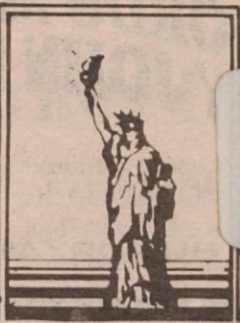
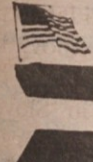


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Little Slovenia at big cultural crossroads

by Robert F. Drinan
National Catholic
Reporter

I was both exhilarated and apprehensive as I flew out of Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, after some days of lecturing and preaching in that new country, which broke off from Yugoslavia in 1991. I gave the first John F. Kennedy Lecture at the University of Ljubljana on the occasion of the May 29th birthday of the slain president. The recent death of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis made the occasion more memorable and melancholy.

I spoke at a university started by the Jesuits in 1619 and conducted by them until Rome ordered the dissolution of the Jesuit order in 1773.

History tends to overwhelm a visitor to this tiny nation bordering on Austria and Italy which, after belonging to Austria for decades, was seized by the Nazis and then became one of the six republics that made up Tito's Yugoslavia. But the language, the culture, and the deep Roman Catholic faith of the Slovenians remained unshakable. In the three years since Slovenia obtained its nationhood, the Catholic church has seen a surge of faith and self-confidence. For the first time since 1941, Catholics are not afraid to profess their faith; the fear of being excluded from public office or other opportunities is gone. But, a large number remain as committed socialists, opposed to almost all privatization of industry.

I spoke and concelebrated Mass at a prestigious Catholic high school that reopened last year after being closed since 1941 when the Nazis seized the school and turned it into an army barracks. The scientific equipment, the faculty, and the Catholic atmosphere of that secondary school was impressive. The lay teachers applauded when I urged the students to contemplate a vocation to the religious life. I cited the long history of the Cistercians, the Ursulines and, of course, the Jesuits in Slovenia.

The students, dressed in America-style jeans and speaking amazingly good English, seemed to welcome a call, which they probably did not expect from a visiting American.

The three dioceses of

Slovenia operate a seminary with 80 students and have quiet hopes that the political rebirth of Slovenia will bring a rebirth of the church, which through the centuries in Slovenia has had more than its share of martyrs and saints.

But church leaders see the realities of what communism and secularism have done to the strong, traditional Catholicism of the Slovenian people.

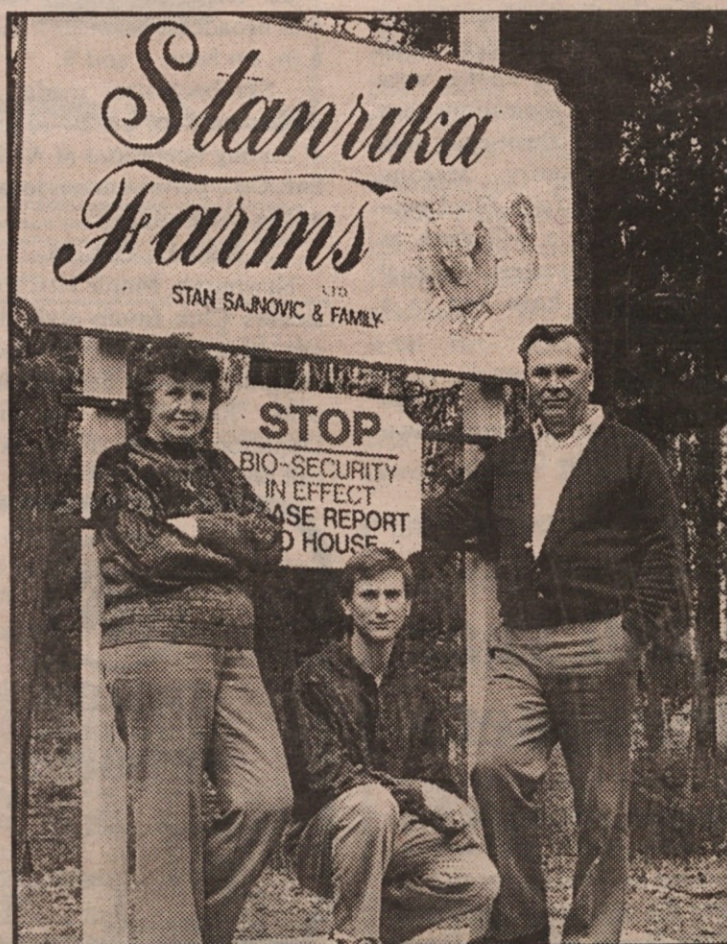
There are now more abortions than live births. The new constitution, after a great struggle over abortion, states "persons shall be free to decide whether to bear children." The government is also required by the constitution, to create the conditions necessary to "enable parents to freely choose whether or not to bear children." The constitution does, however, outlaw the death penalty.

The new Slovenia still requires that marriage be performed by a civic authority. Although "the state and religious groups shall be separate," all religious groups "shall be guaranteed freedom of activity." The constitution seems to be silent on tax exemption for church-related entities. At the magnificent school where I lectured, teachers' salaries are paid by the government. The right to divorce, implicit in the new constitution, seems to be exercised in Slovenia with numbers comparable to nations in Western Europe.

The problems of the church in Slovenia are comparable to those in the other newly liberated nations of Eastern Europe. But the problems in Slovenia seem even more complicated because this new nation with only one-third the territory of Switzerland and one-third of Switzerland's population seems vulnerable to attack by other Balkan nations or to a communist retaking of the government. Some in Slovenia openly state that things were better under the communists and that the new coalition government has few friends in the Balkans and little to sell to the West.

Slovenians with a wide variety of socialist leanings are not pleased with the explosion of the market economy, the growth of personal fortunes or the introduction of a stock market. Some communists and some Catholics (who

(Continued on page 2)



(L to R) The Sajnovics: Josephine, Stan Jr. and Stan Sr., in front of their colorful farm sign which features both breeder chickens and turkeys, the two kinds of poultry they raise.

The Sajnovics of the Stanrika turkey farms

by Alice Gibb,
photos by Stephen Harding
Canada's Who's Who
of the Poultry Industry

Stanley and Josephine Sajnovic are two people who have tested the courage of their convictions and triumphed. The couple, who founded Stanrika Farms in Sebright, Ontario, have combined their convictions with hard work and a little daring to create a farming operation for the Nineties. They produce thousands of turkeys and breeder chickens annually in a beautiful landscape just a few miles northeast of Lake Simcoe.

The Sajnovics were born in Slovenia, the area of Yugoslavia closest to the Austrian border. After the Germans retreated from Slovenia in World War II, young men like Sajnovic were drafted into Communist dictator Joseph Tito's military police. In 1946, Sajnovic was expected to sign a Communist Party membership. Instead, he deserted and fled to Europe. For three years, he worked with the Allied forces in Austria and Italy to try to prevent the Communists from taking control in Yugoslavia. When it became obvious this was a losing battle, Sajnovic decided to emigrate. While many of his close friends settl-

ed in the United States or Canada, Sajnovic, a custom furniture cabinet-maker by trade, headed for Australia. He wanted to be, he says, "Far away from the troubles in Europe."

While a teenager, and working as a partisan against the Germans, Sajnovic had met a teenager named Josephine. The couple corresponded for 10 years, while Josephine studied to be a doctor. At the end of her third year in university, she went on vacation near the Austrian border, planning to flee into the neighboring country. Instead, she was captured by the Communists and thrown in prison. Her crime was not only attempting to escape, but also having connections with Sajnovic, a known anti-Communist. Sajnovic's own parents and sisters had also been jailed because of Stan's opposition to Tito.

Josephine remained cool

"She told them I have finished my three years of university, but I have two to go and I would be foolish to leave all that behind," her husband recalls. The Communists released Josephine; she immediately returned to the border and escaped into Austria. After a decade-long separation, she contacted Sajnovic. In February, 1956,

they were married in Melbourne, Australia.

Sajnovic was then working as a cabinetmaker, supervising 30 co-workers. Josephine, who had studied English at university, found work almost immediately at a car dealership. She soon discovered, however, that something about the climate created recurring headaches and other health problems.

The young couple decided to visit fellow Slovenians living in Canada. The Canadian consul in Australia warned Sajnovic, "Don't go to Canada planning to get a job because there aren't any."

Nonetheless, the Sajnovics were smitten by Canada and decided to rent an apartment in Toronto. Determined to prove the consul wrong, Sajnovic got out the telephone book, and noted the addresses of custom furniture companies in the city. He set out on foot and at the first furniture company, asked if he could see "my friend, the manager." Sajnovic told the manager, "I have my hands, I have my head, I have my own tools."

Despite the fact that the company had just laid off staff, the manager was intrigued by Sajnovic's story. After quizzing him about his roundabout route to Canada, the manager told Sajnovic he could start work the next Monday. When Sajnovic returned to the apartment, he announced, "I found a job." His wife replied, "So did I."

For six years, Sajnovic worked as a custom furniture maker while Josephine worked in the head office of an insurance company.

The couple gradually noticed that Toronto seemed to empty out on weekends. They discovered the reason was that many of their co-workers fled to cottages north of the city. The Sajnovics decided perhaps they should look for an older cottage they could fix up. Instead, their real estate agent called to say, "There's a farm for sale up near Orillia that I think you should see." Sajnovic's initial response was, "What the hell would I do with a farm?" The agent insisted, however, that they should at least visit the farm, which had been abandoned for ten years.

They discovered that the farmhouse, although solidly built, had been heated by a woodstove, that there was no running water, and an outdoor privy. The house, Sajnovic recalls, "was like a blacksmith's place, we had to scrape the dirt off the floors."

(Continued on page 3)

Slovenia.
(Continued from page 1)

quote the papal encyclicals on the social order) agree that the capitalism emerging in Slovenia is irreconcilable with fairness to both rich and poor. The constitution itself is ambivalent on this question, since it denies the possibility of ownership of property for foreign persons or corporations. Multinational corporations are reluctant to invest in a country with this type of restriction. I met with the drafters of the constitution, members of the 90-person parliament and judges who now have life tenure. The ideological consensus among the political leaders would seem to be frail. But their determination to make their experiment work is granite. Slovenians have suffered too much for too many centuries to squander this unique opportunity present at this shining moment in history. Slovenia now has membership in the United Nations and

in the Council of Europe. It has political institutions that merit the worldwide praise they are receiving. But Slovenia, the smallest of the 22 post-communist countries, has such limited resources that one wonders whether it can survive without being linked to the five other nations in the former Yugoslavia. But the people of Slovenia are determined to seize their moment of destiny. The prayers of the faithful written by the ninth-graders at the Diocesan Classical High School where I spoke were moving in the aspirations they expressed for themselves and for their country. Meeting them and the faith-filled people of Slovenia will rank as one of the greatest spiritual experiences I have had in a long time. Jesuit Fr. Robert F. Drinan is a professor at Georgetown University Law Center. Thanks to Carl Virant for submitting this article.

KSKJ closes 100 year with Mass, banquet

The Ohio Federation of the American Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ), a fraternal benefit society formed in 1894 will sponsor its closing ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 9 with a Mass and banquet dinner saluting its 100th year. The Mass will be at noon in St. Vitus church, 6019 Glass Avenue, Cleveland. The banquet will be held in St. Vitus auditorium immediately after the Mass. Secured parking will be provided. The closing theme is "Celebrating our faith, family, and financial responsibility. Auxiliary Bishop A. Edward Pevec, vicar general for

the eastern region, diocese of Cleveland, will be the principal celebrant. He will be assisted by local clergy and laity of the diocese of Cleveland. The dinner will be prepared by Mrs. Julia Zalar and her efficient and courteous staff. A centennial cake will be made by the famous baker, Mrs. Ann Tomsick. Keynote speakers will be Mr. Eugene Kogovsek, national president of KSKJ, Mr. Anthony Mravle, national secretary/treasurer of KSKJ, and Rev. Joseph Yelenc, TOR, national spiritual director of KSKJ. For tickets call Joseph Hocevar at (216) 881-9586. Tickets must be purchased in advance: Tickets are \$20.

Joe Skrabec hosts 'This Morning' crews

According to a recent article by Mary Mary in The Plain Dealer Cleveland Mayor Michael White's assistant press secretary Joe Skrabec showed CBS' "This Morning" site selection committee around the city a few weeks ago. As a result, the southwest quadrant of Public Square was the backdrop for the nationwide television show which was broadcast between 7 and 9 a.m. on Sept. 8 and 9. Skrabec also made arrangements for a crew to look at mining operations at AKZO Salt Co., better known locally as the "salt mines." Sunday, Oct. 16 Newburgh, Maple Hts. Pensioners Club family-style dinner, dance at E. 80 St. Slov. National Home. Serving at 2 p.m. Ron Stark playing. Donation \$14.00. For tickets call 663-9064 or 663-6957.


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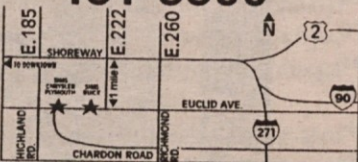
AMISH HUMOR/AMISH ART?

IT MAY BE FUNNY TO THE AMISH, BUT YOURS TRULY IS NOT SO SURE THAT OUR SLOVENIAN GOVERNOR, GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, WOULD BE LAUGHING. AN AMISH FARMER IN WILMOT, OHIO, WANTED TO HAVE SOME FUN WITH THE PASSING "ENGLISH" (ANYONE NOT AMISH) MOTORISTS. WHEN SPREADING THE MANURE ON THE SNOW-COVERED FIELDS ON JANUARY 21, HE GUIDED HIS TEAM OF HORSES IN SUCH A FASHION THAT HE SPELLED THE NAME "OHIO" IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS ON HIS TEN ACRE FIELD, USING FRESH MANURE AS THE MEDIUM. WITH THIS WEEK'S THAW, THE "ART" WILL DISAPPEAR. WHAT WILL HE THINK OF NEXT? AMISH HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR. WILL BE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL HEADLINES IN THE SAME FIELD ON U.S. 62, TWO MILES WEST OF "DOWNTOWN" WILMOT. PERHAPS WE WILL SEE BIRTHDAY GREETINGS THERE NEXT.

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Stanrika turkey farms

(Continued from page 1)

Despite its primitive conditions, the Sajnovics decided they could upgrade the farmhouse and make money reselling it. Josephine, by now the mother of baby son Stan Jr., offered to stay at the farm during the week, while her husband kept his cabinetmaking job in Toronto, joining them on weekends.

Intending to keep some chickens, and a cow, Josephine asked her husband to build her a shed. Then she called Orillia Co-op, and asked them to send out someone to test the farm's soil. When the visitor spotted the shed, he suggested Josephine could earn some extra money by raising turkeys in the shed. The co-op would supply the day-old turkey chicks and feed, and pay the Sajnovics for raising them. When Sajnovic arrived at the farm that weekend, his wife told him, "I'm going into the turkey business." The couple purchased some old feeding equipment and fans, and in 1964, began raising 9,000 turkey broilers a year.

After two years of commuting, Josephine said, "You had better build another barn for yourself and then you can stay at home." The Sajnovics thought this plan was sound, but when they invited the local banker to visit, he admired the

beautiful landscape and fresh air, but told the Sajnovics they had nothing he could accept as collateral for a loan. Determined to build their barn, Stan borrowed from friends. He also found work as an apprentice patternmaker in an Orillia foundry, a job he held until he was able to finish the first barn.

Even after deciding to farm fulltime, Sajnovic returned to his old Toronto job, helping to produce custom furniture for the Canadian embassy in Pakistan. This short-term work allowed him to buy a car for Josephine, and a color television for the family room.

The Sajnovics' hard work and risk-taking paid off. Today, Stanrika Farms Ltd. is an impressive-looking farming operation that involves three of the four family members. Stanley Sr. is president of the company, Josephine is secretary-treasurer and son Stan Jr. acts as production manager. As his father once did, Stan Jr. also holds an off-the-farm job, working part-time in another area of the poultry industry - the Swiss Chalet restaurant in Orillia.

"The way we are set up now, everyone has his own job on those two farms. Whenever we do the jobs, the time doesn't matter, as long as it's done." Today, the farm includes three occupied barns - one houses 10,000 turkey poulets, raised



Daughter Erica works for an international investment banking firm in the Kitchener area. Here she poses, in Slovenian costume with one of the five musical instruments she learned how to play while a teenager.

to 11 weeks of age and a two-story barn for breeder pullets, raised to 20 weeks of age. The newest barn, located close to the concession road, holds turkeys which will be raised to the heavier 16-week age.

All the buildings, with the exception of the frame of the latest barn, have been built by the Sajnovics. The original shed, which started the family in the poultry business, was just dismantled earlier this year. Also, for some years after purchasing a second farm, the Sajnovics raised 1,000 hogs. The pigs, Sajnovic says, paid for the construction of their last barn. The family also grows barley as a cash crop but purchases all their poultry feed.

When he recalls life on the

farm in the 1960s, Sajnovic says, "The first five years were very, very tough. The price (for turkeys) was what anyone offered you. There was so much production on the market that you worked for next to nothing."

Sajnovic was ready to give up more than once and said to his wife, "Let's pack up the children and our suitcases, all we have to lose is our mortgage." But Josephine held firm. "No, we have worked too hard, we are going nowhere." Looking back on the days before supply management, Sajnovic says, "Now I am glad I listened to her." When visitors praise the family's operation, Sajnovic responds, "We are proud of what two heads and four hands can do."

One advantage of locating their farm north of the traditional poultry area, is that

diseases have never been a problem. The Sajnovics, however, still clean out culls, or any unfit birds they fear might trigger an outbreak of disease. At first, they burned the carcasses in an incinerator, but this created a fly problem in the summer months. Eventually they asked a neighbor to bring over his backhoe and dig a hole in their bush. They threw in the carcasses and covered them with lime and sand. When Stan Jr. returned later, the hole was empty. Wolves and coyotes had quite happily cleaned up every carcass.

"The wolves are trained now," laughs Stan Jr., "so they just wait around the hole until we throw something in. They cry if we leave them nothing and sing us a song if we leave them something." The wolves now leave neighbors' livestock, like

(Continued on page 4)

Closing Centennial Observance

American Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ)

100th Anniversary Mass and Dinner Sunday, October 9, 1994

St. Vitus Church and Parish Auditorium
6019 Glass Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103
Auxiliary Bishop A. Edward Pevec,
Principal Celebrant
Solemn Mass: Noon
Dinner: 1-15 - 1:30 p.m. (est. start time)
Tickets: Call Joseph Hocevar (216) 881-9586
Donation: \$20.00 for dinner ticket
Reserved table: eight per table

Must purchase tickets in advance — No sales at the door



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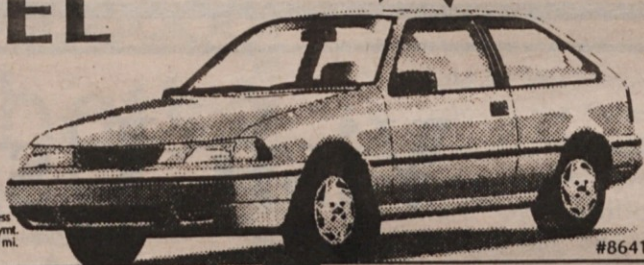
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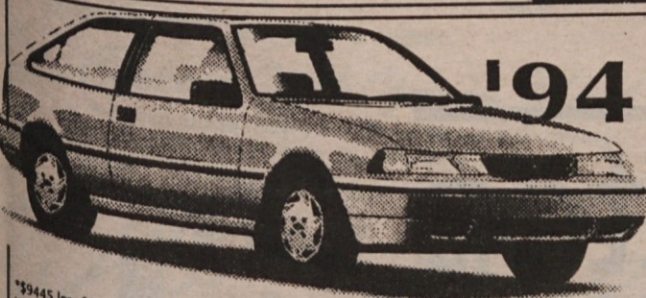
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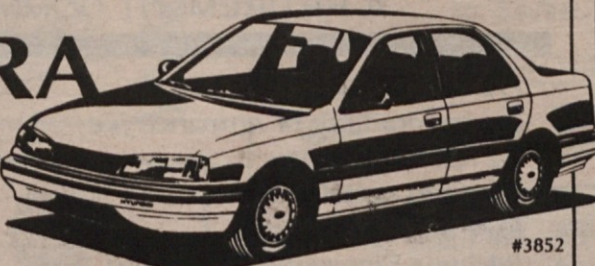
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(Continued from page 3)
goats, alone and at night, they provide a free serenade for the family.

If the elder Sajnovics worked hard to establish the farm, their children have been guided by the same principles. The saying, "Listen, Behave and Work" was the basic philosophy in his home, says Stan Jr. Both he and his sister Erica played a very active part in the farming operation until they went away to school. They also maintained a demanding round of extracurricular activities that sometimes kept their mother acting like a "taxi driver."

Erica, with a talent for music, took both piano and accordion lessons and played the trumpet, clarinet and saxophone in high school. Both children studied figure skating and skied. While studying languages at the University of

Waterloo, she also edited the school newspaper. After graduation, she used her skills as a translator to work for a computer software company in Kitchener. Now she works with an international investment banking firm.

After high school, Stan Jr. attended the University of Guelph, where he earned an associate diploma in agriculture. During his university studies, he also worked for Guelph veterinarian and poultryman Dr. Lloyd Weber. "Then Dad offered me the job at home." When he returned to the farm, Stan realized that with everything automated in the barn, electricians' fees were biting into the farm profits. So while remaining as farm production manager, he also took his electrical technician's diploma at Georgian College, in nearby Barrie. Now he handles the wiring problems on the farm.

(To Be Continued)

'Friends' Fall Brunch

As we approach the Fall Season we are also getting closer to the Annual Fall Brunch which is presented by the "Friends of the Slovenian National Home Inc." The brunch will be held in the St. Clair Slovenian National Home on Sunday, Sept. 25. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m., with continuous serving from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Admission is \$9.00 for members; \$11.00 for non-members and \$3.50 for children under 12. Reservations can be made by calling Gerrie Hopkins at 361-5115 or Stanley Frank at 391-9761. Reservations should be made by Monday, September 19.

We are happy to announce that entertainment will be furnished by the fabulous Jerry Suhar. You will be in for a

pleasant surprise at this very talented entertainer.

If you are not a member of the "Friends" as yet we would like to have you join our organization. It is easy to become a member. Just call Stanley Frank at 391-9761 and we will be glad to send you an application. Annual dues are \$15.00 for Single Membership and \$25.00 for Family or Group Membership.

