

Traditions of their parents' homeland — which they may well never see again — are stressed at the Ukrainian summer camp on the fourth line east of Acton.

The fun, camping program, sports and hearty meals are just the same as at any other summer camp for spirited youngsters.

But here there are a few differences that to the camp director and enthusiastic young leaders are vitally important. These for the camp this year is the study of the national poet of the Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko, as it is the 150th anniversary of his birth. History of the native land is studied. And everyone talks in Ukrainian (except when they forget). Most of the campers are still hear Ukrainian in their homes, but as the years go by, there will be less fluency among the children in the native language. Then some of the instructors may have to use English.

Still, ties with the homeland are forged anew each summer when children meet at the camp, and each year it is opened for special events, when families of



300 Attending Ukrainian Summer Camp

Ukrainian descent picnic together and recall the past.

At the first three-week camp, running since Saturday, are 124 girls and 120 boys from all over the province, but mainly from Toronto. They start at seven years of age.

There's a staff of 14; the kitchen has a staff of seven motherly women with a cook. There are 24 counsellors for the girls and 18 for the boys — all senior high school and university students with Ukrainian background. (One of these, George Shymko, the education director, has just completed third year in history at the University of Toronto, is married with a small daughter and passed up better paying summer jobs to do the type of work he feels is so important.)

The sound of hammers rings over the pleasant, rolling farm site as the tenth building is being completed.

There's a roomy dining hall with a piano where programs are held on rainy days. At one end are three portraits — one of the national poet and two of recent Ukrainian heroes.

The boys' and girls' campsites have airy cabins, with separate cement block wash houses. Two flags fly at the camp — the Ukrainian green and gold flag and the Red Ensign of Canada.

After this camp ends in another two and a half weeks, a second batch of 300 moves in. Then the last two weeks of August are exclusively for leadership training; this kind of course has been held here since 1958.

There will be a large gathering there on Labor Day weekend with reading, sports and dancing in gay native costume.

The gray-green uniforms of the Ukrainian Youth Association are often seen in town during the summer. They come in for essentials — such as hair cuts and sunburn lotion. Most groceries come from Toronto. Ukrainian supplies, but milk is delivered by Masales Dairy. Acton cleaners are patronized, too, to keep the uniforms trim.

They hike throughout the district and have gone as far as

OBITUARY

Albert van Gils Skilled Builder

Builder, carpenter and cabinet maker, Albert van Gils passed away in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, on Wednesday, July 1. He had been in increasingly poor health for the past four years.

Well-known for his ability as a builder, Mr. van Gils was formerly associated with Jones and van Gils, the firm which built the sewer plant, renovated and constructed many homes and buildings. They also contracted for the construction of bridges and culverts on Highway 25 before it was paved, and built some of the homes in the Leishman survey.

One of his last projects was the block of stores and apartments at the corner of Mill and Elgin Sts.

He was 58 years of age. He is survived by his wife, the former Phyllis Wymen, at their farm home, 382 Main St. N., and by two sons, Grant van Gils and Gordon van Gils at home; brothers Maurice, at the farm, and Jan, Cornelius, Antoon, Antwerp, Belgium; and a sister Wilhelmine Boesart, Antwerp.

He was born in Holland and was married in Belgium in 1932. He came to Acton from Guelph 18 years ago.

Rev. J. Morgan officiated at the funeral Mass on Friday morning, July 3, at St. Joseph's church. Interment was in Dublin cemetery. Pallbearers were friends, Gaston Verfoellie, Hamilton; Frank de Molder, Guelph; Peter Turkoz, St. Thomas; Louis Bonnette and Leo Synnot, Acton.

Kindly and helpful, Mr. van Gils will be widely missed.



UKRAINIAN IDEALS are taught during study periods at the Ukrainian Youth Association camp on the fourth line east of Acton, but most of the day this camp is like any other with crafts, swimming, big meals and fellowship. ABOVE attractive girls' leaders start their summer tan at the edge of the cement-bottomed pool. BELOW LEFT, milk delivered daily from Acton makes a refreshing and nourishing drink for two uniformed campers, Bohdan Prus, Toronto, a fourth year camper, and



Olah Kupraty, Toronto, a second year camper. Serving the boys are Mrs. Chornota, Mrs. Plashnyk and Mrs. Kuharyshyn of the kitchen staff, all from Toronto. BELOW RIGHT camp director Teddy Woloshyn, second from left, talks over plans for the day with his second-in-command, Steve Lejbuk; education director and university student George Shymko and camp secretary, pretty blond Oli Romanenichuk, Toronto high school student.

Rockwood where they enjoy the park very much.

Association History
The Ukrainian Youth Association has just a short history that's very vivid still in the minds of the parents of some of these young campers. After World War II, many Ukrainians were in D.P. camps in Germany. There were many children with no parents surviving. The Association was first formed there in Munich in 1946 to keep these young people of the same ethnic origin together.

