

»Kralj polke«

V prilogi »Dolenjskega lista« z dne 25. septembra 1986 je izšel članek o znanem polka glasbeniku Franku Yankovicu, v katerem novinarka Zdenka Lindič-Dragaš poda nekaj zanimivih podatkov. Nekateri Yankoviceve trditve o svoji vlogi se zdijo pretirane, posebej tista, ko pravi, da se je zanimanje za diatonično harmoniko med ameriškimi Slovenci začelo šele potem, ko je on izdal ploščo pred 15 leti in igral na tako harmoniko. Zanimanje se je začelo predvsem po gostovanju Slakovega ansambla. Članek je pa vsekakor zanimiv in ga posredujem bralcem v celoti. Ur.

Že več kot pol stoletja je harmonika najzvestejša sopotnica Franka Yankovica, kar pa ni pravzaprav nič neobičajnega, saj gre vendar za ameriškega »kralja polke«. Harmonika ga spremlja vsepovsod. Tudi na letošnjih počitnicah v stari domovini svojih staršev jo je imel s seboj, čeprav nastopov ni imel v načrtu. A kot vedno mu je le prišla prav, saj ljudje, kamor pride, pričakujejo, da bo vsaj malo raztegnil svoj meh in zapel, in on jim zmeraj z veseljem ustreže.

Počitnice je avgusta preživljal v Šmarjeških Toplicah. Do tega ga je pripravil prijatelj iz Denverja, je zaupal v krajšem pogovoru za Dolenjski list; Frank Yankovic se ni pustil dosti pregovarjati, saj gre vedno rad v domovino staršev. Doslej je bil v Sloveniji že šestkrat, pred leti pa je v Ljubljani posnel ploščo. Le mimogrede povejmo, da mu je bilo v Šmarjeških Toplicah in na vseh izletih, ki so jih pripravili za svoje goste, zelo všeč, s počitnic pa je šel tako rekoč takoj igrati na festival polke v Rock Springsu v ameriški zvezni državi Wyoming, na katerem je med svojo tritedensko turnejo po ZDA igral tudi ansambel Jožeta Gotliba.

71-letni Frank Yankovic, ki se je sicer rodil v Ameriki, njegove korenine pa po materi segajo v Cerknico in po očetu v Kal pri Pivki, je že desetletja med najbolj priljubljenimi glasbeniki v Združenih državah in gotovo že ena od legend ameriške glasbe, posebno polke. Ogromno je storil tudi za ohranjanje in uveljavljanje slovenskega glasbenega izročila v ZDA. Eden od kritikov v ZDA je zapisal, da je v Ameriki veliko glasbenikov, ki igrajo polko, a od ene obale do druge je znan le Frank Yankovic. Drugi so veseli, če prodajo svoje plošče v pet tisoč primerkih, Yankovic pa je dve (od okrog 150, kolikor jih je posnel od leta 1937, odkar snema) prodal kar v milijon primerkih.

Za Yankovica nekateri pravijo, da je le povprečen harmonikar. Sam »kralj polke« jim da celo prav, vendar je jasno, da se kar tako ni povzpela na »prestol« in na njem ostal tri desetletja in pol. Prvič je Yankovic postal »kralj polke« v ZDA leta 1951, pa potem tudi 1952 in 1953, nato pa takšnih koncertov ni bilo več.

Upravičenost naziva ameriški »kralj polke«, ki mu je ostal, Frank Yankovic vedno znova dokazuje s svojo glasbo, pa s svojim celotnim nastopom, s showom. Za Yankovica pravijo, da zna neprekoslji-

vo zabavati publiko, kar je redkost, medtem ko odlični harmonikar niti ni taka redkost. Yankovic nastopa, igra za ljudi, ne pa zato, da bi impresioniral druge glasbenike, čeprav drži, da mu tudi to uspeva. Je tudi odlični pevec, z izrednim ljudskim stilom, kar vžge ne le pri ameriški publiko, ampak povsod, kjer Yankovic nastopa.

»Pesmi delam tako«, razlaga Yankovic v dokaj lepi slovenščini (ki jo razloži s tem, da so doma vedno govorili slovensko, medtem ko noben njegovih otrok, kot večina slovenskih izseljencev tretje generacije in več, ne zna sloven-

ske), »da jih poslušajo vsi, ne le naši ljudje, ameriški Slovenci. Igramo vse ameriške pesmi, glavna pa je seveda polka.« Ta v Ameriki seveda zveni nekoliko drugače, kot smo je navajeni mi od naših narodnozabavnih ansamblov, a polka je le. Yankovic sam piše tudi glasbo in besedila za pesmi. Besedila so tako v angleščini kot v slovenščini, a prva prevladujejo.

Zelo mlad začel s harmoniko

Prvi harmonikarski poskusi Franka Yankovica sodijo v njegovo deveto leto. Pripoveduje, da je imel eden od delavcev, za katere je njegova mama kuhala in skrbela — oče je bil kovač — v »kampu« v Euclidu pri Clevelandu, kjer Yankovic živi tudi danes, harmoniko, na katero je zvečer po delu zaigral svojim tovarišem. Podnevi je harmoniko večkrat »izmaknil« mali Frank in se sam učil igrati.

Ko je dobil svojo harmoniko, je še mislil, da bo igral le zase, v svoje veselje. »Potem pa je tako nanoslo, da sem kar nadaljeval z igranjem,« se je

nasmejal. Šest let je igral na »našo«, slovensko harmoniko, potem pa na ameriško »pianokord« harmoniko. »Pred 15 leti sem posnel prvo ploščo z našo domačo harmoniko,« pove Yankovic, »in sedaj nanjo vsi igrajo, medtem ko prej nihče ni vedel zanjo.«

Glasba je Yankovicu vedno bila delo, kruh in največje veselje, ki ga prenaša tudi na druge. Ko je bil kot ameriški vojak v drugi svetovni vojni v Evropi, je bilo tako mrzlo, da so mnogim zmrznili prsti na rokah in nogah. Tudi z Yankovicem je bilo precej hudo, tako da so mu že hoteli odrezati prste. Preprosil jih je, da tega niso storili. Prsti so se res popravili, da je lahko po vojni igral naprej.

Frank Yankovic s svojim ansamblom, veliko pa tudi sam, saj so vsi ostali člani zaposleni, ogromno nastopa. Pravi, da gre vsak teden kam igrati. Le kdo bi prešel vse nastope, ki jih je imel v 55 letih, kolikor časa hodi igrati po svetu! Nastopal je predvsem po vsej Ameriki in Kanadi, okto-

bra pa se odpravlja na enome-sečno turnejo po Avstraliji pa Japonski in Kitajski. Gostoval je v vseh večjih ameriških TV programih, tudi v znanem TV showu Johnnyja Carsona, pa vsako nedeljo v slovenskem programu clevelandskega radia. (Mišljen je najbrž program na clevelandski televiziji, na katerem je redno nastopal Yankovic s svojim ansamblom, op. ur.)

