

Ihor Kuryliw,
362 Mabel Ave.,
SUDBURY, Ontario



My Beams

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Correspondence should be addressed to:

MYH BEAMS
Box 791 Winnipeg Man.

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Front Cover by Roman Stoyko

Back Cover, featuring Lydia
Motta, Nadia Nestorowsky &
Vera Chachula, West Toronto
UNYF: photo courtesy of the
Toronto Daily Star.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Oshawa,
April 11th

... a word of praise on the good work you all are
doing on "MYH BEAMS".....our hats are off to
you.....

Marianne Krawetz

.....IT'S WINNIPEG FOR '56 ! !

E D I T O R I A L

The Eleventh hour is nigh. A milestone is near at hand. Yes, kind reader, MYH BEAMS will be one year old next month.

The annals of mankind will long remember this golden moment in journalistic endeavour. It will rank with such colossal-like strides as the first fire, as the wheel, the pyramid of Cheops.

Maybe you don't believe us. Okay, that's your business. Whatever you do, keep on reading this modest effort. Put in but a fraction of the time perusing it as the people who spend their time putting it together. They are doing it for you. They don't want accolades; simply your promise that you will read what they have written.

That is our wish on the eve of the anniversary issue. Maybe it isn't the world's greatest (we think it is) but at least its an honest effort by sincere young people.

Renew their faith in the necessity of their work. Drop us a line telling us how much you like it. Why, land o' goshen, even brag about it a little!

Yours,

Boz.

In the merry year of '56
We're up to our old tricks
Pack up yon olde kit bag
And off for good ole Winnecpag!

CHAIRMAN OF UKRAINIAN CONGRESS
COMMITTEE OF AMERICA TO ATTEND
19th DOMINION U.N.Y.F. CONVENTION!

PROFESSOR LEV E. DOBRIANSKY, well known throughout the United States and Canada accepted an invitation last month from the Dominion Executive to be the guest speaker at the Banquet and Ball, which will be held in Winnipeg's Royal Alexandra Hotel, June 30th, 6.30 p.m.

Professor Dobriansky's achievements in the political and educational field are highly regarded by Ukrainians on both sides of the border. As well as being chairman of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, he is also well known as associate editor of "The Ukrainian Quarterly" and as professor of Soviet Economics at the Graduate School of Georgetown University, Washington D.C. He was assistant secretary at the Republican National Convention in 1952 and is one of the authorities used by the United States Congress on Soviet and Un-American activities. At the same time he is one of the most brilliant speakers of the American-born generation and we take great pride in bringing him to Winnipeg for the first time.

Born in New York City in 1918, Professor Dobriansky is an honour graduate of New York University (Ph.D., M.A., B.S.). He is a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the American Economic Association, the American Association of University Professors, the Academy of Political Science, the American Finance Association, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, etc.

Commenting on the professor's acceptance to speak before the convention, the D.E. president, Walter P. Klymkiw, at a recent meeting of the Convention Committee in Winnipeg, "It has ever been a prejudice of ours that Ukrainians on both sides of the fence should have more communication with each other. Furthermore, that intimacy should not be simulated nor superficial. We certainly hope that this will mark a new phase in our relationship."

WHY SING THOSE BLUES??

READ "7" & "8"

..FOR CONVENTION CUES!

MORE FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

WITHIN the last month or so, two new books have appeared, both written in the English language, and both having to do with the suppression of Ukrainian literary efforts by the Soviet Regime in the early thirties.

The Russian Institute of Columbia University has published a major work by George S.N. Luckyj, entitled "LITERARY POLITICS IN THE SOVIET UKRAINE, 1917-1934." Dr. Luckyj, in this book, traces the evolution of the Communist policy of literary control in the Ukraine from 1917 up to the early thirties, when literary opposition was ruthlessly crushed. The first study in English of the fate of a national, non-Soviet literature within the Soviet Union, the volume draws heavily on a rich collection of personal letters, literary documents, and notes, - the unpublished papers of Arkadii Liubchenko, who in 1942 fled to the West and died in Germany in 1945. These papers are here interpreted against their complicated literary and historical background by a distinguished professor of Slavic Studies at the University of Toronto who grew up in the Ukraine (333 pages) **

The second book, "A MUSE IN BONDAGE," (Ukrainian title "Muze v nevoli"), by Yaro Slavutych, has been released by "Svoboda" Publishers in New Jersey. The contents of the book include biographical outlines of eleven Ukrainian poets liquidated by the Reds in the early thirties. The book contains a preface by Professor Clarence Manning and extracts from each poet's works. (64 pages).

