

**MEMORIES  
OF  
DANIEL SLOBODIAN**

Thanks for all  
the happy memories we  
share of our younger years

Dan & Bobbie

## MEMORIES

### HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

As I reach the autumn years of my life I wish to share some memories.

Lest anyone get the wrong idea, some may be funny or seem irreverent. I love this Church and the parishioners and I did work hard for it, as did the parishioners who were generous in their contributions to the Church and humanitarian causes in Ukraine and America.

The Church Parish began with ten families and grew to the 180 families today. Our Church is all wood, designed by Radoslaw Zuk, a professor of architecture at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. It was featured on three pages in color of two leading architectural magazines; ArchitectueL Review and Progressive Architecture. Picked as one of ten best designs of the year for it's outstanding blending of the traditional with modern elements.

I recently heard a woman, who seeing our Church for the first time, opening the door inside say, "My God, what a beautiful building".

I understand because I have the same feelings as she. Built entirely of wood, long laminated beams meet at a central point to support the high towers of the Church. A wood plank ceiling and walls give a very warm feeling and the acoustics are the best I have heard in any church.

Author Daniel Slobodian

Came to Kerhonkson in 1951 to supervise the reconstruction of Soyuzivka's buildings. Became the first manager of Soyuzivka and stayed for 19 years. When Holy Trinity Parish organized he was one of the first Trustees, a post he held for 17 years. He was a prime mover in the construction of the Church. He is still an active supporter of the Church and community affairs.



### WHY IS THERE AN "X" BEHIND THE ALTAR?

Six round steel columns support the high towers of our Church. The architects feared that high winds of 80 miles an hour might exert such a force as to topple them down. The X brace is there to strengthen the supporting volumnd.

### HAS IT WORKED?

We have had three big hurricanes since the Church was built and it is still standing. Not a hurricane but a local twister with winds of 90 miles per hour did take off shingles on two tower walls. The Priest asked the trustees what to do. He was told to phone the Bishop's secretary. Our Church is covered by a blanket insurance policy which covers all churches in our diocese. I was pleasantly surprised to see two insurance adjusters arrive in two days to examine the damage and more surprised to find the settlement figure covered the repairs completely.

### HOLY SMOKE

As is the custom of our Church ritual, the Priest swung the "Kadilo", a gold container suspended from three chains filled with burning incense emitting smoke.

This is done prior to preparing the host, a chalice with wine and pieces of bread to parishioners for communion.

I am told this originated as a cleansing operation in the near East whence our Church began, smoke from the burning incense kept the flies away, rendering the altar area clean.

Our building code required a fire detector be installed. It was placed in one of the steeple towers. When the incense smoke rose to the detector of course the fire alarm went off.

After phoning the proper government agency the matter was resolved by replacing the smoke detector with another type.

Every year, however, a new inspector shows up who has to be told why our Church is exempt from that type of fire detector.



### SINGING THAT BROKE GLASS

It was a week day morning mass. The Priest was singing. The entire sidewall of our Church has sliding glass doors which are opened in summer to allow those who cannot be accommodated inside to see and hear the mass.

For no apparent reason one large pane of glass broke into a thousand pieces none larger than a half inch.

As new glass was being installed, the workman explained this is a special glass made for strength. It is under extreme tension and sometimes a sound wave of the proper wave length can cause the glass to break as happened here.

### THE ROOF IS FALLING

The new Trustees called on me to join five others they had called. Inside the Church they pointed out to us something which was brought to their attention by a visiting engineer.

The large laminated beams that hold the roof rest on steel brackets which are welded to steel columns. On one of these brackets a large crack was pointed out .

All agreed it was a serious condition that required immediate action. But the ex-Trustee kept looking at the crack high above. After 15 minutes, he noticed that the crack moved when a slight movement of air occurred by someone opening a door.

Turning to the present Trustees he said, "Mr. Lytwyn, get two or three long sticks, tie them together, wrap a rag around the end and wipe that cobweb off.





## ANGELS ARE WEARING OUT FLOORS IN CHURCH

When the Oprysko family moved to our area they organized and taught our children Ukrainian folk dancing every week in our Church basement.

In time remarks were made that slight signs of wear are showing on the "Dex-O-Tex" composition flooring and the instructor charges for lessons and profiting.

