



ZARJA - THE DAWN

URADNO GLASILO
SLOVENSKE ŽENSKÉ ZVEZE V AMERIKI

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA

NUMBER 9-10

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1995

VOLUME 67



DELEGATES AND OFFICERS
Slovenian Women's Union of America
22nd National Convention, May 19-21, 1995
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



ZARJA - THE DAWN

(ISSN 0044-1848)

Postmaster: Send all changes of address to: ZARJA - THE DAWN, 4851 S. Drexel Blvd., Chicago, IL 60615

NO. 9-10 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1995 VOL. 67

Member, Illinois Fraternal Congress

Official Publication of the Slovenian Women's Union of America —
Uradno glasilo Slovenske Ženske Zveze.

Published monthly except January, June & August — izhaja vsak
mesec razen januar, junij in avgust.

Annual Subscription for non-members, \$15.00 — naročnina \$15.00
letno za ne-članice.

Publisher: SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA
431 No. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432
Telephone (815) 727-1926

Second Class Postage paid at Chicago, IL.

All communications for the next issue of publication must be in the
hands of the Editor by the first week of the month — vsi dopisi za naslednjo
izdajo mesečnika morajo biti v rokah urednice do 1. v mesecu.

Editor, CORINNE LESKOVAR

Editorial Office: 4851 S. Drexel Blvd., Chicago, IL 60615
Telephone: (312) 548-8878

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sep. 10 MINNESOTA STATE CONVENTION, Br. 39,
Biwabik, MN hosts
- Sep. 17 WISCONSIN STATE CONVENTION & 65TH AN-
NIVERSARY, Br. 43, Milwaukee, WI hosts
- Sep. 20 Commemorative Mass, Br. 32, Euclid, OH at St. Chris-
tine's Church, 7 p.m.
- Sep. 27 Picnic, Br. 50, Euclid, OH
- Oct. 1 ILLINOIS-INDIANA STATE CONVENTION, Br. 95,
So. Chicago, IL hosts
- Oct. 15 OHIO-MICHIGAN STATE CONVENTION, Br. 25,
Cleveland, OH hosts
- Oct. 18 Chinese Auction, Br. 32, Euclid, OH
- Oct. 19 FALL LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW, Br. 12, Mil-
waukee, WI
- Oct. 21 COMMEMORATIVE MASS, Br. 5, Indianapolis, IN.
Holy Trinity Church, 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 25 COMMUNION BREAKFAST, Br. 5, Indianapolis, IN,
Holy Trinity Church, 9 a.m. followed by breakfast
- Dec. 7 Christmas Party, Br. 12, Milwaukee, WI

HABERMANN
Funeral Home
805 N. 6th Street
Sheboygan, WI 53081

TEZAK FUNERAL HOME

Welcomes Lydia Marquardt to their professional staff of pre-arrangement Counselor's
Licensed Producer's: Richard K. Tezak Lydia Marquardt LUTCF (741-0427)
(Forethought Trust) American Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ)
Call for information and a free booklet "For Future Reference"
(815) 722-0524

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Presidents:

- Sep. 5 - Ann Kapel, Br. 100, Fontana, CA
Sep. 10 - Agnes Widina, Br. 26, Pittsburgh, PA
Sep. 17 - Stavia Dobersek, Br. 12, Milwaukee, WI
Sep. 24 - Mildred Lipnos, Br. 42, Maple Hgts., OH
Sep. 27 - Florence Holland, Br. 35, Aurora, MN

Secretaries:

- Sep. 2 - Joanne Ponikvar, Br. 54, Warren, OH
Sep. 9 - Helen Sebastiani, Br. 22, Bradley, IL
Sep. 10 - Mary Dezman, Br. 12, Milwaukee, WI
Sep. 28 - Patricia Adamic, Br. 105, Detroit, MI

National Officers:

- Oct. 9 - Corinne Leskovar, Editor, Chicago, IL

Presidents:

- Oct. 5 - Rose Ann Prey, Br. 89, Oglesby, IL
Oct. 10 - Mary E. Roso, Br. 45, Portland, OR
Oct. 12 - Edna Winters, Br. 16, So. Chicago, IL
Oct. 13 - Olga Dorchak, Br. 47, Garfield Hts., OH
Oct. 15 - Rose Bradach, Br. 68, Fairport Harbor, OH
Oct. 15 - Mildred James, Br. 95, So. Chicago, IL
Oct. 17 - Charlene Kobe, Br. 20, Joliet, IL
Oct. 23 - Mary Tekavec, Br. 3, Pueblo, CO
Oct. 23 - Nancy Satkovich, Br. 97, Cairnbrook, PA
Oct. 28 - Mary Bratovich, Br. 79, Enumclaw, WA

Secretaries:

- Oct. 11 - Mary Jermenc, Br. 85, Depue, IL
Oct. 14 - Frances Simonich, Br. 3, Pueblo, CO
Oct. 22 - Mary F. Mohr, Br. 5, Indianapolis, IN
Oct. 31 - Mary Taucher, Br. 47, Garfield Hgts., OH



SEPTEMBER

MINNESOTA SEPT. 10
Br. 39, Biwabik, MN

WISCONSIN SEPT. 17th
Br. 43, Milwaukee, WI
Congratulations on your 65th Anniversary!

OCTOBER

ILLINOIS-INDIANA OCT. 1
Br. 95, South Chicago, IL

OHIO-MICHIGAN OCT. 15
Br. 25, Cleveland, OH

CONVENTION ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY OUR NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Madam President, Father Chris, Board Members (Past and Incoming), Delegates and Guests:

Thank you for this great honor and vote of confidence. Since May 1st I reached my 60th birthday, was honored as our Branch "Woman of the Year," saw my oldest granddaughter graduate from college, and now I leave this convention as your National President!!! I am overwhelmed!!

My sincere wish is that you might leave this convention with all of it's high points (or disappointments) with a closer understanding of the up-hill battle facing our beloved Zveza; and that you will be inspired to go back to your local Branch with some ideas for strengthening S.W.U. from the base up.

We have heard for three days how fragile our organization is, financially, and we have heard strong and varying opinions on ways to increase our membership and re-vitalize our branches; from involving our husbands, to changing the name of our organization, to tightening our belts, to cutting down the number of issues of ZARJA... the list goes on. Most of these have been thoughtfully considered by your Board. Now you have many new faces in your leadership, and these newly-elected and appointed women are all as dedicated to Marie Prislant's dream of a "Union of Slovenian Women" as you, or they would not presume to accept this awesome challenge.

I want to ask for all of your co-operation for the next four years. go back home and report on our accomplishments and hopes here in a positive and encouraging manner. In a democracy the majority rules, and your selected delegates have voted for certain changes that will prove beneficial to all. Say a prayer at home and at every meeting for the continued success, the right direction, and the very Life of Zveza. (Father Chris will, I know, after witnessing this convention, storm heaven with his prayers) and I will join you in a circle of prayer, that God will bless our efforts.

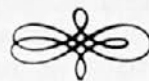
We have tilled in Tory's garden for eight years, recruiting new members and strengthening our local branches. As a farmer, my favorite time of year is the harvest, when we reap the fruits of that garden.

As we come to the 70th year of S.W.U. with God's help, we will continue to uphold our Founder's ideals, and together we will bring S.W.U. into the 20th century on a secure, sound and harmonious future.

* * *

My unexpected election to the National Presidency in San Francisco and my first Board meeting in Joliet have both been humbling experiences. Since my return home I have been looking over past Board of Directors' minutes and President's message in ZARJA, and I realize how much has been accomplished on a national scale in keeping all the members "joined" even though we are so far apart geographically. I can see that the success of our S.W.U. depends on a shared goal and on dedicated and active leaders, working in harmony to accomplish those goals. I believe your delegates have elected such women; all willing to preserve our strengths and unite us in our differences. Please pray for the continuing growth of S.W.U. Our new membership slogan is "Start With Us."

Jean Korsman



New National President Jean Korsman lives near Gilbert, Minnesota on a 240-acre potato farm. Together, Jean and Roy, her husband of 14 years, have six children and 21 grandchildren.

Jean has been active in her S.W.U. local branch 39, Biwabik, MN for several years, serving as President for six years, and as Minnesota State President for a four year term. She was a first-time delegate to the 1991 National convention in Cleveland.

Jean belongs to St. John's Church, Biwabik, MN and has served twice on the parish council.

Jean survived bilateral breast cancer in 1985 and has been an active volunteer for the American Cancer Society serving on the Unit Board, and trained as a "Reach To Recovery" worker for eight years. She served two terms as the President of the American Cancer Society, St. Louis County Central.

Jean lists her hobbies as gardening, baking and traveling.

A lovely life-story of Jean appearing in the May, 1995 ZARJA as she was chosen Mother of the Year this year. The story is written by her daughter, Kathy Riordan and we recommend it to your perusal so that you become better acquainted with our new National President who humbly submitted only the brief biographical sketch above.

Editor

THE SAN FRANCISCO SPIRIT LIVES ON!

NO. 13, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

A Warm Hello From Br. 13!

I would like to share with all of you the wonderful and proud feeling that I have about our Branch having hosted the 1995 Convention in our City By The Bay – San Francisco. It was just great to meet so many members from across the states. A Big Thank You from the bottom of my heart to our Chairman, Barbara Chiodo, and our National Vice President, Beverly Jackson, for the job they did in arranging everything from start to finish. They have spent the last two years putting their hearts and souls into this convention. They promised us the time of our lives and they sure lived up to their word. We will have many wonderful memories for many years to come. Barbara and Beverly, I'm very proud of both of you, and I Love You both very much. Also to my wonderful daughter, Michele Twers, who put together all of the bus trips which everyone enjoyed and will always remember. Also thank you to Ceta Zager and my sister, Virginia Sustarich who helped in the Hospitality Room – also yours truly, Me!!!

Thanks to our Choir from the Church of the Nativity who came to sing at our beautiful mass held at Notre Dame Des Victoires Church. Also, thank you Diana Fir (also a member of Br. 13) who sang so beautifully at our convention, and to Bob Mueller who played his accordian every day.

Branch 13 was very proud to have hosted the banquet on the final day at our very own Slovenian Hall. It was a wonderful convention and I am so proud and happy that it happened in San Francisco!

JOSEPHINE AIUTO,
President

Pictures courtesy Josephine Mistic,
Br. 50, Cleveland, Ohio



HISTORY-MAKING SWU CONVENTION

Officers and Delegates participate in landmark decisions



MINUTES OF THE 22ND NATIONAL CONVENTION

May 19-21, 1995, San Francisco, CA

Minutes from the Twenty-Second National Convention of the Slovenian Women's Union of America. Convention held in San Francisco, California and headquartered at the Canterbury Hotel.

The convention was called to order by National President Tory Bobence at 8:00 o'clock a.m.

Report from the Credential Committee was called for and presented by the Chairman, Cirila Kermavner. Committee members were named as follows:

Pat Figurowski (No. 20)
Ceta Zagar (No. 13)
Diane Varney (No. 14)
Charlotte Laurich (No. 38)
Kathy Schroeder (No. 1)

Credentials for thirty-five (35) delegates had been received and reviewed and found to be in order. The voting delegation of forty-eight (48) included ten (10) members of the National Board of Directors and three (3) Regional Presidents.

A motion was called for to accept the report of the Credential Committee. Anka Kregar (No. 55) made the motion to accept. Motion was seconded and carried.

Opening ceremonies began with a greeting from Father Christian Gostečnik, OFM who expressed his delight and honor to be with us for our convention, thanking Branch No. 13 for their invitation. He recalled his knowledge of Founder Marie Priland and extended an invitation to Ženska Zveza to visit Slovenia in 1996 which will mark our Seventieth Anniversary. The Invocation followed Father Christian's remarks, asking for guidance in all the major decisions that must be reached during the convention.

The National Anthem was sung by Frank Shepel of Ely, Minnesota, followed by our Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of the National Board, Regional Presidents and delegates was heard and recorded by Olga Ancel, National Secretary.

Rules of Order were presented by Beverly Jackson. Questions were called for, none were presented and the meeting continued.

Barbara Chiodo, Convention Chairman, called on Adrienne Micklich, Soudan, Minnesota (No. 34) who in turn made a presentation to President Tory Bobence, acknowledging all the past dedication she has given to not only the National Board but also to their branch.

Director of the planned tours (Michelle) addressed the group regarding times, means of transportation, etc... Punctuality was stressed.

Branch No. 13 President, Josephine Aiuto, welcomed the group to San Francisco, expressed their appreciation for the response and thanked the committee who had handled so many details.

Chairman Chiodo clarified items regarding the agenda and tours. Meeting was then turned over to the president.

President Tory Bobence addressed the delegates and visitors and reminded those in attendance to abide by the convention rules. If problems arise and guests/visitors do

not conform to these rules, they will be asked to leave the assembly. A time limit on discussions will be placed at three minutes. Warnings will be given appropriately and anyone addressing particular issues are to honor those warnings. President also advised delegates that if necessary, unfinished business would be conducted at evening meetings after the conclusion of the planned tours.

The podium was given to Beverly Jackson and the introduction of the keynote speaker was next in order and Barbara Chiodo's credentials as a native of San Francisco, a Slovene member of Branch No. 13, having served in many public offices and a contender for the U.S. Congress in 1990 was introduced. Chiodo spoke on preserving our Slovene Heritage, and asked that we look at decisions that have to be made during these three days that will effect our future, pointing out that we (Ženska Zveza) is on a bumpy road and three things will help us survive: 1.) Leadership, 2.) Communication, 3.) Giving of one's self. She gave us food for thought when comparing the modern day women to our mothers. Her message was well received by all present.

A greeting was presented from San Francisco's Mayor, Frank Jordan, in the person of Martha Cohen. She welcomed us to the city on behalf of the Mayor, read in part a proclamation for the convention, declaring May 19th, 1995 Slovenian Women's Day in San Francisco.

The gavel used for our 1995 Convention was brought from the Heritage Museum. It had used in 1936 for the National Convention in San Francisco.

President Bobence outlined the topics of discussion that would be addressed during the convention, namely: increasing all dues, direct billing, term limits, ZARJA.

Report of the By-Laws Committee was called for and presented by Chairman, Corinne Leskovar. The committee was introduced as follows:

Leslie Telich (No. 25)
Jean Korsman (No. 39)
Charlene Kobe (No. 20)
Marge Church (No. 42)
Irene Odorizzi (No. 103)

Articles of Incorporation were reviewed with discussion on two possible changes. However, it was decided that the Articles would remain as compiled. The Preamble also remains the same. Proposals on the following Articles were read:

Regarding Article I - No Change
Regarding Article II - Paragraph a) change "--and of the Catholic faith" to read "be a Christian."
Regarding Article III - No Change
Regarding Article IV - No Change
Regarding Article V - No Change
Charter from the State of Illinois, Department of Insurance remains unchanged.

By-Laws as amended at this convention will read as follows:

Declaration of Principle: remains the same.

Article I, Name and Location: remains the same.

Article II, Formation, Purposes and Governing Laws: remains the same.

Article III, Membership: regarding Adult Class A will be deleted. New members as of the date of this convention will ALL be admitted as Class B members. Wording will be changed from "member" to read "member(s)", and from "she" to "their". (3.03, refer 9.02)

Monthly payments will be done away with and dues paid on a yearly basis will be requested.

3.12 To read: Members who fail to pay their assessment by the third month of every year will be cancelled and shall forfeit all benefits for any insurance claims submitted in the remaining portion of the year. Any member who has failed to pay her assessment by the third month of the year may be reinstated any time during that year upon payment of the full delinquent assessment and current assessment. A member who does not pay her full assessment nor is reinstated that year, may join as a new member at a later date if she meets age requirements.

Discussion followed on the need for Direct Billing and the advantages to the organization and to local branches. The matter was address by delegates from Branches 20, 55, 16, 47, and 25.

Article IV: National Convention: 4.05: The words "in a roll call vote" are deleted from the paragraph.

Article V: Directors: 5.02: Sentence shall read: It shall have administrative and executive authority to conduct the business of the association and to regulate the affairs of the branches in a manner "consistent" with the decisions of the National Convention, -----"

5.03: Members of the Board of Directors will be elected at the National Convention "by secret ballot" for terms of four years each.

Article VI: Committees, remains the same.

Article VII: National Officers. 7.01, Seven members of the Board of Directors,

Director of Women's Activities

Director of Youth Activities

Scholarship Fund Director

Cultural/Heritage Director

Members of the National Board of Directors may serve in their individual positions for a maximum of two (2) terms. The National Officers, namely the Directors of Women's Activities, Youth Activities, Scholarship Fund and Cultural/Heritage Activities, are appointed by unanimous decision of the Board of Directors. Candidates for these offices must be members in good standing with the association, must meet the qualifications of the particular office for which they have been selected and have an appreciation of Slovenian Heritage.

7.03: The National President will be elected at each National Convention "for a term limit of two (2) terms of four (4) years each."

7.05: The National Vice President will have the same qualifications as the National President and will be elected at each National Convention "for a limit of two (2) terms of four (4) years each."

7.07: The National Secretary will be elected at each National Convention "for a limit of two (2) terms of four (4) years each."

7.12: The National Treasurer will be elected at each National Convention "for a limit of two (2) terms of four (4) years each."

7.13.b. At the end of the paragraph, add: "and Cultural and Heritage Committee Director."

7.16 The Editor of ZARJA will be "selected by the Board of Directors."

7.20: The Director of the Scholarship Committee is "appointed by the Board of Directors."

7.21: The Director of Women's Activities is "appointed by the Board of Directors."

7.22: The Director of Youth Activities is "appointed by the Board of Directors."

7.23: The Cultural and Heritage Director "appointed by the Board of Directors."

7.24: The Spiritual Advisor may be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Article VIII: Initiative and Referendum: Remains the same.

Article IX: Assessments, Investments, Income and Disbursements.

9.02: The yearly assessment is payable "one time per year in the months of January and February."

(Effective 1-1-96 no new Class A Members will be accepted.)

The regular "yearly" assessments as follows:

a) Adult, Class A: \$12.00 per year

b) Adult, Class B: \$15.00 per year

c) Adult, Class A: \$8.00 per year
(over 75 years of age)

d) Adult, Class B: \$10.00 per year
(over 75 years of age)

e) Associate, Class A: \$12.00 per year

f) Associate, Class B: \$15.00 per year

g) Junior Dept.: \$4.00 per year

h) Social Dept.: \$15.00 per year

9.05.a) All "yearly" and special assessments.

Article X, Official Organ, remains the same.

Article XI, Junior Department, remains the same.

Article XII, Regional Convention, remains the same.

Article XIII, Branch Meetings, remains the same.

Article XIV, Branch Officers as follows:

In the event there is insufficient number of willing and adult department members to fill vacant branch offices, (ELIMINATE: the branch may apply for a dispensation from). The National Board of Directors may allow the election of Social Department members to any branch office, except that of president or secretary.

Article XV, remains the same.

Article XVI, remains the same.

After the proposals were read, and each delegate had time to review their printed copy, a vote was taken to accept the proposals. Majority vote was received. Discussion on changes was had and delegates expressed their opinions/concerns.

Regarding the yearly assessment, Jonita Ruth (No. 20) moved that the dues be raised to \$15.00 across the board. Motion was seconded. A lengthy but controlled discussion followed and branches questioned the effects on amount of insurance that members had, i.e., paying \$15.00 for a \$100 benefit, or \$15.00 for a \$300 benefit (Marge Church, No.

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

Dear Officers and Members,

As a result of the National Convention in San Francisco, many changes have taken place, and will continue to take place within Slovenska Ženska Zveza. We have "stood in place" too long, and now we must catch up with the world around us. We are nearing the turn of the century, certainly this is something all of us will remember in the next century. By the same token, let's be proud that our organization is able to enter the new century. We ask that all of you accept the changes that come your way. Your cooperation is essential to the continuing life of Slovenian Women's Union.

First and foremost is the collection of assessments. Secretaries' dues should already be paid for the remainder of the year. If any members are in arrears at this time, we ask that you contact them and remind them of what they owe. Several branches have already paid into September and October. This is a great help to our financial picture. We thank you for your time and effort.

Please do not collect any dues for 1996 until notified of the new direct billing system.

Effective immediately, please forward any mail regarding dues, policy changes, death benefits, correspondence to:

Slovenian Women's Union, P.O. Box 46539, Bedford, Ohio 44146

Thank you for helping to make our job easier. It is all for the benefit of S.W.U.

Respectfully,

Evelyn A. Majercik, National Secretary

42). It was explained that such items would have to be investigated and a pro ratio would probably have to be established. The following delegates participated in the discussion:

Ceta Zagar, No. 13
Rosemary Mlakar, No. 100
Anne Orazem, No. 35
Angela Nico, No. 89
Steffie Segulin, No. 10
Charlotte Laurich, No. 38
Olga Dorchak, No. 47
Jonita Ruth, No. 20

Ceta Zagar called for the question regarding the dues being raised to \$15.00 across the board, including Social members. The proposal was read by Jonita Ruth (No. 20) and moved that the same be accepted. A vote was called for, delegates standing to be counted. Thirteen (13) voted in favor of the proposal. Proposal defeated.

Jean Korsman (No. 39) moved that the initial proposal presented by the Board of Directors, eliminating all Class A from new membership, be accepted. Motion seconded. A standing count was taken, with 27 delegates in favor. Passed.

The matter on Social Members being able to serve as officers was discussed. Social Members may be officers, except for the office of President or Treasurer. The National Board must approve the appointment/election. It was felt that this need arises because of our dwindling membership, aging of present members and reluctance of "active" members to take office.

A vote was taken to accept the changes and was passed by a majority.

After a short break, the meeting continued with correspondence read by Olga Ancel from the following:

Mary Marolt, Past National Treasurer
Irene Jagodnik, Past National Auditor
American Slovenian Catholic Union
Branch No. 73
Branch No. 47

Flowers received at the convention from Father Paul at the Croatian Franciscan Press were acknowledged.

At this time it was noted that in the packet of reports that each delegate received, reports from Regional Presi-

dents, namely Rosemary Mlakar and Evelyn Majercik, were not included for review.

The subject of Direct Billing was addressed. Initial discussion on the matter was presented by Evelyn Majercik (Regional Pres., Ohio-Mich.) with the need for the process to begin being stressed. Pat Figurovski (No. 20) inquired about the way the branches would receive their dues (if same is assessed) when dues would be paid directly to Home Office. She likewise questioned cost of starting the process, the purchase of a computer, etc. It was explained that branch dues would be forwarded to the treasurers to those branches who collect an assessment above the assigned dues. It was likewise explained that the increase in the dues would include the \$1.00 per member assessment as passed at the 1991 convention. Jean Zeleznikar (No. 2) questioned the process of change-over. It was explained that it would be a gradual process, perhaps a few branches at a time, and certainly would not be in effect before January 1, 1996.

Many problems of collecting dues were expressed, ranging from inability to contact members, to late payments, including elderly on fixed incomes/in nursing homes. It was the overall opinion that Direct Billing would be the solution to many problems.

Beverly Jackson (No. 13) called for a motion on Direct Billing. Move was seconded and on a vote taken, only two (2) negative votes were received.

ZARJA was the next matter on the agenda. Jonita Ruth (No. 20) questioned whether we should investigate the possibility of changing publishing companies. Corinne Leskovar addressed the issue and reported that she had already had bids from two other companies. One copy of ZARJA containing 32 pages with 4 cover pages and a mailing of 5,500 copies as printed by the Croatian Franciscan Press, our present publisher, costs \$4,820 including all phases (set-up, photo plates, ads, postage etc.). The second closest bid for the same standards was \$9,690. In addition to the printing costs, postage for 5,500 copies is \$750.00. A bi-monthly publication would present restrictions. Corinne feels that the proposal by the Board of Directors for eight (8) issues is workable.

Suggestions were received on ways that ZARJA could be kept at its' present status. Jonita Ruth (No. 20) suggested each branch taking an ad to support the magazine.

Because of a time limit on our meeting, this portion of the meeting was adjourned for the day, to reconvene at 8:00 a.m. Saturday.

Saturday, May 20, 1995. After the group photo was taken, our meeting was again called to order by President, Tory Bobence. Father Chris offered a prayer for the delegates asking for guidance in the task of election of new officers that would take place later in the meeting.

Barbara Chiodo advised delegates/visitors regarding afternoon activities, asking everyone to be prompt.