The sole purpose of the "Friends" is to maintain and preserve the finest Slovenian Auditorium in America. This is made possible as a result of your membership dues and continued financial support.

Please help us keep the dream and spirit of our forefathers alive and strong in preserving this Cultural Landmark.

—Sylvia Plymessa

Glasbena Matica's Fall Concert News

Here is the news you have been waiting for: Glasbena Matica's fall concert is set for Sunday, October 16, at the Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

First, the audience will be treated to a delicious dinner to be prepared by Sophie Mazi and her excellent crew; the concert, filled with music from Mozart to Andrew Lloyd Webber will follow; then for all the dancers in the crowd, the Johnny Vadal Orchestra will play. The festivities begin at 2 o'clock.

Our patrons will be happy to learn that all of the above can be had for a mere \$17.00

per person. If you wish to make ticket reservations, please call the following numbers: 946-0002 during the daytime hours and 261-0435 for the convenience of evening callers. Please note, too, that all Glasbena Matica members have tickets to sell.

Musical director is Tom Weiss. Do come; you'll be glad you did.

Fall Dinner

The annual Fall Dinner sponsored by St. Mary (Collinwood) Altar Society will be held in the school cafeteria on Sunday, Oct. 2 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

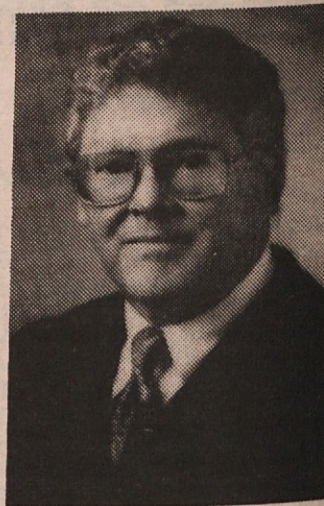
Roast pork or roast chicken will be served.

Donation is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Tickets can be purchased in the rectory, from Altar Society members or by calling 531-8855. Take-out dinners are also available.

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PSWA - 60 Years of Accomplishments

by Florence Unetich

Sixty years of "good deeds" is a milestone to celebrate. That's just what the Progressive Slovene Women will do during a banquet on Saturday, October 8th at the Slovenian Workmen's Home, 15335 Waterloo Road, Cleveland.

Dinner will be served in the lower hall from 5 to 6:45 p.m. The program at 7:15 will include entertainment by two well-known duets: Cecilia Dolgan and brother Joe Valencic, and the Jadran Songbirds Florence Unetich and Angela Zabjek. Dancing to the Fred Kuhar Orchestra will follow.

Since its founding, the PSWA has taken an active part in the Slovenian community and given generously to many causes in the Greater Cleveland area. Its "60 Years of Accomplishments," include generous donations to humanitarian causes such as natural disaster relief; schools for mentally retarded children and adults; shelters for homeless and/or abused women and children; various funds for medical research and assistance; and support for fraternal and cultural organizations.

Two primary beneficiaries of PSWA's generosity are the people of Slovenia and the Slovene Home for the Aged. Medical supplies and equipment, supplies for deaf

children, braille equipment and supplies for the blind, books and periodicals for libraries, schools and universities, as well as tons of clothing were sent to Slovenia following WWII. In the years since, many requests have been received for particular needs for hospitals, or emergencies such as the 1990 flood and the refugee problem resulting from the Bosnian War. The PSWA has responded to most such requests.

PSWA has been involved with the Slovene Home for the Aged since the very first organizing committee was formed in the mid-fifties. Members canvassed neighborhoods to raise money, held numerous strudel, potica, krofe sales and other fundraising activities. They have served on the Board of Trustees, volunteered in various capacities and still do. Monetary support for the Home has been a constant, coming from the National Board as well as from individual Circles 1 and 7, based at Slovenian Workmen's

Home, No. 2 based at Slovenian National Home and No. 3 based at Slovenian Society Home.

Even today, despite its small and mostly aged membership, Circle 2 bakes poticas twice a year to raise funds for their charitable donations - principally SHA and the Slovenian National Home. Circles 3 and 1 also bake twice annually, Circle 7's main fund-raiser is a card party. Circle 3 and 7 members also volunteer weekly - one on Mondays, one on Wednesdays, to hold bingo parties for the residents.

For the past several years, PSWA has also been one of the underwriters for Tony Petkovsek's Public Radio Slovenian Hour which airs Sundays on WCPN 90.3 FM at 12 noon (pre-broadcast Saturdays WELW, 1330 AM, 1 p.m.)

Please come and celebrate with us. Show our devoted members, who have unselfishly given many hours and much energy to assist their fellow humans, that their efforts are truly appreciated by our community.

Tickets may be purchased from the Polka Hall of Fame, or by calling Delores Dobida at 951-1694, or from members.

'Ave' singers coming to US

In late September and early October the mixed Slovenian singing choral group "Ave," will visit and perform in the United States and Canada.

Ave members hail from the

capital city of Ljubljana, in the independent and sovereign country of the Republic of Slovenia.

Ave has been in existence for 10 years. Its choral director is Mr. Andraž Hauptman. Mr. Hauptman is a professor and instructor in piano and also a voice instructor at the Voice Academy in Ljubljana. There are 20 singers in the group.

Ave has toured Slovenia plus other countries in Europe including Austria and Italy. This will be their first official tour to North America.

The concert in Cleveland will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Slovenian National Home, 64th and St. Clair. The singers will present a mixture of traditional, religious, national, and some contemporary songs. The local Cleveland Slovenian singing men's choral group *Fantje na Vasi* has graciously allowed usage of its traditional early fall date for this performance.

Cost for the concert is \$10.00. For additional information please contact Dr. Mate Roessman at 486-8862.

Coming Events...

Saturday, Sept. 24

Hamilton-Wentworth Slovenian Cultural Society Slovenian Choir and Soča Slovenian Folkloric Dance Company concert, Bockhold Hall, Indianapolis, Ind., at 7 p.m. For tickets (which include chance on free round trip air fare to Ljubljana), call (317) 244-4816 or (317) 925-8717.

Sunday, Sept. 25

Annual Fall Brunch "Friends of the Slovenian National Home Inc." Serving from 12 to 2 p.m. Entertainment by Jerry Suhar.

Friday, Sept. 30

Dance at West Park Slovene Home, 4583 W. 130 St., music by Casuals.

Saturday, Oct. 1

Concert with "Ave" from Ljubljana at Slovenian National Home on St. Clair. Alpine Sextet plays for dancing. Donation \$10.00.

Sunday, Oct. 2

Upstairs Downstairs Benefit Dance sponsored by George Knaus from 3 - 9 p.m. Euclid Slovenian Society Home featuring Joe Toriskie, Del Sinchak, Joe Luzar, Frank Stanger, and Walter Ostanek. Call (216) 481-9300.

Saturday, Oct. 8

P.S.W.A. 60th Anniversary Banquet, Slovenian Workmen's Home, 15335 Waterloo Rd. Dinner 5-6:45, program 7:15. Fred Kuhar Orchestra. Donation \$15. For tickets call 481-6247.

Sunday, Oct. 9

St. Mary's School Alumni reunion with noon Mass followed by dinner in St. Mary's School Cafeteria. For tickets contact church rectory or Jennie Schultz 481-0339.

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Sunday, Oct. 9

St. Clair Rifle and Hunting Club annual Clambake on the club grounds. Call 942-4025 for further information.

Sunday, Oct. 9

AMLA Clambake (steak or bake) at AMLA Recreation Center. Music by Johnny Vadnal Orchestra.

Sunday, October 9

Centennial Observance of founding of KSKJ sponsored by the Ohio Federation of KSKJ Lodges. 12 noon Mass with Bishop A. Edward Pevec in St. Vitus Church. Banquet following Mass in auditorium. Security provided.

Sunday, Oct. 16

Glasbena Matica Concert. Dinner served at 2 p.m. with concert to follow. Dancing to Johnny Vadnal Orchestra.

Wednesday, Oct. 19

P.S.W.A. Circle 7 Fall Card Party, Waterloo Hall 1 to 3 p.m. \$3. Door prizes and refreshments.

Oct. 21 thru Oct. 23

Slovenian Society Home, Recher Ave., Euclid, Ohio 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Saturday, Oct. 22

Stajerski Klub, Martinovance evening with Family Style Dinner, Alpine Sextet band at Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair, 6:30 p.m. Donation \$16.00.

Sunday, Oct. 23

"Občni zbor" General meeting at the Slovenska Pristava.

Saturday, Oct. 29

Zarja Fall Concert at Slovenian Society Home, Euclid.

Sunday, October 30

St. Vitus Alumni Honoree Day Dinner (family style) in St. Vitus Auditorium; serving 1:30 p.m. Donation \$15.00.

Sunday, Oct. 30

St. Vitus Alumni Hall of Fame Mass and Dinner.

Sunday, Nov. 6

AMLA Anniversary Dinner Dance at Slovenian National Home, 65th & St. Clair Ave. Bob Kravos Orchestra.

Sunday, November 13

Fall Concert of Slovenian Junior Chorus, Circle 2 at Slovenian Society Home.

Saturday, November 19

St. Vitus Catholic War Veterans Post 1655 is celebrating its 45th anniversary with a banquet and dance in St. Vitus auditorium. Polka Mass in St. Vitus church at 5 p.m., followed by cocktails at 6 and dinner at 7. Music by Orcaades. Open bar. Guarded parking. Donation \$20.00.

Thursday, November 24


Thanksgiving Day Polka Party from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. in Marriott Society Center Hotel, 127 Public Square at St. Clair, downtown Cleveland. Donation \$10.

Friday, November 25

Thanksgiving Friday Polka Party from 4 p.m. until 2 a.m. in Marriott Society Center Hotel, 127 Public Square at St. Clair, Cleveland. 7 polka bands. Admission \$10.

Saturday, November 26

Polka Awards Show 7 at Euclid Cultural Center.




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From Slovenia to America

Editor:

We look forward to receiving the "Ameriška Domovina" every week; it is so interesting reading all the news and informative articles.

Your latest issue Aug. 18 with the 75th Anniversary of Collinwood Slovenian Home edition brought such fond memories of our family who arrived in Cleveland on the steamer "Buengerja" in November, 1924. My father had a home in Slovenia and thought he'd take his family and our mother to live there. I was the oldest at 9 years, sister Molly 7-1/2 years, brothers Joe 4, Bernie 1-1/2 years — all small.

After six months (he was from Novo Mesto), (mother from Metlika) knew it was the wrong thing — but we left my grandparents who cried and knew they'd never see us again.

Originally we were from Ely, Minn. where my father worked in the Iron Ore Mines and lived in company houses — \$8.00 a month rent. Heading back we drove to Cherbourg, France but found there was a quarantine and we were given inoculations against the disease. We stayed there two weeks. My father was at that time 36 years old and trying to decide whether or not to head for California or back to the mines in Minnesota. My mother helped in this. She had sisters, cousins and friends in Minnesota. So we went towards there.

My father had a first cousin (Mrs. Josephine Svete) and her husband (Mike Svete) who lived on Daniels Avenue in the Collinwood section of what is now Cleveland. She asked us to stop and visit them on our way back to Minnesota. We never made it.

That night the folks talked my parents into staying in Cleveland. Work was available. The next day Mr. Svete took my father to the New York Central Railroad and my father got a job. Mrs. Svete was a charwoman at old Collinwood High School and got my mother a job. My sister Molly and brother Joe started mid-semester at Memorial School.

We lived on Waterloo Road for about six months in a 4-family house right across from "Zalar's Bakery." As we lived upstairs, we knew when the fresh Vienna Bread was baked as the aroma wafted towards us and one of the kids would go and buy a couple of loaves for 8¢ each.

In May of 1925 — with \$25.00, my father bought his first home on Trafalgar Avenue. It had a nice lawn in front, only four large rooms, but we were happy — it was ours. No company houses, no

steamships. My brother Joe thought that the ship "Paris" we traveled to Europe on was our home.

So all the articles in your special edition of the 75th anniversary of Collinwood Slovenian Home just tugged at my heart as I read of all those people who never minded working day and night to build the Collinwood Slovenian Home and other homes as on Saranac Avenue.

I really hadn't intended to write so much. I just wanted to donate \$25.00 to the Ameriška Domovina in memory of my parents, **Joe and Katherine Champa**, daughters **Mary and Molly, Joseph and Bernard** (sister and brothers still living.) **Thanks for the memory.**

Mary F. Kralic (Champa)
Chardon, Ohio

Donates \$300 in memory of Mollie Postotnik

Thanks to **Daniel J. Postotnik** of Cleveland, Ohio who very generously donated \$300.00 to the Ameriška Domovina in memory of his wife, **Mollie R. Postotnik**.

Shrine festival

The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, 21281 Chardon Rd., Euclid, Ohio is holding its annual fall festival and bazaar on Rosary Sunday, October 2.

The bazaar area (inside) will open after the 9:30 a.m. Mass and will close at 3:45 p.m. before the Candlelight Rosary Procession at 4. Benediction will follow.

St. Ann dining room will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fast food and sandwiches, pizza and beverages will also be available outdoors.

55th anniversary

Happy 55th anniversary to **Fran and Adolph Kotnik** of Cleveland. They celebrated this happy occasion on September 16 with their friends by visiting the Amish Country.

In Memory

Rose Znidarsic of Cleveland donated \$25.00 to the Ameriška Domovina in memory of her husband, **John Znidarsic**.

Preschool extends enrollment

St. Vitus Slovenian School announces that registration for preschool, three and four year olds, has been extended. Children must be three years old by October 1st. For more information call 585-1495.

Friday paper

Next week's Ameriška Domovina (American Home) newspaper will be printed on **FRIDAY, Sept. 30.**

Slovenia at political crossroads

The president of one of Slovenia's largest political parties presented a broad picture of current-day Slovenia and the political landscape at a private gathering and dinner sponsored by the Slovenian American Council on Monday, September 19.

A public presentation and session was arranged for the following day, Tuesday, September 20 in the parish auditorium of St. Mary's church in the Collinwood section of Cleveland.

Marjan Podobnik, president, and Tit Turnšek, vice-president, presented the viewpoints and activities of the political party "Slovenska ljudska stranka (SLS) (Slovenian People's Party). The SLS is considered a moderate-to-right of center party on the broad political spectrum in Slovenia.

SLS adheres to the basic principals of the right to property, religious practice, a true and democratic society, and due process of law. Its philosophical guidelines are based on Christian values and principles.

In dramatic contrast to many of the other presidents of the various political parties in Slovenia, Mr. Podobnik is the youngest person to hold this political position at age 35.

The main long-term objective of SLS, according to both Mr. Podobnik and Turnšek, is to form a coalition of like-minded political parties, much as was the case of the former "DEMOS."

The principal reason is that no one political party in Slovenia has any semblance of a majority, meaning no one party has a large enough base or grass roots support to effectively govern Slovenia.

Two recent surveys/polls bring home this point. In fact, the largest so-called political party in Slovenia today could be referred to as "Know-Nothings."

The two polls are even more interesting because they were conducted by the voice of the former Communist Party and a left-of-center newspaper "Delo" and "Republika."

The results of 775 telephone survey calls conducted by Delo on the sole question of which political party would you vote for today if (national) elections were held, were: 31.5% (I Don't Know); 18.3% (Liberal Democrats Slovenija); 9.3% (I Won't Vote); 8.9% (Slovenian People's Party); 8.9% (None of the Political Parties); 7.4% (Social Democratic Party); 7.2% (Slovenian Christian Democrats); and 4.5% (Associated List, aka Slovenian Communist Party). The remaining percentages were distributed among other parties. Of interest was the low ranking of the perceived "intellectuals" party. That is, "Democrats." They received only 1.7%. Mr. Dimitrij Rupelj is one of its major spokesmen for them. This

sample was conducted on August 30.

In the telephone survey and sample conducted by the "Republika" on September 8 with a model of 505 samples, the results were as follows: 26.2% (I Don't Know); 21.4% (Liberal Democrats); 16.3% (I Won't Vote); 7.3% (Slovenian People's Party); 7.04% (Slovenian Christian Democrats); 5.8% (Associated List); 5.4% (Social Democrats); and the remainder for other parties.

If Mr. Podobnik is successful in the strategy to form a coalition then the SLS must be listening to the Slovenian people.

From the numbers indicated here, there is a trend today in Slovenia as has been apparent in the USA for more than a decade, of indifference to political parties. Nearly 50% of those surveyed indicated not knowing or not willing to vote. And this is only after a little more than four years of free elections.

Mr. Podobnik and those of the SLS, are committed to reforming a more than corrupt system in current Slovenia where the former beneficiaries of the political system (i.e., Mr. Kučan and his associates) should provide the documentation of how much and who benefitted personally at the expense of the Slovenian country for nearly 45 years.

The reason for forming a coalition is the coming elections in 1996 and the national elections in 1997.

Mr. Podobnik indicated that with a proportional system as it currently exists in Slovenia, the only effective way to have a stable and responsive government is to have a strong coalition that could address a host of national concerns, ir-

respective of party affiliation, and more local concerns that may be peculiar to one or more political parties, but not necessarily to the whole coalition.

The numbers in the two surveys also indicate a certain loss of confidence in both the Christian Democrats and the Associated List: the former for a series of mishandlings in the government and the latter for desiring to keep its former power despite its smaller numbers.

One change in Slovenia was the announcement last week by Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle to resign his office effective in early October. A withdrawal of the Christian Democrats at this time from the coalition of Christian Democrats, Liberal Democrats and Associated List would most likely lead to a vote of confidence, as is the case in a parliamentary system of government which Slovenia has. The results could be a dissolving of the current government with new elections.

The other possibility would be to have the government stay in office but with a less effective operation and a loss of credibility with the Slovenian people.

It seems that the likely choice of Mr. Školč as the new president of the Slovenian Parliament was something Mr. Peterle could not live with. Mr. Školč was one of the advocates who voiced the opinion for Slovenia to stay in the former Yugoslavia during Slovenia's independence drive. Mr. Školč is supported by Janez Drnovšek, prime minister, and Mr. Milan Kučan.

The next few weeks in Slovenia should be interesting.

—Stane J. Kuhar

Diary of submariner

(Continued from last week)

Time was slowly running out. The glances exchanged between the two officers were quickly interpreted by the crew in the control room that the chances of getting off the sea bottom were becoming slimmer and slimmer. Our fears were confirmed when the order to fire the rocket alerting the minesweeper of our plight was given. We knew we had enough fresh air to last us at least 15 hours. There was enough compressed air left to blow the tanks and float the submarine to the surface.

Whether the rocket was faulty or too weak to penetrate that much water, or the lookouts on the minesweeper were not (they said they were) on guard, nobody got in touch with us. After waiting another 15 minutes it was decided to "see-saw" the submarine out of the mud. The port tanks, then aft, then port, then port, then aft tanks were blown alternatively followed by ballast tanks being blown - all at once.

Nothing happened.

The Captain, who until then seemed to be observing only, suddenly commanded. "Both motors full speed ahead. Blow all tanks. Yet, nothing happened for a time that seemed as long as one's lifetime. When, we could feel her struggle, gurgle, vibrate, rasp, scrape and claw, trying to break the suction seal with mud, and, in the next moment she was free, sailing through the water with the greatest of ease.

Today, she rose gently and was at the periscope depth in no time. Not one plane was seen throughout the afternoon. We had no news. Our radio receiver dealt with naval traffic only. It was rather exciting to meet a local fisherman Mitar Berberovic, an uncle to one of our sailors, who was passing by in his motor boat. He parted with the news that he had heard from others. He said that five planes were shot over Tivat; our troops advanced 30 kilometers.

(To Be Continued)

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VESTI IZ SLOVENIJE

(Ta rubrika je bila pripravljena že v sredo popoldne)

Lojze Peterle naznanil svoj odstop kot podpredsednik vlade in zunanji minister — Vzrok naj bi bila izvolitev Jožefa Školčja za predsednika parlamenta — SKD se še niso odločili glede izstopa iz Drnovškove vlade

Predsednik Slovenskih krščanskih demokratov Lojze Peterle, ki je v vladi dr. Janeza Drnovška služil kot podpredsednik vlade in hkrati zunanji minister, je izjavil, da bo odstopil od vladnih funkcij s 1. oktobrom. Po nepričakovanem odstopu mag. Hermana Rigelnika 5. septembra, ki je bil predsednik parlamenta, je to drugo veliko presenečenje za slovensko javnost, katerih posledice pa še niso jasne.

Takole je *Slovenec* dobesedno poročal preteklo soboto (izpod peresa novinarka Biserke Karneže) o dogodku v parlamentu pretekli petek, ko je bil za predsednika parlamenta izvoljen Jožef Školč iz vrst LDS:

»Čprav so poslanci večine opozicijskih strank (SDSS, DS, SLS, SND) skupaj s Slovenskimi krščanskimi demokrati bojkotirali včerajšnje volitve za predsednika državnega zbora, je Jožefu Školču, ta je znova kandidiral na predlog Liberalne demokracije Slovenije, uspelo dobiti potrebno število glasov. Zanj je glasovalo 47 poslancev iz vrst Liberalne demokracije in Združene liste, odločilni pa so bili glasovi iz Slovenske nacionalne stranke (tkim. Jelinčičeva stranka).

Kmalu po njegovi izvolitvi, ko so poslanci Liberalne demokracije s šampanjcem proslavili izvolitev novega predsednika državnega zbora, je Lojze Peterle, predsednik Slovenskih krščanskih demokratov, naslovil na predsednika vlade dr. Janeza Drnovška pismo, v katerem mu je sporočil, da zaradi dogodkov v zvezi z volitvami novega predsednika državnega zbora odstopa kot minister za zunanje zadeve, pri čemer je poudaril, da ne gre zgolj za ponudbo odstopa. Kot je dejal na včerajšnji tiskovni konferenci, je zdajšnji trenutek enak kot ob rušenju Demosove vlade: »Takrat sem odšel kot gospod in tudi zdaj bom odšel enako.«

Ravnanje liberalnih demokratov, ko so predlagali svojega kandidata brez dogovora s krščanskimi demokrati, je presodil kot nekorektno, izsiljevalsko in vzvišeno ter dodal, da so pravočasno opozorili koalicijske partnerje, naj ne razkazujejo svoje moči, saj to ne bo pripomoglo k stabilizaciji razmer. »Nismo zaljubljeni v LDS, vendar smo upali, da bo njihova zgodba šla v smeri sredinske orientacije, da bo stranka znala preseči dvo-

polne politične razdelitve. To se ni zgodilo in njihove zgodbe o liberalni in sredinski LDS je konec,« je dejal Peterle ter opozoril, da je ravnanje LDS povsem v nasprotju z ravnanji sorodnih strank v zahodnoevropskih državah, kjer so nasprotniki liberalcev komunisti in nacionalisti.

