

Few churches are open in Moscow and mostly the old attend them

by Denis Gibbons

The hospitality of U.S. Marines stationed in Moscow allowed us a pleasant night of dancing to hit tunes and quaffing the beer that made Milwaukee famous at the American Embassy, Friday, June 7.

We'd been in Moscow almost two weeks and the word had long since spread that on Wednesday and Friday evenings the Embassy not only offered ice cold cans of Schlitz and coke, impossible to obtain elsewhere in the city, but also some warm little packages which represented a cross-section of the finest young ladies from Finland, Sweden and the rest of Europe.

A taxi took us from the bar at the Intourist Hotel where we started off our night on the town to the Embassy, a six story building located on a wide street, but not near the central district. Up to the top floor of the building we went and into a comfortable little situation something like an American college bar.

The room was packed with young people from all parts of the world, most of them working in Moscow for a year, studying there or attached to one of the foreign embassies. It was like a miniature United Nations. The international atmosphere and good times left our spirits high and it mattered little to us at the time that a coming Moscow taxi driver nailed us six rubles (about \$9) for a return trip to our hotel at 2 a.m.

Our only adventure outside the city of Moscow took place the next morning when we were taken by bus to Zagorsk, a small town about 60 miles away, which has a monastery and some of the few Russian Orthodox Churches still allowed to operate in Russia.

Inside one of the churches we watched the Russian faithful, most of them elderly going up to receive communion of bread soaked in wine from a long gold spoon. The atmosphere there was almost depressing. In one instance I saw a mother in her '60s carrying a handicapped teenage daughter on her back up to the front. The ceremony was complete with the priests in all their regalia and chanting from a choir which we could not see.

We learned from those in the know that although certain churches still remain open in Russia, the future will not be bright for young people who are seen attending church. Advancement comes chiefly

through work with the Communist Youth Party.

The bus brought us back to the Hotel Neptune in time for a two hour rest we needed badly, then it was off to the Palace of Congress Theatre inside the Kremlin and my first ever exposure to the art of ballet. Swan Lake, one of the best I'm told, was playing to a packed audience that Saturday night. I was surprised to learn that a ballet involves more than just two or three performers and that many of them sport fancy costumes, the same as in regular theatre.

The ballet had three intermissions which allowed us just enough time to go up three flights of escalators to the top floor of the building where the "who's who" of Russia and European countries were heading for refreshments. Ice cream and strawberries seemed to be the most sought-after goodies. They were gobbled up by those who fought their way up the escalators first. My friend Mei Stek of Selkirk College in B.C. and I had to content ourselves with a good old bottle of Russian champagne. Sandwiches, oranges, pastries and other delicacies were also popular.

I failed to follow the theme of Swan Lake, but was able to appreciate the fine manoeuvres the dancers were making and the excellent music produced by the ballet orchestra.

From the ballet, which ended about 9.45 we went straight to the Institute of Sport and Physical Culture where our hosts were throwing their second consecutive Saturday night party for us.

Sunday I decided to go at my own speed (slow) for a change and my failure to catch the 10 a.m. bus for Mass at the American Embassy turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Instead, I met two Russian-speaking members of our Canadian group who were on their way to the Russian Orthodox Church. I tagged along and spent Sunday morning at an impressive two hour ceremony in a church near the centre of the city. The church was much the same as the one at Zagorsk, but much bigger. There were no seats, everybody stood or knelt for the two hours. There was the same sad chanting and faithful worshippers venerating pictures of saints or the floor of the church.

Brunch at the Hotel Leningrad followed and then, although buses were available, I set out on Moscow's excellent subway to

