

Ihor Kuryliw,
362 Mabel Ave.,
SUDBURY, Ontario



MYH

BEAMS

M Y H B E A M S

Vol. II

March 1956

No. 3

Published by the Dominion
Executive of the Ukrainian
National Youth Federation

Correspondence should be addressed to:

MYH BEAMS
Box 791 Winnipeg Man.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Editorial..... 2
- Sifton's Sheepskins..... 3
- Book Review..... 4
- Ukrainians in Red River Valley..... 5
- "Hope of Spring"..... 5
- Ukrainian Studies in Canada..... 6
- Winnipeg: the Best Location in the Nation..... 7
- The Peregrinations of Peter Perchinczuk..... 9
- Here And There..... 11
- The Rambler..... 13
- Through the Keyhole..... 14

Cover by Bohdan Harasymiw
& Roman Stoyko: photo on back cover
from the Dominion Convention, held
in Toronto, May 24th weekend 1954.

G.S. Luckyj's book review
of J.A. Armstrong's "Ukrainian Nation-
alism" appears in this issue with the kind
permission of the Russian Review.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Windsor,
Mar. 16

....I would like to congratulate the staff of MYH
Beams who have made this publication such an in-
teresting one. We certainly look forward to each
issue.

Vera Turus

... IT'S WINNIPEG FOR '56

EDITORIAL

"To be tribune, that is the voice of great numbers, to persuade, nay to please by his very accents and the very rhythm of his sentence, these things occupied the man; but he also brought into his art that without which no great art can exist: mere intellect." Such was tribute to a great man.

There are those among us who euphemistically claim the title 'tribune'. They persuade, please and cajole. Many have attained the position where they are the 'voice of great numbers.'

The demagogue, with filling arms and austere brow, confronts us with his all-persuasive truisms. He elates us only to let that elation evaporate with the ever diminishing echoes of his sonorous tones.

And again, stratified social groupings thrust upon their mute votaries men who have never ventured into that inner turmoil that eventually creates a leader. They become the wooden mouthpiece of a fossilized sociological entity. They parade like puppets; the featureless mass succumbs.

To be a tribune that can capture the ear and heart and can temper this with pristine truths of the intellect is something devoutly to be wished. For our leaders 'tis a consummation zealously to be sought.

.....So now the Stalinist

Like the Trotskyist

Is a pariah

Like Beria

There are only Krushchevics

And Bulganiniks

Zhukovists

And Malenkovists -

It ain't easy.

"SIFTON'S SHEEPSKINS" . . .

BARNSTORMING through the West, where the barns are bulging, Rt. Hon. James G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, denies he has discussed with London officials the exchange of British immigrants for Canada's surplus wheat, though he has said each immigrant can be valued at 1,000 bushels. Western ears prick up, however, recalling as they do the economic worth put on "Sifton's Sheepskins."

'Twas in 1896, a young Manitoba lawyer named Clifford Sifton, later Sir Clifford, became Minister of Immigration in the Laurier Cabinet and brought in the first of the tide of Ukrainian settlers. Poorly dressed, handicapped by poverty and lack of schooling, they were jeered at Winnipeg and Edmonton as "Sifton's Sheepskins." They spread to the railways, the coal mines, the logging camps and the new bush farms. And they made good, striking deep roots into Canadian soil and producing a people as Canadian in character, outlook and temperament as the descendants of British settlers themselves.

Writing of them in Alberta's Golden Jubilee Anthology, Doris Elizabeth Yanda has said: "From 'the granary of Europe' they brought their age-old love of the soil and, almost literally, they uprooted the bushland to turn it into grainland. Women and older children helped to fell the trees for buildings. Men often 'worked out' to obtain money for a cow or a team of horses while their wives did the heavy farm work alone. During the winter days the women helped cut cordwood for sale; in the long winter nights they wove linen, cotton and wool to make clothing for the family. By hand they cut, threshed and ground the wheat with a quern and made delicious bread in baked-clay ovens."

