



JUVENILE SECTION OF "NAPREDEK"

CLEVELAND, OHIO, NOVEMBER 15, 1939

Congratulations and Thanks To Our Writers

With this issue of the Vrtec Section, we close the LITERARY CONTEST of 1939. No doubt, many of you boys and girls have been writing month after month without a thought to the contest or rewards. Most of you have written simply because you have enjoyed writing for our paper and believed it to be the best medium, outside of meetings, socials and athletic affairs, of keeping in contact with the several thousand Vrtec members who make up this Department of our great Society. But, whatever may have been your incentive in writing for these pages, whether for prizes, the honor of having your ideas and thoughts in print where someone else could read and praise them, or just for the fun and pleasure you derived from writing, the members of the Supreme Board join with me in extending you our heartiest congratulations and sincerest thanks for a work done wonderfully well.

Fredy Basher and Valeria Artel March On

This year will see the graduation into the Adult Department of many of our leading Vrtec writers. Among them are Valeria Artel and Fredy Basher of the famous *Outlooker Vrtec Editorial Staff*, who, with the assistance of Josephine Kovic, Rudolph Bratina (who, also, marches on), Eleanor Ster, Margaret Watson, Frank Gacnik, Edward Slejko, and several others, produced an interesting page or more of stories, poetry, news, announcements, jokes, etc., every month for nearly two years. Shortly after the first appearance of the "Outlooker's Corner" in the Vrtec Section, it became the talk of every leading Slovene Society and kept its high place ever since. We hate to see Fredy and Valeria leave us for we honestly believe they are going to be mighty hard to replace; but we hope, as I'm sure each one of you do, that they continue their high standard of literary leadership and attain a superlative mark of achievement, wherever they go and at whatever they try in life to come. Occasionally, when they can spare the time, a line or two in the Vrtec Section or the regular section of the "Na-

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With Our Juniors

By MICHAEL VRHOVNIK,
Director of Vrtec and English Speaking Lodges



Hardly an hour ago I returned from a week-end visit to Indianapolis where I was honored with a place on the 30th Anniversary program of lodge No. 22 (Danica) and her Vrtec members, Yugoslavs. I'd like very much to give you a description in detail of this successful two-day celebration, but because my report of the Festival Campaign is already overdue and must be hurriedly written and mailed to the Editor of the "Napredek," who has been kind enough to extend the time limit in this particular case, I shall dispense with it until some near future issue.

Suffice it to say, the 30th Anniversary of Lodge Danica and her Juniors, discounting the postponement of the play "Vaška Venera," due to the unfortunate illness of Sophie Brodnik, who was cast in the leading female character role, was a complete success and immensely enjoyed by all who were present. I met and talked to a large number of Yugoslav members with whom many of our Cleveland, Chicago and Western Pennsylvania boys and girls are acquainted. Of course, you remember Tony Bayt, Martin Dragan, Frank Zakrajsek, John Praprotnik, Louis Znidarsich, August Zupancic, Allgred Armin, Chas. Komlanc and the remaining members of the now famous *1939 Vrtec Softball Champs*; they all were there, as was Frankie Mivec, who, I'm very glad to report, is an assistant instructor in one of the technical schools. Among other prominent members were the Klarich twins, Rose and Mary, who were the Yugoslavs mascots during the National Meet, Sylvia Naumsek, Louis Urbancic, Gordon Kronoshek and little Theresa Morcillon, each of whom had important parts on the program, either reciting or singing, and every one of them doing justice to their assignment. I wish I could spare the time to pay them as fine a tribute as they gave to the Danica members; it was grand, the respect and gratitude they showed in word and action.

And now, we come to that part of my report pertaining strictly to the Festival Campaign, and you'll find that much of it is relative to our Indianapolis boosters. I was surprised to learn, shortly after my arrival in the "Hoosier Capital,"

FESTIVAL CAMPAIGN CONTESTANTS

Mary Klevisher—Vrtec No. 140, Pierce, W. Va.