Nika Kovacic (No. 103) spoke for the Heritage Museum and the display in the meeting room, asking those present to support the effort being put forth. She also recalled the National Convention that was held in Washington, D.C. thirty years ago.

The matter of ZARJA and its publication was again the focus of the meeting. Several branches expressed desire to publish eight (8) issues per year, that six (6) issues would not be sufficient to cover events, etc. that members look for information on when their copies arrive. Diane Varney (No. 14) questioned cancelled subscriptions, reporting that it had been brought to her attention that in instances where a member had died, the magazine was still being received. Also, it was brought to the attention of the convention that members are passing on their issues to non-members who enjoy reading the magazine -- these parties should be asked to join Ženska Zveza and receive their own copies. Josephine Grabowski (No. 24) questioned the possibility of putting ZARJA on a subscription basis. It was felt that this was not workable.

Jonita Ruth (No. 20) moved that ZARJA be kept at eight (8) issues per year. Motion seconded. Carried.

Evelyn Majercik explained "Common Cents" for ZARJA and a collection of pennies did take place after the meeting.

Communications that had been received were presented by Olga Ancel. A note from Hermine Dicke, expressing her disappointment in not being present. Delegation was

advised that a few days earlier Hermine was hospitalized with a ruptured appendix and was still in the hospital, but recovering from her surgery.

A letter was read from Marie F. Konchan, Tuckerton, New Jersey whose mother, Mary Koshier (No. 93, Brooklyn, N.Y.) had passed away in March, 1995. Mrs. Koshier had changed her beneficiary on her policy to the Heritage Museum and the Baraga Church/Monastery in Michigan. Mrs. Koshier, age 90, had made several trips to Slovenia and on one trip she brought back with her a spinning wheel which, before her death, she asked be donated to the Heritage Museum. Ms. Kochan further included a \$25.00 donation for ZARJA and asked that a membership form be sent to her, that she might carry on her mother's tradition, stating that she did not want to miss any issue of ZARJA. Ms. Konchan's letter was heartily received with a round of applause and an admiration for what S.W.U. means to her, a non-member at the time.

A greeting was also received from Branch No. 55, Girard, Ohio.

The delegation was advised that Hermine Dicke had resigned as Editor of Pots and Pans, a replacement would be needed. The job is extensive, involves receiving and testing recipes to be compiled into the ZARJA column. Considerations would be given to those interested.

Regarding the agenda for the convention and materials provided for review, Jonita Ruth (No. 20) expressed dismay about the brevity of the agenda and the incompleteness of the materials. A lack of communication seemed to be the reason for the way the materials were gathered. An apology was made by President Bobence for the subsequent inconvenience to the delegates.

The report of the Nominating Committee was called for and the Chairman, Josephine Lustik, (No. 20) asked for time to approach the few remaining candidates selected. A one-half hour break was taken.

(Minutes to be continued)

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING WESTERN STATES

San Francisco, CA, May 20, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Western States Regional President, Rosemary Mlakar at 8:50 a.m. The purpose of the meeting was to elect a new Western States Regional President for the new four year term.

Those in attendance were:

Mary Bratovich (Branch #79)

Jeanette Eckert (Branch #100)

Mary Kell (Branch #79)

Rosemary Mlakar (Branch #100)

Dorothy Sleigh (Branch #79)

Mary Lou Vidergar (Branch #100)

Mary Bratovich and Dorothy Sleigh were both nominated for this office. Mary Bratovich respectfully declined.

Dorothy Sleigh was unanimously elected.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Vidergar
Acting Recording Secretary

NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND DIRECTOR SOUGHT

The Board of Directors announces that the position of SWU Scholarship Fund Director is vacant. Any member interested may submit a r sum  to the National President, Jean Korsman, 4222 McKinley Road, Gilbert, MN 55741, telephone (218) 865-6020. The Scholarship Fund Director's duties are found in the SWU By-laws 7.20. Deadline for applications is November 1, 1995.

Interim Director of this Fund is Marge Church, Nat'l Auditor. She will accept all donations at 1028 Skyland Dr., Macedonia, OH 44056. Telephone (216) 467-0696.

CONVENTION MASS

was held at the beautiful church named Notre Dame des Victories, located a few blocks from our Convention Hotel. Wending their way to the church on Sunday afternoon was a procession of our members and friends, led by the group dressed in Slovenian National Costume. The church is a beautiful edifice outside, situated on a hill. Inside, one's breath is taken away by the sight of the long aisle that culminates in a beautiful sanctuary.



Newly-elected National President, Jean Korsman presented a floral bouquet as a mass gift while out-going President, Victoria Bobence participated as a reader and Vida Kumše, delegate of Br. 16, So. Chicago, IL gave a second reading in Slovenian. The Memorial tribute to our Founder and all members who have departed from our midst was made by Kathy Schroeder, delegate of Br. 1, Sheboygan, WI.



The petitioners represented the various states of the U.S.A., namely, Ann Tercek (Br. 50) Ohio, Angela Nico (Br. 89) Illinois, Charlotte Laurich (Br. 38) Minnesota, Mary Kell (Br. 79), Washington, Mary Staut (Br. 102), Wisconsin, Matilda Ausich (Br. 103), Washington, D.C., Kathleen Emerson (Br. 105) Michigan, and Rosemary Mlakar (Br. 100) California. Each petition was appropriate and expressed a mutually felt prayer.

Guest mass celebrant was Fr. Christian Gostečnik, a Franciscan priest representing the Slovenian Franciscan Fathers in Lemont, Ill. He was joined at the altar by Fr. David Stalzer, pastor of St. Mary Nativity Church in Joliet, IL, spiritual advisor of Br. 20. Fr. Chris' homily stressed the relationship we feel to our Zveza mothers and the maternal spirit that has directed the Slovenian Women's Union since its inception by Mrs. Prislant, pointing out the ways in which motherhood is a strong bond not only in our families, but also in our churches, our communities and in the SWU. Fr. Chris also invited all the out-going officers, to each extend the sign of peace to members of the congregation. The choir sang beautifully under the direction of Mr. Aleš Simenc and soloist, Diana Fir gave us many more emotional moments with her soaring voice.

Many San Franciscans attended the Mass and expressed their joy at hearing their favorite Slovenian hymns and Mass prayers directed especially to our Slovenian families.

As many members know, having read Beverly Jackson's reports on the closing of the San Francisco Slovenian church last year, this mass celebration was nostalgic for many.



EDITOR'S REFLECTION ON THE PASSING OF SWU HISTORY

Zveza has had many combinations of Mothers and Daughters working for the organization. It begins with our Founder, Marie Priland, whose children all helped SWU in various capacities. Daughter, Margaret was secretary of Br. 1 for many years; son, Theodore supplied art work for ZARJA (Urna Než'ka was his creation) and the cookbooks. Daughter, Hermine Dicke has been attentively working for Zveza for more than 30 years, most recently as director of the food column, Pots & Pans in ZARJA and as Scholarship Director. Hermine has just retired and we wish her well with good health and happiness.

Another recently retired National Officer is Marion Marolt who began her duties at her mother's knee, too. Marie Floryan is remembered lovingly as the national leader of the Milwaukee-West Allis branches. Marion's daughter, Robin, was secretary of br. 17 until its recent merger.

President and Editor Albina Novak brought me, her daughter, into the editorship of ZARJA in 1952, where I have been ever since!

And, if we want to learn something about our retiring National Secretary, Olga Ancel, we need only to look into her Zveza beginnings. The Erjavec Mother-Daughter combination also worked for the good of Zveza. Josephine Erjavec's girls, Olga, Millie and Jonita, were always a part of the many activities organized by their mother, a past National Secretary and organizer of Br. 20.

And, Olga's children have participated in many ways. In 1991 Vera Ancel Muir wrote an "Ideology" for SWU that was heartily accepted at the National Convention stating the values and beliefs we, as an organization, hold dear.

Son, Joseph of Wisconsin Rapids, WI contributed to the ZARJA his Earth Day articles on Ecology; daughter, Nadine of Fairfax, VA had her articles on health; daughter Carita Girman of Indianapolis, IN presented her Heritage resolution in 1987 and has served as Scholarship Director. Her precious letter in the May issue of ZARJA created many comments; daughter Marie Benko of Patterson, NY wrote Regina II for the Junior page for two years and youngest

son, Andrew of Morgantown, WVA has sent a variety of interesting articles for our magazine.

This is indeed a family that has proven its loyalty to SWU and to all we say, thank you, thank you! When we hear Olga say: "Zveza has been in our blood all our lives," we know she speaks the truth.

It's sometimes interesting to learn how people get involved in their careers. Olga's began at birth when she was enrolled and concluded after a lifetime of service that ended at this last convention after the last 19 years as National Secretary. She got the job when a vacancy was left by the previous secretary at the convention in 1976. She credits her husband, Ed, with helping her make the decision. Ed, a summa cum laude graduate of St. Joseph's college and cost analyst for American and U.S. Steel, lent his full support. He's been right there all the time. He was present last May, also, as Olga was honored as "Woman of the Year" by the Joliet diocese for her Christian work and dedication. He proudly heard people extending their congratulations to Olga with words such as, "It's about time – a long overdue honor"!

I think it is only proper to say at this time to Olga and her family, our sincere thank you for not only the years and the efforts, but the heart she has given – that makes people think of the "SWU's" in Joliet with special love and admiration. Let me end with her own words, sent in just after the Convention:

"Thru the years I worked with our very cooperative branch officers, as well as with the Joliet Heritage committee responsible for financially establishing the museum and volunteering weekly and at special occasions. I also worked with many other branch officers especially branch secretaries, all of whom were understanding, cooperative and dedicated to Zveza.

I wish to thank everyone for the years of cooperation and words of encouragement. God bless and love you. Hvala lepa, and... Bog vas živi!"

DEAR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS!

Congratulations and best wishes to the newly-elected officers. May all your decisions be favorable to the organization. Thank you to Br. 13 officers and members for a very well-organized and memorable convention. You made it an enjoyable event. I am sure everyone went home with nothing by praise for all the work involved to make us feel at ease with your warm, western hospitality.

Thank you to the members who presented me with gifts at the convention. I was truly on Cloud 9!

Also, thank you to the officers and members of the SWU for the lovely pin and card sent to me for my years

of service as a National Officer. I have enjoyed working with the various officers through the years and have cherished all of the friendships that have been made.

To the outgoing officers, it was a pleasure to work with you. May you always have the dedication to be involved with SWU. May you always have a spot in your hearts for Zveza. I know I will.

The good Lord bless you all with many years of good health. May the SWU continue to grow, not only in membership, but keeping our ideals and standards up to the highest level as our organization has been known to do.

Marion M. Marolt
West Allis, WI

REGIONAL PRESIDENTS' REPORTS - Continued

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ANNUAL MEETING

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Regional Officers met twice during 1994... We socialized over breakfast at a local cafe in Biwabik to discuss our up-and-coming National Convention in San Francisco and also to discuss the Minnesota State Convention which was to be held in Sept. 1994 in Hibbing, MN. The branch presidents all got together on June 7 at Pappy's Restaurant in Virginia, MN (a central location) to address any concerns the various branches might have. The main objective to the gathering was to offer any help needed to the Hibbing Branch (56) for their hosting of the State Convention in Sept. The Hibbing Committee informed us that most of the arrangements had been made and they had a good working group available and were making the necessary preparations. As it turned out, our Sept. 1994 Convention at Hibbing, MN was a great success. It goes to show that our ladies are great workers in spite of advancing age and much can be accomplished in spite of dwindling numbers of workers.

Reports were received at the Convention from the following branches, who have a variety of activities going on; and 6 or more meetings each year. **Keewatin**, Br. 81, **Eveleth** Br. 19, **Ely** Br. 23, **Duluth**, Br. 33, **Tower-Soudan**, Br. 34, **Aurora**, Br. 35, **Chisholm**, Br. 38, **Biwabik**, Br. 39, **Hibbing**, Br. 56. Several Branches have a special "Mother of the Year" dinner, several have fund-raisers, most send a donation to the "National" for the Scholarship Fund and the Heritage Fund, several pay dues for members over 80, and most branches have parties for special occasions. Prayers for the dead and masses in Nov. are a common occurrence. Kitzville, Greany and Nashauk send dues to the home office.

President Jean Korsman was invited to attend two "Mothers" dinners in May, Tower-Soudan and Chisholm. Conflicting schedules did not permit accepting either invitation.

Dorothy Jamnik (State sec.-treas.) and a guest, Anna Hodnik, attended the dinner in Ely in May as guests of Dorothy's sister-in-law who was being honored as the Mother of the Year.

Arrangements were made by Vice President Ann Orazem, Jean Korsman and National President Tory Bobence for air flights from Duluth MN to Minneapolis and on to San Francisco for the May Convention. There will be a sizable delegation (about 30) from Minnesota including husbands and guests. Six delegates will be attending, from Tower, Duluth, Chisholm, Aurora, Biwabik and Hibbing.

Biwabik, MN Branch 39 will host the State Convention in Biwabik, MN on Sept. 10, 1995.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Korsman

OHIO-MICHIGAN

Another year has passed with no great change in what our branches are doing. Reports at the State Convention in Detroit, October 16, 1994, reflected the same information that has been offered in years past. They indicate how many members are above a certain age, how many are in nursing homes, how many have died, the list goes on and on. A few report new members, others report fund raising projects, sending out greetings cards. Larger branches have extra get-togethers and in reporting their election of officers, the same ones are kept in office for one more year. A scan of the ZARJA articles reveals that this is not confined to Ohio-Michigan, it is the same no matter where the report comes from.

The State Convention in Detroit, Michigan was well-attended. Kathleen Emerson and her faithful members put everything they had into making the day a social success, a spiritual uplift and a successful business day. We appreciate all that was done in our behalf. On the other hand, repeated notes and a couple of calls to Kathleen have failed to result in having the minutes of the meeting

forwarded to me. I hope to clarify (their) problem before the National Convention.

At the State Convention I tried to impress on the branches the need for real consideration of the delegate they send to the convention. Some branches had already chosen their delegate, others were undecided. The issue of age of the delegate was approached with caution and discretion, mentioning that a younger delegate would be at an advantage and offer new, fresh life to the organization as well as the convention. However, it was all for naught and delegates who should have given someone else a chance, who willingly should have stepped aside, are again attending the National Convention.

When I received a phone call from Tory Bobence telling me she would be in Detroit, it made my day. And, our Madam President played her role so well. I truly appreciated the fact that she sought no limelight, she left the meeting in my hands and expressed herself with all the dignity her office requires. Tory's leadership will be hard to replace and I am thankful for the opportunity to have served under her and to have made her friendship part of my life.

The 1995 State Convention for the Ohio-Michigan Region will be held on Sunday, October 15, 1995 in Cleveland, Ohio beginning with mass at twelve noon, St. Vitus Church. Branch No. 25 will host the convention. Celebrant for the mass will be Abbot Roger Greis, O.S.B., a personal friend and well known figure in Cleveland. (Bishop Pevec was unavailable for that date). Cirila Kermavner will be of great assistance and their new president, Fran Gazvoda will have an early on experience in S.W.U. leadership.

Since the 1994 participation in St. Anne's Day at Our Lady of Levocha Shrine was such a success, it will be repeated this year. We shall remember all our "Anne" members.

Regarding the National Convention, flight plans are complete, at last count there were 25 traveling in the group, there are approximately 8-10 who made individual arrangements, wanting to extend their vacation in California visiting relatives, etc...

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn A. Majercik

WESTERN STATES

Best wishes to the National Officers at this Board of Directors meeting.

Our branch in Fontana has enjoyed the Annual April Communion Breakfast and our Mother of the Year Dinner. The Palachinke Brunch was held in February and our year ended with a lovely Christmas dinner party.

Washington Branch 79 has a larger active membership and combine many of their activities with other lodge functions. How I wish they were closer to us. I know we could have some great times together.

San Francisco Branch 13 is fortunate to have Beverly Jackson and her sister, Barbara, at the helm of the National Convention. We are all anxious to meet everyone again.

Our Fontana branch is small and many of our members live far away. We need more women to accept offices and renew interest. I am hoping my successor will be able to spark new life into the Western States Slovenian Women's Union.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary J. Mlakar

Please Note!

SWU NATIONAL SECRETARY'S MAILING ADDRESS:

EVELYN MAJERCIK, National Secretary

P.O. Box 46539

BEDFORD, OH 44146

THE IMPORTANCE OF MY HERITAGE AND CULTURE

When I consider my heritage, I'm proud to be a part of a family whose grandparents emigrated to this country many years ago to make better lives for themselves and their families. With them, they brought a variety of talents and customs that have enriched the lives of their children, grandchildren and others, as well. I think, especially, of my grandparents, who were and are still, hard-working and industrious. They made a wonderful home for their children and handed down many customs and abilities to them, making available to their children and grandchildren what they did without when they were young. They brought to this country a culture rich in tradition and values and a love for God, their country, and their fellowman. I owe what I am today, in part, to those who diligently faced the challenges of coming to this country to make new lives for themselves and their family.

James Hofsommer

I wish to express my appreciation to the Slovenian Women's Union for the honor of being selected to receive the Frances Barman Scholarship.

My Slovenian heritage has always been very important to me. My family has the typical Slovenian work ethic, strong ethnic feelings, and loyalty to family. My grandparents were the first generation of our family born in the United States. My grandmother, Jean Paik did not speak English until she entered school at age five. She continues to teach me the Slovenian customs through her delicious gift of baking and her brilliance in music. Her musical talents relay through the piano and accordion. When I was a little girl, I always enjoyed listening to her and my grandfather speak Slovenian. I would pretend I could also understand and

would be delighted when they would teach me a word or two.

I hope to someday visit Slovenia. We have enjoyed visits from relatives from Slovenia who bring us many interesting gifts. My grandparents and uncles have visited Slovenia and they all recount the beauty of the country.

I plan on continuing my membership in Branch 50 as I complete my education and become firm in a vocation and lifestyle.

Jennifer Ann Dickinson

With the modern saying "Born In The USA" one tends to forget that we even are descendants of another Country. What has been passed down from generation to generation was learned from our parents who learned from their parents and so on and so forth. It is a rich tradition that must never be lost, for it is so fragile, so precious, it can never be replaced. Through the years as I was growing up I learned from watching my grandfather; may it have been lending a helping hand to plant a garden or the creation of noodles for homemade soup or on Easters when great grandmother brought strudel and krofe. I realize now this wasn't something common in every household... that I was special... fortunate to be handed down, so to speak, a part of what my heritage was. I no longer have my grandfather or great grandmother to share with me their knowledge but my mother is passing to me what she learned; along with it I have the memories, the traits, the culture, that one day I will pass down to generations to come. An ethnic heritage I am proud to call my own.

Christopher Cazin

Colnar, Tony, Cleveland, OH	In honor of his beloved mother, Frances Barman, Br. 25 Woman of the Year	1,000.00
Eggen, Lillian, Benecia, CA	Donation	25.00
Erzen, Elberta, Euclid, OH	Donation	3.00
Hagemer, Pat, Smyrna Beach, CA	Donation	1.20
Heisroth, Vida, Euclid, OH	Donation	3.00
Hocevar, Ann, Euclid, OH	Donation	13.00
Jacobs, Josephine, Meadowlands, PA	Donation	3.00
Kregar, Anka, Girard, OH	Donation	25.00
Kucic, Frances, Turtle Creek, PA	Donation	50.00
Matas, Mary, Lorain, OH	Donation	10.00
Maxin, Mary, Euclid, OH	Donation	25.00
Miller, Mary E., Eastlake, OH	Donation	10.00
Misic, Josephine, Cleveland, OH	Donation	100.00
Posch, Sophie, Euclid, OH	Donation	2.00
Pucel, Mildred & Rudolph, Joliet, IL	In honor of Olga Ancel, Joliet CCW Woman of the Year	10.00
Pucel, Mildred & Rudolph	In honor of Joyce Vicich, Br. 20 Woman of the Year	10.00
Rajher, Theresa, Lorain, OH	Donation	50.00
Schuster, Max L., Corvallis, OR	Donation	100.00
Smith, Josephine, Euclid, OH	Donation	10.00
Stimac, Bertha, Chicago, IL	Donation	20.00
Sukley, Dorothy, Joliet, IL	Donation	5.00
Swanson, Mary V., Rockdale, IL	Donation	25.00
Voytko, Angie, Lorain, OH	Donation	10.00

Dear Scholarship Supporters,

As you are aware, I tendered my resignation over 18 months ago. Since a replacement was never named, I have continued to fulfill the duties of SWU Scholarship Director to the best of my abilities. However, at this time of transition for the Slovenian Women's Union, I feel it is most appropriate to turn over the duties of Scholarship Director to someone who would be more enthusiastic and dedicated and who would have more time and energy to devote to the position. Therefore, as of June 30, 1995, I am no longer acting as Scholarship Director.

Thank you for all your support during my term in office and throughout the long history of the SWU Scholarship Program. Since its inception in 1949, \$99,975.00 has been awarded to 175 deserving, young SWU members. This has been possible only through your support.

Hvala Lepa,

Carita Ancel Girman



Thank You, Barbara Chiodo

Barbara Chiodo, was the Keynote Speaker and Convention Chairman for the memorable convention held in San Francisco, May 18-21. We thank Barbara most sincerely for the dedication and devotion she displayed during the past four years in preparing this outstanding event for the members of the SWU. We love you, Barbara.

A WINNER AGAIN

Marie Dye of Detroit, Michigan, was the first winner of the SWU Scholarship awarded to a junior member. In 1995, she was a winner again. Hers was the lucky ticket drawn from nineteen hundred plus tickets and she was presented with the two Slovenian dolls. Congratulations, Marie.

Many, many thanks to our former National Vice President, Beverly Jackson, for donating these lovely dolls. Beverly, you have made a significant difference in the Heritage Fund during your four years on the National Board. We thank you most sincerely and send many hugs for your work and for donating the dolls for the two raffles! We'll miss you! Don't forget Heritage.



Jonita Ruth, Agnes Dobczak and Charlene Kobe of Br. 20 at the Heritage Museum Gift Shop items, brought to the convention for sale to delegates and visitors.

Pictures courtesy Irene Odorizzi, Br. 103

ZEAL FOR SLOVENIAN HERITAGE REPRESENTED AT CONVENTION



The President and Vice President of Br. 103, Jill Augustine and Nika Kovacic represented their branch at the San Francisco Convention along with Recording Secretary and convention delegate, Matilda Ausich.

Nika and Jill accepted the responsibility of collecting heritage donations and distributing the gift baskets to the donors during the convention sessions. Their efforts are truly appreciated. The Heritage Director donated the contents of the baskets and Tillie Ausich helped in arranging the article in the baskets and wrapping them with cellophane and ribbon.

Nika reported that the amazing amount of \$740 was collected for the Heritage Fund. Now a little about this enthusiastic heritage worker. Nika was born in Vrhnika, the home of Ivan Cankar, and came to America in the late 50s. She became the bride of Eric Kovacic, a scholarly gentleman dedicated to literature and the preservation of the Slovenian language and its culture, during his short life on this earth.

Nika's enthusiasm for her Slovenian heritage, is also a continuation of Eric's love for his native land as well, and this combined dedication was reflected in her conscientious endeavor to collect a sizeable amount of money toward the Heritage Fund during the convention proceedings. The donors are as follows:

HERITAGE HEROES

\$100 Plaque Donors: Williams & Charlene Kobe, Br. 20, Josephine Misic, Cleveland, in honor of Hiti-Misic, ancestors, Branch No. 35, presented by Anne Orazem

\$50.00: Jeanette Nemchock, Br. 16.

\$25.00: Branch No. 85 presented by Mary Jermenc, Evelyn Majercik, Br. 73 in memory of Louis and Elizabeth Kambic, Matilda Ausich, Br. 103, Bob & Pat Figurowski, Br. 20, Jo, Helen, Jean, Mary Ann Pohar in memory of, Josephine Brekan Pohar

\$20.00: Josephine Lustik, Br. 20, Mary and Muriel Jermenc in memory of Edward Jermenc, Cirila Kermavner, Br. 25, Anonymous, Br. 103

\$10.00: Angeline Voytko, Br. 40, Arline Fritz, Br. 43, Frances Gazvoda, Br. 25, Patricia Adamic, Br. 105 in memory of Pauline Adamic, Kathy Schroeder, Br. 1, Branch, Br. 32 presented by Charlotte Perdan, Kathleen Emerson in memory of Catherine Musich, Anonymous, Br. 101

\$15.00: Charlotte Laurich, Br. 38

5.00: Gladys Buck, Br. 16; Vida Kumse, Br. 16; Mary Rago, Br. 16; Edna Winters, Br. 16; Anna Mae Lyle, Br. 35; Mary Ann Foster, Br. 32; Anna Rossman, Br. 32; Beverly Menart, Br. 33; Stefanie Segulin, Br. 10 in memory of Steffie Koncilja; Jeanette Eckert, Br. 100; Marjorie Church, Br. 42; Stefanie Dagg, Br. 10; Mary Miller, Br. 50; Ann Tercek, Br. 50 in memory of daughter Carol Piccirello; Jean Alexander, Br. 2; Jean Korsman, Br. 39; Jane E. Purkat in memory of Mom and Dad; Angela Nico in memory of Frances Kuhar.