On the basis of documents and materials gathered by the Ukrainian writers group in New York, up to 1930, 250 Ukrainian writers in Ukraine saw their works published - after 1930 only 36 of them remained. An estimated total of 223 Ukrainian writers and poets had disappeared in the following manner:

- 17 writers were executed,
- 8 committed suicide,
- 175 were arrested and deported,
- 16 disappeared without leaving a trace,
- 7 died natural deaths.

This mass elimination of Ukraine's most promising poets, novelists and journalists remains literally unrivaled in the history of any nation in the world.

** Professor Luckyj's review of J.A. Armstrong's book, "Ukrainian Nationalism" appeared in last month's issue of "MYH BEAMS."

THE UKRAINIAN EASTER EGG

and its story by Gloria
Surmach . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Miss Gloria Surmach is well known throughout the United States and Canada for her articles on Ukrainian folk crafts and costumes, which have appeared in many magazines and newspapers. Long recognized as an authority on the art of Easter eggs, she presents in the following article unusual and little known facts and tales surrounding Ukrainian Easter eggs.

It always seems to me that Ukrainian Easter eggs are something like our Christmas tree decorations, which as each year rolls around we eagerly hunt up and admire only to bury them away again in some dark corner of the china cabinet. Perhaps this is an annual occurrence in your home, but have you ever wondered about the facts and colourful legends that surround our Ukrainian Easter eggs? For instance, do you know the difference between a "krashanka" and a "pysanka"? why most Pysanky have dots in their design how Ukrainian girls used the Pysanka to snare a husband? some of the magical qualities credited to the Easter egg? how the Pysanka can SAVE THE WORLD IN CRISIS? ? ? ?

The custom of decorating eggs in connection with Easter celebrations is practised throughout most of the Slavic countries. In the Ukraine various types of Easter eggs were originated, but the Krashanka and Pysanka are perhaps the most widely known. The word Krashanka (plural Krashanky) is derived from the word "kraska" which means "color", and is an egg dyed a solid, brilliant color, in most cases red. The egg is hard cooked and used for eating, but the shells must never be carelessly tossed away. The shells can only be disposed of by burning or casting them into flowing water.

Pysanka (plural Pysanky) stems from the verb "pysaty", to write. This is a multi-colored egg on which the designs are first "written" with wax. Pysanky are always raw and must never be eaten or deliberately broken.

Ukrainian folk tales have come down through the centuries and some are still being retold about the Easter egg. From the colorful Hutzul mountaineers who inhabit the western Carpathian mountains comes this story of the "Blessed Virgin Mary", who during the agony of Christ, decorated some Pysanky to take before Pontius Pilate to plead for His life. As she worked, tears fell onto the eggs, thus forming brilliantly coloured dots. (To this day an authentic Hutzul egg will contain dots as part of the design, in honor of Our Lady's tears). When Mary came before Pilate, she dropped to her knees in grief, and as
(continued on page 9)

with less than two months to go before the big weekend, excitement is sure running high around these parts...

...of course, we're all mighty proud to have professor lev e. dobriansky as our guest speaker at the banquet and ball.....and for the first time in many years the dominion convention will be highlighted by a full scale display of club photos, old bulletins, programs etc (enuf to bring tears to any old-timer's eyes) which will be combined with a book display.....also, those rare maps of ukraine dating from the 16th & 17th centuries will be on hand throughout the weekend for all guests and delegates to have a close look at.....this is where everyone of you unyf-ers can lend us a helpin' hand; if you've got

Winnipeg

FOR THE BEST CONVENTION EVER ! !

WE'LL SEE YOU IN

any photographs of dancing groups, choirs, printed programs, old club bulletins will be returned immediately after the convention sending them in to box 791, winnipeg manitoba - only make sure you include some information on the picture or material, like the date, the place and the occasion.....Your pictures will be returned immediately after the convention a couple of days ago, a few of us got to thinking that perhaps many of you potential conventioners are a bit worried over convention expenses ---- this is where our home accomodation committee comes in --- these are the people who will place you in private homes for the entire weekend ---- guest reservation forms will be in your mail box soon for this very purpose.....and as for transportation problems, every branch has at least one member whose car can be drafted into service --- for larger groups, discount rates on train fares begin with 10 persons (unyf-ers in the t.o. region can get a 2-way for as low as 38.25)one of the main attractions which we barely have had time to mention up until now, will be, of course, the convention sessions themselvesit always seems to us, that these, since they are the most interesting features of any convention -- a good time to get well acquainted with the organization -- a good time to get well acquainted with remember, we'll be looking for you at the best convention ever, in winnipeg manitoba, june 29th to July 2nd, 1956, okay?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

she did, the Pysanky rolled from her apron across the floor, and continued rolling until they were distributed around the world. And so the eggs are still distributed at Easter to commemorate His teachings of peace and love.