Julia Kramzer—Vrtec No 72, Sygan, Pa.

Florence Zitko—Vrtec No. 171, Cleveland, O.

Helen Kastelic—Vrtec No. 103, White Valley, Pa.

Rose M. Matyckella—Vrtec No. 159, Windsor Heights, W. Va.

Louis Znidarsich—Vrtec No. 9, Indianapolis, Ind.

* * *



Julia Kramzer

The leader at this writing is Julia Kramzer with 18 new members to her credit... Dawn Patrol Vrtec of Gowanda, N. Y., who have yet to choose their contestant, have forwarded 11 membership applications to the Supreme Office... I wonder how close to right I am in making the prediction that each of the following Vrtec Units will have a contestant entered no later than the first of December.

Trail Blazer Jrs. Chicago, Ill.
Roznik Jrs. Chicago, Ill.
Balkan Jrs. Milwaukee, Wis.
Outlookers Cleveland, O.
Spartan Jrs. Cleveland, O.
Dawn Patrol Gowanda, N. Y.
Comets Ambridge, Pa.
Challenger Jrs. Strabane, Pa.
Progressor Jrs. Bridgeville, Pa.
Avalons Renton, Pa.
Pioneers Forest City, Pa.
Vrtec No. 13 Madison, Ill.
Starlighters Bon Air, Pa.
Vrtec No. 108 .. South Fork, Pa.
Budgets Girard, O.
Termites DePue, Ill.

that instead of taking a back-seat in the Festival Campaign, the Yugoslavs not only had a contestant selected, but what was even more surprising, that he's one of their leading male members, none other than Louis Znidarsich, Jr., Treasurer of the Vrtec since its organization as an active unit a number of years ago... And that isn't all, either, for I was told that he is virtually assured a FREE TRIP to the First National Juvenile Cultural Festival as a "Guest Representative," having at this date nearly 20 new members pledged to his credit. *Three loud cheers for Louis! Hooray for the Yugoslavs! They have qualified the first boy contestant in the Festival Campaign!*... And mark this in your diary, the Yugoslavs don't intend to stop at one winner, for as soon as Louis qualifies, they're going to keep right on working to send their second choice. Incidentally, the Yugoslavs now have more members than any other Vrtec in the Society, being well over the century post and matching their parent lodge a little better than member for member.

The score between the girl and boy contestants now stands at 5 to 1... It will be interesting to watch how that score shifts from now to the end of the campaign. I have an idea the boys are just beginning to wake up and are prepared to redeem themselves in no small way. Here's hoping they give a splendid account of their loyalty to the Society through the enrollment of many of their friends and acquaintances... But hold on there, Brother Vrthovnik! Haven't you forgotten someone, or did you mark up the wrong score?... Wrong score? Forget someone? Did I?... Well, well, well, what do you know about that that—I almost forgot to disclose the identity of our latest girl contestant! That's just like me; I'm always trying to leave out the girls... Can't squeeze out of this one, tho—looks like it was done purposely, too. Well, boys, you'll

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Congratulations and Thanks To Our Writers

(Continued from page 1)

predek" will be greatly appreciated.

Vrtec Book Will Become Reality

Remember what we wrote about selecting the best contributions written for the Vrtec Section and having them bound in booklet form? Well, that will all come to pass in due time and, if there is no hitch along the way, they'll be ready for distribution at the National Juvenile Cultural Festival in Cleveland, next May. We plan to make it a work of literary collections; something that will live as a permanent structure to the memory of the Vrtec members whose pens and minds collaborated in making it possible. No finer tribute could be paid them by our SSPZ, and we state this in all sincerity for in stating so, we have in mind the scores of splendid stories, poems, news and travel description which have appeared in the Vrtec Section in the past three or four years. Pictures of writers will find a place with them. Can you imagine how you're going to feel when you see some of your work in this book? Of course, we are not going to include the work of every contributor for much, that was written, must be greatly improved before qualifying for space in what will become a famous collection of SSPZ Vrtec literary compositions.