The dance group ~~has~~ made many appearances before American audiences and on Ukrainian holidays. Children attended classes with enthusiasm ~~and~~ were proud to exhibit this facet of Ukrainian culture.

Today, the group does not exist but I and many others would gladly pay the cost of a new floor to see our Angels dancing Ukrainian folk dances.

## HANDICAP ACCESSABLE

I must admit we didn't plan it that way but it did turn out that our's is one of the few churches you can enter without climbing stairs. Although 90% of the people park their cars and use the stairs, it is still very convenient for disabled people to park cars on a level lot, get into a wheel chair or walk directly into Church.

The most pleasant sight however, is being inside the Church and watching a bridal procession promenade down the long sidewalk and enter the Church.

## SHRUBS, YES FLOWERS, YES TREES, NO

Blue spruce and several other evergreens were planted in front of our Church. Time passed and no one realized they were no longer shrubs but in fact trees. A rude awakening was a hurricane that blew down two large pines across the street at the entrance to Soyuzivka and two old trees on our neighbor's lot which damaged his porch roof.

A second windstorm blew down trees all over Foordmore Road the night one of our organizations held a meeting under the Church. The members either walked home or slept in the lobby of Soyuzivka. Our local volunteer Fire Company worked all night until 6:00 AM with chain saws to clear the road so residents could travel the next morning.

Did this teach anyone a lesson? It took 3 years to convince the Church committee to cut down the trees before they fall on the Church. Amen



### Why was a Canadian Architect Chosen?

Wladimyr Zuk has a reputation as a Church designer in Canada. The original conception of our Church design was his but the plans had to be approved by N.Y. State. So, a company that had a license to practice in N.Y. State had to be found.

### How Could they Supervise from Canada?

Beautifully. I have never seen better supervision by an Architect. Every week he phoned me or I phoned him to report how the work was progressing. At critical times he drove down to inspect the work being done versus the specifications. Example: When the foundation was dug it was measured for accuracy, every pour of concrete was tested to see it complied with the strength specified in the contract, when steel bars were laid he found they were laid not in accordance with plan specifications, the concrete pouring which was to occur the next day was called off until a correction was made.

Specifications stipulated that the laminated beams were to have no more than a specific number of knots depending on the length of the beam, grades of lumber, hardware, roofing, etc. everything was specified and the contractor was estopped from making substitutions without approval of the architect.

### CHURCH INSULATED?

Yes. The roof is composed of 4 inch thick wood planks which is insulation itself. Exterior foundation walls underground are asphalt coated and thick styrofoam insulation gives us the dry walls we enjoy in the basement.

### WHAT'S A CONSTRUCTION JOINT?

Alarmists occasionally point out to us that where the covered walkway joins the Church is a gap of one inch or so. Yes, the architects realizing that the Main structure was built on virgin soil and the walkway was built on fill, there may be a difference in settlement. Anticipating this may happen they designed the construction joint for this eventuality.



### Pews

Obvious. Folding chairs are not that beautiful or comfortable. Mention pews and everyone thinks of the hard oak straight back seats. I have not sat in one that I could say was comfortable.

In the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C I finally found a comfortable Church seat. They are wooden individual chairs with arms, commercial quality Naugahyde padded seats and backs. Though they are individual chairs dovetail slots enable them to be locked together.

Their versatility enables one to remove a row if you need more aisle space for weddings or religious holidays.

Mainly, the chairs are comfortable and we seniors who have supported the Church all our life and continue to so long as we are able, have done our suffering for a lifetime, deserve a few comforts in our golden years. ‡

### IF IT AINT BROKE DONT FIX IT

As you look out our wall of sliding glass doors you look upon a flagstone patio in the center of which is a wooden cross in the middle of a pretty flower bed, usually well kept by a few dedicated persons who love their Church.

Every once in a while someone suggests we take out the flagstone, pour concrete or asphalt. Please dont. The flagstone is embedded in stone dust, not sand. In Ellenville, the Urban Renewal Agency and village wanted to update Market St. where a new large store "Richie's" is. New Sidewalks were put in using bricks laid in a bed of stone dust because stone dust, unlike sand does not move around stays firmly imbedded. So far .It has lasted 30 years.



