after seeing the "tide" going by.

"Rugged, as the hills from whence I spring,  
My faith in all living things.

Eternal, as the sky above,  
My love for human beings."

Here is a bit of news that will sadden the many, many friends of Staff Sgt. Otto Kaushep. He was reported missing since May 11th when he failed to return from a bombing mission over France. I hope, and I know that his many friends join me in hoping the same, that we'll hear from him soon.

Andrew Prosen, who, by the way, was a good friend of Otto's, has enlisted in the Merchant Marine recently.

The next big holiday on the list is "the glorious Fourth." Picnics, a trip to the farm for a family reunion, or just an extra day of relaxation will be the order of the day for most of us. Years ago, not too many, of course, we celebrated with firecrackers, skyrockets, sparklers and other sorts of noisy and brilliant fire-works. All that is now a thing of the past and many of the "kids" who celebrated that way are now really putting off the real McCoy!

Tommy Turk

## WAR BULLETINS IN 28 LANGUAGES

Aerial second front that hasn't been talked about so much is the job the British Broadcasting Corp. is doing. British transmitters are sending an average of 160 bulletins a day to the 400,000,000 people of occupied Europe. Twenty-eight languages are used to give instructions and guidance to the "underground" organizations between the French coast and the Russian frontier.

## Lodge No. 138 to Buy Another War Bond

Export, Pa. — At the June 11th meeting, members of Lodge No. 138 AFU voted that every member shall pay an additional 50c either with the June or July regular assessment.

Members not insured for sick benefit shall pay only 25c, while service men and women are exempt. This additional assessment will go towards buying another War Bond for our lodge. The difference between the amount paid in by the members and the cost of the War Bond, will be taken from the lodge treasury.

So, please remember, all you members who are insured for sick benefit, to send an extra 50c; those who are not insured for sick benefit send only 25c; while the boys and women in uniform may consider themselves exempt. This extra assessment will have to be paid only once—either in June or July. Please send it to your lodge secretary and send it on time.

Rose J. Kuznik,  
Lodge No. 138, AFU

## MAY BRING HOME TROPHIES

Captured enemy equipment of a type not of value for scrap material or other purposes, and which are of small size, may be kept by military personnel and merchant seaman. A certificate from a superior officer is required of returning military personnel bringing these war trophies home. They may also be mailed provided the package contains a certificate in duplicate signed by the man's unit commander stating that the sender is authorized by the theater commander to mail the articles. Army port officers will issue certificates to merchant seamen desiring to take home trophies.

Nothing removed from enemy dead except items of military equipment is considered a war trophy. Items which contain explosives are also excluded.

## Now We Have "WIPS"

The army has its WACS, the coast guard its SPARS, the marine corps its MARINE girls and now industry has its WIPS. WIPS stands for "Women in Production Service" and 1100 of them have been inducted into the organization at the Lakeview mill of the Kimberly-Clark Co., Neenah, Wis., manufacturers of paper products.



AMERICAN FRATERNAL UNION

Founded July 18, 1898
HOME OFFICE: ELY, MINNESOTA

SUPREME BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: J. N. Rogelj
1st Vice-Pres't: Frank Okoren
2nd Vice-Pres't: P. J. Oblock
3rd Vice-Pres't: Joseph Kovach
4th Vice-Pres't: Anton Krapenc
5th Vice-Pres't: Joseph Sneler
6th Vice-Pres't: Mary Predovich
Secretary: Anton Zbasnik
Assistant Secretary: Frank Tomisch, Jr.
Treasurer: Louis Champa
Medical Examiner: Dr. F. J. Arch
Editor-Mgr. of Off'l Organ: A. J. Terbovec

TRUSTEES:

President: John Kurnse
1st Trustee: F. E. Vranichar
2nd Trustee: Matt Anzeic
3rd Trustee: Andrew Milavec, Jr.
4th Trustee: F. J. Kress

FINANCE COMMITTEE

J. N. Rogelj
Anton Zbasnik, Secretary
John Kurnse
Frank E. Vranichar
Andrew Milavec, Jr.

SUPREME JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Anton Okolish
1st Judiciary: Frank Mikce
2nd Judiciary: Rose Svetlich
3rd Judiciary: Steve Mauer
4th Judiciary: Ignac Zajc

WASHINGTON NEWS FLASHES

By Florence D. Startz

One year in our Nation's Capital—and what has it been like? Well, how about putting yourself in my place and going backwards. All set—here we go.