Za zadnjo ploščo, »70 let hitov Franka Yankovica«, ki jo je izdal pri »svoji« diskografski hiši Polygram Records — predno je prišel v to hišo, je snemal plošče pri nič manj znani Columbia Records — je februarja letos v Los Angelesu dobil znamenito glasbeno nagrado emmy za najboljšo polka ploščo leta, kar je veliko, a kar samoumevno priznanje njegovemu dolgoletnemu glasbenemu udejstvovanju. Seveda pa ta plošča ne bo dolgo njegova zadnja, saj sta praktično pred izidom dve novi, I Wish I Was 18 Again (Želim, da bi imel ponovno 18

(dalje na str. 5)

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Recent Death

FRANK STERLE

Frank Sterle, 62, died suddenly on Saturday morning, Nov. 8.

He was owner-operator of the Frank Sterle Slovenian Country House Restaurant on E. 55th and Bonna Ave.

He arrived in the United States from Slovenia in 1956 and obtained his first job picking apples on a farm. From there he went to work in a factory and in 1960 was able to purchase a little corner cafe located at 1401 East 55th St.

After years of hard work, he expanded his establishment and saw his dream come true with the little cafe being remodeled into a Slovenian chalet. As a grand opening celebration of an expansion of the restaurant, noted for its fine home-cooking, he sponsored his first Slovenian ensemble as a special attraction. From that time on each year Sterle had an original musical ensemble from Slovenia or Canada entertain for New Year's eve.

One of his greatest joys was

obtaining the world-renowned Slavko Avsenik Ensemble to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of his restaurant.

Mr. Sterle was generous to various worthy cultural groups and ethnic organizations. He contributed to Muscular Dystrophy Assoc., Austrian Slovenian School, St. Vitus School, St. Mary's School, Mary Mavec School for Retarded Children, WCPN Public Radio, United Slovenian Society Band, Milan Pavlovic Slovenian Radio Program, Molly Voinovich Fund, American Home Newspaper (*Ameriška Domovina*), Slovenian Folklore Institute, and Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund.

He was a member of the Primorski Club, United Slovenian Society, Slovenian National Benefit Society, KSKJ Lodge No. 169, Liquor Association of Cleveland.

Mr. Sterle is survived by his wife, Ann (nee Ferik), stepson Verner, mother Alojzija of Yugoslavia, brothers Hubert and Stanley, both of Australia

and Joze of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Sterle lie in state at the Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair. Funeral Mass at St. Vitus was Wed., Nov.

Meeting

The November meeting of Slovenian Women's Union Branch 10 will be held on Wed., Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. at Slovenian Home on Holmes Ave. All members are urged to attend.

Election of officers will take place and plans for the Christmas party will be made. Our new badges have arrived and will be given to all members. Dues for the coming year will be collected.

Please check your policies for any changes in beneficiary. Hope to have a good attendance.

Ann Stefancec
Rec. Sec.

Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Venceslav Sfiligoj of Willoughby, Ohio are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 21st. On the occasion of that memorable event, they donated \$30.00 to the American Home newspaper.

Congratulations and a million thanks for your donation.

Tax Update at Euclid Library

A free "Update on the New Tax Laws" will be offered at Euclid Public Library, 631 E. 222 St., on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Michael Wach Room.

Conducting the session will be Robert Akos, Assistant Manager for A. G. Edwards and Son, Investment Brokers. Mr. Akos, an expert on tax law, is also a member of the EPL Board of Trustees.

Free admission tickets will be issued at the Main Desk and may be picked up during library hours.

90 Years Young

Sirs:

Enclosed is a check for renewal of *Ameriška Domovina* for Joseph Rolih of Garfield Hts., Ohio. He is 90 years old and still enjoys the paper which he has been reading for years.

Mrs. W. Topolnicki

Peanuts contain more protein per pound than a pound of steak.



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John Nielsen, New York City, donated \$1,000 to the American Home newspaper. Thanks a million, John for your very, very generous donation.

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by James V. Debevec

Frank Sterle, the Ultimate Slovenian

On Wednesday, we buried one of our great Slovenians, Frank Sterle.

Notice I said, "one of OUR ... Not your., not mine, but OUR.

By that I mean Frank Sterle was unique because he was friendly to and respected by ALL Slovenians. He was esteemed by those who came to America after the Second World War, as he did, and by those who are second, third, or fourth generation U.S. citizens. And his attributes were also revered by officials from Slovenia, Yugoslavia in Europe. Sterle was one of a very, very few who during his lifetime was openly respected and patronized by all three factions with equal vigor.

Besides being a cohesive force between various Slovenian persuasions, Mr. Sterle was an unequalled humanitarian in all things connected with his beautiful Slovenian heritage.

For a number of years he came into the American Home holding 10 money orders. He told Madeline to fill out one with the name of "Ameriška Domovina" on it, and on the other nine he would have her put the names of nine Slovenian cultural groups, such as dance or singing organizations. Just like that, each year he gave a \$1,000 to whomever might be in need of funds.

He also sponsored other events such as the large summer outdoor festival at his restaurant on E. 55th St. where the proceeds went directly to the Slovene Home for the Aged. Last September he brought the Avsenik Ensemble to Cleveland and the net profit was distributed among his favorite groups.

Besides having a heart as large as the ocean, Mr. Sterle was an astute and aggressive businessman. His restaurant on E. 55th grew and grew until it is now perhaps one of the largest Slovenian "gostilnas" in the world. He would bring in guest musicians from Europe, and they would have a place to stay on top of his restaurant where rooms had been added. He was always expanding and pouring money back into the business. He had live music there often three times a week and just about every local Slovenian musical ensemble has played there.

His friends and patrons, however, were not limited to the Slovenian people. Politicians, judges, business executives and downtown office-types and yuppies made Sterle's one of their favorite lunch spots. At noon, no matter how much Sterle enlarged the place, it was always crowded. He bought house after house in the immediate area and made an enclosed parking area with a full time guard. And it was often mentioned by his patrons that his restrooms were the cleanest in America. City inspectors have personally told me that his kitchen was spotless. You don't have to

worry when you eat at Sterle's.

As much as he loved his restaurant he was just as proud of his heritage. Last year he came into the American Home and announced he was bringing Avsenik here. "Everyone said it can't be done," he told us, "but I did it! They're coming for sure, and it may be their last tour of America before retirement."

Sterle was so excited to show us the merits of Avsenik's music, he had Madeline and myself sitting on his immediate right at the Cleveland Music Hall. That evening, his restaurant was packed, inside and outside, with friends helping him celebrate the happy occasion.