## A COOL CHURCH? NOT YET

A heating engineer I hired to replace a furnace looked at the way our walls and ceiling all converged to the towers stated what an ideal situation it was for cooling the Church. Since hot air rises all we need is an open window in the tower and a fan to help draw the hot air and blow it out and be replaced by cooler air outside.

No action was taken until a couple of years later a new Church committee installed a fan. It was tried out once and never used again. The noise and vibration was just too much.

Even without a fan the idea would work to some extent. Another engineer advises try a smaller size fan with a quieter motor. I still think the idea is good.

## AIR CONDITIONING

We were advised that to air condition the Church would be prohibitively expensive due to many obstacles. I was told the same thing about Soyuzivka's dining room. Years later the industry developed small window units that made it possible. I think the same thing will happen, they will conceive of other ways to air condition. For us, NOT YET.

## WHO DIMMED THE LIGHTS?

I have heard people say we need better lighting in Church. How old are you? Sometimes they tell me. I confess to being 79. The lights are dimmer to me, too. Yet, just 5 years ago singing with the Church choir I had no trouble reading music and words.

Our Church lighting is indirect, the easiest and best lighting. You don't see bare bulbs to hurt your eyes. True, someone had replaced the bulbs with half the wattage, which was false economy. Also with the years the sockets deteriorated so only half the remaining lights function. A new Church Architectural advisory Board is studying this matter.

Who dimmed the lights? Do as I did, see an Ophthalmologist.





## GAMBLING IS ILLEGAL EXCEPT

In the early years our Parish was too small to build a church by itself. We counted on the good will of the many guests who frequented Soyuzivka and Ukrainians in the diaspora to support us. And they did.

To raise funds we mailed reffles to our Ukrainians all over the U.S. and Canada. Our local parishioners worked hard evenings and afternoons four times a week stuffing envelopes, sorting them by zip codes, addressing, etc.

Once a week two trusted workers picked up returning mail from the post office box, placed in a large canvas bag with a lock and that evening 5 people opened counted and checked the mail every week.

To our surprise we received a letter from the U.S. Postal Service that we were guilty of conducting illegal gambling.

I was hard for us to believe that with gambling casinos thriving Junk mail offers, and state government Lotto games our little church is accused of gambling.

It turned out, we neglected to put a small print statement that you need not pay any money in order to win which would then make it legal.

We explored running BINGO GAMES for raising funds but found the bureaucratic red tape made it impractical for us.

Moral is that Gambling is illegal except when the government does it.



#### OREST SAID BUY A SURETY PERFORMANCE BOND

It will cost \$1,000 but guarantees the work will be completed by the contractor at the price agreed upon and against any law suits. But Orest you looked up our contractor's credit rating in Dun & Bradstreet's and said it was very good. \$1,000 is a lot of money which we don't have but need to pay for the construction payments.

It took two years to build our Church. We were in no hurry because this gave us more time to raise more money.

Imagine my surprise when I received a letter from some law office stating they have filed suit against our General contractor and the Church for non-payment to a sub-contractor.

The Surety Bond Company told me to mail them the letter and they would take care of it. This matter was in the courts for two years before being settled. Every month our Bond Company phoned me or sent a letter asking me if I heard of anything on the suit.

Two years. I thought to myself, with lawyers charging \$100 per hour and court appearances double, \$1,000 was a cheap price to pay. I was glad I lost my argument with Orest.

For 5 years Orest Bedrij was my co-trustee. He held a high position in IBM as an executive officer, was very knowledgeable in corporate business matters and laws. He did great work in negotiating with the UNA to donate their property to the Church and with the Bishop to sanction our building project. As mentioned previously, he also negotiated our mortgage with the local bank, then the UNA. Not to be forgotten was his role in raising money for the Church with our Raffles which we mailed throughout the U.S. Thank you Orest.



## EASY TO GET A MORTGAGE ? NO WAY

Orest Bedrij engaged in promoting, incorporating and merging corporations, and I, two trustees went to two local banks. Orest presided the Vice President of Ellenville Trust Co with a prepared presentation stating our financial position, growth rate of the parish, total amount of money pledged by members and projected earnings. After reading, he smiled at us and said, "You boys really know what you're doing. Excuse me a minute. Mind if I make a copy of it for myself?"