I would like to extend a personal thank-you to all the donors who made a donation to the Heritage Fund at the convention and all the ladies who dedicated their time in collecting donations and selling heritage items. Hvala lepa and God Bless You!

ANTIQUÉ SLOVENIAN NOTECARDS AVAILABLE

How many times have you purchased notecards or greeting cards at a Hallmark Store? Your answer may be "frequently," if you buy as many as I do. Let me suggest that you purchase these lovely antique cards for your correspondence and at the same time your purchase will help the heritage fund.

During the convention we all had the pleasure of enjoying dinner at the Slovenian Home on Potrero Hill. That was a lovely experience that took us back generations and made us reflect on the early Slovenian pioneers in San Francisco.

During that dinner I was approached by a lady who had purchased the Slovenian Antique Cards and had one framed. She brought it to the banquet and showed me the professionally framed picture and it was beautiful! She used a brown frame, a green matt and a small inner beige matt. Both colors were used in the picture itself. Let me encourage you to try the same idea and create a "thing of beauty" for your home.

MORE SMILES

On my last trip to Manassas, Virginia, I passed that special church with the messages I so love to read. Allow me to share the latest one with you.

"If God puts you on hold, don't hang up."

For those of you who appreciate Slovenian Proverbs, here is one to remember:

"Roka roko umiva." This proverb has been translated as *"One good turn deserves another."* but it always has more meaning to me, as cooperation between people, when I translate it literally, *"One hand washes another."* What do you think?

GENEALOGY

LOCATING A MISSING RELATIVE

In the United States, Social Security cards were issued to all citizens in 1940. To obtain a Social Security card, citizens had to provide a birth certificate and those who didn't have one on file had to go to their county clerk's office to have one registered. Check the 1940 Birth Indexes for those relatives you have been unable to find. People born as early as 1858 had to register their births in 1940.

EMIGRANTS/IMMIGRANTS

To migrate means to move from one place to another. The words emigrants and immigrant is derived from that root word. Emigrants leave their country to live in another place. Immigrants arrive from another country to settle into a new one. When researching genealogical records, a person would be considered an emigrant in their country of origin and an immigrant in the country where he or she settled.

MISLEADING "HERITAGE" OFFERS INVESTIGATED

Millions of people, both beginning genealogists and the unsuspecting public, are buying surname books expecting to learn about their own family. When the book arrives, they discover its primary feature is a list of individuals with their last name.

The National Genealogical Society appointed an Ethics Committee and invited the Federation of Genealogical Studies to participate. The committee studied brochures and books compiled by Halbert's, Inc., one of a number of companies offering products masquerading as genealogy. The 120-page report showed the Halbert's also known as the "Family Book Offer" and "History Book Offer" misrepresented its products.

It is against the law to use the U.S. mails to collect money for schemes or devices by means of false representation. If you buy a product represented as being about your family, but whose distinguishing feature is a list of people with your surname, you can return it for a refund. If you have not received a refund within six weeks, complain to the **Consumer Protection Division, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, D.C. 20260-2100.**



DATING PHOTOGRAPHS

If you wish a handy-dandy chart that can help you date old photographs by closely examining the clothing, hairstyles and other factors you may request one by writing to: SWU Heritage Director, 2362 Paddock Lane, Reston, VA 22091. Please include a SASE with your request.

SIX MONTHS' OF BRANCH ASSESSMENTS

January 1 to June 30, 1995

Branch	Amount	Adult	Junior	Social
1. Sheboygan, WI	\$ 581.90	110	12	4
2. Chicago, IL	1,402.30	263	156	34
3. Pueblo, CO	745.05	169	12	13
5. Indianapolis, IN	307.65	61	15	7
6. Barberton, OH	213.00	23	1	2
7. Forest City, PA	170.20	17	0	0
8. Steelton, PA	9.00	5	0	0
10. Cleveland, OH	718.30	139	7	22
12. Milwaukee, WI	795.55	155	26	16
13. San Francisco, CA	403.70	80	11	10
14. Euclid, OH	922.15	178	15	17
16. South Chicago, IL	633.05	97	27	17
17. West Allis, WI	266.20	-	-	-
19. Eveleth, MN	240.60	40	0	1
20. Joliet, IL	2,183.70	538	101	56
22. Bradley, IL	43.60	12	0	4
23. Ely, MN	648.85	144	8	18
24. LaSalle, IL	350.40	69	8	2
25. Cleveland, OH	1,912.60	225	5	13
26. Pittsburgh, PA	337.65	75	1	0
27. North Braddock, PA	95.40	8	0	0
28. Calumet, MI	121.75	32	2	0
30. Home Office	1,460.60	120	4	37
32. Euclid, OH	458.10	130	9	16
33. Duluth, MN	814.05	143	19	9
34. Tower-Soudan, MN	235.60	57	21	8
35. Aurora, MN	540.30	72	45	17
37. Greaney, MN	- -	5	0	0
38. Chisholm, MN	332.40	58	4	9
39. Biwabik, MN	427.80	69	14	13
40. Lorain, OH	248.70	56	2	5
42. Maple Heights, OH	465.20	81	12	8
43. Milwaukee, WI	825.25	143	15	8
45. Portland, OR	51.00	3	0	0
46. St. Louis, MO	94.20	11	0	0
47. Garfield Hts., OH	317.80	75	14	2
50. Cleveland, OH	1,844.80	321	27	52
52. Kitzville, MN	72.40	24	0	2
54. Warren, OH	94.60	21	0	0
55. Girard, OH	- -	26	7	1
56. Hibbing, MN	139.80	34	1	2
57. Niles, OH	116.70	29	2	0
59. Burgettstown, PA	83.50	23	0	0
63. Denver, CO	181.10	16	0	1
64. Kansas City, KS	64.20	11	0	0
66. Canon City, CO	161.45	32	0	0
67. Bessemer, PA	179.70	30	0	0
68. Fairport Harbor, OH	212.40	38	2	0

71. Strabane, PA	203.80	65	6	1
73. Warrensville Hts., OH	504.95	97	22	4
74. Ambridge, PA	145.80	15	0	0
79. Enumclaw, WA	242.40	44	6	3
81. Keewatin, MN	168.00	17	0	3
83. Crosby, MN	18.00	3	0	0
85. DePue, IL	156.60	17	0	0
86. Nashwauk, MN	23.40	4	0	0
88. Johnstown, PA	57.60	9	0	0
89. Oglesby, IL	211.80	29	0	0
90. Bridgeville, PA	25.80	6	0	0
91. Oakmont, PA	175.20	42	0	0
92. Crested Butte, CO	86.40	9	0	0
93. Brooklyn, NY	66.15	20	0	0
95. South Chicago, IL	561.90	94	1	7
97. Cairnbrook, PA	35.10	6	0	0
99. Elmhurst, IL	7.20	2	0	0
100. Fontana, CA	620.40	45	3	12
101. Bedford Hts., OH	153.15	23	3	3
102. Willard, WI	282.50	39	5	4
103. Washington, DC	9.30	45	1	12
105. Detroit, MI	603.60	48	10	9
106. Meadowlands, PA	115.20	15	0	0
108. Virginia Beach, VA	15.40	10	6	0

TOTALS \$27,013.90 4843 668 484

1995 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

Received in February, March, April, May, 1995

BRANCH	AMOUNT
3, Pueblo, CO	\$ 126.00
6, Barberton, OH	27.00
7, Forest City, PA	2.00
12, Milwaukee, WI	158.00
16, South Chicago, IL	30.00
25, Cleveland, OH	254.00
26, Pittsburgh, PA	65.00
30, Home Office	30.00
38, Chisholm, MN	38.00
42, Maple Heights, OH	90.00
43, Milwaukee, WI	154.00
45, Portland, OR	4.00
46, St. Louis, MO	1.00
63, Denver, CO	7.00
64, Kansas City, KS	2.00
71, Ambridge, PA	64.00
83, Crosby, MN	3.00
88, Johnstown, PA	3.00
91, Oakmont, PA	42.00
92, Crested Butte, CO	4.00
95, South Chicago, IL	102.00
97, Cairnbrook, PA	6.00
100, Fontana, CA	55.00
101, Bedford Heights, OH	26.00
105, Detroit, MI	10.00
106, Meadowlands, PA	15.00

Irene M. Odorizzi
2362 Paddock Lane
Reston, VA 22091

THE IMMIGRANT

PAULA FROM SPODNI KAŠELJ*

Part III

About this time, the Sešeks had an interesting visitor from Slovenia. Paula's younger brother, Albin, came for a month's visit. It was a pleasant experience especially for the three boys who were brought closer to contact with the old country, the Slovenian language and met a unique personality from the old country. Albin seemed to be a perfect Slovene representative and everyone took a liking to him. He could sing Slovenian songs beautifully, play the button box accordion and in general, the children felt that it was "good" to be Slovenian.

Albin had an interesting side purpose in visiting his three sisters. He had recently married the daughter of a "grun-tar" (landowner) much to the satisfaction of his mother, Mina, who was getting on in years. Now, the Rojshek homestead could be put safely into the hands of Albin. However, signatures were needed from his three sisters, Johanna, Roza and Paula, waiving their rights to the homestead about to be transferred to Albin. He readily received these signatures and returned to Kašelj pleased with what he had accomplished in America.

Albin's visit seemed to bring unhappiness to Paula and Johan. They began to quarrel a great deal and very harshly. Inuendos were cast by Johan regarding Paula's past. It was no longer a pleasant household and the Christmas and Easter celebrations with big family dinners faded away. Each member of the family made his or her own meal whenever needed. The boys, now more mature, began to drift away.

John, having obtained a chemistry degree at a small college in Michigan, moved to South Cleveland taking a small room in a house near McGean Chemical Company on Harvard Avenue where he worked as a chemical engineer. John's degree made no impression on his father for the two men hardly communicated on anything for some time. Johan couldn't understand what a man did with a chemistry degree. He knew of college boys who were running elevators in downtown stores during the depression.

Eddie and Frank understood about John's degree, especially Eddie, who was so handy around the house and played the accordion well. He was always in demand for Saturday night playing jobs. Johan was proud of Eddie and Frank but he couldn't relate to John, who had moved to Seymour, Connecticut and eventually received a master's degree and then a doctorate. John was deferred during WW II because

of his work as a research metallurgist in New York for the International Nickel Company.

During John's yearly Christmas visits, he noticed that the coolness between Paula and Johan had continued. Paula expressed her independence by getting a factory job and a peculiar arrangement existed between husband and wife. Paula paid for the groceries, the upkeep of the kitchen, which included the gas, electric and telephone bills. Johan took care of the home, taxes and repairs. Each kept his or her own bank account; Paula saved her money and Johan saved his.

Then in 1947, a major medical event occurred. Johan sustained a stroke and his left arm was paralyzed permanently. His paper-hanging days were over. He was 59 and thought he wouldn't survive the winter even though he wished for one more spring. The Lord blessed him with 19 more springs although he was, thereafter, an invalid.

Johan's insurance policy paid him \$50 per month for the remainder of his life. With so much spare time on his hands, he considered starting a business selling plants and showing people how to raise them. However, he was advised that should he earn even five cents with this work, he would no longer be considered disabled and would lose his annuity. This clinched his disability and he didn't touch work again, not even minor repairs around the house.

Johan became completely retired with leisure on his hands. He read considerably, wrote numerous letters and spent an occasional afternoon at a tavern with a glass of beer. Every week he went downtown by street car, as he could no longer drive, to get a massage and a steambath.

Now, John completely reversed himself concerning his wife, whom he had been treating shabbily for some time. He began to appreciate her for her dedication to the family over the many hard years since arriving in America. She was dutiful and he now could see that she had been a marvelous wife and mother. His treatment of her became far different now and sometimes he would tease her and try to amuse her. Paula accepted this all at arms length. It was too late. She had kept her wifely responsibility, cooking for him and caring for his bedroom and clothes. But, at least there was no more tension in the house. They visited people together, socially, and whenever the grandchildren visited there was considerable joy in the house. But they were never close again.

Frankie and Eddie had nice families and were doing reasonably well. Johnny was married and had a Ph.D., whatever that meant. Paula never understood. What impressed her was that Johnny had now "made it." He was a teacher. This fact she shared with her neighbors who also had children working as teachers in grammar school.

John said, "when I tried to explain that I was a professor in a university and department chairman with 35 members in the department, it was all lost on her. I was now 'a teacher' and that was good enough for her."

By now, Paula was completely in charge in her home and Johan was completely dependent on her. The house was paid for and there was money in the bank. She foolishly consented to loan \$29,000 to a distant relative who knew how to approach her. Paula's sons were furious with her; because of that, she managed to get the money back and the individual then borrowed money from the bank.

*Spodni Kašelj is near Ljubljana.

Eddie was remarkably handy around the house on Shawnee with plumbing, papering, painting, fixing the garage etc. The two-car garage was rented as was the upstairs apartment. Taxes were modest and monthly social security checks all contributed to a comfortable life.

Since Paula no longer worked at a job, she used up her energy at gardening in a rather serious way. The empty lot next door became her garden. She just loved to work in that garden and did fairly heavy work, spading, watering, fertilizing etc. Her flower garden was remarkable with exotic flowers, the seeds of which came from Europe. The vegetable garden was no less a wonder and yielded lettuce, tomatoes and other vegetables by the bushels. She was generous to anyone who came along and praised her garden and they always walked off with a good bundle of lettuce, a half dozen tomatoes, maybe a cucumber of two and some radishes thrown in for good measure! Now she was never happier.

Gardening kept up Paula's stamina and her health. She ate well and received visitors regularly, which pleased her. She had developed an interest in baseball and could intelligently watch a good game; if there was a sports fan, within earshot, Paula could analyze the game, criticize the replacement of a pitcher she thought could still make it or criticize any other of the manager's tactics!

Johan was all praises for Paula and he too enjoyed the grandchildren. In the fall of 1965, at the age of 76, he became seriously ill and then stayed bedridden. Paula administered to him with all the care of a full time, professional nurse. After two to three months, he succumbed. It was a proper funeral and the entire family gathered. The stormy relationship they had had ended with the calm and solidness of a strong family.

Relatives came to the funeral and paid due respects. There was no gossip about the Sešek's – how they lived misunderstanding each other for theirs was a typical Slovenian marriage with its ups and downs brought about by extremely hard working conditions, insecurity and a strong determination to prove themselves in the new culture. Here were their children, educated and doing well, involved in business or a profession. For Paula it was the achievement of her goal, to have a financially secure future, never mind that she had a less than ideal marriage.

Paula was nearing eighty, older than any Rojshek she remembered and the last of her generation. She settled down to enjoy her last few years with a life that could not be sweeter. She became a frequent churchgoer for daily mass.

Early one morning, on a bitter cold day, she was struck down by a car, but survived, eventually returning to her garden but working at a much slower pace. In the winter of 1972-73, she began to falter and apparently knew something was going to happen. She revised her will and began to sort out certain papers, documents and precious letters which had been kept over the years, as far back as 1909. She began to tackle the huge accumulation of her magpie collections, instinctively trying to leave a tidy house.

One night Paula experienced heavy breathing problems and the next day she was taken to Euclid Hospital. Her heartbeat was erratic and the doctor diagnosed the need for a pace-maker which was scheduled for Wednesday. Using her acquired American phrases, she told Edward, her son, "If I can make it tonight, I'll be alright."



Frank Sesek
was born in Slovenia in 1910 and died in Cleveland, Ohio in 1954, married, the father of three children and head of a large family.



Felix Sesek is photographed in his Austrian uniform around 1915-16). He was born on May 5, 1893 and died August 19, 1917.

Felix Sesek was presumably the father of Paula's first child, Frank, even though she married his brother. When Frank reached adulthood his photograph was compared to Felix and a resemblance was noticed. Hence, the Sesek family believes that Felix and not John was Frank's natural father.

That night as Paula was lying in her bed, breathing heavily, she began to envision the memory of her wedding banquet in 1913. She discerned a faint singing of "Slovensko dekle," and followed the words: "Venček na glavi se, bliska iz kitice, rožic zelenih, Slovensko dekle." (*Translation: Slovenian maiden, the wreath glistens from her braids – all flowers and greens, Slovenian maiden...*) She could see many people gathered around her, all singing. There they were, everyone who had come to America and even those she had left behind in Slovenia. In front was her husband, smiling and singing to her. The harmonious melody filled the room and the corridors of the hospital. She was not sure if she was even in the hospital.

Paula sensed that a race was on. Would the song be

completed before she succumbed? She clutched her blanket as hard as she could. It helped; it sustained her breathing. **"Dokler slovenski rod, biva po zemlji hod", bode slovelo, Slovensko dekle!"** (As long as the Slovenian nation exists on this earth, the Slovenian maiden will be renowned...) The singing stopped. The song ended.

Paula's vision conveyed a message: She had made it! She had fulfilled the pledge made on her wedding night -- that she would be a good Slovenian mother and wife. Keeping her pledge turned out to be difficult but she kept it. She knew it and they all knew it, otherwise why would all these friends have returned now, at the end—

In reality, Paula had made more of herself than being a good mother and wife. Her mother and sister, Johanna, had sold her short. They had made her life harder than necessary. Then of course, her husband, before he was stricken, had failed her, charging her with tricking him into marriage. They did not think she could make it but she did, and today, was her day of glory.

At her last moment, she envisioned two arms reaching down to her and she raised her arms to meet them. She had been given the gift of life and enjoyed it to the fullest and at this moment she could not complain. There was just enough energy for one final sigh.

The nurse hurried to Paula, felt her pulse, and looked for other vital signs. There were none. She summoned the doctor on duty.

After Paula had succumbed, her son, John said, "Whatever God there may be, serving all of humanity, He never clutched to His bosom a more worthy soul."

Paula could look with pride on her family of three sons and grandchildren. There were more than 14 college degrees conferred of one kind or another. Each of the grandchildren received at least one college degree from some of the most prestigious educational institutions in the country. A gathering of the family took on an international flavor with possibly five or six languages being spoken. There is one Ph.D. and one Doctor Juris. Paula's maiden name of Plevnik was listed in **Who's Who in the World (1981-82)** not as one of the 20,000 entries herself but as the mother of a son who was listed, and gave her name.

Not bad for an immigrant woman, arriving in America penniless except for her fare to Cleveland and with no other familiar object but a paper with the address of her sister clutched in her fist.

THE END

John Nielsen, the second son of Paula, is shown at his old homestead at Kashelj enjoying a surprise reception by relatives and friends. On one trip to Slovenia he presented a play about the family's genealogy. There were over a hundred members of the clan in attendance for the great family picnic which he planned in its entirety and underwrote. They came from all over the U.S. and Slovenia to participate.

John changed his name from Sešek to Nielsen early in his career when he suffered discrimination during employment on the east coast. (Photo through the courtesy of John Sesek, Garfield Heights, OH.) →



John P. Nielsen, Ph.D. allowed me the opportunity to edit the remembrances of his dear mother and publish them as an Immigrant article. We spoke on the phone many times, prior to his demise.

Dr. John Nielsen was born on Nov. 11, 1911, in Cleveland, attended Collinwood High School and earned his degree in Metallurgy from Yale University in 1942 and his Ph.D. degree in 1947.

Dr. Nielsen published many articles, pamphlets, books etc. on metallurgical education, Soviet metallurgy, consulting and foreign travel. He holds three patents pertaining to dental work and is well known as the co-author of a paper on the nature of the bond between porcelain and gold alloys and the Shell-Nielsen test which is the most used test for the shear strength of such bonds.

John Nielsen passed away at the Slovene Home for the Aged in Cleveland in 1989. He was professor emeritus at the New York Polytechnic Institute and a precious metals researcher who helped develop several alloys for fillings, caps and other dental aids.

Dr. Nielsen is a sterling example of American-Slovene talent and the Slovenian characteristic of determination to succeed and bring honor to his family and his nationality.

Thank you to Mary Sesek and her son for sending the photos of John Nielsen as well as Felix and Edward Sesek.

I.M.O.



WELCOME New Members!

THANKS Campaign Workers!

This is the name of our new column listing that will appear in every ZARJA in the future. The names that appear in this column will be new members enrolled in the present membership campaign, and those who solicited them to join. The name of the new campaign is "Start With Us!" because we are beginning with a new National Board of Directors and a new system of operation! A lot to celebrate! Start With Us also emphasizes our SWU initials again – a fun way to remember this organization while you are contemplating your new prospective members!

In this Campaign there will be no cash prizes per member – because the new Board feels that we are not asking friends to join SWU to make money but to enhance our organization! A single prize will be awarded to the worker with the most total new members at the end of the campaign in March of the year 1999, just before the next National Convention!

Remember, the 1st phase is this year, April 1st, 1995 to March 31st, 1996 and our slogan is Start With Us! We invite every member to do just that with good will and diligence!

CONCERN EXPRESSED BY FORMER NATIONAL SECRETARY

I am concerned about our membership and since I did not get an opportunity to read any of my report nor did most of you read it, I will give you a few statistics, so we can measure your accomplishments in the next four years.

Membership as of December 31, 1994 was 5,565, the lowest since 1934 (our 8th year of existence). What is even more alarming is that only 15% (850) of our membership is in the age group 25 years and younger, while 1/3 (1850) are 75 years and older. (One-half of the membership is 68 years and older.) Since reaching our peak of 13,300 members in 1955, we have lost 7,735 members.

Let's look at our statistics for the last four years. Our total loss in membership was 560 or an average of 140 per year. Our average loss due to death was 139 per year and considering our enrollment of new members averaging 162, we lost an additional 163 members from cancellations/suspensions. So all we have been doing is getting only one new member for each member being cancelled. What are we doing to replace the members lost by death? Can you imagine what this will be in four years, considering that 1/3 of our total membership is currently over 75 years of age?

I hope the current trend in 1995 will not continue. Thus far in the first four months of 1995, we have 76 deaths reported. This projected for the year would equal 228 deaths compared with the previous four-year average of 139 per year.

What can be done to reverse this trend? First, we must reduce the number of cancellations/suspensions. We already have these members, so how do we keep them? Secondly, we must recruit more aggressively.

Br. 20, Joliet is one of the few branches that maintains its status of membership. I wish to mention the top three campaigners of the last four years -- all come from branch 20 in Joliet:

Branch Secretary, Pat Figuirowski -- 24

National Secretary, Olga Ancel -- 25 and

Delegate, Jonita Ruth with 66 members!

I sincerely hope that Zveza can continue to have dedicated officers and members, to work for a brighter tomorrow!

Olga Ancel

Start With Us!

CAMPAIGN RESULTS April 1 thru June 30, 1995

Thru the past three months there was a gain of 32 members. This includes 17 new adults, 8 transfers to adults and 7 juniors.

No. 2, Chicago, IL	6
No. 14, Euclid, OH	4
No. 105, Detroit, MI	4
No. 1, Sheboygan, WI	3
No. 20, Joliet, IL	2
No. 103, Washington, DC	3
No. 10, Cleveland, OH	2
No. 12, Milwaukee, WI	1
No. 24, LaSalle, IL	1
No. 25, Cleveland, OH	1
No. 30, Home Office	1
No. 33, Duluth, MN	1
No. 34, Tower-Soudan, MN	1
No. 38, Chisholm, MN	1
No. 50, Cleveland, OH	1

Individual campaigners:

Dolores Puhok (2)	6
Frances Adamic (105)	3
Stephanie Segulin (10)	2
Matthew Fitzhum (14)	2
Dorothy Brezonik (10)	2
Individuals – 17	each 1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRATITUDE.....

Please accept my subscription. Balance is a gift. You ladies are doing a great job... a really excellent organization. Good luck.