Ukrainian immigrants - coming from a country often, as it is today, overrun by oppressors - brought a passionate love of liberty and the courage to defend it. In World War I, more than 10,000 "Ukrainians" served in the Canadian armed forces. In World War II, more than 50,000 were in uniform, many in the casualty lists, many decorated for bravery. The Ukrainian Canadian is one of the staunchest upholders of democracy. In exchange for opportunity, "Sifton's Sheepskins" have given loyalty and accepted responsibility. There are no jeers today.

R.M. Harrison,
Windsor Daily Star

ARMSTRONG, JOHN A.

UKRAINIAN NATIONALISM: 1939 - 1945
New York, Columbia University Press,
1955, 322 pages

THIS BOOK probes into one of the most important problems of contemporary East European History: what happens when Soviet rule is overthrown. With the combined skill of a historian and political scientist, the author analyzes events in the Ukraine under the German occupation of that country during the Second World War. His findings not only represent a signal contribution to recent Slavic history, they provide an accurate insight into the aftermath of totalitarianism.

Ukrainian nationalism was the most active political movement in the Ukraine under the German occupation. It developed and gained limited successes despite German suppressive measures, its own weakness (caused by internecine strife) and the slow response of the masses of Ukrainians in the Eastern Ukraine to the doctrines of the nationalists. While the supreme goal of the nationalists - the creation of an independent Ukrainian state - remained unfulfilled, their impact on the cultural, political and religious life of the country was considerable, especially in view of the difficulties which faced them. The final impression is of an unmistakably vital force in contemporary Ukraine, frustrated as much by its own shortcomings as by external circumstances.

Based on primary sources, carefully checked and scrutinized, Professor Armstrong's study can be regarded as a model of scholarly enquiry into recent history. Its only weakness lies in its condensed form. Inevitably, the brief and incomplete treatment of the cultural climate in the Ukraine leads to oversimplification.

By devoting so much space to the activities of the Ukrainian underground movement, the study neglects the wider problems of Ukrainian intellectual life. The book is carefully edited, with only a few errors in transliteration. That it can be read with interest by a non-specialist adds greatly to its value.

University of Toronto,
George S.N. Luckyj

UKRAINIANS

in
the
RED RIVER VALLEY

Sometimes, my mother would take me for a very lovely ride in a small boat. We would go from Winnipeg to Selkirk on the Red River... Hardly had we left the city behind that we would discover a real Little Ukraine because the river banks were neither far apart nor very high. The bulbs of a chapel built in the middle of the fields would first of all strike our eyes; then it was a system of irrigation with balancing poles; finally, narrow low houses, whitewashed every spring, whose exquisite whiteness, enhanced by red geraniums, mirrored itself in the water.

...Later on, I heard a folklore society sing Ukrainian songs in Winnipeg; they were sprightly songs which all at once become sad and full of nostalgia. They told the life of the small Ukrainian colonies of the Red River, also the wide spaces, the oases formed by the villages on the bare prairie and this hunger of human companionship which devoured them all. And when I think of Manitoba today, it is these Ukrainian songs which stand out foremost in my memory.

Gabrielle Roy, Le Devoir
Montreal

THE HOPE OF SPRING

Blow ever so gently, oh thou breeze

As spring draws nigh;

As little buds bursting through the trees

Proclaim 'tis time for winter to die.

The death is heralded by the singing of birds

And the daffodils which brighten the day:

Of the little lambs gamboling near the herd

Of cattle mellowing a song so gay...

The trickling streams flowing down the hills

Are born from the melting snow on top

As the merry swish of the churning mills

Chants a song - never wanting to stop.

We have awakened unto another spring

As the dreary and long winter is past:

But all that this new season may to us bring

Is the hope that it shall not be the last.

Oresta Woloshyn

the future of

UKRAINIAN STUDIES IN CANADA

"Canadian Ukrainians constitute the largest Slavic group in Canada. It is approximately half the entire Canadian population originating in Slavic lands. On the basis of this situation it is not surprising that Ukrainian has emerged as an important branch of Slavic studies.

"There is a natural urge and desire on the part of Canadians of Ukrainian origin that they should not lose that living contact with their past and with their kinsmen which is established through the bridge of language.

"However, I am concerned directly not with language study as such but with the future of Ukrainian studies in Canada. If the full benefit of language study, through the study of Ukrainian, is to be achieved, then certain factors which I have called cultural and contingent are relevant.