Hot and tired you've just stepped off the train at Washington, D. C.—excited, to say the least, as you gaze with wonder at the crowds of people in busy Union Station. All the while one thing is going through your mind: This is where the President of the United States lives. Then whizzing through the city in a taxi to your temporary home you begin to wonder. What is it going to be like living in Washington—the city where even important Government officials wait "ages" for taxicabs; where you were supposed to go for breakfast and wait in line so long that you ordered supper instead; where getting a room was next to impossible; and where exorbitant prices prevailed. Well, you're soon to find out.

The first day you go to work you are mildly amazed—you actually get a seat on the streetcar. Maybe, it's just luck, you think. On the way you see the Capitol, Supreme Court and other government buildings on "Capitol Hill" for the first time.

Of course, as a newcomer you are busy asking a million and one questions: How far is it from the Capitol to the White House? Which side of the street does the front of the White House face? Well—hundreds of questions daily, it seems.

But, neophyte that you are, you aren't as "green" as the girl who just came to Washington and thought the "Don't Walk" signs in the busy downtown district were advertisements for the Capital Transit Company.

And, as time goes on, you discover that very often you don't

have to wait in those talked about lines when meal time comes around. And prices—well they aren't half bad. In fact, you discover that in the Senate restaurant on Capitol Hill Senators are paying the "exorbitant" price of 15 cents for their favorite and celebrated bean soup.

You are anxious to see the many famous and historic buildings in the city—Sundays, in spite of the heat, you go sight-seeing—gaze in awe upon Lincoln Memorial, remark on the beauty of Jefferson Memorial.

And now you discover that you've been in the Capital for a year. You only have one scar to show for trying to get on streetcars in the past months. Now, instead of asking questions, you're busy telling other people that it is a mile and a half from the Capitol to the White House—what avenue the front of the White House faces, etc. A year later, you're used to the many nationalities and different types of people—one minute telling a Spanish friend not to pronounce the "b" in bomber—the next, telling a little Southern girl to please pronounce the "r's" in your name. You go to lunch with "Kentucky," shopping with "Connecticut," to the USO with "Iowa." By now you're accustomed to seeing cheerful soldiers, minus arms and legs, many times a day. Now, you're so used to wearing a badge that you take it out even when entering buildings off working hours. In other words, you are now a seasoned government worker!



Cash Awards

The American Fraternal Union pays awards for newly-enrolled members in both departments. They are as follows:

- The awards are as follows for the Adult Department:
For Plan "D" insured for \$ 250 death benefit, \$ 1.50 award;
For Plan "D" insured for \$ 500 death benefit, \$ 2.50 award;
For Plan "D" insured for \$1,000 death benefit, \$ 5.00 award;
For Plan "D" insured for \$1,500 death benefit, \$ 7.00 award;
For Plan "D" insured for \$2,000 death benefit, \$ 9.00 award;
For Plan "D" insured for \$2,000 death benefit, \$12.00 award;
For Plan "E" and "F" insured for \$ 250 death benefit, \$ 2.00 award;
For Plan "E" and "F" insured for \$ 500 death benefit, \$ 3.00 award;
For Plan "E" and "F" insured for \$1,000 death benefit, \$ 6.00 award;
For Plan "E" and "F" insured for \$1,500 death benefit, \$10.00 award;
For Plan "E" and "F" insured for \$2,000 death benefit, \$12.00 award;
For Plan "E" and "F" insured for \$3,000 death benefit, \$18.00 award.
Awards for enrolling new juvenile members:
For Plan "JA" \$1.00 award; for Plan "JB" \$3.00 award; for Plan "JC" for \$500 insurance, \$2.00 award; for Plan "JC" for \$1,000 insurance, \$5.00 award; for Plan "JD" for \$250 insurance, \$1.50 award; for Plan "JD" for \$500 insurance, \$3.00 award; for Plan "JD" for \$1,000 insurance, \$5.00 award.
All members who enroll new members in the adult or juvenile departments of the American Fraternal Union are entitled to these awards. The awards will be paid when the new members have paid six months dues.