Actually, this was a revival of the group, which in the 1930's in the Ukraine, had been an underground political movement which was liquidated by the Communists.

The men and women of this post-war group who emigrated to Canada wish their children to keep Ukrainian ideals, culture and language. The boys and girls meet weekly during the school year, obtaining specific badges as they progress. Some groups now hold most of the meetings in English for the ideals are primary. The youngsters of course all speak English at school.

Centennial Exchange
There are many Ukrainian Youth Association camps in the states, and a magazine is published there. There are camps in Canada at Sudbury, Montreal, Edmonton, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Calgary. The group hopes to mark Canada's centennial with an exchange among members.

The Ukrainian camp near Palermo, which has been considered pro-Communist is completely separate from this one.

These Ukrainians of the Ukrainian Youth Association are strong anti-Communist, and their hope is a sovereign state for the Ukraine. They are creating solid support for a new regime there outside of the Iron Curtain, such as existed in America before Israel was created.

The history of the past, and the thought of the future, are serious ones for the sweet-faced girls and sturdy boys at Camp Weselka.

Their bubbling good spirits shift easily from these things to the fun of the regular camping program, which in many ways is similar to Guides and Scouts.

Morse in Ukrainian

One of the leaders has prepared a manual on hiking and camping — in Ukrainian. It includes Morse code — different here and there, in the Ukrainian alphabet; signalling, setting up camp, outdoor cooking, map reading, safety, etc.

There are regular sessions in the cement bottomed pool on the buddy system with constant supervision.

Meals are hearty; the boys come in one sitting and the girls in another.

Camp director is a full-time Association employee, Teddy Woloshyn, of Toronto, who, incidentally, has just completed his M.A. at the University of Montreal. There is a Dominion committee which organizes the camps.

Most of the campers are Roman Catholics, but religion is not taught there. A visiting priest said Mass outdoors on Sunday, as the campers sat about in a ring, all trim in their uniforms.

Within a few minutes after Mass with just one farm house. Now they were back in shorts ready for Sunday dinner.

This is the 16th year for the Ukrainian Youth Association in Canada. The camp began in 1953,

with several other buildings and a big playing field which is taking years to level perfectly for games and games.

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Greenock W.I. Hears History

The Greenock Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Chas. Binnie for their last meeting. President, Mrs. L. Trysenaar opened the meeting by reading verses "In Palestine," followed by the Opening Ode and Mary Stewart Collect. Mrs. G. Wallace read the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer was repeated.

There was a good attendance of members and two visitors. Each answered the roll call with a personal remembrance of home and buggy days. Mrs. G. Leslie gave a report of the Centre Wellington District Annual meeting which was held in Fergus. She told of the interesting roll call of Old and New Toys and of the beautiful dolls displayed, including one that is 125 years old. The Annual meeting voted to make a petition to the Ontario government to have sales tax removed on soap and soap products. Mrs. Leslie was appointed convener for Federation of Agriculture, for Greenock branch.

Greenock will apply to the Extension board for a short course on creative cooking this year.

Two topics from the C.A.C. Bulletin were reviewed by Mrs. George Wallace. These were tests and price comparisons on facial tissues and steam irons. Popularity of steam irons has grown from 25% of all irons sold in 1952, to 85% steam type being purchased in 1962.

A picnic for Institute members, husbands and families will be held in mid July at Rockwood Conservation Park.

Mrs. Ralph McKeown of Glen Williams has invited Greenock members to meet at her home for the August meeting.

Mrs. Chester Allan and Mrs. A. Gates, conveners for historical research presented an interesting program. Two articles on Memorie families in Ontario were read. Several old time songs were sung.

A detailed farm history of the farm home of Chester Allan, 3rd Line, Erin Township, Lot 7, was read. This will be placed in Tweedsmuir Book. Other mem-

The Acton Free Press, Thursday, July 9th, 1964

bers are asked to complete farm histories, so that they may be recorded. The Tweedsmuir Book was on display.

The meeting closed by singing the Hymn of All Nations and the Institute Grace.

The hostess, assisted by Mrs. K. Echerrich and Miss E. Pearin, served refreshments and a social half hour was enjoyed by all. Mrs. E. Patterson graciously thanked the hostess and conveners for the entertaining evening.

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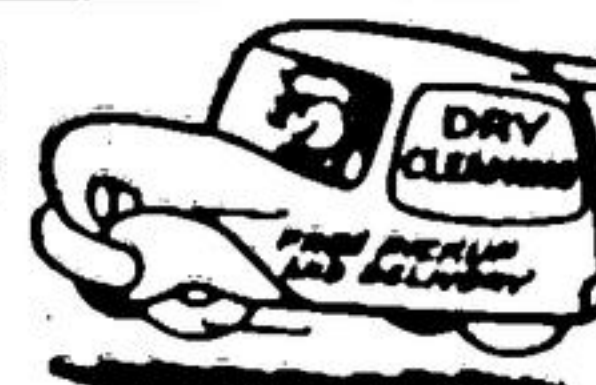
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