Frank took special pride in his wife, Ančka, whom he treasured above all. She helped him run the business and took care of things when he was on one of his trips to Europe. His ventures in the "old country" was to see his special love, his mother, who is still living. One year Sterle brought his mom here to America, then threw a big party so everyone could meet his mother.

He was a tough businessman, but inside was a soft, tender-hearted guy as far as his ladies were concerned.

A shorter person in height who walked with a limp the agile Mr. Sterle could be seen at almost every Slovenian event in Greater Cleveland. Nothing stopped him from seeing the cultural activities which reminded him of his homeland.

And when dignitaries from Slovenia stopped in Cleveland for a visit, they knew they could always count on the Country House for a good *domač* home-cooked meal dished up by a friendly innkeeper who was not ashamed to go out of his way for a fellow countryman.

Frank Sterle was a patron of the Slovenian arts, a trustworthy, caring host who liked everybody.

He had a dream for the coming summer. He wanted to bring Slovenian dancers or singers who had not been home since the war, back to Slovenia to perform their culture. Alas, his dream will not come true for now because he is no longer with us, having died unexpectedly in his sleep last Saturday morning.

His body lie in state at the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair. There were 98 floral pieces covering the front of the hall from one wall to the other. A hundred and fifteen cars were in the funeral cortage with arrangements by the Roy Sankovic Funeral Home.

At the National Home, prior to the Mass at St. Vitus church

offered by pastor Rev. Joseph Boznar, Rev. John Kumse, Rev. Joseph Simcic, and Rev. Victor Tomc, beautiful eulogies were offered by various representatives of clubs and cultural groups and the Yugoslav Consulate. Particularly touching was the speech given by radio personality Tony Petkovsek, who broke down in tears at the loss of one of his closest friends.

Frank, your body is not among the living, but your good deeds will remain a part of the Slovenian community forever. What more could be asked of a human than to bring a bit of happiness to those whom your life has touched?

When someone of a different nationality asks us, "What's a



Frank Sterle (second, left) last fall at the Cleveland Music Hall gives a painting to world famous musician Slavko Avsenik. Holding the portrait is Sterle's wife, Ančka; at left is one of his best friends, Tony Petkovsek who was Master of Ceremonies.

Slovenian?" All we have to do is recall some of the good deeds that Frank Sterle has done, and we can recite what it is to be a Slovenian. He

epitomized the Slovenian ideal.

To his wife, Ančka, and family, we express our deepest sympathy and sincere regrets.

Recent Death

MARIJA STROPNIK

Marija Stropnik, 61, of Trebec Ave., Euclid, passed away in Euclid General Hospital on Friday, Oct. 24 after a long illness.

Maria was born in Podtobor, Yugoslavia, the daughter of Alojz and Rozalija Rus. She came to America from Germany in 1960 and lived in Euclid since 1962. She began working for Dejak Machine &

Tool in Eastlake in 1974 as a drill press operator where she continued until early this year.

Maria was the wife of Frank, the mother of Branko, grandmother of Brendon and Smatha, and the sister of Rose Boh and Ivana Bozic.

Visitation was at Zele Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St. with Mass at St. Christine Church and burial in All Souls Cemetery.

Thanks

Mary Habat wishes to thank the readers for their prayers, cards and concern for her recovery. Mary has been released from Euclid General Hospital and is resting comfortably at home.

In Memory

Sirs: Enclosed is a donation to the American Home Publishing Co. in memory of our dearest friend, John Susnik.

Joseph, Josephine Ambrosic and Marie Orazem

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- **Button Box Dinner Dance** — Accordion Artists & Ensembles — Friday, November 28 5 p.m. - Midnight Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair Avenue — (\$12.50 Dinner-Dance ^{9:00P}) \$2.50 Dance Only (AT DOOR)
- **Multi Cultural Slovenian Show** — Singers, Dancers, Artists — Sunday, November 30 3 p.m. Euclid Cultural Center, E. 222nd & Lake Shore Blvd. — Donation \$5.00

*(In cooperation with United Slovenian Society to benefit Slovene Home for Aged)

THANKSGIVING DAY — BAND SCHEDULE
St. Joseph HI Auditorium — Thursday, November 27, 1986 (music in 3 areas)

LOBBY — ENTRANCE	UPPER HALL STAGE	LOWER HALL BANDSTAND
5:00 - Eddie Andres	5:00 - Wolf Band	5:30 - Fred Ziwich
6:00 - Bob Schauer	5:30 - Eddie Rodick	6:00 - Ray Polantz
7:00 - Al Nowak	6:00 - Art Perko	6:30 - Fred Kuhar
8:00 - Sumrada Bros.	6:30 - Don Slogar	7:00 - Chris Benda
9:00 - Frank Spetich	7:00 - (Special Vocalists)	7:30 - Corky Godec
10:00 - Alpine Sextet	Price - Mihelich - Kenik	8:00 - Hank Haller (Johnny Krizancic)
	7:30 - Duke Marsic	8:30 - Dave Wretschko
	8:00 - Al Battistelli	9:00 - Al Tercek
	8:30 - Al Markic (Cecilia Dolgan)	9:30 - Skul - Zagar
	9:00 - Champa - Bucar	10:00 - Harry Faint
	9:30 - Joey Tomsick	10:30 - Joe Luzar
	10:00 - Hoyer - Cook	11:00 - Don Wojtla
	10:15 - Habat - Kotsos	11:30 - 12:30 - "JAM"
	10:30 - Jeff Pecon	Fedorchak, Somrak, Burger
	11:00 - Johnny Vadnal	(Kenny Bass, Emcee)
	11:30 - Frank Yankovic - Joe Miskulin	
	12:00 - "JAM" - Ostanek - Benedict	
	till - Trebar, ect.	
	1:00 AM Flo. Unetich - Angie Zabjek, Vocalists	

BUTTON BOX DINNER DANCE
Friday, November 28, 1986 — Slovenian National Home - St. Clair Avenue
Doors Open 5:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM

AUDITORIUM	ANNEX
5:30 - Cleveland Lake Erie Button Box Club	8:30 - Lorain Slovenian Button Accordionists Association
6:00 - Maple Heights Button Box Club	9:00 - Northern Ohio Button Box Club
6:30 - St. Stephen's Button Box Club	9:30 - West Park Diatonic Club
7:00 - West Park Button Box Group	10:00 - Kusan's Button Box Gang
7:30 - Holmes Hall Buttonaires	10:30 - 11:30 - "JAM" — Joey Tomsick
8:00 - Fairport Ensemble	
8:30 - Euclid Squeezeboxes	
9:00 - Mesaba Button Box Club	
9:30 - Mahoning Valley Button Box Club	
10:00 - Buttons & Bows Button Box Club	
10:30 - Barberton Button Box Showcase	
11:00 - 11:45 "JAM" - Frank Novak	

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Pensioners See World's Biggest Cuckoo

October 13, the date for our Amish Tour was drawing near, and I am sure that many of those scheduled for the tour, had their ears attuned to the daily weather reports, hoping to hear, "Clear skies, warm and plenty of sunshine for Monday, October 13th." Came the morning of that day, and we were greeted by this message, "Another day of cloudy, cool weather with possible showers."