*Anton Malensek
New Class B member
Orange, CT*

I was delighted to receive the lovely note-cards. I thoroughly enjoy reading ZARJA, especially the stories of the Immigrants, the spiritual and uplifting writing by Fr. Christian, the recipes and news of other branches. It's just the greatest! God bless you for your dedication. Enclosed is my contribution – \$25.00.

*Agnes M. Wroblewski
Br. 2, Chicago, IL*

**See Back Cover for important
Request to Members!**



Irene M. Odorizzi,
Heritage Director

HISTORY OF S.W.U. BRANCHES

Looking Back

to the Future

BR. #103, WASHINGTON, D.C. MARYLAND, VIRGINIA

Part I

"The Early Years"

"You are cordially invited to attend a tea at the home of Irene M. Planinsek, 12 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria, Virginia on September 12, 1965."

This invitation was issued by Miss Planinsek to women of Slovenian ancestry living in the metropolitan Washington D.C. area for the purpose of forming a branch of the Slovenian Women's Union.

Irene, a member of Branch 20, Joliet, Illinois, had traveled to Washington to pursue courses at Catholic University on a masters program in theater. While working on her master's thesis, devoted to Ivan Cankar, she became acquainted with three local Slovenes: Mr. and Mrs. Eric (Nika) Kovacic and Stane Sustersic. They in turn introduced her to other Slovenes in the area, namely, M/M Mirko Javornik, M/M Conrad Mejac, M/M Cyril Mejac, M/M Cyril Zebot, Miro Pregelj and others.

For many years, Irene had been active in the SWU #20 youth groups, starting out in folk dancing, as a drill team mascot, a member of the Junior Cadets and finally the Senior Cadets. Forming a branch of the SWU seemed the logical thing to do since interest in her Slovenian heritage could be continued. There was sufficient number of ladies in the area, however a unifying group did not exist. Irene shared her idea of organizing a branch of the SWU with Nika Kovacic who rendered valuable encouragement.

The ladies who accepted the invitation and attended the tea on September 12, 1965, were Elaine Fleming, Florence Gregoric, Helen Horwath, Nika Kovacic, Mary "Mimi" Mejac and Ica Zebot. Christine Slapnikar attended as a guest from Illinois. Nika Kovacic recorded the proceedings of that first event and it was stated in the minutes of that first meeting *"everyone came on time."*

When the idea of forming Branch #103 of the Slovenian Women's Union was introduced by Miss Planinsek the ladies responded that it was a good idea and they could be counted on to join the fledgling group which would include not only Washington, D.C. but the states of Maryland and Virginia. Mrs. Fleming, Ms. Horwath and Mrs. Planinsek were already members of Branch #20 but consented to transfer their membership to the new branch.



Irene

Highlighting the event with an exceptionally beautiful and informative slide show was Dr. Stane Sustersic, who had photographed many beautiful scenes on his trips to Slovenia. Miss Florence Gregoric, who had also visited Slovenia, shared her photographs with the group as well.



The first officers of Br. 103 were, seated, l. to r.: Mary Frances Mejac, Secretary, Irene M. Planinsek (Odorizzi), President, Nika Kovacic, Vice-President, Tillye Ausich, Recording Secretary; standing, l. to r.: Marie Mejac, Auditor, Elaine Fleming, Sentinel-Hostess, Ica Zebot, Treasurer and Ivanka Antolin. Third Auditor, Agna Javornik was not present.

Refreshments, consisting of delicate tea sandwiches, sweets and beverages, completed the meeting which concluded at 6 p.m. that evening with plans that the next meeting would be held on October 10, 1965 at Miss Planinsek's home.

For weeks afterwards Irene, assisted by Nika, searched in the metropolitan telephone directory for "Slovenian names," so that these individuals could be contacted about the next meeting. She typed up a letter and mailed it to over 100 individuals at her expense. A few Slovenes responded to the letter and some eventually became members.

THE SECOND MEETING

At the second meeting, the ladies discussed the site of future monthly meetings since traveling to Alexandria, VA was considered too distant for the majority of members. It was decided that for the first few months the meetings would be held in the members' homes starting with November at Mimi Mejac's residence in Washington, D.C. and in December at Nika Kovacic's home in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Three new members were welcomed at the second meeting: Minka Zalar and Matilda Podboresek of Washington, D.C. and Ivanka Antolin of Emmittsburgh, MD.

The very first project of the newly organized group, an art exhibit, entitled, "Contemporary Slovenian Art Abroad," was scheduled for the Washington Hilton Hotel, Oct. 17-30, 1965. Preliminary planning for the exhibit had preceded the regular business meeting by members of the Slovene community so the project came to the branch in

fairly definite form. Florence Gregoric assumed chairmanship of the refreshment committee and Ica Zebot, arrangements.

The Slovenian artists, Franc Gorse, Joseph Vodlan and Miro Zupancic, formerly of Slovenia but living in New York City, exhibited their paintings and Mr. Gorse his sculpted pieces. A letter from Sen. Lausche of Ohio, was read stating that he and Mrs. Lausche would attend the exhibit on Sun. Oct. 17. The exhibit proved to be a very classy event and all three artists sold many of their paintings and sculptures.

Along with the business meeting, a demonstration of hair styling was given by Mr. Anderson of the North Virginia Institute of Cosmetology. Refreshments followed and the meeting was finally concluded with everyone optimistic about the coming art exhibit.



Birthday party was held at the home of Nika and Eric Kovacic on Jan. 6, 1967, in honor of the Ephanty and Irene Planinsek's birthday. L. to r: Eric Kovacic, Nika Kovacic, Stane Sustersic, Irene Planinsek, Mirko Javornik, Alenka Javornik, Miro Zupancic, Matilda Ausich and Agna Javornik.

THIRD MEETING

The third meeting, held at the home of Mimi Mejac, in November, was devoted to electing the first branch officers. The ladies who led the branch for the first year were:

President	Irene M. Planinsek (Odorizzi)
Vice President	Nika Kovacic
Secretary	Mary "Mimi" Mejac
Rec. Secretary	Matilda Ausich
Treasurer	Ica Zebot
Sentinel-Hostess	Elaine Troppe Fleming
Auditors	Ivanka Antolin, Agna Javornik
Program Committee	Irene M. Planinsek (Odorizzi)
Zarja Reporters	Irene M. Planinsek (Odorizzi), English Nika Kovacic, Slovenian

Charter members of Branch 103 were: Irene Planinsek (Odorizzi), Nika Kovacic, Mary Mejac, Ica Zebot, Matilda Ausich, Ivanka Antolin, Agna Javornik, Alenka Javornik (Pfeiffer), Maria Mejac, Matilda Podborssek, Elaine Fleming (Troppe), Helen Horwath, Florence Gregoric.

The first three junior members were welcomed into the organization: Bernadette Kovacic (Fitzsimmons), (later as an adult member she was elected to the position of National Youth Director); Mary Mejac and Helen Mejac.

Discussion and plans centered around the Children's Christmas Party and the New Year's Eve Party. Following the meeting, the hostess, Mimi Mejac, served delicious refreshments using an autumn motif in her table arrangements.

FOURTH MEETING

Plans were made for the first Slovenian vernacular Mass to be said in the Crypt Church of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. by Rev. Francis Blatnik SDB of Patterson, NJ who was later requested to act as spiritual advisor to the branch.

The afternoon was highlighted by a demonstration of decorative floral arrangements for Christmas by Doris Parmalee, an interior and floral designer. Each member received an arrangement to take home following the meeting, compliments of President Irene Planinsek who had made arrangements to purchase the floral supplies and pay the honorarium to Ms. Parmalee as a Christmas remembrance to the members.

Three new members were welcomed at this meeting: Freda Michelitch and her mother, Mary Michelitch from McLean, VA, also Zora Slogar of Washington, D.C.

Following the meeting and interesting demonstration, Nika Kovacic, hostess for the December meeting, entertained the ladies with delicious refreshments from a beautifully arranged table covered with a table cloth of Christmas design and accented with red net and fresh holly. The door prize was won by Ica Zebot.

FIFTH MEETING AND SLOVENIAN VERNACULAR MASS

Rev. Francis Blatnik of Patterson, New Jersey, celebrated the first Slovenian vernacular Mass in the Crypt Church of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with many in attendance. Key figures in the event were men of the Slovene community, some of whom were husbands of members: Eric Kovacic and Cyril Zebot served as lector and commentator. Conrad Mejac arranged for distribution of the hymns which were led by Stane Sustersic and Miro Pregelj. Ushers were Mirko Javornik and William Jagodnik.

Following Mass, the meeting was held at the home of

Agna Javornik and her daughter, Alenka (Pfeifer). The elaborate and delicious menu of homemade delicacies brought forth many compliments from the members. Rev. Blatnik presented a 45 minutes pictorial tour of Rome, the Vatican Churches and the highlights of the Ecumenical Council.

New members present were: Dorica Voyatzis (Vetrih), Helena Spacapan, Ivana Trost, Celeste Spehar, Antonia Urbancic, and the new junior member, Mariane Zebot.



Meeting held in December 1969 with some of the ladies gathered around the Christmas tree decorations made that afternoon. L to r: Matilda Ausich, Helen Krotec, Ida Gregorich, Mary Lou Terselic and Mary Mejac.

SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS

On September 11, 1966, the new meeting season was initiated at St. Columba's Episcopal Church Hall in Washington, D.C., the location selected after research and by suggestion of Secretary, Mimi Mejac. The meetings continue to be held at St. Columba's Church Hall to the present.

Meetings have been scheduled for the months of September through April. Installation of officers is usually held in January with the spiritual advisor installing the newly elected officers. There have been three spiritual advisors thus far: Rev. Francis Blatnik, SDB of Patterson, NJ, Rev. Charles Ceglar and Rev. Raymond Wadas.

Being an unpredictable month, because of inclement weather, February was eliminated from the eight month meeting agenda, and the month of May was dedicated to the Mother's Day celebration rather than business.

Each meeting culminated with tasty refreshments prepared by two or three volunteers assigned a specific month. Culinary treats from apple strudel, cookies and cakes to



Nat'l President Antonia Turek (1961-1973) – third from left – was warmly greeted on a visit to Br. 103.

tasty ham sandwiches were relished by the members. No one can beat Slovenian ladies in the kitchen and so each month was a special treat for the membership.

In May 1966, each member was assessed one dollar for the branch treasury "to get on its feet financially," as was written in ZARJA by Nika Kovacic.

Additional members who joined #103 during the years 1966-67 were: Esther Cernigoi, Ida Gregoric, Ana Menapace, Rebecca Jo Nagel (Michelitch), Diane Moffet, Helen Krotec, Anna Cernelec, Mara Chokel, Jana Bevec also Junior members: Ivanka, Ana, Vida and Helena Antolin.

The first president of the Branch was always mindful that the meetings should be informative and interesting for the members and the branch has continued that goal through the years. There have been numerous lectures, slide shows, demonstrations and videos to fulfill that objective.

Guest speakers and demonstrations at the meetings are as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1966 -- Dr. Mario Mollari of Georgetown University showed the film "The Doctor," in connection with the work of Dr. John Ross, a medical missionary.</p> <p>1966 -- Mr. Anton Urbancic demonstrated the intricate art of egg decoration and wood carving.</p> <p>1966 -- Dr. Mario Mollari showed films of the Belgian Congo and discussed the problem of tropical diseases.</p> <p>1966 -- Mr. Miro Pregelj discussed Slovenian folksongs, their origin and types.</p> <p>1966 -- Mr. Eric Kovacic presented a dissertation on "Slovenes in America Prior to the 20th Century."</p> <p>1966 -- President of the Association of Children with Learning Disabilities discussed the work of teaching handicapped children.</p> <p>1966 -- A representative of the National Education Association gave a dissertation concerning steps that are taken to help bilingual children in school with problems.</p> <p>1967 -- Mr. Milan Kravanja presented color slides of his trip to Russia, mainly regarding fishing on the high seas.</p> <p>1968 -- Mr. Eric Kovacic discussed Bishop Baraga's life and works among the Indians in Upper Michigan.</p> <p>1968 -- Dr. Charles Zalar showed slides and discussed his travels around the world.</p> <p>-- A discussion was given regarding people, customs and experiences in San Miguel, Philippines</p> <p>1969 -- A guest speaker from Georgetown Hospital gave a discourse on things to do in an emergency.</p> <p>1969 -- Dr. Mario Mollari lectured and showed movies of the people in the Central Congo.</p> <p>Dec. Demonstration by a professional from "Frame World,"</p> <p>1976 -- Bethesda, MD on picture framing.</p> <p>Mar. Antonia Cigale demonstrated the art of making apple</p> <p>1978 -- strudel.</p> <p>Nov. Walter O'Brian of Guardian Alarm Sales, Inc., Bethesda,</p> <p>1978 -- MD, showed a movie on "Danger on Your Doorstep."</p> | <p>Mar 1979 -- Mr. William J. Husic, Federal Aviation Agency retiree and an avid hiker, showed colored slides of his experiences on the Slovenian Appalachian Trail (Slovenska Transverzala) beginning at Maribor to Triglav, down to Koper.</p> <p>Mar 1982 -- Mr. Eric Kovacic discussed geographical names of Slovenian origin in the United States. The presentation was published in the Ave Maria yearly calendar in Jan. 1981.</p> <p>Mar 1984 -- Dr. Anton Peterlin, world renowned physicist specializing in polymers and regarded as one of the most outstanding Slovenian physicists of all time, showed selected photographs taken by him in Slovenia, Europe, North and South America and South Africa.</p> <p>Mar 1985 -- Lori Foster, Design Consultant, gave a presentation on Interior Home Design.</p> <p>Mar 1986 -- Bernadette Kovacic showed slides of her European trip.</p> <p>Mar 1987 -- Regina Raspet discussed the guidelines for selecting the right home care agency.</p> <p>Mar 1989 -- Mr. Conrad Mejac, chief of the Slovenian Section at the Voice of America, gave a presentation on "Current Developments in Slovenia." Following the lecture, a video tape on Slovenia (purchased by SWU Branch 103) was shown.</p> <p>Dec. 1990 -- Bernadette Kovacic and Lydia Millonig demonstrated the art of arranging Christmas centerpieces.</p> |
|---|---|



CONVENTIONS

Fourteenth National Convention, May 24-28, 1967



In 1967, as the SWU began to plan their arrival at the Convention City, this group met at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. to pose for a picture that would greet us on the cover of ZARJA. This was the convention committee!

First row left to right: Helena Spacapan (Hostess), Ica Zebot (Treasurer), Nika Kovacic (Vice President), Bernadette Kovacic (Junior member) Matilda Ausich (Recording Secretary), Antonia Cigale, Jane Johnson (junior) Second row left to right: Ida Gregoric, Mary Mejac (Secretary), Irene Planinsek Odorizzi (President), Matilda Podborsek (Auditor), Ivanka Trost.

U.S. Civil Service Commissioner, Lud Andolsek of Minnesota chats with U.S. Congressman from Minnesota, John Blatnik's wife at the head Banquet table; standing are John Blatnik, right with Irene Planinsek (Odorizzi) and his aide, Jim Oberstar who is the present U.S. Congressman from that great state.

Branch #103, organized for only a little more than a year, accepted the challenge to host the 14th National SWU Convention in Washington, D.C. As a relatively small branch it was an enormous challenge. Nika Kovacic stated in her ZARJA article, "there are so few Slovenes in this area that we are lost, like drops of water in an ocean."

During the four day convention, delegates, along with the hundreds of visitors that attended as guests, participated in many tours throughout the Capitol City. President, Irene Planinsek (Odorizzi) chaired the entire event and members rendered as much help as possible to make this a convention still vividly remembered by those who participated. Corinne Leskovar, who represented the National Board, assisted with the planning of the convention. Ms. Planinsek stated in her welcome, "We know your stay in the Nation's Capitol will be most enjoyable, definitely educational and truly inspiring from the first "hello" to the last "goodbye."

After dinner entertainment was provided by a number of branches which included the baton twirling exhibition by the Junior Cadets from Cleveland under the direction of Ann Cooke. Branch #103 Choraleers, which was formed for the event, made their debut after only two months of rehearsal, under the direction of Miro Pregelj. Marija Kranjc Fischinger, noted Slovenian mezzo-soprano, rendered Slovenian folk songs and operatic selections. The Branch 103 Juniors were also in attendance.

Registration at the Washington Hilton Hotel was handled by Matilda Ausich, Registration Chairman. Helen



U.S. CAPITOL SETTING FOR HISTORICAL S.W.U. CONVENTION – WASHINGTON, 1967



The entire SWU National Convention group of officers, delegates and visitors at the National Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

Krotec, Hospitality Chairman, was assisted by Nika Kovacic, Matilda Ausich and Matilda Podborsek.

Art and needlecraft sales to benefit the scholarship fund was under the watchful eyes of Diane Drnjevic Moffit, Kay Parsons, Matilda Podborsek and Matilda Ausich. The ladies commented that, "the donated articles were more beautiful than ever expected and that many articles were sold before they could be properly displayed."

Mass was celebrated at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and Chairman for the Mass arrangements was Nika Kovacic. Lector-commentator was Eric Kovacic with Andre Bevec and Franc Chokel serving as altar boys.

Sightseeing tours were planned by Irene Odorizzi. Tour hostesses for the event were: Matilda Ausich, Ida Gregoric, Helen Krotec, Nika Kovacic, Mary Mejac, Matilda Podborsek, Diane Moffet, Becky Nagel, Freda Michelitch, Ivana

Trost, Helena Spacapan and Dora Voyatzis. The weather was ideal for the entire four days. It had rained the day before the convention and the day after. We had the Lord's blessing!

The most modern and beautiful hotel in Washington, D.C., just then recently built, became the SWU Convention Headquarters from May 24th to 28th, 1967. The 1200 air-conditioned rooms had private bath, radio and television, telephone, storage, counter space, small refrigerator, also available were king-sized beds. The hotel claimed restaurants, an olympic-sized swimming pool, and tennis courts. It is interesting to recall that room rates for twin-double accommodations were \$20-25 twenty-eight years ago.

The meetings were held in the Crystal Ballroom with 54 branch delegates and the National Officers in attendance.

The highlight of the convention was the Grand Banquet held in the International Ballroom, one of the loveliest in Washington. The Grand Banquet was formal with the majority of ladies wearing long evening dresses. It was perhaps the most elegant of all conventions ever held.

Guest speaker for the Banquet was a prominent American-Slovene, the Honorable Frank J. Lausche of Ohio, a Senator in the U.S. Government. Also in attendance were: The Honorable John A. Blatnik, U.S. Representative from Minnesota, along with his aide, Mr. James Oberstar, who is currently the U.S. Representative from Minnesota; the Honorable Frank Annunzio, U.S. Representative from Illinois; Honorable Ludwig J. Andolsek, the U.S. Civil Service Commissioner. Also present on the SWU National Board was organizer, Marie Prislend, and National Secretary, Albina Novak.



Enjoying the Grand Banquet at the Washington Hilton Hotel on May 27, 1967, were *l. to r.* Helen Krotec, Convention Chairman Irene Planinsek (Odorizzi), Tillie Ausich and Diane Moffet. In the far right background can be seen Vida Antolin, Ivanka Antolin and Lydia Bevec, junior members.



The junior group appear to be enjoying themselves at the Convention Banquet. *Foreground, Bernadette Kovacic Fitzsimmons; l. to r.:* Helena Antolin Cochran, Vida Antolin Jenkins, Jane Johnson Posey, Helen Mejac Mangold, Ivanka Antolin, Lydia Bevec Millonig, Maria Mejac Thomas, Marijana Zebot McNeill, Jelka Mejac Dawyot and Anka Antolin.



Laying the wreath at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery by President Marie Prisland and Cadets from Cleveland. This event was part of the Sight-seeing tour which the delegates enjoyed at the National Convention in Washington, D.C.

#103 BRANCH OFFICERS FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS

These officers guided the branch through thirty productive and interesting years. The members, as well as the local Slovenian community, benefited from the enthusiasm and dedication of these ladies, which was displayed not only at branch events but in cooperation with associate Slovenian organizations in the area.

Presidents: 1965–1971 – Irene Planinsek (Odorizzi); 1972–1992 – Freda Michelitch; 1993–1994 – Sabina Bartol; 1995 – Jill Augustine.

Vice Presidents: 1965–1968 – Nika Kovacic; 1981—Nika Kovacic; 1969–1971 – Freda Michelitch; 1972–1975 – Molly Thomas; 1976–1977, 1979–1980 – Maria Paulin; 1978 – Ica Zebot.

Secretaries: 1965– Mary Mejac.

Treasurers: 1965–1968 – Ica Zebot; 1969–1992 – Mary Lou Terselic; 1993– Molly Thomas.

Recording Secretary: 1965 – Matilda Ausich.

Sentinel/Hostess: 1965–66 – Elaine Fleming; 1967–1970 – Helena Spacapan; 1971 – Dora Voyatzic; 1972–1974 – Dora Voyatzis/Ana Cernelc; 1975 – Jane Bevec/Ica Zebot; 1976–1977 – Jane Bevec/Nika Kovacic; 1978 – Betty Cesnik/Nika Kovacic; 1979–1980 – Betty Cesnik/Alenka Richardson.

Program Committee: 1965–66 – Irene Planinsek/Nika Kovacic; 1967 – Helen Krotec/Freda Michelitch/Diane Moffett; (1967) – (Becky Nagel, Special Projects); 1968 – Helen Krotec/Freda Michelitch/Ivanka Antolin; 1969 – Helen Krotec/Kay Parsons/Matilda Terselic; (1969) – (Freda Michelitch, Special Pro-



jects); 1970–1971 – Helen Krotec/Molly Thomas/Matilda Terselic; 1972–1973 – Molly Thomas/Matilda Terselic/Mary Lipar/Becky Nagel; 1974 – Jane Bevec/Matilda Terselic/Mary Lipar; (1974) – (Molly Thomas, Special Projects); 1975 – Matilda Terselic/Jane Bevec/Becky Nagel; 1976–1977 – Matilda Terselic/Betty Cesnik/Becky Nagel; 1978 – Molly Thomas/Matilda Terselic/Alenka Richardson; 1979–1980 – Nika Kovacic/Ica Zebot/Molly Thomas;

1981 – Mara Chokel/Betty Cesnik/Matilda Ausich; 1982 – Ivanka Antolin Jr./Betty Cesnik/Molly Thomas; 1983 – Ivanka Antolin Jr./Betty Cesnik/Angela Daly; 1984 – Ivanka Antolin Jr./Molly Thomas/Angela Daly; 1985–1987 – Ivanka Antolin Jr./Bernadette Kovacic/Angela Daly; 1988–1990 – Lydia Millionig/Bernadette Kovacic/Angela Daly; 1991–1992 – Matilda Terselic/Bernadette Kovacic/Angela Daly; 1993–1994 – Freda Michelitch/Bernadette Kovacic/Angela Daly/Matilda Terselic; 1995 – Freda Michelitch/Bernadette Kovacic-Fitzsimmons/Angela Daly, Matilda Terselic.

Auditors: 1965 – Marija Mejac/Ivanka Antolin/Agna Javornik; 1967 – Maria Mejac/Ivanka Antolin/Matilda Podborsek; 1968 – Maria Mejac/Mara Chokel/Matilda Podborsek; 1969–1971 – Ica Zebot/Mara Chokel/Matilda Podborsek; 1972–1974 – Mara Chokel/Mary Lipar/Matilda Podborsek; 1975–1977 – Mara Chokel/Ica Zebot/Matilda Podborsek; 1978 – Mara Chokel/Jane Bevec/Maria Paulin; 1979–1980 – Mara Chokel/Jane Bevec/Matilda Terselic; 1981 – Molly Thomas/Ica Zebot/Matilda Terselic; 1982 – Mara Chokel/Ica Zebot/Jane Bevec; 1983 – Mara Chokel/Molly Thomas/Jane Bevec; 1984–1986 – Mara Chokel/Matilda Terselic/Jane Bevec; 1987 – Mara Chokel/Regina Raspet/Jane Bevec; 1988–1992 – Mara Chokel/Molly Thomas/Jane Bevec; 1993– Mara Chokel/Mary Lou Terselic/Jane Bevec.