Invitation to Former Vrtec Writers

And for the Christmas issue of the Vrtec Section, we have this to say . . . It's going to consist of eight (8) pages, the same as last year, and will be done up on extra fine paper in special color with pictures of Literary Contest winners and Festival Campaign Contestants to keep company with your many cheery articles . . . You're not going to be told what to write . . . You go right ahead and do your own choosing and do it up as nicely as you can. The Editor will take care of the rest, you can be right sure of that. The Christmas season is a fine time of the year to be thinking beautiful thoughts, so there ought to be lots of nice stories, poems, news flashes and such . . . Let's hear from you current Vrtec writers, everyone of you . . . And to make this a real, merry Christmas issue, how about all of our former Vrtec writers joining with us in decorating this special Christmas Vrtec Section with their thoughts. *What do you say Valeria Artel, Fredy Bashel, Frank Mivec, Anne Gacnik, Julia Kosmach, Donna Homovec, Rudolph Bratina, Theresa Kastelic and all you others? . . . A few lines will help a great deal . . . It's an invitation and we certainly hope you accept it and be our "Guest writers" in this final big issue of the year. If you wish, drop me a*

BALKAN JUNIORS

WHY EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE A HOBBY?

Most hobbies occupy your leisure time, attention, and interest. Many people would find hobbies very educational. Everyone would have thrilling times securing information for their numerous hobbies. Hobbies become more interesting, valuable, and artistic in later years. Outdoor hobbies consisting of all outdoor sports develop you physically. Many indoor hobbies develop you mentally. Any hobby that needs corresponding often brings you new friends and hobbies. Some hobbies develop talented people who are eager to teach others that their hobbies may be of value to them. Usually younger people can decide their vocations from their hobbies.

After the business meeting October 14, 1939, Vrtec No. 33 gave a hobby show.

First prize was won by Margaret Ohojak for her beautiful artistic hand painting done on glass, embroidery and door stops. Second prize was won by Tony Jerkich, who had on display a tray, corner shelf, tie rack, broom rack, and flowerstand. From his work we can tell he is to be a successful wood craftsman. Olga Stampfel displayed her act by making different designs in bead work. Three persons received the fourth prize; Norma Stampfel for

line telling me you intend to participate in this novel writers' reunion . . . And in case you've forgotten the date of issue, it's the third Wednesday of the month, which falls on the 20th in December. Try to have your articles mailed to the Editor before the 13th.

You Are Entitled to the Vrtec Section

Are there any boys and girls in your Vrtec who do not receive the Vrtec Section and would like to have it? If so, send their names and addresses to the Director of the Juvenile Department. Remember, only one copy is allowed to a family and, if the parents or an older brother or sister already receive a weekly issue of the "Napredek," Vrtec members are not entitled to another copy.

October's and November's Assessment to Be Refunded

Vrtec Administrators and Secretaries are notified once more that the Society will return assessments for the months of October and November to all members in good standing as of November 30, 1939. That means, if a member's assessments are paid in full this month, he will be entitled to a two months' refund when payment is made in December. It is not too late to reinstate your lapsed members and give them the benefit of this offer.

M. Vrhovnik

making varieties of flowers; Rudy Smole's excellent pass collection, stamps, airplane pictures, keys and what do you think! Rudy does excellent embroidery and crocheting which was displayed on his towel. And yours truly for embroidery, flower pressing and paper clippings. Four people won fifth prize; Jeanette Gaber for crocheting a purse and cap. Harvey Singer for penny collection, postage stamps, community stamps, and airplane picture collection. Our Administratrix Sophie Stampfel for her elephant collection. Gordon Zilinski had various collections of baseball pictures, charms, and bookends.

Honorable mention: Edward Ermenc, who had a gigantic funny book of 1200 pages, stamps and an airplane on display; Rosemary Baraga, stamps; Louise Pink, embroidery and clippings; Leonard Baraga, foreign coins; Herman Jerkich had an airplane on display called "Water Man." Betty Bernik, embroidery. Musicians who entertained us were Herman, Gordon, Rudy and yours truly.