First, the language study must be carried on at a University level. A person is not qualified to teach Ukrainian simply because he can speak Ukrainian or make his way through the grammar. Too often the teaching of Slavic languages on this continent has been entrusted to people untrained and unsympathetic. The success of University teaching will depend in the long run on the qualities of our pioneer professors.

Supplementary to University teaching there are other factors involved. The teaching of elementary Ukrainian should be carried on in the homes, in the church and society folk schools. This established a basis of initial interest. In certain places and under certain conditions provision for teaching Ukrainian in the Secondary Schools should be made. Thus the Universities could concentrate more on advanced teaching and less on elementary instruction.

Secondly the future of Ukrainian studies in Canada will depend on greatly enlarging the scholarly tools of learning. Here may I be permitted to mention the Ukrainian-English Dictionary which has just been published by my own University and was mainly the work of the Head of the Slavic Department, Dr. C.H. Andrusyshen. Philological studies, more extensive grammars, edited works, and even linguaphone aids are all needed.

Again, something will depend on the amount of contemporary creative writing in Ukrainian in Canada or elsewhere. Genius arises where it will and no one can say what particular grain will bear fruit and what will not. A single Shevchenko has enormous influence in vitalizing language. Many of less stature than Shevchenko can add richness and new content to the living word.

If Canada is to maintain itself as an important country, politically and culturally within Western Civilization it cannot afford to neglect Slavic studies. I cannot think of Slavic studies in Canada without the inclusion and development of the Ukrainian field. My conclusions are based on grounds which are political, practical and cultural."

Prof. G. W. Simpson,
University of Saskatchewan.

Winnipeg

THE BEST LOCATION
IN THE
NATION!

... time is flying and so are we!...only three months remain to get things in order for your arrival in winnipeg for the 19th dominion convention of the ukrainian national youth federation...

things are moving and wow the excitement...so many ideas are floating around at the same time...wish all of you unyfers could sit in on one of our meetings!...bet after watching our convention chairman, boxy klymkiw, lead the discussion on committee reports, you'd conclude that such spirit could result only in a class A-1-plus convention...and why shouldn't we produce a convention that is the "best ever?"...we winnipegers have been travelling from town to town, enjoying the hospitality of you torontonians, the gang in sudbury, edmonton, saskatoon, regina, kenora and many other points...we've attended all the functions, had a swell time ----and learned a powerful lot....

because we're one of you, we know what you like (and believe us, we're going to please you as well as ourselves)...the only real problem confronting eddy semchysyn as chairman of the banquet and ball committee is whether you prefer turkey, chicken, lamb or fish as the main course at the banquet (guess what you'll get), which will be held on Saturday june 30th, at winnipeg's royal alexandra hotel in the ultra-plush crystal ball room (not to be confused with t.o.'s king eddy).... and just to make sure all you guys and dolls are well acquainted before the beeg dance, budem maty an all-out welcome social - one that truly "welcomes" - on the evening before, friday june 29th....on sunday evening, nasha cultura will be in the limelight and a concert to rank with the best produced thus far is assured with walter klymkiw heading the concert committee ...the concert being the focal point of interest to the entire convention, winnipegers feel confident in what walter will produce....to top the whole weekend off, youse is got an invitation to the farewell social on monday evening - and our promise is that you wen't forget this social for a long, long, long time!!...even the shyest ukrainian will be forced to come out of his shell and join in the fun and merriment....

these are only some of the reasons why we're looking forward to the coming convention as a real smasherooooo...but in the meantime, it's not too soon to start planning to spend your july first weekend in winnipeg.....!!!

THE
PEREGRINATIONS
OF
PETER
PEREHINCZUK

EDITOR'S NOTE: "...a performance filled with charm and style.....original and unslavish talent." Peter's big opportunity came soon after these remarks appeared in the Winnipeg Tribune, in connection with his appearance in the leading role of the Winnipeg Little Theatre's production of Gogol's "The Inspector General." He was selected to participate in the 1955 Stratford Shakespearean Festival, and then in Marlowe's "Tamburlaine the Great" which appeared on the Broadway stage after a short run in Toronto. He is the former treasurer of Winnipeg UNYF and was a member of the editorial board of Youth Speaks.