On the church lawn, a blushing Ukrainian maiden dressed in her most attractive, hand-made Easter outfit, presented her favorite beau with a special Pysanka. This was her indication of a definite fondness for him, and it wasn't too long before an engagement was announced, most likely that summer.

The youngsters, in the meantime, partook in such Easter egg games on the church lawn as "Trial of the Krashanky", which was testing the strength of a hard-cooked Krashanka by knocking the Krashanka against an opponent's until one of the Krashanky cracked. To the victor went the spoils, and immediately another egg was pitted against the victor's egg. Possessor of the final remaining unbroken egg claimed all the others, or as many unbeaten ones as he could get.

"Omne vivum ex ovo." The egg was believed to be the origin of ALL THINGS and has been associated from the earliest pagan times with mythical and religious ceremonies. The "Easter" egg tradition is simply a continuation of that concept, retaining many of its magical qualities. In the Ukraine a bowl filled with Pysanky was invariably kept in every home, not only as a colorful display, but also as a protection against lightning and fire. The shells of the Krashanka were placed into the thatched roofs of homes to turn away high winds and rain.

Krashanky were also credited with magical healing powers. One was suspended from the neck of a seriously ill person or touched to the spot of one suffering from blood poisoning.

To learn the fate of the soul of a member of the family recently departed, a Krashanka was placed on the grave, covered lightly with some earth and allowed to remain overnight. When it was recovered and found to be undisturbed, without a mark and unsoiled, it indicated that the soul was safe with God. If the egg was found to have been uncovered by a stray animal, however, abused or harmed in any way, the soul was in great need of assistance through prayer.

Another Hutzul tale has the answer to the problems of the world! It is the belief, according to this tale, that the fate of the world depends upon the Pysanka. As long as the tradition remains and eggs continue to be decorated, the world will exist. Should the custom cease, EVIL will encompass and destroy the world, because an ancient, vicious creature lies heavily chained against a huge cliff and each year advocates of the creature encircle the earth to keep a record of the number of Pysanky decorated. When there are few, the creature's chains loosen and Evil begins to flow throughout the world. However, should these advocates find the custom of decorating eggs practised extensively, the chains hold the monster taut, allowing Love to conquer the Evil.

(reprinted from 1950 Trend)

SANDY HOOK

BECKONS

AGAIN I

The Fifth Annual UNYF Leadership Courses are slated to be held directly following the Dominion Convention at Sandy Hook, Manitoba. On the placid shores of Lake Winnipeg, the UNYF will again hold forth with jam packed lectures; jampacked sandwiches, and all other paraphernalia that has made our Leadership Courses to be the never forgotten treasures of three weeks well spent.

Last summer, one of the projects undertaken by those who attended the courses was delivering a five minute speech on the UNYF to an imaginary audience. In this issue, we're quoting one of these talks, which in this instance was given by Bill Diachun, of Montreal UNYF.

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen;

"I am here to tell you about the ideal Ukrainian youth organization, the Ukrainian National Youth Federation.

"When I say 'national', I mean 'national' in two ways. The first - a person is a Ukrainian Nationalist when he upkeeps the cultural traditions of his forefather's country, which in our case are the traditions of Ukraine.

"The methods by which we retain these cultural traditions are very straight forward. In our club we have groups which dance, choirs which sing, actors who act, painters who paint, and novelists and poets who write. Everyone in his own way can adjust himself to the club in one way or another. This is one of the most pleasing aspects of our organization.

"The second way in which we try to be good Nationalists, is in respect to Canada, the country in which we live. This can be very easily achieved simply by being a good citizen of one's community.

"We are a non-partisan group. When I say that, I mean that our club does not follow one strict, political view. You should realize that our organization is very broad-minded. You can tell this by reading over our UNYF Constitution. After you read it, you get to realize that you don't have to be a genius to belong to it. You're not expected to belong to any particular religious group - we accept you so long as you abide by Christian morals.

