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Slovenia Seeks EU Aid from Torrential Rain

The damage caused by torrential rains in Slovenia will overburden the country's finances and the government will be forced to seek European Union aid for the first time since joining the bloc in 2004, the Prime Minister, Janez Jansa, said. Jansa, who toured the northern region ravaged by the storm said the damage, estimated at Euro 200 million (US \$276 million), "Exceeds budget reserves," and other financial aid earmarked for relief.

He said the government would seek aid from EU's Solidarity Fund for the first time, the state-run news agency STA, reported. Slovenia is a prosperous market economy, whose 4-percent economic growth exceeds the EU average, making it a contributor rather than recipient of EU funds.

The government will also aid regional companies in amounts allowed by the EU rules, Jansa said.

Earlier, authorities said they had recovered two more bodies, raising the death toll from Tuesday (Sept. 18) flood to six. The two new victims were from Zelezniki,

a village of 3,000 people in a narrow valley in northwestern Slovenia, and the hardest hit town in the storm.

One body was found in a local factory late Wednesday; another near her house, said a local police spokesman, Zdenko Guzzi. Authorities had previously identified four victims of the floods in two other towns.

The floods damaged hundreds of houses, swept away bridges and cars and buried a World War II clinic that was later turned into a national monument.

Two villages remain cut off from outside help, as a bridge and a road leading to them have been washed away. Authorities have organized helicopters to drop food and other necessities to the residents.

Slovenia's largest insurer, Triglav, said it expected about 5,000 claims and a record payout for damages, totaling around Euro 20 million (US \$28 million).

This news came from **Mark Ryavec**, former Honorary Slovenia Consul General from Los Angeles.



These lovely ladies are, left to right, Shelli March, Nancy Slapnik, Lisa March-Cicha, Jasmin Nece, Mary Feinerer, Heather Davidson, Dolly Wade, and Debbie Davidson at the annual Slapnik picnic on Sunday, Sept. 2 at the Forest City Yacht Club in Cleveland.

(Photo by TONY GRDINA)

50 Years Ago Today

Cleveland Slovenians First to Track Sputnik Satellite

This article tells the story about how the St. Joseph High School Radio Club was the first to track Sputnik 50 years ago today, on Oct. 4, 1957, and gives due credit and honor to Joe Zelle who was the first to get it onto the radio in Cleveland.

by **BOB LESKOVEC**

My buddy Ed Miller, K8EHA and myself K8DTS, along with several of our classmates at the St. Joe's High School Radio Club, were in the right place at the right time 50 years ago when the Russians launched Sputnik on October 4, 1957. We had an exceptionally well-equipped ham radio club for that time, and so we immediately started tracking the satellite.

Ed recalls, "The launch took place late afternoon on Friday. Several of us club members had stayed after class to test our ham radio equipment that we were setting up to contact a teacher who had recently been transferred to Africa. Around 7

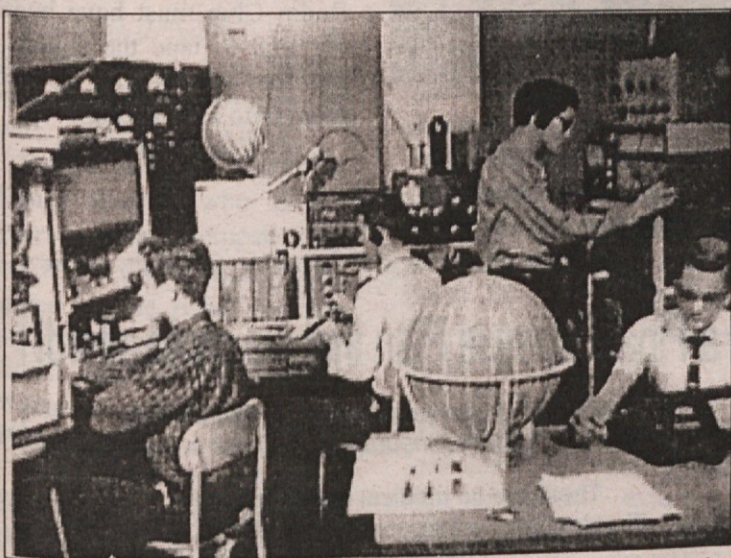
p.m., in the process of listening for any signal coming in from Africa, we were tuning around and stumbled upon a "beep-beep-beep" signal. We regularly heard many strange sounds on short-wave in those days, but this one was totally new to us. It faded away, but after a while we heard it again, and we had to keep re-aiming our "beam" antenna to maximize the signal. So we started taping it." There were only two tape recorders in the entire school and we had the good one, a professional Berlant Concertone with 10½ inch reels.

About 7:30 p.m., John Van Blargan, W8VBU stopped by the lab to tell us he had just heard on the car radio that the Russians launched a satellite. By now we were monitoring the radio news, too, and heard that the "Sputnik" was transmitting on 20.005 MHz (of course in those days it was "Megacycles"). Suspecting we had the Sputnik, we nonetheless retuned the receiver to WWV, the National Bureau of Standards Time and Fre-

quency station on 20.000 MHZ, and then moved up just slightly and waited. Sure enough, it was the same signal we had been taping and immediately realized that the signal went away and came back again each time the satellite orbited.

John recalled: "We subtracted the length of time we were hearing the signal from the orbit time, added that to the time the signal disappeared and estimated when we would hear it again. We also swung the beam antenna around to where we thought it should be. Some time close to when we predicted, we again heard the signal. We did this whole procedure a number of times, each time improving our estimate of when we would hear the signal again, and at which beam position." At that point we called our teacher, Brother Mike Stimac, W8KTZ who came running.

(Continued on page 2)



First to tape Russian "Sputnik" are St. Joseph students in action in 1957. Left to right, Joe Marsey, K8EGZ, Fred Imm, K8EVB at the HRO-60, Bob Leskovec, K8DTS at the NC-109, and Dave Mazi at the mechanical calculator. (Frame 7 bmp) from and old film clip

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No. 26

October 4, 2007

CityMusic Concerts at St. Vitus Parish

CityMusic Cleveland, a 32-piece chamber orchestra will perform four concerts in St. Vitus Church. The first concert will be on Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. Soloists will be JinJoo Cho, violin, and Angela Mortallaro, soprano. A social consisting of light food and refreshments will follow the concert in the parish auditorium.

There is no admission charge for the concert or social. Good-will offerings, however, may be made. Free admission tickets will be required.

Free admission tickets may be ordered by calling the

parish house at (216) 361-1444.

CityMusic Cleveland is a professional chamber orchestra which performs free concerts throughout Northeast Ohio. The primary mission of CityMusic Cleveland is to develop audiences and build communities through the arts by presenting quality performances of classical music and eliminating high ticket prices.

The other performances will take place on Wednesday evenings, Dec. 12, Feb. 20, and May 7.

Tiptoe Thru Flowers with Zarja Singers

Slovenian Singing Society "Zarja" presents its 91st Annual Fall Concert on Sunday, Oct. 28 in the Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue in Euclid, Ohio. The performance begins at 3:30.

The program theme is, "Tiptoe Thru the Flowers." The chorus, the quartet, and specialties, will perform songs about flowers, southern roses, "Juzne Gatroze," by Johann Strauss Jr., "Everything's Coming Up Roses," by Jules Styne, "Tulipan," by Ivan Zorman, just to name a few. We will also have a sing-a-long for audience participation. After the performance, roast beef and klobase sandwiches will be available, along with our traditional beverage line.

Following the program at 5:30 p.m., the Ray Polantz

Orchestra will provide music for dancing. Donation is \$10.00 per person and tickets are available by calling Barbara at 440-257-2540, Vicky at (216) 531-5542 or at the Polka Hall of Fame, 291 E. 222 St., Euclid, Ohio.

As a side note, Zarja's main purpose is to perpetuate and preserve our Slovenian music and heritage. There is another group having the same purpose, "Fantje na Vase," will be celebrating their 30th anniversary with a concert on Saturday, Oct. 6 at the St. Clair Slovenian Hall. Several members of Zarja will be in attendance and will have tickets for the Zarja Concert with them. See you at the concerts.

--Jim Kozel

Sputnik...

(Continued from page 1)

As he got there, we told Bro. Mike, "In something like 90 seconds you will hear the satellite." Within a few seconds of our prediction the beeps started.

Nearing 11 p.m., despite what we were trying to tell our parents about all of this on the phone, Ed and I being only 15 at the time, had to go home. But by the next morning, we found that Brother Mike and some older members had been busy through the night logging more tape, and had gathered several world globes.

From that point on, the tape recording continued, the predicting of orbits became more precise, and the globes became "striped," with thin strips of paper laying out the orbits. That Saturday morning around 8 a.m., Bro. Mike called the Cleveland Press just minutes before another Sputnik orbit, and told them, "We are tracking the Sputnik - listen, and in a few seconds you will hear the beeps." Sure enough, right on cue, the beeps were heard and we had instant credibility with the newspapers. A few similar calls to the Cleveland



In this frame from our 16mm movie, Left to right, Bob Leskovec K8DTS at the NC-109, Dave Mazi K8DUD at the calculator, Mike Stimac (then W8KTZ), our teacher, Dan Lombardo K8GKB, and Ed Miller K8EHA.

Plain Dealer and local TV and radio stations and we were off and running.

Then somehow we heard that WERE 1300 had already broadcast the sound of Sputnik on their 6 a.m. news. We learned that their engineer Joe Zelle W8FAZ had heard about the launch from NBC radio on Friday night and by around 8:30 p.m., he was able to tape the signal.

I visited Joe Zelle this past Labor Day (he's 95 now) and he filled me in on how that played out. He tried to

send the signal over a special line that he had to the station because he used to pick up foreign news broadcasts on his shortwave equipment for re-broadcast on WERE. The line was dead. He tried to call the Chief Engineer, Harry Dennis, who took a while to call back. Harry told him that he had just canceled the line. In all, two hours were lost, so Joe drove the tape down to the station, but the engineer and "D.J." on duty did not appreciate the importance of it, and it sat there all night until the morning news guys came in. Of course by that time they had heard about Sputnik, and were both surprised and grateful to see Joe got them a tape, and which they promptly put on the 6 a.m. news.

All these years, Joe thought he was the first with Sputnik and so did the St. Joe's gang. During my visit we figured it out and were able to divide up the honors. I concluded that the St. Joe's Radio Club must have been the first to tape the signals, but Joe was the first to get them onto a broadcast.

(To Be Continued)



Left to right, Bob Leskovec and Ed Miller are shown here with Leon Bibb of WEWS-TV5 on Sept. 20 after they taped a segment about the 50th anniversary of Sputnik for Leon's Kaleidoscope program.

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This and that from Emilee



by EMILEE JENKO

Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. A social will follow. No admission but a good will offering will be accepted. Plan to attend.

Whoever made the tarragon potica for the Altar and Rosary dinner at St. Vitus is a fantastic baker. It was simply delicious.

My personal get well wishes to Mary Jo Rom. Hope all went well. God bless.

The other night I attended and "donated" at the St. Clair Slovenian National Home reverse raffle. Huge crowd buying many side boards like they were going out of style. All that and I wasn't a winner. Oh well, congrats to the winners.

Get well to Fayzee. She had a slight altercation with another car. She's okay. I don't know about the cars, but a speedy recovery to all, especially Fayzee.

I heard the Collinwood High School reunion was a blast. A nostalgic affair, meeting old-time friends. It was held at the Croatian Center of Lake Shore Blvd. Pauline Barbish is one of many who initiated the event. Great job to all involved. It must have been quite an undertaking. I understand the attendance hit the 800 mark. My friend Gladys Luzar came in from Florida to make the scene and I understand many came from all points. All must have had a great time renewing old acquaintances, just having a ball. Until the next reunion.

Birthday wishes to Trudy Trinko and to Larry Hovevar, Treasurer of the St. Clair Pensioners.

Sausage winners at SNPJ were Raddell's, Azman (St. Clair), Maple Hts. I didn't make it to SNPJ but my congratulations to all.

The members of SANAG (Slovenian American National Art Guild) got together on Sept. 17 to formulate plans for the coming year. We hope to attend many art shows. Keep in touch.

I read in the P.D. food section that Ward 13 Councilman Joe Cimperman's favorite breakfast eatery is Lucky's Café. His favorite is a mixture of scrambled eggs and tofu, etc. He's eating healthy. Looking good, Joe.

The Picnic in the Park given by the St. Clair Pensioners was inundated with pastry. How great are our members; so giving and so generous. In the kitchen, give them a big hand, were Lil Ribarich, Jeannette Yert, Josepha Strauss. Thanks to Rose Zalneratis for the baked beans. Really tasty on the palate. Thanks to all for all the delicious and variety of pastry. We all had a good time at the picnic.

Condolences to the family of Agnes Mary Briscar. She resided at the Villa on Lake Shore Blvd. Rest in peace, Aggie. We're all thinking about you and will keep you in our prayers. Arrangements by Zele Funeral Home.

October birthday wishes to Agnes Kronitz, Mary Jo Rom, Fr. John Kumse (St. Mary's Church Holmes Ave.), Judie Vegh, David Vegh, Gus and Chrissy Frangos, and Joey Tomsick.

Wedding anniversary wishes: 15th to Tony and Chris Mihelich. Good health and much happiness in the future. Love you.

Enjoyed a pleasant outdoor breakfast at Gateway Manor area on E. 200th Street in Euclid, Ohio. In attendance were Frank and Julie Sadar, Mary Wolf, Joe and Ann Zgonc, Olga Campbell, Albina Cendol and a relative, Mary Ann Cendol. Rose Zalneratis, with friend Marie Rutar, Matt Belasko and, of course, Mayor Cervenik. Would have tarried a bit longer, but those yellow jackets were so vicious with the sausages, bacon and pancakes with syrup on the tables. They were having a feast. The cuisine was so good, and nice and hot for outdoors. A few raffles were held.

A few more quips from Ch. 22 cable: What is the largest pencil in the world? Pennsylvania.

Why didn't the skeleton go to the ball?

He had no body to go with. 'Till we meet again: I will leave you with this thought, "It is a great deal better to do all the things you should do, than to spend the rest of your life wishing you had."

Be good to yourself and to others.