OUT ENUMCLAW WAY

Washington State Fraternal Congress Convention

This year the Washington State Fraternal Congress held its annual meeting on May 6, at the AOUW Auditorium in Seattle, Wash.

The meeting was called to order shortly after 10 o'clock by President Alfred W. Peeler.

Following the president's opening words, presentation of the American flag by the Neighbors of Woodcraft drill team was effected. The tribute to the flag which was conducted by the society's president, was an inspiration to every member of the convention.

The singing of "America" by the audience followed the flag ceremony.

Invocation was by Rev. Elmer B. Christie.

The address of welcome in behalf of the city of Seattle was given by the Honorable John E. Carroll, president of the city council and response to the address was made by Mrs. Daisy B. Nash, State Supervisor of Royal Neighbors of America.

The nominating committee recommended the reelection of practically all of the present officers and executive committee and their report was adopted. The officers for the ensuing year will be: Mrs. Daisy B. Nash, president; Robert Goldberg, first vice-president; C. D. Robertson, secretary, and Mrs. Katherine Bowen, treasurer.

The approval of the officers and the executive committee concluded the morning session.

The afternoon session reconvened at 1:00 o'clock with the official roll call.

Reports of committees, round table discussions, introduction of visitors and general business composed the afternoon program. Several interesting talks on the importance of fraternalism and our youth of today, were offered.

One speaker pointed out that there are an estimated eight million fraternalists in the United States and that here in Washington there are approximately 46,000 members who carry fraternal insurance. Domiciled in our Pacific Northwest are some of the largest fraternal societies and the officers of these are recognized as some of the most outstanding fraternalists in the nation.

State insurance commissioner, William A. Sullivan said in part: "I dare say one could not find a progressive community in which the leaders are not members of some active fraternal society. I hope that statement cannot be challenged anywhere for that is the kind of leadership we need in the spiritual, economic and civic activities of our communities. This country and, indeed, the world needs fraternalism today; needs, desperately, men and women who are staunch believers in the tenets inculcated by your respective societies. You are to be commended for the condition of your societies and growth in membership. However, I sometimes wonder whether in your zeal for strength and membership you are not overlooking a most important fraternal activity, particularly at this time.

The fraternal societies today have over one million juvenile members enrolled in their organizations. This represents approximately 12% of the adult membership. It is, therefore, obvious that you are bringing only a small portion of the eligible children into your societies.

The influx of families and minor boys and girls, themselves, into our coast communities to work in our plants has over-taxed our facilities and brought about a juvenile problem that is plaguing the officials of these communities. If

you have read the papers the past few days you know what a serious problem it is in the city of Seattle and vicinity and I doubt that it is less serious in many of our other Northwest cities. War time always seems to relax moral standards and in this period we have more contributing factors than at any time before. Mothers and fathers are working, in many instances, shifts that give little opportunity to properly supervise their children. Teen age children, boys and girls, are here working in plants earning high wages which they spend without paternal supervision. While the natural tendency is to blame the parents for delinquent children, I am reluctant to subscribe to that view. I still believe most parents want their children to grow into upright men and women. Most of these people can't solve this problem themselves. They need help and will be grateful for it.