Kaj to pomeni za koalicijo, bodo odločili na politični koordinaciji, ki naj bi bila v torek prihodnji torek, medtem pa bo Lojze Peterle odšel na krajši dopust. Njegov odstop dr. Janeza Drnovška očitno ni preveč razburil, saj je v sporočilu za javnost zapisal, da vlada ne glede na odstopno izjavo Lojzeta Peterleta deluje še naprej normalno, prav tako državni zbor, kar naj bi potrdilo tudi včerajšnje glasovanje za predsednika državnega zbora. Predsednik vlade in predsednik LDS pričakuje, da bodo krščanski demokrati še naprej sodelovali v vladni koaliciji, pogovori z njimi pa naj bi potekali v prihodnjih dneh. Tako *Slovenec* preteklo soboto.

V telefonskem pogovoru z viri v Ljubljani v sredo (21. sept.) popoldne, je bilo poudarjeno, da stvari se še niso kaj dosti izjasnile. SKD se še niso odločili glede bodočih korakov. Odstopil je pač le Peterle, trije drugi ministri v Drnovškovi vladi naj bi nadaljevali na svojih mestih, pa tudi Peterle odhaja šele s 1. oktobrom. Kaj se bo iz nastale situacije izcimilo, ob tem poročanju še ni jasno.

Šest opozicijskih strank podpisalo sporazum o skupnem nastopu na območnih volitvah

Pretekli petek so predstavniki šestih strank iz desnega krila slovenskega političnega spektruma podpisali sporazum o skupnem nastopu na prihajajoči območnih volitvah. Stranke so se obvezale tudi glede nadaljnega pogajanja o političnem zavezništvu na volitvah za državni zbor, ki naj bi bile (če ne bodo predčasne) leta 1996.

Na sporazum so pristali Slovenska ljudska stranka, Socialdemokratska stranka Slovenije, Zeleni Slovenije, Narodni demokrati, Liberalna stranka in Slovenska nacionalna desnica. Iz dopisa Igorja Kršinarja v *Slovenec* preteklo soboto naslednje: »Janez Janša, predsednik SDSS, je v pogovoru z novinarji dejal, da so se opozicijske stranke zavzemale za to, da bi sporazum podpisali tudi Slovenski krščanski demokrati. Ker se to ni zgodilo, bodo SKD obravnavali kot stranko na oblasti. Izrazil je pripravljenost za sodelovanje s posameznimi občinskimi odbori SKD, če bodo ti podpisali sporazum, ki ga vodstvo njihove stranke ni hotelo podpisati.«

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Koncert zbora »Ave«—

V soboto, 1. oktobra, bo komorni zbor AVE iz Slovenije podal svoj koncert ob sedmi uri zvečer v Slovenskem narodnem domu na St. Clairju. Vsi vljudno vabljeni! (gl. str. 8)

Seja—

Klub upokojencev v Nevburgu-Maple Hts. ima sejo v sredo, 28. sept., ob 1. uri pop. v SND na E. 80 St. To bo zadnja priložnost za rezervacijo vstopnic za banket.

Zahvala—

Oltarno društvo sv. Vida se prav lepo zahvaljuje vsem, ki so prišli na kosilo preteklo nedeljo, vsem, ki so pomagali pri delu v soboto in nedeljo, z vabili v časopisju in na radiu, ter Sheliga Drug Store, za natis nakaznic. Prav lepa hvala tudi darovalkam dobitkov. Srečni dobitniki pa so bili sledeči: Theresa Manfreda, David Osenar, Maria Kinzal, Cilka Žakelj, Anton Oblak, Marge Tomatz in Evelyn Buncic.

Novi grobovi

Anna Novinc

Dne 20. septembra je v Slovenskem domu za ostarele umrla 93 let stara Anna Novinc, rojena Kren v Clevelandu, vdova po Josephu, mati Josepha Arthurja in Raymonda, 4-krat stara mati, 10-krat prastara mati, sestra Johna, Franka, Anthonyja, Frances in Agnes (vsi že pok.), članica Kluba upokojencev v Euclidu in Woodmen of the World. Pogreb bo iz Želetovega zavoda na E. 152 St. jutri, v petek, zj. ob 8.45, v cerkev sv. Pavla na Chardon Rd. ob 9.30, od tam na Vernih duš pokopališče. Ure kropljenja so danes pop. od 2. do 4. in zv. od 7. do 9. Darovi v pokojničin spomin Slovenskemu domu za ostarele na 18621 Neff Rd., Cleveland, OH 44119, bodo s hvaležnostjo sprejeti.

Josephine Svet

Umrla je Josephine Svet, rojena Mavec, vdova po Tonyju, mati Tonyja ml. in Edwarda, 8-krat stara mati, 3-krat prastara mati, sestra Franka in Helen Skok. Pogreb bo iz Želetovega zavoda na E. 152 St. danes zj. ob 8.45, v cerkev Our Lady of Perpetual Help ob 9.30, od tam na Vernih duš pokopališče. Družina bo hvaležna za darove v pokojničin spomin American Cancer Society.

Joseph D. Kastelic

Dne 17. septembra je umrl Joseph D. Kastelic, mož Dore roj. Bonito, oče Josepha, Janice Weiss in Laurie Jazbec, 4-krat stari oče, brat Johna. Po-

(dalje na str. 11)

Kosilo Oltarnega društva—

V nedeljo, 2. oktobra, vabi Oltarno društvo fare Marije Vnebovzete na svoje kosilo. Serviranje bo v šolski dvorani, nakaznice imajo članice, dobi-te jih tudi v župnišču, lahko pa pokličete 531-8855. Cena kosilu je \$10, za otroka pa \$5.

Marjan Podobnik govoril—

Pretekli torek zvečer je v šolski dvorani pri Mariji Vnebovzeti govoril Marjan Podobnik, predsednik SLS, z njim je bil tudi strankin podpredsednik g. T. Turnšek, srečanje pa je povezoval dr. Mate Roesmann. Gosta sta predstavila svoje poglede na slovensko sedanost in bodočnost, stališča SLS, nato pa odgovorila na številna vprašanja. V dvorani je bilo več kot sto poslušalcev, z menda le dvema ali tremi izjemami pa vsi iz vrst povojnih priseljencev in njih potomcev. Podajanje in odgovori na vprašanja so bili zanimivi in bi bilo želeli več takih srečanj ob obiskih političnih osebnosti iz Slovenije.

Slov. šola naznanja—

Slovenska šola pri Sv. Vidu podaljšuje vpis otrok za mali vrtec. Vpišejo se lahko otroci, ki so rojeni l. 1990 in 1991, torej tri in štiri leta stari. Otroci morajo dopolniti tretjo leto starosti do 1. okt. Za podrobnosti, pokličite 585-1495.

Klub upokojencev SP—

Klub upokojencev Slovenske pristave bo imelo mesečno sejo v sredo, 28. septembra, ob 1.30 popoldne, na Slovenski pristavi. Članstvo lepo vabljen, da se te seje udeleži. Daljši članek o Klubu boste našli na str. 9 današnje Ameriške domovine.

Pozdrav iz Avstralije—

Naša naročnica ga. Anica Tašner je na obisku Avstralije. Takole piše: »Vam in vsem čitateljem Ameriške domovine pošiljam lepe pozdrave iz Južne Avstralije naročnica iz Westchestra, Ill. Anica Tašner« in dodaja, da je Adelaide prekrasno mesto.

Martinovanje—

Štajerski in prekmurski klub priredi svoje martinovanje v soboto, 22. okt., ob 6.30 zv., v SND na St. Clairju. Igral bo Alpski sekstet. Za vstopnice, pokličite 731-5826 oz. 261-5277.

LILJA sporoča—

Veseloigra »Svojeglavček«, ki jo je Dram. društvo Lilija napovedalo za 13. avgusta na Slovenski pristavi, pa je bila zaradi neurja, ki je divjalo nad Clevelandom in okolice, odpovedana, bo podana v nedeljo, 13. novembra, v Slovenskem domu na Holmes Ave. Podrobnosti bodo pravočasno objavljene.

BOJ ZA RIGELNIKOVO DEDIŠČINO

NINEL



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Za napredek in blagor narodov

Od sobotnega do nedeljskega večera, 10. in 11. septembra, se je uresničeval veliki sen katoliškega hrvaškega naroda: obisk papeža Janeza Pavla II. Vsa sredstva družbenega obveščanja, od radiotelevizije do poslednjega časopisa, revije, glasila, so sporočala: sveti oče z nami in med nami! Njegov prihod je naznanjalo tudi nad 3000 velikih plakatov, ki jih je mladina prilepila na stene in reklamne deske ob zagrebških ulicah. Na njih je bilo izpisano geslo praznovanja 900. obletnice ustanovitve zagrebske nadškofije.

Ko je prispel na zagrebško letališče, je poljubil zemljo kot v vseh 61 deželah sveta, kamor je doslej pripotoval ta glasnik Kristusovega miru in sprave med ljudmi. To je bil poljub trinajstim stoletjem pokristjanjenja, poljub devetim stoletjem zvestobe zagrebske (nad)škofije Cerkev, vsemu hrvaškemu katoliškemu svetu včeraj in danes, vsem mučencem, svetnikom, blaženim, živim in mrtvim, poljub miru in ljubezni vsem ljudem dobre volje.

Svetega očeta sta na letališču pričakali vodstvi Cerkev in države. Pozdravil ga je predsednik Republike Hrvaške dr. Franjo Tuđman; v stolnici, kjer je skupaj z duhovniki, revoniki in redovnicami imel večerne molitve, je kardinal Kuharić papežu predstavil Katoliško cerkev na Hrvaškem, predvsem zagrebško nadškofijo, njeno podobo včeraj in danes; prav tako na hipodromu, kjer se je pri papeževi maši zbralo okrog 600.000 romarjev z vseh krajev Hrvaške.

S svojimi osrednjimi nagovori (letališče, stolnica, hipodrom) je papež ob bežnih posegih v zgodovino devetih stoletij zagrebske nadškofije poudarjal tesno povezanost te krajeve Cerkev z vesoljno, svetniške vzore hrvaškega naroda (Tavelić, Mandić, Kažotić, Križevčanin...), med njimi tudi kardinala Stepinca, ta »najsvetlejši lik«, in brez števila drugih »sinov in hčera te dežele, ki so izpričali svojo vero in pogum tudi v najnovejšem času, ko so se v imenu človekovih pravic in dostojanstva upirali jarmu ateističnega komunizma«.

Edinost, mir, sprava, razumevanje, odpuščanje so besede, ki so oblikovale temeljno sporočilo svetega očeta v dveh dneh bivanja v Zagrebu: zbranim v stolnici, diplomatskem in državnemu zboru v dvorih predsednika Republike, članom hrvaškega Sabora ob oltarju na hipodromu, množici romarjev, vsemu hrvaškemu ljudstvu doma in po svetu.

»Mir z vami« Romar sprave, papež, vam kliče...» Vsem mestom, pokrajinam, družinam, posameznikom. »Mir je mogoč tam, kjer si ga ljudje iskreno želijo!« Kjer molijo in ustvarjajo kulturo miru. »Ta kultura ne izključuje zdravega domoljubja, otrepa pa se skušnjava nacionalističnih pretiravanj in izključevanj!« Na hipodromu je poudaril: »V teh krajih, ki so danes v tako veliki preizkušnji, mora vera spet postati tista moč, ki zedinja in prinaša dobre sadove — kot Šava, ki izvira v Sloveniji, teče skozi vašo domovino, potem ob hrvaški in bosanskohercegovski meji, v Srbiji pa se izliva v Donavo. Donava je druga velika reka, ki povezuje hrvaško in srbsko deželo z velikimi deželami vzhodne in zahodne Evrope.« Podoba iz narave vabi k strpnosti, miru, sožitju tudi narode, ki živijo ob Savi in Dravi. »Napredek in blagor narodov na Balkanu imata eno samo besedo: Mir!« je poudaril papež.

Nedeljska maša je bila osrednje dogajanje, slovesno v molitvi in pesmi, ljudski in zborovski. Okrog 50 (nad)škofov, med njimi več kardinalov, okrog tisoč duhovnikov somašni-

Ob gostovanju komornega zbora »Ave«

EUCLID, O. - Ob pričakovanju koncertnega nastopa »Ave«, ki bo v soboto, 1. oktobra, ob sedmih zvečer, v Slovenskem narodnem domu na St. Clair Avenue, objavljamo v naslednjem razmišljanju pevca in člana zbora »Ave« ob letošnjega desetletnici tega zbora.

M.R.

Ko sedim za računalnikom in iščem idejo, kako ustvariti brošuro ob Avejevem jubileju (plod razmišljanja je zdaj že v vaših rokah), se moja misel najprej spotakne ob vprašanje, kaj me je bilo prignalo in kaj me še vedno tako magično privlači pri Ave. Pri tem pevodji, ki bi ga na trenutke najraje utopil v žlici vode, saj se mi zdi najkrivičnejše bitje na svetu, a se mi naslednji trenutek zdi, da kar vidim avro zame nedosegljivega, pa hkrati čisto človeškega, ki ga obdaja.

Kaj me privlači pri skupini mladih deklet in fantov, s katerimi bi včasih najraje kar fizično obračunal, tako sit sem



jih — ko pa, na primer, čez minuto stojimo drug ob drugem na odru in se počutim kot del dobro namazanega stroja (ki ima, v nasprotju s tistimi pravimi, dušo), se mi zdi, da bi bilo brez Ave moje življenje dolgočasno, če ne kar prazno?

Gre za željo po uspehu, potovanjih, nastopanju, za ljubezen do lepega, popolnega petja, za golo trmo, češ, »če sem zdržal štiri leta, bom še to, pa naj izgubim službo, naj se svet podre...«, ali kaj povsem četrtega?

Morda je imela prav novinarica, ki je v naslovu intervjuja z nekaterimi pevci vpletla izraz Avemanija. Ogromno jih je že prišlo in odšlo, od vsega začetka, vztraja le Andraž. Napor so izjemni. Trde vaje, neusmiljen ritem dela, povprečno en nastop na teden, večkrat v letu celodnevne sobotne in nedeljske priprave, snemanja...

Utrip zbora je zelo blizu profesionalnemu; vsak pevec pa poleg petja pri Ave redno opravlja še študijske ali službene dolžnosti, poje pri vsaj še enem zboru ali ga celo vodi.

kov; peli so združeni zbori mestnih zagrebških župnij ob spremljavi orkestra hrvaške vojske.

Med pozdravi v različnih jezikih ob koncu maše je bil tudi slovenski: »Vsem navzočim slovenske narodnosti izrekam pri srčno dobrodošlico, z željo, da bi bili v svoji deželi ustvarjalci razvoja, utemeljenega na pristnih človekovih vrednotah.«



Vilenica 1993

Od laskavih priznanj in nagrad se ne da živeti, zato kaj takega zdržijo le redki. In ko po več zaporednih dneh intenzivnega skupnega petja ali po naporni turneji po tujini nekdo reče, »kaj, šele čez dva dni se spet vidimo?« se prešerno zasmejemo, in naš smeh je podoben smehu zasvojenec...

Ave nikoli ni bil velik zbor in medsebojni odnosi so zato izredno pomembni. Vsakega prišleka čakata dve avdiciji: tista formalna, kvalitativna, in tista človeška. Avejevci so namreč neusmiljeno iskreni. Kdor bo v to dvajsetčlansko družino vstopil zviška, se bo hitro znašel »spodaj«, in šele, ko se bo dokazal tudi kot človek, bo zares sprejet kot enak med enake, čeprav med sabo tako različne.

Vsak zase je poseben »kam-peljč«; šele 26-letni Andraž s svojimi muhami, pa hkrati neverjetno zanesljivostjo in za vrhunskega pevovodjo včasih kar nenavadno družabnostjo, Jože, kateremu kljub solističnim načrtom ni neznana prav nobena narodna, vedno razpoložena Polona, »skesanka«, ki jo je Ave po daljšem premoru spet pritegnil, prijazna Andreja, nadomestila je svojo sestro Ano, Martina, za Tamaro najstarejši »del inventarja«, priljubljeni Blaž, po svoji krivdi ali ne »dežurni strelovod«, pa notranjsko-primorska fantovska naveza... Ko smo skupaj, razlik ni, je samo Ave.

Pred časom mi je neka prijateljica prišepnila, da smo se ji na odru zdeli »visoki... Ni res. Če Ave kdaj deluje oddaljeno, je to zaradi posebne zaverovanosti, pa ne vase, ampak v glasbo, ki jo izvaja. Že na vajah je nadpovprečno veliko pozornosti posvečene vsebini, besedilu, izrazu. Na odru ni več treme, je samo še tista skladba in poslušalci, ki jo sprejemajo...

Da so pevke in pevci tega zbora predvsem ljudje, pa bo znal povedati marsikdo. Slovenski izseljenci v Nemčiji, na primer, ki nas po koncertu in predbožičnem rajanju skoraj niso pustili domov; občinstvo v Toursu, ki nam je skoraj enoglasno dodelilo svojo na-

grado; gospa Zinka iz belgijskega Maasmechelena, katere mož je, samo nekaj minut po res lepih trenutkih v dvorani slovenskega izseljenskega društva, izdihnil na rokah enega naših pevcev; znanstveniki pomembne slovenske ustanove, ki jim je naš »pokoncertni nastop« po imenitni slovesnosti dodobra razvezal grla in dušo; ali še mnogi, ki jim je skrivaj obrisana solza po kateri od zapetih pesmi ostala kot dokaz, da pri Ave ne gre le za nastopanje, ampak za (raz)dajanje, za pravično delitev od Boga danega smisla za lepo med izvajalci in poslušalci.

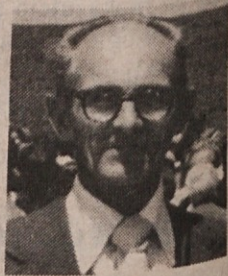
Res je, pa naj se sliši še tako »solzavo«: največja nagrada vsakemu Avejevcu je, ko tam nekje v šesti vrsti opazi solzne oči, najsi bo v koncertni dvorani na Dunaju ali v cerkvi v Zelšah pri Cerknici. Nagrade in polne dvorane so dokaz za trud, odziv občinstva je nagrada za ljubezen — do petja, do glasbe in do ljudi.

Ob desetem rojstnem dnevu te pevske skupine bi rad v imenu Avejevcov zaželel Andražu in Ave — kot pojmu — še veliko uspeha in ljubezni — do glasbe, do tistih, ki jo ustvarjajo, sprejemajo.

Zvone

V LJUBEČ SPOMIN

OB 15. OBLETNICI,
ODKAR SE JE ZA VSELEJ
POSLOVIL OD NAS NAS
LJUBLJENI MOŽ IN ATA



Jože Tominc

ki je umrl 25. septembra 1979.

O, ko bi mogli moč skovati,
ki bi prinesla nam nazaj
oblička Tvojega milino
in blagodejni Tvoj smehljaj.

Zvesto Te bomo vsi ljubili,
na Te nikoli pozabili,
v miru božjem Ti počivaj,
v raju večno srečo uživaj!
Tvoji žalujoči:

Cilka — žena
Janez — sin
Marjanca — hčerka
Dori — snaha
Štefka Demšar — sestra
ter ostalo sorodstvo
Richmond Hts., O., 22. sept. 1994.

Pristavski upokojenci poročajo!

CLEVELAND, O. — V koledarju Ameriške domovine je za 16. oktober najavljeno, da Klub upokojencev Slov. pristave priredi »Koline«, na SP. Kaj je že res leto okoli? Tako hitro je minilo. Pomladi res nismo imeli, ker je po dolgi in hudi zimi kar naenkrat pritisnila poletna vročina. Zdaj pa je že jesen tukaj. Nič ne zamerimo Bogu, da nam ne daje slovenskih pomladi; da nam le ohrani lepo jesen!

Jesen je lepša od pomladi, ker je polna barv, polna sušene listov, polna simbolov, kot bi vsa priroda govorila o vsem, kar nas muči in veseli v življenju. O strahu pred smrtjo, o skrbi staranja, dolgočasnosti življenja. Pa zasije sonce, sije dan za dnem, sije kar cele tedne in v naših srcih se porodi veselje in pravimo: »saj ni tako hudo na svetu«. Dokler imamo luč na nebu, ki nam sveti in nas greje, smo lahko radostni, veseli. Kako lepo bi bilo šele življenje, ko bi nas gredo sonce ljubezni medsebojnega razumevanja in družabnosti.

Naš klub je bil letos kar agilen. Vsak mesec smo imeli sestanek na Pristavi. Avgusta smo imeli naš vsakoletni piknik, ki je zelo dobro uspel, saj smo poklonili Pristavi čez tisoč sedemsto dolarjev, to je čisti dobiček našega piknika. Na pikniku smo počastili naša zaslužna člana Jako in Julko Mejač. Naj se ob tej priliki zahvalim Ameriški domovini, dr. Milanu Pavlovčiču in g. Pavletu Lavriši, da vedno objavljajo naše prireditve.

V tem letu smo imeli tudi tri enodnevne izlete in sicer v Warren, Pa., v Put-in-Bay, in v prelepo »Amish country« v okolici Doverja. V molitev priporočamo naše bolnike: g. Janeza Varšek, go. Francko Kristanc in g. Jako Mejača.

Vse člane kluba vabimo na naš mesečni sestanek v sredo, 28. septembra, ob 1.30 popoldne na Slov. pristavi. Pogovorili se bomo, kako bomo čim lepše pripravili naše koline. Vse naše prijatelje pa prisrčno vabimo, da pridejo na naše koline v nedeljo, 16. oktobra. Serviralo se bo od ene do četrte ure popoldne. Mariji Pomagaj na našem Orlovem vrhu se pa priporočamo za lepo vreme.

U.F.

Ob 40. obletnici KRESA

CLEVELAND, O. - Na Slovenski pristavi je bilo vse poletje zelo živahno. Nedeljo za nedeljo so se vrstili pikniki v pomoč različnim društvom, šolam, faram. Mogoče je bilo najbolj zanimivo na pikniku, ki ga je pripravila mladina plesne skupine KRES.