Then he explained the bank's policy on mortgages to churches. The construction of churches is such that they have poor marketability. They are not easily converted or saleable for other uses. Disagreements occur, fighting disbands the church and the bank is left with property of little or no value. We put more value on the character, background and responsibility of the men on the board pushing the project. If we do grant a mortgage it is not for business but for maintaining good will in the community. If you get a bank willing to grant half the mortgage you require we will go for the other half.

The same thing we heard from the Kerhonkson National Bank but they said they would take over the whole mortgage.

The Ukrainian National Association, by State Insurance Laws could not grant a Construction Loan but, with the signature of the President of the UNA stating that upon completion of construction the U.N.A. will take over the mortgage the two banks were willing to talk to us.

The Ukrainian National Ass'n , as it has in the past, helped many Ukrainian Churches get built, helped us in many other ways, too. They donated the three plus acres, allowed us to take fill from their property across the road, snow plowed our parking lot, catered many of our Church dinners at little or no cost. I do think it is time for someone to say, "Thank You, Batko Soyuz".

**\*\* Both banks have since merged, are now known as Fleet Bank and Key Bank.**



DE YE CHOR ?  
WHERE'S THE CHOIR ?

Easter Sunday. The Church was packed. The Priest sang and response "Chrystos Voskres" (Christ Has Risen) was not being sung and the Priest turned to where the choir should be and asked, "Where's the choir?"

At the age of 16 I began singing in the Elizabeth, N.J. Church choir. Every Ukrainian Church had a choir. Perth Amboy, Carteret, Elizabeth, Newark, Jersey City, Passaic, N.Y. City, Yonkers, etal. It was our way of life to attend choir practice every Friday night load the guys and gals into our 12 year old Model A Fords (they cost all of \$25.00 then) stop at a diner, for coffee and a bun, or a low cost night club for a beer or two (all we could afford). We also made plans to attend other Ukrainian functions. Every choir in the area sponsored a Ball once or twice a year and every city supported each other's dances.

In those depression years of the 1930's when one in 4 people were unemployed we had good times at minimal costs. Bus outings to the seashore, boat rides and picnics where we boys chipped in to buy a small keg of beer, hot dogs, rolls, pickles, etc. and took all our choir members in our jalopies to one of the state parks where they had grills and swimming facilities.

We worked once in a while for the Church, too. Caroling Christmas time brought in good money toward paying off the Church mortgage, helping out in other Church affairs such as Easter dinners, Bazaars, etc.

We were the Americans born of Ukrainian immigrants, some went to Ukrainian school 3 evenings every week, most never did learn the language to any great degree. But we all knew who we were of the land of our parents, even though there was not a single history book on Ukraine in the English language. Anything on Ukraine was written by Russians. Strange to believe, the beauty of our Ukrainian Church music sung by our Choirs attracted and held many of our youth. Even intermarriages, Ukrainian words were written in English phonetics so they could sing. Every choir had a few members, I know for a fact that Miami, Florida and Binghamton, N.Y. had a goodly number who required this but still enjoyed singing and taking part in the mass.

Our Kerhonkson community is composed of a large number of senior citizens in retirement. Many still maintain fairly good voices, they still enjoy singing Church Music and Ukrainian classic folk songs which were sung in Church and Ukrainian Holidays. Not to be compared to The Banduristy, Dymka, Dr. Wolansky with his love of music did turn out a drilled, cohesive group who maintained Ukrainian Culture.

Idon't know who ended the Choir's singing in Church . I will say "Abe tebe kachka Kopnula". As I sit in Church today I can still hear beautiful music as it was once sung.





## THE BISHOP'S IMPERIAL GUARD

Bishop Shmondiuk was scheduled to make a visitation to our Church to Bless it.

The "Patriarchalnyky" perceived him as an enemy to their cause for having a Ukrainian Patriarch designated for all Ukrainian churches. Several carloads of them whom we recognized as parishioners from New York and Newark, N.J. came with signs to picket our Church entrance drives. Fortunately, the Bishop came in a rather aged Oldsmobile, they expected him to be in a Cadillac and they let him pass not realizing who it was.

Apparently, they knew enough law not to trespass and picketed on the roadside.