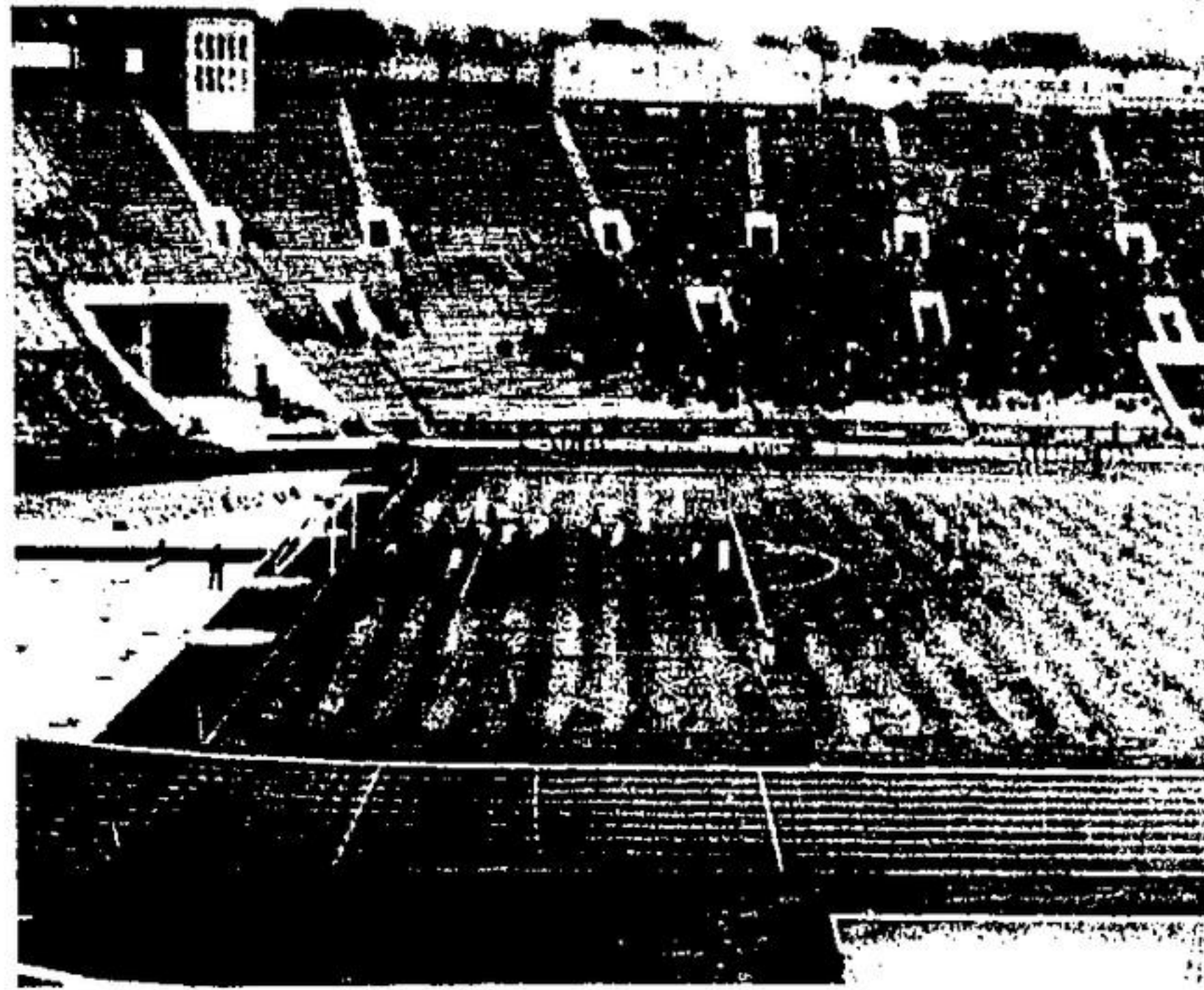
find my way to Lenin Stadium in Luzhniki where we were to watch the Moscow Cup track meet with the best athletes in the city competing. The directions given to me by a young Soviet swimmer were correct. In the Cyrillic alphabet they said "Go to NYOWADB PEBGVHOYXN, change to the red line and go to NPOCAERT MAPCCA change again and keep going till you reach CNOPTNBHAR."

I reached the Luzhniki Park area early for the 4 p.m. meet, so I had time to visit the huge Palace of Sports where the Team Canada-Soviet Union hockey series was played in 1972. Inside a group of young soldiers were setting up chairs and a stage for some kind of a meeting. There was no ice in and it was hard to associate it with the great games in '72, but nevertheless a thrill just to have had the opportunity to be there. The events had already begun when I reached the stadium and for the second time (the first was our visit to the football match) we were thoroughly surprised to find almost as many competitors as spectators. The competition, with only Moscow entrants was a little below international calibre with the exception of a 52.9,400 metres turned in by a pretty long-legged blonde from the Dynamo Sports Club by the name of Valentina and scattered other fine performances.

Bruce Kidd, who is making a track comeback at the age of 30 received permission to run in the 10,000 metres event was personally pleased to finish 21st in a class field of 19 entrants.

Sunday night the two Bruces, (Andrew and Kidd) decided I should have a look at the beautiful park just six blocks from our hotel where they had been many times before. I'd been laying in bed, you see, every morning at 7 when they got up to do their five miles!

Sunday night in the park is not only for strollers, but also rock and roll fans. For the small fee of 50 kopecks teenagers were crowding into an outdoor dancing pavilion and rocking to the latest hit tunes. "In the summer time, when the weather is fine, you got women, you got women on your mind," rang out over the P.A. system. It was just like downtown Wasaga Beach, but free of all the commercial traps and in a much nicer setting. (Next week, our graduation dinner and meeting the Russian people.)



LENIN STADIUM which has 103,000 seats was less than 10 percent full for either the First Division football match or Moscow Cup track meet the Canadian study group attended.