The three judges, John Marren, Frank Bernik and Mr. Ermenc, had a difficult time deciding which were the best hobbies so everybody received a cash prize.

Tea and cookies were served as refreshments.

Vrtec No. 33 thanks all who attended our Hobby Show.

Fraernally yours,

Marie Ermence,
Vrtec No. 33

JUVENILE FESTIVAL CAMPAIGN

Milwaukee, Wis. — Are you going to the National Cultural Festival? You are the judges in regard to this question. Now you may think that this is such a difficult problem to solve, but your thinking is wrong. This Juvenile Festival Campaign hasn't a spot where you can get stuck in, because all can get stuck in, because all you've got to do is put 100 per cent of your effort, energy, and power toward enrolling as many members as you can into your Vrtec unit.

I had asked myself this question and the answer I get is that I am going to try my hardest to enroll as many members as I possibly can, because who wants to miss such a great opportunity of going to this Festival, meeting many other children from other Vrtec units and the taking part in the joy and entertainment which will be provided by our fine, talented Vrtec children? So make up your minds now that you will put 100% of your effort toward going for a great treat and enjoyable time that awaits you.

Elsie Ohojak,
Vrtec No. 33

FESTIVAL CAMPAIGN

Milwaukee, Wisc. — What is the National Cultural Festival going to be like? Will I be able to go? These and many other questions are flashing through the minds of many children. If you really and truly want to go you will have to work, but this work isn't very hard because all you've got to do is put all you got in helping out the Juvenile Festival Campaign. If you are a lazy fellow and hate the thought of work then you might as well leave this great chance go by, but with this exciting and grand opportunity coming I should think that no one would want to miss it.

Every boy and girl should help to boost his Vrtec by enrolling as many members as he or she can. Ask your Moms and Dads to aid you along a bit. Ask your friends, chums and relatives to join your Vrtec now. So get busy, because you don't want to miss a great opportunity and a grand time at the National Cultural Festival in Cleveland.

Margaret Ohojak (Age: 13)
Vrtec No. 33

T—Turkeys strutting with their
feathers bright,
Never dreaming that it may be
their last night.

H—Harvest bins with ripened grains,
Upon the floor are strewed and no
empty niche remains.

A—Apples yellow fill the baskets wide,
Pumpkins golden and yellow corn
beside.

N—Nuts fill sacks and the fragrant
smell of hay,
All piled away, for Winter stored
away.

K—King Sun smiles as his work is
done,
When he is through blessed with
each one.

S—Snow flying fast on the fields so
bare,
And decking the earth with its
tender care.

G—God the Father looks down from
his home above,
Loves the children for their work of
love.

I—Indian Summer in its hazy clouds,
And the flocks of birds Southward
fly in crowds.

V—Valleys decked in red and gold,
Woods like fairyland look like
castles old.

I—Idle lies the reaper in the farmyard
shed,
Stands the plow beside as if it
were dead.

N—Nature's children supplied with
their winter store,
Squirrels and rabbits all run for
more.

G—Good gifts for rich, poor and the
the great,
Harvest labors all done for winter
we do wait.

Elsie Ohojak,
Vrtec No. 33

HOBBY SHOW

Milwaukee, Wisc. — On Oct. 14, Vrtec No. 33 held its regular monthly meeting. But at this meeting we had something special. The Vrtec children put on a hobby show. At least twenty children took part in it.

Prizes were awarded to the
Continued on page 3 of regular section

Kingsters

THANKSGIVING

Delmont, Pa. — With Indians as guests of honor, about tables loaded with game and fish, wild fruits from the forest, the Pilgrim Fathers celebrated their first American harvest festival, in November 1621.