"I don't want you to get the impression that our club just works. On the contrary, most of the branches have dances and socials at least once a month. In the summer we have picnics. Every second year, a national convention is held in a different city. During these conventions you get to meet a lot of kids, and who knows, you just might get yourself a mate!

"The sports which are played are year-round ones, including indoor sports. Here is a chance for the chubby ones to lose weight, for the fragile ones to put on weight and for the juvenile delinquents to become men with character.

"I think our club is the most, and I know you will too if you come out and give it a chance to prove itself."

HERE
AND
THERE

OSHAWA . . .

No, we're not all asleep here in Oshawa, with maybe the exception of yours truly. Everyone else is thinking hard, at the moment, of how to make the Provincial Executive's Bowling Tournament, to be held in Oshawa on May 12th and 13th, a great success. Since this is our first time at playing host to the rest of the UNYFers, we hope to meet quite a few of you and have ourselves a "time."

Our Dorist MYH, trying to keep up with everyone and everything, have been keeping their instructors, Bob Leczel and Vera Mandryk, on their toes.

Our own general meetings, held once a month, have taken on a new twist. After clearing away business on hand, we settle down to an evening's entertainment, topped off by refreshments. At our April meeting, we had as our guest speaker Mr. Michael Wladyka, a pioneer of the UNYF in Oshawa, who had as his inspiring theme "Know Thyself." Not only is Mr. Wladyka a successful businessman, but his sincerity, ambition and desire to get ahead have earned him the prominent position of councillor on the municipal council in Port Hope. The Oshawa UNYFers are mighty proud to know that Mr. Michael Wladyka was once himself a leading UNYFer, and we certainly wish him all the success in the future.

Marianne Krawetz.

WINDSOR . . .

On Friday, April 13th, our dancing group performed at a concert sponsored by the New Canadian Club at Caboto Hall in Windsor. The two dances they did were "Verhoveno" and "Hulanka." The girls danced so well that they were requested to repeat one of the dances.

The Windsor Branch of the Ukrainian Women's Organization (O.Y.K.) recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a concert followed by a banquet. Our contribution to the programme was a piano solo by Uliane Yaworsky, "Hailky" performed by ten of our UNYFers, violin solo by Florence Moodrey, a still life portrait of Ivan Franko's poem "Kamenarey" and several other items.

Mrs. Kovalek, past president and past member of our UNYF Branch, was a guest speaker at one of our general meetings. Talking on the life and works of Ivan Franko, Mrs. Kovalek described the circumstances in the author's personal life that inspired him to make such an important contribution to Ukrainian literature. Mrs. Kovalek's interesting and informative lecture served to stimulate more interest in Ukrainian works.

Recently we were honoured with another visit from Mr. Stan Szach, member of the Provincial and Dominion Executives.

Vera Turus.

HAMILTON . . .

VAGABONDS BOWLING CHAMPS: On Wednesday, April 25th, Vagabonds were coached by captain Roy Hewak to a SIX PIN victory over Gene Cudney's Suzie "Q's". The Bar-Ott bowling alleys was the scene of the Hamilton UNYF's Play-off and final championship game. The teams in order of standing at the end of the season were: Suzie "Q's", Fantastic 5, Boomerangs, Vagabonds, Pin Droppers and Gene Doskoch's Les Miserables. In the semi-final Suzie "Q's" blanked out Boomerangs by 692 pins with the score of 3040. Vagabonds squeaked into the finals by a FOUR PIN victory over Fantastic 5. Roy, Helen and Andy with above average scores made possible the 2563 to 2557 aggregate total win over "Suzie Q's". Members of the victorious team are: Roy Hewak (Captain), Helen Kulpaka, Andrew Gregorowich, Luba Podolsky, and Phil Owcharchyn. The close scores attest to the ability of the bowling committee, which was composed of: Michael Prybyla, Nick Olchow, Paul Koshuta and Helen Shyliwski. We, the bowling members, would like to thank that hard working committee for the enjoyment they provided us with.

The "Bowling Social" held by the committee on Friday, April 20th was also a success. Two bowling movies were shown to pep up interest in both our finals and the forthcoming Oshawa Bowling Tournament. Football 55 was another film, a spectacular colour film of the "Big Four" football teams.

Indirectly, UNYF Hamilton has some more news: our UNF branch has purchased the property on which they have been situated for over a decade. Although the present building is almost useless, we are all looking forward to the day when we can proudly invite neighbouring branches to a modern hall.

Andy Gregorowich.

WINNIPEG . . .