The Mass ended and now it was time to go to Soyuzivka's Recreation Hall for the big dinner. My wife said, "Dan, you got to do something to protect him. We invited Him, he is our guest."

Me, a retired infantry Captain, how can I protect him? With raw recruit civilians never drilled or disciplined to operate as a cohesive force, no weapons. It would be a shame to call the local police, a confrontation is not the kind of publicity we want appearing in the newspapers.

I rounded up eight parishioners and ordered them to walk 4 men on each side of the Bishop's car, Don't argue with anyone our mission is to get this car across the street onto Soyuzivka's property. Bob Cade is not a Ukrainian, but he married Slavko Lesiw's daughter, is over six feet tall and 200 plus pounds was lead man.

I tried to caution the Bishop to get his car across the street quickly as possible.

The Patriarch party were picketing the wrong drive, came running toward us with their signs hollering at the Bishop. He made the mistake of opening his car window and engaging in verbal language with them. MY military training came back to me as I ordered the Bishop, "Close that window and get that car across the street and pronto," which he did and I breathed a sigh of relief.



## UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASS"N TOO MUCH DEMOCRACY?

This Organization founded by hard working coal miners in Pennsylvania by predominantly Lemkos in my opinion deserves more credit for the work it has done in Ukraine's fight for independence, recognition and Ukrainian American organizations.

For 104 years it has published the daily Ukrainian newspaper Svoboda then in the English language the Ukrainian Weekly. The U.N.A. has borne the costs of these newspapers which have never in any year made a profit. Criticisms range from the ridiculous to the absurd even though the UNA paid one million each year the newspapers were losing. Pointing out to some readers that each issue they pay 6¢ for cost 13¢ just to mail. Costs of wages for editors, writers, printers, paper, ink, presses and building are not included.

Maintaining Soyuzivka also costs the UNA annually. We all think the newspapers and Soyuzivka are beneficial and worth keeping up for our members as a fraternal order.

It wasn't easy growing up in America and having everyone say you were part of Russia, therefore Russian. Through ignorance the Media fostered this lie. Even Encyclopaedia Britannica wrote of Ukraine as Southern Russia. I was in my late teens when the UNA underwrote publishing first pamphlets, then books on Ukrainian history.

I was 12 yrs. old when my father took me to march up 7th Ave. New York City with 10,000 Ukrainians protesting the Famine in Ukraine and the loss of 7 million. Of the 5 major Newspapers only the N.Y. Daily News mentioned the demonstration stating that eggs and tomatoes were thrown at the marchers by communists and the arrest of one for hitting the American Flag.

For a while it was almost a weekly occurrence for Ukrainians to seek a mortgage to buy an apartment house in which they put up 10% and wanted UNA to put up 90% for the mortgage. Hard to explain to them was that the laws governing Insurance fraternal prohibited loans on such margins.

A long time-consuming phone call to UNA home office from a woman asking to stay at Soyuzivka for free and to pay her transportation was made. Asked if she was a member of UNA, she said, "No". I ask, what Dim Varyatiw (Nut House) was she phoning from?

Besides parades, manifestations, protests, meetings with government officials, the UNA backed the Ukrainian cause more than any other organization in the USA.

So far as Auditing goes, UNA is audited by insurance auditors of every state of the U.S.A. and Canada they do business in. The ratio of UNA reserves to insurance in force is better than insurance companies

The Insurance Department would not allow our two Ukrainian fraternal to merge if they were bad financially.

On the contrary, because they are in such good financial condition the merger has their approval.



## KOZAKS OF OLD

Ukraine, located north on the Black Sea, was fair game for the marauders of the south, Tartars of Crimea, Turks and Mohammedans. It was easy for an armed band to raid the many small undefended villages, loot, burn the homes and escape.

Bands of freemen organized and formed a brotherhood of Kozaks who trained to be proficient cavalry men who could with the signal of a far away smoke from a barrel of tar rush and dispense with any attacking force.

The young adventure seeking young men of Ukraine sought the life of a free man, a Kozak defending his country. They became excellent horsemen and like our own American pioneers of the West and rough and tumble cowboys were capable of having many wild parties in which kegs of liquor, wine, etc. became empty quickly.