OXOXOX
--Emilee

Middle age is when your age starts to show around your middle. -Bob Hope

Ohio Boychoir Auditions

Auditions are now being held for the Ohio Boychoir 2007 season for its Concert Choir and Training Choir programs. Membership is open to boys ages 9 to voice change for the concert choir and to boys ages 7 & 8 for the training choir. Contact the Ohio Boychoir at (216) 556-2222 or via email at member-ship@ohioboychoir.org

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Agnes Koporc with Rev. Vic Cimperman enjoying a luncheon at the St. Vitus Village with the Francis Xavier Mission Group. (Photo by EMILEE JENKO)

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4 St. Vitus Alumni Gearing Up for Big Day

This is to give notice of a meeting of the St. Vitus Alumni today, Thursday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. in St. Vitus Village Slovenian Room.

Please note this meeting is most important and hopefully will be attended by as many members as possible. Plans are being made for the Annual Honoree Day, Sunday, Oct. 28. Your presence will truly be appreciated.

This being the Alumni's 20th year, we hope to make it a special event and make it a "Grand Reunion" for ALL who have been part of St. Vitus School through the years. Why not "spark up" a few memories with former classmates.

For ticket reservations call Treasurer Ray Gobec at (440) 285-2359. Dinner prepared by Julie Zalar and her capable staff will certainly satisfy your palates.

The day will begin with a special Mass at high noon officiated by our own alumni, Class of '39, Award Recipient Most Rev. Bishop A. E. Pevec. The festivities will follow in the St. Martin de Porres Auditorium (the former St. Vitus School).

Dinner and presentation of awards with the "Getting to Know All About You Again" will complete the day's celebration. A good time to renew old friendships. Call an old classmate, reserve a table and go back in time for an afternoon. You won't forget it.

To "tickle" your inquisitive minds, a bit of news about this year's honorees.

SVS Graduate of 1955 **Richard J. Zele.**

Richard was born to Louis and Helen Zele on Feb. 14, 1941, growing up in the St. Clair / St. Vitus area where the family owned and operated the Zele Funeral Home on East 65th at St. Clair and Addison Road.

Richard (better known as "Rich") was the youngest of three children, namely, brother Louis Jr., and sister Marilyn who has lived in Holland over 20 years.

Rich attended St. Vitus as a boy, graduated in 1955. He went to St. Joseph's High graduating in 1959. He attended Bowling Green for two years and went on to Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Sciences graduating in 1965 whereupon he joined the family business and today he is the 5th President of Zele Funeral Home. Zele Funeral Home has been in business for over 100 years.

Rich is a devoted family man, the father of six: Richard, Nicholas, Brian, Scott, Jennifer and Jacqueline, and granddad to 12.

A member of many Slovenian lodges and organizations, he is an avid sports-

man, deep sea fisherman, and game hunter. His quiet moments (if any) are spent reading. He is a history buff. His hobby is collecting toy trains.

He is a staunch supporter of the St. Clair, St. Vitus, Collinwood, and Euclid communities and is known and loved by all.

You MUST come down to meet this gregarious man in person. His smile lights up the room.

Mike Stinziano, Ph.D., WCP, CWCP.

Mike Stinziano, the son of Josephine Stinziano of East 73rd Street off St. Clair Avenue, graduated from St. Vitus in 1958. After graduating from high school and college he progressed on to a career in government.

He has extensive experience in Workers Comp., and the governmental arena. He is currently Vice President of Benfield, working with state workers, compensation fund officials, insurance commissioners, senior insurance department staff and the U.S. Treasury Department to develop and implement comprehensive reinsurance administration, and workers compensation programs.

Mike is a Board Member of the American Society of Workers Comp. Professionals and serves as Chairperson of AMCOMP's Education Committee and Member Services Committee. In 2004 he received the prestigious Donald T. DeCarlo "Legends of Worker's Comp." award in recognition of his "lifelong outstanding achievements in the field of Workers Comp."

In January, 2007, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland appointed Mike to the Assoc. of Ohio Commodores, a prestigious group of business leaders dedicated to assisting the State of Ohio in its advancement in all areas contributing to the economic growth and development of Ohio.

From 1973 to 1994 Mike served 22 years in the Ohio General Assembly, chairing the House Insurance Committee for 16 years. He led the effort for passage of major insurance and healthcare legislation.

You MUST meet this prominent gentleman, and you can do it by attending our 20th celebration.

Congratulations Mr. Stinziano. You make us proud.

Don and Nancy Slapnik, Couple of the Year!

Don and Nancy Slapnik are well known florists in the St. Vitus-St. Clair area.

Donald F. Slapnik was born on July 10, 1933, the

only child of Louis and Clara Slapnik. Living in Collinwood the first part of his tender years, he attended St. Jerome's until his family moved back to St. Clair where the business was located. He entered St. Vitus grade school and graduated in 1947.

Don then attended Cathedral Latin High for two years, transferred to East High where he graduated in 1951.

Nancy came to life on this planet on April 21, 1933, born to John and Antoinette Gerbic at 983 Addison Rd., Cleveland. She was the middle child of three, brother Richard, and sister, Antoniette, both deceased.

Nancy graduated from St. Vitus Elementary School in June of 1947 whereupon she went to Notre Dame Academy on Ansel Road, graduating in 1951.

Working at the Louis Slapnik and Son Florist store during her high school years helped pay her tuition to Notre Dame. It was there that the romance between Don and Nancy ignited and burst into eternal flame.

Teenage Don had a love of music. He mastered the bass fiddle, formed a polka band with his friends. He worked and played at various St. Clair establishments, namely Tino's, Melo Bar, etc., Twilight Ballroom, etc. As the years went by his band became known throughout the Cleveland area, playing for various dinner dances, weddings, etc.

The handsome couple married on July 26, 1952 and became proud parents of two children. Louis who just retired from teaching, and coaching championship women's track (and still teaches track), and Shelli (owner of Shelli's Restaurant on St. Clair near E. 61 St. She is married to Bob March and they gave Don and Nancy a beautiful granddaughter, Lisa, a national television producer with CBS in New York City.

Don had a 30-year career working for the State of Ohio and City of Cleveland, holding positions in the Transportation Department, Title Bureau, Cleveland Streets Department, and Public Utilities Water Department, retiring in 1989. Don received the City of Cleveland Certificate of Appreciation Award from the then Mayor George Voinovich for his generous donation of personal time and resources decorating the Public Utilities Building for many years during the holidays.

Through the years his love of music progressed forming another musical group, a

country western band playing professionally with such stars as Tanya Tucker, Jerry Lee Lewis, Porter Wagner and Dolly Parton. The highlight of that career was recording two songs in Nashville with Chet Atkins in 1971.

Don and Nancy have owned and operated their flower shop since 1957. Nancy, a mom bringing up two children, was also the chief floral designer of their business. In addition, she served as Vice President and Secretary of the St. Vitus Christian Mother's Club. She is a member of St. Vitus Altar Society, the Alumni, COF # 2268, St. Anne's Lodge #4 AMLA, and Friends of Slovenian National Home. She has served six years as vice president of Ladies Auxiliary, St. Vitus CWV.

They are avid boaters, and have been members of Forest City Yacht Club for 43 years. They pilot a nifty Chris Craft and have won

many awards for their elegantly decorated boat in the yearly holiday festival on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland's "Flats." They often featured a polka band with Don plucking the bass, and Zeke and Charlie adding their music.

They have been married for 55 years and still operate their business from the same location, the corner of East 61st and St. Clair Avenue in Cleveland.

To meet this wonderful couple you MUST come to the St. Vitus Alumni Mass and banquet celebration on Sunday, Oct. 28.

MEMO: We will need help the day prior - Saturday, Oct. 27. Remember, if we come early, we won't stay late. If there are many hands, there will be less work.

For further information call Pres. Dan Reiger at (216) 391-5428. Or call Ray Gobec for reservations (440) 285-2359.

Newspaper Schedule

Due to unexpected increases in mailing and printing costs, the American Home (Ameriška Domovina) will only be printed twice a month, on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Deadline for all copy is a week before publishing date.

The next American Home will be printed on Oct. 18.

In November, the American Home will be printed on Nov. 1 and 15.

In December, the American Home will be printed on Dec. 6 and 20.

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Collinwood Hall Honors Paul Yanchar

Collinwood Slovenian Home will be honoring Paul Yanchar on Sunday, Oct. 14th as Musician and Singer of the Year for 2007.

Paul Yanchar, one of Cleveland's premiere saxophone and clarinet players as well as one of its finest singers, set a standard for sidemen during an illustrious career spanning well over 50 years with some of the most successful Cleveland-style orchestras.

Best known in his longstanding role as the sax/clarinet player and leading vocalist of the Pecon Orchestras, Paul contributed to some of the bands' finest moments including their winning performance on the *Arthur Godfrey Show* on national TV in 1958, tours to Hawaii and Slovenia, and the recording of Paul's signature tune, "Little Fella." Earlier Paul distinguished himself as a regular with the Johnny Vadnal, Louie Bashell, Eddie Habat, Pete Sokach, Chuck Smith, Al Strukel, and Vic Intihar Orchestras, and others.

Paul's playing has always been exceptionally strong, marked by high quality mu-

sicianship. Attesting to his influence and the admiration of Cleveland-Style woodwind players across the nation, "Paul Yanchar licks" abound in Cleveland-style recordings. With arguably the best ability of any Cleveland-style sax/clarinet man to execute unfamiliar material on the spot, Paul has always been able to step into any band and make an immediate contribution. Johnny Pecon once said that Paul Yanchar was "the one man you want next to you if a song is in trouble."

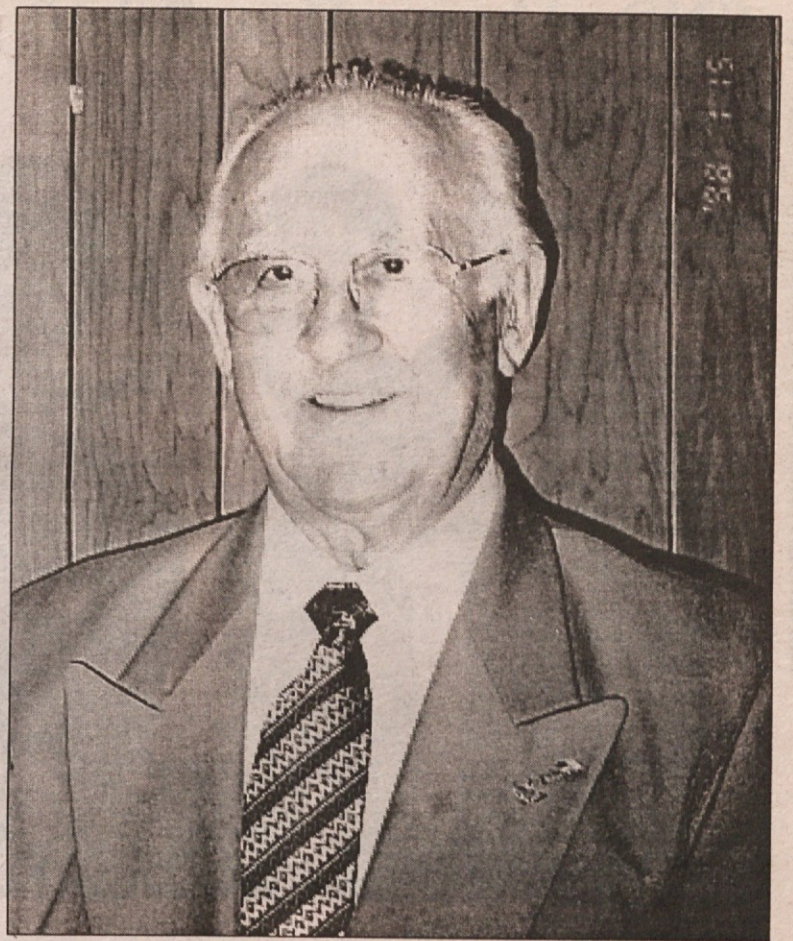
Paul has generally been the "Horn Player of Choice" for any session requiring an "all-star" orchestra. Thus, Paul's renditions can be heard on Frank Novak's All-Star recordings, the "Polka Aerobics" video, and Habat and Kotsos' "From the Heart" album among many others. Paul has performed with virtually every famous name in Cleveland-style lore and has over 20 LP albums to his credit.

Paul's singing is legendary, covering the full spectrum of music from sacred to contemporary, ethnic to pop, Sinatra to Springsteen. Be-

yond the many famous cuts with Johnny Pecon, Paul's vocal excellence has enhanced the recordings of Jeff Pecon, Eddie Habat, and Fred Kuhar, the latter including an album devoted exclusively to showcasing Paul's talents.

Behind Paul's accomplishments are hard work, continual practice, and a studious interest in all kinds of music. Paul has always been meticulous in seeking out and mastering the correct pronunciation and diction of lyrics in other languages. He has also been unselfish in his willingness to help and practice with other musicians, perform at benefits, and organize bands to play at Cleveland area hospitals and nursing homes.

The success of any orchestra is dependent on sidemen who are not only very talented, but who are also team players. Paul epitomizes and idealizes the role of sideman, having always been willing and able to pitch in and do whatever is required to make the total effort succeed for any orchestra in which he has performed.



Paul Yanchar

America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedom, it will be because we destroyed ourselves. —Abraham Lincoln

Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood.

I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.

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30th Anniversary Concert

The Slovenian men's chorus
Fantje na vasi
Saturday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m.
Slovenian National Home
6417 St. Clair Avenue

Doors open at 5:30--Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres
Dance and social to follow featuring the Veseli Godci
General Admission \$12 ; Students 13 and under admitted free
Concert seating with a limited number of tables available for groups.
For ticket information contact:
(440) 487-6100 or (440) 944-5709



Left to right, Tony Legan, Patty Legan, Sister Merita Strahler, Marlene Vidic, Dennis Vidic

A Sparkling Diamond – Sister Merita Strahler

On July 15, 2007 the Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon, Ohio hosted a jubilee celebration. Twenty-six sisters reached milestones from their silver jubilee (25 years) to the jubilee of joy (75 years).

The festivities began with the celebration of the Mass by the Most Reverend A. Edward Pevec, Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland (retired).

Afterward, the sisters met with family and friends to share memories of their rich history, their many and varied assignments of service, and a few good, hearty laughs.

Sister Merita Strahler, who is now serving at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Dunedin, Florida, was a jubilarian (60 years). She invited two of her former students and their wives to this auspicious occasion. Dennis

Vidic and Tony Legan were reunited with Sister Merita last year after 50 years. It was a great honor for these two former students to congratulate their former fifth grade teacher from St. Vitus elementary School.

