

Carpatho-Rus'

Karpatska Rus'



SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT YONKERS, NEW YORK AND OTHER MAILING ADDRESSES

NO. 5 CARPATHO RUS, YONKERS, N.Y., MARCH 4, 1994, VOL. LXVII

NOTICE

We wish to announce a **LECTURE and DISCUSSION** to be held on March 20, 1994 beginning at 2:30 PM at:

**LEMKO HALL
556 YONKERS AVENUE
YONKERS, NEW YORK**

The lecture is to be given by Olena Duc-Fajfer an accomplished writer whose parents are from Lemkovina. The lecture will be given by Olena in our native Lemko dialect. There will be a translator present to interpret simultaneously in English. There will be no admission charge for this lecture and discussion. Her lecture will give all of us an opportunity to understand the situation of our Lemko people in Poland. Her background is as follows:

Olena Duc'-Fajfer was born on August 9, 1960 in Ujazd Gorny, a town in the Lower Silesia region of southwestern Poland where her parents were forcibly resettled in 1947. When she was one year old, her entire family returned to the Lemko Region to their native Carpathian Mountain village of Usja Ruske (today in Polish: Us'cie Gorlickie).

After completing her elementary and secondary schooling, Duc'-Fajfer went to Jagiellonian University in Cracow where she completed three master's degrees in Russian philology, psychology, and art history. In each of those subjects her master's theses dealt with aspects of Lemko society and culture. She is now a doctoral candidate at Jagiellonian University where she is completing a thesis on the literary life of Lemkos from the late nineteenth century to the present.

Aside from her scholarly pursuits, Duc'-Fajfer is an accomplished writer whose modern poetic forms are expressed through the medium of her native Lemko-Rusyn speech. Among her works is a bi-lingual collection of poems in Polish and Rusyn entitled *W modlitewnym bluznierstwie (In Blasphemous Prayer, 1985)*. Duc'-Fajfer is also an active participant in the Lemko-Rusyn cultural revival in Poland and in the efforts to create a standardized Rusyn literary language.

LARGE ORTHODOX BANQUET

The North Jersey Orthodox Clergy Fellowship Association presented an International Charity Festival on February 27 at St. Peter and Paul's Orthodox Cathedral Cultural Center in Passaic, New Jersey. Seven hundred and fifty people attended. Over \$10,000. was raised. This money will be sent to Bishop Adam in Sanok and will be used to help the needy Lemkos in Poland and Slovakia and assist in refurbishing their Orthodox churches.

Father Galus, president of the North Jersey Orthodox Clergy Association, started the festival by welcoming all who attended.

Father John Nehrebecky gave a short history and background of the Lemkos. He cited some of the hardships they have endured in the past, and the situation, in varying degrees, continues to the present time. Father John urged that all Orthodox people unite and work closely together. Father Nehrebecky introduced Mr. Herenchak, president of the Lemko Association, who spoke briefly. Father Carroll led the audience in singing the Lord's Prayer. A feast of ethnic food followed.

All of the food was contributed by the different churches. The parishioners had prepared everything. Mr. Fred Gimerick was in charge of the well-organized kitchen. He, and the hard working volunteer kitchen staff, kept food hot and refilled buffet tables for two hours. Pirogi, stuffed cabbage, postitsio, moussaka, green salad, kolbasi and sauerkraut, Greek pastries and rice cake were among the many delicious ethnic foods served.

Entertainment was provided by several groups who had donated their talents:

Led by Janet Fuchilla, the Karpaty Folk Chorus, a women's group, sang many popular and familiar Lemko folk songs.

The Troika Balalaika Orchestra, directed by Helen Fornazor, also entertained the audience with Lemko folk music as well as the ever popular "Moscow Nights".

The Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey, who had danced at the White House during Ronald Reagan's term in office, performed many regional dances of Greece. The were outstanding.

After the entertainment, a three man Combo, called Zorba, directed by Many Avis, played dance music the rest of the evening. They had the audience up and dancing the traditional Greek dances. It was fun.

A 50-50 raffle was held. Since a total of \$1,414. was collected, the winner received \$707. This lucky person turned out to be a member of St. Peter and Paul's Cathedral Church of Passaic.