"Tamburlaine" closed with a dull thud of the cash register. However, the vultures for culture in New York City have been screaming ever since, deploring the apathy displayed by the "theatre" - going public. Marlowe cannot compete with "Silk Stockings" and that's that. If the Broadway vehicle will not accomodate miles of mink and diamond dinner rings but rather calls for intelligence and theatrical appreciation then the minks and diamonds go where the competition to the lustre will not be overpowering. Such was our fate.

Undaunted by this flop I ventured into another. Off-Broadway theatres (often reconverted churches, restaurants, etc.,) have become formidable in recent times as showcases of latent talents. I auditioned for the newly formed "Temple Repertory Theatre" and won the supporting role in a play called "John Mason," an original by Nahum Yablonovitz who I later learned was financing the venture. The play was terrible and we actors developed a very negative attitude towards this abortion of playwriting. Nevertheless we opened on Saturday to an audience of about 150 (this is very good for any off-Broadway theatre where Equity regulations forbid a seating capacity of over 299). They were very kind and receptive and the applause and general acceptance were very good. We actors were pleasantly surprised and somewhat ashamed of ourselves for condemning the play before it had a chance. But last night we did not perform. Why? Because two customers showed up
(continued on following page)

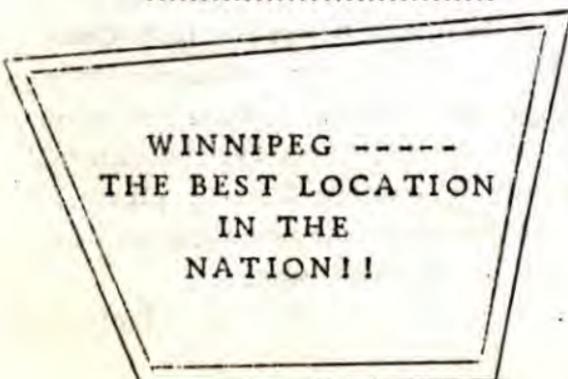
for the performance, and Equity ruling says, "If there are fewer patrons than actors, then the actors shall decide whether there will be a performance." There are thirteen actors in our production. To-night we will try again but I predict that the producer will have a week's salary on hand and dismiss us with a sigh of relief. (He previously had uttered, "If I had the money gentlemen I would pay each of you a week's salary according to contract and call this thing off.") The playwright (sic!) will be on a diet of beans for a long time unless he sells his typewriter.

Such is theatre in New York or anywhere for that matter where the commercial aspect is a factor of government. There are non-profit theatrical organizations like the "Shakespearewrights", the "Shakespearean Workshop" a group that does Shaw, and others where the actors are not paid and the management depends upon donations to pay for the rent, lights and heat. These groups have received high regard from Brooks Atkinson, Walter Kerr and the rest. Whereas these critiques would not come within a mile of the "Temple Theatre." If I were legally qualified I would make it my business to get recognition by joining one of the above mentioned but immigration will allow me to work only where a petition has been formally tendered with them for my services. To get a permanent visa requires my returning to Canada, applying at an American Consulate and going through three months of waiting and red-tape. But with this visa I would be home-free and this I intend to do.

All this is not bad news however. Out of the nineteen male extras and walk-ons who were at Stratford last year, six have been asked to return and I am fortunate to be included. I will play minor servant roles, understudy and accompany the Stratford players to Edinburgh in the fall. Besides this I will work in the chorus of Oedipus Rex in the forthcoming filming as well as at the Edinburgh Festival and there is some talk that the Grecian Government has invited us to appear in their country at their expense. But I want to return to America where the opportunities are greater and where I know with some luck I could become firmly established as a Thespian.

P. P.

)))))))))((((((((((((((((



HERE
AND
THERE

SENIOR MYH - TORONTO . . .

Our annual meeting was well attended considering that there had been no meetings held for several months. The interest in the club is there and was demonstrated by the presence of a goodly number of members, either in couples or by one member of the family.