They presented Sister Merita with a proclamation for her many accomplishments, dedication, and services rendered to many people she touched in her career.

Sister Merita is truly a sparkling diamond and role model to all.

—Dennis J. Vidic,
Wickliffe, OH
&
Anthony W. Legan
Kirtland, OH



Mimi Davidson celebrated her 100th birthday on August 29th with family and friends.

Mimi was born in Cleveland in 1907 and attended St. Vitus School and Notre Dame Academy. After high school she studied dress designing and accepted a job in Chicago. She met her husband Joe while in Chicago; unfortunately she was widowed after only 7 years of a wonderful marriage. She then returned to Cleveland and worked at Arthur Anderson. After her retirement she volunteered at the Goodrich-Gannett Center and later at Breckenridge Village. In her younger years she was an avid tennis player and would play all day, even in 90 degree weather. Twenty nine years ago she moved to Kirtland with her brother Joe Marinko and sisters Jenny Marinko and Bertha Krug. During this time she enjoyed playing bridge at an expert level. For the past year and a half she has been residing at the Western Reserve Healthcare in Kirtland.

Coming Events

Friday, Oct. 5

Val Pawlowski's 6th annual Bar Keepers Ball at Croatian Lodge Rte. 91 & Lakeshore, Eastlake. Advance \$8; at door \$10.

Saturday, Oct. 6

Dance, West Park Slovenian Home, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 – 11:15. Admission \$8. Music by Jeff Pecon.

Saturday, Oct. 6

Fantje na Vasi 30th Anniversary concert at Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 7

St. Mary (Holmes Ave.) Altar Society annual benefit roast pork, chicken dinner in parish hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$12.

Sunday, Oct. 7

Rosary Sunday Festival at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, 21281 Chardon Rd., Euclid, OH. Bazaar opens after 9:30 a.m. Mass until 3:45. Bake sale, games, handcrafts, sausage and pizza, dining room open 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 7

Winter Polka Dance at Garden Brook Party Center, 4820 State Route 5 NE, Cortland, OH from 2 – 6 p.m. Frank Stanger Band. For more info call Val Pawlowski (440) 286-1786

Wednesday, Oct. 10

Opening Concert of City-Music Cleveland, 32 piece chamber orchestra in St. Vitus Church at 7 p.m. Social to follow in auditorium.

Friday, Oct. 12

Dance, West Park Slovenian Home, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 – 11:15. Admission \$8. Music by Al Battistelli.

Sunday, Oct. 14

Koline – Pristava Pensioners at Slovenska Pristava.

Sunday, Oct. 14

Collinwood Slovenian Home Music Fest honoring Paul Yanchar from 1 p.m. until ?

Tuesday, Oct. 16

Bob Dolgan talk about Polka King Frankie Yankovic, 7 p.m. at Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Ave., Euclid, OH sponsored by Slovenian American Heritage Foundation.

Friday, Oct. 19

Dance, West Park Slovenian Home, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 – 11:15. Admission \$8. Music by Frank Moravcik.

Saturday, Oct. 20

Stajerski-Prekmurski Club Martinovanje, Dinner Dance at Slovenian National Home, St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, 6:30 p.m. Music by Veseli Godci. For tickets call Mimi at (216) 531-4817 or Tonica (440) 256-6716.

Saturday, Oct. 20

St. Lawrence Reunion Dinner Dance. Mass at St.

Lawrence Church, 5:30 p.m. Officiated by Bishop Edward Pevec. Doors at Nash open at 6:30 p.m. Donation \$15. Music by Joe Novak 7:30 . (440) 243-0312 or (216) 341-6135.

Sunday, Oct. 21

St. Mary's Alumni 17th annual banquet in parish center. Preceded by 12 noon Mass.

Friday, Oct. 26

Dance, West Park Slovenian Home, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 – 11:15. Admission \$8. Music by Bob Kravos.

Sunday, Oct. 28

Annual Clambake of Slovenian (Newburgh) National Home, 3563 E. 80 St. from 2 to 4 p.m. Music, 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 by Joe Novak. Donation \$25. Call (216) 341-6136 or (216) 475-7946.

Sunday, Oct. 28

Annual Meeting of Slovenska Pristava members.

Sunday, Oct. 28

St. Vitus Alumni Honoree Day. Mass followed by dinner and induction ceremony.

Sunday, Oct. 28

Zarja's 91st Annual Fall Concert, 3:30 p.m. at Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Ave., Euclid. Danc-ing to Ray Polantz Orchestra at 5:30. Tickets \$10 from (440) 257-2540, (216) 531-5543, or (216) 531-5542 or Polka Hall of Fame, 291 E. 222 St., Euclid, OH.

Friday, Nov. 2

Dance, West Park Slovenian Home, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 – 11:15. Admission \$8. Music by Wayne Tomsic.

Friday, Nov. 9

Dance, West Park Slovenian Home, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 – 11:15. Admission \$8. Music by Joey Tomsick.

Saturday, Nov. 10

Slovenian (Newburgh) National Home, 3563 E. 80 St., Cleveland, Veterans Day Dance coordinated by Wayne Tomsic. Donation \$5. Jam session 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 11

Fall Concert, of Slovenian Junior Chorus, Circle 2 SNPJ, Slovenian Society Home, Euclid, OH – 3 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 16

Dance, West Park Slovenian Home, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 – 11:15. Admission \$8. Music by Frank Moravcik.

Saturday, Nov. 17

Glasbena Matica concert in Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Ave., Cleveland.

Nov. 22, 23, 24

Tony Petkovsek's Annual Thanksgiving Polka Dance at Marriott Hotel in Downtown Cleveland. For hotel reservations call Kollander World Travel (216) 692-1000.

Death Notices

WINIFRED M. MODIC

Winifred M. "Wini" Modic (nee Roberts), age 87, passed away Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007.

Preceded in death by her husband, Frank R., loving mother of Robert S. (Anne), Glynn A. and Brian L. (Gail); grandmother of Jennifer, Tara, Gregory, Melanie, Ashley, Glynn II, Kristin and Amanda; great grandmother of Kelton, Ryan, Margaret, Dominick and Glynn III.

Wini was preceded in death by her brother Vern Roberts and her sisters Jane Miller and Grace Hocevar.

Memorial service on Saturday, Oct. 6 at 11 a.m. in the DiDonato Funeral Home, 21900 Euclid Avenue.

Memorials may be forwarded to the Hospice of the Western Reserve, 300 E. 185 St., Cleveland, OH 44119.

THOMAS J. ZUPANCIC

Thomas J. "Otis" Zupancic, 66, died suddenly on Monday, Sept. 10, 2007 at his home in Concord, OH.

Beloved lifelong companion of Marie Zupancic; loving father of Michael (Karen) Zupancic, Cindy Zupancic and Vicki (Michael) Zupancic; dearest grandfather of Ryan Zupancic, and Mackenzie Wojnowski; cherished brother of Edward (Jeanette) Zupancic, William (Jill) Zupancic and Patricia (James) Nolan.

Tom was an employee of Otis Elevator for over 45 years.

Friends called Sunday, Sept. 16 from 1-3 and 5-8 p.m. at the DiDonato Funeral Home, 21900 Euclid Avenue, Euclid, OH.

Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at 10 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 17 in St. Jerome Catholic Church, 15000 Lakeshore Blvd.

DOLORES M. DOLENC

Dolores M. Dolenc (nee Masterson), age 73. Loving wife of Joe; dear mother of Maria Weigle, JoAnn (Noel) Caraballo, Anne, Joseph Jr., Christine (David), Joseph and Clare (Joe) Elias; grandmother of 13; great grandmother of three; sister of Phillip Masterson.

Friends were received at Zele Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St., Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. until time of service at 8 p.m. Private interment at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

In Memory

Thanks to **Josephine Masterson** of Indianapolis, Indiana, who donated \$40.00 to the American Home in memory of her parents, **Frank and Louise Kosmerl** who lived on Neff Road in Cleveland, Ohio.

In Memory

Thanks to **Daniela Maxel** of Cleveland, OH who renewed her subscription and added a \$15.00 donation in memory of her dear mother and "none," **Pine Nedoh**.

In Memory

Thanks to **Tom Tonkli** of Mentor, Ohio who subscribed to the American Home newspaper and added a \$100 donation in loving memory of his mother, **Blanka Tonkli** who passed away on Oct. 29, 2006.

In Memory

Thanks to **Josephine Merc** of Euclid, OH who renewed her subscription and added a \$10.00 donation in memory of **John and Jozica Varsek**.

In Memory

Thanks to **Stefania Cigale** of Cleveland, OH who renewed her subscription and added a \$50.00 donation in memory of her sister **Tončka Cigale**.

In Memory

Thanks to **Mary Okicki** of Cleveland, Ohio who donated \$15.00 to the American Home in memory of **John Orazem**.

Donation

Thanks to **Joe Zelle** of Euclid, Ohio who renewed his subscription and added a \$42 donation.

Donation

Thanks to **I. Hilary and Zorka A. Rolih** of Syosset, NY who renewed their subscription and added a \$100 donation.

Donation

Thanks to **Mrs. Katica Dreu** of Cleveland who renewed her American Home subscription, paid for a memorial of **William Dreu** and added a \$25.00 donation.

Gift Subscription

Thanks to **Marko Cerne** of Cleveland Heights, Ohio who sent in a gift subscription, plus added a \$15.00 donation!

Large Donation

Thanks to **Carl and Judita Prelog** of Kew Gardens, NY who renewed their subscription and added a \$115.00 donation!

Renewal

Thanks to **Charles Gliha** of Cleveland, OH who renewed his subscription and writes, "Thanks for continuing this great paper."

Donation

Thanks to **Breda and Leon Radej** of Kirtland, OH who donated \$25.00 to the Ameriška Domovina.

Donation

Thanks to **Vili and Rela Zadnikar** of Cleveland, Ohio who renewed their subscription and added a \$25.00 donation.

Birthday Wishes

Happy Birthday to **Jane Berkopec** of Richmond Heights, Ohio, from sister-in-law **Mary Turk** and cousin **Judy Okorn**, -- Sept. 23.

Donation

Thanks to **Mary M. Turk** of Euclid, Ohio who submitted a gift subscription and added a \$25.00 donation. She writes, "Thank you for the informative, delightful American Home newspaper, especially for the seniors who are in facilities and are unable to be on the "scene," so to speak.



A recent study found that people who ate nuts at least five times a week had half the risk of heart disease as those who didn't eat them as often. Nuts are high in beneficial monounsaturated fat and fiber.

A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart, and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.

Failure isn't falling down; it's staying down.
--Bob Murphy

Dick Russ Honored by CMR

Each year the Center for Mental Retardation (CMR) invites major donors and other members of the community to honor Clevelanders who have improved the lives of children, adults and families with intellectual disabilities.

The Ben M. Bonanno Excellence in Advocacy Award is named for Executive Director Emeritus of the Center for Mental Retardation. Ben is Cleveland's longtime leader in advocacy, protecting the rights of people with intellectual disabilities.

The 2007 recipient is **Dick Russ**, managing editor and news anchor of WKYC-TV3 who has been reporting the news to the people of Northeast Ohio for more than 30 years. Dick's personal and professional life has been devoted to advocacy on behalf of individuals with disabilities. Besides being involved with television news and special events host, Dick (Richard Hlabse) is involved in various Slovenian-American related organizations and/or activities.

The 2007 Legacy Luncheon will be held at the InterContinental Hotel & Conference Center, 9801 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland on Thursday, Oct. 4th. The Master of Ceremonies is WKYC-TV's Del Donahoo.

Among other things, CMR helps families get the support they need to ensure high quality of life for their family members with mental retardation or an intellectual disability. They help families navigate the confusing services of county boards of mental retardation and local school systems.

CMR has remained a consumer-driven, grass-roots organization. It is a member of the nation's largest and oldest advocacy group for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Reservations are \$60 per person, \$600 for a table of 10. For reservations call (216) 622-0755. Registration at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12 noon. Award presentation from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

In Loving Memory of



EDWARD KAIFESH

15th Anniversary of the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather who died October 9, 1992

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The love a heart holds dear.
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Ken, Kevin, Larry, Jimmy, and Kim Ann
sons and daughter; and families

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Joey Tomsick Orchestra Schedule

SAT, Oct. 6: ST. MARY CHARDON OKTOBERFEST. 5:30p - 11:00p. 401 North St (North of Chardon Square) (440) 285-7051. (Dance, Drink & Be Merry ... And wish Joey a happy birthday!)

SAT, Oct. 13: REVERSE RAFFLE. St. Clair Slov Home. 6:00p - 12:00a. 6409 St. Clair Ave. (440) 526-3344.

SUN, Oct. 14: MUSICIAN of YEAR - Paul Yanchar. Collinwood Slov. Home 15810 Holmes Ave.

POLKA BUS TRIP: Sunday, October 21 to DESHLER BAVARIAN HAUS. (216) 531-2745 \$45 per person

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www.joeytomsick.com

My First Trip to Piran, Slovenia

by CHUCK STIBIL

NORWALK, OH — My 80-year-old mother, Mimi Stibil, had decided to make one last trip to the ancestral homeland of Slovenia and graciously asked me to join her. Naturally, I accepted her offer and after flying into the capital city of Ljubljana, we connected with Mike Cerar, our guide.

Mike was born in Slovenia and as a youth moved to Cleveland as so many other Slovenians did after the war. He grew up here, served in the military, made visits to his home, raised a family and made a final return to Slovenia some years ago. It is a blessing to have Mike as our guide since his time in both countries gives us the ability to communicate easily and grant us access to experiences most travelers would overlook. Mike and I connect on a personal basis and I consider him a great friend after repeated trips to our beautiful homeland. We established a base from which we travel the small New Jersey-sized country of Slovenia and experience things from a unique perspective.

The town of Piran is located on the southwest coast of Slovenia across the Adriatic from Venice, Italy and was once a small but prosperous fishing village. Now the city's economy is more dependent on tourism and while a few local fishermen's boats are still anchored in the harbor, you are more likely to see the shiny expensive toy of a wealthy visitor. It is a small town with a harbor that is shaped like the pincer claws of a giant lobster and is named for the pair of fire towers made of stone and mortar that still stand at the tips of those pincers as a warning to

approaching ships.