A quaint old account thus describes the occasion: "Our harvest being gotten in, our governour sent in foure men on fowling, so that we might after a more special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labours. They foure in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a weeke." Many of the Indians among them Chief Massooit, the Pilgrims' friend and ally joined in the three days' feasting. But in this old account there is no record to show that this was a day set apart for giving thanks.

The year following the harvest festival was willed with misfortune and the colonists had held no autumn feast. With empty larders they were counting the days until the spring sown crops should furnish them with supplies. Then a terrible drouth withered the corn in the fields and burned the gardens dry. A day of special prayer was followed by a long refreshing rain, and at the same time a ship loaded with friends and supplies was sighted. So the governor appointed a day for "public thanksgiving." But this was also different from the present Thanksgiving Day, for we find no account that tells of feasting following the long church service.

Although we read of feasts and of "thanksgiving days" being observed during each year, it is not until ten years later (1636) that we find a record of a celebration such as we now keep.

For years the festival was exclusively a New England insti-

tution celebrated by religious services in the church. In 1864 Pres. Lincoln issued a proclamation in which he appointed and set aside the last Thursday of November as a day of national thanksgiving. Since Lincoln's time, each president has set aside that date for a like festival.

Although Thanksgiving Day is wholly an American institution, harvest festivals have been known since time immemorial.

Helen Kastelic
Pres. Vrtec 103

* *

White Valley, Pa. — Well here I am back again to tell about the Kingsters' last meeting, and the dance. We also have three new members, Mary Premozic, Lillian Theadore, and George Arendas. Johnny Previc and Helen Mladenick get the credit for that. And now about the dance. It was a great success, thanks to Claridge, Renton, Herminie, and all you others. We would like to know what was wrong with the boys of Westmoreland City (or Manor), and Greensburg, and the girls of White Valley. They weren't present at our dance. Am I teasing you Martin? Joe? We did miss you all. On behalf of the Kingsters and myself, I would like to thank our administrator and Mary Mladenick for all their help and all the other members that helped to make the dance a success.

And now how about all the Kingsters getting down to business? By that I mean get those pens and write to the "Napredok." We know you all can write. I want to thank Agnes Tekstar for all of the nice things she said. To the Kingsters — please attend the next meeting November 19, 1939 at 11:00 a.m. at the White Valley Hall.

Edith Barber,
Vrtec 103.

Concordian News

ATTENTION CONCORDIANS!

Cleveland, O. — Members of Concordians, Vrtec 171 SSPZ, are notified of a change in meeting dates.

The regular meeting of our Vrtec will be held every *third* Wednesday of the month. Same time, 7:00 o'clock and same place, Room o. 2 SND.

The drill team will practice at the St. Clair Bath House every first and fourth Wednesday.

Our next practice will be Nov. 22. Don't forget to be there at 7:00 o'clock sharp.

Marge Jeric,
Admx. Vrtec 171

* *

COCORDIAN PROGRESS

As the president has been unable to come to our meetings, due to illness, I have taken her place and enjoyed it. Now that

she has completely recovered I am sad to admit that my short reign is over.

As our president has been the most active in securing new members for our Vrtec we have chosen her as our representative for the First National Juvenile Cultural Festival. All our members promised to cooperate. We hope to have not only fifteen new members but many more as we want to win the first prize for the fourth quarter of the Juvenile Campaign.

We are happy to report that our Drill team is progressing very nicely. Every third and fourth Wednesday we have our drill team practice where the commands "Mark Time", "Left," "Right," "Forward March," etc. are heard. Although we have to pay strict attention, we enjoy it and can hardly wait till our

Dawn Patrol

Gowanda, N. Y. — Now that our vacation is over children are all flocking back to school not mentioning how much homework we have to do. I'm not excluded from this. I'm only a young snapper twelve years of age, in the eighth grade trying hard so that I may pass my regents in January, so that I may secure a unit before I enter High School. I'm on the eighth grade football team, and when we played on Columbus Day the game ended with a scoreless tie.

If we keep up getting members in our Vrtec unit, next fall we will have our own football team. Here's hoping, how about it. Bill, two Dicks, Joe, Milan, Arty, and Harry?