Reporters for ZARJA: 1965–1969 – Irene Planinsek; Nika Kovacic (Slovenian articles); 1975 – Freda Michelitch; 1976 – Freda Michelitch/Betty Cesnik; 1977 – Freda Michelitch/Matilda Ausich; 1978 – Matilda Ausich; Nika Kovacic (Slovenian articles); 1979–1981 – Matilda Ausich, Freda Michelitch (Special Events), Nika Kovacic & Alenka Richardson (Slovenian arts.); 1982–1984 – Matilda Ausich, Freda Michelitch (Special Events), Nika Kovacic (Slovenian articles); 1985–1991 – Matilda Ausich; Freda Michelitch; Nika Kovacic; 1992–1993 – Matilda Ausich; Freda Michelitch; Sabina Bartol; Nika Kovacic; 1994 – Matilda Ausich; Sabina Bartol; Nika Kovacic.

Spiritual Advisors: 1975–1978 – Father Francis Blatnik; 1979– Father Raymond Wadas.



Gentlemen bowlers at the bowling banquet. L. to r., first row: John Nagel, Mike Sames, Capt. Jim Laurich. Second row: Frank Zic, Ray Johansson. Third row: Mike Tejera and Phil Michelitch, bowling instructor and sec'y.



Lady bowlers stand proudly with their trophies. L. to r.: Helen Krotec, Matilda Ausich, Freda Michelitch, Irene M. Planinsek (Odorizzi).

BOWLING LEAGUE

In summer of 1969, Irene M. Planinsek (Odorizzi) began formulating plans and gathering interested individuals to participate in a Branch #103 bowling league similar to SWU teams in the midwest. Since there were not enough interested ladies, she decided to include men as well.

The first bowling date was September 14, 1969, and was held at lanes in Alexandria, Virginia, every Sunday evening. The team consisted of bowlers new to the game and those of varying experience. The newcomers were instructed by Phil Michelitch, brother of former president of #103, Freda Michelitch. On various occasions, teammates also advised the amateur bowlers on ways to improve their technique during the course of a game.

There were four teams with three bowlers on each team. After bowling, the group gathered at Irene's apartment for a delicious buffet and friendly conversation. Sunday evenings were very exciting times that year.

The culminating activity for the bowling team was a banquet held at the Orleans House Restaurant in Rosslyn, VA. Trophies were given to the bowlers and the scores were such that everyone received at least one trophy and some received two.

Even though the league enjoyed a successful season that year, the activity was discontinued the following year because 12 regular bowlers would not be available on a weekly basis.

Team members were: *Irene M. Planinsek (organizer), *Freda Michelitch, *Tillie Ausich, *Helen Krotec, Peggy Griffin, Gloria Fernandez, Esther Cernigoi, *Phil Michelitch (bowling instructor and team secretary), *Jim Laurich, *Mike Tejera, *John Nagel, *Ray Johansson, *Frank Zic, *Joe Yasbec, *Nick Zonarich, *Mike Sames, Frank Zuckett, Ronnie Deckman, Harold Edwards

**regular team*

End Part I

OPENING FOR FOOD COLUMNIST

If you are interested in becoming our new SWU Food Columnist for ZARJA, please send in your application. Please include your food interests and accomplishments, how you see your participation in this project and why you are interested in it.

The food columnist will submit one page of recipes, etc. for each of the eight yearly issues of ZARJA. For more information and all correspondence, please write to the National President, Jean Korsman, 4222 McKinley Rd., Gilbert, MN 55741, telephone (218) 865-6020 by November 1, 1995. Final selection will be made at the Board of Directors meeting in March, 1996.



Pots and Pans food column will have guest writers for the next few issues of ZARJA. We hope to continue in the same fine example as our dedicated Hermine Dicke who retired after 32 years writing and sharing her great kitchen culinary art! We wish Hermine all the best and hope she'll continue to guide us as we follow the path set by her mother, our Founder, Marie Priland and then Hermine, herself.

The first of our guests is Rosemary Mlakar, of Irvine, CA. She was Regional President of the Western States before her recent move from Fontana. Rosemary found the cake recipe among her mother's things after she died - and noted her mother's remark: "very good!" written on it.

Thanks also to Irene Odorizzi who encouraged Rosemary to submit these three recipes at the Nat'l Convention in San Francisco.

REFRIGERATED DOUGH RECIPE CORRECTION

Please note the fifth line of the final paragraph and add: Sprinkle filling evenly with the rum-soaked raisins and then the remaining 1/2 cup sugar. On longer side start rolling up dough...

WATERGATE CAKE

Beat:

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Box instant pistachio pudding | 1 | package Duncan Hines |
| 1 | cup Wesson veg. oil | | white cake mix |
| 1 | cup ginger ale | 3 | eggs |
| Add last, 1 cup chopped nuts (optional) | | | |

Grease and flour 2 or 3 round cake pans or a Bundt pan. Bake at 350° until cake springs back when touched and springs back. Cool and frost.

Frosting

Whip until smooth - 1 box instant pistachio pudding with 1¹/₄ cups milk, fold in 1 container (medium size) of cool whip

If desired sprinkle with nuts and red cherries sliced in half.

CREAM CHEESE STRUDEL

Mix:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 2 | 8 oz. cream cheese (room temp.) | 2 | cups sugar |
| 4 | egg yolks beaten well | | bread crumbs |

Beat 4 egg whites until stiff and add to first three ingredients. Whip 1 pint whipping cream and add to first mixture. Add 1 tsp. vanilla.

Strudel Dough:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 3 | cups flour | 1 | tsp. salt |
| ¹ / ₄ | cup oil | 1 | egg - add water to make one cup |

Mix all together and knead very well. Let rest in warm place for at least an hour.

After stretching the dough spread the filling all over, sprinkle with some bread crumbs. (¹/₂ to 1 cup). Roll like strudel and brush with egg-water wash: one egg beaten with 1 tablespoon water. Bake 350° for 1 hour.

Here's another filling for your strudel:

LEMON STRUDEL FILLING

Mix:

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 | lemons and rind | 4 | eggs separated (beat egg yolks) |
| 2 | sticks margarine | ³ / ₄ | cup bread crumbs |
| 3 | cup sugar | | |

Beat egg whites with 1 cup sugar. Whip 1 pint whipping cream and fold in first mixture along with egg whites. Bake 350° for 45 minutes.

This filling is a strong lemon flavor. Dust with powdered sugar and serve in small pieces.

ACTIVITIES

NO. 1, SHEBOYGAN, WI

Br. 1 had their Mother's Day meeting on June 13th. A good number of members were present. All of them were considered as Mothers of the Year and each was presented a red carnation. Father Dick and his Dad were our guests for the evening.

After our delicious meal we had our monthly meeting and our delegate to the National Convention, Kathy Schroeder gave us a very interesting report on the many new things which will be taking place starting in 1996. She told us about the busy days and pleasant tours taken by the group and the beautiful Mass in the historic church. She brought back many interesting pictures and souvenirs which were given out as door prizes at the meeting. We especially enjoyed the grape-wine soap, the bottle of Napa Valley wine (guess who won that?) and the "LOVE" Slovenian coffee mug.

Thanks for the report, Kathy, and congratulations on being selected as the SWU Youth Director. We will all be keeping up with your work among our young members and hope to hear more about the convention in the next issues of ZARJA.

Our new business was the State Convention to be held by Br. 43 in Milwaukee on Sept. 17th. Aggie Gruenke will be our delegate and we plan to attend in large numbers. More was to be planned at the August meeting.

Congratulations to Jessica Gruenke on her graduation from South Hi School. She is working for the Park System this summer. Good luck, Jessica. And, congratulations to Pat Ziegenhorn on his new position at St. Roman's church in Milwaukee.

We have quite a few new members on the sick list: Frances Rothe recently had surgery at St. Nick's here in Sheboygan and Hermine Dicke had surgery in Madison. Speedy recovery to both of them.

Mary Ann McCue is now a resident at Heritage Nursing Home. Continued good health to Janet Maurin and Olga

Saye who are ill at home. Our prayers are with all our members for a healthy, happy Fall.

Thanks again for the very nice Mother's Day celebration. Hope to see you soon. Please pay up your 1994 dues before this year of 1995 is up!

DOROTHY BREZONIK

CONGRATULATIONS ON CONSECRATION

Our congratulations to Joanne Rugar of Sheboygan, WI, Br. 1, who has announced that she has rededicated her life and professed vows as a Consecrated Woman, Living and Ministering in the world. In her new position, she will minister in art education at Rufus King High School in Milwaukee. She is our contributing artist for the 1994 ZARJA Anniversary Calendar (month of November) and a member of Br. 1 as is her mother Pauline, a loyal member for over 60 years! Our very best wishes to Joanne.

NO. 2, CHICAGO, IL

July 16 - **Zveza Picnic!** All week Chicago area had had a heat-wave of 100+ degrees but we were very fortunate Sunday. Mother Nature turned off her ovens. We had a nice breeze, it was warm but tolerable.

St. Francis always greets us as we come up to St. Mary's. Thanks to Father Vendelin for the beautiful Slovenian Mass songs. Afterwards lunch was served; music by the Heritage Ensemble. It was nice to see all the national officers of S.W.U. who came after their post-convention meeting and also members from other branches.

Thanks to all the members: those that gave prizes; worked with the raffles; sold the chances; those that baked; those that cooked the food; our kitchen helpers; for our cold brew crew; to Fran and Percy who always put in so much time to pull the picnic together and to our special friends who are not mem-

bers but who worked very hard all day in the kitchen namely: Jean Gale and Rose Svec. Dolores Puhek gets the blue ribbon! **She sold 149 chance books.**

Sunday, October 1, South Chicago will be hosting the State Convention. We hope many of our members will be attending since it is so close. Please call Fran to make your reservations for dinner and transportation. Bus will leave from St. Stephen's. It will be fun and we will see a lot of our friends.

Our condolences to the family of Agnes Kovacic (Augustine). Her daughter, Diane, grandson, Kurt and brother-in-law, Frank and Jenny Kovacic. Agnes was an officer when Br. 2 first began. She attended all the meetings until her illness did not allow her to travel.

Our hearts go out to the family of Joseph Naudziunas (16 years old) who was killed in an auto accident: his father, John, grandparents, Fuzzy and Dorothy Forals's and aunt, Sharon Naudziunas.

Also, condolences to the family of Josephine Klobucar, please remember them all in your prayers.

Please remember in your prayers our sick members; Kay Turner; Helen Fitzgerald; Josephine Lukas; Ann Mladic; Helen Mladic; Ann Sarn and Irene Carter.

Father Christian has left us. He will be teaching at the U. of Ljubljana and assume directorship of the new Franciscan Marital Counseling Clinic. Father was with us for 10 years; everyone will miss him, especially the young people of St. Stephen's. We really enjoyed having Father Chris with us at the S.F. Convention. We all wish Father Chris good luck! We know that he will do the best for his people in Slovenia as he did for us when he was in Chicago.

October 7 - Alumni Dance - Years Honored: 50th - 1945 and 25th - 1970. Call your classmates and have a fun get together. This year we will have a D.J.

The Slovenian Community will be celebrating two big events this year. October 21, the Slovene Radio Club's "SLOVENIAN DAY" - Music by Al-

pine Sextette and Korotan Choir from Cleveland at St. Stephen's Gym Hall.

On November 18 & 19 is the Grand Opening of the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont. It will be a historical event with many prominent people attending. Make your reservations early.

Richard Rakovec is an excellent actor, he is in all our skits - I failed to mention his part in Jennie's life.

We are happy that we have two new members: Barbara Krampac and Marie Rom...

Raffle Prize Winners:

Bread Making Machine - Len Bogolin; Boom Bx Radio - J. Eichstaedt; 6 pc. decanter set - M.A. Kruse; Desk Lamp - P. Walski; Slovenian Doll - W. Krempack; Stitchery - E. Statkus; Cinnamon Teddy Bear - E. Wojdula; Quartz Wall Clocks - S. Hozzian; Bd Comforter - F. Kremesec; Coffee Maker - M.A. Matuszak; Crocheted Afghan - D. Vidmar; 23 pc. Tool Set - I. Pasderetz;

Crock Pot - K. Gaber; Men's Sun Glasses - M. Vidmar; Women's Sun Glasses - A. Gaber; Wind Sock - R. Krapence; Travel Kit - S. Longosz; Serv. 16 pc. Picnic set - B. Pflum; Phillips Shoes \$10.00 - D. Possedi; Burdeen Shoes \$10.00 - R. Ceferin; Burdeen Shoes - N. Puc; Wagner's Bakery \$15.00 - J. Vidmar; MaryAnn Shoppe \$15.00 - J. Hrastar; Rosicky Cleaners \$10.00 - A. Parrino; Rosicky Cleaners \$10.00 - B. Jackson; Silk Flower/Fleetwood Florist - M. Church.

Much luck to all our sister branches, hope this will be a great year for SWU with many new members.

Love, DAISY

NO. 3, PUEBLO, CO

As summer is about over and our fun-filled days of outings, festivals and vacations are a thing of the past, we can once again turn our attention to the beautiful fall season and lodge activities.

Our first meeting will be held at St. Mary's Church hall Tuesday, September 5, at 1:00 p.m. Make an effort to attend if at all possible.

One of our travelers this summer was Matthew Slaten, son of Diane and Chuck Slaten and grandson of Matthew and Agnes Glavich. He traveled with

the United Soccer Tours, trained in Germany and participated in the Pordus Cup and also the Brondby Cup in Denmark and stayed with a host family in Germany July 20 through August 5.

It is such a pleasure to see families get together. The Pritekel, Yaklich and Centa families had a reunion in July.

We at St. Mary's mourn the loss of Father Alan Schwab, O.S.B., who passed away July 14. He was pastor at St. Mary's for nine years and beloved by all. Vigil and viewing was at St. Mary's and Mass of Christian burial was held at Holy Cross Abbey, Canon City, Colorado with interment at Holy Cross Abbey Cemetery. Condolences are extended to his family who were here for the services.

Condolences are also extended to the families of Mildred Boitz, Gilbert Manzanares, Rudolph Strauss, Mary Kochevar, Rita Chavez, Stanley Miklich, Frank Skul and Agnes Grande.

Get well wishes are extended to all who are ill or homebound and those in nursing homes are remembered in our prayers.

Hope to see a good turnout at our meeting in September 5.

PAULINE PAUCHICK

NO. 5, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

October 15, 1995 - Come out and join us at Holy Trinity Catholic Church for a Communion Breakfast. We shall attend the 9:00 a.m. Mass following it by coffee and donuts in Bockhold Hall. If you have not been able to attend the meetings held during the week, please try and attend this weekend event.

We will be deciding on the date for our December luncheon and business meeting at this event.

October 21, 1995 - Please join us again at Holy Trinity Catholic Church of 5:30 p.m. Mass. We will be honoring the Living and Deceased Members of Branch 5.

Hermina Bruder, our Member of the Year, was honored at our May luncheon and business meeting. Everyone enjoyed the party and all the tasty offering that the members brought.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you that have been sick or shut-in. But, we hope this newsletter is finding you feeling better. God Bless to you all.

Katie Fon transferred from a Junior

to an Adult membership in August. Also in August, **Katie Fon** left home to attend college. She is attending Indiana State in Terre Haute. Congratulations and Good Luck, Katie.

If any of you have member news, please let Mary Frances Mohr or myself know about it. We would like to include you in our next MEMBER NEWS!

Love from Texas,

BARBARA MOHR

NO. 6, BARBERTON, OH

Almost Autumn

**The days of summer dwindle down
and Autumn's song I hear.**

**The leaves will soon desert the trees
when frosty nights appear.**

**The air now holds a promise
of the season's golden glow,
and, as Summer takes her leave
Fall soon will overflow.**

**The beauty of each season
is always on display.**

**Summer, Winter, Fall or Spring,
hand in hand, on God's highway.**

Author Unknown

September is upon us... Hope everyone survived this last warm summer. Hope to see everyone on the Labor Day Polka Party with Frankie Spetich's Band.

Birthdays for Branch 6: Aug. 8th, Rochelle Winland and Sept. 22, Mary Voros.

Our Barberton, Ohio branch No. 6 mourns the loss of a good member, Pauline Barberich who died on May 24, 1995 at Manor Care Home. She was our member for many years.

Thanks for all condolences and masses. May she rest in peace.

Pauline Barbarich was my grandmother.

Mary Kovacic is still recuperating from her hospital stay. All of our prayers go out to her for a speedy recovery.

Again, may I emphasize, "I'm only human"! Any errors that I might do, or come from the Dawn office, are simply errors. Anyone still not receiving the Dawn should please contact me.

Have a nice Labor Day holiday. And, God bless everyone!

LINDA LAMBRIGHT

THE BEAUTIFUL CONVENTION BANQUET

When San Francisco opened her heart and we all left ours there!

Photos by Michelle Twers (13)



NO. 10, CLEVELAND, OH

Belated news! Steffie Segulin, president was honored on April 26th at the Collinwood Slovenian Home on Holmes Ave. In attendance were 35 members and guests. After our meal, which was prepared by Marie Celestine, we honored our 50 year member, Jennie Schultz who was unable to attend but received her gift at a later date. Many thanks, Jennie, for your generous gift to Br. 10. Pres. Steffie attended the Nat'l Convention in San Francisco in May.

Current news! Our next meeting will be held on Sept. 27th at 1 p.m. at the Collinwood Home on Holmes. Please try to attend as we will be planning our Christmas party to be held in November.

Get well wishes to our sick member, Caroline Stefancic, recuperating from hip surgery.

Our sympathy to deceased families of our members who passed away. Please call when a member has passed away – we often do not hear of the death until later and we do wish to pay our respects at the funeral. Helen Suhy, please accept our sympathy on the loss of your mother, Mary Hudock. Mary was 101 years old!

Have a safe and healthy year and take care.

ANN STEFANCIC

NO. 12, MILWAUKEE, WI

The weather has been miserable in Milwaukee with the horrible summer heat. Good thing no meetings were scheduled.

Lil Hartman traveled to Europe and Sophie Rozman and Ann Sachen went to Indiana to visit relatives. Rose Luebke, with daughter, Linda, went to New York to take in the sights and some shows. A couple of weeks later, daughter, Pat and her family came to visit for three weeks with Rose and Ray Leubke. They came from the State of Washington. Heat did not keep them home – it was go, go, go!

Mary Dezman went to Minnesota for a few days. I'm sure other members were traveling, too, but I did not get the news.

We lost two more members, Mary

Bolskar and Josephine Kastelic, mother of our member, Bernice Blazek. Sympathy to the families and may their souls rest in peace.

Jean Jelenc fell and is at Mercy Nursing Home. Hope it won't be long before you will be home, Jean.

Kathie Kraning came to our June meeting. We hope she won't stay away so long in the future!

Next meeting is Sept. 21st and I hope you will all have your tickets for the State Convention banquet by now. It will be hosted by Br. 43. At the meeting we will finalize our plans for the Fall Luncheon and Fashion show on Oct. 19th. Also, mark your calendars for our Christmas party Dec. 7th at Tanner Paul Post and helps us finalize these arrangements.

Not to forget our member, Albert Jelinek. He retired from teaching and we wish him many years of happy retirement. Our member, Erin Grambow is very active at college with her tennis. It was nice seeing her at the Mission Picnic which was a huge success.

Take care – stay healthy! God bless you all!

MARY KIEL

NO. 13, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Greetings to everyone and hope you are having wonderful vacations. With there being no meetings during July and August, I don't hear much news.

I just returned from the Board meeting in Joliet. I had many mixed feelings because this was my last meeting. I had four wonderful years and made beautiful friendships and how I will miss this! But I have such great faith in your new Board, I can see marvelous progress for our organization. We have a group of enthusiastic, progressive, and determined women and the meeting was so exciting with so many new ideas. God bless each one of you and much success.

The only negative was the terrible heat!!! It was so hot during Mass, we could hardly stand it, me especially, who s used to cool and fog. We ended our session with the annual picnic in Lemont put on by Branch 2. It was a delightful day again. Good music, good sausage and kraut, delicious desserts and those truly wonderful ladies. You

did a marvelous job again, Fran and we sure felt welcome.

It is hard to believe that the Convention is now a memory after four years of planning. A very wonderful memory. I know from all the beautiful letters we have gotten, everyone had a wonderful time. I know Barbara, Michele and I certainly did. Everyone was so cooperative and happy the whole time, it was very gratifying for us. I have always adored San Francisco no matter where I travel and I know I love it even more when I can show it off. I do know some of you left your hearts in S.F. but we will take care of it until you return and please come back...

I received news that our dear member, Mary Wraa, is in the hospital after a dreadful fall. We love you, Mary and you are in all of our prayers. We remember all of our members who can't join us. We thank you for your dedication and I am looking forward to getting back to our meeting in September.

Our Slovenian heritage is proud to report that Matilda Kambi's grandson, Jeff Shea, just completed on May 25, 1995 the ascent of Mt. Everest in Tibet. The Slovenes must have outstanding genetics if one of its descendants can accomplish such a physical feat. Jeff is the only San Franciscan, so far, to have climbed the highest mountain in the world. By the way, Jeff is also a resident and native of Potrero Hill living in his grandparents home on Vermont Street. Many congratulations!

BEVERLY JACKSON,

Reproter

NO. 14, EUCLID, OH

I won't bother to complain about our sweltering summer weather as it seems to have been the same throughout the country! I just hope all of you have survived safely through this summer of heat.

Get well greetings to Secretary Diane Varney doing well after surgery; and greetings to Frances Plut, residing at Manor Care, who has been under the weather.

Remember ladies, our monthly meetings resume in September, on the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 6:00 p.m. Hope to see a full house at our next meeting September 5.

All dues need to be paid at the **begin-**

MEMORIES OF BEAUTIFUL SIGHTS, MUSIC, AND FINE DINING IN SLOVENIA

by Alice Kuhar

Quick impressions of Slovenia: Exchange rate was about 110 toolars for \$1; beer in village Gostilna \$1 and in Ljubljana \$1.50 while in Frankfurt it was \$4 a glass; there's a light beer made by Union Pivo called Uni Lite; 1 dip of Hagen Daas yogurt in Frankfurt \$1.50; Mount Vogel restaurant \$4.50 for sausage and kraut with a slab of their wonderful crusty bread; more casinos in Bled as well as several other cities; graffiti beginning to appear on city walls; fewer people are smoking; young folks, especially, are ecologically minded; Slovenians driving more expensive cars; about half the cars on the road drive with lights on during daylight hours also; more toys and colorful selection of children's clothing available in stores with price about the same as here; an ice machine is available for guests in Union Hotel's 4th floor; more excellent Alpine style ensambels than ever; lots of road construction especially in Ljubljana, but thankfully no orange barrels; Ljubljana's Mestni Trg (market place) also undergoing renovation; village ladies selling bouquets of fragrant lily of the valley along Tromostov bridge for 60 toolars (55c); housewives buying out a new product in the supermarket. Hit-Mix which makes super krofe (donuts) or potica with just a few extra ingredients; not only do supermarkets sell instant polenta (corn meal mush) they now have Instant Ajdove Zganci!; mass on Sundays have good-sized crowds with many young couples with their children; more and larger trucks on their highways; women are fashionably dressed and it's still a rarity to see a woman

ning of each year. If your dues are in arrears, send your checks as soon as possible to Diane Varney, 1155 Easton Dr., Akron, Ohio 44310.

As we celebrate the Labor Day holiday on September 4, may your day be restful and relaxing.

ALICE KUHAR



Walter Ostanek's aunt and Tony Petkovsek's cousin, Matilda Zupancic, demonstrates how she bakes bread in her "krušni peč", (wood-burning oven).

in slacks; buzz cuts are in for the young fellas; packets of menthol scented Kleenex for anyone with the sniffles; real estate salespeople have become organized within the past 3-4 years. Normally homes were passed on from generation to generation or sold by owners with ads in newspapers; brilliant red wild poppies along with other wild flowers in golds, purples and whites in the fields which will be mowed for hay; cup of kava 60c; double capuccino \$2; ice cream in Bled and Lju. 55c a dip; McDonalds in Lju for a single cheeseburger, small fries and small coke \$2.99.

May 15 was the start of a most memorable trip to Slovenia - a 10 day Kollander Travel 60/80 Birthday Bash hosted by Walter Ostanek celebrating his 60th and Frank Yankovic his 80th along with Tony Petkovsek. On this trip our group dined on some of the tastiest food found in Slovenia: At Gostilna Ančka at Šenčur we feasted on a meal of several meats, vegetables then with Ančka's famous buckwheat ajdove walnut and cheese štruklje smothered in buttered bread crumbs; In Kal and Pivka, in Cerknica, we visited

the home of Frank Yankovic's parents and were welcomed by his relatives with more refreshments and goodies. And more music at a local gostilna where we lunched on hot chicken noodle soup and more cheese štruklje which came with a large dollop of whipped cream and a drizzle of chocolate. What a surprisingly delicious combination! As Frank had promised, "These are some of the lightest štruklje you've ever tasted."