Piran was under pre-Roman and Roman rule until the Venetian marauders wrested control and held it until the late 18th century when it became part of the Austrian Empire. After peace was declared at the end of World War One in 1918, Italy was granted the governance of the region and it remained so until 1943 when Piran was occupied by German troops.

After World War Two, the city became part of the notorious Trieste Zone B and was administered by Yugoslavia. Serbian born Josip Tito, strong man of Communism with westward leaning desires and avarice, held control until his death. After a period of decline and adjustment, Slovenia broke free from Yugoslavia in 1991. For the first time in Slovenia's long and colorful history it became a truly free and self-governing country.

Piran's size allows for no day trip by auto, but offers permits for residents and guests of the local inns and hotels. General parking is available about a kilometer from the city and we are able to make use of the free shuttle tram or enjoy a peaceful and invigorating walk along the seawall. As we take our seaside stroll into town we see that the architecture is a homogenous blend of Roman, Venetian and Moorish influence. Nearing the central square, actually a roundabout for the sparse traffic, we see a statue honoring Piran-born violinist and composer Giovanni Tartini. One legend that is retold describes the artist as an unlikely cross between Casanova and Jack the Ripper who used his victims' guts to restring his instrument.

For Mike and I, Tartini, however, is not our goal, nor are the gelato shops, gift emporiums and other tourist attractions that ring the cobblestone circle. Perched on a high limestone cliff to the rear of the town are the remnants of a fortification that could warn of approaching danger from inland as well as from the sea. We separate from the rest of the group and start the climb up the twisting, corkscrew lane that leads to the ruins and meet locals who greet us with a smile, a nod and a "Dober dan," or "buon giorno (good day), depending on their ancestry.

The difficulty of the climb is exceeded by the effort needed to actually ascend the ruins' staircase. The absence of guardrails and no yellow painted step edges remind us that we are not in the U.S.A. As we climb, we pass the detritus of students who camp out wherever they can find shelter as they trek around the continent. Cold campfire ashes, empty wine bottles and cigarette butts litter the ground. The arduous climb and the debris, however, cannot diminish the reward when we reach the top of the wall.

On a clear day we are able to see the Italian coast and today the pine tree framed scene encompasses a simple spectacular view of the Adriatic with the white tent shapes of the sailboats as well as the daily hydrofoil to Venice. The warm, off shore breeze is filled with the scents of the sea and the sounds of the stuttering scooters that are the frequent transport in the town. On a lower plateau, between the sea and the hilltop, is the cathedral that was built in 1637. There are indications that this had been a place of worship since the late 1200s. Our hunger and thirst from the climb up the hill force us to leave the heights and investigate more of Piran.

We return to the Tartini monument, which until 1894, in its present location, would have been in the center of a further inland harbor. The city fathers of the time judiciously had the area filled in and created a bit more land for the real estate starved community.

We start a slow and lovely walk down the pathways that twist and turn, cross and re-cross one another, pathways so narrow that it is impossible to walk three abreast. We pass colorful painted doors and facades of the buildings that climb the hill to the ruins we just visited. The narrow lanes help us envision



Piran Alley

pushcarts of the area's harvest and the daily commerce of seaside life that a visitor from the 20th century West can only imagine.

A remarkable feature are the stone rings mounted on the walls high above our heads that were used as boat moorings during high tides and storm surges that frequent the northern Adriatic. The walkways inevitably lead to small plazas or gardens that dot the many neighborhoods. Each has its own monument or statue that honors a person or event of significance. Each plaza also has, thankfully and deliciously, its own tavern (*gostilna*) that serves local food and the wonderful local wine (*domača vinski*).

As we approach one such square, small by any standards, we see to our right the front of a hotel frequented by most of the tourists. The usual *al fresco* dining area is punctuated with chrome and glass tables and chairs and shaded by the ubiquitous liquor ad umbrellas. A smattering of walking shorts and baseball cap clad visitors fiddle with cameras while trying to compare the menu to the dishes being served. Slovenian / German / Italian / English menus are available but the preparation of the food is strange to the guests so they settle for more familiar burger and Pepsi. This also is not our destination. Directly in front of us, on another side of the tiny square, is the Holy Grail of our trek to this corner of Piran.

A *gostilna*, no bigger than a small stateside apartment

bedroom, is fronted by two or three plank tables and benches underneath a sheltering grape arbor of at least early 20th century vintage. Above the rough-hewn door lintel is a hand painted sign that declares this to be a *Vinski Klet* (wine cellar), and along side the open door is a chalkboard that, since this is late September, offers the deliciously refreshing early fermentation of the grapes.

This beverage is "most" and while not truly wine yet, it is eagerly anticipated by the locals as a great treat as well as an early indication of the quality of the recent harvest. Just to the right of the chalkboard is a small, round wooden table with a cheap tin ashtray, two small tumblers and a one-liter glass pitcher filled with red wine. At the table, with hand rolled, course tobacco cigarettes hanging from their lips, are two of the locals mending their torn fishing nets. Their wine of choice is the regional favorite "Refosc," or in Italian, "Refosco." The grape from which the wine is made also produces the more Slovenian style wine called Teran. The area and microclimate in which the vineyard is located determines the character of the wine. Gravely, karst-type terrain produce the bold Refosc, while richer loamy soil gives us the subtler, softer Teran. The proximity of Piran to northern Italy influences both cuisine and language and guarantees a wonderful *mélange* of experiences to the traveler.

(Continued on page 9)



Piran Central Plaza — Tartini

My Slovenian Mama's Rosary

by HELENA KLESIN

Ridgewood, NY – Mama told me that she had received it as a child from her aunt. The aunt had brought it back from a pilgrimage to Trsat. Mama and her sister had identical ones. But once, during a visit, my aunt showed hers to me – it was still beautiful, like new. But Mama's beads were so worn and thinned. It truly had passed through so much, so much.

When I was with Mama in the hospital and was riding with her in the ambulance from one hospital to the next for radiation treatments, she said to me one day, "Take what's in that heart-shaped box, and keep it for your own, for that contains all my memories." When I told her the following day that I had found it contained a rosary, she said to me, "I know, that's why I want you to take it." I found it wrapped in tissue paper, that rosary of hers, which she had even once lost, but found again. Only God himself knows all those things which she prayed for on those small beads.

Three sisters slaved on a huge farm in Slovenia. One of them had married and bore three daughters. The husband and father was killed in action during World War I at Dobrdo. The youngest daughter had never even seen her father. The other two sisters helped their widowed sister with the huge property; they remained unmarried for life. Of the widow's three daughters, my Mama was the first to marry, and then another also wed, while one sister remained unmarried. My Dad renovated everything on the farm. The family increased to seven children. I never ever heard my Mama whine or complain; she bore everything with courage, as only our Slovenian mothers know how.

Then came the Second World War, and along with it bitterness and suffering. The cross was becoming heavier. They killed my Dad. Mama remained alone with seven small children. Then we were forced to leave our home; we were called "DPs" (Displaced Persons). But only half of us children were now with Mama; the rest remained behind at home for compelling reasons. How Mama wept with joy when I carried a postcard from a kind lady in Judenburg, Austria, with signatures and greetings from my sister and brother. It was on an Easter Sunday.

In the chapel they were singing, "Queen of Heaven, Alleluia," and in our own

hearts we were also singing, "Alleluia, alleluia." After one whole year, we finally learned that they were still alive.

The rosary beads were being worn down as they passed through Mama's fingers every evening and nights as well. Before each First Friday, we had adoration all night long in front of the tabernacle, eight to 10 people per hour. They took turns all through the night.

We were starving, Mothers were starving because their only concern was for their children. She received her strength in prayer. Mama also brought along this great strength to this country. When we reached our stop in New York, after an 11-day voyage from Naples, Italy, aboard the ship USS Greely, we learned the news that our brother had been jailed for listening to the radio broadcast Voice of America while he was in the Yugoslav army stationed in Serbia. He was released after two years.

We were then sent to some tobacco farms in North Carolina where Mama courageously endured the oppressive heat. In one year we enabled ourselves to go onward to Cleveland. We had just become a bit accustomed to work and life there, when my brother, at the age of 22,

drowned in a lake. Everything collapsed for my Mama; it is not surprising. One night she had a dream about this white rosary, which she had once lost in the DP Camp and then found again. Since the rosary had no cross, my Mama had attached a medal of the Immaculate Mary to it. In the dream, she happily found a cross for the rosary, but it began to grow larger and larger in her hand. She was unable to hold it in her hands, so she placed it on her shoulders like Christ, and it became so heavy that she gasped under its weight. "O, Mary, help me." And then she awoke from her dream, exhausted and drenched in sweat. How true was her dream.

Her personal cross had grown so heavy in her own life, that in truth, only Mary herself finally saved her in the most beautiful month of May. She is now freed of all suffering. Pinned to her rosary now are both a cross and the holy medal. This was mother's keepsake, but for me, a priceless gift from Mama.

Written on the 2nd anniversary of Mama's death, May 11, 1979. –Helena
Translated by Jerry Zupan.

Piran...

(Continued from page 8)

We enter the shaded gostilna and are rewarded with the sight of salamis and the wonderful air cured hams hanging from the ceiling. There is also a great choice of locally homemade cheeses and the scents of the cheese and meat fill our noses and water our taste buds. I use my poor American style Slovenian to order "*slanas sardines, prsut, domace kruh in dva litro rdec vinska.*" My use of the Slovenian language is poor at best, but we are pleased to see that the attempt was recognized when we are presented with a beautifully arranged platter of salted sardines, shaved air cured ham, crusty homemade bread and two liters of Refosc.

An absolutely fantastic 90 minutes pass all too quickly

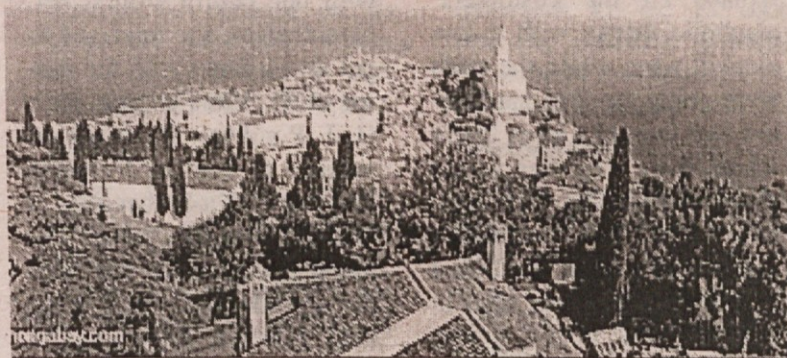
as we enjoy our lunch break beneath the shady arbor sagging under the weight of the harvest ready clusters of plump, dark red grapes.

All good things must come to an end and we regretfully leave the gostilna and return to the rest of our souvenir-laden group. I make a promise to myself that I will return, accompanied by my wife, to this beautiful, tiny oasis on my next visit to Slovenia.

We do that the following year and are able to relocate the tiny gostilna without any difficulty. I truly enjoyed Mike's company, but the experience is only appreciated when the woman I have loved for so many years replaces him.

This has been an unforgettable experience and is often repeated in successive visits. Love is in all Slovenians.

--Konec--



Piran Viewed from City Walls

He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless dead.

--Phil Hrvatin

Bernarda Fink at Severance

World renowned and critically acclaimed Slovenian mezzo-soprano, Bernarda Fink, made her Cleveland debut last year with a solo role in Bach's St. Matthew's Passion at Cleveland's Severance Hall.

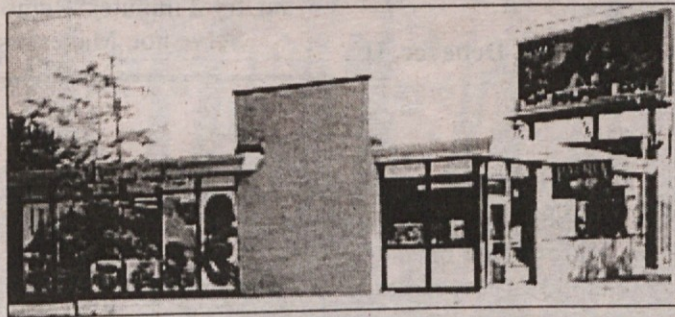
Ms. Fink returns to Severance Hal this year with another solo role in Mahler's Symphony No. 2 on Thursday, Oct. 11 and Saturday,

Oct. 13. Tickets may be purchased by contacting The Cleveland Orchestra.

Ms. Fink was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina to Slovenian political refugees. She now lives in both Slovenia and Austria. She is married to a career diplomat, Ambassador Dr. Valentin Inzko, from the region of Carinthia, and has two children.



Sister Mary Avsec, SND, Pastoral Minister at St. Vitus Parish in Cleveland, took the opportunity on Wednesday, Aug. 29 in St. Mary's parish (Holmes Ave.) auditorium to get an autograph from NASA Astronaut Sunita Williams. (Photo by PHIL HRVATIN)



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The Chronicle of Louis R. Erste

(Continued from last issue)

Johnny's Tavern

Around 1922 Louie had the opportunity to buy a tavern. It was called Johnny's Tavern and it was located on the south side of St. Clair Avenue, around E. 69th Street or thereabouts. (That may not have been the name when Louie ran it.) Louie and Rose only owned the place for about six months, but they were a tumultuous six months. The family lived behind the tavern and Rose's parents also were often there to help. The tavern was raided by the police on a regular basis and they would search the living quarters as well as the tavern. Friends on the Cleveland Police Force would alert Louie and Rose before a raid and they would replace all the customers' alcoholic drinks with a low alcohol wine while the raids were going on. The hard liquor was kept in a large bottle which Rose's mother would place outside the side window into the neighbor's drive. The rest of the liquor and illegal beer was kept in the basement below a trap door that was at an intersection of the hall to the residential area of the building. The trap door was not very stable and Rose became so concerned about one of the big (and heavy) policemen falling through the trap door that she told a friendly policeman about it. Instead of arresting her he stood over it until the raid was over. No harm done.

Another interesting story about the Johnny's Tavern experience was the way that Louie got his first automobile. It was a 1912 or 1914 Ford Touring Car which he purchased from one of the Cleveland policemen. With the purchase he also got protection in that the policeman would go with him when he went to pick up liquor so no one would stop him on the way home. Actually, this act prevented the police as well as gangsters from stopping Louie.