The huge turnout, in spite of the inclement weather, was a good omen that unity will prevail. It was a very gratifying day -- excellent food, fine entertainment, good and friendly people around us and over \$10,000. collected for this very deserving charity.

The following parishes and priests participated in this successful fund-raising event:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ascension Church (Fairview) --- | Father Comlitis |
| Christ our Saviour Church (Paramus) | " Nehrebecky |
| Holy Apostles Church (Saddle Brook) | " Edwards |
| Holy Assumption Church (Clifton) | " Oselinsky |
| Holy Cross Church (Hackettstown) | " Kassatkin |
| Holy Trinity Church (Colonia) | " Gillions |
| Holy Trinity Church (Randolph) | " Hasenecz |
| St. Anthony Church (Bergenfield) | " Daly |
| St. Athanasios (Paramus) | " Galus |
| St. John Church (Singac) | " Kosich |

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| St. John the Baptist (Passaic) | " Mason |
| St. John Theologian Church (Tenafly) | " Blougouras |
| St. George Church (Little Falls) | " Bitar |
| St. Peter & Paul Cathedral Church (Passaic) | Carroll |
| St. Peter & Paul Church (Jersey City) | " Lickwar |
| Father George Economou, retired, Jersey City | |

Victoria Windish

NOTICE

Disaster struck our Lemko Association computer's hard drive this past Sunday, March 6, Michaelangelo's birthday. For some inexplicable reason, perhaps Michaelangelo's virus, the hard drive "crashed" and wiped out everything in its memory. This included about 30,000 English characters already completed for this issue of the paper. The next day we took the machine for repair, but unfortunately, everything stored, including the software, was lost. A delay resulted in this issue since all work was repeated, about 14 hours.

This sad event may, actually, be an advantage. For some time now, we have been criticised for the spacing of the Cyrillic characters. This is a function of the software that was programmed into the computer. When our new Cyrillic fonts are received this week we intend to incorporate them into the Word Perfect software. This should result in a large improvement in the spacing of Cyrillic characters. The English characters in this issue of the newspaper were developed using Word Perfect software.

Ed.

Notice to our Readers

There have been some letters and complaints received during the past few months that our newspaper, Carpatho-Rus, and Lemko Association made no comment or review of the proceedings of a Lemko Convention held in September, 1993 in Lviv, Ukraine. These comments are very disturbing to us because we do sincerely try to print news pertaining to our people.

Let us state now, **firmly and clearly**, we were not invited to participate, nor were we even notified, that such a convention was to be convened.

This is very **strange**. We are the oldest Lemko organization in the United States and Canada solely involved in trying to perpetuate and continue holding our people together over the past 65 years.

How could any Lemko convention be held, supposedly to represent Lemko interests in their native lands and abroad, without inviting or, even informing, our newspaper and Lemko Association? Statements are then issued that all Lemko interests were accommodated.

Ed.

THE COOKING CORNER

BABKA

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups raisins
- 5 cups milk, scalded and cooled
- 14 1/2 cups flour
- 20 egg yolks
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3 pkgs. yeast
- 2 oranges -- juice and rind

Soak yeast in milk and add some flour and let rise till bubbly. Cream butter, sugar, egg yolks. Combine with yeast mixture. Add more flour, raisins, orange. Dough should be soft. Let rise again. Grease tall tins and fill 1/3 full. Let rise until dough rises to top. Bake in moderate oven for about 1 hour or until done. Babka should be handled very carefully when taken out of the container. It should be laid on a soft, covered cushion or pillow. Change position as Babka cools.
Mary Barker

PASSAIC LODGES 5-16 OF LEMKO ASSOC. EVENT CALENDAR FOR 1994

- Sunday, May 15-SPRING BANQUET-1:00 PM
Donation \$15.00
- Sunday, July 17-ANNUAL PICNIC-1:00 PM
Donation \$15.00
- Sunday, October 16-FALL BANQUET-1:00 PM
Donation \$15.00

Birthday Meetings

- Sunday, March 20-Refreshments-1:00 PM
- Sunday, June 5- " 1:00 PM
- Sunday, September 11- " 1:00 PM
- Sunday, December 4- " 1:00 PM

All functions to be held at the Lodge, corner of Ann Street and Lanza Avenue, Garfield, New Jersey.