One would say, it was enough to dampen the spirit. Nevertheless, the outlook and attitude of all, as we gathered to board the bus, was cheery and optimistic.

As we rolled along on the highway, we did run into a few showers and ominous threatening skies, but the attitude of the optimism prevailed. Tony Kaus, our faithful musician, "unboxed" his buttonbox, and soon the music and singing took over and the weather became the least of our concerns. Before long, we arrived at our breakfast stop and the lines quickly formed at the food counter and elsewhere. What did I say? That's right. Elsewhere. Isn't that right, ladies?

As expected when touring the Holmes County Amish Land, one stops at the cheese places, country stores, and in the fall season, at an apple farm. This tour throughout the day, included these normal stops.

We looked, tasted, enjoyed, and bought of the wares. Of course, the highlight or apex of any Amish tour has to be the one "grand meal" of the day. To Marge Kaus fell the task of selecting the place. How to satisfy everyone? A real challenge. You see, many of our group had visited various Amish eateries on previous tours, and they might even be considered "connoisseurs" in this category. Of course, the final proof, without question, would be in the eating.

In her wisdom but questioning mind, Marge decided that she could not go wrong in selecting the Alpine-Alpha, also known as the Switzerland Wonderland.

First, the background decor of this delightful restaurant, is a breathtaking portrayal of the Majestic Alps of Switzerland; featuring a sparkling glacial stream, miniature lighted chalets, a tiny red whistling mountain train, and overhead, stars twinkling in the sky. The dining area setting and atmosphere was that of a lovely Swiss garden.

The food... ah, Delicious... prepared to perfection, in the finest Swiss Amish tradition. The serving, "family style."

For seconds, again a second offering of loaded platters assuring us that no one would leave hungry.

Having leisurely feasted and satisfied our appetites, we were now ready to pronounce judgement. Without question or exception, a rating of AAA plus (or blue ribbon) was awarded for both the food and atmosphere. Excellent!

Additional features of the Alpine-Alpha restaurant (which is located in Wilmot, Ohio in Holmes County) is its cuckoo clock terrace, where one can see the world's largest cuckoo clock, which performs on the hour and on the half hour. And then there is their Black Forest gift shop, "The Cuckoo Clock Capital of America," which has some 300 cuckoo clocks, all sizes and shapes, on display and for sale.

Much credit for the success of our tour must go to our driver and tour guide, John. Throughout the events of the day, we traversed much of the Amish countryside; saw their neatly kept farms and homes, their schoolhouses (not government supported), their horse and buggy mode of transportation, and learned much of their way of life and customs. Our driver, without question, was well versed in the Amish history. His running dialogue of Amish lore was interesting and informative, and appreciated by all. A guide of this caliber can add much to the quality of a tour. Our many thanks to you, John.

On our return trip back to Cleveland, we ran into a few minor showers, but at this point, who cares. Throughout the day, it was cloudy but comfortably warm... and no rain to spoil the day. A real enjoyable tour.

At our November meeting we will hold our annual election of officers for the coming year. The date of this meeting is **Thursday, November 20th**, at 1:30 p.m. in the Annex Hall of the St. Clair National Home. All members are urged to attend this important meeting.

Among our reported sick, we have the following: Agnes Kosec, broken hip and dislocated shoulder. She was hospitalized and is now undergoing therapy at the Wickliffe Country Place. Jane Lube, seriously ill. Hospitalized for over seven weeks, and soon to be transferred to a nursing home for therapy. Frances Tavzelj had major surgery and is now at home. Josephine Stwan had surgery and is now residing with her daughter. Ursula Unetic has

returned home from the hospital and is under continued doctor's care. John Trinko spent a few days in the hospital for a checkup and is home at the present time.

Let's remember our seriously ailing members with an occasional card of cheer. I am sure it will be appreciated.

On October 28 we received the sad news of the death of our member John Susnik. May he rest in peace. Our sincere sympathy to his wife and family members on their loss. John was an energetic organizational leader in our area for many years, and has left his mark in this field. In his earlier years, John was also an outstanding gymnastic athlete. I first met him in the early thirties, as a member of the Orel gymnastic club at St. Vitus.

Last month, on Sunday, October 19th, on the occasion of Andrew Kavchnik's 90th birthday, a small gathering of family, relatives, and intimate friends, surprised Andy with a party in his honor. Because of Andy's past years of active involvement in the Club, the members contributed the sum of \$50.00 to the St. Clair National Home Fund, in Andy's honor.

Also, last month I failed to mention that another member, Karl Estanek, observed his 90th birthday on October 28th. Our special wishes for health to you, Karl.

During the past summer, a number of our members had the occasion to visit friends and relatives in Slovenia. They are all safely back now, and we will see them at our meetings.

Welcome back: Anton Zakelj, Angela Bolha, Lojska Fegus, Frank Kuret, Jennie Kuret, and Frances Innocenti. Anton Zakelj has promised to show us slides of his trip, at one of our future meetings, probably in January. Lojska Fegus tells me that she has interesting pictures also.

Remember our meeting date, Thursday, October 20. Also... don't fail to make your reservation for our Christmas Dinner in December. Tickets will be available at the November meeting.

See you all there.

Stanley J. Frank
Secretary

The Ohio House of Representatives passed legislation earlier this month which should make insurance more available and rates more affordable for governments and local businesses. "We have successfully passed legislation which should help," said Representative Ronald Suster, D-Euclid. "By instituting sanctions against frivolous suits and better regulating the insurance industry, we should see more policies written at more reasonable rates."

The past several years for many business and local

51 attend South Florida Meeting

The American Slovene Club of South Florida held its meeting on Oct. 5 in Sunrise Center, Florida.

Birds of all types are returning, cardinals, orioles, doves, blue birds — and the snow birds.

We had a delightful meeting with every one of the 51 members in good spirits.

We welcomed four new members from West Palm Beach, Mr. and Mrs. Evencevich and Mr. and Mrs. Pepovich. We are delighted to have them. They brought along four of the best behaved youngsters you could want to meet, three boys and one girl. Hope they one day become members.