Every time they were raided the police would disrupt the entire house, even to the point of turning over the girls' mattresses to find anything they could. Of course this was difficult on the girls and on Rose as well. So, after six months and much consternation, Rose insisted they sell the tavern and adjust to civilian life again.

The sequel to the tavern experience is that after selling the place, Rose and Louie found they had accumulated \$3,000 in that six months; an unheard of amount when houses sold for

\$2,000. They moved back into a house with Rose's parents living upstairs. Louie removed a brick from the basement wall and hid their money behind it. He would check the money occasionally and one time he found it to be getting damp so he brought it upstairs where he and Rose spread it out on the kitchen table to dry out. Rose's father happened to come downstairs and seeing all the money on the table he panicked and wanted to hide it, thinking it was stolen loot.

Viola is Born

On September 28, 1924, Rose and Louie's third daughter, Viola, was born. It had been 12 years since Frances was born and Rose had to learn how to bring up a baby all over again, but this time she was in the city with her family around her. Nonetheless, she managed to get into a foray with the pastor of St. Vitus church, Rev. B. J. Ponikvar. Fr. Ponikvar refused to baptize Vi using the name Viola because it was not a saint's name. The dispute went back and forth for a while with notes being sent between Rose and Fr. Ponikvar until Rose finally agreed to name her daughter Viola Angela. It was a compromise that did the job and Vi was baptized on Nov. 2nd. Interestingly, with both her sisters so much older, Vi was called "Baby," which emulsified into "Babe," as she grew older. She kept that nickname until she was an adult and mother of several children.

This wasn't the only disagreement with Fr. Ponikvar. Somewhere along the line there was a lot of disruption among the parishioners of St. Vitus church regarding the management of the parish by Fr. Ponikvar. We don't know the details but it seems that several of the parishioners marched parade-like down to see the bishop about getting rid of the pastor, Fr. Ponikvar. They never succeeded but Fr. Ponikvar was astute enough to get the bishop to sign a lifetime guarantee for him to remain pastor of St. Vitus parish. After Fr. (then Msgr.) Ponikvar died, Anthony Urbas Sr. told about it. There were many ethnic parishes in Cleveland and the people were in a traumatic adjustment to the ways of life in the United States so there was a lot of discontent among the people and that discontent ended up on the bishop's shoulders. He was glad to have a dedicated pastor and would work with him as he did with Fr. Ponikvar.

In later years son Lou learned that Louie was involved with that parade

march to see the bishop about ousting Fr. Ponikvar and although Fr. Ponikvar never held anything against the people involved in that action, there were others who did. Years later, in 1947, when a group was planning a 40-year celebration for Msgr. Ponikvar's ordination into the priesthood, Anton Grdina, a cornerstone in the parish and community, insulted Louie by calling him two-faced since he had participated against Msgr. Ponikvar in his youth. As many times as Anton Grdina apologized for his words, Louie never fully forgave him because it had been done in a group setting.

But, getting back to Viola, Vi was a good girl who was very pretty and admired by boys and men as she grew older. In fact, during World War II she had a lot of servicemen admirers who wanted to marry her. She had to wait until the end of the war to marry her preferred courtier. Walter (Laddie) Gapinski (Gaye) on June 1, 1946. She had known him before the war.

Vi and Laddie had six children but during her sixth pregnancy Vi acquired a rare liver complication and succumbed to it, passing away on May 28, 1963, one day after delivering "Teddy."

(To Be Continued)

Carrot Hoax

Contrary to popular belief, eating carrots does not result in improved night vision. According to Snopes.com, the connection between carrots and vision began during World War II as a ruse by the British Air Ministry and British Intelligence. Anxious to conceal the real reason why so many British pilots were able to shoot down Nazi bombers at night, they publicized the falsehood about carrots and vision.

What were they desperate to hide? One of the key inventions from the war: Radar.

--James V. Debevec, II

Krofe Sale

St. Vitus Altar Society will sponsor a krofe sale on Saturday, Oct. 13 in the auditorium social room.

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Rose and Louis Erste, 1960

News from Polka Gift Shop

During summer vacationers were flocking to the Polka Hall of Fame and Museum, 605 E. 222 St., Euclid, Ohio. In August, signatures in the guest book listed persons from Phoenix, Arizona, Venice, Florida, Austin, Texas, Philadelphia, PA, San Diego, Calif., and Kranj, Slovenia. The comments were, "Fabulous," "Wonderful displays," "Excellent museum" and "I love it here."

New CDs have been released, including some revised albums. Check out the following: David Austin, "Sweet Polka Dot," Al Battistelli "Has the Keys," Joe Bajuk with the Fantje na Vasi (male trio) in Bob Kravos release, "Melodies from Beautiful Slovenia," Joe Fedorchak "The Best of the Best," Fritz's Polka Band "Live at the NY State Fair," Tony Grandovic "Tribute to Benzy Rathbone," Hank Halter "The Polka Sound," and

"Yodeling in the Alps, Ted Lange and Molly Busta "Squeeze Me," John Lapinski "Like Father, Like Son."

Tom Mroczka "Daj Mi Buzi" (Give Me a Kiss), Eric Noltkamper "Studio to Stage," Brian Novak "Once in a Lifetime," Ken Novak "Enough is Enough," Walter Ostanek and Bob Kravos "Together Again," Eddie Rodick "Polka Sweethearts," Western Senators "Sweet Marie," and Forever Frankie," and the Wolf Band "Growing Up with Polkas."

Call for the latest CDs and polka theme tee-shirts and kitchen towels toll free 866-66-polka.

Hours for Polka Hall of Fame and Museum and Gift Shop: Noon until 5 p.m. Tuesday thru Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday.

www.polkafame.com
(216) 261fame (3263).

Crunchy Apple Stir-Fry

½ cup onion, vertically sliced
1 cup (2 medium) carrots, thinly sliced
1 ½ teaspoons vegetable oil
1 teaspoon dried basil, crushed
1 cup fresh or frozen Chinese pea pods
1 tablespoon water
1 medium Golden Delicious apple, cored and thinly sliced

Stir-fry onion, carrots and basil in oil in non-stick skillet until carrots are tender. Stir in pea pods and water; stir-fry 2 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in apples. Serve hot. Makes 4 servings.

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– Vesti iz Slovenije –

Janez Janša končal z reorganizacijo svoje vlade – Potrjeni trije novi ministri – Gorovil na zasedanju Združenih narodov

Pred kratkim je slovenski parlament potrdil tri nove ministre za vlado Janeza Janše. Zamenjali so pač tri druge, ki po Janševih besedah niso ravno slabo delali, so pa bili tarče stalnih napadov opozicijskih poslancev, to pa v času tik pred slovenskim predsedovanjem EU s 1. januarjem ni bilo ne za vlado in ne za Slovenijo koristno. Novi ministri sicer še niso kaj dobro znani javnosti.

Nova ministrica za zdravje, Zofija Mazej Kukovič, je rojena 15. maja 1955 v Črni na Koroškem. Leta 1980 je na mariborski univerzi diplomirala iz organizacije dela – smer informatike, leta 1989 pa še iz elektrotehnike – elektronike. 1996 je končala študij MBA na Brdu pri Kranju, izobraževala se je tudi v ZDA. Doletos je delala v raznih podjetjih, leta 2006 je postala Delova osebnost leta v gospodarstvu.

Mag. Radovan Žerjav, ki je s potrditvijo postal edini minister v vladi s Prekmurja, se je rodil 2. decembra 1968, diplomiral na kemijski fakulteti mariborske univerze. Po diplomi se je zaposlil v Nafti Lendava, od marca letos je bil direktor družbe Nafta Biodizel. Postal je minister za promet.

Mojca Kucler Dolinar je nova ministrica za visoko šolstvo. Rojena je 26. avgusta 1972 in tako je najmlajša članica v vladi. Po izobrazbi je diplomirana pravnica. Zaposlena je bila na Skladu kmetijskih zemljišč in gozdov RS, bila je tudi samostojna pravna svetovalka. Leta 2004 je bila izvoljena za poslanko na listi NSi in je bila predsednica odbora DZ za notranjo politiko, javno upravo in pravosodje.

Tudi Janez Janša je prišel na zasedanje generalne skupščine Združenih narodov v New Yorku, ki je vsak september in se ga udeležuje veliko predsednikov držav in vlad.

V svojem govoru je Janša poudaril predvsem prihajajoče slovensko predsedovanje Evropski uniji, ki se bo pričelo s 1. januarjem 2008.

Neurje prizadele Slovenijo – Več smrtnih žrtev in ogromna materialna škoda – Bolnica Franja skoro povsem uničena

V torek, 18. septembra, so neurje opustošile mnoge slovenske občine. Na Celjskem, kjer je bilo najhujše, je zemeljski plaz v občini Braslovče zasul stanovanjsko hišo in sta dve osebi umrli. V Cerkljah na Gorenjskem je umrl prostovoljni gasilec, v Plavžu v Železnikih je oseba tudi umrla v svoji hiši, ki je bila prekrita z blatom. Na nekaterih krajih je bila prekinjena elektrika. Naslednji dan, 19. septembra, je imela vlada izredno sejo in to v Kranjski Gori, kjer je sicer bila na obisku. Vlada je odobrila, da za potrebe kritja prvih intervencijskih stroškov iz proračunske rezerve nameni pol milijona evrov. Skladno s potrebami so bile tudi angažirane enote Slovenske vojske.

Med najbolj prizadetimi objekti je bila partizanska bolnica Franja, vlada se je odločila, da bo v celoti zagotovila finančna sredstva za celovito obnovo le-te. Od vseh skupaj trinajst barak v bolnici, na svojem mestu še stojita le dva. Mnogi muzejski predmeti so bili uničeni oz. jih pogrešajo, ti pa so bili originalni.

Takoj sta začeli z akcijami tudi Rdeči križ Slovenije in Karitas, ki so pozivali na pomoč. Kot primer je Karitas v Železnike, kjer je bilo stanje, poročajo, katastrofalno, so poslali tovornjak in dva kombija nujne pomoči, a je to bilo samo začetek. Rdeči križ zbira denarne prispevke za pomoč prizadetim prebivalcem.

Prof. Edi Gobec sporoča, da je naslov Karitas: Slovenska Karitas, Kristanova 1, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija, in da je možno na ta naslov poslati ček ali M.O. z oznako "Poplava".

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Kosilo Oltarnega društva—

To nedeljo vabi Oltarno društvo fare Marije Vnebovzete na letno kosilo, ki bo v župnijski dvorani. Servirali bodo svinjsko pečenko/piščanca od 11. dop. do 1. pop. Dar je \$12 za odrasle in \$6 za otroke pod 12. letom. Nakaznice dobite pri vratih.

Koline—

Pristavski upokojenci lepo vabijo na koline v nedeljo, 14. oktobra. Krvavice, riževе klobase, pečenice s kislim zeljem, praženim krompirjem in štrudelnom bodo servirali od opoldan pa do tretje ure popoldan. Potem pa se bodo zavrteli v novi Pristavski dvorani. Pridite!

Krofi—

Oltarno društvo pri sv. Vidu ima prodajo krofov v soboto, 13. oktobra, ob običajnem času v društveni sobi. Ne pozabite—pridite in vse pokupite!

Novi grobovi

Frank Delost

Umrli je 92 let stari Frank Delost, brat Angeline Egart, brata Joseph in Tony sta že pok. Pogreb je bil 1. oktobra v oskrbi Želetovega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Kristine.

Mary Obat

Umrli je 83 let stara Mary Obat, rojena Macek, žena Johna, mati Lois Brockett in Linde Williams, 4-krat stara mati, 2-krat prastara mati. Pogreb je bil 29. septembra v oskrbi Želetovega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi Marije Vnebovzete in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču. Družina priporoča darove v pokojničin spomin Slovenskemu domu za ostarele, 18621 Neff Rd., Cleveland, OH 44119 ali župniji Marije Vnebovzete, 15519 Holmes Ave., Cleveland, OH 44110.

Ralph A. Godic

Umrli je 69 let stari Ralph A. Godic, mož Mary Ellen, roj. Kamesis, oče Linde Barr, Susan Anthony in Ralpa, 11-krat stari oče, brat Julie Gramc, Marie Belle ter že pok. Louise, Franka, Edwarda, Stanleya in Molly. Pogreb je bil 29. septembra s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Gabrijela v Concordu in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

(Dalje na str. 16)

Fantje na vasi vabijo—

To soboto praznuje zbor Fantje na vasi svojo 30. obletnico s koncertom v SND na St. Clairju. Pričetek koncerta bo ob 7h zv., a bodo vrata v dvorano odprta že ob 5.30 pop. Pred koncertom bo posetnikom na voljo predjed pa še dobra družba. Odločite se in pridite!

Nastop Bernarde Finkove—

Tisti, ki se zanimajo za nastop mezzosopranistke iz Argentine/Slovenije Bernarde Fink na koncertih Clevelandske simfonije v dvorani Severance 11. oz. 13. oktobra, naj pokličejo prodajalno vstopnic na 216-251-1111 za vse informacije.

Martinovanje—

Člani Štajersko-Prekmurškega kluba vabijo na svoje tradicionalno martinovanje, ki bo v soboto, 20. oktobra, v SND na St. Clairju, s pričetkom ob 6.30 zv. Za ples in zabavo bo igral ansambel Veseli godci. Za vstopnice in več informacij, pokličite ali Tonic na 440-256-6716 ali Mimi na 216-531-4817.

Že v devetem desetletju—

Pevski zbor Zarja bo nastopil v soboto, 28. oktobra, s svojim jesenskim koncertom v dvorani SDD na Recherjevi ulici s pričetkom ob 3.30 pop. Zbor je že v svojem 91. letu delovanja. Po koncertu, ob 5.30, bo začel ples, igral bo Ray Polantz orkester. Za vstopnice (\$10) lahko pokličete Barbaro na 440-257-2540 ali Vicky na 216-531-5542, ima jih tudi Polka Hall of Fame na 291 E. 222 St. v Euclidu.

O Frankie Yankovicu—

O "kralju polke" bo govoril Bob Dolgan, avtor že dveh knjig o Frankie Yankovicu. To bo v torek, 16. oktobra, v spodnji dvorani SDD na Recherjevi, sponzor je Slov.-Am. Heritage Foundation in je javnost vabljen. Pričetek bo ob 7h zv., sledilo bo družabno srečanje. Vstopnine ni.