Letos je ta skupina praznovala 40-letnico svojega obstoja. Bila je doba velike aktivnosti, pa zopet malega zastoja. Leta pa so hitela mimo in že je lepa številka odšla v zgodovino.

Mlada Mojca Gobec je navdušila nekdanje Kresove voditeljice, da so zopet poprijele in

pripravile kar lep spored. Nastopilo je precej mladine v raznih skupinah. Bili so prvošolčki, malo starejši, pa še večji, vsak s svojim parom, s cveticami, z balončki, s slovensko zastavo in še mali prizor, kako kljub neznanju jezika najdeš prijateljico. Na koncu programa so vse vaditeljice dobile prav lepe košarice cvetja v spomin na ta praznik. Zelo lepo!

Vsak obiskovalec tega popoldneva je imel tudi priliko si ogledati povečane fotokopije v barvah o štiridesetletnem delu plesne skupine KRES. Od prvih vrat v dvorano do drugih,

so bila kot harmonika postavljena stojala, na njih pa od začetka do zdaj razne skupine v različnih odtenkih. Videli si nasmejane obraze, veselo mladost. Še par slik z letošnjega taborenja je bilo dodanih. Veliko delo si je naložil Metkin oče, profesor Edi Gobec, in ga zares dobro izpeljal. Hvala!

Ni bila velika, mogočna prireditve, bila pa je prisrčna, da smo vsi veseli odhajali z mislijo: Hvala Ti, dobri Bog, ko deliš med nas različne talente, ki se nam razdajajo in plemenitijo. Povrni jim s svojim blagoslovom, da bodo te talente še naprej gradili in nas navduševali.

Udeleženka

Knjižnica Slovenske šole pri Sv. Vidu se zahvaljuje

CLEVELAND, O. - Slovenska šola pri Sv. Vidu se želi zahvaliti vsem sledečim, ki so darovali slovenske knjige, kasete ali videokasete naši knjižnici. Počasi se naša skromna knjižnica obnavlja z vašo pomočjo. Letos se lahko tudi starši in stari starši izposojajo iz knjižnice, ki je v sobi 304 v šoli in bo odprta vsako učno soboto od 9. do 9.15 in od 11.15 do 11.30 dopoldne.

Še enkrat, iskrena hvala sledečim:

Angela Bolha
Ivanka Makše (Kanada)
Družina Anna Jesenko in
"The Slovenian American
Heritage Foundation"
Meta Novak
Marija Bugar
Frank Coffelt
Bernarda Ovsenik
Maria Škrabec
Janez in Ivanka Košir
Anton in Cecilija Žakelj
Zalka in Jože Likozar
Kati Likozar Cup

Odbor staršev

V BLAG SPOMIN

19. OBLETNICE NAŠE
LJUBLJENE MAME,
STARE MAME
IN PRASTARE MAME



Josephine Cimperman
ki je preminula
28. septembra 1975.

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

Žalujoci:

Sin: Louis

Hčer: Rose

Snaha: Mary Cimperman
Vnuki in vnukinje

Cleveland, O., 22. septembra 1994.

Nekaj nezapisanih poletnih misli

NEW YORK, NY - V zgodovini filozofije naletimo na filozofa, ki je rekel: Cogito, ergo sum (Mislim, torej sem). No, po zadnjem kroničnem zapisu sv. Cirila na Osmi se še nisem nič javil v Ameriško domovino. To bi dozdevalo mnogim, da me ni več med živimi, in da je tudi sv. Ciril na Osmi preminul, kot je slovensko-hrvaška fara Gospodovega rojstva v San Franciscu. In vendar sem mislil v tem času tako na sv. Cirila kot na AD in še na mnoge druge stvari. Torej sem še bil in še danes sem, ker mislim in pišem spet kroniko sv. Cirila, tokrat nekaj v drugačni obliki.

Kot že dve leti, tudi letos me pred tretjo julijsko nedeljo ni poklical Jože Grom naznanjač mi: Tone, za nedeljsko mašo ob našem jezercu te bosta pobrala Hribarjeva. Tudi John Hribar je med tem šel za Jožetom prek meje skrivnostne dežele našega življenja. Vdovi Mariji se letos ni dalo iti. Ni se počutila dobro. Tako sem bil v popolni negotovosti glede možnosti biti navzoč pri tej — letos edini — poletni maši župnije sv. Cirila v naravnem templju Gospodovega stvarstva. Kličem sem, kličem tja. Povsod dobim sporočilo: ne. Pa zavrtim še tel. številko domačije Ivana Kamina. Tod mi reko: da.

In tako sem Ivana in Barbi čakal pred hišo že precej časa pred njunim prihodom. Stanujem v petnadstropni stanovanjski hiši. Ko sem se pred 40

ZAHVALA

WICHITA, Kansas - Za Karmeličanke v Sori na Gorenjskem sem prejel sledeče darove: Martin Globočnik, Denver, Colo., \$100; N.N., Kansas, \$500; N.N., Kansas, \$300. Za Koroške študente pa sem dobil sledeče darove: Bart Starc, Arizona, \$40; Victor Novak, Kalifornija, \$1000.

Vsem darovalcem prav prisrčna hvala v imenu staršev, študentov in sester.

Fr. John Lavrih

6900 E. 45th St. N, Apt. D2
Wichita, Kansas 67226

leti vselil vanjo, je bila to najlepša stanovanjska hiša v Ridgewoodu, 48-stanovanjska. Tedaj so bili v večini stanovalci Judje. Tudi lastniki so bili Judje. Vsi so odšli, razen enega. In začuda piše se: Potokar. Potomec Judov iz Slovaške. Je oskrbnik zdaj skoraj opuščene sinagoge v sosednem bloku.

Kakšna sprememba v teh 40 letih, tako v tej stanovanjski hiši in v Ridgewoodu, pa pri sv. Cirilu kot tudi v Ameriki! Če bi jo zdaj obiskal dr. Milan Vidmar, bi spet ugotavljal kot pred 60 leti v svoji knjigi: Med Evropo in Ameriko, da je to »dežela na kolesih«: stalno gibanje, naseljevanje, priseljevanje, preseljevanje, spreminjanje, napredovanje — in pa tudi propadanje.

V naši hiši smo medtem imeli italijansko in portoričansko dobo. Zdaj so lastniki Kitajci. Stanovalec je precej iz Azije, zlasti iz Indije in Pakistana. Dve družini sta mohamedanski, drugi pa so večinoma Sikhi. Osebnost se z vsemi dobro razumem, ker so mirni in vljudni. Lahko bi rekel, da so skorajda bolj človečanski, kot smo mi, kristjani.

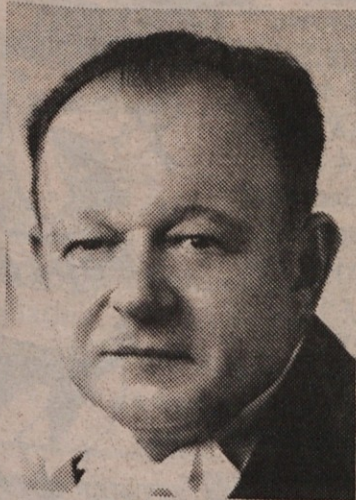
Ko sem na omenjeno tretje-julijsko nedeljo pred hišo čakal na Kaminove, pride iz nje lepa družina Sikhov. Vsi oblečeni v narodne obleke svoje dežele. Kot po navadi se vljudno pozdravimo. Vprašam jih: Kam v teh jutranjih urah v taki obleki. Povedo mi, da se peljejo s svojim avtomobilom v New Jersey v svoj tempelj k skupni molitvi. Pri njih je to tudi njihova skupna meditacija. Torej nekakšna skupna molitev Stvarnika, v katerega verujejo kot Edinega, hkrati pa osebna meditacija. V njihovem verovanju, vestvu, ki izhaja iz hinduizma, igra ljubezen veliko vlogo.

Od te družine sem dobil tudi knjigo: Internal and External Threats to Sikhism. V njej se govori o principih njihovega verovanja, tudi veliko o odnosih do hindujskih vernikov.

Pomislim sem na sedanje odnose med Judi in kristjani, ko

(dalje na str. 10)

V BLAG SPOMIN



LOUIS MAJER

Umrli 22. septembra 1963.

Preteklo 31 let je že,
ko hladna zemlja krije Te.
Zelo vsi smo Te ljubili
in prezgodaj izgubili.

Žalujoci:

Žena — Helen

Hčerka — Ivanka por. Yuko

Zet — John

Vnukinji — Elizabeth in Victoria
ter ostalo sorodstvo v Sloveniji

Novelty, Ohio, 22. septembra 1994.

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STUDIJSKI DNEVI DRAGA 94

SLOVENCİ IN PRIHODNOST

JANEZ JANŠA

— I. del —

V nadaljevanjih objavljamo sicer zelo dolgo predavanje bivšega slovenskega obrambnega ministra Janeza Janša na letošnjih Studijskih dnevih Draga. Govor je podal v nedeljo, 4. septembra.

Najbrž ni slovenskega izobraženca, ki se ne bi zavedal pomena vsakoletnih študijskih srečanj na tem mestu, katera že skoraj tri desetletja, kot je dejal na Dragi 88 G. Alojz Rebula, skušajo »dešifrirati znamenja na slovenskem nebu«. G. Rebula je takrat še pripomnil, da bi bila kaka večja ambicija iluzorna.

Morda je bila ta ambicija leta 1988 skromna, v kar pa dvomim, toda danes, po vzpostavitvi samostojne slovenske države in delni demokratizaciji, je zagotovo težiščna. Nobe ne nadaljnje pozitivne spremembe, ki so nujne, niso možne brez tega, da bi uspeli pravočasno razložiti znamenja, ki se kažejo na slovenskem nebu. Tudi iz tega se da izluščiti potrebnost takšnih srečanj, ki v novostarih časih dobivajo dodaten pomen in težo.

Drago lahko brez lažne skromnosti postavimo ob bok vsem tistim ključnim dogajanjem, ki so v desetletjih totalitarizma pomagali, da se je v zavesti Slovencev ohranila misel resnice in tudi drugačnosti in da je ta misel napredovala. Ustanovitelj Drage Jože Peterlin je sam zapisal, kaj ga je gnalo v ta projekt.

»Cutimo, kako je narod čudežna duhovna enota in celota: v njej je ena duša in eno srce, v njej je skupna trpka preteklost in skupno svetlo upanje; v njej zveni skupna žalost in prekipeva skupna radost. Ta smeh in jok sta razsejana od tod do morja, po Krasu, odmevata v Brdih in svetli Gorici, v revnih vaseh pod Matajurjem in segata v vasi pod Sv. Višarjami in dalje za jezera po Koroškem, se komaj zaznavno čutita do Djekš in Svin planine in se razživita in v zmagoslavju zapojeta pod Triglavom in v Beli krajini. In tudi preko morja segata do ameriških tovarn in argentinskih pamp, do učilnic in predavalnic univerz, na katerih



Janez Janša

poučujejo naši ljudje in se večkrat tujina diči z deli njihovih rok, segata do neznanih krajin, kjer slovenski duhovniki oznanjajo evangelij.«

Ko sem ob pripravi tega predavanja prebiral zbornike dosedanjih srečanj v Dragi, sem v njih našel mnoge odgovore, katere so oziroma ste nekateri udeleženci že včeraj dajali tudi za danes. Nov čas, ki je nastopil po demokratizaciji in osamosvojitvi v letih 1990 - 1992, namreč še ni tako nov, kot bi se to komu zdelo.

Ko govorim o sedanjem političnem trenutku v Sloveniji in o naši prihodnosti ne morem mimo dveh ugotovitev:

1. — Bolj ali manj hrupnega razpada dveh socialističnih imperijev, Sovjetske zveze in Jugoslavije, padec Berlinskega zidu in združitev Nemčij ter propad enostrankarskega socializma v vzhodni in srednji Evropi so konec osemdesetih in v začetku devetdesetih let dvajsetega stoletja oznanili konec

stare in začetek nove dobe v velikem delu sveta. Medtem ko so ocene o minulem obdobju hladne vojne in blokvske delitve več ali manj enotne, pa prihodnost še ni tako jasna. Veliki optimisti, ki so razglašali novo vladavino prava in človekovih pravic, so potihnil. Danes lahko nedvoumno ugotovimo le, da vse tisto, kar je simboliziral padec Berlinskega zidu, še ne predstavlja spremembe same v celoti, temveč šele začetek sprememb. Mnogi dogodki, ki so sledili, so to dejstvo že potrdili. Kljub temu pa so danes na obzorju znani šele bolj medli obrisi novega svetovnega reda. V kolikor lahko sploh dobesedno govorimo o tem, da tak red prihaja.

2. — Enako bi lahko trdili za Slovenijo. Prve svobodne volitve in osamosvojitve sta zakoličila spremembo, ki ji ni para v dosednji slovenski zgodovini. Toda samo zakoličila. Sprememba se je začela s prelomnimi dogodki v svojem bistvu šele dogajati.

In za ta čas, ki ga živimo, je v Sloveniji značilno:

Največji problem v tem trenutku na Slovenskem, ko se vzpostavljajo lastninske, politične in druge osnove za naslednja desetletja, je vprašanje izhodiščne, startne pozicije. Vprašanje enakih možnosti in vprašanje pravil igre.

Če pogledamo ekonomijo, potem lahko vidimo, da je lastninska zgradba daleč od pravičnosti in daleč od tistega, kar je v interesu nacionalnega gospodarstva. Nekdanji uravljavci družbene lastnine so se že dodobra prelevili v njene privatne lastnike.

Ob tem celo nekateri ekonomisti zvenceh imen zagovarjajo tezo, češ da je prav, da imajo največ lastnine najbolj sposobni. Vodilni politekonomski ideolog LDS dr. Bogomir Kovač javno razglasa, da je osnovno vodilo v tem času profit. Drugo ne šteje. Vendar stvari tudi z vidika gole koristi ni tako preprosta. Ni nujno najboljši gospodar tisti, ki je spretno ter uspešno manipuliral in kradel v prehodnem obdobju, temveč prej tisti, ki je do lastnine prišel s trdim poštenim delom in umnim gospodarjenjem. Tisti, ki je na hitro obogatel, praviloma hitro zapravi za luksuz, ali pa iz strahu pred javnostjo spravi kapital v tuje banke, kjer koristi drugim.

• Na eni strani je tako ozek sloj nekdanje vodilne garniture, ki je imel desetletja privilegiran dostop do informacij in znanja, preko službe DV (= Državna varnost oz. tajna policija, op. ur.) pa tudi do osebnih podatkov podrejenih in ostalih sodelavcev in sokrajanov. Danes izkorišča status, pridobljen v nelegitimnem sistemu, za osebno bogatenje in poslovanje preko zasebnih podjetij, medtem ko tista podjetja, za katera so bili desetletja odgovorni, propadajo, saj mnogi nekdanji poslovni partnerji kupujejo pri novih pod-

(dalje na str. 11)

Nekaj nezapisanih poletnih misli

(nadaljevanje s str. 9)

mi kristjani izhajamo iz judovskega verovanja vse do Kristusa. In potem maša slovenska, tam ob jezeru, ko nam Tone Babnik bere mašno berilo od Jeremije 23. poglavja, vrst 1 do 6. Bral nam je tudi tole: »Gorje pastirjem, ki pogublja jo in razpršujejo ovce moje paše, tako govori Izraelov Bog... Vi ste moje ovce razpršili in jih razkropili ter jih niste iskali. Zdaj kaznujem na vas vaša hudobna dejanja... Postavim jim pastirje, ki jih bodo pasli...«

Menim, da se za razlago in razjasnitev teh svetopisemskih misli smem nasloniti na nedeljsko misel za to nedeljo v julijski Ave Maria, koder je zapisano: »Jeremijeva beseda govori o položaju, ki je nastal v Palestini po tem, ko je Nebuhodnezar izselil potomce Davidove dinastije in postavil namestnika, kralja po svojem

okus. V tem času je večina poklicnih prerokov in kraljevih svetovalcev, ki jih je navdihovala ostrina tradicionalne narodne zavesti, zahtevala ponovne zveze z Egiptom in nasilno osamosvojitve. Jeremija graja takšno držo, ki je po njegovi oceni neizvedljiva in naravnost škodljiva, saj je Nebuhodnezar prav zaradi teh zvez udaril po Judih...«

Vse to se je dogajalo na Srednjem vzhodu, v Sveti deželi, veliko, veliko let pred Kristusom. In kaj vse se je in se še dogaja v skoraj 2000 letih po Kristusu, povsod po svetu. Saj smo bili pri tej slovenski maši v večini tisti, in potomci tistih, ki so nas naši domači narodni voditelji razpršili po tem svetu. In da narodu na Slovenskem še po osamosvojitvi v glavnem vladajo tisti pastirji, ali njih namestniki, ki so svoje ovce razpršili po svetu...

Te poletne misli so napisane na dan po Jom Kipru 5755, ko se je poletje letos že nagnilo v poletno jesen...

Tone Osovnik

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V BLAG SPOMIN

OB 9. OBLETNICI SMRTI
NAŠE DRAGE MAME,
STARE MAME, PRASTARE
MAME IN SESTRE



Leopoldina Žitnik

ki je umrla 24. sept. 1985.

*V božjem vrtu sladko spava,
kjer nežne cvetke valove,
naša ljuba, zlata mama,
za trpljenje več ne ve.*

*Srčna ljubljena nam mama,
šla prezgodaj si od nas,
dobra, skrbna si nam bila,
kako brez Tebe dolg je čas.*

Žalujoci ostali:

Ivan in Dušan — sinova
Poldi Bojc — hčerka
in družina

Cleveland, O., 22. septembra 1994.

SLOVENCİ IN PRIHODNOST

(nadaljevanje s str. 10)

jetjih, ki so v lasti ali blizu nekdanjih direktorjev.

Na drugi strani so stotisoči delavcev, ki so jim desetletja govorili, da so gospodarji vsega, danes pa ostajajo na cesti brez zaposlitve in s skromnim certifikatom, pa še tega jim skušajo razne investicijske družbe, vodene tudi od nekdanjih neuspešnih direktorjev in stečajnih upraviteljev, izvabiti z dragimi reklamami ter tako razpolagati tudi s tem delom upravljalne pravice, ki jo po zakonu dajejo združeni certifikati.

Ker ena investicijska družba skoraj nikoli tudi v kombinaciji z drugimi načini lastninjenja ne more dobiti večinskega deleža v zaželenem podjetju (omejuje jo zakon), je nujen dogovor večih družb. Če imajo le-te isto finančno (finančno-politično) zaledje (in 90% jih dejansko bazira v neokomunističnem lobiju), pa kontrola ni več problem. V tem je politično bistvo certifikatskega dela privatizacije, ki bo tudi po lastninjenju ohranilo od povojnih let naprej nikoli prekinjen monopol KPS - ZKS - ZKS SDP - ZL + LDS v nacionalni ekonomiji.

• Na eni strani je nekaj deset tisoč tistih, ki so za desetino vrednosti prišli do imetja vrednosti več sto tisoč mark, kajti za smešno ceno so odkupili boljša stanovanja, do katerih je večina prišla zaradi privilegiranega položaja v enostrankarskem sistemu. V nekaterih funkcijarskih družinah so odkupili celo po več stanovanj.

Na drugi strani so tisoči delavcev in drugih, ki so prav tako desetletja prispevali v različne stanovanjske sklade, dobili pa niso ničesar. Na drugi strani so mlade slovenske družine, ki nimajo nobenega upanja, da bodo v kratkem prišle do stanovanj. Na drugi

strani so desettisoči podnajemnikov, študentov, delavcev in drugih, ki v nekaj letih za skromno podnajemniško stanovanje bivšemu partijskemu funkcionarju plačajo več najemnine, kot pa je on plačal za stanovanje.

• Na eni strani je sloj občinske in državne birokracije, ki bi se na vsak način rad ohranil tudi vnaprej v čimvečjih novih občinah ali pokrajinah in ki na podlagi tajnih navodil nekdanjih komunističnih gospodarjev na vse načine zavira izvajanje zakona o denacionalizaciji. Prav v tem času pa poteka tudi organiziran poskus, da bi se zakon o denacionalizaciji spremenil v škodo okradenim.

Na drugi strani so tisoči zakonitih lastnikov in njihovi potomci, ki jim je bilo premoženje s strani Komunistične partije po letu 45 ukraden in ki po dolgih letih bede in zatiranja ne morejo priti do zakonite lastnine.

Usodnost današnjega časa

Ta razslojenost je ključni notranji problem v tem trenutku za Slovenijo. Mnoge njegove značilnosti so podobne tistim na Madžarskem, Poljskem ali kaki drugi bivši komunistični državi z izjemo Češke in bivše Vzhodne Nemčije.

Čas je zelo usoden. To še toliko bolj, ker nimamo sistema moralnih vrednot, ki bi predstavljal dovolj trdno osnovo pravnemu redu. Danes je v Sloveniji na pohodu korupcija, ki se mnogokrat skriva za besedo pragmatizem. Proti korupciji danes v Sloveniji nastopajo predvsem posamezniki, ki so bili neposredno oškodovani, civilna družba, del novinarjev, Cerkev in del opozicije. Država in njene institucije pa jo z redkimi [izjemami] večinoma ne samo podpira, ampak neposredno omogoča. In v Sloveniji zaenkrat še ni

dovolj sil, ki bo to lahko spreminile. Sicer nikomur še ni uspelo, da bi očistil vse, kar je slabega. Polega tega je včasih mejo med dobrim in slabim zelo težko postaviti, saj se oboje v človeški naravi močno prepleta, prav tako v življenju in družbi nasploh. Tisto, kar predstavlja osnovo za normalno življenje, pa je priznavanje enakih pravic človeku posamezniku vsaj znotraj neke celote, kot je npr. narod ali država.

Ne samo na papirju, ampak v praksi. Razlike so seveda legitimne oziroma pravične, če izhajajo iz dela in znanja, dediščine in ob upoštevanju vsaj približno enakih možnosti drugih. Če pa nekdo dosega uspehe in živi na račun drugih zaradi poznanstev, zvez ali npr. politične moči in denarja, ki so jo (ga) je nabral v času komunističnega enoumja, ko ni bilo svobodnih volitev in možnosti za zdravo konkurenco, potem s tem dela krivico vsem ostalim.