We finally managed to squeeze in a club party last month! It was our first one this year and was held in the "Bocksie Mansions."

The MYH Choir directed by their most eminent conductor, Waldo-mare K. sang three folk songs at the Ukrainian Professional and Business Men's Annual Spring Concert at the Playhouse on Monday April 30th -- and the MYH folk dancers, headed by none other than "Hop along Kapy" really set things awhirling! The concert was a huge success, and we're all proud to know that we helped our local business men in their efforts to support the Ukrainian studies fund at the U of Manitoba.

S.O.S. Branches please note: your individual attention to the securing of as many ads as possible for the Convention Program Book is anticipated, please don't let us and yours truly.

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. down!

Marie Saviak.



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. THE KEYHOLE
.

She: "I'm living in a dormitory while I'm at college."

He: "A what?"

She: "A dormitory. Surely you know what a dormitory is. What did you sleep in while you were in the army?"

He: "My underwear."

The nudists were planning a costume party and the ladies were worrying over what to wear. "Well," said one, "With my varicose veins, I think I'll go as a road map."

Two gents met in the subway.

"Hi, Joe, hear you gotta new job."

"Yeah, I have."

"Where ya workin'?"

"At the Eagle Laundry."

"Eagle Laundry, huh? Whaddya do?"

"Whaddya think I do? Wash eagles!"

"But Darling, if I marry you, I'll lose my job."

"Can't we keep our marriage a secret?"

"But suppose we have a baby?"

"Oh, we'll tell the baby, of course."

He: "Do you mind if I shut off the light? I freckle easily."

And then there was the wolf of the woods who drove a gal out into the bosky places, turned off the motor and asked for a kiss. She shook her head for a half hour before he discover^{ed} she had her nose caught in the windshield wiper.

"Aren't you ashamed," the judge asked the man, "to have your wife support you by taking in washing?"

"Yes, I am, Your Honor," he replied. "But what can I do? She's too ignorant to do anything better."

A man and woman visited a mental hospital and asked if they might be shown around. Their guide was one of the patients. He showed them around the grounds, and through all of the buildings. When they came to the dining hall the woman noticed that the clock on the wall showed the wrong time so she spoke to the guide about it, "Why, that clock isn't right at all."

"Yes, Ma'am," the inmate replied, "If that clock was right it wouldn't be here."

PLAN TO ATTEND THE
19th Convention of the Ukrainian National
Youth Federation of Canada
JUNE 29th — JULY 2nd, 1956
Guest Speaker—PROFESSOR LEV E. DOBRIANSKY
of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
At the BANQUET and BALL - ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOTEL - June 30th, 1956



with
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...of course, we're all mighty proud to *have*
professor ley e. dot riansky as our guest speaker at the
banquet and ball and for the first time in many years the
dominion convention will be highlighted by a full scale display of club
photos, old bulletins, programs etc (enuf to bring tears to any old-timer's eyes)
which will be combined w'th a book display also, those rare snaps of ukraine dating
from the 16th & 17th centuries will be on hand throughout the weekend for all guests and delegates
to have a close *look at.....this* Is where everyone of you unyf-ers can lend us a helpin' hands if you've got

WE'LL SEE YOU IN

Winnipeg

FOR THE BEST CONVENTION EVER !!

any photographs of dancing groups, choirs, printed programs, old club bulletins at home, we'd greatly appreciate your
sending them in to box 791, winnipeg manitoba - only make sure you include some information on the picture or mat-
erial, like the date, the place and the occasion.....y our pictures will be returned immediately after the convention
a couple of days ago, a few of us got to thinking that perhaps many of you potential conventioners are a bit worried
over *convention* expense. --- this is where our home accomodation committee comes in --- these are the people who
will place you in private homes for the entire weekend --- guest reservation forms will be in your mail box soon for
this very purpose and as for transportation problems, every branch has at least one member whose *car* can be draft-
ed into service --- for larger groups, discount rates on train fares begin with 10 persons (unyf-ers in the t.o.
region can get a 2-way for as low as 38.25)..... one of the main attractions which we barely have
had time to mention up until now, will be, of course, the convention sessions themselves
It always seems to us, that these, since they are the main reason for a con-
vention being called in the first *place*, are the most interesting features
of any convention -- a good time to get well acquainted with
the organization to which we all belong..... and
remember, we'll be looking for you at the
best convent'on ever, in winnipeg
manitoba, June 29th to
July 2nd, 1956,
okay?

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At the BANQUET and BALL - ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOTEL - June 30th, 1956