On the Adriatic seaside in Izola we dined on a heaping platter of grilled trout, fried squid and shrimp at the famous Tri Vidove restaurant. Then it was on to a Hotel Riviera where Primorski Fantje performed their rousing melodies including their latest hit "Amore, Amore".

En route to Hotel Sava in Rogaška Slatina, we stopped at Logarska Dolina at Kovinotehna Pension for lunch on tasty venison goulash as we were entertained by the soothing sounds of the zither or citre; At the Hotel Sava we were met with more refreshments as we received an orientation of the extensive facilities available at this large resort. Many of us signed on for a relaxing half-hour body massage.

Our next adventure took us to Selo near Trebenje where we visited with relatives of Walter Ostanek and Tony Petkovsek, who discovered last year that they were first cousins on their mothers' side. We were welcomed with homemade potica, cookies, cake, pršut, bread and refreshments. Here we saw the home of Tony's grandfather, Ignac Golob, which was built in the 1400s. In Čatez we saw the home of Walter's mother and the bed she was born in.

In Rakovnik by Šentrupert at Gostilna Javornik ansambel Mavrica serenaded us during a sumptuous meal which began with žlinkrofi soup and ended with creamy cheese cake served with a scoop of ice cream. Here Henček joined our group for festivities.

Walter and Frank were inundated by calls and visits from television, radio and news media for appearances and interviews from the time we arrived til departure.

Reluctantly it was time to prepare for the trip home with unforgettable memories of meeting a wonderful group of people who were on our tour, beautiful music, fine dining, and of course, fine wine.

A huge hello to all! Hopefully, you have all survived the oppressive heat of this summer. I, for one, have hibernated a lot, but did enjoy my yard and beautiful flowers.

Members attending our June meeting enjoyed a picnic lunch of hot dogs, chips, watermelon, ice cream and all the fixin's (no ants)! Won't you come and join us at our next meeting on Saturday, September 9th?

We meet at 12:30 p.m. C'mon down to St. George's Hall! One of the items for discussion will be the Illinois-Indiana State Convention. Our neighbors, ladies of Branch 95, are hosting the convention this year. The date is October 1st. Please mark your calendar. We would like to have a good representation from our branch.

We have a few members who are ailing – please remember them in your prayers or with a card – they are Agnes Krich, Ana Lustig, Dolores O'Brien and Alvina Sreboth. We love you all and think of you often.

Our deepest condolences to our members: Dorothy Perko on the loss of her dear Matt; to Dotsi Rossi and Fran Novak and their families on the loss of Louis Novak of Colorado and the passing away of Clara (Pufahl) Novak of the Eastside; also to Clara Saviano, who lost a dear nephew, Jim Miller. Our deepest sympathies to all of you. May they rest in peace.

We have a few graduates to mention – our first kudos go to our member, John Behrmann, who completed his four years at Indiana University in 1994 and is at present employed in San Francisco. John's mom, Helene, is a long-time teacher at St. Thomas in Palatine, IL. Proud grandma, Mary Brozovich had four checks to write this year! Loren graduated from University School in Milwaukee – valedictorian and straight A – she is leaving for Harvard. Her sister, Faith graduated from the eighth grade. Granddaughter, Amy graduated from Naperville North and her brother, Michael completed the eighth grade.

Mary Gorenz flew out to Las Vegas for her granddaughter, Sarah's graduation – Sarah was also a straight A grad. She is going to Nevada Univ.

Our Mary Puterko also had a

graduate, granddaughter, Heather received her diploma at Munster High in Indiana. Belated congratulations to her sister, Elizabeth who received her First Holy Communion in May.

To all of our graduates our best wishes for a successful future.

We do have more congratulations! Our Manda Maggio was chosen by her peers as the best "senior" to represent Calumet Park at the Conrad Hilton Hotel. Manda is our "A.W." lady (always willing!).

Gladys had some scenic cards from Barb and Tom Ireland while they travelled in the Badlands of So. Dakota. Jason and Kelly really enjoyed the trip, especially Mount Rushmore.

Helen Milanovich had visitors from Longwood, Florida – her daughter-in-law, Fran and her daughters, Susan and Dana were here for a nice visit. After they left, Helen's sister Ruth Cubra, a long-time member of our branch, spent two weeks visiting Helen and also their sister, Zora. Ruth resides in Mesa, AZ. She has made her home there for many years.

Vida is looking forward to her sister, Ann's visit from Ljubljana. Ann will be here for five weeks. Enjoy your stay. Na svidenje!

A little birdie told me that Chris Tomasik had a nice stroke of luck! Enjoy it. Also heard that the same birdie had some luck, too! Congratulations girls!

Stay well and enjoy the Fall Season and all that comes with it. My best to you.

MARGE PREBIL

NO. 20, JOLIET, IL

Can you believe summer is just about gone. We had such a busy one, and I think that makes it go even faster. Well, we always have Christmas to look forward to.

Don't forget our Grape Harvest Festival Dance coming up on Sept. 24th at St. Joseph Park. Bob Doszak will play from 4 to 8 and button-box musicians Joe and Tony Wolf will be our honorary mayors this year. So mark this date so you won't forget and come out to help us celebrate the harvesting of the grapes. I am sure you will have a good time.

Congratulations to Maria & Rene Haug on their marriage. Maria's husband Rene is from Switzerland. She is

WE NEED UNSOLD POTS & PANS COOKBOOKS

Calling all branches who have unsold copies of our famous SWU Cookbook, POTS & PANS, edited by Hermine Dicke. Please return them to the Home Office, 431 No. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432 at your earliest convenience. Our dwindling supply prompts this notice from the Home Office. Please comply!

the daughter of Marion and Keith Bowers of St. Helena, California. Also congratulations to Beatrice Ann Holmes and her husband on their recent marriage. They are living in Janesville, Wisconsin.

Get well wishes are in the air for Kathy Kramerich, Pat Williams, Judy Pucel, Jenny Konopek, Virginia DuVal and Anna Marie Mulvey.

Branch 20 extends sympathy to Sharon Zelinski on the loss of her father-in-law Al. We also extend our sympathy to the Kobe family on the loss of their husband, father and grandfather Bill Kobe. Bill and Anna were married 70 years this past February. We extend sympathy to Beverly and Jill DeJule on the loss of Beverly's mother and Jill's grandmother, Anna Pershey. We send our sympathy to Frances Trautner on the loss of her brother and Bernice Suski on the death of her husband Francis. To the family of Mary Shepich who has been our member since 1941 and long-time bowler. To Deanie Gudac and family on the loss of her mother, Anne Buchar. To Ethel Haller on the loss of her husband, John. May God extend his comfort to each of you.

Two 40-year wedding anniversaries were celebrated amongst Br. 20 members. They are Margaret Shukle and Jim Louch who celebrated on July 30th. They have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. And to Marie Riffle and Frank Muster who celebrated on May 21st. They have 5 children and 7 grandchildren.

Rose Tabler is the grandma of twin boys, Jacob Connor and Noah Hunter. John and Rosemary Konopek are also new grandparents to Caitlin Marie. Susan Scheuber and husband Mark have a new baby girl, Katelyn Ann. Grandmas is Marian Schoener. Con-

gratulations. I know they will bring you much happiness as I am sure they already have. The very best to you all.

The Southwestern Oklahoma State University's music department hosted its annual Piano Camp June 12-16 on the Weatherford Campus. Thirty-five youngsters from three states participated in the camp directed by SWOSU music professor Dr. James Breckenridge. Attending was Melanie Brsan, daughter of Pam and Mark Brsan.

St. Joseph Grade School is celebrating their 100th anniversary. They will hold a banquet on October 8th. Tickets can be obtained by calling Josephine Lustick 723-2777 or Lillian Cepen 726-3521. The cost for adults is \$10.00 and Grade School Children is \$6.00. For all you alumni please try to attend.

I must close now so all of you have a nice Labor Day and a great Halloween. See you at the next meetings which will be at St. Joseph's Park at 7 p.m. on September 19th and October 17th.

Take care and may God bless.

JOYCE VICICH

NO. 22, BRADLEY, IL

"Everything happens at once," we exclaim! So it was on May 23. It was Mass at 8:30 a.m. for deceased Branch members, followed by a leisurely breakfast at Family House, then getting together again in the afternoon at Helen Sebastiani's home for a meeting and, of course, for more socializing. Helen always entertains so beautifully, and as co-hostess, I'm grateful for her kind acceptance of the responsibility. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Excused for good reasons were Mary Rittmanic and Marge Planton. It was Mary's 88th birthday and need be that she spent precious time with her daughters, Helena of Wisconsin and Katie from Texas. Marge stayed away to doctor a nagging cough, for she was anticipating cataract surgery.

Mayme Drassler came back to Bradley from Sun City, AZ on her 86th birthday, May 27. To Mary, Mayme and all the other BD celebrants of months past, congratulations, good health and happiness! With these, you possess all.

June was a month of sad good-byes and warm welcome in St. Joe's parish. Both pastor and associate were transfer-



Departed Members

- 2 - Joseph Naudziunas (16)
9-yr junior member
- 2 - Josephine Klobucar (72)
18-yr member
- 3 - Mary Kochevar (98)
43-yr member
- 10 - Louise Kastelic (96)
66-yr member
- 12 - Mary Seitz (96)
59-yr member
- 14 - Agnes Leskovec (89)
31-yr member
- Dorothy Simmens (98)
66-yr member
- 30 - Pauline Sustaric (88)
57-yr member
- 38 - Mary Pahule (97)
65-yr member
- 40 - Angela Kozjan (94)
60-yr member
- 50 - Nettie Leslie (88)
33-yr member
- 54 - Helen Kohli (66)
28-yr member
- 63 - Rita Krasovich (82)
44-yr member
- 73 - Anna Harvot (96)
59-yr member
- 92 - Pauline Stajduhar (70)
33-yr member

red: our beloved Fr. Butters to Mokena and Fr. Ernie Norbeck (here only a year) to Naperville. In their stead came Frs. Ron Hart and Douglas Hauber. In his introduction, Fr. Hart explained his name. He is of Polish-Lithuanian descent and the "Hart" is a translation of his difficult-to-pronounce Lithuanian surname (heart of the deer). His hobbies are gardening and cooking. And Mrs. Ron Hart is our organist. What? Never mind, just a co-incidence. Joan Mulligan Hart is a life-long parishioner and grandmother of 12. Fr. Hauber is no stranger, having spent six months

here while a seminarian. He can give a good homily in five minutes. Fr. Hauber likes to travel and will take you to the Holy Land in February, if you can spare \$2,500.

Our wishes for a happy marriage go out to Danny Metschuleit and Deanna Smith. Danny is a grandson of our president, Mollie McIntyre.

We cannot overlook the tribute Barbara Richards Clutter gave her father on Father's Day. She and her dad appeared in the Kankakee Sunday Journal on that occasion. Very nice! Francis was Br. 22's driver for many years and is the husband of our member, Ann Richards.

Who should fly from Slovenia to America for a month's stay? Two kids! Andreja Drasler, age 14, and her friend, Ursa Drabnar, 16, of Borovnica. Andreja is a third cousin to Mayme Drassler. They spent a few days in Bradley, three weeks in Peoria with Steve D. and family (she knew Steve from his many trips to Slovenia), and a week in Sun City with Mayme's sister, Mathilde Beham. They traveled widely: Chicago, areas in the Midwest, the Grand Canyon and Sedona, AZ. A pickpocket gave them "a taste" of Chicago. Food? They passed up steaks for hot dogs! Clothes? Dressed in up-to-date teen fashions. Not many Americans know that Slovenia exists, let alone where it is. When Mathilde introduced the girls to a priest, he asked, "Is that near Toledo?" The Drasslers won't forget this July for a long time!

The September Song is beautiful. We hope for a beautiful Fall in every way. God bless all!

EMMA LUSTIG

NO. 24, LA SALLE, IL

We had an enjoyable meeting in June, preceded by a potluck dinner. There were 19 members in attendance. We were pleased to have our high school graduate member, Brenda Weber, her mom, Mary Ann Weber and grandma, Jane Gruenwald with us as Financial Secretary, Betty Stack presented Brenda with a small check to be used for her continuing education. We voted to honor each Junior member with a like amount as a gift toward more education. Brenda will transfer from Junior membership to our adult membership. After our business meet-

ing National Convention delegate, Jo Grabowski gave an outstanding report on the Convention. Our alternate, Mary Ann Brunner added her remembrances and we all felt that we had two very responsible ladies who had represented Branch 24. We enjoyed seeing all the photos and literature they had with them. Adele Gensler, Recording Secretary, will be our delegate to the IL-IN State Convention in October. The members expressed an interest in chartering a bus to go to the Convention so Betty Stack will make inquiries and we'll try to have a bus. Perhaps we can have a nice group from LaSalle in South Chicago.

Our congratulations to Bonnie and Bill Prokup on the birth of a daughter, Barbara Jean, on July 8, and to grandmother Barb Pohar. We hope she will join the rest of the Pohar family and become our newest member. We also wish to congratulate Betty and LeRoy Stack who celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on July 16th.

Our member, Josephine Spayer passed away on July 3 at Heritage Manor in Peru. She is survived by her sons, Donald and David and daughter, Donna, and their families, as well as six sisters, including our Treasurer, Ann Serri, and three brothers. Josephine and Anne were honored as 50 year members in 1993. Our sincere sympathy to the family. May God grant Josephine Eternal Rest. Thank you to the members who recited the SWU Funeral Ritual before the funeral Mass.

Betty Stack had surgery at St. Margaret's Hospital in June and is now feeling better. She thanks the members for their cards and prayers.

I neglected to list the July-August birthdays in my last article so I send belated birthday greetings to July celebrants. Junior member Amy Schweickert, Julie Weber, Anna Lushina, Anne Dresen, Deborah Dobryndia, Mildred Welch, Bonnie Prokup, Alvina Ann Strukel, Barbara Krogulski, Audrey Prokuski, and Ann Kastigar. August celebrants were Junior member Julie Ann Wanger, Jane Sherman and Dorothy Parola. I hope you enjoyed your special day! Members with September birthdays are Justine Anglavar, Wanita Helmer and Vice President Minnie Carter. Happy birthday and may you have many more!

We will begin our fall season with a regular business meeting on Thurs-

day, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the La Salle Catholic School Library. Reservations will be made that evening for the state convention. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to go on the bus to convention, please contact Betty Stack before the 21st -- her phone number is 224-1949. We hope to have a nice attendance at our meeting and a large representation at convention.

ANNE M. WANGLER,
Reporter

NO. 30, HOME OFFICE

OOPS! If you were wondering where last month's report was in ZARJA, there wasn't one! I've been under the weather for a few weeks, and the deadline passed me by.

We had a wonderful vacation in California and Maui. We visited with Michael's family for a few days in beautiful Solvang. It was the first time we had all been together in over 20 years. From there, we flew to Hawaii for ten days. It is so breathtaking, you don't believe it's real. It was Beth's first trip to Maui, and her boyfriend, Brian, went along. They enjoyed snorkeling with Michael while I sat on the beach and supervised. I hope everyone had just as good a holiday as we did. I had a nice letter from Dr. Silvija Onusic, Director of International Relations, Ministry of Health, Republic of Slovenia. She sent along a greeting card with an illustration by Maksim Gaspari on the front. Sylvia collects Gaspari postcards and Slovene folkart patterns. Silvija wrote, "I have been improving my Slovene. The courses held by the University of Ljubljana for foreigners are good. The government offers scholarships for those of Slovene descent to attend. A one year course prepares students for study at University of Ljubljana. Education is free, including medical school, law school, etc. So, it is a chance for those Slovene Americans who have the ability, but not the money to get an education.

If you are the child of Slovene parents or grandparents, married to a Slovene, or born in Slovenia, you are probably entitled to Slovene citizenship. Thus, you have rights to buy property, education, etc.

Most immigrants came from the

southern part of Slovenia, Dolenjsko and Notranjsko. In villages of these areas, there are many empty and available homes which could be renovated into charming homes for vocations. It could be a chance to go back and recapture your heritage. Slovenia is the most beautiful country. If you have the opportunity to visit, either independently or on an organized tour, it is worth it. But, don't forget to see the small villages and countryside as well as the major attractions like Ljubljana, Lake Bled, Piran, Portorož, Koper and Postojna."

Silvija and her husband have two sons, Justin (7) and Evon (5). Justin made his first communion in May at St. Mary Annunciation on Preseren Square, in the Slovene language, of course!

Happy birthday wishes go out to Emma Donckers of Phoenix, AZ on September 18. Yours truly will celebrate on September 30. A belated happy birthday to Elaine Murphy of Brunswick Hills, OH on August 27. The Atlanta area had the largest toll-free area code in the world, but someone found us out. So, I have a new area code. My new number is 770-457-7698.

Dear members, please, please write to me with your news. It is too expensive to write frequently to each of you, and without your input our report cannot represent all Branch 30 members. I know I am missing birthdays, anniversaries and those other special celebrations that we want to hear about. Also, some members have illness or other critical situations that we can all lift up to the Lord in prayer. My address is the same - 3212 Parkridge Crescent, Chamblee, GA 30341.

Until next time, take care and God bless.

MARY PAVLIC

NO. 32, EUCLID, OH

We had our annual picnic supper before our June 21 meeting. Our delegate, Charlotte Perdan, gave her report on her trip to the Convention in San Francisco. There were some very nice tours arranged for them.

Members birthdays for June: Frances Ogoreuc, Anna Rossman, Emily

Buchar, and Adrienne Jager; July Birthday: Pres. Ann Cooke July 5th; August Birthdays: Charlotte Perdan, Jean McNulty and Rose Hahn.

Charles and Faye Starman celebrated their 20th Anniversary on June 21. Ceal and Howard McLean celebrated their 42nd Anniversary on June 13th.

Mary Ogoreuc, who lives in Homer City, Penna, celebrated her 95th Birthday on June 12.

We are looking forward to our Chinese Auction which will be on Wed. Oct. 18th. Members, we will need many gifts and help on the night of the Auction, selling tickets and serving refreshments. Time 6:00 p.m. We will need canned goods and staple items to make up grocery baskets. Thank You!

ROSE HAHN

NO. 33, DULUTH, OH

The Spaghetti Dinner/Bake Sale netted \$445.00.

Renee Doble continues to sell knives, additional income to our treasury.

Beverly Menart gave a report on the SWU Convention. She has been elected Nat'l Treasurer.

Prayers of sympathy: Ann K. Mrak, 86, 33 year member; Gertrude Dunalski, brother; Mary Chepelnik, brother; Ruth Boben, husband.

Congratulations to Cora Jones of Eveleth on her retirement.

Prayers for sick members including: Emily Skull and Bess Kenyon.

Note from Margaret (Lubina) Radosevich about grandson, Anthony Belsito. His mother, Stacy is a member of our branch, also. Tony, a new member, makes the fourth generation to join us!

LOIS PELANDER,
Reporter

NO. 35, AURORA, MN

We are enjoying a beautiful, quiet (July) day at the cabin as I write. The lake is like glass and seven loons are "skipping" across the water and calling to each other. (If you ever heard a loon "call" you will not mistake it for any other sound! Ed.) Two families of ducks are swimming to shore, each mother trying to keep her family close to her. Mother nature is truly wonderful!

Many interesting reports on the National SWU Convention were given in the July-August issue of ZARJA which covered all the highlights of the convention. The "Share Shops" were very interesting reports given by each delegate and I'd like to tell you of another way to raise money that was mentioned there. It was a "common cents" collection of pennies or any other change, at each meeting. As it accumulates, it can be sent to the ZARJA fund. Good idea? Let's all try it! Make the meetings fun, too.

Dorothy Jamnik enjoyed being with her sister, Anna Mae Lyle, from Houston, TX who came to the convention. Dorothy's daughter, Dorothy from Melrose, MI spent a month with her mom in Minnesota and helped judge a pie-eating contest and parades during our 4th of July celebration. Thanks, "Dottie"! Always nice to see and visit with our out-of-town members!

Sixteen students of Spanish, including Dannie Soular and Allyson Ferris and their teacher spent nine days touring Mexico in June. They visited Mexico City, Merida and Isle Mujer and spent five days with their host families in Merida. They all said the trip was totally "awesome"! What an interesting experience for all of them!

You may remember Julie Smith, when she spoke to us at the MN State convention in Eveleth about her interesting year studying at the University of Ljubljana and Slovenia. Her roommate at the university was a girl from Sweden, Anna Thomsic. Anna visited Julie and her family for a month. Julie and Anna then visited another classmate, Victoria Roshke, in Tennessee. What a great reunion for these girls!

Congratulations to the following: **Stephanie Hanka**, awarded as Top Scholar for the 8th grade at Ordean Jr. High School, highest activities award and Gold Star for being the Outstanding Student. This summer she is on the soccer team. Keep up the good work, Stephanie.

Cindy Kalar, a graduate of Boston College in June with a BA in Communications from the College of Arts and Sciences. She also received academic honors from Boston College by making

SWU Crest indicates the 65th Anniversary of this branch in 1995.

Congratulations!



the Dean's list with first honors.

Erin Zuponcic, crowned Miss Biwabik during the city's 4th of July celebration this year;

Janelle Antilla and **Courtney Kalar**, altar servers at Holy Rosary Church and **James Wheeler**, a acolyte and member of the Bell Choir at his church in Minnetonka;

Kaila and Jenna Urick, while visiting their grandmother, Barbara Urick here in Biwabik, enjoyed winning 2nd prize in the July 4th Children's Parade.

Happy belated 80th birthday to Betty Orazem. As I am writing my report, a party is being planned for Betty at the Sandstone Nursing Home that will take place on Aug. 18th with many family members and friends there to help her celebrate and enjoy this special day.

We wish Hermine Dicke a Happy Retirement after more than 30 years as editor of Pots and Pans. We'll miss you, Hermine. Missed you at the Convention and happy to hear that you are now feeling well again.

Our sympathy to the family of Ted Bradach who passed away in Willoughby, Ohio. May he rest in peace.

See you all at the MN State Convention on Sept. 10th in Biwabik. Enjoy the beautiful colors of Fall!

ANNE M. ORAZEM



38, CHISHOLM, MN

After enjoying several summer months of no commitments our group met on Aug. 2nd to begin the new fall and winter season of meetings and activities.

Charlette Laurich, our delegate to the national convention shared her interesting experiences with stories and pictures.

The Minnesota State Convention to be held in Biwabik was the main topic of discussion.

We are proud to be honored with another "Iron Ranger" in the person of Jean Korsman as our new national president. Congratulations -- Jean!

"Hats Off to SWU" is the theme of an innovative way each branch will be represented at the convention. The best branch hat wins a prize. What a great idea for some fun and laughs! Here's hoping to see the Minnesota gang in big numbers in Biwabik on Sept. 10th!!

GERT ZAKRAJSEK

Mourning a Dear Member

Submitted by Lois Pelander

Duluth, MN Branch 33

Mary (Kovacevich) Aunan, 84, died Dec. 15, 1994, in Zumbrota, Minn. She was a member of Branch 33, Duluth, MN, for 46 years. She was born in Eveleth, a long time Duluth resident, moved to Edina in 1978 and to Zumbrota in June 1994. She was a member of Good Shepherd Church, Duluth, for 40 years. Survived by a daughter, two sons, two sisters, a brother, and eight grandchildren.

The following tribute was given at her funeral Mass by her daughter Karen Miley:

Our mother, grandmother and sister, Mary Helen Kovacevich Aunan, was born Dec. 12, 1910 in Eveleth, MN. She moved with her family to Gary (Duluth) as a young child and attended St. Elizabeth's church. When her mother, Eva and stepfather, Joseph Blazeovich, sisters, Frances, Catherine and Marie and brother Paul moved to Illinois she stayed behind to be with her grandmother. After graduating from Morgan Park High School she worked for Dr. Anthony Bianco.

Sometime in 1938 she met our father, Norman Aunan, when he worked with his father as a carpenter in Gary. Mom walked past their work place every day on her way to work and according to her, dad would whistle at her. They seemed like a most unlikely pair at that time for he was from a Norwegian Methodist family in West Duluth. But unlikely as their union might have been, they were married in Sept. 1938, and made their home a 1 North 64th Avenue West, the only home that my brothers Frank, John and I knew as children and the home that mom so loved.