LEMKO WEDDING VIDEO

A two hour video cassette of the film LEMKO WEDDING is still available for sale to our readers. This is the original film that was made almost 30 years ago, and it should be of intense interest to those readers who have not had the pleasure of viewing it.

Cost, including postage and handling, is \$45.00. To order kindly send your check or money order to KARPATSKA RUS, 556 Yonkers Avenue, Yonkers, New York, 10704

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please start/renew my subscription to KARPATSKA RUS. Enclosed please find my check or money order for \$20./year.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip Code _____
 Press Fund Donation _____
 Send to:

KARPATSKA RUS
 556 Yonkers Avenue
 Yonkers, New York, 10704

We extend our thanks for help in producing this week's issue of Carpatho-Rus to Svetlana Ledenieva, Mary Barker and Victoria Windish.
Ed.

PRESS FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

Lemko Branch 4-28	\$100.
Anna Isztwan in memory of George Isztwan	50.
George Perry	50.
Mary Shershen	50.
Maria Brinda	40.
Anna Greenjack	30.
Olga Hubiak	30.
John Makanych	30.
Joseph Obuch in memory of mother, Julia Obuch	30.
M/M Andrew Shast	30.
M/M Walter Turchick	30.
Lemko Assoc. Branch 10	25.
Helen Ostrosky in memory of mother, Mary Kinn Daduk	25.
M/M Andrew Spewock	22.
Anna Bellino	20.
Dimitri Demyanovich	20.
Anna Dzubak	20.
Alexander Hnatkow	20.
Stephan Kurillo	20.
Matthew Madzik	20.
Anna Madzy	20.
Alexander Maluga	20.
George Mlynar	20.
Lubomir Mlynar	20.
Maria Mlynar-Conroy	20.
Paul Plaskon	20.
Alice Yarish	20.
Olga Yedinak	20.
Jon Belkin	10.
John Fecica	10.
Timko Fecica	10.
Pauline Macek	10.
Semyan Wan	10.
M/M Andrew Yadlowsky	10.
Julia Yadlowsky	10.
Paiza Yaneshak	10.
Mary P. Anderson	5.
John Chidylo	5.
Melania Doshna	5.
Mary Markunas	5.
Nicholas Nayko	5.
TOTAL	\$902.

REQUEST OF OUR READERS

Through our archives we have searched for old Lemko Calendars from the 1930s and 1940s. Many of those old Calendars are missing. We would like to request, from our readers, any old Calendars that they may have and do not need. This would be of help to us in researching the history of our people. Thank you.

Ed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed you will find a check for twenty dollars. This is for my 1994 subscription to Karpatska Rus. My address remains unchanged as at the top of this letter.

I enjoy your articles about the history and traditions of the Carpathian people. Also enjoyable are your articles about the efforts being made today to better the lot of Rusyns in the Eastern countries and the strengthening of the bonds between Rusyns around the world. Last, but not least, I appreciate your fine recipes which I find particularly tasty and a healthy complement to modern fast food.

I support you in your continuing efforts to keep Karpatska Rus' modern and interesting.
Sincerely yours
Roland Anderson, Sweden

NOTICE

Our Cleveland Branch 6 -- 1 will hold its Annual Meeting on March 20, 1994 beginning at 2:00 PM. Place:

Tilly Dziamba
 34-19 North Parma
 Cleveland, Ohio 44134

All members are cordially invited to attend this important meeting.

Branch Committee

NOTICE

Due to lack of hard currency, our subscription mailing list to Poland, Slovakia, Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine is limited. Some Americans and Canadians pay for their relatives and friends in East Europe. As an inducement, to increase our readership in East Europe, we offer to send issues there at a special rate of \$8.00 per year, which only represents the cost of postage. If readers in the United States and Canada want to avail themselves of this opportunity, kindly send us the name and address of your relative or friend, with a check for \$8.00, and the newspaper will be sent.