Wedding anniversaries were celebrated by Mary and Cyril Grilc, Nancy and Ed Blatnik, Ann and Henry Madey, Theresa and Bill Zupanc. Plenty of 50s to celebrate in the next few years. They were greeted in song.

Birthdays must be recognized. We should be thankful for them, otherwise we would be down under, and I don't mean Australia, either. Sophie Phillips, Mary Grubelic, Alice Koprivec and Ivan Willis. All are holding well at "39". Songs were sung for them.

Sick list is active. Toni Bilyk was severely ill, slowly recovering. Ed Strumbly is in the hospital, Theresa Zupanc was gravely ill, Frances Drenik suffered another stroke. Mary Nagode is status quo. A speedy recovery is wished for all; our prayers are with you all.

When the Yugoslav Club decides to have a lamb roast, a large number of our Slovenes attend, up to 30 persons. They do prepare excellent lamb.

At the last session Mayme and Ed Leban from Samsula attended. Of course, their accordion came along. We had a great jam session. They are two agreeable musicians. Ed was feeling low that day, but you never would suspect it. He still has a smile.

The Hocevars from Margate were there. Wish Ella Samanich from Cleveland had been here.

We are hereby reminding the West Park gang (West Side of Cleveland) to come to our event in April. That close knit group consists of Bea Zak,

Rose and John Znidarsic, Stella Dancul, Helen Konkoy and others. If they come by bus it is a great way to see the country and attend our event at the same time. We expect a good many from Cleveland and Euclid, and parts east. Good reports are coming in.

We had a nice dinner following the meeting with a large birthday cake for Ivan Willis after dinner. It was shared by all. At 85 he deserves a large cake.

When visiting down here, do pay us a visit. You will be welcome. Next meeting is on Nov. 9. In December it will be on the 14th at Sunrise Center, Ft. Lauderdale. For further information call me at 758-9032 in Miami. In Ft. Lauderdale call 463-1025 or 564f-8756.

Na svidenje
M. Willis

In Memory

Please accept my check in the amount of \$70.00 in memory of my husband, **John (Jevce) Gornik's** 70th birthday, Nov. 13.

Jo Jamnik-Gornik

In Memory

Victoria H. Svete of Euclid, Ohio donated \$25.00 to the *Ameriška Domovina* in memory of her husband, **Victor Svete**.

All Invited to AMLA Lodge 6 Celebration

On Dec. 6 *Slovenski Dom* Lodge 6 of AMLA will be celebrating its Diamond Jubilee with a dinner and dance at the Slovenian Society Home on Recher Ave., Euclid, Ohio.

Dinner will be served from 6-7 p.m. Following there will be a short program, then music by the Joe Fedorchek Orchestra from 8 until midnight.

Cost of the dinner dance is \$12.00. Advance sale only. For ticket information call Joe Petric 481-7167, or Jean Fabian 944-3649, or Ann Cecelic 1-256-8721, or Marie Hosta 531-3757. Tickets are also available at Tony's Polka Village and Slovenian Society Club Room.

Jean Fabian

Happy Birthday

Birthday greetings to Victor Skok who was 86 years young on Monday, Nov. 10.

House acts to stop 'frivolous law suits'

government entities have been plagued by the commonly-termed "insurance crisis." Policy cancellations became routine. And those who managed to retain policies found themselves faced with exorbitant premiums. The insurance industry attributed its actions to a law-suit happy society.

"I have been contacted by countless businesspeople and elected officials," said Representative Suster. "Many were forced to operate without insurance because there wasn't enough money available to

pay premiums which had increased several hundred percent. Others couldn't even find a company to write a policy for them."

For many lawmakers, the point was driven home when many cities were forced to cancel Fourth of July festivities.

Under the new bill, insurance companies will be required to make financial disclosures, and will face increased state scrutiny on rate increase.

"Our action yesterday won't be the last word on the subject," said Suster.

Vladimir M. Rus Attorney - Odvetnik

6411 St. Clair (Slovenian National Home)
391-4000 (FX)

Historic Slovenian halls before the National Homes

by Vince Gostilna

Around the turn of the century, our early Slovenian pioneers lived a very rugged and taxing existence. They toiled 10 hours per day, six days a week and were paid very menial wages. The work was mostly of the back-breaking variety and at the day's end, they trudged homeward, fatigued and exhausted.

Yet, somehow, they nevertheless enjoyed an active social and cultural life, especially on the week's end. Concerts, stage presentations, meetings, dances and weddings afforded them a temporary escape from the drudgery of their week's toil.

Where these social events took place is historically significant and also might be interesting to the readers.

In the St. Clair neighborhood, a total of eight halls were in use by our early settlers! Most of the halls were not very large, accommodating at the most, a few hundred persons, and nearly all were on upper floors.

In retrospect, it must be considered exceedingly fortunate that a major fire never occurred for surely many casualties would have resulted.

The eight halls in use around the year 1900 and later were:

ST. VITUS HALL 1110 Norwood Rd.

It was located on the third floor of the old St. Vitus School. Here was enacted the first Slovenian dramatic presentation by the first theatrical group in America, "Slovenian Catholic Cultural Society." Also served as the clubroom for KSKJ branches and Catholic Order of Foresters.

The wooden building was demolished in the mid-forties, and was replaced with a modern auditorium-gym complex in 1957.

KNAUS HALL 6131 St. Clair

Mr. Jernej Knaus built the first private Slovenian hall in 1904. This facility served as the early cultural center until the Slovenian National Home was constructed in 1924. Many fraternal groups, dramatic

clubs, etc. availed themselves of this popular site. Located on the third floor, in later years it was the home of the American Legion Post 273. The building is still in existence, however, not being used for Slovenian activities.

STOCKES HALL 6021 St. Clair

Became **GRDINA'S HALL** in 1911 when John Grdina Sr. assumed management of the establishment. It was located on the second floor and was the scene of many dances, plays, and lodge meetings. Accommodated about 400 which made it the largest of any in our area prior to SNH.

The East Ohio gas fire on October 20, 1944 destroyed the third and second floor and the hall was replaced with a modern bowling establishment

of 12 lanes. Today the building is the home of Sheliga Drug Store.

UNION HALL 5902 St. Clair

Later it was called **KIKELJ'S HALL**. It was the early home of the "Sava" Dramatic Society. In 1907 young magician John Grdina appeared in the People's Theater and displayed great conjuring abilities. There were other live acts, including jugglers, singers, etc. on the program.

This hall was the first public auditorium in the E.-65th area around 1870 and was razed in the late 1960s to make way for the new modern Cleveland Trust Bank (now AmeriTrust).

JAITES HALL 6004 St. Clair

Later known as **BIRK'S**

HALL, here began the Ivan Cankar Dramatic Society and many early performances of Slovenian drama were enacted on the upper floor of this venerable building.