Never-the-less, a strict code of conduct was enforced. After a fair trial, a guilty murderer was buried alive with his victim.

Yet, democracy existed. The Hetman, leader of the Kozaks, after being elected, unceremoniously was thrown into a puddle of mud so that he would never forget whence he came, then given a bath, clean clothes and given due respect henceforth. During a war he was obeyed without question, otherwise the Kozaks existed as freemen.

Today there are people who revise history to villify them as savages, persecutors, etc. In truth they must be judged by the times in which they lived, not by today's standards.

In their time they were the protectors of Europe from the expansion and ravages of the Ottoman Empire whose goal was the conquest of the Balkans and all Europe. When the crown city of all Europe, Vienna, was laid siege, the Kozaks joined the other forces to free this noble city which was the seat of European Culture in its day.



CHAPTER II  
KOZAKS TODAY - LIFE IN KERHONKSON

WHEEL THAT MAKES MOST NOISE GETS OILED FIRST

Foordmore Road was so narrow that two cars travelling in opposite directions barely passed and encountering a large truck was a disaster. Two narrow bridges allowed only one car to pass and due to curves you saw the opposite car too late to stop. I appeared before the Town Board twice to have these dangerous conditions remedied.

There was also a dangerous curve just before the road crossed over the Old Canal. For some reason the road was sloped in the wrong direction. Every year visitors unaware would speed around this curve and end up being thrown, car and occupants into the Old Canal. Fortunately, the Canal filled in with nice soft mud made for a soft landing, no casualties.

The road had pot holes galore, constantly being patched, never adequately. Although I was making noise, the "Wheel was not getting the oil". The Road Supervisor has to run for re-election every 2 years, and realizing Ukrainians moving into the area were voters, Foordmore Road started getting attention. Two small bridges were replaced, the road widened, a new sub base and for the first time asphalt paving was laid down, instead of the oil and gravel. The last two road supervisors have made the road better than it ever has been.

Disaster struck when the 90 plus year old bridge crossing the Rondout River was condemned as being unsafe. Due to floods the iron beams underneath had been bent. The Ulster County Bridge commission upon advice of their consulting engineer decided to abandon the bridge.

Soyuzivka hired a bus and our Kozaks decided to fight for the bridge. The Bridge Commission would not change their minds.

Ukrainians re-organized our forces and with a bus load plus others who came in cars we attended a meeting of the Ulster County Legislators. WE filled the hall. We had the support of our Town Supervisor who ably presented our case. Others also spoke in our behalf.

I made the following salient facts to the Legislators. The traffic count made by the engineer in the month of October was not representative of the true traffic which occurs between July 4 and Labor Day when our tourist season is in full swing. Week ends one to two thousand tourists use Foordmore Road to get to Soyuzivka. The Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Foordmore Road has 180 families plus summer visitors attending masses all year round. The Ukrainian community has grown steadily. People built or bought homes assuming the Foordmore Road Bridge would give them access to Route 209.





I counted 94 houses on this side of the river who have access to this bridge. Abandoning this bridge would add 4 miles to residents to the next bridge. I have seen Rt. 209 under water during floods, mud slides, closed due to severe accidents or fires. An alternative route to Rt. 209 must be maintained for contingencies. Ambulances and fire trucks must have quick access for emergencies. Many Senior citizens reside, a condominium of 26 units exclusively for seniors exists. In emergency if CPR is not administered in 4 minutes a person may be brain dead. The first 15 minutes is most critical in putting out a house fire. The traffic using Foordmore Road in the summer months plus the number of residents should make building a new bridge to replace the old one a necessity and priority. Lastly let me point out to you gentlemen of the Legislative body that present today are new American citizens. Show them that democracy works, GIVE THEM A NEW BRIDGE.

Sequel. The Ulster County Legislature , both Republican and Democratic parties, voted UNANIMOUSLY to build a new bridge. Using the heavy equipment of the County Road Department and trucks of the Town of Wawarsing Road Department, though it took 2 years, was built at minimal cost.

It did not cause any increase in taxes. The Bridge Commission is allowed to spend only the amount of money budgeted. It was a question of priorities, which of the 22 bridges would receive how much of the money budgeted.

Well done Kozaks.