KARPATSKA RUS

Carpatho-Russian Newspaper, published bi-weekly by the Lemko Assoc. of the United States and Canada.

Subscription Rate: One Year...\$20.

Edited By: Editor, pro-tem., A. Herenchak
 USPS No. 291 460

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

KARPATSKA RUS
 556 Yonkers Avenue
 Yonkers, New York, 10704

I am sending you a check for \$20. for the subscription of Karpatska Rus for the year of 1994.

The information on Slav Mythology by Kopestonsky should be printed in book form or a booklet so some of your readers can send them to friends and relatives.

Have a happy Xmas and a healthy, happy year with more subscriptions to your newspaper.

Don M. Patrick

Mr. A. Herenchak, Editor, pro-tem
 Karpatska Rus

Dear Mr. Herenchak,

Warmest regards to you and God's blessings be with you and yours.

Enclosed is a renewal subscription and I realize the mailing address still shows my mother's name--Paraska Kukulka.

Please correct the mailing label to read as follows:

Evelyn Olshanovsky
 c/o Anna Bellino

My mother passed away almost six years ago and my cousin and I decided to continue receiving the newspaper so that we could keep

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continued from page 2

learning about our heritage and also keep alive the beautiful memories of our parents -- Paraska Kukulka and Julia Felak. I can still remember how eagerly my mother received her newspaper and how happy she was when it arrived. She read page after page and caught up with worldly events and news about her friends. I know I should have made a correction sooner but I found it too difficult to remove her name.

In her memory I also am sending \$20. for your Press Fund, in addition to the \$20. renewal subscription. Keep up your worthwhile work. We enjoy receiving your newspaper and it does keep us focused on our heritage.

In Christ,
Anna, Arizona
and My Guardian Angel

Dear Editors,

On my most recent trip I stayed at Warsaw, Cracow and Nowy Sacz hotels and then travelled to the Lemkovina area of Swiatkowa, twenty five miles south of Yaslo, and on to Kremrna and my mother's village of Swiatkowa-Wielka, and my father's village of Doshnica, about two miles east of Swiatkowa to take in the Vatra Festival.

I left Cleveland airport on Friday, July 16, 1993 on Delta Airlines to Kennedy Airport and then Delta to Berlin with a 50 minute layover, and on the same plane, to Warsaw's new airport taking about 1/2 hour.

I stayed at the Forum Hotel in Warsaw overnight and left for Cracow (small airport) on Polish Lot Air, (turbo-prop) costing \$60., when I purchased the ticket in the U.S. I later found out that the price was too high. In Cracow I stayed in the *Holiday Inn Hotel* for a few days.

I ran into a former driver of mine in Cracow. We arranged to go to Nowy Sacz (about 65 miles from Cracow) instead of going by train. But guess what? -- my friendly driver Zygmunt had fuel pump problems, but fortunately, through him, I got a lift in that remote area from two young Poles (in a new car) for \$30. and they took me the remaining 30 miles to Nowy Sacz Hotel, and I stayed there for three nights. My cousin, Peter Gracon's son John, took me to Swiatkowa to their fairly decent home. This time they had inside plumbing, quite different from the month, December, 1991 to January, 1992 when I stayed with another family. Going to an outhouse with a flashlight in 5 degree F. temperatures was quite an experience.

At my cousin's home, some very nice Lemko friends of the Gracon family arrived from Ukraine to take in the Vatra Festival. John Chromik and Wasyl Sczerba were both familiar with my mother's relatives. John has a brother Michael in Brooklyn, and Wasyl has a brother, Michael Sczerba in Akron, Ohio. I sent him Wasyl's address in Ukraine. With the exception of a few days, the weather was cool and rainy during the entire time.

Since my stay in Poland was pre-arranged in the U.S for hotels and airlines, I did have to adhere to a certain schedule, but it was not too hurried.