The wooden structure burned down in 1930 and a gas station and winery were later built on the site.

ULMANN'S HALL 1400 E. 55 St.

Later known as **SACHSENHEIM**, it is now the **HOFBRAU HAUS** restaurant. This facility once housed the Sorrowful Mother Slovenian Catholic Church in 1907. It was under the pastorate of Rev. Kasimir Zakrajsek, O.F.M. and was designed for all Slovenians living west of East 55th. The church, however, soon was dissolved and merged with St. Vitus.

ULMER HALL 5707 St. Clair

In later years it was known as **TIEBER'S**. Not very much is known about this establishment, however the late Frank Turk, pioneer historian, wrote that it was used as the headquarters for petitioning the City of Cleveland to erect the St. Clair Bathhouse at E. 63rd and St. Clair. Old timers will remember the fort-like appearance of the turret-clock tower. This entire Tieber block was razed years ago to make room for a gas station.

GERMANIA GARDENS 1357 E. 55 St.

Also later known as **KIND-SVATER GARDENS**. This was not really a hall, as such, but an outdoor summer picnic grove on the east side of E. 55th St. halfway between St. Clair and Bonna. We are including Germania Gardens since there was performed one of the first Slovenian drama presentations on the outdoor bandstand, without the benefit of any sets or scenery.

This was also the site of many picnics, religious services and musical concerts. An industrial firm, the Leiden Cabinet Co. stands on the approximate site of the Germania Gardens.

VERNOMANIA

*Out of a storm cloud
you burst into my doorless boathouse
one icy day in early May.*

*Sired by lightning, cradled on the north wind,
you nestled your blinded fledglings
on a crossbeam tie rod against the cold.*

*Midsummer madness nudges you
to prod your torpid young
to zig - (and skim and skip and dive, then)
- zag again into the lurching sky -
to chase the sun across this gypsy earth.*

*Below the May high-water mark
the door I built in August haste,
unmindful of your clandestine farewell.*

*But now that autumn woods at noon
are lit by midnight fires
two paneless portholes scan
the southern clouds for your return.*

ANTHONY AMBROZIC
Toronto

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to the following residents of the Slovene Home for the Aged who have birthdays in November:

Frances Sadar, 89
Mary Znidarsic, 91

Joseph Tisovec, 76
Marko Sarich, 92
Martin Vogrin, 84
Cecilia Hocevar, 79
Mary Progar, 100
Mary Silhanek, 81
Louis Smerdel, 72

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SPECIAL OFFER

The American Home ethnic newspaper is continuing a special promotion seeking new subscribers to the *Ameriška Domovina* newspaper. It will last until Dec. 31, 1986.

Between now and then, persons wishing to subscribe to the *Ameriška Domovina* for the first time (or have not been a subscriber for the last five years) can receive the paper at a ridiculously low price — just \$15.00 a year for the twice weekly or \$10.00 a year for the Friday (half English) edition.

IN ADDITION, any college student or person in the military service may receive the twice weekly edition for — get this — just \$10 a year, or the Friday (half or more English) for — \$5.00 a year.

REMEMBER: This is for **FIRST TIME SUBSCRIBERS ONLY** and does not apply to renewals or anyone who has dropped their subscription in the last five years.

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Our Travels thru National Parks and Monuments

by Cyril Grilc

My wife, Mary, and I began a two week bus tour of National Parks and Monuments in El Paso, western Texas on a Saturday in August.

I went on an afternoon bus trip across the Rio Grande to Juarez, Mexico. Their tequila is as powerful as Slovenian Slivovka. It is interesting to note the population of these two cities, although not even in the same country, share one phone book with the same local call charges.

That evening in our hotel there was a get acquainted dinner with the other 41 passengers that made up our trip. With the exception of a

few, we were all strangers to each other, but before long we were one happy family of golden agers. On leaving El Paso we traveled through part of Texas to New Mexico and shortly before noon we arrived at Carlsbad Caverns which are a bit different from vast Mammoth Cave in Kentucky but very much like Postojnska Jama. Not as cool, but dryer. It is also bigger with self-guided easy walks with superior lighting. The entrance is from top of a hill so visitors go down in an elevator 750 feet and can spend as much time there as they wish. There is also a cafeteria.

That evening, after dinner, we went back near the cavern

to watch at twilight as a large amount of bats emerged from a 100 foot oval opening. For 5-10 minutes a steady stream of bats came out to feed at distant places. By daybreak they are back in the cave.

Then on thru open range country we journeyed to Albuquerque and the capital city of Santa Fe. Saw many interesting sights.

Tuesday we continued on the same kind of terrain and by noon we were in Durango, Colorado, an old mining town with saloons.

A good hour after refreshments we arrived at Mesa Verde National Park where we stayed two nights. There were loose tame deer around our lodgings and with no town lights, I again saw the Milky Way after many years.

In this area Indians lived over a thousand years ago in stone built dwellings above and underground and in canyon open caves. They used ladders to get to the top. Most of it is still as it was with very little repairs or restoring. The Indians disappeared many years before Columbus and left no markings of what they were nor what they were called. Latter arriving Navajos called them *Anasazi* meaning "Ancients."

Next morning we went over to Four Corners, the only place in the U.S. where four states meet, namely Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. The Indians in a circle around it have souvenir stands of their crafts because this area is in their territory. They are mostly Navajos.

Then we motored thru Monument Valley in Arizona where in the midst of nowhere are huge (up to a thousand feet high) red stone monuments as if they were pushed up out of the ground. Amazing.

Later on we arrived at Grand Canyon and rode for a few miles along the South Rim with stops to view the spectacular sights that were created by river and late afternoon sun. At this place the Canyon is 10 miles wide and the Colorado River is a mile down. We spent the night there.

In the morning back to the same road with the canyon bathed by the morning sun. What a transformation, a change of view and colors.

Next we ventured on more red desert land up northward and came to Glen Canyon Dam over the same Colorado River with power house deep

down. At nearby Lake Powel Recreation Center, we had lunch.

Then we moseyed westward to Zion National Park with high cliffs and deep canyons and rock formations. The multiple colors are so different from what we have seen up north making it spectacular and breath-taking. Never saw anything like it before.

After a long day we arrived in Cedar City for the night.

The next morning, Saturday, we enjoyed a leisurly ride straight north where red surroundings are giving way to the browns and greens. By early afternoon we enter Salt Lake City, Utah and settled in our hotel across the street from Temple Square and were free the rest of the day to explore as we wished. The Temple is big and impressive, but not open to the public, however, a church in the square is. The Tabernacle is an oval dome structure that holds over 8,000. The next morning, the last Sunday in August, we practically filled the place and heard the Mormon Choir during the weekly broadcast. Very impressive. The broadcast has been uninterrupted for over 50 years.