I recall how difficult it was for her in 1979, three years after dad's death; she sold her home and moved to Minneapolis to be near her grandchildren. How she loved that big old house with its memories of my father who was always in the midst of a remodeling project and of us kids who treated the house like our private playground. How many moms would allow the children to roller skate in the hall, have slumber parties for 30 of their friends, or be genuinely happy when when my brother's friends would regularly stop in for meals, use the laundry or sleep-in for a few days? My cousins remember that if they spent the night with us, they, too, had to swallow the nightly spoonful of cold liver oil.

There was always such a contradiction about mom in raising us kids, she was strict and yet she could not bear to punish or scold us. She truly could see no wrong in her children or her grandchildren.

Even after being away for 17 years her heart was always here in this community. The first thing that anyone in Minneapolis learned from her was that she was from Duluth. Occasionally, I would meet people in our neighborhood or at the super market who immediately knew her as that nice woman from Duluth. They also seemed to know a lot about Karen, Frank and John!

Shortly before my father died in 1976, he asked that we take good care of Mother. For some reason he and, I

suppose, we thought she did not have the stamina to last long after him. She had seemed so dependent upon him. How wrong we were!! Her last years in Minneapolis were lonely without dad but she took on a whole new mission in helping to raise the youngest grandchildren and in making certain that we, her children and our spouses David, Barb and Sandy, did right by her grandchildren: Mary, Eric, Andy, Darcy, Tony, Anna, Matthew and Joey. I think we did just that!! And now Dave and Lisa have joined the family and soon mom and dad will have a great grandchild.

These last few weeks when her passing was near, she received numerous cards from family and friends. It seems only appropriate that my remarks this morning include the



Mary Kovacevich Aunan

greetings that she received. For not only did these please her and comfort her, they also helped to ease our pain and brought back many wonderful memories. The Slovenian Women's Union, sent their prayers – their prayers which reminded us of their magazine, a name we three could not pronounce, which mom read for years. She saved every issue. A neighbor from 64th Avenue wrote that her home was being taken care of, a neighbor from her apartment in Minneapolis missed mom's smile on "the street where they lived," and from her nephew's wife we received a note that says it all: "We will remember you as a good wife and mother and a good friend. Thanks for writing to us at Christmas for all these years. We love you." A niece wrote and thanked her for being the best "auntie" and for all the birthday cards. Her nephew wrote that he wished he could be there to give her a squeeze and thank her for being his special aunt for she had always been so good to him. A high school classmate recalled the fun times when they worked together at Fairmount Grand School when mom was president of the PTA and they collected coupons for silverware. Mom always said that she collected the most coupons. Another friend wrote about the many years they worked at the Arrowhead

Clinic in West Duluth for Dr. Bell and of their lunch hour excursions ending with ice cream cones at Bridgeman's. A grandson wrote on her birthday card that "I always tell my friends that I have the best grandma and that's the truth grandma!"

We will all miss her unselfish ways, the telephone conversations where we only listened, the famous birthday cards and her genuine love of the Christmas holiday. Grandma will not be there this year to present her cards to each of you.

And so it seems most appropriate that after many years of being away from her favorite home and from this neighborhood in West Duluth, we should be here today at Good Shepherd Church to say our final farewell. This is the church where she faithfully took us to Mass every Sunday and where on rainy or snowy days my Father would drive us, where we were all baptized and confirmed, where Frank and John served as altar boys, where two of us were married and where mom required that every Saturday afternoon we come for confession after attending the matinee at the Doric theater.

It gives us great comfort to know that she will rest high on the hill amidst the white birch trees overlooking her favorite city, her neighborhood and her home, beside our father and his parents, Ingeborg and Andrew Aunan.

Mom's only dream and ambition was for her children and for her grandchildren. It can truly be said that she lived that dream to the fullest. We will miss her terribly and yet we know that she is finally at peace and with our father.



40, LORAIN, OH

We welcomed 15 members at our July meeting. Thanks to Agnes Drstvensek and Angie Grayson for the delicious dessert they served us. Sophie Pogachar won the door prize. Our Pres. opened our meeting with prayer. She read a letter she received from Evelyn Majercik who is now national secretary. She hopes that we cooperate with all the new officers voted at the convention to make the changes run smoothly. She further states that our state convention will be held on Oct. 15, 1995 at St. Vitus Church in Cleveland. Branch 25 is hosting the convention. Details will be furnished at a later date.

We received a thank you from Carita Girman for the \$46 we donated to the SWU Scholarship fund.

We welcomed back our Rose Knezevic who spent the winter in Florida.

Jean Balogh's grandson received a scholarship to Canisius College in Buffalo, NY where he will run Cross Coun-

try and Track for them. He's majoring in secondary science education. We wish him the best.

We wish to congratulate Jennifer Dickinson on being awarded the Frances Barman scholarship award. Her grandmother, Ann Rozanc is a member of our Branch 40.

Hope you all had a happy and healthy summer. See you at our Sept. 13th meeting at 1 p.m.

Love,

MARY MATOS



42, MAPLE HTS., OH

Our delegate Marge Chrch and Jo Stoltz have returned from the National Convention in San Francisco. You in San Francisco are to be commended for hosting such a wonderful convention for all the ladies that attended. Marge and Jo were so happy they attended as they had such a wonderful time. Thanks to all members who did so much to assure a perfect convention.

KEEP THE CONNECTION

A SINCERE THANK YOU to our "Keep Our Connection" contributors listed according to our seven regions for April and June, 1995:

California-Oregon-Washington		\$25.00
Anonymous donation	\$15.00	
Convention pennies	10.00	
Colorado-Kansas-Missouri		----
Illinois-Indiana		----
Minnesota		----
Ohio-Michigan		60.00
Anka Kregar (55)	25.00	
Memory Stanley Baloh from Marion Volpa (105)	20.00	
Mary Seseck (40)	15.00	
Pennsylvania-New York-Washington, D.C.		----
Wisconsin		----
Total for June		\$ 85.00
Previous Total		6,326.60
Total to date (56 months)		\$6,411.60

Margaret and Edward Roznik celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, May 7, 1995 at St. Lawrence Church where they were married on May 5, 1945. Congratulations and may you celebrate many more anniversaries.

Anna Marie Buchner completed Cosmetology School and received her license in April.

Our Bakeless Sale has gone well and many thanks for those who have been very generous.

Carefully read all future issues of the ZARJA Magazine for upcoming changes in the By-Laws and additional information regarding the convention.

Sorry we failed to report earlier but Anne McCaslin had a baby boy in October. They named him Alex Anthony. Anne and her family live in Silver Springs, Md. Proud grandparents are Lou and Betts Kastelic.

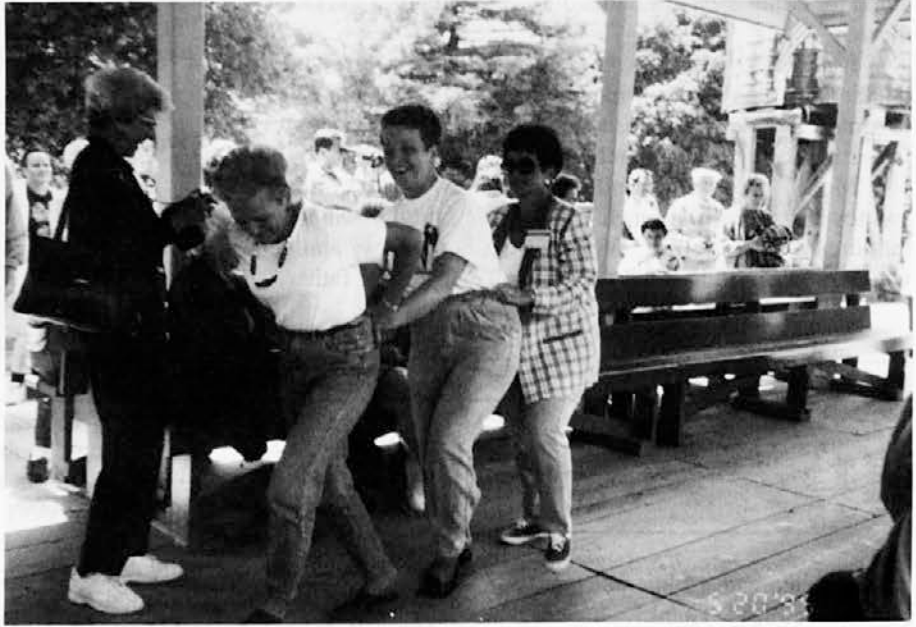
Our condolences to Mary Lou Prhne on the loss of her brother Andy Bilicic May 28, 1995. Funeral mass was at St. Christine's Church in Euclid.



BOB MUELLER PEPS THEM UP!

Conventioners found time to lift their heels, too! Bob Mueller, husband of our member, Delores (73) provided the button-box polkas!

Photos by Michelle Twers (13) and Angie Nico (89).



Marge Zupancic had a knee replacement in June. She is doing well after her knee and recent hip replacement surgery.

Happy birthday to our members with birthdays in July and August: Josie Gruden, Ann Perko, Marge Patena, Jeanne Legan, Ellen Bodziony, Mary Catherine Gruden, Mae Danicic, Ann Keglovic, Ludmilla Tacsar, Betty Ann Harr, Emily Gruden, Suzanne M. Harris, Mary Louise Prhne, Frances J. Hocevar, Jane Szymkowski, Mary Fink, Eleanor M. Charvat, Gabrielle Gruden, Anna Draganic, Mary Mauer, Marge Zupancic.

Please call or send a card to our members who are shut-ins. They'd love to hear from you.

DOROTHY MEHOSKY



42, MAPLE HEIGHTS, OH

Hello ladies!

Celebrating 50th wedding anniversaries in recent months were Margaret and Edward Roznik, and Frank and Dorothy Zidar. Marge and Ed celebrated with Mass on Sunday May 7, 1995 at St. Lawrence Church, where they were married on May 5, 1945. Frank and Dorothy were married on July 7, 1945 at Spittal an der Drau, in Austria, a holding camp for displaced persons. Their hopes were high to succeed in life and eventually come to America, and they did it! Congratulations to both couples, may you share many more happy anniversaries.

Thanks to the ladies who supported our Bakeless Bake Sale. You made it another success!

We received a note from Ann Marie Buehner saying she was so pleased to have completed Cosmetology School and received her license in April. Keep that in mind, ladies.

Our condolences to Mary Lou Prhne and family on the loss of her brother, Andy Bilicic, this past May. Funeral Mass was at St. Christine's Church in Euclid. Also deepest sympathies to Albie Mroczka, Jeannie Offutt, and Diane Balach and their families on the loss of Dan Hribar, Albie's brother and the girls' uncle. Sympathy also to the family of Albert Lipnos. Albert was a dear and great friend to our Zvezda. We

will miss them all and pray for their peace and rest.

Past birthdays celebrated in July and August were by Josie Gruden, Ann Perko, Marge Patena, Jeanne Legan, Ellen Bodziony, Mary Kay Gruden, Mae Danicic, Millie Tacsar, Betty Ann Harr, Emmy Gruden, Sue Harris, Mary Lou Prhne, Fran Hocevar, Jane Szymkowski, Mary Fink, Eleanor Charvat, Gabby Gruden, Anna Draganic, Mary Mauer and Marge Zupancic. Wishes to you for many more happy days.

On the mend from both knee and hip surgery is Marge Zupancic. We look forward to seeing her back on her feet soon.

Jo Stoltz and Mel Blazy just returned from Adrian, Michigan where they visited Sr. Joseph Marie of the Dominican order. Sister JM is Jo's aunt and Mel's sister. Dorothy and Bennie Mehosky also took a few days to visit Nashville and areas in Virginia, W. Virginia.

A letter of upcoming events was mailed to members. Be sure to mark your calendars with those dates. The Michigan-Ohio State Convention is scheduled for October 15th starting with Mass at the newly decorated St. Vitus Church. ALL MEMBERS are invited to attend.

Best wishes to September birthday gals Ann Marie Buehner, Theresa Filipis, Mary Tomc, Dorothy Budimlic, Elizabeth Harr, Millie Lipnos, Mary Polantz, Pat Wolf, Mary Prhne and to our guy, Frank Shega. Many happy returns.

Carefully read this and all future issues of ZARJA for upcoming changes in the By-Laws, dues structure and additional information regarding the convention.

Dues, dues, dues... please bring them up to date. Thanks.

Jo Stoltz and Marge Church thoroughly enjoyed the SFO National Convention and wish to commend and thank the SFO branch, chairwoman and staff for a well-planned schedule of meetings and diversified activities.

Keep in mind that your prayers, cards and visits can ease the loneliness of our shut-ins.

Z Bogom,

MARGE CHURCH



43, MILWAUKEE, WI

Our June 28th meeting was opened with a prayer by our President Josephine Janezic. The minutes were read and the financial report was given. All was approved.

Arlene Fritz, who was our delegate, representing #43 at the National Convention, gave a complete report on all the happenings at that convention. You did a very good job Arlene. Thank you.

A very good lunch was served by our birthday gal, Frances Zortz and other members. We sang Happy Birthday to Frances, and we hope she will have many more happy and healthy birthdays. Our next subject on the agenda, was our State Convention on September 17th. At that time we will also be celebrating our 65th Anniversary. Preparation for this event is progressing very well. We still have some Banquet tickets available, but they are going fast. These tickets are \$10.00 each, and you can get them by calling either Josephine at 545-0691 or you can call me at 871-8295.

The day will begin with a Mass at 8:45 at St. John the Evangelist Church at 84th and Cold Spring Road. We will then proceed to Klemmer's Restaurant, 10401 W. Oklahoma Ave. Bakery and coffee will be available. A meeting will follow. At this time we will be honoring our 13 charter members, who served us well:

Gertrude Delopst, President
Agnes Verbnik, Vice President
Antonia Velkovich, Secretary
Cila (Gorshek) Marolt, Treasurer
Mary Bevez, Recording Secretary
Josephine Kolar, Auditor
Teresa Verhovnik, Auditor
Christine Rebernisek
Terezija Zortz
Helen Zunter
Josephine Tominsek
Mary Lenosek
Frances Stibler

I am sure that these wonderful women are interceding for us and the continued success of S.W.U. We wish to extend an invitation to this event to our Sisters in Sheboygan #1, Willard #102 and Milwaukee #12. We also hope that our Sisters in other States will

Thanks from Mother of the Year!

Milwaukee, WI – I want to thank all the grand ladies who attended the Mother of the Year dinner in May. My name was picked by lovely member, Rose Vodnik, last year's chosen Mother. Thanks also for the beautiful carnation bouquet presented to me. It was so nice for me as we just came back from Florida coming here to spend the summer visiting family and friends.

It was nice also to have seen and visited with my relatives, namely, my sister-in-law, Mary Musich, also Marie Wiher, Ed and Mitzi Bergant, Rose Vodnik, Rose Pugel and Frances Widemshek, Frances Sagadin and many others.

I want to say thanks for my "crown" and I look forward to placing it on the head of the next Mother of the Year in 1996, God willing.

Josephine Strukel
Branch 43

We, also, wish to thank Mary Kiel and other #12 members for their help. Thank you, Thank you.

And I mustn't forget, we have four new members: Mary Kay Kais, Karen Janezic, Marge Fischer, and Katherine Oliver. Welcome, Welcome. Please keep in your prayers our sick and deceased members. See you on Sept. 17th.

ANNE E. KONCZAL,
Reporter

NO. 50, EUCLID, OH

Dober Dan! We have been commended by Corinne, our editor, as to our previous articles published in ZARJA – The Dawn, which is in its 66th year. However, a desire toward limiting our space within has been explained and expected. It was suggested to give donations toward the expense of publishing our special magazine and/or inviting solicitors to publish "ads" in the 8-times-a-year publication which has a 6000 member circulation.

Our next meeting will be Sept. 20th, and our Picnic will be Sept. 27th at the Euclid Club House, E. 222nd St/Lk Shore Blv'd – by the "Lake." MARK YOUR CALENDARS. Time 1:00

**PLEASE NOTE THE REQUEST ON THE
BACK INSIDE COVER OF THIS ZARJA!**



Jean Paik and her granddaughter, Jennifer Dickinson, one of the 1996 SWU Scholarship winners! Jennifer and her grandma had these lovely smiles at Christmastime at Jean's home in Omaha.

p.m. Please make reservations.

We had our "St. Ann's Day" at Sterle's in charge of our President, Ann Tercek. Forty Anns attended. A great time consuming good food was had by all.

Sadly, our sick list never diminishes. Alice Cander had open heart surgery and Mary Petric endured foot surgery. Mamie Marin and Millie Petrovek still not feeling good at all.

We suffered a total loss in the passing of Frances Bencin on July 22nd. Since her sister, the late Josephine made the same journey previously, that leaves Mitzi on her own. These charter members who left us will be sadly missed, and Mitzi will have to adopt the rest of us for comfort. Many of our members attended the wake and funeral, especially the nine cadets who sincerely performed their service among the others.

We have lost our dear and long-time member, Agnes Trebar, age 91. Agnes died just as this ZARJA is being ready for printing. Sympathy to her family and friends, especially to her son, the well-known musician, Lou Trebar. And, we lost another long-time member recently. Mary Winter is survived by her husband and a daughter. To all our deepest condolences.

Now, we have more pleasant news to announce. The son of Nancy and Anthony Jagodnik, Andrew Jagodnik received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree on May 13, 1995 in addition to a B.A. in Psychology and Biology in 1993. He is the grandson of Ray and Marie Beck. We wish Andrew a challenging career as he begins his work on a Master's degree in Nursing.

As a result of the turmoil within some of the breakaway states of former Yugoslavia "let us pray" for an end to this Civil war that never should have started and that we, U.S.A., are not implicated unmercifully into this genocide.

Nasvidenje!

VI MORAVCHEK

NO. 54, WARREN, OH

Our branch will have its first fall meeting on Wed. Sept. 20th at noon at the Elks Club Room on Rt. 422. Please come and enjoy an afternoon out with your sister-members. Our group is getting smaller and we should try to stick together.

Our president, Jo Kassin is slowly recuperating from her surgery and we hope she can be at our Sept. meeting.

Traveling this summer were Albin and Virginia Shine. They were out west and are now awaiting a visit by their daughter, Marsha and her husband from Colorado. Going to Florida with her grandsons is Isabelle Rek - they'll also be visiting her daughter, Zoe Ann.

Happy anniversary to Frank and Vic Zuga and Martin and Ann Savor. Get well to Angela Kaferle who is slowly on the mend. God's blessings to all.

JOANNE PONIKVAR,
Secretary

NO. 73, WARRENSVILLE, OH

It's been a long, hot summer. So much has happened that it will be impossible to tell you everything in this column. We'll give it the old college try. If we miss any important items, please forgive us.

The trip to San Francisco was enjoyed by all who traveled with the Ohio group. We saw an awful lot, from the beautiful shoreline of Monterey, to the lovely Napa Valley. Crossing the



"Maggie" Majercik is only 5 years old but she can play duets with her grandma, Evelyn Majercik on her own little Play Accordion!

Golden Gate Bridge, after standing underneath it, was a thrill of its own. But you know what? I think I most enjoyed my flight to San Francisco from Cleveland, flying over the Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam and Yosemite Park, being able to pick these locations out from miles above. It was something that I shall never forget! I have a friend in Colorado who constantly asks me to visit. After viewing so much from the sky, I think I just might take him up on his offer. Thank you Branch No. 13 (especially Beverly and Barbara) for the enjoyable stay in your "City by the Bay."

We are happy to hear that Bernie Blatnik had a nice visit with her daughter, Anita, who came from South Carolina. She brought along Bernie's one-year old granddaughter. Grandma undoubtedly enjoyed every minute of their stay.

Our sick list continues to grow--aren't you glad you're not included on it? Jean Francisco spent sometime in the hospital after a pet bit her, resulting in an infection. We understand you are healing well. To our vice-president, Helen Dodyk, to our past treasurer, Fr-

ATTENTION MEMBERS OF ILL.-IN

The members of Br. 95 will host the Illinois-Indiana State Convention. The event is scheduled for Sunday, October 1st at Sacred Heart Croatian Church, 2864 E. 96th Street, Chicago, IL. At 8:30 a.m. coffee and rolls will be served. Mass at 10 a.m.; Convention session at 11:30 a.m.; Dinner at 1 p.m. at the Jovial Club, 9615 Commercial Ave.

Make your reservations by Sept. 24th. Please call our ticket chairlady, Evelyn Driscoll (312) 731-5088 or Mildred James (815) 485-2603.

The delegates will continue to follow the same format as in previous years. Our focus will be mainly on electing a State President. Another topic will be the question: Shall we continue to have a State Convention once a year. That will be discussed.

I want all of our branches to know that we will greet all of you as friends, and we will do everything in our power to make this Convention a pleasant one, concluding our meeting with every success. We invite all of you to join us!

Mildred James



Delegates and visitors to the Convention: Dorothy Sleigh (79), Rosemary Mlakar (100), Ann Tercek (50), Jeanette Eckert (100) and Mary Lou Videgar (100). Photo by Angie Nico (89).

honored her as Member of the Year a few years ago.

We had our annual cookout on Aug. 6th at Epley's. A good time is always had by all who attend.

Our next meeting will be September 11th. This is the only meeting we hold on the second Monday of the month, when Labor day supercedes our usual date. Lots of things starting new in S.W.U., so come to the meeting and be an informed member. Also, remember our State Convention is October 15th at St. Vitus Church, with Abbot Roger Gries, OSB as celebrant.

We all enjoyed our Mother's Day celebration at the K of C Hall on May 7th, when we gathered to honor Virginia Nemeth, our Mother of the Year. Sixteen members were present, thirty total attended the spaghetti dinner sponsored by the Isabella Guild.

Our Cardless Card Party continues to reap benefits for our branch. If you haven't participated, please mail in your donation to Louise Epley. It was nice to hear that everyone has paid their dues for 1995. We appreciate your cooperation in these matters.

Will catch you up on more news next month. Have a safe summer -- what is left of it.

Respectfully submitted,

EVELYN A. MAJERCIK

NO. 85, DEPUE, IL

The 1995 National SWU Convention is a thing of the past and we have a new slate of National Officers. Good luck to them in the future!

My compliments to Beverly

Jackson, Barbara Chiodo and Michelle Twers for a very well-planned and organized convention. Barb Chiodo had to fill in as keynote speaker also when the scheduled speaker could not make it. I think it was one of the best keynote addresses I have ever heard. The Canterbury Hotel, the hospitality room with coffee, wine and snacks served by the gracious ladies, the button box music, group singing and comraderie, plus the great whistle of Adrienne will remain in our memories. The opening banquet with the beautiful singing of the Slovenian and American songs, and the installation banquet at the Slovenian Hall of San Francisco were beautifully done. How could we ever forget this week! The trips to Monerey and Carmel, the Redwood Forest, the Napa Valley wineries and the tour of San Francisco by Cable Car, the meals at Fisherman's Wharf, the chicken bar-b-que, besides the delicious box luncheon on the bus and at the Napa Valley, plus the wine-tasting! The special care for the handicapped shown by Beverly, Barb and Michelle (me included as I had a fall and fractured my arm a few weeks before the trip!), meant a lot to us and I am grateful and thankful for all of that. The beautiful Mass and singing of the Slovenian Choir at the Notre Dame des Victoires Church also were stand-outs.

Meeting old friends, making new ones, the companionship of Angie Nico, Josephine Grabowski, Mary Ann Brunner, and my sister-in-law, Muriel Jermenc, without whose help I could never have made it, will always be remembered.

Thanks a million for everything!
God bless!

MARY JERMENC

I left my heart in San Francisco
 High on a hill – it calls to me.
 To be where little cable cars climb halfway
 to the stars the morning fog may chill the air,
 I don't care – my love waits there in San Francisco!



Fotos Jo Misic

NO. 102, WILLARD, WI

Greetings to all! How time does fly! We are already in the last quarter of the year. With these unbelievable heat waves that are unusual for Wisconsin, we are looking forward to the fall and do we dare think of snow?

Our meeting was on July 11th at which time delegate, yours truly, Mary Staut gave an account of the decisions made at the National Convention in San Francisco. Many changes have been made which are being listed in the upcoming ZARJAs, so please be sure to read the articles and notices. An album of pictures was on hand for all to see, showing something of our activities there. I appreciate very much that Br. 102 paid the balance of my expenses incurred.