I attended the Vatra Festival on a Saturday. It was not raining while I stayed there, but the ground was muddy. Some people camped out in small pup tents overnight, reminding me of my military days, except the colors were nice. The short 1/4 mile access road from the highway was a muddy mess. The road is so narrow it is not funny; cars parked on both sides with small buses trying to get through, it was almost impossible. I don't know how we were so lucky going in and out. We had to wait 40 minutes to get out to the highway at 4:00 PM on Saturday. People were very friendly. My guess is that there were 3,000 people in attendance due to the weather.

My cousin told me the Festival organizers would like to buy a few more acres and build a restaurant and possibly, a hotel. This, of course, takes money. They have a nice, well built wooden building, with a nice outdoor, covered stage. The children's singing was outstanding, and their skits, in our language, was perfect in their pronunciation. Going back to my hotel, about 30-40 miles, with my cousin driving, it really poured.

Sunday, my good friend, the Polish driver, Zygmunt, picked me up for the trip to Cracow without problems this time. The following day I made arrangements to fly back to Warsaw on Wednesday via Lot Airlines. This time it only cost \$20., and not the \$60. I was charged in the States. So the Poles in the U.S can rip-off or overcharge on pre-arranged trips.

I flew out of Warsaw in the first week of August on Delta. One reason I flew on Delta, it was easier to get an accommodation, because during the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons the Lot Airlines is heavily booked with American Poles visiting their relatives. In retrospect, I was sorry to leave my relatives in Swiatkowa-Wielka, about five miles from Kremrna, a very small town in the mountains close to Tylawa (I believe Alexander Herenchak's parents were born there). [That is correct, Michael--Ed]

I am going back to Europe again this year (I hope), but I don't know if it will be the Lemkovina area or Uzhorod, in Trans-Carpathia. There I can attend the Divine Liturgy since I am of Lemko Rusyn parentage and of Greek Catholic Byzantine persuasion (I'm not ashamed to mention).

Thank you for inserting my letter in the newspaper in its entirety.

Sincerely yours,
Michael (Lahwa) Lembike

P.S. I receive letters quite frequently from my cousin Peter Gracon (one month younger than I am) written in beautiful Cyrillic. I miss the nice Lemko people.

We had the good fortune recently to meet a young post-graduate student from Poland, who is currently researching in the archives of the New York Public Library for his studies on Carpatho-Rusyn immigration in the United States. He will be submitting articles from time to time on his research activities.

About PRAVDA

On February 2, 1902 several Carpatho-Rusyn activists, led by Victor P. Hladyk (born 1888 in the village of Kun'kova, Lemkovina - died 1946), met in New York City and decided to publish "a real Russian newspaper". Money was borrowed to purchase a printing press and the first issue appeared on March 24, 1902 (the old calendar). In the beginning it was difficult to acquire readership for the newspaper. The Second General Convention of the Russian Brotherhood Organization of the U.S.A. (R.B.O.) in September of

1903, named **Pravda** its official publication and bought it from Hladyk for \$400. In May of 1906 the newspaper was moved to Olyphant, Pennsylvania where the Rev. Feofan A. Obushkevych (born in 1841 in the village of Zhdynia, Lemkovina -- died 1924) became editor. The next editor was I. Lutsyk (born -- died?), who started publishing calendars of the R.B.O. The first calendar, for the year 1909, appeared in 1908. M.P. Balandjuk (born -- died?) briefly served as **Pravda's** editor; subsequently his post was offered to Ilja Hojnjak (born in the village of Ustja Ruske, Lemkovina; born -- died?). At that time, another Lemko -- D. Salej (born -- died?) became the manager. From the 4th of February, 1919 this post was assumed by Dymitrij Protsyk

(born -- died?), who managed **Pravda** very well for over ten years. The 12th General Convention of R.B.O. in June of 1921, placed the editorial post once again, in the hands of Hladyk. A recent immigrant from Lemkovina -- Symeon Pyzh (born 1894 in the village of Vapenne -- died 1957) was the next one to assume the post of editor. Except for the period of March, 1925 to August, 1926, when the editorial staff was led by Symeon Bendasiuk (born -- died?), Pyzh remained in this post for over ten years.

Up to the early thirties **Pravda** consisted of four pages, and was published twice-weekly (Tuesday and Friday). There were plans to produce it daily but these plans were never realized. After World War II, **Pravda** became a weekly and soon thereafter, a monthly. In 1927 a single issue of **Pravda** cost 3 cents.