To ne velja samo za politične sinove oziroma drugo generacijo revolucionarjev. Tudi prva je še globoko udeležena pri formalni kapitalizaciji nekdanjih privilegijev. V veliki meri so tudi stari revolucionarji danes postali zelo premožni ljudje. Posedujejo več hiš, stanovanj (pridobljenih po privilegijih), vikendov, pa tudi podjetja. Da o umetninah, zlatu, trofejah in drugih dragocenostih, ki so jih ukradli po drugi svetovni vojni in kasneje in ki danes krasijo marsikatero hišo ali stanovanje lastnika zvenečega imena, niti ne govorim.

Gre za neokomunistični sloj, ki ga po Evropskih merilih ni mogoče razvrstiti, saj je njegova edina vrednota oblast, danes povezana z lastnino, ter strah, da bi kdo poskušal razkriti načine, na katere so se dokopali do lastnine in oblasti. To jih še najbolj veže. Strah in koristi. V vsem drugem so pragmatični, predvsem pa v javnosti lepo govorijo in dodelano nastopajo.

(se nadaljuje)

SAJ NI RES... PA JE!

V starih časih so topovske krogle pred izstrelitvijo razžarili, da so sovražniku naredile večjo škodo, ker so povzročile hude požare.

Niagarski slapovi se vsako leto premaknejo za devetdeset centimetrov nazaj, ker voda za toliko izpodje skalde.

Koledar društvenih prireditev

SEPTEMBER

25. — DSPB Cleveland prireja vsakoletno romanje k Žalostni Materi božji v Frank, O. Sv. maša ob 12. uri.

25. — SKD Triglav, Milwaukee priredi Vinsko trgatv, v Triglavskem parku.

OKTOBER

1. — Pevski zbor »Ave« iz Slovenije ima koncert v SND

NOVI GROBOVI

(nadaljevanje s str. 7)

greb je bil v oskrbi Brickmanovega zavoda na 21900 Euclid Ave. Družina priporoča darove v pokojnikov spomin Slovenskemu domu za ostarele, 18621 Neff Rd., Cleveland, OH 44119.

Antoinette M. Eckart

Dne 19. septembra je umrla Antoinette M. Eckart, rojena Race, vdova po Johnu Tercheu in Aloysiusu Eckartu, mati Ronald, Johna in Jamesa Terchea, Marylyn Dallas in Joan Eckart, 9-krat stara mati, sestra Frances Strogina, Rose Sayle in Ludwiga. Pogreb bo iz Brickmanovega zavoda na Euclid Ave. danes, 22. sept., s sv. mašo v cerkvi Sv. Križa na E. 200 St. ter pokopom na Kalvarije pokopališču.

Andrew Zlatoper

Umrli je 73 let stari Andrew Zlatoper, mož Marjorie, roj. Stoll, oče Andrewa, 2-krat stari oče, brat Josepha, Tonyja, Johna, Mary Rusch, Frances Ross, Elsie Lyttle, Walterja, Elaine Malek in Emme Petkovsek (že pok.). Pogreb je bil 21. septembra v oskrbi Dan Cosic pogrebnega zavoda na 28890 Chardon Rd., s pokopom na pokopališču Knollwood.

In Loving Memory

Of the 8th anniversary of the death of



SYLVIA BANKO

who died September 20, 1986

Deep in our hearts you'll always stay,
Loved and remembered every day.

Sadly missed by:

Jack — husband
Jack, Albin, Raymond — sons

Marilyn and Joanne — daughters-in-law
Renee, Jack Jr., Barbara, Patricia, Pamela — grandchildren

na St. Clair Ave. Pričetek ob 7h zv. Po koncertu igra za ples Alpski sekstet.

2. — Oltarno društvo fare Marije Vnebovzete pripravi kosilo v šolski dvorani.

8. — Progresivne Slovenke Amerike imajo banket ob 60-letnici, v SDD na Waterloo Rd. Večerja od 5. do 6.45, program ob 7.15, nato ples. Igra Fred Kuhar orkester.

9. — Ameriška Dobrodelna Zveza ima Pečenje školjk in steklov na Slovenskem vrtu letovišču v Leroyu.

9. — Praznovanje stoletnice Kranjske slovenske katoliške jednote. Sv. maša ob 12h opoldne v cerkvi sv. Vida. Sledi banket v cerkveni dvorani.

16. — Klub upokojencev Slovenske pristave priredi kolone, na SP.

22. — Štajerski klub priredi martinovanje v Slov. narodnem domu na St. Clairju. Pričetek ob 6.30 zv. Igra Alpski sekstet.

23. — Občni zbor Slovenske pristave.

30. — Klub graduantov farne šole sv. Vida ima obed v dvorani pri sv. Vidu. Serviranje ob 1.30.

NOVEMBER

6. — Ameriška Dobrodelna Zveza priredi večerjo ob 84. obletnici ustanovitve, v SND na St. Clairju.

12. — Pevski zbor Jadran ima koncert, združen z večerjo in plesom, v SDD na Waterloo Rd.

12. — Belokranjski klub priredi martinovanje, v Slov. narodnem domu na St. Clairju. Igra Alpski sekstet.

13. — Slovenian American Heritage Foundation prireja Slovenski večer v SDD na St. Clair Ave.

13. — Ob 75-letnici ustanovitve pod Dramatsko društvo Lilija veseloigro »Svoje-glavček« v Slov. domu na Holmes Ave.

DECEMBER

4. — SKD Triglav, Milwaukee priredi miklavževanje.

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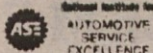
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Japonskem, pošilja spet zanimivo meditacijo, ki jo bomo objavili v dveh člankih v celoti, čim pridem spet do svojega misijonskega arhiva. Končuje članek s pesmijo, ki naj jo dodam uredniku AD za božično objavo (op. ur. — pesem bo shranjena do ene zadnjih izdaj AD pred božičem).

V Sloveniji sta na dopustu še brat Revtar iz Zambije in misijonar Šömen iz Tanzanije.

V Torontu smo prejeli zadnje tedne vrsto darov misijonskih dobrotnikov za bogoslovne vzdrževalnine in druge namene, kot tudi razne darove iz ZDA, kar bomo objavili, čim dosežemo spet došlo misijonsko pošto. Najbrže bo to h koncu meseca, ko bom že v Princetonu, NJ.

Žal mi je bilo te dneve v zahodni Kanadi, da nisem mogel srečati vrste rojakov pionirjev, ki so ledino kopali v Lethbridgu, Calgaryju, Edmontonu in Edsonu v Alberti, kot tudi v Vancouverju in Vancouver Islandu, v Nanaimu in Port Alberni, kjer sem od l. 1952 do 1959 misijonaril in po želji rajnega p. Bernarda Ambrožiča nadaljeval njegovo pionirsko delo v ZD in Kanadi. Takrat mi je pisal v Philadelphijo, Pa., naj to delo prevzamem, češ da se on stara in da sem zato jaz še dovolj mlad.

Mislil sem na lepo skupino rojakov v Lethbridgu, s Pavlom Kvedrom, Novaki, Dimniki, Hribarji in drugimi. Prav tako na rajnega Martina Turka in naš prvi misijon po želji nadškofa Duka, da bi ustanovili slovensko-hrvatsko župnijo, ki se ni nikdar uresničila, dasiravno imajo sedaj Hrvatje v Vancouverju svojo faro.

MZA ima mimo gospe Cvetke Mahnič, ki redno zbira letno za naše misijonarje v imenu

MZA v Lethbridgu, Alberta, še sodelavke v Vancouverju in Victoriji. Dve dobri sestre, ki sta prišli iz Clevelanda v Victorijo, sta aktivni, in, v zadnjem času so še nove dobrotnice, ki so se MZA pri sodelovanju pridružile z bogoslovskimi vzdrževalninami že letos. Težko je bilo do teh dobrih duš, ker je človek odvisen od skupine, ki jo vodi drugi in možnosti iti kam 'na svoje' v času skupnih izletov v daljave.

Pred odhodom na zahodni del

Kanade, smo že v Torontu nabavili dva velika čeka MZA, da odpošljemo letos zgodaj pomoč vsem našim misijonarjem in misijonarkam, duhovnikom, sestram in laikom; letno pomoč, ki bo znesla \$500 za duhovnike in sestre ter \$250 za vsako laično moč.

Z razpošiljanjem pomoči za 1993 smo imeli precej težav in banke nerade poslujejo internacionalno, če se čeki kmalu ne zamenjajo. Težko je razumeti, počemu ček ni kmalu vnovčen, dasiravno razumemo pojasnilo z Madagaskarja in ekonomista lazaristov Tardeta iz Pariza, da za vsak zamenjani ameriški ček v Franciji plačajo zelo visoko takso. Tako smo se odločili za leto 1994 poslati obema velikima skupinama naših misijonskih pionirjev v enem čeku za vse in na enega naslov, ki naj potem denar razdeli vsakemu posamezniku, kot je najlažje in kdo potrebuje. Oba čeka bosta šla naprej po vsej verjetnosti sredi septembra, tako na Madagaskar kot v Zambijo. Upoštevali smo tudi vse tiste, ki so trenutno odsotni v domovini in na dopustu. Čuli smo, da od jezuitov pride v Kanado samo o. Rozman.

Gdč. Ferjanova je tudi poslala večim vodilnim v MZA New York, Joliet, Cleveland

in Fairfield misijonske spominke, ki so se nam ta leta nabrali. Pošta nam je vrnila onega za Fairfield, češ da se je paket od ovojnice ločil in na pošti izgubil. Bilo nam je žal, pa se tudi to lahko zgodi.

Spominki so bili zelo raznovrstni, od slonokoščenih do izdolbenih in slik ter barvnih listov, do drobnih spominkov in nekaj znamk, ki imajo za misijonskega ljubitelja vedno dragoceno vrednost.

Z davčnimi potrdili za dobrotnike v Kanadi bomo imeli

verjetno v bodoče malo težav, ker sam ne bom več v Kanadi. Bomo pa skušali najti kako možnost, če se bo dalo, in bomo o tem dobrotnike v MSIP obvestili. Sicer sem to zadevo nedavno preštudiral in velikodušni dobrotnik ne bo utrpel za nekaj stotakov večje škode, če potrdila ne dobi. Mislil na lestvico za 'tax break' po sedanjem statutu za leto 1993-4.

Zanimivo sem istočasno odkril, da Kanada priznava davčna potrdila iz ZD, seveda samo do gotove višine izdatkov in takim, ki istočasno plačajo redno kanadske takse.

Priznani torontski trgovini znamk, ki jih prodaja samo trikrat ali štirikrat na leto po en teden na temeljito pripravljenih 'auctions', sem oddal večino svoje nabirke znamk, zbranih zadnja leta v Kanadi. Med bolj iskanimi so mi izrazili, da je vse s Tajvana, kar mi je leta pošiljal ob vsaki novi izdaji znamk tam rajni dr. Janež. Prav tako nemške, ki jih je nabavljali v Münchnu naš sodelavec g. Franc Šeškar.

Seveda, nič ni gotovega, koliko bo iz njih za MZA pomoči. Sem pa vesel, da je nabirka sedaj v pripravi prihodnjih licitant. To bo potolažilo tudi naše sodelavke, ki so znamke sortirale dolga leta, go. Karlo Kucher in Angelo Železnik, v Clevelandu. Trgovcu sem obljubil, da mu bomo odstopili v prodajo še druge znamke, ki jih hranimo v ZD, če bo te pošteno za nas prodal.

Dejali so mi, da vzamejo zase 10 odstotkov vsote od prodanih znamk in da skušajo prodati vedno najvišjemu ponudniku, ki išče znamke iz zavrtkov na razpolago. Izdajo za vsako tako prodajo oz. 'auction' nov katalog in numerirajo zavrtke z lepimi znamkami. V vsak zavitek pa priložijo tudi nekaj znamk, ki nimajo kake večje vrednosti, a jih imajo pri rokah za oddajo.

Že leta nas čudi, da misijonski prijatelji tako redko v svojem testamentu darujejo za MZA in naše misijonarje ter

misijonarke. Omenjam to zato, ker sem kot župnik od angleško govorečih faranov in prijateljev župnije vsa ta leta dobil iz testamenta kak dar za sv. maše in večkrat nevezan dar za župnijo ali osebno na svoje ime, da se uporabi, kot sam smatram za najbolj potrebno.

Človek na to pomisli, ko kak ugleden pogrebnišnik pove, kako se ob pripravi pogreba mlajši rod iz sorodstva pogostoma trudi, da bi pogreb stal čim manj in takoj zatem prosi, kako se izpolni obrazec za varovalnino, ki jo je rajni imel in zapustil. Eden med njimi mi je nedavno dejal, da je takih prizorov precej in da je žalosten, ko to doživlja. »Kar gnusi se mi včasih,« je dejal, »in upam, da nobeden mojih otrok ne bo po moji smrti kaj sličnega počenjal.«

Kdo ve? In kdo more predvidevati, kaj se bo njemu primerilo, posebej danes, ko marsikateri mlajši veliko ne veruje ali celo vere ne prakticira in po njej ne živi.

Med »greh opustitve« bi po letih sodelovanja mnogih pri MZA štel tudi dejstvo, da ni več slovenskih staršev z dejavno vero svoje otroke bolj navajalo na misijonske žrtve, kot so to storili nekateri med nami v tako blagoslovljeni meri.

Ko ta članek končujem še v Vancouverju, B.C., pred povratkom jutri zjutraj v Toronto, Boga prosim, da bi misijonska ljubezen vedno bolj vnela mnoge naše sodelavce in sodelavke, ki bi bili pripravljeni in voljni misijonsko misliti, živeti in žrtvovati. Brez misijonske Cerkve bi verjetno nas in naših prednikov v katoliški veri ne bilo. Bodimo hvaležni za ta največji božji dar svete vere, ki je za našim življenjem največ, kar imamo. To nam tudi oni, ki so umirali v Teharjih in v Kočevskem

Rogu neprestano dopovedujejo. Da bi čimbolj mi vsi to v globini doumeli.

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A Neighborhood on Fire!

My Memories of Explosion

by EDWARD J. PIKE

As told to the
American Home

On that fateful day of October 20, 1944 I was an 8th grade student at St. Vitus elementary school in Cleveland, Ohio. It was at 2:40 p.m. as Sister Philothea was beginning another lesson when the windows began to rattle. Because our classroom windows faced north toward St. Clair, we saw the tragedy as it unfolded.

Our initial vision was a big ball of fire, in almost a mushroom shape coming towards our school building. I believe our nun, Sister Mary Philothea, who was the teacher and a principal, tried to instill some calm but as fast as it unfolded, everyone basically ran for the front door, and setting speed records I can assure you. I have never run that fast before, nor since!

We ran through the hallway

and although we were the last classroom on the first floor (Room 5), we were the first class outside because of what we had witnessed from our windows that faced north.

Once I was outside, the heat was immense from the initial explosion.

There was a lot of pandemonium in the neighborhood, people were running towards Superior Avenue. I ran for home to see how the family survived, but on the way, at Norwood and Glass Avenue, there was a big explosion going through the sewer system which was almost as wide as Norwood Road.

Of course it blew up the sewer manhole covers into the air like they were tin hats.

At this moment I really did not know what was actually happening. Of course, World War II was going on and there were all kinds of rumors in the immediate time after the explosion - possibly it was

sabotage, but later we learned that there was a leak in the tank which caused the havoc and the second tank blew up also about an hour later.

When I arrived home, Dad and Mom were okay (my brother, Frank, was in the seminary). My dad was preparing to go to his job at Geometric Stamping via a streetcar at the Norwood-St. Clair stop. I don't mind telling you that he did not go to work that day.

I had an *Ameriška Domovina* paper route and at that time was also delivering *The Press* newspaper but not that day.

I normally passed those three gas tanks each and every day at about 5 p.m.

As the area affected was cordoned off, people were leaving for safer places. Our family stayed at our uncle Ludwig Hrovat's home in Maple Heights. We stayed with him for about four days, coming home Tuesday, Oct. 24th.



A few days later the effects of the disaster were made known. There were over 130 people killed, many of them Slovenians, who were predominantly living in the disaster area. Where I normally had picked up *The Cleveland Press* at E. 62nd and St. Clair, a hook and ladder fire engine fell into a huge hole after the underground sewers exploded. The main sewer line that ran down Norwood Road was closed for six months for repairs.

The railroad tracks were

damaged also; the rails were twisted like pretzels from the terrible heat.

I think the East Ohio Gas Company did a good job meeting their responsibilities, as I recall, there were no lawsuits that were filed and people were fairly reimbursed for their losses.

ED NOTE: Ed Pike's family home was on E. 63rd St., between Glass and Carl Ave. He is now owner of Ed Pike Lincoln-Mercury, Volkswagen car dealership in Mentor, O.



Recollections of Disaster

apart.

God was with all of us. Prior to that we lived on E. 62nd Street, north of St. Clair. I was born there; we had moved seven months before the gas explosion.

Well, 50 years later, I have a wonderful family of seven children and 10 grandchildren. Also, my oldest son is known among our Slovenian people as Dan Cosic of the Dan Cosic Funeral Home on Chardon

Road in Willoughby Hills, Ohio.

The East Ohio Gas Explosion in 1944 was an experience that I shall never forget.

Dolores Cosic
Broadview Hts., O.

Honey Vogel submits story on Tragedy

NOTE: Regarding the East Ohio Gas Fire. I forward this article among some of my husband's papers. He was an employee of the East Ohio Gas Company and being a Slovenian, he was asked to be present when he could to help explain to both parties (Slovenian and English-speaking) what was being said.

—Ivana Vogel

NOTE: The first part of the article is missing. It was from an old newspaper clipping. It mentions the government officials who were active in restoring the neighborhood in-

cluding Law Director Thomas A. Burke who would succeed Frank J. Lausche as mayor.

Eventually there were three investigations of the tragedy: one by the mayor's board, one by Dr. Gerber (the coroner), and another by fire underwriters. One charged that the gas company should not have located the tanks in a residential neighborhood. It blamed the city for permitting such construction.

Burial of the dead was not completed until Nov. 24. Biggest funeral was the mass

burial of 61 victims in caskets furnished free by manufacturers. Each went to Highland Park Cemetery in separate hearses, and the cortege stretched for miles.

As the city mourned the dead, Grdina's father, Anton, thought of the living. He was president of the North American Bank and the leader of Cleveland's Slovenian community.

He helped organize the St. Clair-Norwood Rehabilitation Corp. and drove it to rebuild from the ashes. The group collected from merchants and used the money to buy devastated land strewn with the ashes of 79 homes.

The 30-foot lots were replanted into 45-foot lots on E. 61st and E. 62nd streets. Sixteen one-family homes of brick were built and sold at reasonable prices to families made homeless by the fire.

They stand today, a neat row of brick monuments to the resilience of man, connected by a brand new street cut in 1945. The connecting street is Anton Grdina Ave. NE.

Where the tanks of East Ohio
(Continued on page 4)



My name is Dolores Cosic, nee Grivitz. I am a daughter of the late John and Mary Grivitz of E. 62nd (north of St. Clair) and also of Norwood Rd.

The East Ohio Gas story of 50 years ago as I remember it on October 20, 1944 resulted in 135 deaths.

At that time I was eight years old and was a pupil in the second grade at St. Vitus Elementary School.

On that eventful day, I went to school as usual, only this day turned out to be a disaster. On that afternoon (2:40 p.m.) during our studies, the classroom windows began to rattle, followed by a loud blast. The next thing I remember is the fire drill bell went off and we all filed out of the class and we were directed to go up to Willson Junior High School on East 55th st. I still didn't know what was going on.

There I saw Mrs. Anna Grajs who would watch me sometime until my mother came home from work. Mrs. Grajs, her granddaughter and myself were taken by the Red Cross; they found shelter for us with a family on E. 79th Street.

That night the three of us were on the third floor when we heard the last tank explode. We all were very frightened. The next couple of days were still scary for me because I didn't find my parents.

Finally, on the third morning the three of us started to go out and walk and look for my mother. That same morning, my mother was also looking for us. I saw her first and screamed, "Mama!" That was a very happy moment for us; we all cried tears of joy.

My mother told us about her ordeal and how she came to Willson school but I was already gone. There they couldn't tell her where I was, only with whom. She said that when she was running down Norwood Road, the sewer man-hole covers were popping up everywhere. She was almost hit by one. Mother also helped a lady by dousing the flames that were engulfing her.

My mother said she was so scared because she couldn't find me or my father. He was working at the White Motor Co. on E. 79th St. My mother eventually laughed, saying, that we were only three streets

Stories of Survivors and the Aftermath

by TERRY MEEHAN
East Ohio Gas

One hundred and thirty people died in the fire, including 73 East Ohio Gas employees, two roofing workers who were on the grounds at the time, two employees of nearby factories, 32 neighborhood residents, and 21 victims who were never identified or reported as missing. Over 200 people were hospitalized. Nine EOG employees survived briefly but died while in the hospital.

Had the tragedy occurred an hour or so later, many more of the employees would have been back in the shop — and many of the neighborhood children would have been home from school.

With a combination of quick thinking, quick feet, some heroic acts, and just plain luck, 40 to 50 EOG employees escaped the holocaust. Most of those who made it out climbed a barbed wire fence at the northeast corner of the property where E. 63rd Street dead ends into the New York Central railroad tracks.

Three survivors are still alive today: **Edward O'Connell**, 96; **Sandy Drago**, 84 and **Joe Peterlin**, 84.

Taken from various testimony, statements to the company, and personal interviews, here are the stories of some who survived — and some who did not.

Roy Feightner, Assistant Chief Engineer of the liquid plant, had just gotten word from Engineer **Hugh O'Donnell** that tank number one was full. He was standing near the north doorway of the compressor building with his boss, Chief Engineer **Connie Daiber**, and with the operator in charge of that day's shift, **Dale Keller**. The three stood approximately 100 feet from LNG storage tank No. 4. With all of the tanks now full, they would relax for a moment and discuss the shutting down of the plant.

At 2:40 p.m. they heard a low rumble "like distant thunder." The three quickly stepped outside and saw a white vapor coming from the direction of tank number 4. Almost immediately the vapor turned to flame.

Feightner and Keller ran toward the wrought iron picket fence that separated the plant from East 55th Street. They did not see where Daiber went. Feightner was unable to reach the fence; Keller made it, but was unable to get over. Feightner jumped into a water well which surrounded an old-style gas holder.