We will not have strudel day this year because of conflicts with other activities. This will be combined with the Hunter's Bake Sale in November. A discussion followed regarding the State Convention in Milwaukee in September. Several members plan to attend.

Our Volovsek family held their second family reunion this year at Stanley Volovsek's home – a nice gathering with about 200 attending. The farthest came from Alaska and Texas. A great time for cousins to meet cousins! A Polka Mass was held on the grounds with Rev. Michael Mertens celebrating. He is a dear family friend.

A week later the Ed Bayuk family also had a reunion. This is another large family in the Willard area since the early pioneer days of 1910. Their son, Fr. Dick, celebrated mass. Other

families holding reunions were the Plautz and Toplany families, pioneers of Willard in 1908 and 1910, respectively. What a nice way to keep in touch!

Our annual Slovenian Družba membership picnic will be over at this writing. This is always another great day for families and former neighbors to meet again, to keep the old Slovenian traditions alive with songs, dancing and ethnic food.

The Holy Family parish annual Dinner was on Aug. 27th which kept us all busy through the summer.

Congratulations to our long-time secretary-Treasurer, Mary Djubenski on her 80th birthday! Mary, you are the "right-arm" of our branch and parish. We sincerely wish you many more years of good health!

Early in June, my husband and I traveled to Colorado Springs to attend the wedding of our granddaughter, Jodi Friedman, to Bill Spagna, a Air Force pilot. Jodi is the youngest of our daughter, Mary Anne's family and is also our Br. 102 member. We wish them much happiness.

Our good wishes to all shut-ins, especially Anna Lesar who has been in the Neillesville Nursing Home for some time. She enjoys the ZARJA magazine very much.

MARY STAUT



Left, Fr. Chris Gostecnik and delegates Kathleen Emerson (105), Matilda Ausich (103) and Mary Staut (102) at the Convention meeting; right, Marion Marolt and her daughter, Robin of West Allis.

Pictures Vitko and Mary Staut

On May 13, 1995 we honored our Mother of the Year, Frances Adamic. What a luncheon! Fifty-seven family members, Branch members and guests gathered at the popular L-Bow Room restaurant for a pre-selected and pre-paid luncheon. Surprise!!! There was no power! A neighbor had cut the power lines accidentally and there was no electricity except for a back-up unit which gave some light in the banquet room. Fortunately, the restaurant was able to provide salads, sandwiches, dessert and coffee. All of our guests understood our dilemma and a good time was had by all. Fran was surprised by members of her card club who presented her with a lovely plaque in honor of the occasion and her family gave her a beautiful crystal bowl made in Slovenia to mark the occasion. All's well that ends well!!

From the luncheon, it was on to San Francisco for President and convention delegate, Kathleen Emerson and alternate, Yola Roel. My husband, Bob and I joined them later in the week. What a wonderful time we had! Congratulation to the San Francisco Branch and especially to Barbara Chiodo, Beverly Jackson and Michelle Twers who did so much to make our trip so enjoyable. So much care and hard work was done to ensure that the visitors enjoyed the very best that the San Francisco area has to offer.

Our regular meetings start again in September. Remember, the third Saturday of the month. We look forward to seeing old friends and our new members.

PATRICIA ADAMIC

NO. 108, VIRGINIA BEACH, CA

Planning for our spring fling culminated in a great picnic at Northwest Park in Chesapeake, VA on May 7, 1995. Mary Ann Braeckel chaired the picnic committee and arranged for a beautiful day, great location, wonderful food and a skilled chef – who happened to be her husband, Joe. Katy Mathews planned and directed the kiddie's games (ages ranged from 10 months to some over ?? years old) – all the KIDS had fun. It was a great



day for all and a hearty well done to all who made our first picnic a spectacular success – especially Mary Ann, Joe and Katie. Thanks again.

Our member in the Spotlight:

My name is Mary Ann Braeckel.

I am very proud of my Slovenian heritage. Both sets of my grandparents were from Slovenia. My maternal grandparents were from Visnja gora Slovenia.

My maternal grandfather's name was Anton Smila, was born January 17, 1877, and died January 7, 1940.

My maternal grandmother's name was Anna Pozar, she was born August 16, 1885, and died September 25, 1975.

They were married on August 5, 1905, and settled in Ohio. On August 5, 1995, we will have a family reunion in Wheeling, West Virginia.

My paternal grandfather's name was John Steklasa, was born September 20, 1879, and died January 14, 1948.

My paternal grandmother's name was Mary Zadel, was born October 6, 1887, and died November 5, 1973.

They were married on February 6, 1908, in Visnja gora, Slovenia, and then immigrated to the United States, and settled in the (then) New Mexico territory.

Mary Ann is our Chapter Vice President.

With school out and summer here, the members decided to conduct our next meeting in September. We hope all of our members have a safe, happy and rewarding summer – see you in September!

Our members in the Spotlight:

Marylou and Larry Mathews live in Virginia Beach with their three children.

Katie – 12 years old, honor student at Great Neck Middle School, 6th grade.

Eric – 8 years old, 2nd grade, John B. Dey Elementary School.

Sarah – 5 years old, kindergarten, John B. Dey Elementary School.

Larry is president of R&K Coats, Inc., a family owned lawn and garden equipment retailer where Marylou also works.

All the Mathews are members of SWU #108. Marylou is secretary/treasurer, and along with Katie, transferred to our branch from SWU #14 in Euclid, Ohio.

JOE CEROTTA,
Recording Secretary

Thanks to members who are sharing their Convention pictures with us in this ZARJA: Michelle Twers (13), Jo Mistic (50), Angie Nico (89), Mary Staut (102) and Irene Odorizzi (103). We would love to have your favorite Convention snaps for future issues!

Jana Bevec
Washington, D.C.

SPOMINI OB OBLETNICAH SMRTI

V kapelici Marije Pomagaj z Brezj, v Washingtonu, baziliki Marijinega svetišča, smo imeli spominsko sv. mašo mučeniške smrti naših dragih; tisočev – pred 53. in petdesetimi leti...

Med prvimi, v rani mladosti, stopa v VEČNOST moj brat. Za njim se vije neskončna procesija. Prihajajo fantje, dekleta, očetje. Prihaja vojska branilcev, dvanajst tisoč jih je! Mimohod se ne ustavi... Nismo vas zatajili; postali ste močni – niti dan ne poteče, da tudi mi ne bi bili z vami!

Kot mladi deklici, komaj pripravljene na življenje, še danes slišim iz daljav strašno grmenje eksplozij v Rogu. Trgalo mi je srce, ko so padala mlada človeška bitja v neznana brezna.

Še huje je bilo, ko sem gledala matere, žene, dekleta, zavite v črnino, z objokajočimi očmi! Strahoma so stopale in si pripovedovale strašne grozote!

– Dali ste svoja življenja, v cvetu mladosti, za vero, pravico in blagor domovine Slovenije... –

Jeruzalemske žene so jokale in stale ob strani Jezusovi materi, ko so ji dali mrtvega Sina v naročje.

Slovenske matere, žene, do danes niso videle grobov svojih sinov, svojih mož.

Sklonijo se naj vsi živeči in prosijo odpuščanja, VAS, predragi mučeniki!

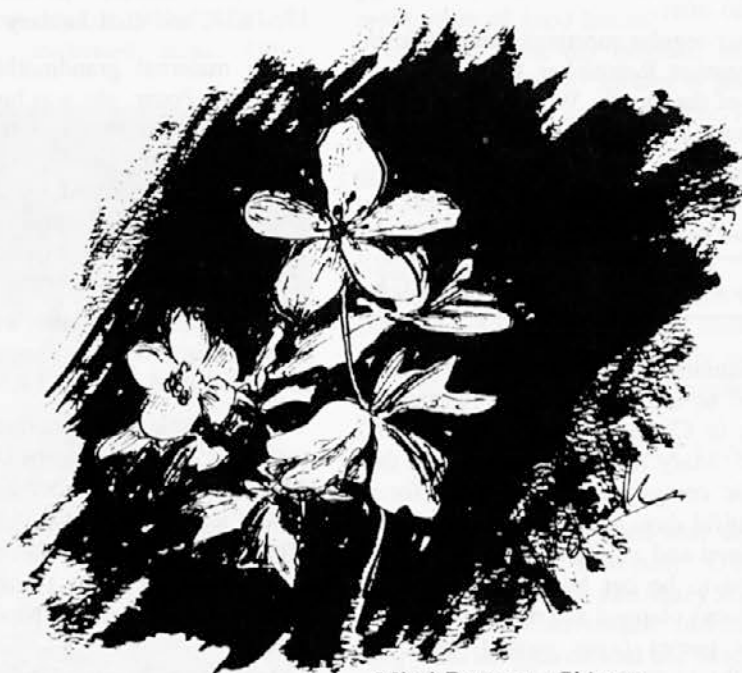
Brez te prošnje slovenski narod ne bo preživel tretjega tisočletja!

Z Bogom brat, stric, bratrance in tisoči mučenikov – prihajamo za vami iz "doline solz..." v upanju, da bomo skupno uživali rajsko srečo!

Neutolažljivi materi

*V sivi tišini si stala pred Njim,
ljubeče prosila si Ga,
da vrne se k tebi edini tvoj sin,
ki srčno ljubila si ga.*

*On, Stvarnik nebeški, tolažil te je,
da vrnil se k tebi tvoj sin,
ki biser in žar, bil je za te;
– v trpljenju, uslišana – je...*



Mimi Razman, Chicago

BARAGA



Začetki Katoliške Cerkve v Ameriki

FRANC JAKLIČ

VIII. BARAGA APOSTOLSKI VIKAR V SAULTU SAINTE MARIE

DRUGIČ V DOMOVINI (1853 – 1854)

Baraga v domovini ni dosti govoril o svojem delu v misijonih. Pa mu tudi bi bilo treba, ker je bilo ljudstvu dobro znano. Pridigal je o temeljnih verskih resnicah.

Zadnjega januarja se je peljal v Trebnje. Dekan Rozman mu je šel z duhovščino in ljudstvom naproti. Zvonovi in streli iz možnarjev so ga pozdravili. Dekan ga je nastanil pri sebi v župnišču.

Šel je v grad pozdravit sestro Amalijo, ki je kot vdova, stara 60 let, živela tam s svojimi otroki in vnuki. Pač je moralo biti prisrčno tudi to njuno snidenje. Pred 23-imi leti se ji je krčilo srce, ko je kot preganjan kaplan odhajal v daljno, mrzlo tujino. Potem je zanj molila, mu pošiljala pisma in nabirala podporo. Zdaj je kot škof stopil prednjo in ji dal blagoslov. Oba so zalivale solze. Zbudili so se jima spomini na davno mladost, a tudi iz poznejšega življenja ju je vezalo premnogo dogodkov.

Na svečnico je imel Baraga v župni cerkvi blagoslov sveč inb slovesno škofovsko mašo, potem pa pridigo. Govoril je o ljubezni do uboštva. O tem mu pač ni bilo težko pridigati, saj je grad, ki je bil nekoč njegov, onstran Temenice še vedno trdno stal, a ni nosil njegovega imena. Ljudstva je toliko prišlo, da ga je bilo polno tudi pokopališče ob cerkvi in so morali

orožniki skrbeti za red. Pevci so mu s kora zapeli pozdravno pesem, ki jo je bil nalašč za to slvoesnost zložil Emanuel Tomšič in ki jo je potem priobčila Zgodnja Danica. Po maši je imel Baraga še nemško pridigo o darovih Svetega Duha in je birmal sedemletnega Jožefa Friderika Gressla, vnuka Amalije, ki je bil pozneje častnik pri kranjskem 17-em regimentu v Celovcu.

Dekan Rozman je pripravil slavnostno kosilo za visokega gosta, za duhovščino in za uradništvo. Baraga se je opravičil, da ni vaje takih gostij. Zajel si je na krožnik nekaj krompirja in sočivja, pojedel, se prijazno poslovil in se umaknil v svojo sobo.

Samo še en dan se je potem ustavil v Trebnjem.

3. februarja je obiskal svojo rodno Malo vas in svojo krstno župnijo Dobrnič. Tudi zdaj je skoraj pol ure molil pri krstnem kamnu in jokal, da so se vsem navzočim rosile oči. Potem je šel naravnost k oltarju in dolgo govoril o krstu in o posvečujoči milosti.

Preko Novega mesta se je čez Gorjance peljal v Metliko, kjer je bil v gorju in bridkostih dozorel za indijanske misijone. V nedeljo 5. februarja je prihitela vsa okolica, da ga vidi in sliši. Imel je slovesno škofovsko mašo. Pridigal je o molitvi, o misli na božjo pričujočnost in o štirih poslednjih rečeh. Nazaj grede je še enkrat obiskal Dobrnič in Malo vas. V graščini Mala vas se je eno uro pogovarjal s tedanjim lastnikom Julijem Treom, vnukom Santa Treo, ki je bil kupil Malo vas od njegovega očeta. Tako se je raznežil, da je jokal. Tudi na trebanjskem gradu se je – zadnjič v življenju – pri

svojih še malo ustavil. Amalija je bila opazila, kako siromašno je oblečen. Hitro mu je dala napraviti več kosovo perila. On je pa sprejel samo nekaj malega, vse drugo je podaril siromakom. Ko mu je sestra rekla, da je perilo dala narediti zanj, je odgovoril: "Zame je dovolj, če imam toliko da se lahko preoblečem."

Ko se je peljal proti Ljubljani, je v Višnji gori obiskal tudi upokojenega kaplana Antona Sadavina, s katerim sta skupaj službovala v Metliki. Sivolasi 80-letni starček se je z obiskom čutil silno počeščenega. Na obe kolena je pokleknil pred Barago in ga prosil odpuščenja za svoje nekdanje neljubeznivosti do njega, zlasti ker ga je bil takrat s škornjem oplazil po glavi. Rekel je, da ga je tisti dogodek vsa leta pekel v duši. Zajokal je. Tudi Baraga je bil ves ganjen; hitro ga je dvignil, pristrčno objel in poljubil. Potem sta se pogovarjala kakor prijatelja iz davnih dni.

Tudi svoje prvo kaplansko mesto, Šmartno pri Kranju, je hotel še enkrat videti. Spremljal ga je njegov prijatelj in podpiratelj njegovega misijona, kanonik Novak. Duhovščina in ljudstvo sta ga svečano in pristrčno sprejela. V soboto je v Šmartnem maševal. Popoldne je šel v Kranj, obiskal dekana in okrajnega glavarja in sprejel odposlanstvo meščank, ki so mu izročile lep misijonski dar. Zvečer je šel v Šmartno. Tam je obiskal več družin, na katere je imel lepe spomine iz svojih kaplanskih let. "V nedeljo je pa bila v Šmartnem velika slovesnost, h kateri je privrelo veliko ljudstva iz vseh krajev," je pisala Zgodnja Danica. "V pridigi so blagorovali zbrane vernike, da so v pravi veri vzrejeni. Ko so pa rekli, da jih zdaj ne bodo več videli, je bila žalost velika. Po sv. maui, kakor tudi prej ta dan, so jih njih nekdanje ovčice obilno obiskovale ter jim z mnogoterimi znaki in darovi izkazovale svojo ljubezen." Popoldne je imel še kratek poslovilni govor.

Proti večeru se je vrnil v Ljubljano in obiskal Alojzijevejšče. ŠDstudentje, med katerimi je bil tudi poznejši pesnik Josip Stritar, so kapelo slavnostno okrasili in razsvetlili. Imel je blagoslov, potem je šel gojence pozdravit po učilnicah.

13. februarja se je s sestro Amalijo odpeljal proti Rimu. V Postojni ga je v imenu zbrane duhovščine pozdravil dekan, ki mu je Baraga kot metliški kaplan pridigal pri novi maši. "Duhovniki so se vsi srečne šteli, tako slovečega ameriškega škofa in slavnega rojaka videti, in se niso mogli prečuditi njegovi ponižnosti in priljudnosti." Tako je pisala Danica.

Od Trsta do Ankóna sta se z Amalijo vozila z ladjo.

Papež Pij IX. je Barago dvakrat zelo ljubeznivo sprejel, 27. februarja in 5. marca. Enkrat je bila z njim pri sprejemu tudi sestra Amalija. Antonije pa ni bilo zraven. Baraga je papežu poklonil en izvod očipvejskega slovarja in en izvod slovnice. Papež mu je podaril dragocen mašni kelih.

Pri sprejemu 5. marca je Baraga izročil papežu latinsko prošnjo, da bi povzdignil njegov apostolski vikariat v redno škofijo, ki naj bi se po svojem središču Sault Ste. Marie imenovala "Marianopolitana". Pa mu zaenkrat še niso ugodili.

O svojem apostolskem vikariatu je obširno poročal kardinalu Franzóniju, predsedniku Kongregacije za širjenje vere, in njegovemu tajniku Alojziju Barnabó.

Amalija je brata zto spremila v Rim, da sta obiskala sestro Antonijo, ki je imela tam dekliški vzgojni zavod. Rimsko podnebje ji je mnogo boljše delo kakor ameriško. – Tri leta nato, leta 1857, jo je Amalija spet obiskala z eno izmed hčera in je več mesecev ostala pri njej. Takrat se je Antonija – tako so govorili – spet privadila slovenskega materinega jezika, ki se ga je bila v dolgih letih tujine že nekoliko odvadila.

V Rimu je Baraga maševal v cerkvi sv. Petra in v drugih slavnih cerkvah. Enkrat je nemško pridigal.

Vračal se je s sestro preko Florence in se je 16. marca spet pripeljal v Ljubljano.

Kot šmártinski kaplan je imel dušnopastirske zveze tudi s Staro in Škofjo Loko. Ko je prišel na obisk v Šmartno, so ga Ločani prosili, da naj pride tudi k njim. Res se je zvečer pred praznikom sv. Jožefa pripeljal v Škofjo Loko. Zvonovi in možnarji so oznanili njegov prihod. Drugi dan, na praznik, je pridigal o kreplostih sv. Jožefa. Pri škofovski maši mu je streglo 11 duhovnikov. Zgodnja Danica je poročala: "Silno velika množica se je zbrala. Prav prijazno in ljubeznivo so se pogovarjali in povedali marsikaj mikavnega o svojih Indijancih, kako dobri kristjani so, potem ko se k sv. veri spreobrneli." Obiskal je tudi uršulinski in kapucinski samostan. Proti večeru je šel v Staro Loko, kjer je imel rožni venec in litanije. Ko se je med veselimi pritrkavanjem zvonov peljal od njih, so v oknih gorele luči. Starši so opominjali otroke, da si naj ta veseli dan dobro vtisnejo v spomin, ker kaj takega gotovo ne bodo več doživeli.

Res še dandanes stari ljudje v Sloveniji vedo, kar so bili slišali od svojih staršev: kako so ljudje hiteli skupaj, da vidijo Barago in slišijo njegovo pridigo.

Na praznik Marijinega oznanjenja, 25. marca, je imel slovesno opravilo pri ljubljanskih frančiškanih, ki imajo na ta dan cerkveno proščenje. V pridigi je razlagal, kako lepa je molitev angelovega češčenja. Drugi dan je bila nedelja. Pri sv. Petru je pridigal o Jezusovi krotkosti, ponižnosti, potrpežljivosti in ljubezni do nebeškega Očeta.

V Ljubljani je obiskal tudi bogoslovje, gimnazijo in druge šole. Mladini je posebno naročal, naj se varuje greha. Študentje višje gimnazije so mu zložili 42. goldinarjev.

Tudi drugod so mu ljudje prinašali za misijone. Neka siromašna žena mu je darovala vse svoje imetje: en krajcar. Ta "dar uboge vdove" ga je tako razveselil, da ga je posebej spravil; naj bi pričal Indijancem, da bi Slovinci radi še bolj pomagali misijonarjem, če bi bili bogati. V Ljubljani je rekel v neki pridigi: "Ne želim biti bogat; pa bi vendarle imel rad mnogo denarja, da bi z njim lahko mnogo dobrega storil."

Razume se, da tudi na tem obisku domovine ni pokusil opojne pijače. Večkrat je nehote pokazal, da je bil o razmerah v domovini dovolj dobro poučen.

— NADALJEVANJE —

IT IS IMPERATIVE!

THAT EVERY MEMBER RESPONDS TO THIS REQUEST!

Is your mailing address correct on the reverse side? Please check it and make any corrections right next to it. If you are in a household that receives only one ZARJA that is shared by more than one member, PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EACH MEMBER and follow the same instructions. Thank you.

Branch Number: _____

Your Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Your Address: _____

Please check your Insurance Certificate and note the name of your Beneficiary and Number:

Do you have any further instructions regarding changes in your Certificate? Use space below.

Beneficiary: _____

Comments: _____

Number: _____

Date of Issue: _____

(A responsible person may fill this out for you.)

----- CUT OFF HERE -----

Send at once to: Evelyn Majercik, SWU Nat'l Secretary, P.O. Box 46539, Bedford, OH 44146

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

DAVY'S COLUMN

Summer's Finale

When I was a school girl I used to dread Labor Day. The day after was the first day of school. Summer was officially over, despite the fact that Autumn was still three weeks away.

Today, my daughter has a week or two of school under her belt by the time Labor Day rolls around. It still may mark the official end of summer, but I'm not so sure it's as obvious as it once was.

I remember we would always have a cook-out with relatives from my dad's side. My cousin had a swimming pool, so we always hoped and prayed Labor Day would be very warm, as it would be the last day we would be able to swim for the year.

My mom always contributed baked beans to the cook-out menu. No one could make bake beans like mom. It

wouldn't be a proper cook-out without mom's beans.

The best part of the cook-out was after the meal was done and the coals of the grill were still warm. It was then that us kids got to roast marshmallows.

Spot, an old terrier that had adopted us, had a sweet tooth. The smell of sugar melting over the warm coals turned him into a pup, again. For a marshmallow, I think he would have done back-flips if we'd asked him to.

At one particular picnic, I took pity on Spot and gave him a marshmallow. Big mistake. Within moments he was entangled in a web of marshmallow goo that hung from his nose and front paws. The more he tried to free himself, the more tangled he became.

To this day, everytime I roast marshmallows, I think of that old dog. He was such a mess, but not the least dishearted. The very next cook-out when the marshmallows were brought out for roasting. Spot took his place at the base of the grill.

'Til Next Month.

DAVY



Angie Nico of Br. 89 made her own Slovenian National Costume and another for her granddaughter who attended the Convention all dressed up!

2ND CLASS
POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO
ILLINOIS

MEMBERS TAKE NOTE!

Above is your mailing address. Is it correct? If not, please correct it or have a responsible person do it for you. Please turn this page for further instructions. Thank you.

If this ZARJA is addressed to only one person in your household where there are more members, please give all information on the reverse side for each member.



First Midwest Bank

50 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60431

(815) 727-5222

We take time to help.

Equal Housing Lender

Member FDIC

HOMES IN THE JOLIET AREA

HONIG

Realty



25224 W. Eames Street,

Channahon, IL 60410

Office: (815) 467-3140

Home: (815) 726-4129

FAX: (815) 467-3146

ROSANNE RUTH
REALTOR

Member of Branch 20, S.W.U.

Fred C. Dames Funeral Homes

Phone 741-5500

Mark L. Dames Jeffrey M. Dames
Brian L. Dames Fred J. Dames



251 North Center St., Joliet, IL 60435



3200 Black Rd., Joliet IL 60435

AVSEC PRINTING

Union Shop

"Over 60 Years of Service"

825 Plainfield Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435

(815) 722-2961

ZELE FUNERAL HOMES, INC.

TWO COMPLETE FUNERAL HOMES
Cleveland, Ohio

452 East 152nd St.
481-3118

6502 St. Clair Ave.
361-0583

ZEFRAN FUNERAL HOME

Louis Ron Zefran
Marilyn E. Zefran

1941 West Cermak Road

Chicago, IL 60608

Frank J. Zefran
Lois M. Zefran

847-6688

SHELIGA DRUG INC.

6025 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103

(216) 431-1035

Serving our neighborhoods' daily needs

AMERICAN
SLOVENIAN
CATHOLIC
UNION



Ask About
"KSKJ ANNUITIES"
A New
Beginning

HOME OFFICE: 2439 GLENWOOD AVENUE • JOLIET, IL 60435 • (800) 843-5755