News was published on the front page, including the most important information concerning Carpatho-Rusyns, and the whole eastern slavic region. The second page carried articles and two or three editorials dealing exclusively with the Carpatho-Rusyn church, social and political life in America as well as in the "Old Country". Probably the most interesting of these was the regular feature "Letters from the Old Country". The third and fourth pages consisted of financial reports of the R.B.O. and other organizational affairs. Advertisements included both ethnic Rusyn and non-Rusyn business.

The New York Public Library, thanks to the Carpatho-Ruthenian Microfilm Project, has an almost complete run of **Pravda** (call number ZAN-Q 1208). Unfortunately the first available issue dates

from December 4, 1917. From this date the collection is almost complete, without gaps, until 1975.

Pravda published ethnic community "calendars" -- **Iljustruvanyj Amerikansko-Russkij Kalendar**, which ran 200-250 pages. It carried a wide variety of articles, including religious material, social and political commentary and folk literature, as well as excerpts from 19th century Rusyn, Ukrainian and Russian literature.

Amerikansko-Russkij Kalendar is also available in the New York Public Library thanks to the Carpatho-Ruthenian Microfilm Project (call number ZAN-Q 1171). Unfortunately this collection is not as complete as the **Pravda** collection. The following volumes can be found on microfilm: 1925, 1928-1933, 1940, 1943 and 1950. Not on microfilm, but in their original form, are the following year's issues: 1909, 1912, 1914, 1920-1922 and 1924 (call number QGAA). Taken together, these two sets give us a collection in which, between the years of 1909 and 1940, only the following are still missing: 1910, 1913, 1915-1919, 1926-1927 and 1934-1939.



From our archives we have uncovered an interesting story of one of our early activists who labored to unite our people, make them aware of our cultural background and bring to the attention of the American public the Carpatho-Russian scene. His name, Stephen Skimba. I fondly remember, in my youth, at home, listening to Stephen Skimba and my father, Stephen Herenchak, talk, exchange jokes and discuss seriously the ways and means of organizing and bringing our people closer together. These discussions sometimes carried on for hours, when their tongues were generously lubricated with beer.
Ed.

If the Carpatho-Russians were ever to hire a press agent Stephen Skimba would be the logical man for the job, for no other individual has done as much as he to give the other nationalities of this country a complete, realistic and human portrait of the life, history and culture of the Carpatho-Russians.

"You've got to show them, to sell them" has always been his motto -- and shown and sold he has the natural instinct and love for peace and freedom of the Carpatho-Russian people.

"No other nationality boasts a richer cultural heritage than that of the Russians; and the Carpatho-Russians are Russians, even though time and fate have placed them under foreign reign." Stephen Skimba will tell you, "In music, literature, art, science and scores of other fields the contributions of Russians are second to none. So, why conceal the brilliant successes of Russian genius? Why not give it, in its fullest measure, to be blended with the achievements of the numerous other nationalities which compose our great nation, and woven into a national fabric of cultural beauty and strength which would be truly symbolic of America, its ideals and its aims."

Whole hearted acceptance and approval by the public of Stephen Skimba's many past endeavors is adequate evidence to support his confidence in the greatness of Russian cultural achievements. The vast success of his many records, radio programs, plays, social and national functions is concrete evidence of the cosmopolitan cultural achievements of Stephen Skimba. Like the other nationalities of this country, the Carpatho-Russians may be foreign by birth; but they are

American by choice, eager and willing to draw from their rich national heritage the finer things of life as their contribution to the growth and progress of their chosen fatherland. An author of fiction would find Stephen Skimba's record of achievements a literary mine of story material, rich in determination, humor and success.