MEGA-DUMP? NOT HERE

The Commission assigned to study the dumping situation proposed 5 sites for consideration. One site was across from Route 209 2 miles away. A public hearing held in the Ellenville High School auditorium drew an overflow crowd. Despite the Commission's claim, of technology that makes dumps non-odorous, unsightly, trucks travelling at night to the dump, no deterioration in property values, the public was not buying it.

Near the end of the hearing I rose and asked, "Will all Americans of Ukrainian ancestry who oppose having this Mega-dump please stand up and be counted". They proudly stood up for all to see. Must have constituted a quarter of all present.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Ukrainians do not want to see a Chernobille in America.



## ELLENVILLE LOVES PARADES

Every July fourth this city has kept this tradition up with the support of the Chamber of Commerce, businesses, churches, fire companies, volunteer first aid squads, and other organizations.

Ukrainians took part for the first time when clad in traditional Ukrainian costumes they marched up the center of town they made a colorful sight marching up Canal Street thence down Center Street with Walter Kwas leading.

Ukrainians organized with the support of all Ukrainian organizations we were the most numerous contingent in most of the parades walking behind a large banner "Ukrainian Americans". A most notable parade was one which a Shiny new truck carrying a sign "Our Children Are Born Free" pulled a float with a sign "THANK YOU AMERICA" and loaded with our children waving American and Ukrainian flags.

We participated in these parades for some seven years after which we stopped because our "Senior Citizens" were unable to walk the two miles.

## I LOVE NEW YORK

Governor Carey initiated a program which he named "ILove N.Y." Using Soyuzivka's grounds, every year after Labor Day we had a special program of Ukrainian songs, dances and entertainment open to everyone (no admission charged the first two years) with over a thousand people attending the first year. We kept this up afterwards calling it Ukrainian Day for many years with half of the attendance being Americans in the neighborhood.

Be assured, every program made the point who Ukrainians are. Nearly everyone running for political office attended Ukrainian Day where we allowed them a minute or so to introduce themselves.

Ukrainian foods, torts, cakes and coffee were sold at modest prices which was an attraction itself.

Exhibitions were excellently displayed on the Recreation Hall deck along with books and pamphlets.

The profit was always donated to Ukrainian charities, local First Aid Squad volunteers, Fire Department, etc.

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## LIFE IN THE SUMMER

Explodes. Soyuzivka opens with activities that change every week. Monday is steak night and a social. There is a movie night, a talent night, Hutsul outdoor barbecue night, Friday is a seafood buffet and dancing, then of course the traditional Popular Ukrainian shows at the Recreation Hall and the dance which has attracted hundreds of youth and elderly to come and meet with friends. Local residents like to come for the show then sit with friends at a table.

A great swimming pool is frequented afternoon by residents and vacationers in the area.

Suma has a summer camp on Route 209 in Spring Glen for its youth and also holds activities.

## PICNICS

On the Church grounds neath shady trees the Church holds a picnic every year.

On the grounds of SUMA, a similar picnic is held with good food and raffles. Both have been very successful and well attended by the local Ukrainian community.

## UKRAINIAN HOLIDAYS

Used to be, we celebrated two Ukrainian Independence holidays, November and January 22nd. Just couldn't let go. Tradition.

A Holiday celebrating Ukrainian Heroes is still held with a Church mass followed by a program downstairs in the Church hall.

Shevchenko is not forgotten as our Senior's Golden Echoes Choruc sings and our school children perform without fail every year.

As mentioned previously, a week after Labor Day we held a Ukrainian Day on Soyuzivka's grounds.

Since this was not enough, some new holidays were invented, Soyuzanky added a Polissa, Poltava and Kiev holiday.



## GOING TO ANOTHER CHURCH

The first year as we were rebuilding Soyuzivka we hired a cook to provide meals for the 20 to 30 workers. She worked hard with an assistant 7 days a week, hours unaccountable.

She tried to get breakfast over quickly on Sunday so she could make Church on Sunday. I drove her to a Roman Catholic Church in Ellenville. At the Church door we were greeted by a self appointed (I think) old man who barred our way, saying, "you are too late to fulfill your obligation." The Cook knelt before a statue of the Virgin Mary, said a prayer and left.