After a late departure we rode along Salt Lake for a while which is now at a very high salt level after years of drying up. We scoot over a corner of Idaho and land in Jackson, Wyoming. It is a big tourist attraction open summer and winter.

Now we are in the Grand Teton Mountain Range with familiar Alps. By noon we enter Yellowstone National Park just in time to see Old Faithful geyser erupt as it does an average of every 70 minutes.

During the few hours of touring the park we saw many more geysers, birds and animals, moose, elk, deer, but no bears because they had

become a nuisance so they were relocated.

Out of the park we jump on over to Cody for some shut eye, pardner.

The next day we experienced a long ride through cowboy ranching and coal mining country. We came to Custer, South Dakota in time to be at the foot of Mount Rushmore to see the lighting the four figures in granite: Jefferson, Washington, T. Roosevelt and Lincoln. Very thrilling. The heads are about 60 feet high and it took 14 years to complete this project without a loss of life.

In the morning we returned to see the sun shine on them as they face east. The sight is beyond description. To me (along with Zion National Park) it made the biggest impression of the trip.

Then we rode back to Wyoming, south through Cheyenne and due to some detours we arrived late in Denver where we spent two nights at a hillside hotel overlooking the city center.

The next day we toured Rocky Mountain National Park with over 11,000 foot pass to way above the timber line. It was a clear day and the veivs were spectacular. Mary stayed in the city visiting some long time friends.

That night we had a farewell dinner with our very happy companions. Although we were two weeks together on a 3,000 mile trip, we got along together splendidly.

In the late morning we skedaddled to the airport and (as usual) a change of planes in Dallas enabled us to arrive late in the evening back home in Pompano Beach, Florida.

Our tour included good hotels or motels, breakfast and dinner every day, all admission fees and gratuities, except the driver and hostess who were very good. It was a worthwhile and very enjoyable Saga Tour.

25th Anniversary of Petkovsek's Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club

Tony Petkovsek has been on daily ethnic radio since 1961. In addition to popular polka music, political, civic and entertainment personalities can be heard daily on WELW AM 1330 NBN Cable and on Sundays 1 to 2:00 p.m. on WCPN FM 90. For the past 15 years, the programs have aired on location at Tony's Polka Village and Specialty Shop, 971 East 185th Street.

Petkovsek helped establish the United Slovenian Society of Greater Cleveland from the Slak committee, having served as its president, and the Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club which has raised thousands of dollars for charitable purposes, such as the Slovene Home for the Ag-

ed. He also helped to initiate the only 30 piece band of its kind — the United Slovene Society group which has delighted people at many festivals, parades and charitable events in America.

As a leader of the East 185th Street business association, he initiated the popular annual Old World Festival nine years ago.

Tony has been awarded numerous awards from federal, state, local and charitable officials for his community volunteer work. In 1967, at the age of 26, he was the youngest recipient of the Slovenian Man of the Year Award from the Federation of Slovenian National Homes.

Tony has the distinction of hosting the longest daily polka and ethnic radio program for the past 25 years assisted by Alice Kuhar and Joey Tom-sick.

On Thanksgiving weekend, the polka extravaganza of the year will be sponsored by the Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club. On Thanksgiving Day, 25 polka bands will play at St. Joseph High Auditorium at East 185th Street and Lake Shore from 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. On Friday, the accordion and artists ensembles will be at the Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair from 5:00 p.m. to midnight. On Sunday the singers, dancers and artists show will be at the Euclid Cultural Center at East 222nd Street and Lake Shore Boulevard at 3:00 p.m.

H.E.A.P. Now Open

Please carefully note the filing period for the Home Energy Assistance Program (H.E.A.P.), which can reduce your heating costs for low to moderate income households, is now open through Jan. 31.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (H.E.A.P.) is a federally-funded program designed to provide up to 42% in reductions in heating bills during the three-month winter season.

H.E.A.P. is available to homeowners and renters of any age and to users of all types of home heating fuels. Many middle income families, especially those with children, qualify for H.E.A.P. Unlike many other programs, H.E.A.P. is not limited to the elderly, disabled, or the poor, but includes households with incomes over \$22,140.

Applications to receive H.E.A.P. reductions this year must be postmarked no later than January 31st. For further information or to receive H.E.A.P. applications for individuals or groups, please call Jo Champa at J. Timothy McCormack, Cuyahoga County Auditor's office, 443-7050.

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Dan's Diary

Rev. Victor Tomc to be Pastor Emeritus

by Dan J. Postotnik

When I wrote my last article on Dr. John J. DeJak not long ago, I did not think the opportunity would arise so soon to write about another well known son of St. Vitus Parish. He is the affable, Rev. Victor N. Tomc, pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Collinwood.

Father Tomc attained age 70 on Oct 29 and became eligible for retirement. He will become Pastor Emeritus of St. Mary's on April 1, 1987, exactly 20 years to the day of his appointment as pastor on April 1, 1967.

Therefore, Sunday, Nov. 23 will be the last Thanksgiving Bazaar for Fr. Tomc as pastor of St. Mary's parish. All parishioners and former parishioners, and friends are urged to attend the event which will last from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Baraga Hall (the old church).

Father Vic, as he is affectionately known, and I were friends from way back when we served Mass in the late 20s. Later, in the mid 30s we were both interested in the St. Vitus Dramatic Club (Svetovidski Oder) under the direction of assistant pastor Rev. Matthew A. Jager, and the St. Vitus Theater Guild, directed by Stanley Frank (who now writes articles about the St. Clair Pensioners for this paper).

He took small parts in a number of the productions and helped with the back stage crew. In those days, Father Tomc, despite being busy with his studies, still found time for parish activities, including another favorite, the Holy Name Society. He was especially active with the Junior Holy Namers, who staged many of their own productions.

St. Clair history buff Frank Zupancic and myself had a wonderful hour and a half rap session with Father Tomc

Early Holiday Issue

Because the Friday, Nov. 28 English pages edition falls on the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, we will print that English section in combination with the Tuesday, Nov. 25 American Home newspaper and it will be delivered to both the regular subscribers and the Friday only readers.

Please remember this when submitting articles or announcements for the Nov. 28 American Home. It will be printed three days earlier.

recently at his parish rectory and talked about the so called "good old days," and his pending retirement. We reminisced about the good times we had at the Mass server outings to the various Slovenian farms in the Painesville, Madison and Geneva areas, the camaraderie we experienced in our groups, along with other young persons in such organizations as the Young Ladies Sodality, the 80 voice choral group called the Baraga Glee Club, under the direction of Father Jager, and that incomparable lady pianist, Miss Eleanore Karlinger, and the *Orels*, a gymnastic and social club.