There is, for instance, the chapter of his success with records. When he first approached Mr. Johnson, foreign production manager for the O. K. Recording Company, then one of the leading recording houses in the country, Mr. Skimba knew nothing whatsoever about making records. But he was determined to make a Carpatho-Russian

record, even though everyone insisted it couldn't be done, and that he would not even get an audition with Johnson. He got the audition, and Johnson's answer was a polite but firm no. But that did not stop Skimba. For over an hour he pouted his idea to Johnson. Sure there were a lot of records on the market, but not the kind he wanted to make. His record must not only be Carpatho-Russian, but it would sing, talk and relive the very spirit of those people. Johnson, wise in the ways of the entertainment world, only smiled. Any disc that could do that couldn't help but be a success, but how could a rank amateur put that spark of life into a cylinder of wax. He'd have to be a genius.

When Stephen Skimba finally left Johnson's office he had a contract in his pocket; but it was only for a single recording. Johnson felt sure that the one record would be enough to convince Mr. Skimba he did not belong in a recording studio.

He was even more determined of this conviction when that first record was finally made.

"I'm sorry," Johnson told Skimba. "We'll release it but....well, better luck next time."

Skimba only smiled. They all thought the disc was a flop, but he knew better. And he was right, for when they met again it was Johnson who sought out Skimba. The record which O.K. executives were sure would never even pay for the cost of recording, became a best seller overnight. It had that spark, that certain something for which it is so hard to find a name, yet which spells the difference between success and failure. And so Skimba signed a three-year contract with the O.K. Recording Company following up with contracts

with Columbia and Brunswick. A guy who knew nothing about records had blossomed forth as the golden head boy of the industry with a long record of best sellers.

Then a new thing, the thing called radio, appeared on the entertainment horizon. Here was an entirely new field to conquer. Skimba promptly set out to try his hand at it but the first audition almost sent his best trumpet player to the hospital. Crowded into a stuffy little studio of the kind common in the early days of the radio industry, the orchestra began to play while the station executives listened in another room. Five minutes passed. Ten. Fifteen. Still no word from the audi-

tion board. Huge beads of perspiration rolled down the face of the trumpet player. His throat was as dry as the Sahara desert from continuous blowing. Steve looked frantically around; if those guys in the audition room didn't have enough by now, he wouldn't have any orchestra left pretty soon.

Just then the manager entered. "We have the papers ready if you will step in," he said.

"Thanks" muttered the poor trumpet player feebly "if you had waited a few minutes more I'd have been playing for St. Peter."

Thus, the first Carpatho-Russian radio program came into being, to be followed by a series of other programs over various New York stations, including WLWL, WMBQ, WLBX, WBBS and others.

But as though broadcasting, recording and sponsoring scores of social and national affairs was not enough to occupy the time of one man, Stephen Skimba decided to produce a motion picture that would tell the story of Carpatho-Russian life. And so it was that one morning the inhabitants of a small Connecticut town awoke to find that a complete motion picture company had moved in upon them. Little white cottages with straw roofs had been constructed, and men and women in strange native costumes walked up and down the one street of the newly built town which was a perfect replica of a small Carpatho-Russian village nestled mid the snow clad peaks of the Carpathian Mountains of Europe. When the film was finally completed it was the first celluloid record of Carpatho-Russian life, and was shown throughout the country.

Add to these accomplishments, a beauty contest, a newspaper and a couple score of other things and you have a picture of the vast efforts of one man to make better understood the life and culture of his people. Yet if you were to ask what part of his past he would like to re-enact again, most of all, he would tell you the days in the army.

When Stephen Skimba first enlisted in the U.S. Army he knew practically no English at all. He knew so little, as a matter of fact, that when asked what branch of the service he wanted to enter, he could not even answer. "Do you want to walk or ride?" asked the recruiting officer, with motions.

"Ride", said Skimba. The Irish sergeant only smiled at the thought of what would happen when Skimba and a horse met. But Skimba knew what he was doing. He had ridden since his boyhood, and the second day at the training camp, the "Mad Cos-sack", as the riding instructor called him, was out-riding the veterans. As a matter of fact he even outrode his superior officers, until he learned that halt, meant stop, and not gallop. But for all the fun the company had at his expense, as a result of his lack of knowledge of English, Stephen Skimba still wishes he was back in the U.S. Army, even though now he wonders if a horse could carry the extra pounds, which the years have added to his waist-line.

J.H. Gabowsky