In testimony before the Mayor's Board of Inquiry, Feightner describes what occurred while he was in the life saving water:

"About that time Dale Keller came running from the southerly direction with his

hair and clothes all on fire... I hollered at him and he stopped and I told him to get in with me, which he did. He went down in the water and put the fire out on his clothes."

Here is how Keller remembered it, when questioned:

"The fire was all around me, and what to do, I don't know what made me do it or why I did it, but I got up, and whether I ran wild or whether something told me where to go or what, but... I heard a voice, and I stopped, and it was in the water that seals this old type gas holder, and I got down in there."

Q. "Did you find somebody else in there?"

A. "Yes, sir."

Q. "Who was it?"

A. "Roy Feightner."

During a lull, the two men again attempted to scale the fence; Keller made it over first and gave Feightner a boost from the other side. A motorist took them to a hospital. These activities took place in and around what is now the front lawn of the main building at No. 2 Works.

O'Donnell died that day; Daiber died nine days later in the hospital; Keller had a lengthy stay in the hospital, but survived. Feightner had minor injuries and spent many hours on the witness stand explaining the complex operations of the liquid plant to the Mayor's Board of Inquiry.

Sandy Drago was checking in a new load of gas pipe. He bent down to measure a length of pipe and suddenly felt intense heat; by the time he stood up, the batch of order sheets he was holding became a torch. He saw the flames near the liquid plant leap into the air, and said to himself, "feet, do your duty." Though rejected from the army because of fallen arches, Sandy was an athlete who could run; and run he did, toward the northeast corner of East Ohio's property, where East 63rd meets the New York Central railroad tracks. Due to lack of oxygen he fell three times, but was able to get back up. After helping his friend **Giulio Delgaudio** clear the fence, Sandy made it over, too. He suffered severe burns and was hospitalized for 46 days.

Paul Janos and **Arthur Leach** were working in the garage as **David Damon** came running in. Soon, four other men ran into the garage — they were on fire. Janos and Damon each tore the clothes off two of the men and Leach grabbed a fire extinguisher and trained it on them. These men then ran toward 63rd Street. Then Janos lowered a tow truck from a rack, drove it out of the garage and tried to break through the fence. The fence would not give way, so the three men had to scale the

barbed wire. Leach sustained only minor injuries; Janos was dazed and suffered burns to his hands; Damon was hospitalized, but survived.

Two of the men who came into the garage on fire were **Frank Roberts** and **Frank Thoman**. They looked "like zombies," according to **Paul Janos**. Janos remembers tearing their clothes off and **Arthur Leach** remembers spraying the fire extinguisher on them. Someone, probably **David Damon**, took the two men out of the garage and led them toward East 63rd and the NYC tracks. **Frank Tepley** remembers holding Roberts as men from Lamson and Sessions were placing ladders and helping the men get over the fence. Tepley also saw Thoman at this time.

Sadly, both Roberts and Thoman died in the hospital the next day.

Old? Who's Old?

Atilio Markic left the blacksmith shop, ran toward 63rd, could not scale a wooden fence, successfully scaled a wire fence, got first aid at Lamson and Sessions, ran when a second explosion occurred, and ended up at Mt. Sinai Hospital with burns and 17 stitches.

Frank Gracar left the boiler room, ran toward the railroad tracks, stopped to pull burning clothes off of a co-worker, scaled the fence, walked 20 blocks, and treated himself for slight burns and minor cuts.

Markic was 62. Gracar was 64.

Richard Vokes, 44, was walking back from the weld shop to the machine shop when the fire started. He threw himself on the ground behind a small building and while there remembers seeing **Sandy Drago** and **Joe Peterlin** running with their clothes on fire. He decided he had better run, too. He made it over the fence and eventually found himself at the corner of E. 63rd and St. Clair. Just then **Tom O'Neill** and his crew, heading from the east side back toward the shop, were beginning to shut off gas services. Though Vokes had barbed wire cuts on his hands and wrists, burns on his neck, and bruised ribs, someone threw him a street key and he spent much of the rest of the day shutting off gas.

Special Inspector, **Walter Shepard** and his helper, **James Danahy**, were working on a unit heater at Green Drug at 55th and Euclid when they were told of the fire. They drove to East 62 and St. Clair and walked in the direction of the flames to the American Gas Association building on East 62nd Street. They entered and turned off all the valves that they could find at tanks and meters. Houses all around them were burning and the firemen had turned their hoses

on the AGA building. There were gas holders in the rear of the building.

Shepard was questioned by the Mayor's Board of Inquiry:

Q. "Is that the reason you picked the AGA because of those holders in the rear?"

A. "Yes, that's right."

Q. "You probably saved them an awful lot of equipment by going in there and shutting off the valves?"

A. "It is possible; I don't know."

Q. "You don't work for the A.G.A.?"

A. "No, sir, but that was the natural instinct I got at the plant, I tried to protect everything I could."

Q. "Had everybody at the plant come out?"

A. "They had all left, the building was burning."

Q. "And you went in?"

A. "Yes."

When they left AGA, Shepard and Danahy went back up to St. Clair and smashed a manhole to keep it from blowing up. Later, they helped direct traffic until midnight.

After the Fire:

Stories of Courage

George Binder, Superintendent of the Cleveland Division, was in general charge of all operations in the Cleveland area, including the No. 2 Works plant. He was out of the office the day of the fire, supervising the tie-in of a new line. Once he realized what had happened he headed back to No. 2 works and was on the grounds within 2 hours after the fire started. Fighting traffic and bypassing police barricades, he followed the tracks over 55th street and got into the property in the same area where many others had made their escapes. Those who worked in the same office building with Binder, however, never had a chance to escape. They were too close to the source of the fire.

Under Binder's leadership, four major tasks had to be accomplished by EOG employees during the aftermath of the fire:

1. Making the area safe.
2. Checking the surviving spheres.
3. Controlling the errant gas.
4. Draining the tanks.

1. Making the Area Safe — Working that Night

According to a Press article the day after the fire, the gas was shut off in a 2 square mile area. The gas had to be brought under control. 6200 houses and factories had to be turned back on, but first everything had to be made safe. (Press 10-21-44)

Tom O'Neill, a service foreman had been working on the east side and was heading back to No. 2 Works. By the time he got to St. Clair and 62nd the homes were on fire.

To secure safety, he and his gang immediately proceeded to turn off services on the north side of St. Clair.

Later, he and his crew met up with **George Beigie** and others who were discussing how to stop the flow of gas from coming into the area. An ad hoc group of engineers, inspectors, street department workers and service personnel came together that night to see what they could do to make the neighborhood safe. **Martin Coyne** and **Martin Joyce** were also among them. They made two cuts in the main lines and packed the openings with sandbags and sealed the ends with plaster of paris. They found that the lines were still alive and checked the maps and found a back feed on a 24-inch line. Someone suggested that if there were a low point in the line they could flood it. Marty Joyce remembered where the low point was and led the crew to it. They flooded the line with water and stopped the flow of gas. O'Neill and the others worked until 9:30 the morning after the fire, at which time they tested all sewer manholes for leaking gas. Now that the neighborhood was safe, the tired heroes went home for a well-deserved rest.

That same night, **J. J. McMahon**, an EOG claim agent, worked until the wee hours contacting families of dead workers. All the time he knew that his own brother was missing. Later, he learned that **William McMahon** had died.

. Checking the Surviving Spheres — Going to the Top of the Tank

Appearing in the Press on the day after the fire, was the following statement by EOG President **J. French Robinson**: "The uppermost thought in our minds is to check the remaining tanks and make sure that there can be no further explosion or fire... we can't tell yet (if there is liquid remaining in them) and won't be able to until they cool off and we can get men on them." (Press 10-21-44)

Two of the several men who went to the top of the tank were **Willard "Mac" McCartney** and **Pat Malloy**. Though the two men hardly knew each other, they found themselves working together in the late October days of 1944. In recent interviews, McCartney remembered Malloy as "a rough and ready Irishman whose word was as good as the Bible." Malloy remembered McCartney as a man who quietly did his job, but whose actions during the aftermath "took a lot of courage."

An area of the neighborhood was evacuated, just in case. When the tanks were empty the liquid the town could breathe easier.

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Chaos Reigns Supreme

by Dan J. Postotnik

It is quite remarkable that one of our octogenerian senior citizens remembers so much about what happened to him and his family on that fateful 20th day of October, in the year 1944, almost 43 years ago. It was really miraculous how they came through this horrible experience unscathed.

Michael M. Kolar, of 1160 East 71st Street, Cleveland, Ohio, a lifetime employee of the "Ameriška Domovina", and retired some ten years ago, had then lived with his family at 1021 East 61st Street. He recalled that his wife and he had just completely remodeled their dwelling, painting and wallpapering the entire house, a short time before.

"On the morning of Oct. 20, 1944, I drove our youngest daughter, Anne Marie, to St. Vitus School, went back home, and parked my car in the driveway", said Mike Kolar, "I then walked to my place of employment, which was just around the corner, at 6117 St. Clair Ave. I never dreamed then, that this was the last time I would see our home or our car." The car was the first and last he ever owned.

About 2:30 PM there was a big bang, and all of the lights went out at the "Ameriška Domovina". Jerry Knaus, another employee, looked out the front door, and the deaf mute yelled something which sounded like "Fire". Mike's wife, Mary (nee Sterk), had barely gotten out of the house alive with her two small children, Joey and Michael, and headed through turmoil to the American Home Publ. Co. There was chaos everywhere. Her husband asked her if they could go to the house, but his wife answered that everything was on fire, including the car, and that they should hurry over to St. Vitus School to pick up their daughter.

"When we arrived, all the children were out of the building, and marching toward Superior Ave.", continued Mike, "we were fortunate that we spotted our daughter as fast as we did. We then started to walk south on East 61st Street toward Superior Ave., and when we reached Bonna Ave., the second tank exploded. Billows of orange balls of flame hovered over St. Vitus Church, but all of a sudden, the wind changed direction, and the balls of flame began moving northerly, toward "Kurje Vas", north of the railroad tracks. This was really miraculous."

Along the way to Superior Ave., Mr. Birk, who owned a furniture store at E. 55th and Superior, picked them up in his car. They drove east on

Superior Ave., and all the manholes were popping up. The Birk's car turned down E. 71st Street, and made it to 7710 St. Clair Ave., where Mrs. Kolar's mother lived. It was so very fortunate that a suite was empty at the time, and they were able to make their new home here.

Mary Kolar was pregnant at the time with Mary Agnes, who was born the following January, and one could say that another miracle happened when Mrs. Kolar had a normal delivery, and both mother and baby were in good health.

Mike Kolar's sisters, Mary and Rose Kolar, who had lived at 1025 East 61st St., and were at work when the catastrophe occurred, also lost everything. The Kolars' relatives and friends were all so very happy when they found out that they were safe and sound at Mrs. Sterk's house.

Loudspeakers were coming through the streets all evening telling us not to turn on the gas.

"The explosion and fire occurred on a Friday afternoon", related Mike Kolar, "and on the following Tuesday, Oct. 24, 1944, we put out an eight page paper

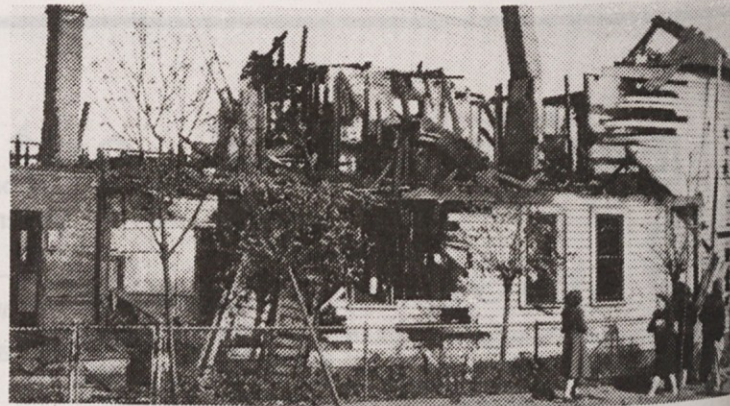
through the efforts of owner publisher Mr. James (Jaka) Debevec, and his crew."

The only damage to "Ameriška Domovina": skylights were blown out. St. Vitus Church, St. Vitus School, and Slovenian National Home were left in good shape.

"We stayed at 7710 St. Clair Ave. until April 1945," said Mr. Kolar, "and kept looking around for a home we could buy. We spotted a big house with a large yard (just what we wanted), at the corner of E. 71st Street, and Schaefer Ave. Mary and I fell in love with it, moved into it in May 1945, and that is where we still live.

When they bought this home from Frank Lach, he showed the Kolars' where paint had peeled on the house from the intense heat of the fire on E. 61st Street seven months before.

Mike and Mary Kolar went through a lot in those days, but are forever thankful to God for miraculously sparing their lives, and the lives of their children, and allowing them to pull through this ordeal without bodily harm. Taken from the Sept., 1987 A.H. Mike Kolar has since passed away.



(Continued from page 1)

stood, a city playground was built. It, too, was named for Grdina. He died in 1957 at the age of 83.

The corporation repaid all the merchants and was dissolved in 1952.

The Jaycees planted 75 elms a year after the tragedy. They tower 75 feet now on E. 61st near Carry ave. NE.

"Very few people from the accident still live here," the younger Grdina said. "A lot of them moved away, and immigrants who came here after the war now live there."

Rarely does anyone today ask to see the monument at the cemetery. William Hahn, the cemetery supervisor, said.

The city erected it in 1950 at a cost of \$20,000. It is of marble, and bronze plaques carry

the names of the dead. One plaque has 40 names; the other notes that 21 were never identified.

Gas now is stored underground.

Thanks

Thanks to the following who contributed either articles or photos for this special edition:

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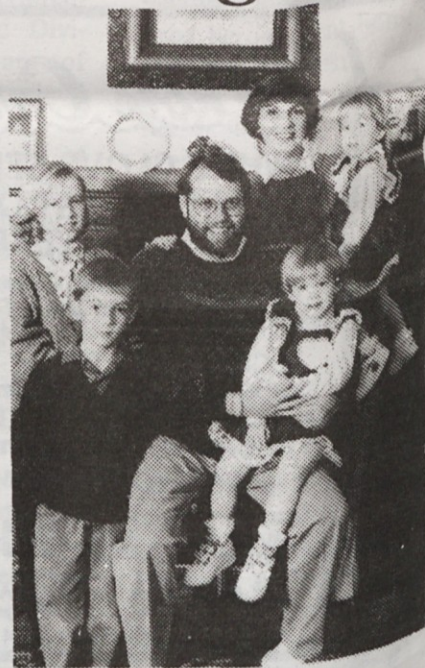
Pete Manfrieda

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Mrs. Polk (E. 226 St.)

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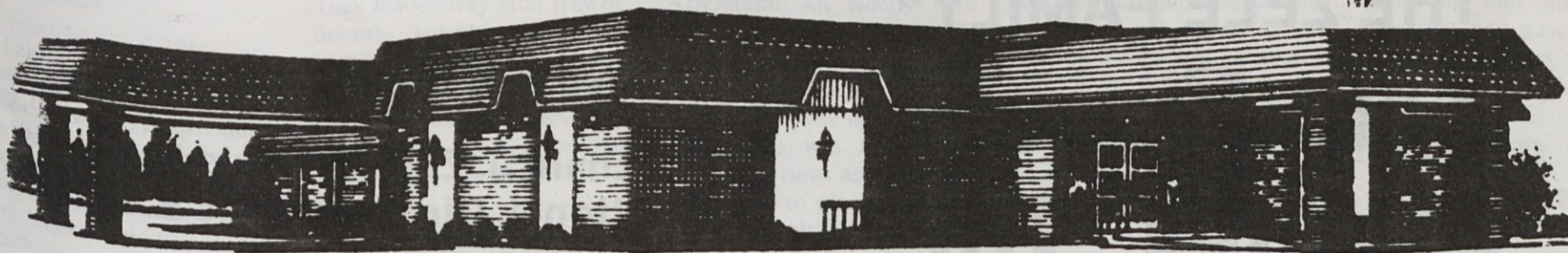
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CLEVELAND, OHIO

Disaster as seen thru the eyes of Justine Girod⁷

by Justine Zele Girod

(This entire page is reprinted from the September, 1987 A.H.)
Early morning on Oct. 20, 1944 I received a call from City Hospital that my husband, Sutton Girod would undergo surgery. I quickly drove my three and one-half year old daughter, Juliene, to her Grandma Zele's home on E. 152nd St. I did not see her again for four days. Shortly after noon I spoke with Sutton after surgery and his doctor assured me that everything was fine. We lived at Addison and St. Clair above my father's funeral home. On the way home I stopped at May Co. to purchase a sweater I had promised to my daughter. The excited clerk told me the radio announced that East Ohio Gas Co. blew up and half the east side was in flames. I rushed to a phone and called my father at the funeral home. Dad was in a state of shock. There had been an explosion and the gas was burning. The flames were higher than the Slovenian Home. He ordered me to come immediately as he was along, but to come via Superior not St. Clair. He was sure the rear of the Slovenian Home was burning—the fire appeared so close and the heat was already intense. He was going over to help Gus Kollander to get out. I drove as far as Hecker Ave. when police stopped me. I explained why I must get home. A Civilian Defense member was sent to the funeral home to verify and I was allowed to go home escorted by the CD man. I had to leave my car—the Legat family put it in their driveway. People were standing in shocked groups. Police kept people from the St. Clair fire area. There were no words that can tell of the horror. Nobody knew where to turn to find out about family and friends. People were running away from the gas area and the streets where houses were burning. Some did not realize that the intense heat had burned on the back of their necks and legs and arms. Many went to Glenville Hospital.

Lakeside Hospital Disaster team established headquarters at Zele Funeral Home. Since we had weekly meetings at our chapel of the Civilian Defense Corp. I brought out and set up cots, blankets and first aid kits which were stored there. Doctors and nurses set up their equipment. Fortunately I had a case of coffee and I made coffee all night long. From City Hall a group came with heavy plat books that had layouts and installation records of underground gas and water lines and pipes. I noticed some of the entries were dated 1888. The open books covered the whole desk. The street was opened between Komins' drug store and Zele Funeral Home. The gas lines were cut and shut off valves run from our office thru win-

dows to the street. One of the crew informed me that those record books were never permitted to be removed from City Hall—but these were desperate times. These men were among the unsung heroes since there was fear that the other two storage tanks could explode.

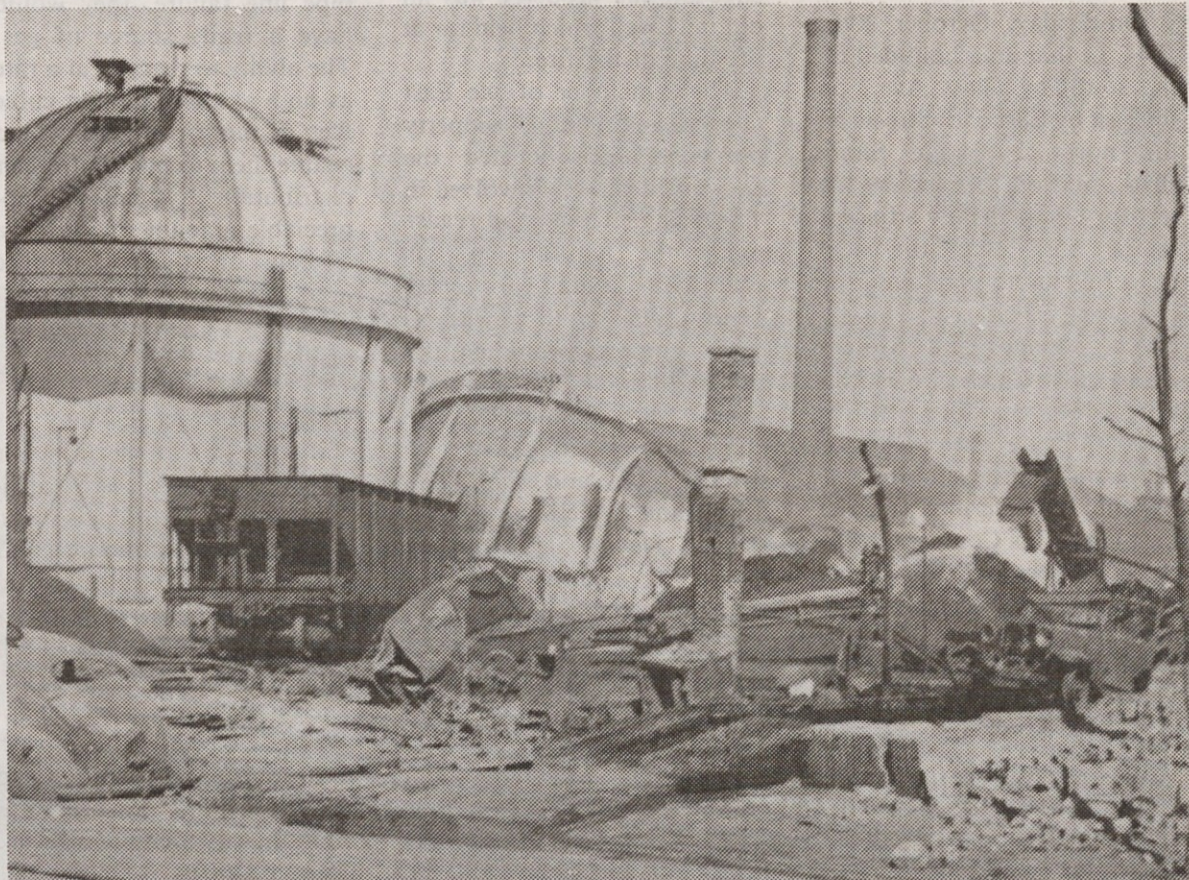
Thru the night the Lakeside team waited, but only minor burns were treated. We began to realize the enormity of the catastrophe—there would not be people brought in with serious burns to administer to and those within the perimeter of the fire had not been able to get out.

All night I answered the heart breaking calls. "Was an elderly lady and a three year old girl brought in and treated? My mother took care of my daughter while I worked and I can't find them. Do you know of any place where people from E. 61st St. have been taken? I've called the hospitals but they aren't there. My God! I don't know what to do". I sat in the office and watched the flames and cried with them. A long distance call came from a soldier who could not say where he was as he was shipping out. The news said huge areas of the east side were burned and whole rows of houses were gone. Please, could I tell him if East 76th street was gone? When I told him it was still standing and was safe I could hear his sobs as he tried to thank me. When frantic parents called about St. Vitus school children I was able to tell them they were led to safety by the Nuns and Priests. All nite long I kept the coffee coming. The fires were lower but still burning.