This coming spring, if we get at least eight new members for our Juvenile Department, we will be able to have our own softball team.

This means hard work for you boys and girls of the Vrtec. I'll bet there are a lot of you Vrtec members who are trying hard to see which will be the first unit to get their applications into the Main Office for an official delegate to go to the National Juvenile Cultural Festival in Cleveland, Ohio, during the SSPZ Convention.

Wishing a senior member, sister Mary Skrabec, who has broken her arm a speedy recovery. I promise more news next time. Till then—keep up the good work Vrtec units, and on with our campaign!

John Matekovich, Jr.
President, Vrtec No. 148

first appearance which is to be in May 1940. We have learned our complete formation, but we still aren't perfect so don't forget to attend our practices.

Natalie Svetlic,
Vice-Pres., Vrtec 171

* *

"CONCORDIANS LATEST MINUTES"

The secretary of the Concordians is reporting back on duty. I have not written in the Vrtec Paper for two months and from now on I expect to write more often.

At our meeting Nov. 1, the members were very sorry to hear of the illness of our Grandmother Rose Hanko. The Concordians wish her a very speedy recovery.

At our previous meeting we chose our flower and colors. The flower is the tea rose and our colors are brown and yellow.

We are going to have a Christmas party Dec. 20, at the Slovene National Home in Room 2. For details attend our next meeting Dec. 6 at Slovene National Home in Room 2.

Mary Menich,
Sec'y, Vrtec 171.

Sygan Vrtec

Sygan Hill, Pa. — What's the matter with you Sygan Hill members? Where are you keeping yourselves on the 3rd Friday of every month? Remember that's our definite date of meeting! Come on let's end the old year off with two fine attendances! There is so much to be discussed, but if half of you don't appear that isn't a real meeting. So if a few of you from Morgan, a couple from Treveskyn and Cecil come down to Sygan on Nov. 17, we, the Sygan members shall make the rest of the crowd.

Are we all coming? Remember there's a play to be presented and our Christmas party to plan! All who are willing may be in the program, so come all to make our plans worth while for our Christmas play and program. Don't forget on Nov. 17, 6:30 o'clock at Sygan Club.

Julia C. Kramzer, Sec'y
Vrtec 72

Roznik Juniors

Chicago, Ill. — Roznik Jrs. Halloween Party held on Oct. 29 was a great success. To start off right, we had a few games, then we had refreshments, our fortunes told, movies and then more games. A few of our members entertained us with singing, dancing or playing an instrument.

Mr. Vrhovnik was with us and helped us celebrate. He showed us movies, which we certainly did enjoy, and also spoke a few words. I want to thank Mrs. Vidmar for the beautiful hand crocheted dresser scarf which she donated. Some of the friends we had with us on that day were Bro. Rus, Bro. Zaitz and Bro. Skubic.

I am sure that everyone had a good time and that we will all be together again in the very near future.

* *

Members of Roznik Jrs.!

Just a reminder that our November meeting will be held Nov. 17, 1939 at the home of our administrator, Bro. Zupancic, 2421 So. Lawndale Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

Wilma Gratchner,
Sec'y Vrtec 160

VRTEC LIBRARY

(Books for boys and girls)

PROGRAM MATERIAL

Thanksgiving For All .....	.40
Thanksgiving Day and Ways ..	.60
Glad Time Thanksgiving Book .....	.40
Harvest Moon Thanksgiving Book .....	.50
All-Around Christmas Book ..	.50
Star Christmas Book .....	.50
Christmas For All .....	.40
The Christmas Book .....	.50
One Hundred Christmas Recitations .....	.40
Christmas Recitations for Grades .....	.40
Tip-Top Christmas Book .....	.40
ONE-ACT PLAYS	
Christmas At Casey's .....	.35
The Christmas Orphans .....	.30
The Boy They Turned Away ..	.35
Mrs. O'Malley's Christmas ..	.35
Tiny Jim .....	.25

The Outlookers' Corner

THANKSGIVING DAY

"Outlookers' Corner", published as a section of the Napredok's Vrtec page. The Junior Editors are:

Editor-in-chief - Valeria Artel
Sports Editor - Frank Gacnik
Feature Editor - Fred Bashel

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

HEADLINE FLASHES

By Olga Zaubi

Flash!! Flash!! New member appears at Outlookers' meeting!