Our new executive for 1956 is as follows:

PRESIDENT: Michael Kalimin

VICE PRES: Michael Zahrebelny

SECRETARY: Olive Toplin

TREASURER: Bob Hook

EXEC. MEMBERS: Steve Struk

William Boddy

AUDIT. COMMITTEE: Ann Topper

Michael Mucha

Luke Kitt

Our "spring parade of fashions" is to be held on April 8th. The committee, headed by Mary Pidzamecky and under the chairmanship of Ann Topper, is composed of the following: Kay Leskiw, Ann Fedun, Joan Mudry and Jean Medwid. The ladies have gone about this show very energetically, calling several meetings and enlisting the help of most of the ladies of the club, as well as some outsiders. In fact, when I watched them come out of their first meeting, it looked more like a convention!! Some of the faces were not seen too often in the past and we welcome their interest and support now, and hope that it will continue in the future.

Mike Kalimin

MONTREAL . . .

Our members have suddenly been afflicted with a mild case of wanderlust. Joann Hlibchuk just returned from a trip to Bermuda, while Mary Bracuk spent a week viewing New York. Peter Marunczak's concert of Ukrainian folk dances, "Blue Carousel", will be staged on May 12th. At the Shevchenko concert in March, our branch interpreted Shevchenko's poem "Rozryta Mohyla." The recitation was modelled on that of the Greek tragedy. Joann Hlibchuk and Jerry Orychiwsky were delegates at the banquet in honor of Senator and Mrs. William Wall at the Mount Royal Hotel. Marie Trofimiak and Dennis Galay were U.N.Y.F. delegates at the banquet at the opening of the hall at the Assumption of Our Lady Church in Rosemount. We are happy to welcome into our ranks, Joe Karapinka, a refugee from Saskatoon and Toronto. Anyone wanting to receive the Montreal "Protocol", especially in Western Canada, please let us know (% 5692 - 8 Avenue, Rosemount Quebec) and we'll be glad to send you the next issue.

A. Marie Trofimiak

WINDSOR . . .

They say a good club is an active one. If this is true, then Windsor would certainly be rated near the top. Not only could this be proved by the yearly report, but also by our recent activities.

Windsor is fortunate this year in electing a very versatile president, Myrosia Martyniuk. Myrosia deserved an academy award for her heart-warming portrayal of "Olha Basarabova" in the play under the same name, staged here a few weeks ago. Her performance was so sincere, that there was many a tear-stained face in the audience. This is not the first time that the Windsor public has seen myrosia do a splendid job in a dramatic role. She played the leading role in the play "Divochi Mriyi" which was repeated on two other occasions.

Windsor certainly lives up to its name of the "Sun Parlor of Canada." The skating party, to which everybody was eagerly looking forward, was cancelled because of rain and balmy weather. Instead a party was held at the home of Eugene Lysy, where we all had ourselves a fun-packed evening.

Practice makes perfect! This must be the motto of the dancing group which has conscientiously been practising for the 25th Anniversary of the Windsor Branch of O.Y.K. Congratulations are in store for the splendid job the group did at the K.Y.K. "Sviato Derzhavnosty" Concert at which Senator Wall was guest speaker.

A new activity for our branch this past winter, was our girls' basketball team, which certainly shaped up well (?) considering this was the first season they have played together as a team. We wish them more success next year.

Vera Turus

WINNIPEG . . .

Although we're right in the midst of convention preparations, we're nevertheless trying to carry on with our normal branch activities. The MYH Choir sang on three occasions during March: Shevchenko Concert, sponsored by K.Y.K.; "Olha Basarabova" Concert, sponsored by O.Y.K.; and a guest appearance together with our dancing group before a French-Canadian audience in St. Boniface.

At a recent exec meeting, it was decided to look into the possibility of redecorating our Club Room, in time for the Convention - you should hear the ideas!

While we're on the subject of the convention, we certainly could use some help in the way of collecting ads for the Convention Program. So, if any of you UNYFers, from Montreal to Edmonton have some hunches as to where you can get ads, contact your local branch executive or write directly to UNYF Convention Committee; BOX 791; Winnipeg, Manitoba.....AND---we'll see YOU at the Convention!!