Our American children as a whole are sound and the great majority has as much self-respect as ever but they fall into habits that make delinquents of them for want of something better to do. While the churches and all character building organizations are doing efficient work along this particular line, the fraternal societies have an opportunity to render outstanding service through their respective subordinate societies in local communities. The whole population needs awakening to the fact that spiritual values are more important than material values. Therefore, the adult members of the fraternal societies should strive to set an example of fine morals and good citizenship for the juvenile members and in the years to come, these young people will be eternally grateful for starting them on the right pathway to happiness and success. Your goal should be to add another million to your juvenile membership and by so doing, you will be making a great contribution to our beloved country in these trying times.

I urge you to have set up in each of your subordinate organizations an active committee to work with local authorities and social agencies in the solution of this grave problem. Your members are largely fathers and mothers and on these committees they can contribute much from their experience and practical thinking.

At 6:30 a banquet was served and later various forms of entertainment and again more speakers were on the program. This year's congress will go down in history as being the first congress session to have as its principle speaker, the Governor of the state, Honorable Arthur B. Langlie. His theme was "Post War Reconstruction" and he pointed out some of the real opportunities fraternal societies will have to fit into the big programs that await us in the days ahead.

"The real heart of America," he said, "is that fraternal spirit, and when this war is over and men and women come back after having passed through those terrible experiences, it will be difficult for them to settle down and adjust themselves into this American life of ours again. Those men and women will need fraternal spirit. If they come into our organizations, all well and good, we can help them; if they don't we will have to go out and help them anyway, and if Americans need anything after the war, they need the spirit of brotherly love, that understanding, that ability to stamp out prejudice and hatred so prevalent during the war time, and believe me, fraternity in this

Congressional Record:

The Problems of Yugoslavia

THE PROBLEMS OF YUGOSLAVIA

Extension of Remarks of

Hon. Homer T. Bone in the Senate of the United States

Monday, March 13 (legislative day of Mon., February 7), 1944

Mr. BONE. Mr. President, on Tuesday, March 7, Mr. Louis Adamic, a prominent author, delivered an address at the Book and Authors' Club luncheon given by the New York Herald-Tribune in the city of New York. This address dealt with important events transpiring in Yugoslavia. In discussing these problems, Mr. Adamic is discussing the problems of his own people.

I am sure that those who read the "Congressional Record" will find in his remarks something of great interest to them. The address will be particularly interesting to those who have viewed with amazement the fact that the people of that small country, oppressed by the terrors of war and bowed beneath a weight of economic woe which is too great for us to understand, are compelled to maintain a useless little king whom the press assures us is receiving \$600,000 per annum from funds of Yugoslavia.

I ask unanimous consent that the address may be printed in the Appendix of the "Record."

There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the "Record" as follows:

Big Event in 1941

In late years many important events occurred in March, and so this is a month of some important anniversaries. But I think none is more noteworthy than the third anniversary of what happened in Yugoslavia on March 27, 1941.

On that day the people of Yugoslavia turned against Hitler and against their own pro-Hitler regime, and thereby treated the depressed anti-Axis world to an extraordinary demonstration of the human spirit. Thereby, also, the Yugoslavs unwittingly assumed the spiritual-political leadership toward a new future in Europe. For inherent in March 27, 1941, was the Partisan-Liberation movement of today, which, led by

country can mean more than it has in the past generation—and it has meant a lot in the past—if not more in the future. I realize in these war years fraternal organizations are not as active in communities as in past years, but they are carrying on, building up reserves and if each organization will understand the wonderful part they play in modernization and will continue fraternal activities so that after this war they can reach out and present a finer, broader spirit, a better understanding between men and women who realize the real basic value in the American way of life in sharing companionship, sharing responsibility, sharing troubles, sharing jobs: if we can put out that message to the fraternal organizations, it will mean so much to us after the war."

I believe that a great deal of information can be gleaned from these sessions, for the talks given by the members of the larger fraternals are very interesting and informative, although many of their problems do not concern us as yet, but as we go along and expand and modernize our society, I am sure the information will prove to be of great value.

The fifteenth annual convention of the Washington State Fraternal Congress was brought to a close with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Mary G. Balint

Tito, carries within itself more meaning and promise for the future than anything else I can see right now.