Name — Jimmy Wolpe.

Address — 19??? Abby St.

Age — Twelve.

Height — 4 feet eight inches.

Birthday — April, 1927.

Description — Small, light, and handsome.

Remarks — It took our administrator to bring in the first member lately, so wake up, all you Outlooker members, and bring our Vrtec membership back to the high position it held a year ago.

* *

All our officers were present except for our faithful vice-president, from which fact we imagine that we won't be honored by his presence anymore, since he has become a member of the senior lodge. Oh yes, I forgot to say where — this was at our last meeting, November 3.

Our secretary, Valeria Artel, was "thrilled to death" when our administrator, Mr. Zaman, presented her with a real genuine Parker pen and pencil set, to show our appreciation for her wonderful work for our Vrtec during the past two years.

After the meeting (which was very short) we gathered in groups and played our favorite games — chinese checkers, checkers, monopoly, and they even started to shoot dice until Mr. Zaman objected. Candy was awarded to the winners of all the games. The group who played Monopoly (Val, Stefie and I) had a disadvantage because while the other could play about ten games, we didn't even finish one game by the end of the evening. Our new member's father was very generous to buy us all pop. Many thanks.

* *

Members are all reminded to attend our next meeting on December 1. At this meeting we will decide when to have our Christmas party. Don't forget to bring some good ideas, as we want this party to be specially successful.

* *

January is the month for electing new Vrtec officers, so start thinking about it right away. Don't forget that our secretary and vice-president won't be there anymore, and we have to get someone to take their places. Our secretary is especially concerned about who will take care of the Outlookers' Corner for the following year.

THE SUPERNATURAL DWELLING

(alias the Haunted House)

The crickets chirping... the owls hooting... the wind was howling... what a night to be out on the open road! After trudging wearily along for miles, trying in vain to find my way home, or at least to see some evidence of civilization, I caught glimpse of a light coming faintly through the thickly-leaved tree-tops. I followed the direction of the light and it led me to a huge, luxurious mansion. As I approached the house, I found that it was no longer lit with the tiny lamp, but that it was illuminated by thousands of bright lights throughout all the rooms. This seemed very strange to me.

I crept up beside one of the immense French windows and discovered the mansion to be filled with people dancing, laughing, drinking, and singing. What a beautiful sight to behold through the stained glass of the window. I stood, fascinated, by the window, until I became conscious that my toes and hands were numb with cold, and I remembered that I was still far from home.

I walked up the massive stone stairway, and tried the door. It gave way, and I walked in. To my utter amazement, I could hear no sound of laughter or song, and I could see no one as I gazed about me in the hallway. What could that mean? I then thought that they could have gone to another room, but I searched every room downstairs, only to find no one.

In the kitchen, I found a huge fire blazing in the fire place, and dinner for hundreds of guests lying on the tables on trays, waiting to be carried into the dining rooms. The food was warm, and the delicious odors made my mouth water. I just couldn't understand it.

As I stood there wondering, I thought I heard a very faint sound from the upstairs, and I thought that perhaps, as they had seen me coming, they might have thought I was someone else — someone whom they had been expecting, but whom they hadn't wanted to see, and had therefore run upstairs. Though I was a bit frightened at what I should find there, I was determined to find the mystery, and also to ask my way home. I decided to go upstairs, and so I began climbing. I climbed and climbed a surprising number of steps, but I couldn't see the top yet, so I began counting — one thousand, one thousand and one, one thousand and two... The monotonous sound of my voice, with the sight of only steps, steps, steps, in front of me made me feel very, very... drowsy. I felt my eyelids grow heavy and close over my tired eyes, and as my sight grew

A LETTER

Dear Outlookers,

Perhaps you feel that I shouldn't be writing on our page anymore, but since I have been asked to stay on as a sort of unofficial secretary until the end of the year, I am taking this opportunity to clear up all the loose ends in this year's work.