Marie Saviak

The Rambler

Those of you UNYFers who will be arriving by train for the Dominion Convention should meet up with some interesting company --- USSR enthusiasts are having an all-Canada rally in Winnipeg the same weekend. . . . in our line-up of Branch Execs for '56 last month, our "editorial board" accidentally omitted the name of Miss Irene Trach, Toronto Central's treasurer. . . . a recent ad in the Ukrainian Daily "Svoboda" introduced a novel Easter idea. "It's only an egg in a gilded cage" - this being exactly what it says - a Ukrainian Easter egg in a miniature cage. . . . the most recent issue of West Toronto's branch bulletin, "the Blue and Gold" marked its third year of publication. . . . on Thursday March 29th, Olena Kysilewska passed away after a long illness in the nation's capital, in the 87th year of her life. Extremely active in the Ukrainian feminist movement and literary circles, she was also president of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations. . . . at the invitation of the Japanese Government, Mary Ann and Michael Hermaniw of New York will arrive in Tokyo on April 6th to teach Ukrainian folk dances. Internationally known for their work in the field of folk dancing, they direct the Folk Dance House in New York, edit the "Folk Dancer Magazine" and have travelled throughout the states, giving workshops and classes. The "New York Times" recently covered their most recent success in its March 7th issue. . . . probably spurred on by the program of Ukrainian music presented by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra earlier this year, eight Toronto Ukrainian folk choirs will join forces for a similar program in the near future. . . . Ukrainian pianist, Maximovich, slated to give a recital also in T.O. . . . unofficial sources claim that the number of teachers of Ukrainian origin active in Canadian educational institutions is somewhere close to 3,000. . . . the Dominion Executive of the Ukrainian National Federation is sponsoring the tour of Mr. O. Boyduchyk, who will lecture in all major Ukrainian centres in Canada on the present state of the Ukrainian liberation movement. He is a major political figure in Ukrainian communities in Europe. . . . you'll see Jean Brajer and Lydia Motta, UNYFers out Toronto way, in the current issue of Star Weekly. . . . our next issue of "M.H BEAMS" will carry an article on Ukrainian Easter eggs and especially the legends connected with them; in addition, we will announce the guest speaker at this year's Dominion Convention Banquet. . . . meanwhile, it's not too soon for you to plan to spend your July 1st weekend in Winnipeg Manitoba!!



. T
. H
. R
. O
. U
. G
. H

. T H E K E Y H O L E

.

Two little girls on their way home from Sunday school were discussing the day's lesson.

"Do you believe in the devil?" asked one.

"Oh, no!" her little friend replied. "It's the same story as Santa Claus. He's your father."

There are only three reasons why girls wear sweaters. First, it keeps them warm; the other two are obvious.

A man went to a nursing home and pleaded with them to take in his old grandfather. He was told that they were filled to capacity, but he still persisted.

"Please!" he said. "You must take in the old fellow. He's nutty as a fruitcake, completely off his rocker. Why, all day long he sits on the floor and plays with a Mickey Mouse toy."

"Well," said the psychiatrist, "I wouldn't worry too much. Perhaps he's a bit senile, but he's not doing any harm is he?"

"But," protested the man, "it's MY Mickey Mouse!"

Did you ever hear about the Egyptian girl who didn't know right from wrong?

Now she's a mummy.

Sergeant: "This type of bullet will penetrate six inches of solid oak so remember to keep your heads down."

SECRET WEAPON

Use: Highly ornamental; useful as a tonic in acceleration of low spirits, and an equalizer of the distribution of wealth; is probably the most effective income agent known; an essential ingredient in any reaction, where real happiness is the desired product.

Caution: Highly explosive in inexperienced hands!

Symbol: Wo

Accepted atomic weight: 126

Physical properties: Boils at nothing, freezes at any minutes; melts when properly treated; very bitter if not well used.

Chemical properties: Possesses great affinity for gold, silver, platinum, and precious stones; violent reaction if left alone; able to absorb great amounts of food matter; turns green when placed beside a better looking specimen.



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND.....

the 19th
dominion-wide unyf convention
in winnipeg manitoba... june 29th
to july 2nd....