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Arrows hit the mark

Arrows shot down the Blazers 14-4 and Avengers outscored the Titans 11-7 in the Acton men's recreational softball league Sunday night. Rodger McEachern, Skeeter Hill, Steve Brunelle and Archie Harkins hit triples for the victorious Arrows. Ken Swan had three base hits for the losers.

Three hit performances by Ed Hillier and Bernie Drouillard sparked the Avengers to victory. Gord Stundridge and Bill Boyd both hit safely twice for the Titans.

Tiger camp in Guelph

Detroit Tigers have set Saturday, July 20 as a tentative date for a baseball tryout camp at Guelph's Exhibition Park.

Toros eye arena for training camp

Georgetown's new arena could be the training base for the Toronto Toros Hockey Club of the World Hockey Association.

Jim Buck, past president of the Minor Hockey Support Group, in a letter to council, said he had received a call saying the club was interested in a training camp with adequate facilities close to Toronto, and were eyeing Georgetown.

The letter, on behalf of a group of organizations willing to organize fund raising for the arena, listed the basic requirements for an arena.

The letter said a seating capacity of at least 1,000 was necessary with a minimum legal size ice surface of 185 by 85 feet. The organizations also asked for the provision for summer ice and a second ice surface in the future. A minimum of six dressing

rooms, a fully equipped first-aid room and a meeting room for the groups using the arena were deemed necessary.

The final requirement was a lobby and heating facilities for the patrons, "to encourage larger attendance at functions."

Mr. Buck told council these were the four main points the groups felt would satisfy the people using the arena.

Kevin Parker earns recognition

Kevin Parker, Acton's young figure skating champion recently received a Province of Ontario Recognition Award for outstanding achievement in the amateur sports field.

"The purpose in presenting these awards," read a personal letter to Kevin from Premier William Davis "is to encourage those in our

province who have shown extraordinary interest and prowess in the various Ontario sports programs."

"I am indeed pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate you on behalf of the Government and the people of Ontario for earning through perseverance and determination the Recognition Award for

outstanding achievement in the amateur sports field," the Premier's letter continued.

Kevin has won seven gold medals in competitions over the past two years and never failed to win any event he entered. He was recently selected to attend a special seminar in B.C. with some of Canada's top skaters like Toller Cranston.



CONGRATULATING each other at the recent six day Conference of the Bowling Proprietors Association of Ontario held at the Don Valley Holiday Inn, Toronto, are Ken Hulford of the Acton Bowling Lanes and Rose Radyk of the Georgetown Bowl, Georgetown. Rose was elected 2nd vice-president, while Ken was re-elected for a two year term as a director. This makes the 19th consecutive year that Ken has been elected to the Executive Board of the Association.

Minor soccer dates

SCHEDULE FOR JULY 10-17

July 10 Squirts-Falcons vs. Angels M. Z. Bennett
July 11 Squirts-Tigers vs. Torados M. Z. Bennett
July 10 Atom-Rockwood vs. Bombers Rockwood
July 11 Atom-Centennials vs. Rovers Acton Park
July 10 Atom-Rangers vs. Bombers Acton Park
July 15 Mosquito-Spittires vs. Hornets R.W. School
July 15 Mosquito-Raiders vs. A. J. Dynamos M. Z. Bennett
July 16 Mosquito-Thornets vs. Spittires High School

HALTON-FEEL

July 10 Mosquito-Acton vs. Chinguacousy High School
July 11 Pee Wee-Brampton vs. Acton Brampton
July 15 Bantam-Acton vs. Burlington High School

Bantam girls remain first

Acton bantam girls clobbered Glen Williams 16-2 in Halton Rural Minor Softball League action last week. The Acton girls remain in first place in the league standings.

Susan Lehn and Kim Van Der Eyken paced a 16 hit Acton attack with three safeties apiece. Gayle Deforest hit safely twice and Kim McCristall, Anna Swinkels, Debbie Brown, Lisa Near, Marg Slingerland, Heather McEachern, Tammy Liver-

more and Carol Jordan had one hit each. Heather McEachern gave up just six hits and walked only one batter in hurling the win for Acton. Acton took the lead early and never looked back.

Coach Wally Ella reports the girls are playing topnotch softball and deserve some more fan support at the ballpark. Their next game is at the park tonight (Wednesday) at 6.45 against Hornby.

Acton girls top Limehouse

Acton L & L Ford pee-wee girls earned a 21-11 Halton Rural Minor Softball League victory over Limehouse in Acton Monday night. Acton remains in their place as they prepare for their next home

game against Hornby Monday, July 15. Shelly Young pitched the win for Acton and Diana Hickey, Patty McClure and Jennifer Pargeter handled the job of hitting very well.



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