First, and most important of all, I want to thank the Outlookers from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful pen and pencil set which was presented to me at our November meeting by our administrator, Mr. Zaman. I only wish now that I could have done more for our Vrtec in these two years, so that I might be more worthy of the appreciation I have received. I shall use my pen and pencil for all my future poems and stories, and I am sure they'll be all the better for such an inspiration as our Vrtec.

Getting down to business, I feel that the topic which needs the most discussion is the membership campaign. Our Vrtec, as most others, certainly can use some inspiration to get new members, and just when it does come along, it comes in the form of a trip to Cleveland — of all places. I'm afraid the two dollars per day isn't sounding very encouraging to you people. I think that if a trip to Chicago or Indianapolis were promised, you might take a greater interest, but somehow I feel it our duty to work just as hard, even if we don't get the trip. After all, you only have to get fifteen members in, while the out-of-towners have to get twenty-five. One of the finest examples of an honest-to-goodness hard-working Vrtec member is Julia Kramzer of Morgan, Pennsylvania, who has already enrolled eighteen members. I think that Mr. Zaman would be satisfied if each of you brought in one or two members apiece, but think of the honor of being able to say you had brought in eighteen! All I can do is ask, so I say, please try to get new members, and see if you can't get your parents to help you. It will mean a lot towards the future activity or non-activity of our Vrtec. I can remember a time, not so long ago, when we were second highest of all Vrtecs in membership. I don't think we're there now...

Our president promised with dim, I lost my balance and toppled down... down...

With a brr-r-r-ring, I opened my eyes to find myself under my bed. Would I ever learn the mystery of the supernatural mansion? I hope I shall, and that is why I shall go to bed without too much coaxing tonight.

Jay Kay
(Josephine Kovic)

- T Turkeys, Thanksgiving Day,
- H Hershey Bars, Harold Tavzel at Vrtec Meetings,
- A America, Administrators,
- N New Member!
- K Knowledge,
- S Supreme Board, S. S. P. Z., Spinach,
- G Gavels, Gags at Vrtec Meetings, Gentlemen (the few that there are), Girl-friends,
- I Ivy, poison (thankful that it's far away),
- V Vrtecs, Vrtec Directors, Vrtec pages,
- I Ideas and inspirations,
- N No school on Thanksgiving,
- G God...

heart and soul that he would write an article, but I guess I didn't hound him long enough, as he seems to have forgotten all about it. Which brings me to another matter of importance — at least to me. I heard someone say that our page couldn't continue without Fred Bashel and myself, but I'm not conceited enough to think so, myself, and I don't think he does, either. We have writers who have written almost every month, and some who write not so often, but when they do, it's something interesting. I don't doubt that our Vrtec page is going to grow and grow. There's lots of room for improvement, I realize that everytime I send out the articles to the editor, and I'm sure that you people can do it.

I do hope that someone will continue the 'Our Personalities' column, because one of the ways to make our Vrtecs stand together as one lodge, rather than a group of separate clubs, is to get our members to know one another, and to acquaint them with the members of other Vrtecs.

As for our meetings, may I say this: what we need is more discussion and active participation in the activities of our Vrtec. Whether your vocabulary be small or includes every funny sounding word in the dictionary, doesn't make any difference, as long as you tell the officers and the members just what you think about the subject under discussion.

Guess that's all, except don't forget Our Corner. A year and a half ago they said it couldn't be done. Well, we've started the ball rolling, see if you can't finish the job, well. The December issue will be the last one which we "old-timers" will have anything to do with, after that "it's all yours."

Fraternally yours,

Valeria