I still say that Father Ponikvar, the pastor, and his assistants, Father Andrey and Father Jager, never received enough recognition for the wonderful job they did in bringing the youth of the parish together for so many activities, keeping them off the streets, and close to the church. Of course, that was a different era, too. We did not have the affluence of today, and we did not have as many distractions. What beautiful memories we have of those days!

Father Vic came from a family of ten, six boys and four girls, and they lived at 6206 Dibble Ave., south of Superior Ave. His parents were Michael and Katarina (nee Kralj), from Podzemelj, Belokrajina, Slovenia. His parents are deceased, as are two of his brothers, John and Tony, and a sister, Jean. For some ten years Michael Tomc had an "Ameriška Domovina" paper route and really enjoyed it.

Upon completing grade school at St. Vitus in 1931, Father Tomc enrolled at Cathedral Latin High School, and graduated in 1935. After a year's "vacation," he entered John Carroll University in 1936, where he completed his studies in 1938. Father Vic then began his final preparation for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary on Ansel Rd. in the fall of 1938.

He was ordained on Dec. 18, 1943, and that must have been a very happy day, not only for his family, but for his pastor, Rev. Bartholomew J. Ponikvar, who not only had one, but two of his parishioners ordained priests on the same day. The other was Rev. Victor J. Cimperman. This was really nothing



Rev. Victor Tomc

new to Father Ponikvar, as he saw another two of his boys ordained on the same day eight years earlier, Msgr. Louis B. Baznik and Rev. Joseph Celesnik. Father Tomc sang his first Mass on Dec. 26, 1943.

"My first priestly assignment was right here at St. Mary's," related Father Vic, "and it was also while serving here that I was involved in a very serious auto accident with Father Celesnik. I came out of it with all my ribs broken, and it took me four months to get back on my feet."

In July 1946, he was transferred to his home parish, St. Vitus, and stayed until 1955. He then became assistant at St. Christine's until 1960. Father Vic also served at Holy Family, Parma, Ohio, to Nov., 1965, when he was reassigned to St. Mary's, Collinwood, and became its pastor on April 1, 1967, replacing Rev. Matthew A. Jager, who retired, having been pastor there for 14 years.

"Years later when we redecorated the church, I did not want to change anything from what Father Jager had done, and we used the original colors," said Father Tomc, heaping praise on his predecessor for building such a beautiful church, and calling him a "very artistic man."

It is unique that our distinguished retiree-to-be served under the two first pastors of St. Vitus parish, Msgr. Vitus Hribar and Msgr. B. J. Ponikvar. Another significant fact is Father Vic began his priestly career at St. Mary's, Collinwood, and is ending it at St. Mary's, Collinwood. He is, by the way, a fifth cousin to the renowned Slovenian musical composer, Msgr. Matija Tomc.

Father Vic is a real down to earth guy, easy to talk to, and loves to smile. It is no wonder he is so well liked.

"I never had an 'identity crisis,' and enjoyed my stays at all assignments," he remarked. "I was always under

older pastor, gained a lot of wisdom from them, and was very much influenced by my St. Vitus pastor Father Ponikvar." We recall that when Father Vic was still smoking cigars, he even imitated his role model in his unique cigar smoking manner (if you don't know, you might ask him sometime). He went on to say, "I have had wonderful cooperation here and have fine parishioners at St. Mary's."

Besides his pastoral duties, Father Vic still finds time to be active in the Cause for Beatification of Bishop Frederick Baraga and has been the Vice Postulator for the Cleveland area for the past 12 years. He has led the annual Baraga weekend pilgrimages for 10 years and received the "Baraga Man of the Year Award" five years ago.

Coming Events

Saturday, Nov. 22

Frank Yankovic and Joey Miskulin play at Gottscheer Hall, 657 Fairview Ave., Ridgewood, Queens, New York from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Advance tickets only \$6. Call (516) 431-7467.

Sunday, Nov. 23

Dinner, Dance (3 to 5 p.m.) at Slovenian Workmen's Home, Waterloo Rd. marking 60 years. Tickets \$12 each, call 481-5378 or 481-0047 or they may be obtained at the bar.

Sunday, Nov. 23

St. Mary Parish (Holmes Ave.) Thanksgiving Festival in Baraga Social Hall from 3-9.

Thursday, Nov. 27

Tony Petkovsek's 25th polka show featuring 25 bands at St. Joseph High School on E. 185 and Lake Shore Blvd.

Friday, Nov. 28

4th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Reunion of the Iron Range at Collinwood Slovenian Home.

Friday, Nov. 28

Dinner-Dance at Slovenian National Home on St. Clair sponsored by Tony's Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club.

Sunday, Nov. 30

Multi-cultural Slovenian show in Euclid staged in cooperation with United Slovenian Society for benefit of the Slovene Home for the Aged.

Friday, Dec. 5

Slovenian American Heritage Foundation sponsors "Reunion with Bishop Pevec" at Borromeo Seminary.

Father Tomc was also instrumental in having a regular Slovenian Mass read for the patients at the Slovene Home for the Aged with Slovenian singing. He said, "Singing is good therapy for the ill and lonely." Another event he is responsible for is the Annual Venison Dinner held for a number of years sponsored by the parish for the benefit of the Slovene Home for the Aged.

When April 1 rolls around next year may the Bells of St. Mary's peal out this message loud and clear, "A million thanks to you, Father Victor Tomc, for all you have done for us, and for all of the wonderful memories!" Your parishioners, and many friends, including us at the *Ameriška Domovina* wish you a long, healthy, and happy retirement!

Saturday, Dec. 6

Slovenski Dom No. 6, AMLA 75th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Slovenian Society Home on Recher Ave. Music by Joe Fedorchak.

Wed., Dec. 31

St. Vitus Catholic War Veterans Post 1655 New Years Eve Party at St. Vitus Auditorium. Family style dinner at 8:30 p.m. For tickets contact Dick Mott (days) 431-6062.

Thursday, Jan. 22

National Pro-life march and rally, Washington, D.C. Starts at the Ellipse. For info write or call: Pharmacists for Life, P.O. Box 381, Fremont, OH 43420, or call (419) 332-7379.

Saturday, Feb. 21

St. Clair Rifle Club annual dinner and dance at Slov. Nat. Home on St. Clair.

Saturday, April 4

Singing Society Zarja Spring Frolic.

Sunday, April 26

St. Clair Pensioners 25th Anniversary. Annual Dinner & Social. Lower hall of St. Clair National Home, 6417 St. Clair Ave, serving from 1 to 3:30. Social to 5 p.m.

Thanks

Mrs. Jennie Fonda of Chardon Rd. wants to thank her friends and relatives for the cards, visits, flowers and gifts received during her stay at the hospital and at the Wickliffe Country Place on Bishop Rd.