When morning came the silence was eerie. Nothing and no one was moving. Then a Red Cross van rumbled down Addison and crossed St. Clair. It pulled up in front of Nosan's bakery. A group of workers and Mrs. Nosan went into the bakery (the plate glass windows were still unbroken). They loaded tray after tray of donuts, baked goods, and bread into the van completely removing all the stock. Mrs. Nosan had donated everything in the store. I'm sure no one complained that they were a day old.

Mr. Potokar of Double Eagle Bottling Co. located next to Azman-Pryatel buildings had not been able to bring in his large open sided delivery trucks. Dad gave them permission to put them in our parking lot and there they stayed.

The Lakeside Unit left. It became a waiting time while frantic families hoped and prayed and searched for their loved ones. The radio was on constantly. The news was heartbreaking. A fire truck caved in a huge hole at St. Clair and E. 62nd St. We listened with heavy hearts as it became apparent that many had not escaped.



The 3,000 degree heat twisted steel like pretzels at the site of the liquified gas explosion.

Aftermath: When the fires were under control and the area could be entered The Cleveland Embalmers Ass'n. and Cuyahoga Funeral Directors were there when needed. With others my brother Louis worked to make removals of the remains. Identification was difficult. Metal badges worn by E.O. Gas Co. workers had melted. Clothing, burned and charred was insufficient in identification. At County Morgue these men embalmed the remains and tried to help with identification. Some car keys were found burned to a man's remains. Louis Zele, with other personnel went to the home of a missing person whose car was parked in the driveway and asked permission to see if the keys would fit. The wife came out on the porch. It was apparent she was expecting a child soon. She watched as the keys fit and opened the door and the trunk of the car. She covered her face and wept as friends lead her back into the house.

Aftermath: An elderly man came to the funeral home. His home on E. 61st street had stood where the fires were the fiercest. His wife had not been found. He was allowed to search the ruins and he asked Louis Zele to please help him to look for his wife's remains. Everything had burned and fallen into the basement. There was a large tin box lying on it's side. There was not any enamel left on it that would identify it as a refrigerator. He said his wife had a rosary that she always wore—her mother had given it to her when she came to America. He knew that if he could find the rosary or at least part of the metal chain he would find her. There was nothing found and that was inconceivable to him. He came another day to ask Louis about the appearance of bones that were in a fire. Louis explained to him and each day he

came back carrying a small box and asked him to check if these were bones. It was heart-breaking. I held his hands as he cried. He had no family- it was just the two of them.

Aftermath: I was a Notary Public. One morning four men came to the office of the funeral home. One was a well dressed man from the Treasury Department in Washington. He was sent here to handle any burned money. If it could be identified and the numbers were visible he would take it to the Treasury building Mutilated Money Section. The ordinary safety boxes when opened where filled with charred ashes that were dust and were worthless. One man insisted in going back to his house. Finally the treasury man obtained permission and the two friends brought a ladder as everything had fallen to the basement. The others watched as he climbed over debris and went to where the chimney stood. He counted bricks and pulled on out and brought out a covered glass jar around which was heavy galvanized wire. In the jar was a roll of money. The outer bills were charred

but the center was still green.

In another area he removed another jar. Carefully these were handed to the Treasury man. I had to type a deposition statement regarding the circumstances. The man signed it and I notarized it. The man from Washington carefully packed the jars in a special box. As they were leaving he turned to the man and asked him why he did not put the money in a bank. The man calmly replied that if it had burned it would be no different than the time during the depression when he put his money in the bank and got back ten cents on a dollar. The treasury man said no more. I never learned how much money was identified, but I believe he was among the very few who saved any of their money.

I was proud of our Slovenians and their brave acceptance of their tragedies.

It was four days before I was able to go to Mom's house. I kissed Mom and hugged my daughter and counted my blessings and gave thanks to the Lord. It was a sad time that I shall never forget.

'Some left fingers on hot fence, clothes burned'

I, Frances Zibert, remember that day, Oct 20, 1944. It was a cool, crisp day and I was at work in the Lamson Sessions Plant on East 63rd North of St. Clair near the railroad tracks.

At 2:40 P.M. my friend Ann Dular and I were looking out of the west window, waiting for our shift to end at 3 p.m.

Suddenly sheets of flames erupted with a large BOOM. The heat was terribly hot and then smoke engulfed the area, around the East Ohio Gas tanks. Men and women were running from the area. Some climbed fences and left their

fingers on the red hot fence wire. There were some running whose clothes were on fire. It was a terrible scene.

The cars in the Lamson-Session & Steel Improvement lots were burned and completely gutted. Our boss Tony Glatzer directed us to the area near the tracks at E-65. We walked down to St. Clair, on the way we saw manhole covers flipping 15 feet into the air. Some of them struck people who were nearby. I walked to Superior and Addison and took a Superior street-car to my home in Collinwood.

Mrs. Frances Zibert

Portions of the official coroner's report

Introduction:

On Friday, October 20th, 1944, in that area bounded on the south by Glass Ave., on the east by East 65th Street, on the north by Lake Shore Blvd., and on the west by the territory immediately adjacent to East 55th Street, the usual peaceful and normal life of the community was rent asunder by a sudden and violent catastrophe which threw into a state of chaos, not only this area, but the entire city of Cleveland and its suburbs.

Within the described area the East Ohio Gas Company owned and operated what was designated as their No. 2 works, which included the "L.S. and R." plant for the liquefaction, storage, and regasification of natural gas. On the site of this processing plant originated the most disastrous fire ever known in the history of Cleveland.

The assistant plant engineer had made his daily inspections, and at 2:10 PM was underneath the storage tank designated as No. 4 to recover a steam hose which had been left there. At the time he noted nothing unusual. Operations proceeded as usual up until 2:40 PM, when a great natural power, held in check unnaturally by the skill of science, spewed forth death and destruction. At this time the employees of the East Ohio Gas Company and employees of other plants in the vicinity noticed a greyish white vapor issuing from the direction of the tanks storing the liquid natural gas, and then felt an extreme heat. Almost immediately it seemed that the whole neighborhood was on fire.

Description of East Ohio Gas Company Property:

The East Ohio Gas Company property, comprising an area of approximately ten acres, is located south of the New York Central tracks and extends from East 63rd Street to East 61st and East 55th Streets. On that portion of the property just east of East 62nd Street there was a two story building in which was located the office and meter repair shop, the meter room and fitting shop; in addition, there was the garage, the carpenter shop and stock room, and also buildings which housed the machine shop, the pipe shop, blacksmith shop, the boiler room, the engine room storage, and water gas generator, as well as a locker and wash room, and the welding shed. At the northerly

edge of this property was an old tank well which held tar at the time of the fire.

The remainder of the East Ohio Gas Company property on which was located the equipment directly involved in liquefying, storing and regasifying the natural gas was enclosed by a high wire fence. Within this area there was the main compressor building, the boiler building, the cooling tower, yard equipment, the pump houses, three spherical storage tanks and one cylindrical tank (which was known as tank No. 4). In addition, there was also an overflow storage pit, and a low pressure gas holder, as well as a building for storage of parts and oil drums.

Safety Precautions:

As stated previously, this area was surrounded by a high wire fence. No person was admitted to this area without permission. Employees were instructed in the usual safety rules against smoking, carrying matches, etc. The employees working in this area were men, who were associated with the company for many years, and were deemed trustworthy and capable. Provisions were made and instructions posted, for the use of same in case of fire. These provisions included a steam flooding system in the engine room, carbon dioxide fire extinguishers, gas masks, asbestos blankets, suits and gloves.

Inspections:

Inspections were made periodically by the Federal Power Commission (The Internal Securities Division), the latest inspection taking place about two weeks prior to the disaster. The chief engineer made one complete round of inspection each day; in addition, the operators watched for any signs of trouble. A representative of a Civilian Defense Organization had inquired into the possibility of danger, and was tendered a demonstration of the extremely cold temperature of the liquid natural gas from which he received the impression that there was no danger of fire or explosion.

History of Plant:

This plant, placed in operation in January of 1941, was the first commercial plant of its kind for the liquefaction of natural gas with provisions for the storage and regasification of the liquid product. Prior to the construction of the plant in Cleveland, an experimental "Pilot" plant was built by an affiliated company, the Hope Natural Gas Company in Charleston, West Virginia. Experiments on this process were conducted for a period of four or five years prior to its inception here. The East Ohio Gas Company placed the plant in operation here because they desired to store a large quantity of gas at the extreme north end of their trunk line system so that in cases of peak demand, or an emergency due to

pipe line failure, they would have a ready source of gas. The ability to regasify at a rate as high as three million cubic feet or more per hour would enable them to place into their distribution system an appreciable amount of gas on a fifteen or twenty minute notice, and to discontinue putting the gas into the system immediately.

Outline of Process:

Briefly stated, the principle of the process consisted of liquefying the natural gas by an applicable combination of compression and refrigeration. The process of liquefaction of gas was not new, but it was in use in other industries. The uniqueness was in the application to natural gas with the provision for storage and regasification. Natural gas from the city medium pressure lines at thirty pound gauge pressure was first compressed to 600 pound gauge pressure, freed of carbon dioxide, water and entrained cylinder oil; the gas was then cooled to a -130° Fahrenheit by the use of ethylene which had been liquefied by refrigeration with

ammonia. At this point the natural gas became liquid. After passing through two flash gas heat exchangers, the liquid natural gas was passed

successively through two expansion valves with the effect of further cooling. It was then stored in either the spheres or the cylindrical tank.



After the East Ohio Gas Explosion



Shown is all that remains of the cylindrical tank (right), and the collapsed ball tank.

Mary Marsic Bitterly Recalls Catastrophe

by Mary Marsic Grile

I was working at Richman Bros. at the time and as I passed the windows on the fourth floor, I felt heat on my arm. I looked out and there was an enormous flame in the sky.

I knew in an instant that it was the gas tanks.

Then I yelled out to my boss that I must leave as my sister was on St. Clair at E. 62nd doing an errand for me.

She just crossed the street from Grdina's hardware to Novak's and Joe Novak called out for her to run. She had her two-year-old son with her and she was eight months pregnant and could not carry him.

Stana Segal, Louise Hlad and I ran into Stana's car, but we could only go as far as Superior and had to leave the car there and run the rest of the way.

My sister had just returned home to Carl Avenue and we left for my place on Bliss Avenue. We watched as people were running and carrying odd things, whatever they grabbed in a hurry, such as one lady an armful of freshly ironed white shirts. It was like an exodus from a war zone.

My brother-in-law picked us up and we went to his sister's place on Yale for the night because we were afraid the other tanks would blow up.

My sister had her baby a month later, but never regained her strength. She died a year later and I feel the cause of her death was the traumatic experiences she suffered being caught in the middle of the holocaust.

She was 31 years of age at the time of her death.

Fireman called to action at gas fire

by Matthew Ermacora

I am a retired Cleveland fireman having served 41 years fighting fires for the city.

I would like to share my recollections with the readers of American Home about that terrible East Ohio gas catastrophe.

I was off-duty on Oct. 20, 1944 but while I was going home after shopping downtown with my family we were around E. 40th and saw black clouds of smoke and the fire which was located north of St. Clair at E. 61 St.

On the car radio I heard that all off-duty firemen were to report for duty at station No. 19 at E. 55th and St. Clair.

After taking my family home I went to station 19 where Cleveland Fire Chief James E. Granger was assigning fire-fighting men and equipment from the entire city of Cleveland in an attempt to stop the fires.

I was assigned the grim duty of searching for the charred remains of the unfortunate souls who were unable to escape the fiery inferno.

The entire area north of St. Clair and E. 61 St. was in rubbles. Only a few homes

somehow survived the holocaust. Going through the ruins was difficult as rock-wool was three feet deep. The rockwool was insulation in one of the tanks that had exploded. We found many corpses, most burned beyond recognition.

All of the human remains were put on bed sheets which Coroner Samuel Gerber had spread on the ground near Carry Avenue.

All night long, we firemen and police searched for bodies. The danger of the last two tanks exploding was great.

I had noticed that Race Dairy on E. 61 was completely gutted.

Saturday morning the fire was still out of control. It was only in the afternoon that it was contained.

During the day we were taking the license numbers from the charred cars in the area. From these numbers, identification of some victims was possible.

In all of my 41 years of firefighting I can say that the gas explosion was the most terrible catastrophe that I had ever witnessed. To this day memories of that awful event are still vivid in my mind.



This man stands in front of what was once his home.

A family parted, and then reunited

by Anne Doles

Lake Havasu City, Ariz. — It was on Friday, Oct. 20 in Cleveland, Ohio when I was through cleaning the house I had planned to go to Cimperman's and to Stampfel's to do some shopping. I looked at the time and it was about 2:30 p.m. I decided to wait until Frank woke up so I wouldn't have to take our little sons along.

All of a sudden I felt the house shaking and the table lamps fall off the table. I looked out the window and saw that the sun was shining but it was an orange color.

I ran into the bedroom to wake up Frank and told him, "It's an earthquake and the sun was shining." He looked out the window and then ran to the back porch to get a better view and said, "It looks like the boiler room exploded in the bathhouse." He quickly dressed and told me he was going to take pictures and ran out of the house.

We lived by Hocevars on Addison Rd. I ran downstairs and while I was talking to Mrs. Hocevar we heard someone talking on the loud speaker telling everyone to turn off the gas by the meter. We tried to turn it off but couldn't, so a neighbor came to our aid. He told us to get dressed and to be ready to leave our homes.

Mrs. Hocevar dressed Johnny and I dressed Ken and Jim and walked to the front of the house.

We saw crowds of people running toward Superior Ave. I saw many of my friends and they seemed to be in a state of shock. I asked them what happened. All they kept saying was, "Run, run." It looked like their faces were burned.

We didn't know what to do. The mounted police were ordering us to lock our houses and start walking toward Superior and E. 105 St. My thoughts were of Frank. If he ran towards the fire he was probably in the middle of it. I had to make a decision fast. Suddenly, I remembered that all of our legal papers were in the house. I asked Mrs. Hocevar to watch the boys and I ran back into the house and gathered all of our policies, etc., and put them into an empty pretzel can. I also wrote on the sidewalk by the back door to tell Frank where we were going in case he came back home looking for us.

I put Jimmy into the stroller and Ken and Johnny walked

along with us. As we walked I would stop to tell the businessmen if a man in a black leather jacket was asking for us to tell him we are headed toward E. 105 St. I kept leaving the message all along the way. When we came to 105, a Jewish woman saw how tired we were and invited us to come into her home so we could rest and have a bite to eat. Before we left, we left a message with one of the businessmen to tell Frank where we were and the woman gave him her telephone number and address. At the time we were walking away from the disaster area, Frank was running toward it.

As he was going down Addison Rd. he was the only one going toward the fire. When he came to Norwood and St. Clair, there was a hole about 10 feet deep and with a fire engine down in it. Across the street by North American Bank there was a mounted policeman standing next to a sewer. Just then the sewer blew up and the sewer cover went flying past him.

Frank ran north on E. 62nd St. He saw a man pulling a boy about five years old with one hand. In the other hand he was carrying a chicken by its legs.

By then it was so hot, Frank had to turn back and go the other way. He crossed St. Clair and had to put his jacket over his head because it got so hot it started to burn his scalp.

Gas pockets were exploding in the air, just like anti-aircraft shells.

He made his way home and saw the message I left for him. He finally found us about 6 p.m. He said it really helped when I left the messages with the businessmen.

After about an hour we worked our way back to Addison Rd. Frank got our car out of the garage and we went to his folks home.

That night he had to go to work. He worked the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift at Steel Improvement in the power house. He was stopped by the National Guard, but they let him through.

When it became daylight, Frank and another co-worker went over the fence and walked around the gas company property. There was a body by the fence, evidently the person tried to climb over the fence and couldn't make it.

Also - in one of the buildings there was a body of a man in a clothes locker. He probably tried to get away from the heat. In the yard there were two bodies lying face down on the brick pavement. From what he could tell they were the bodies of two women. The only way to tell they were females was by the high heels from their shoes which did not burn. He tried to see more but the National Guardsmen came and told them to get off the property.



An underground gas explosion on E. 62 Street, just south of St. Clair caused this hole which trapped the fire engine shown in the top of the photo being pulled out.

What happened!

The East Ohio Gas co. fire, caused by liquefied gas escaping from a spherical container, located on the company's property at the foot of E. 61st., adjacent to the New York Central Railroad burned continuously for two days, Oct. 20, 21, 1944.

Its toll was 76 identified dead, 53 unidentified dead, 32 missing, 251 injured and hospitalized, 150 treated at casualty stations set up in the fields, 81 homes totally destroyed, 35 homes partially destroyed, 217 automobiles, 7 trailers and one tractor totally destroyed, and railroad cars and steel rails were destroyed.

Mayor Frank J. Lausche appointed a special board of inquiry to determine the cause of the fire.

Mayor Lausche, Director of Safety Frank D. Celebrezze, Lewis B. Weinacht, executive secretary to the director, and Coroner Samuel R. Gerber were on the scene throughout the critical hours.

At 2:45 p.m., the entire Civilian Defense Corps was alerted and response was had from all sections of the city and some adjoining suburbs. Hundreds of auxiliary police and air wardens, 975 in all, responded. The Ohio State National Guard were called in and the entire security of the area was under the police jurisdiction. The Ohio State

Guard withdrew at midnight, Oct. 24, the U.S. Coast Guard at midnight, Oct. 25, and the police returned to regular hours of duty on Oct. 27.

On Nov. 14, a mass funeral for 61 of the dead, 53 of whom were unidentified, was held.

Their remains were laid to rest in a large circular grave in Highland Park Cemetery. The services were conducted by Catholic, Protestant and Jewish clergymen in the presence of approximately 2,000 persons of all races and creeds.



A Mass funeral was held for the deceased victims of the gas explosion. Over 2,000 persons attended the circle services which was conducted by representatives of all faiths.



Helped victims

My husband Lou Champa was there in the middle of the area of the gas explosion helping his crippled uncle and aunt and helped guard the place. Mrs. Stampfel and Champa family lived in the Knaus Building (St. Clair near E. 62 St.) at the time. They had to stay at our home on Union Avenue.

—Mary Champa

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Remembering the East Ohio Explosion

by Frank M. Kochevar

I was an employee of Cleveland Twist Drill, starting in April of 1941. After a few years, I entered the U.S. Navy. My wife then went back to live with her parents at 6218 St. Clair Ave.

In October of 1944 I was home on leave from my ship, docked in Baltimore. It was during my leave when the gas company explosion took place.

I was in the neighborhood at the time when I saw the fireball which seemed to reach thousands of feet into the air. Manhole covers were popping like champagne corks. Business awnings were burning from the falling embers.

The entire area was ordered evacuated. I borrowed a car and drove my wife's family to the Grovewood area of Cleveland's east side to be with their relatives.

I returned to St. Clair and be-

ing in uniform I was able to help relatives of vacated homes to check on parents, wives or children — most of them had no idea where they had gone.

I made several trips into the area searching for friends who were concerned about looters and security. Through the Red Cross I obtained an additional two days Navy leave to help family and friends adjust to the new life.

Later when I returned to my ship in Baltimore, area residents in Cleveland still had not returned to their homes on St. Clair near the disaster.

After the war was over, I returned to Cleveland in the spring of 1946 and went back to work for Cleveland Twist Drill. I worked for 39 years until I retired in June of 1980!

A company photographer made several copies of the enclosed photographs which I would like to share with your readers.

by Pauline Sternisa

On that fateful day, Friday, Oct. 20, 1944 my washing machine was running in the basement of my home on E. 73 St. I heard a loud noise. I hurried to the basement thinking perhaps something went wrong with the machine. The washer was agitating as usual. I quickly ran upstairs and went out onto the front porch.

As I stood on the edge of the top of the porch, I felt a great heat. I didn't know what to make of it. I went in and turned on the radio. It was announced that the gas tanks exploded at the East Ohio Gas Company.

I went out on the porch again and could still feel the heat. I surmised that my house on E. 73 Street, north of St. Clair was probably on a direct line to the site of the explosion.

My husband, Tony, came home from the break of his shift of working on the St. Clair Car Line. He took my

youngest son, not quite five years old, on his shoulder and walked down to see what had happened.

I asked my son if he remembers anything of what he saw. He said he saw a lady brought out of a house, all black (charred). He remembers that his dad grabbed him and ran for protection in a doorway as a sewer cover was flying through the air. He definitely remembers a big hole in the street with a fire engine in it, along with police and many people wondering what had happened.

Later when my oldest son came home from school I also went to see what had happened. I was on E. 61 Street, north of St. Clair and had a glance of a big hole where a house had stood. I was told that all occupants were killed. I saw the big hole on St. Clair Avenue at E. 62 St. where the street had caved in.

When I saw all the devastation and chaos, I thought, this was all due to man's error by building the tanks in an area too close to homes and businesses.

Today when I go down E. 61 Street to get to E. 55th, I always marvel at what was done to rebuild everything up again.

Many people helped to rebuild the neighborhood, but I am reminded of that Mr. Anton Grdina gave so much of himself. And with no government assistance, the location was built up again.



Little remains of a fire-gutted home on E. 61 St. after the spectacular explosion.

Sought parents at explosion site

by Joseph Kolenc

I was at work downtown when the explosion happened. I received permission to leave work early to see if my folks were all right because our house was on E. 63rd St.

I had a difficult time trying to get home. There were guards from 55th and Superior to St. Clair Avenue telling everybody to get out.

However, I was lucky to get through and discovered my parents were taken to Euclid where my sister lives.

Searching for Family Members

by Ruth Kolenc

I came from Pennsylvania to work in Ohio and stayed with a family who lived on Wilmore Ave. in Euclid. Their name was Žurga. Mrs. Zurga's parents Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kolenc lived on E. 63rd St., south of St. Clair. I worked at General Electric off E. 185 St.

When they announced over the public address system that there was a gas explosion on St. Clair, anyone living in that area was permitted to leave immediately.

Men were screaming, many kids jumped over the tables in a hurry to get out. There was confusion at work. Three old Slovenian ladies started to pray the rosary out loud. It became very quiet for a while, then I stood in line for quite a long time to phone Mrs. Zurga to see how her parents were. She was hysterical.

Her neighbor told her everybody was blown up.