Three years ago the people of Yugoslavia, surrounded by the Axis on all sides, suddenly overthrew the pro-Hitler dictatorship in Belgrade, which had aimed shamefully to keep them out of war by signing a pact with Hitler.

This act of the Yugoslav people was regarded then by many in America as crazy and unrealistic. There was no doubt that Hitler would attack Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav action of 3 years ago certainly was unique. It may be the only instance of a people toppling over their government partly because it had tried to keep them out of war with a powerful enemy.

At that time Russia and America were not yet in the war, and there was meager faith in the world that brutality was not going to triumph. Hitler was top dog in the world, and his troops were about to pass through Yugoslavia to help Mussolini finish off the Greeks.

But the Yugoslavs decided not to permit that. In Belgrade, the people went into the streets. Peasants poured into the capital. There was a sudden revolutionary mood, especially strong in the Serbians.

This development in the streets of Belgrade and in other parts of Yugoslavia gave courage to a small group of army officers, some of them British agents, who on March 27, 1941, staged a coup and tossed out the pro-Hitler regime.

This was the best news until then.

Uprising Was Spontaneous

What happened was a people's spontaneous uprising, a magnificent human upheaval, coupled with a putsch, rather than a political action with aims and a program.

For a dozen years before, Yugoslavia had been a dictatorship, a scene of deep political confusion and unhappiness, which was not a peculiarly Yugoslav situation, but an organic part of the larger European mess.

Now, in the absence of a definite program, there came into office a new government with a newly proclaimed king, the 17-year-old Peter. But this government did not represent the spiritually splendid moment created by the people; rather, it brought to a focus the climax and confusion of the recent past. It included a few good politicians, but also some ministers who had been in the pro-Hitler regime the day before, also a former dictator, also several chauvinists with minds harking back to the Middle Ages.

There was no time for the confusion to clear up, no time to do anything, in fact. On April 6 Hitler struck and in 10 days overwhelmed the Yugoslav army, much as he had overwhelmed the armies of Poland, Norway and France.

Nonetheless, what happened in Yugoslavia 3 years ago on the initiative of the people was a major contribution to the anti-Axis cause. Hitler's appointment was upset in Yugoslavia, even if only for a few weeks. It delayed Hitler's attack on Russia. That was important, for it gave Russia that much more time to get ready for the invasion by Germany which came in June.

Also, what happened in Yugoslavia 3 years ago had immense morale value in occupied Europe, in Britain, and America—at a time when the world needed a shot in the arm.

The new government with King Peter fled into exile, and now—in mid-April, 1941—Yugoslav people found themselves under the most brutal occupation.

But as tragic and sordid as the situation was, it had favorable points. The people were left to their own resources; their old leadership was gone; they had a chance to crystallize their national traditions and instincts. And they lost no time.

Liberation Front Organization

Only a week after the lapse of Yugoslavia the Liberation Front organization was created in my native Slovenia. It was done—as later in Croatia, in Montenegro, in Bosnia, etc.—under the leadership of people who had no previous standing as political figures. One of the leaders was a literary critic, whom I know. He did a fine job of it, and is now head of the Liberation Front in Slovenia, which is engaging enemy divisions and pressing down the Italian boot.

But to return to April 1941, the people began to go into woods and mountains, into mountains and Slovenians, Catholics, Orthodox, Moslems, people of many political tendencies: Democrats, Independents, Agrarians, Socialists and Communists; men and women, boys and girls even in their early teens; peasants, writers, shoemakers, teachers, fishermen, housewives with babies, and priests—people by thousands, then tens of thousands, then hundreds of thousands.

Someone killed a German Italian and took his gun, and killed a few more of the enemy, and thus got more guns, and were passed around.

Thus the resistance grew. Presently, in the summer of 1941, these people who were arming themselves by the enemy began to accept the leadership of men who had fought on the Loyalist side in Spain, or who had been in underground during the days of dictatorship in Yugoslavia. (To be continued)

A LANDING PARTY YOU CAN JOIN