Dobrotniki AD—

Ga. Rose Mary Toth, Fairport Harbor, O., je darovala \$15 v podporo našemu listu, v spomin staršev Johna in Albine Mrsnik. Ga. Josephine Masterson, Indianapolis, Ind., je darovala \$40, v spomin staršev Franka in Louise Košmerl, ki sta živela na Neff Rd. Stephanie Bentley, New York, NY, je darovala \$50. Iskrena hvala vsem!



60. OBLETNICA PRIKLJUČITVE PRIMORSKE SLOVENIJI – Dne 8. septembra je bila v Novi Gorici slovesno praznovanje 60. obletnice priključitve Primorske Sloveniji. Fotografija kaže osrednji prostor slovesnosti. Proslavili pa so tudi 80. obletnico ustanovitve prve evropske protifašistične organizacije TIGR, na tej slovesnosti je bil slavnostni govornik tržaški pisatelj Boris Pahor. Predsednik države Janez Drnovšek se proslave ni udeležil, pač pa so bili navzoči trije najresnejši predsedniški kandidati – Drnovšek pač ima le še nekaj mesecev v svojem mandatu – Lojze Peterle, Danilo Türk in Mitja Gaspari. (Intervju Lojzeta Peterleta posredujemo na str. 15).

USPEŠNI ROJAKI

Tomaž Štefe

Marija Sedmak – Ribič

Ta članek je izšel v septembrski številke mesečne revije "Moja Slovenija".



Marijo Sedmak sem bežno spoznal na premieri gledališke predstave Kekec je pač Kekec v Letnem gledališču na Studentu. Na to predstavo je namreč prepeljala kar dva avtobusa mladih in nekaj tudi starejših obiskovalcev z onstran velike luže, oziroma točneje, in Clevelanda in okolice.

Skupna značilnost teh gledalcev so bile rumene majice, na katerih je z zelenimi črkami pisalo "Slovenska sobotna šola pri Mariji Vnebovzeti".

Priznati moram, da za to šolo še nisem slišal in najbrž tudi večina drugih Slovencev ne. V meni se je seveda takoj oglasila novinarska žilica in že sem se znašel pri Mariji Sedmakovi, odgovorni za tako velik obisk, predstave in sploh za vse v zvezi s to šolo. Razumljivo je, da sva ta pogovor nadaljevala v drugem času in na drugem kraju



Povedala mi je, da je to šola z več kot 50-letno tradicijo – kako se je potem lahko zgodilo, da o njej še nihče ni poročal v naših medijih?

Začetki slovenske sobotne šole namreč segajo v leto 1953. Zadnjih deset let ali morda celo nekaj več je glavna učiteljica in vzgojiteljica v tej šoli Marija, pred njo je to delo opravljal gospod (Rudi) Knez in še prej gospa (Marica) Lavriša.

Pouk oziroma šola(nje) potekata v redni šoli pri fari Marije Vnebovzete. Šolsko leto se prične tretjo soboto v septembru in konča tretjo soboto v maju.

Trenutno obiskuje šolo 65 učencev, s tem da je ta številka iz leta v leto večja. Starost učencev je zelo različna, od tretjega



do petnajstega leta starosti. Marija verjame, da je treba z učenjem slovenščine začeti že zelo zgodaj, predvsem zaradi izgovorjave, kot pravi.

Poleg slovenskega jezika v šoli spoznavajo tudi slovensko kulturo, slovenske običaje in navade. Za Miklavža vsako leto nastudirajo krajšo igrico, za cvetno nedeljo delajo butrice in berejo pasijon, za materinski dan se naučijo barvati pirhe v čebulni vodi, delajo pa tudi krofe in slaščice, tako da je proslava privlačnejša.

Se je pa tudi Marija strinjala z menoj, da slovenščina nekako postaja sobotni jezik, medtem ko ostale dni v tednu govorijo angleško, špansko ali kako drugače. Usoda slovenščine postaja vsepovsod po svetu vse bolj odvisna od sobot in od zagnancev, kakršna je Marija, ki tako nekoč brez plačila pomagajo ohranjati slovenski jezik "pri življenju". Sama nima s slovenščino nobenih težav.

Kdo je Marija Sedmak

Marija je prvih 17 let svojega življenja preživela v majhni vasi Križevska vas, nedaleč od Dolskega. V Ameriki so živeli njeni stari starši in so meni nič tebi nič nekega dne

povabili celo Marijino družino v Ameriko. Mama in Marija sta tja odšli leta 1971, brat Milan je prišel leto za njima, drugi brat in sestra pa pet let zatem.

Kmalu po prihodu v Ameriko se je Marija poročila s Slovencem, ki je v Ameriko prišel dobro leto pred njo. Doma je iz Podtabora pri Knežaku. Rodilo se jima je sedem otrok, dve hčeri in pet sinov.

Vsi so hodili tudi v slovensko sobotno šolo, pošiljala pa sta jih tudi na šolanje v Slovenijo, za kakšno leto seveda. Zato ni čudno, da se vsi počutijo Slovence.

Mama Marija je prepričana, da morajo otroci vsekakor nekaj časa preživeti v Sloveniji, če hočejo "začutiti" Slovenijo. V tem trenutku eden od sinov živi v Sloveniji in tu je spoznal tudi slovensko dekle, drugi sin pa že celo leto živi in dela v Gruziji.

Kot zanimivost velja povedati, da hčerka, ki je sicer še srednješolka, hkrati obiskuje tudi predavanja na kolidžu, ker je pač tako dobra oziroma uspešna. Ameriški šolski sistem je potemtakem bolj fleksibilen od našega.

Najboljši zgled imajo otroci kar v svoji mami, ki si je navzlic številni družini in angažiranju za slovenstvo pridobila naziv magistre za socialno delo na Univerzi v Clevelandu.

Nazaj k začetku

Tako številna skupina kot je letos prišla v Slovenijo – 30 učencev, skupaj s starši jih je bilo 65 – seveda na prihaja na obisk vsako leto, pač pa največkrat vsakih pet let. Potovanje morajo temeljito pripraviti in zbrati je treba veliko denarja.

Finančno jih je podprla tudi Republika Slovenija oziroma Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu. Brez te pomoči tako zahtevnega projekta ne bi bilo mogoče izpeljati. Velika večina Slovencev iz Amerike je bila letos prvič v Sloveniji.

V desetih dneh so obiskali vse slovenske pokrajine, razen Prekmurja, in si ogledali številne slovenske znamenitosti. Zataknilo se jim je le pri Trubarjevi domačiji, ki jo obnavljajo, in na ptuj-

skem gradu, kjer jim je neprijazna uslužbenka namenila le pol ure časa.

Najprej so si ogledali Ljubljano, nato Postojnsko jamo in Škocjanske jame ter Cerknisko jezero, Logarsko dolino (vsi so šli na Okrešelj – tudi štiriletni otrok), Muzej na prostem Rogatec, Slomškovo rojstno hišo, Ptuj in Maribor, en dan so preživeli na Veliki Planini in v termah Snovek ter si na koncu ogledali še igro Kekec je pač Kekec, obiskali so tudi Svete Višarje, Bled in Bohinj, Kočevski rog, Ribnico, Mljava in Baragovo rojstno vas, seveda niso pozabili na slovensko morje in končno so se odpeljali še na Brezje, k Prešernu v Vrbo, v Škofjo Loko in Železnike, kjer so si ogledali izdelavo medenih kruhkov. ■

Maks je bil vesele narave in se je rad družil s prijatelji. Njegova želja je bila, imeti lasten dom na deželi. Pridno je delal in varčeval. Kmalu je kupil kmetijo z vinogradnikom v Genevi, O.

Poiskal si je družico in jo našel v Francki. Srečno sta živela v zakonu, a Bog jo je pred 9 leti poklical k sebi.

Tudi v Genevi je Maks imel krog prijateljev. Na poti na Slovensko pristavo smo se radi ustavili pri Maksu in popili kozarček vina iz njegovega vinograda. Zelo rad je nas postregal. Pa tudi on je rad šel na Pristavo, še posebno, ko je bil na programu dobrodelni piknik. Vedno je prispeval svoj dar.

Sedaj, ko je sam, zelo pogreša skrbno in drago ženo. S pomočjo prijateljev pa še vedno živi na svoji kmetiji.

Maksu Stanovniku želimo ob njegovem 90. rojstnem dnevu še na mnogo zdravih in zadovoljnih let.

Njegovi prijatelji

Čestitke 90-letniku Maksu Stanovniku!



CLEVELAND, O. – Pred 90 leti, dne 3. oktobra 1917, je bil na Tratah na Gorenjskem rojen Maks Stanovnik. Leta 1951 je prišel v Ameriko in se nastanil v Clevelandu pri ge. Hudoklin, pozneje je živel v collinwoodski naselbini.

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P. B.

FRANK ŠEGA

Prezrta obletnica

*Ko pa dogorel bom nekoč
In nagnil se bo stenj življenja,
Dosegel rad bi hrepenenja
Poti nemirne konec v Tebi - Luč...*

PERRY, O. - Pred nekaj tedni je poteklo deset let od smrti patra Bazilija, Valentinovega Bineta z Viča, v daljni Avstraliji. Morda sem zadnji, ki bi bil poklican, da piše o njem, toda bil je moj mladostni vrstnik, moj vojni so-bojovnik in bil je - moj prijatelj.

Rojen je bil v fari sv. Antona na Viču, v družini, ki je živela v t. i. "Društvu". Mislim, da je bil njegov oče nekaj časa upravnik tega Prosvetnega doma. Ker je bil v istem času moj oče starosta Sokolskega društva na Viču, je bilo najino poznanstvo in prijateljstvo vsekakor vsaj zanimanja vredno.

Povezoval naju je Marjan Pavločič, sin primorskih beguncev, ki so živeli v naši hiši na Glincah. Oba, Bine in Marjan, sta od vsega začetka kazala veliko zanimanje za duhovniški poklic in oba sta bila odločena, da to svojo željo izpolnita. Tako sta jeseni 1941 odšla v noviciat v frančiškanskem samostanu v Novem mestu.

Bine je nosil s seboj že precejšen sloves fanta, ki je pisal pesmice. Marjan pa je bil oborožen s preprosto, otroško vero, ki sta mu jo vlila nono in nona, pa mati in njena sestra. Izkazovala pa sta svoje želje in načrte v - naši drvarnici, kjer sta oba "maševala", jaz pa sem bil - ministrant.

Potem pa so se naša pota ločila. Marjan, zdaj poznan kot Fr. Ksaverij OFM, se je leta 1943 s skupino bratov in menihov iz Novega mesta prebil v Ljubljano. Bine pa je menda ostal v samostanu, toda leta 1944 sta se oba znašla v Slovenskem domobranstvu, Marjan kot bolničar v ljubljanski bolnici, Bine pa na Koreni nad Horjulom, kjer sem jaz služil kot signalist.

Ko je bilo vsega konec, je Marjan zapel svojo prvo in zadnjo "glorijo" potem, ko je vztrajal pri ranjencih na transportu, s katerim naj bi se odpeljali na Koroško, pa so vlak prestregli partizani. Ob ranjencih so vztrajali

samo kaplan Jenko, Marjan in še en bogoslovec in nekaj deklet. Samo ta so se rešila.

Prvo poletje v Clevelandu pa sem na svoje veliko presenečenje izvedel za novomašnika - p. Bazilija OFM, Valentinovega Bineta. Srečala sva se spet pri njegovih sorodnikih v mestu in potem še nekajkrat, enkrat tudi v sami Ljubljani.

Povedal mi je od študiju v Tirolah, o življenju v Lemontu in kasneje o odločitvi, da gre v Avstralijo misijonarit med slovenske naseljence. Tako je izpolnil del svojih in Marjanovih načrtov, da namreč odideta misijonarit - v Bengalijo...

Od časa do časa me je iz Avstralije doseglo njegovo pismo: uresničeval je mladostne načrte, kar ga postavlja med redke Slovence, ki jih je usoda pregnala iz domovine, pa so ostali zvesti svojim ciljem in jih - uresničili.

"Stenj" njegovega življenja se je nagnil 26. julija 1997 v Melbournu, v Avstraliji. Njegova zapuščina zasluži, da jo neka primerna slovenska ustanova zbere, ohrani in znanstveno preceni. Samo tako mu bo postavljen dostojen spomenik!

CLEVELAND, O. - Po volji večnega Očeta se je 19. avgusta po petmesečni težki bolezni izteklo zemeljsko življenje velikega idealista v naši slovenski skupnosti, na splošno poznanega, zavzeteža za vse dobro in številnim rojakom dobrega in iskrenega prijatelja Vinka Vrhovnika.

Vinko je v svojem življenju z ženo Marijo žrtvoval ali - bolje - podaril naši skupnosti neizmerno veliko svojega časa in prav tako daroval za potrebe naših misijonarjev širom sveta. V tem je bila njegova veličina: vedno pripravljen pomagati, kjer je bila potreba, in to tudi vedno z veliko mero dobre volje.

Naj omenim njegovo zavzetost in delo pri pripravah številnih kosil, domačih kolin za razne dobrodelne namene. Vinkova velika zasluga za Pristavske upokojence so bile vsakoletne kolone, ki so postale zelo popularne in tudi koristile blagajno Kluba upokojencev.

Prepričan sem, da si je Vinko s svojimi dobrimi deli v življenju pridobil za večnost veliko zakladov, ki imajo na koncu življenja največjo vrednost.

dnost.

S svojim odhodom je ne samo v njegovi družini, ampak v naši slovenski skupnosti nastala velika vrzel. Idealistov kot je bil prijatelj Vinko, v naši dobi zelo primanjkuje.

Naj na tem mestu opišem nekatere Vinkotove zavzetosti za dobrobit skupnosti.

1. - Kolikor mi je znano je bil Vinko zadnji ustanovni član in v polno zavzet član odbora Slovenske pristave. Vse od ustanovitve je Pristavi z ženo Mary daroval nešteto ur časa in prostovoljnega dela, še posebej pri olepšavi in gojenju cvetlic okrog dvorane. Vedno je bil pripravljen si vzeti čas za društva, ki so prirejala na Pristavi svoje prireditve. Njegove pomoči sem bil več let deležen tudi podpisani in to pri piknikih KSKJ Ohio federacije.

2. - Bil je ustanovni član in dolgo let podpredsednik Kluba Pristavskih upokojencev.

3. - Bil je član fare Marije Vnebovzete v Collinwoodu oz. Clevelandu.