I asked to leave work and caught a bus to the end of E. 222 and walked to Wilmore. What a terrible feeling to look towards the west and see the sky all red. It took quite some time before we discovered everybody was okay. Mrs. Zurga's mother just came from the hospital so her younger daughter and husband was staying in Euclid.

But her husband just went out to the car to go to work. When he saw flames in the sky he took his wife and mother-in-law to East Blvd. to find the rest of the family. They walked to E. 63rd St. and found Joe Kolenc and another guy making coffee on a hot plate. We asked if Uncle Frank was there. They thought he was in Euclid. Well, we looked upstairs and found him sleeping. He said when he came home he was so scared, all he could do was lie down. As it turned out, everybody was okay.

We had passed those gas tanks the Sunday before the explosion. Mr. Zurga said, "It would be something if those tanks would explode." Well, we found out.

Area Looked Like Bomb Raid

by Anthony Jagodnik

I was stationed in Pierre, South Dakota when we heard about the gas explosion. My wife and little son were with me at the time so we were able to come home together on leave.

We were very much concerned because we have relatives in Cleveland, but we didn't get any information as to the exact location. That made the situation worse. Luckily, none of our relatives were involved but what we saw is something we can never forget.

It looked just like an area that had been bombed out during an air raid. We felt so sorry for the persons who were affected and for all their great losses.

Clouds of fire descended upon the helpless persons

Frank Zupancic

It was October 20, 1944. In the St. Clair community, it was a typical serene Friday afternoon; the sun was shining brightly but nevertheless the air had an autumn chill.

The school children at St. Vitus were getting restless, waiting for the three o'clock bell to liberate them for the weekend.

An elderly passer-by on St. Clair was intently gazing at the Norwood Theater marquee which boldly proclaimed the evening's movie, "Going My Way".

The Lake Shore Poultry Store at E. 67th was crowded with women shoppers, carefully selecting squawking fowls that would eventually wind up on their Sunday dinner table.

An ancient St. Clair streetcar ground to a groaning halt in obedience to a stop light at Addison Rd. Aboard, the conductor lazily took out his well-worn watch to check the time with the large outdoor clock mounted above the Wolkov's Jewelry doorway.

It showed 2:40 p.m. Suddenly, there was a blinding flash, followed by a roar, and flames shot 3,000 feet into the air!

Clouds of fire descended on the helpless homes below and everywhere there was panic-heading southward to safety. Many were not as fortunate, they were hopelessly trapped in fiery pyres.

Terrified citizens clogged the streets, some screaming, some ablaze and in great anguish. Someone yelled, "The Germans are bombing us!"

Soon the tragic news became known. The gas company's cylindrical liquid gas storage

tank at the foot of E. 62nd had sprung a leak and caught fire, and exploded!

The intensity of the inferno was greatest north of St. Clair, on E. 61st, E. 62nd, E. 63rd and also Lake Court, all in close proximity of the exploding gas sphere.

The 2,000 degree heat cracked windows on the north side of St. Vitus School. Crying, terrified youngsters were led out of the school by nuns and marched to Superior Ave.

Everywhere in the vicinity, manhole covers were flying in the air, the result of gas seepage into the sewer lines and igniting.

The Fire Department responded, bravely battling the ravaging fires. Engines from the entire city rushed to fight the ever-spreading flames. One fire truck parked in front of Novak's Confectionery (E. 62nd) was swallowed up into a large abyss when the pavement beneath the vehicle collapsed.

Police were everywhere, and empowered with martial law, any looters would be shot. Later in the day, the bluecoats were augmented with 1,000 National Guardsmen, Navy and Coast Guard men.

All residents were evacuated from the lake to Bonna Avenue. St. Clair was closed to autos from E. 40th to E. 82nd. Many stores and businesses on St. Clair were badly damaged, especially the Grdina Furniture building at E. 61 St. Also leveled to the ground was the Race Dairy on E. 61st which only a week before had begun producing ice-cream.

The conflagration continued thru that night and all day Saturday. Occasionally charred remains were found by grim-faced searchers looking

among the smouldering ruins.

Monsignor B. J. Ponikvar, pastor of St. Vitus administered last rites to victims throughout the night disregarding the possible danger to his own life. Mayor of Cleveland Frank Lausche also walked through the ruins the entire night, for it was this neighborhood that he called his own.

Only days later was an assessment possible of the terrible destruction. The death toll was 131 persons, many never identified. Nearly 400 were injured. Eighty-two homes burned to the ground, 24 on Lake Ct., 45 on E. 61st, 12 on E. 62nd and 1 on E. 63, all north of St. Clair.

Thanks to the late Anton Grdina, however, the devastated area was not surrendered to industry. Instead he formed the St. Clair-Norwood Rehabilitation Corporation.

Sixteen modern brick houses were constructed on large lots and sold from \$9,700 to \$15,000, mostly to former residents of the area.

All this was accomplished without use of federal funds, an example to all what private citizens can do- when they are blessed with leaders of the caliber of the late Anton Grdina.

Thus it was only fitting and proper when the street in the reconstructed sector was called "Grdina Drive", a small tribute to a great man.

Today, 50 years later, many of the more mature residents still vividly recall that tragic day when St. Clair area was almost obliterated, but thanks to the tenacity and courage of its residents, it is still an alive and prospering community to this very day.



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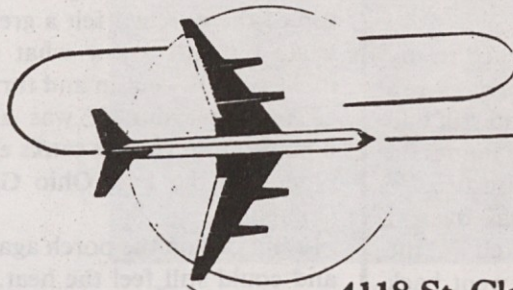
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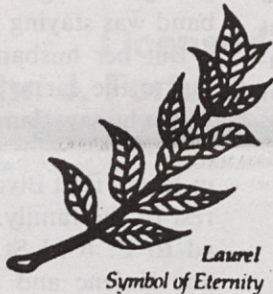
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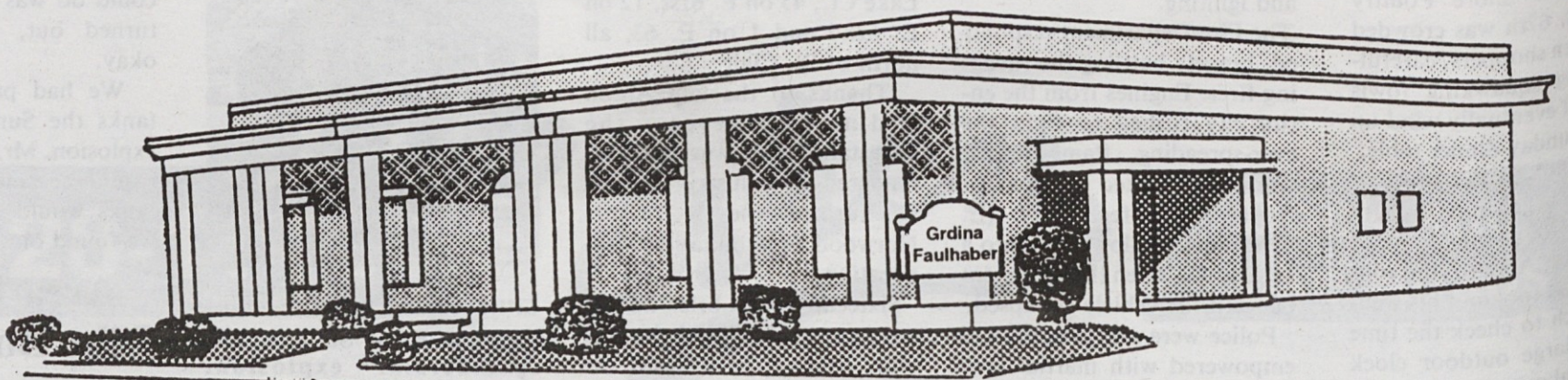
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Suffering Victims Find Haven After Disaster



Pvt. Ruth Lewis of the Air Wars, a volunteer at the Willson school relief center for fire refugees, gives a glass of milk to little Tommy Suhadolnik.



Wearied and discouraged, their thoughts on 4-month-old Alice Meadows, sit Cecil Barker, 5; Mrs. Nola Meadows of 1030 E. 66th place and Mrs. Mary Barker of 871 E. 67th street.



Edward Sittiger, 7, couldn't remember his address on E. 60th street, but he pitched into his breakfast bowl this morning after a night on a cot.



Press Reporter Barbara Fisher calms Raymond Park, 7, of 901 E. 64th street, as she gets his story of the fire at Willson School.



Before dawn today these children, fire refugees, were sleeping on cots set up in the halls of Willson School.

"I Grabbed My Mother and Sister and Ran—"

By BARBARA FISHER

"I grabbed my mother and my little sister and we knelt and prayed. Mother went out the back way, and I told her she would be running right into the flame. I told them to hold their hands over their eyes and run toward the lake. Then we just ran."

Thus did Marcella Reichard, 16, describe her family's escape. Marcella lay on a cot at Willson School, her face almost entirely covered by bandages, her left arm lying stiff and motionless on the blanket.

What happened after the first two terrific explosions she remembers only vaguely, but her father, Elmer, remembers. Marcella hailed a passing motorist and, with the side of her face one huge blister and her left arm useless, drove to the Kirkwood Commutator Co., 5518 Euclid, and told her father what had happened. Only then would she allow Coastguardmen to take her to St. Alexis' Hospital.

Their house at 5475 Lake court was burned to the ground, and with it \$500 with which the Reichard family had planned to make a down payment on a new home. Marcella's eyes filled with tears as she told this, and she continued:

"I was standing in the kitchen when I heard the first shock. The



At this registration desk, the homeless were listed and inquiries about missing persons were received.

Mayor Solemnly Tours Scene of His Boyhood to Direct Aid, Comfort Homeless of Fire Area

"This," said Mayor Lausche, "is where I used to play when I was a boy."

One hundred feet away, with a fringe of fire burning at its base, was one of the huge liquid gas storage tanks which East Ohio Gas Co. officials had warned would "blow the whole area up" if it let go.

The bare-headed mayor seemed to have forgotten that he had only a few moments before declared the area within 10 blocks of where he stood as perilous and closed to all civilians, under martial law.

"And this," he said as he paused before the smoking ruins of a dwelling on E. 61st street and stood near the gaunt upright chimney, "is where my cousin, Mrs. Josephine Lach, lived."

The wind from the lake freshened and fanned the flames of a burning pile back of him to new vigor.

As far away as Superior avenue and E. 55th street, uniformed men were demanding that all smokers stamp out their lights, for fear they would ignite the escaping gas.

Pardonably nervous, the people with Mayor Lausche on his strange tour of inspection were anxious to get out of the very yards of the burning gas company, where even firemen had not ventured.

But he stopped them once more, pointing to a heap of rubble off to one side.

"That was a wire fence," he said, "and I used to go over there to practice sling shots."

Then he yielded to the pressure of his companions and went up to St. Clair avenue, which was prac-



Mayor Lausche touring fire scene early today.

tically a haven compared with where he had been but which was denied even to the military as a safety measure.

At 6121 St. Clair avenue he paused to toe a pile of glass on the sidewalk that had been windows in the home.

"I lived here for a long time," he said.

Mayor Lausche's "people," mostly, were refugees today. Many of them were homeless. Last night the

mayor went to visit with them at the refugee centers, and comfort them.

Today he was planning how to start many of them afresh, and he relied heavily on the Red Cross and the generosity of other Greater Clevelanders.

Many of the distressed seemed to take great comfort from the fact that Mayor Lausche grew up in their neighborhood and is in "their corner" during this emergency.

City's Spirit Meets Test of Disaster

Community Rallies to Aid Stricken in Emergency

Cleveland's community spirit was put to the test in yesterday's disaster—and was not found wanting. The co-operation and co-ordination that marked the response of professional and volunteer agencies drew praise and thanks today on every hand.

Firemen fought without rest to halt the spread of the flames, directed through the night by Fire Chief Granger, who has been on the scene of every disaster for half a century.

The policemen came to keep order, to direct and carry on rescue work. Inspector Timothy J. Costello directed the hundreds of officers. At his side was Safety Director Frank D. Celebrezze. Detective Inspector Frank W. Story pulled seven persons from blazing homes.

The Red Cross was on the scene almost as quickly as the firemen and policemen. Mobile canteens were set up to supply food and first aid. Red Cross workers went among the workers with coffee and food. Judge Stanley L. Orr, local director, was on the job most of the night.

Civilian Defense, organized because of the war and the danger of bombing, proved its worth. Its members worked at directing traffic, dragging hose lines, rescuing, directing the homeless to temporary centers.

From Crile Hospital came nurses, doctors, orderlies, technicians—all eager to aid and everyone pitching in.

Other nurses came by the dozens. Many were women out of the profession for years.

In the disaster district, soldiers, sailors, Marines on leave jumped in to give their help. Hundreds of coastguardmen were sent in to aid. Waves, Wacs and Spars were on duty. The Ohio State Guard was mobilized to guard against looting.

Taxicab drivers forgot fares, forgot themselves to aid. They hauled rescue workers and disaster directors. They evacuated the homeless; carried the injured to hospitals.

Priests and clergymen, teachers, physicians, dentists and just folks of the district came in to help. Rev.

A City's Thanks to Them

To the heroic firemen and police, soldiers, sailors, coast guardsmen, state police, National Guard units, civilian defense volunteers, Boy Scouts, engineers and workmen for the public utilities, private citizens who stepped in and volunteered for useful services, to Principal Walton of Willson School and his associates, to many others representing other groups and organizations . . .

To all of them the community's thanks are due for one of the most remarkably efficient and human demonstrations of a city's spontaneous and collective upsurge of help in a terrible emergency.

The example set in person by Judge Stanley Orr, head of the Red Cross, who worked all through the night at the disaster scene, and Mayor Frank Lausche, who likewise worked through the night on the scene to give leadership and counsel—these examples were fine personal demonstrations of their own character and humanness, but, in addition, symbolical of the kind of human community which makes Greater Cleveland one of the best places on the face of the earth.

Lausche Cancels Two Sunday Appearances

The first fall meeting of the Cleveland Sunday Evening Hour, scheduled for tomorrow night at 7:30 in the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church with Mayor Lausche as speaker, was cancelled today because of the East Ohio Gas Co. plant fire.

Mayor Lausche also said it was likely he would cancel his scheduled address at The Temple, E. 106th street and Ansel road, where he was to appear in a Zionist program with Senator Robert A. Taft tomorrow.

Gas Plant on One of Oldest Industrial Sites

The East Ohio Gas Co. liquid storage plant was on one of Cleveland's oldest industrial sites. The Cleveland City Gas Light & Coke Co. was incorporated in 1846 in manufacture and distribute artificial gas.

Laying of gas pipes commenced in the summer of 1848 and a little over a year later the gas was available to consumers. The East Ohio Gas Co. brought natural gas to Cleveland in 1902 and brought Cleveland City's plant and distribution system. Just when the manufacture of artificial gas was started at the site of the present liquefaction plant is not clear in Cleveland histories.

Schools Shelter, Feed Fire's Tragic Victims

(Continued From Page One)

tel Allerton, which it leases, to receive others who may need shelter.

Bishop Edward F. Hoban of the Catholic Diocese said that in addition to St. Andrew's, the parish of St. Philip Neri and St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception parishes would be made available to the Red Cross for evacuation of the homeless.

Bishop Hoban said:

"I am deeply grieved by this trag-

ically a haven compared with where he had been but which was denied even to the military as a safety measure.

Some refugees housed at Willson School were bandaged, among them small children. It was hard to look at the children.

Judy Komar, 2, was burned on the leg. She was with her mother, Mrs. Jennie Komar, of 5612 Carry avenue, in a store at E. 61st street and

6200 Factories, Homes Gasless

Sixty-two hundred homes, stores and factories without gas service . . . between 3000 and 4000 war workers idled by plant shutdowns . . . several small factories consumed by flames . . . hundreds of telephones silenced.

That was the picture today as officials strove to overcome the affects on industry and public utilities imposed by yesterday's disastrous fire at the East Ohio Gas Co.'s liquid gas storage plant.

Gas Explosion Recalled

On October 20, 1944 a series of gas explosions and fire largely destroyed the plant of the East Ohio Gas Company and an adjoining residential area, causing loss of life of at least 136 and probably more, with property damage that will run into the millions of dollars.

This explosion involved liquefied natural gas, refrigerated to minus 250°F. This was a unique operation; the conditions found in this plant are not in any way comparable with the storage of other liquefied gases under pressure. There was no previous experience to guide the local authorities who were asked to permit the installation of this process and prior to October 20, 1944 there would seem to have been no reason to question the judgment of municipal authorities who permitted the installation of this process in an industrial zone where the operating company showed every evidence of having used due care in the design and operation of the project.

As is usual with major fire disasters, there are conflicting reports as to the circumstances of the explosions and fire. Residents reported that the sky seemed filled with flames when without warning a large area of the east side of Cleveland between 55th and 64th Streets was swept by burning gas.

Description of Property
Used as a gas plant for many years, the storage had previously consisted of several of the conventional water seal type of gas holders. The company obtained natural gas from fields in West Virginia for distribution in the Cleveland area.

Due to the heavy industrial demands in the Cleveland area, it had been found necessary to build up reserves of gas to meet periods of peak load. To accomplish this special gas holder equipment had been designed for refrigerated storage of natural gas which was converted at the plant to a liquid state by means of refrigeration equipment. The original installation, constructed in 1940, included three spherical gas holders, each of 100,000 cu. ft. liquid capacity. These gas holders consisted of an inner shell containing 3.5% nickel steel, 3 feet of ground cork insulation, and an outer sheet of ordinary steel plate. The nickel steel was found necessary in order to resist the severely low temperatures which ordinary steel could not be expected to withstand without danger of cracking due to brittleness or contraction. These holders designed to withstand internal pressures of 5 lbs. p.s.i., were provided with pressure relief vents to take care of any above-normal pressure. Gas was normally retained in the holders at a pressure of only 2 1/2 to 3 lbs. p.s.i. Adjacent to the holders

was refrigeration equipment utilizing ethylene as the refrigerant and special equipment for removing carbon dioxide and water vapor from the natural gas which is primarily methane.

Around the base of each of the spherical containers was a concrete apron designed to catch any overflow that might come from these tanks and this was piped to a large covered container constructed in a pit. There is no indication of the performance of this overflow stack during the fire but it was observed that this overflow feature of the plant equipment had been pretty well destroyed. The refrigeration equipment of the plant appeared to have escaped demolition. The remaining original water seal type gas holder at the plant also passed through the fire without any serious damage.

Liquid Gas Storage Increased

With increased demand for gas coincident with the major part played by Cleveland's industries in the war program, it was found desirable to increase the reserve storage of liquid gas. This was done in 1942 by erecting a fourth container just east of the three spherical containers. This new container was somewhat larger, having a capacity of 160,000 cu. ft. of liquid gas and was of somewhat different design. It was cylindrical in shape rather than spherical, and due to wartime shortage of the desired ground cork insulation, (see Quarterly 34, No 2, p. 136, and Quarterly 36, No. 2, p. 164, for reports of fires destroying much of America's wartime cork storage), 3 feet of mineral wool insulation was provided between the inner and outer sides and top of the tank.

The Tank Failure

A theory as to the possible cause of failure advanced by Building Commissioner William D. Guion of Cleveland, is that some time previous to the disaster an undetected leak may have developed in the inner torso semental tank, permitting the liquid to enter the insulation chamber, where it naturally vaporized and built up tremendous pressure, eventually causing a break or tear in the outer shell. This rupture of the outer sheet together with friction could cause ignition of the vapors.

Another possible theory as to the cause of the initial tank failure, not as yet substantiated by any definite evidence, is that in some way moisture accumulated in the mineral wool insulation between the inner and outer shells. This would reduce the insulating value of the mineral wool, and result in more rapid transmission of heat to the interior. A local heating of the interior tank might cause unequal expansion with stresses that at the extremely low temperature, could cause failure of welded joints. It has not been con-

clusively established that the initial failure occurred in this container rather than the adjoining spherical tank, but available evidence seems to indicate that the first failure occurred at the new, cylindrical tank.

The mineral wool insulation on this holder was thrown over a large area. This would indicate an explosion with the release of considerable pressure in this tank and would tend to indicate the new cylindrical tank as the point of origin.

Every effort had apparently been made by the gas company to avoid any possible equipment failure that could be foreseen through proper engineering and advance experimentation, as well as by a high quality of maintenance and supervision. The East Ohio Gas Company lost many of their ablest employees and engineers in the disaster and this fact may hamper investigators in determining the specific point of failure.

Fire Behavior

Witnesses in the residential area involved in the fire, south of the gas company property, reported that the sky appeared filled with flames and that huge balls of fire "bounced above the neighborhood," destroying life and property wherever they landed. Others described long fingers of flame shooting in various directions



Mrs. Jennie Zelko and Mr. Frank Brancel looking over what used to be Mrs. Zelko's home on East 61 St. after the East Ohio gas explosion.

through the air. It is almost impossible to give a chronological account of the various explosions and fires, as they apparently were too numerous to record. It is reported, however, that one of the greatest blasts of flame occurred perhaps some 15 minutes after the initial fire. One engineer observing the blaze from a point of vantage several blocks distant, measured one burst of flame reaching 2800 feet.

As with all great fires, there were many features of erratic fire behavior noted. Some observers and residents stated that drops of what they believed liquid gas fell upon roofs, starting fires. Several dwellings in the midst of an area otherwise completely

devastated were almost untouched, with grass and shrubs in the yards intact and fresh paint almost spotless, while on either side of these dwellings, complete desolation was in evidence. The fact that the wind was blowing away from the congested part of the area is believed to have been a major factor in prevention of an even more devastating conflagration which could have destroyed a very large part of the East Side. Another factor that probably influenced fire behavior was that the burning of several million cubic feet of vaporized liquid gas would have required tremendous volumes of oxygen.

Obviously this could provide a blast of flame of tremendous magnitude.

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In Memory of



November 14, 1895

April 21, 1990

Frank J. Lausche

**who was mayor of Cleveland
at the time of the
East Ohio Gas Explosion**



*And in sorrowful remembrance
of all those who died
as a result of the explosion*

The Frances and Jane S. Lausche Foundation