I could only think the worst thoughts. How dare a person take it on himself to keep people out of Church? Who is he to judge? Would Christ make such a decision about his Church? I hope my church never keeps anyone from coming.

Not having a Ukrainian Church to go to I went back several times to this Church to keep my obligation as a believer. Next time I had to listen to an old bigot declaim all other churches and proclaim the Roman Catholic Faith is the only true church.

Doesn't the man know the Christian faith was centered in Constantinople? There the Eastern Rite existed for 650 odd years. With the decline of Constantinople and rise of Rome as the world's leading city Christianity made Rome it's center and subsequent founding of Roman Catholicism. The Eastern rite which we follow is therefore the older rite. What is wrong with that? Rites change. That is alright to some, resisted by others. Latin is no longer used in the Roman Catholic Church. Our own Church no longer uses the Old Church Slavonic but Ukrainian. If or when the layety choose the English language that does not mean we have changed our religion. Our faith goes on.

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### LIFE OF THE LEMKOS

As a student at N.Y.U. I made the mistake of selecting a course called Labor Problems in American Industries. A mistake because I never anticipated how much work and time it would take researching the labor problems in the coal mining industry.

Erroneously, I assumed so many of my relatives were Lemkos who upon emigrating to the U.S. went to work in the coal mines of Pennsylvania would provide me with source information. To my amazement they knew little of what was happening, assumed that was the way of life in America, there was nothing they could do. Unable to speak English added to their difficulties.

The majority of coal miners were of Irish extraction and they led the way in organizing unions, going on strike, fighting the hired strike breakers and organizing clandestine groups such as The Molly Maguires to exact revenge on informers and other enemies.

In writing of the strikes, the Media (newspapers, magazines, radio, etc.) sided with the coal mine operators and depicted the miners as the villanous law breakers, even alleging them to be communists.

I did find a reference to a priest Fr. Wolansky who seeing the poverty and squalor of the miners, long hours of hard work, at times laying on their side and swinging their picks in a narrow seam to extract coal, signs posted "If you don't work Sunday don't come to work Monday", wages so low as to leave nothing for the miner after he paid for his room and board, many of necessity had to buy exclusively from the Company Store where they were always in debt, partly because they charged more, exposed to danger constantly, from poisonous gas, (miners always kept canaries in the mine who detected gas by dying immediately), dynamiting to open seams often was followed by a fire, lack of proper shoring of the ceilings resulted in cave ins, while pillars of coal were left to shore up the ceilings a dangerous practice was to rob pillars (take these columns of coal and leave the room unsupported), the danger unreported which took the worst toll was a disease called the Black Lung which took many lives after a long period of suffering. Statistics were never kept. Some Coal mine disasters were reported in the newspapers because they could not be ignored. To this day a coal mine fire burns in Centralia, Pa. which evacuated the whole town.

Fr. Woloshyn saw the plight of his brother Ukrainian Lemkos and did what he could for them. It was reported how he attended meetings, public functions and spoke in their behalf.

Since well over half of the miners were of Irish extraction and dutifully attended Church, why did not their priests see how badly they were being exploited, their suffering financial and healthwise and help them in their hour of need.

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## PROFILE OF DANIEL SLOBODIAN

Graduate of N.Y.U. 1940 B.S., Bus. Adm.  
Served WW II U.S. Army, Capt. infantry  
First General Manager of Soyuzivka 19 yrs.  
Past Adviser on Board of UCC  
Past Vice Pres. Ukr. Nat'l Home, Elizabeth, N.J.  
Past Treas. Ukr. Youth Chorus of N.Y. & N.J.  
Organized Ukr. Folk Dancers Elizabeth, N.J.  
Participated in N.Y. Worlds Fair in Koshets  
Chorus of 500 and with Ukr. Folk Dancers  
Trustee 17 yrs. and founder of Holy Trinity  
Ukr. Cath. Church, a prime mover in construction of building thereof.  
Served as Chairman of Zoning Board of Appeals  
Town of Wawarsing 21 yrs.  
Past Pres. Kerhonkson Lions Club, member 36 yrs.  
Trustee Ellenville Hospital Board  
Served yrs. on Credit Committee of Self Reliance  
Activist in community affairs Ukrainian & American,  
publicising in local newspapers, radio & TV

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