4. - Veliko let je bil z ženo zelo delaven član Misijonske znamkarske zveze.

5. - Od zgodnih 1950-ih let je bil zvest član bratske organizacije KSKJ.

6. - Bil je član društva Tabor.

Za zgoraj navedene organizacije vem, verjetno so še druge, za katere ne vem. Kako dobro po-

znan je bil Vinko se je pokazalo ob velikem obisku v Želetovem pogrebni zavodu, v cerkvi Marije Vnebovzete in še veliko število rojakov, ki so pospremili Vinka na pokopališče Vernih duš na Chardon.

Tam je njegovo truplo v blagoslovljeni zemlji našlo zadnji dom, njegova duša pa je - sem prepričan - pri Bogu v nebesih.

Družini Vinkota, dobri in ljubeči ženi Mary, ki mu je bila ljubeča in zvesta družica več kot 50 let, sinovoma Louis in John, osmim vnukom in vnukinjam kakor tudi sorodniki tu in v Sloveniji ob izgubi dobrega in ljubečega moža, očeta, starega očeta in brata moje iskreno in globoko sožalje!

Z odhodom Vinkota v večnost je, kot sem že pisal, v družini in v naši skupnosti nastala velika vrzel in bomo vsi Vinkota še dolgo močno pogrešali.

Prijatelja Vinkota priporočam v lep in trajen spomin, Vinkotu pa iskreno želim večni mir in pokoj, večno srečo in veselje pri Očetu, Jezusu in Mariji v nebesih. Zbogom, dragi Vinko, in na svidenje pri Očetu.

Tvoj dolgoletni prijatelj,
Frank Šega

POIZVEDBA

Ljubljana - Neuspešno iščem že nekaj let sestrično Anne ALEXANDER roj. PICELY.

V zadnjem pismu, ki je prišlo v Slovenijo, je Anne Alexander napisala:

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- da ima enega sina in eno vnukinjo, vendar imen ni napisala.

Napisala je svoj takratni naslov:

Mrs. Anne Alexander
3049 Rockefeller Rd.
Wickliffe, OH 44092

Dodatne informacije: Mati sestrične je bila Anna Picely, roj. Tekavčič, ki je bila rojena že leta 1889 v Aspenu, Colo., umrla pa je v Clevelandu 7. decembra 1950, bila je članica SZZ št. 14 in AMLA št. 18, pogrebna maša je bila iz cerkve sv. Kristine.

Že v naprej se zahvaljujem vsem, ki bodo na kakršen koli način pripomogli pri iskanju moje sestrične Anne. S spoštovanjem

Cirila Benčan, roj. Tekavčič
Zavetiška ulica 10, Ljubljana
1111 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Slovenia

Naprošeni smo bili za objavo teh podatkov in te prošnje. Tisti, ki bi morda mogli pomagati ge. Benčanovi, ji lahko odgovorijo na gornji naslov. Ur. AD

Prijatelju v trajen spomin ...

VINKO VRHOVNIK

31. oktober 1925 - 19. avgust 2007

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Predsednik Ljubljanske pokrajine

Divizijskega generala Leona Rupnika so po vojni ustrelili kot izdajalca. V zadnjem času so se pojavile neuspešne pobude, da bi se obsodba razveljavila in bi se znova speljal proces, ki bi nepristransko pretehtal njegovo delovanje.

BOGDAN SAJOVIC
DEMOKRACIJA,
Ljubljana, 16. VIII. 2007



(NADALJEVANJE IN KONEC)

V letu 1915 je kratek čas prebil na soški fronti, sodeloval v odbijanju prvih nasprotnikovih ofenziv, dobil še dve odlikovanji, potem pa je bil odposlan v Galicijo, sprva kot operativni oficir divizije in kmalu nato kot načelnik divizijskega štaba.

Odlikoval se je tudi v Galiciji in predlagali so ga za viteški križ Leopoldovega razreda. Dejansko mu ga sicer niso izročili, ker je država prej razpadla, bi mu pa to odlikovanje samo po sebi prineslo tudi plemiški naslov.

Konec vojne je dočakal v Boki Kotorski kot načelnik štaba Boke in hkrati obalne obrambe za južno Dalmacijo, v činu majorja.

V jugoslovanski vojski

Z razsulom cesarstva je pri osemtridesetih ostal brez službe, zato je zaprosil za vstop v vojsko novonastale države. Sprejeli so ga, čeprav so oficirje razpadle monarhije s čini, višjimi od stotni-

V blag spomin

OB PRVI OBLETNICI smrti naše blage mame, stare in prastare mame



Agnes Jerin

ki je umrla
13. septembra 2006.

S cveticami Ti grob krasimo in molimo za dušni mir, da enkrat srečno se združimo tam, kjer je večne sreče vir.

Žalujejo družine:

Zalar, Hribar, Pieronek
in Jerin

ka, načeloma jemali bolj poredkoma.

Naslednja leta so Rupniku tekla po klasičnem načinu premestitev in napredovanj, redno pa je za svoje delo dobival tudi priznanja v obliki odlikovanj, tako na primer red sv. Save, red jugoslovanske krone in podobno. Prav tako je tudi redno napredoval.

Večinoma je v svoji karieri v jugoslovanski vojski opravljal štabne funkcije, neposredno poveljevanje četam je imel v glavnem tedaj, ko je bilo to nujno potrebno za napredovanje.

Pravila so predvidevala, da je moral vsak štabni oficir vsaj kakšno leto neposredno poveljevati tudi vojaški enoti. Rupnik je tako služil v divizijskih štabih v Banjaluki in Zajčarju, potem pa do leta 1928 sedem let služil kot načelnik divizijskega štaba moravske divizijske oblasti v Nišu. Med tem službovanjem je napredoval v podpolkovnika in nato polkovnika.

Leta 1928 je postal načelnik štaba dravske divizije v Ljubljani, kjer je ostal dve leti, potem pa je odšel v Varaždin, kjer je pred tridesetimi leti začel vojaško kariero in bil tam poveljnik pehotnega polka ter istočasno garnizona.

Leta 1931 je odšel v Skopje, kjer je ostal do začetka leta 1937 (vmes je leta 1933 dobil čin brigadnega generala), in sicer kot načelnik štaba v komandi tretje vojne oblasti.

Rupnikova linija

Leta 1937 se je preselil v Kragujevac, napredoval v divizijskega generala (edini Slovenec v tedanji Jugoslaviji) in postal poveljnik šumadijskega divizijskega območja.

Tu je prvič prišel v nasprotje s komunisti. Kot poveljnik je seveda moral med vojake razpošiljati okrožnice višjih poveljstev glede komunistične nevarnosti, seveda pa tudi na to temo redno predavati podrejenim častnikom. Pozneje je bil to pred sodiščem eden

od dokazov protinarodnega delovanja.

Rupnik je nato delal kot vodja štaba za utrjevanje, ki je gradilo utrdbeni pas po mejah z Italijo, Avstrijo in Madžarsko, pa tudi dodatne zaprečne trdnjave v notranjosti.

Linija se je po njem imenovala Rupnikova linija, vendar ni bila zgrajena do konca, ker je zmanjkalo denarja, a pred sodiščem so mu pozneje očitali, da je "razmetaval narodni denar", pa čeprav so linijo začeli graditi leta 1926, dokončati pa bi jo morali leta 1945.

Ob izbruhu vojne je bil načelnik štaba prve armadne skupine, ki se je pod nemškimi udarci razletela, zato se je po kapitulaciji umaknil v Ljubljano, da bi se izognil nemškemu ujetništvu.

Sojenje in smrt

Po spoznanju, da bodo partizani zmagali, se je Rupnik umaknil v tujino, a so ga vrnil nazaj. Postavljen je bil pred sodišče, skupaj z vodjem ljubljanske politične policije dr. Lovrom Hacinom, z vodjem SS in policije za Slovenijo SS-generalom Ervinom Rosenerjem, pa z Milkom Vizjakom, organizacijskim vodjem do-

mobranstva, ter z odsotnima dr. Gregorijem Rožmanom, ljubljanskim škofom, ter dr. Mihom Krekom, klerikalim politikom in ministrom v londonski emigrantski vladi.

Rupnika so obtožili po enajstih točkah obtožbe – od veleizdaje, protinarodnega delovanja, organiziranja kvistinskih formacij, vojnih zločinov pa do razsipništva z narodnim denarjem. Eden glavnih očitkov je bil tudi ta, da je bil navzoč pri domobranski prisegi na ljubljanskem stadionu na Hitlerjev rojstni dan, to je dvajsetega aprila 1944.

Javni proces, prenašan tudi prek zvočnikov, je v dobrem tednu dni (od enaindvajsetega do tridesetega avgusta 1946) razsodil, da so vsi obtoženci krivi.

Rupnika so obsodili na smrt z ustrelitvijo, Hacin in Rosenerja na smrt z obešenjem, Vizjaka na dvajset let zapor, odsotna Rožmana in Kreka pa na osemnajst oziroma petnajst let. Vsem obtoženim so zaplenili premoženje, Slovincem pa odvzeli tudi državljske in politične pravice, na smrt obsojenim za stalno, ostalim trem za deset let po izdržani kazni.

Pritožbe obrambe so bile ekspresno odbite in sodba je bila izvršena že četrtega septembra.

Okoli tretje ure so na dvorišču zaporov obesili Hacin in Rosenerja, uro pozneje pa so pripeljali na strelišče pod Golovcem Rupnika. Postavil se je pred cevi sedmerice konojevcev, odklonil trak čez oči in kriknil: "Naj živi slovenski narod!"

Počila je salva in od šestih ostrih nabojev (eden je bil slep, kot je to v navadi) je Rupnika eden zadel v vrat, štiri v predel srca, eden pa je (namerno?) zgrešil.

Leon Rupnik je bil takoj mrtev in njegovo truplo so odpeljali ter ga pokopali na kraju, ki je še danes skrivnost.

Pojavljajo se pobude, da bi proces proti Leonu Rupniku razveljavili in ponovili ter še enkrat – tokrat nepristransko – pregledali vse okoliščine, a so pobude do sedaj naletele na gluha ušesa.

(konec)

Več turistov v Sloveniji letos

Trst – V slovenskih turističnih nastanitvenih objektih so v prvih sedmih mesecih letos zabeležili 1,494 milijona prihodov turistov in 4,650 milijona prenočitev

Skupno število prihodov se je v primerjavi z enakim obdobjem lani povečalo za osem odstotkov, prenočitev pa za šest odstotkov, so sporočili iz državnega statističnega urada.

V kategoriji prihodi turistov se je število domačih gostov povečalo za sedem odstotkov, tujih pa za devet odstotkov. V kategoriji prenočitve pa se je število domačih turistov povečalo za štiri odstotke, tujih pa za osem odstotkov.

V letošnjih prvih sedmih mesecih je bilo med vsemi prenočitvami za 58% prenočitev tujih gostov. Od tega so večino, 70%, prispevali turisti iz Italije (17%), Avstrije (14 odstotkov), Nemčije (13%), Hrvaške (7%), Anglije (6%), Nizozemske (4%) ter Madžarske, Ruske federacije in Belgije (po 3%).

Julija letos so v turističnih nastanitvenih objektih v Sloveniji zabeležili za odstotek več prihodov turistov in za dva odstotka več prenočitev kot julija lani, so še navedli v statističnem uradu.

STA

Novi glas, 20. sept. 2007

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THE AGED PRESCRIPTIONS

INTERVJU: Predsedniški kandidat Lojze Peterle ...

“Za Slovenijo so pomembni in v njej dobrodošli vsi Slovenci!”

Tekst, ki sledi, je 28. septembra posredovala Veronica Godec s prošnjo za objavo. Omenjena je asistentka v pisarni Lojzeta Peterleta v Bruslju, Belgija. Lojze Peterle je namreč član evropskega parlamenta. Peterle je kandidat za predsednika Slovenija na volitvah, ki bodo 21. oktobra. Tekst je temu primerno naravnani.

- Ur. AD



Uvodne besede Veronice Godec: Lojze Peterle je z aktivnim sodelovanjem v procesu osamosvajanja in kasneje v vlogi predsednika prve slovenske demokratsko izvoljene vlada postavljaj temelje samostojni Sloveniji in njenemu mednarodnemu priznavanju.

Kasneje smo ga srečevali v vlogah zunanjega ministra, štirikratnega poslanca Državnega zbora, predsednika odbora DZ za evropske zadeve, predstavnika v Konvenciji o prihodnosti Evropske unije. Bil je ena ključnih osebnosti v ustanavljanju /stranke/ Nove Slovenije.

Trenutno je evroposlanec, podpredsednik Evropske ljudske stranke (EPP), koordinator EPP-ED za medverski dialog s pravoslavno cerkvijo in še bi lahko naštevali.

Prav tako je ustanovitelj in predsednik delovne skupine v Evropskem parlamentu za boj proti raku MAC (Members against Cancer). Meni namreč, da zaradi razširje-

nosti te bolezni v populaciji o njej ne moremo več govoriti kot o osebni problemu, ampak postaja vse bolj družbeno in politično vprašanje.

Za svoje delo je že prejel prestižni nagradi luksemburške Fundacije Merite Europeen in bruseljskega European Voica.

In seveda - je kandidat za predsednika države.

V vlogi predsednika bi se še posebej rad posvetil vprašanju, ki Slovence delijo: "Moja glavna izhodišča pri tem so resnicoljubnost, pravičnost in volja po skupni prihodnosti. Potrudil bi se poiskati poti, ki bi omogočale napredek. Nima smisla, da se nekatere zgodbe iz leta v leto ponavljajo z istimi rezultati."

Nikakor pa ne pozablja niti na tiste Slovence, ki živijo zunaj državnih meja.

(Odslej pa intervju)

Bili ste eden glavnih akterjev slovenske osamosvojitve. Kako ste danes zadovoljni z državo, ki je iz tega "projekta" nastala?

Zelo sem vesel, da pripadam tistemu rodu Slovencev, ki je doživel ta nasmeh zgodovine in ga izkoristil za doseg našega najvišjega narodno političnega cilja - postavitve lastne slovenske države.

To je bila podlaga za naš vstop v Evropsko unijo, NATO, OZN itd. S tem smo spremenili naše okvire, ki so bili prej vezani izrazito na obrambno slovenstvo, borili smo se dobesedno za preživetje.

Danes smo priznani in dobrodošli v Evropski uniji. Naša država je del političnega zemljevida sveta. Vesel sem da je slovenstvo po svetu takrat tako močno podprlo demokratizacijo in osamosvojitve in marsikje bistveno prispevalo k temu, da je bila država kmalu priznana.

Ko ste ustanavljali Slovenijo, je pri tem, kot ste ome-

nilo, sodelovalo kar nekaj Slovencev po svetu. Ali imate kakšne izkušnje oziroma primere, ki bi jih delili z nami?

To bi dolgo razlagal, ker so se Slovenci resnično zbudili povsod, kjer so bili; v Evropi, v obeh Amerikah, v Avstraliji. To ni bila samo podpora s pismi, demonstracijami in zahtevami, Slovenci so bili marsikje visoki vladni uradniki, imeli so pomembne pozicije, tudi v civilni družbi so izvajali zelo močan pritisk, da je prišlo do priznanja.

Informirali so svoje sodržavljanke o tem, za kaj gre in so bistveno prispevali k temu, da je bila podoba Slovenije in njeni politični cilji jasni. To je bilo za nas takrat zelo pomembno. Bil je prispevek k našemu lastnemu statusu, kajti marsikdo od Slovencev se v času Jugoslavije ni želel deklarirati kot Jugoslovan. Mi smo vedno bili Slovenci in sedaj so se ljudje zopet počutili Slovence. Za nas je bilo to novo stanje.

Kako pa ocenjujete odnos Slovencev do rojakov, ki živijo izven državnih meja Slovenije?

Včasih smo imeli drugačen političen okvir in tudi po mojem nepotrebne delitve. Danes so vsi Slovenci po svetu dobrodošli v Sloveniji, lahko pomagajo pri ustvarjanju naše skupne prihodnosti. Vidim generacije, ki niso več govorile slovensko, pa danes zopet vzpostavljajo povezavo s Slovenijo. Danes je zanimivo biti Slovenec oziroma pokazati na slovenske korenine, to je navdušujoče.

Mislím, da prihaja do nove kakovosti slovenstva v globalnem smislu. Slovincem ni treba več s trebuchom za kruhom. Ni nuje, kdor želi lahko gre, ampak doma imamo pravzaprav že pomanjkane delovne sile, dobi se službo. Slovenci, ki so bili po svetu, celo prihajajo domov in se tu zaposlujejo, kar vidim kot zelo pomemben razvoj.

Mislím, da bi slovenske skupnosti po svetu, zlasti tiste, ki želijo več prispevat k povezovanju in k sodelovanju med državami, v katerih živijo in Slovenijo, lahko še bolj vključili po gospodarski, univerzitetni, kulturni, športni in drugih linijah.

Kako ocenjujete ideološke delitve, ki so vseeno po petdesetih letih še vedno prisotne. Ali bi se kot predsednik države zavzemali za spravo, se vam zdi, da je ta mogoča?

Razdeljenost nam ni v korist in kjerkoli je mogoče kaj naredit v smislu resnične sprave, bi želel tak proces podpreti. Vedno pravim, različnost je dobrodošla in normalna, razdeljenost ne.

Razdeljenosti je čedalje manj in državljanska vojna je bila že davno končana, vendar pa izkušnje, ki so jih ljudje takrat doživeli še vedno delujejo. Pomembno je, da nas preteklost ne deli. Zame je glavna slovenska vojna, vojna za Slovenijo, kjer smo bili enotni.

V drugi svetovni vojni smo bili razdeljeni, v vojni za Slovenijo pa smo bili enotni in takrat sta tudi slovenska vojska in policija delali samo za dobro domovine in ne kakšne politične opcije v ožjem pomenu besede. Mislím, da bi iz tega navdihali morali skupaj iskati, kar je za nas bistveno.

Gotovo ste se v tujini med vašimi srečanji s Slovenci srečali z mnogimi skupnostmi Slovencev, ki živijo po svetu. Ali imajo kakšne skupne lastnosti, po katerih se jih da prepoznati?

Skupna lastnost Slovencev po svetu, kakor sem jih jaz doživel, je zvestoba slovenstvu. Je lep odnos do Slovenije kot domovine, pa četudi ljudje niso bili več rojeni v Sloveniji. Je odnos, ki ima širok razpon, ponekod bolj čustven, ponekod bolj racionalen. Ampak tudi bolj oddaljene generacije ohranjajo odnos s Slovenijo, četudi ne govorijo več slovenskega jezika.

To se mi zdi pomembno in tako kot drugi skrbijo za svoje - na primer Francozi, Italijani, Hrvati in Madžari, tako bi morala tudi Slovenija skrbeti. V prvi vladi smo imeli tudi posebnega ministra

(Dalje na str. 16)

V LJUBEČ

IN BLAG SPOMIN

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ODŠEL JE ...

† Dr. Rudolf Čuješ

Ljubljana – V petek, 13. julija, se je v 94. letu starosti od tega sveta poslovil v mestu Antigonish (Nova Škotska) v Kanadi profesor dr. Rudolf Čuješ.

Pokojni profesor se je rodil v Celju 16. junija 1914, kjer je tudi prejel osnovnošolsko vzgojo. V Mariboru je na klasični gimnaziji maturiral in se potem vpisal na pravno fakulteto v Ljubljani, kjer je tudi diplomiral. Na univerzi v Gradcu se je nato vpisal na fakulteto za politične vede, kjer je doktoriral z disertacijo "Poroka in družina".

Dr. Čuješ se je na univerzi v Ljubljani včlanil v Mihaelovo skupino, pozneje akademski klub Straža in kot stražarski starešina prevzel pomembno vlogo v slovenskem katoliškem taboru. Postal je sourednik odlično urejanega staržarskega glasila "Straža v viharju".

Profesor dr. Lambert Ehrlich je zaupal inž. Tonetu Tepežu in pravniku Rudolfu Čuješu reorganizacijo srednješolske dijaške mladine – Slovensko dijaško zvezo (SDZ). Za prof. Ehrlicha je bila omenjena dijaška organizacija neprecenljivega pomena. Osrednji ideji sta bili krščanstvo in slovenstvo.

Tik pred drugo svetovno vojno je SDZ dosegla visoko stopnjo organiziranosti, navzoča je bila skoraj po vseh slovenskih srednjih šolah. Moška veja SDZ je bila podmladek akademskemu klubu *Straža* na ljubljanski univerzi.

Leta 1948 je dr. Čuješ prišel v Kanado in takoj začel v slovenski skupnosti organizirati prvi slovenski denarni zavod Hranilnica in posojilnica J. E. Kreka (1953). Bil je tudi njen prvi predsednik in nato večletni tajnik.

Ko se je mesečnik *Slovenska država* preselil iz Chicaga v Toronto, je postal eden glavnih stebrov uredništva in vzporedno tudi organiziral Slovensko narodno zvezo, ki je postala politično zaledje mesečnika.

V tem času je postal tudi predsednik slovenskega kulturnega centra, katerega glavni namen je bil posredovati kanadski



javnosti slovensko kulturno sporočilo. Izdal je zgodovinsko delo *Škof Baraga – apostol kanadskih Indijancev*. To delo je kanadska oblast visoko ocenila.

Dr. Čuješ je leta 1990 oskrbel tudi prevod študije dr. Franceta Bučarja *The Reality and the Myth* (Utvara in resničnost).

Leta 1992 je zbral, uredil in objavil gradivo za življenjepis dr. Lamberta Ehrlicha Stražar naših svetinj.

Nekaj let je v Torontu zbiral slovensko izobraženstvo na debatnih srečanjih v Ukrajinskem centru.

Ob koncu petdeetih let ga je osrednja Ontarijska združna zveza imenovala za direktorja te zelo obsežne denarne organizacije, kateri se je dr. Čuješ ves predal.

Veliko je pisal v strokovne revije in predaval po združnih okrožjih. Opazno je bilo, da se je v tistih letih združništvo v Ontariu močno razširilo in utrdilo.

Leta 1961 je postal član profesorskega zbira univerze St. Francis Xavier v Antigonishu v Novi Škotski, kjer je predaval sociologijo, hkrati pa je bil zelo dejaven v kanadskih kreditnih zvezah in v združništvu.

Leta 1971 je vpeljal v sociologijo predmet za-

družništvo in izpostavil njegov pomen za kanadsko kot tudi za mendarodno gospodarstvo. Dvoje sobotnih let je posvetil študiju združništva v Nemčiji in v Portoriku. Nekaj let je bil predsednik "The Canadian Association of Cooperatives".

Ves čas je bil tesen sodelavec in prijatelj dr. Cirila Žebota iz Washingtona.

Z njegovo smrtjo je slovenska skupnosti v Kanadi izgubila pomembnega in pokončnega kulturnega in družbenega delavca. Kanada pa je izgubila sposobnega združniškega strokovnjaka.

Pokojni dr. Čuješ zapušča v Kanadi pokojno ženo Miro in hčerki, ki živita v Torontu. Pogrebne slovesnosti je v katedrali v Antigonishu vodil krajevni škof. Pogrebu je prisostvoval celoten profesorski zbor ter številni predstavniki kanadskega združništva.

F. H.
DRUŽINA, 26. VIII. 2007

L. Peterle: Intervju...

(nadaljevanje s str. 15)

za Slovence po svetu, sedaj imamo državnega sekretarja.

Kot Evropski poslanec pa že od leta 2004 sami veliko časa preživite v tujini. Kakšen je vaš odnos do domovine in kaj v tujini pogrešate?

Ker sem že pet let večinoma od doma, sem skoraj postal zdomec, čeprav sem v tujini zato, ker mi je Slovenija zaupala mandat Evropskega poslanca.

Nikoli prej nisem živel tako kot sedaj, da sem večino dni v tednu zunaj

potem pa tri dni doma. Tako da s Slovenijo nisem izgubil stika, jo pa zunaj vidim drugače, z druge perspektive.

Vidim je lepše in manj me vznemirjajo mali boji, ki jih je v Sloveniji precej in se mi zdi, da je marsikaj nepotrebno in nekoristno, ampak taka je naša slika, naša demokracija.

Slovenija v mojih očeh s tem, ko sem od nje malo bolj oddaljen, samo pridobiva.

Pa še za konec, kako bi ocenili, kaj bi vaša izvolitev pozitivnega prinesla Slovincem v zamejstvu in po svetu?

Sam sem prepričan, da bi bili Slovenci v mojem predsedovanju deležni take pozornosti, kot jim gre. Jasno bi se zavzel za njihove pravice v odnosih s predstavniki sosednjih držav na najvišji ravni. Z njimi bi se posvetoval o bistvenih vprašanjih njihovega statusa v državah, kjer živijo. Dal bi jim vedeti, da so za Slovenijo pomembni in v Sloveniji dobrodošli. Da je sodelovanje z njimi zelo pomembno posebno sedaj, ko se bo Schengenska meja premaknila vzhodno od nas in ponuja nove možnosti sodelovanja in povezovanja. Rad bi videl, da bi manjšina doživela predsednika Slovenije kot človeka, ki spoštuje njihovo dostojanstvo in ki se bori za njihove pravice. ■

Ugodni učinki radi ukrepov proti kajenju

Ljubljana – Zakon o omejevanju uporabe tobaknih izdelkov je podprla velika večina slovenske javnosti, po zadnji raziskavi javnega mnenja več kot 70 odstotkov vprašanih. Ozaveščenost o škodljivosti kajenja je zelo visoka.

Nekdanji minister za zdravje v Janez Janševi vladi Andrej Bručan je prepričan, da se bodo pozitivni učinki zakona pokazali šele čez nekaj let z zmanjšano prezgodnjo obolevnostjo in umrljivostjo za vsemi tistimi boleznimi, ki jih povezuje s kajenjem, tudi pasivnim.

Sicer pa so mnenja o tem, ali bo zakon kadilce spodbudil k opustitvi

kajenja in ali se bo zaradi tega zmanjšalo kajenje med mladimi, različna. Zanesljivo pa je, da se samo z zakonom tako zahtevnega javnozdravstvenega problema ne da odpraviti, zato ministrstvo načrtuje tudi ustrezne preventivne dejavnosti v smislu ozaveščanja o zdravem načinu življenja in hkrati pripravlja ustrezne oblike pomoči ob odločitvi posameznika, da bo nehal kaditi.

Na spletni strani ministrstva za zdravje so objavili tudi poročila vseh inšpekcij, pristojnih za izvajanje zakona, ki potrjujejo, da se zakon spoštuje enako dobro kot v drugih državah EU, ki so uveljavile podobne ukrepe. Inšpektorji so namreč nadzor izvajali že od prvega dne, in sicer v rednem delovnem času in zunaj njega pa tudi ob sobotah in nedeljah.

Na začetku so izrekli predvsem opozorila, globe pa le v primeru očitnih in namernih kršitev. Gostinci pa trnajo, da imajo do 40 odstotkov manjši promet v lokalih, kar pa ni nujno povezano s prepovedjo kajenja v njih. Obisk lokalov se je zmanjšal tudi zaradi konca počitnic in slabšega vremena.

Po mnenju inšpektorjev večina gostincev ne razmišlja o uvedbi kadilnic.

Dodajmo, da so izkušnje držav, ki so uvedle popolno prepoved kajenja na vseh delovnih mestih, izredno pozitivne. Na Škotskem se je razširjenost simptomov boleznih dihal in draženja sluznic pri preiskovancih po dveh mesecih zmanjšala na polovico, na Švedskem je pri zaposlenih v gostinstvu po enem letu prepovedi kajenja v lokalih upadlo draženje oči z 51 na 16 odstotkov, dražječ kašelj pa s 54 na 21 odstotkov.

V. K.
Demokracija, 13. IX. 2007

Novi grobovi

(nadaljevanje s str. 11)

Florence Hlabse

Dne 23. septembra je umrla Florence Hlabse, vdova po Charlesu, mati Mary Ann Vick, Victorie Cechowski, Thomasa in Carol Ofak, 12-krat stara mati, 6-krat prastara mati. Pogreb je bil 29. septembra s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Janeza Vianneyja in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Sprememba naslova

Ko se selite, trajno ali začasno, ste lepo naprošeni, da naši pisarni posredujete tako Vaš novi naslov kakor sedanji oz. stari. To omogoča, da boste brez prekinitve dobivali naš list.

Nov naslov

Datum začetka: _____

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Naslov: _____

Star (dosedanji) naslov
