



## The Slovenian Genealogy Society International, Inc.

Founded by , Al Peterlin, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, in 1986



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### Volume 4 Issue 1 Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society January 1, 1990

Martin Roberts recently mailed us a photocopy of the *History of St. Mary of the Assumption Church and School, Cleveland, Ohio, 1905-1962*. As you know, Church histories or Jubilee Books are primary sources of genealogical information for the Society. Our collection continues to grow slowly, and I would once again like to include a listing of church histories in the U.S. and Canada that **WE STILL NEED**. Please send us a copy/photocopy for any of the following: Church of the Nativity, San Francisco, California; Holy Family Catholic, Willard, Wisconsin; Holy Family Catholic, Oglesby, Illinois; Holy Family Catholic, Kansas City, Kansas; Holy Rosary, Denver, Colorado; Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Toronto, Canada; St. Cyril Roman Catholic, New, York, New York; St. Cyril Slovenian, New York, New York; Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Rock Spring, Wyoming; St. Elizabeth Catholic, Duluth, Minnesota; St. George, Chicago, Illinois; St. John Vinney Slovenian, Highland, Park, Michigan; St. John's Windish Lutheran, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; St. Joseph's, Calumet, Michigan; St. Joseph's, Leadville, Colorado; St. Martin Catholic, Tower, Minnesota; St Mary Help of Christians, West Allis, Wisconsin; St. Mary's Catholic, Cleveland, Ohio; and St. Paul, Cleveland, Ohio.

Nancy L. Moore donated a copy of a books titled *April's Year* by Elizabeth Teicher. The book is not a genealogical source, but the books' author was born in Zagreb. She emigrated to the U.S. with her family when she was three.

We are looking for the address of the *Research Center for Slovenian Culture*, a Canadian center for the publication of English books on Slovenian topics.

There is a very good reference book on Slovenian/German names titled *Etymologisches Waterbuch Der Deutschen Familiennamen* by Prof. Josef Karlmann Brechenmacher. It was probably published in 1957. If you have a copy, or know where one can be purchased, please let us know.

I have enclosed a Family Registry form from the LDS Church. I encourage every member of our Society to photocopy this form and mail one for each ancestor to the address on the form. I have already mailed one for each of my ancestors. The forms are microfilmed by the LDS and distributed to libraries across the country. There is no fee, and I believe there is no better way to coordinate your research with other serious genealogists. I remind our members that the LDS Church sponsors many genealogical activities. There are no religious overtones and participation is open to o Mormons and non-Mormons alike.

There will be another federal census in 1990. Remember: the 1990 census will not become public record until the year 2062. I urge our members to photocopy their census form before it is mailed back to the government. A file copy could be maintained for family usage. If you desire, a copy could be forwarded to the Society.

We are pleased to report that we have found someone in Slovenia that is willing to conduct research for individuals for a fee. If you would like to hire someone to conduct research in Slovenian archives, please contact the Society. You should always discuss fees before allowing any work to be done. Fees will usually be charged by the hour. Remember that any researcher will be only as good as the information you provide as a starting point.

**MY JOURNEY THROUGH GENEALOGY**

*By: Louise Vidmar Starek*

Like most genealogical researches, I have encountered a large share of conflicting bits of information from supposedly genuine sources. However, my frustration has been modified by the occasional acquisition of reliable tidbits of data. My father told me he came over from the old country when he was about a year old. My aunt, his youngest sister, believed he came over as a baby, but she didn't think he had been born on ship. The U.S. census I searched had his age as 2 years old at the time of immigration. I added and subtracted years and days from the different sources. I could come to no firm conclusion.

I looked through the 1900 U.S. Census at the LDS Family Library in Los Angeles. When it was taken, my grandparents were living in a Bohemian neighborhood. The enumerator recorded their birthplaces, and the birthplaces of their parents, as Bohemia. However, since my parents spoke Slovenian and their culture is Slovenian, I believed they must be Slovenian (according to the duck theory, anyway). My cousin informed me that the Vidmar name is as common in Slovenia as Smith is in the U.S. Also, Sustarsic, my grandmother's maiden name, is as Slovenian as names come. The census listed my grandmother's age as 33.

I researched the 1910 Census at the National Archives, Pacific Southwest Region, at Laguna Niguel, California. I hoped that the passage of 10 years would result in a more accurate enumeration. It listed my grandmother's current age as 30. She lost three years while living a decade. My father was listed as 22 years of age. Based on this data, my grandmother would have to have given birth to my father when she was 8 years old, truly a feat worthy of mention in the annals of medicine. If she had found the fountain of youth in Cleveland, she didn't tell anyone but her husband. Grandfather was listed in the census as 35 years old, his same age as reported in the 1900 Census. He hadn't aged a whit in 10 years.

The enumerator recorded Russ-German as the birthplace for my grandfather and his parents. This was plausible, since German was one of the several languages Grandpa could speak. For my father's, my grandmother's, and her parents, the enumerator listed Russ-Slovenian for birthplace.

In the course of my search, I attended the Southern California Genealogical Society Annual Jamboree. Many countries and Societies were represented, and I was ecstatic to find the booth of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. When they asked me where my ancestors came from, I replied, "That was the information I was joining the organization to find out." Their first suggestion was to write for a copy of my grandfather's Declaration of Intent to become a citizen.

The reply from the Cuyahoga County Archives included a copy of one index entry for a John Vidmar. The dates on the file card did not correspond with those from the census. Judith Cetina, manager of the Archives, recommended I write to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. They sent me copies of index cards for 7 John Vidmars. Birth and emigration dates could not be reconciled, but other information was tantalizingly close. I will have to order copies of many of the documents.

I also wrote to the Church my father attended in Cleveland. He was married in the Church and I expected to get some background information from his baptismal certificate. A search of their records produced no baptismal certificate, but other records indicated his place of birth as Zagradec, Yugoslavia. A quick note from the Slovenian Genealogy Society helped place the town about halfway between Ljubljana and Novo Mesto.

A gentleman helped me compose a letter of query in Slovenian. It was sent to the pastor of the church in Zagradec. I was told to send it by registered mail. Otherwise, he said, "It could get lost in the mail." I enclosed several International Reply Coupons. However, at the Post Office, I was so anxious to do everything correctly, that I walked out without registering it. It's now been a year since I mailed it and no response. I recently purchased a letter writing guide from the Slovenian Genealogy Society, and I hope to have more luck using it's form letters and addresses.

I also have been writing to the Vidmars and Sustarsic/Sustersics in the Cleveland area and their response has been most gracious. While many replies regretted that they could not help, others noted

response has been most gracious. While many replies regretted that they could not help, others noted that they were forwarding my letter to their relatives who possibly could. One woman sent me a listing of Vidmar and Sustarsic families that she tore from her phone book. One correspondent sent me her Church Sunday Bulletin. The priest there responded to my letter with interesting information about Zagradec, a town first mentioned in 1251. I also received some photocopies from my deceased Uncle John's stepson. Until then, I was unaware that Uncle John (dad's brother) had a stepson.

Many people have been helpful and anxious to facilitate my genealogical travel back through history. However, my constant regret is that I did not become interested in my ancestors until after the death of my parents.

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### **Volume 4 Issue 2 Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society April 1, 1990**

The smells of spring are fresh on the air, and it becomes more difficult with each passing day to sit at the typewriter while the outdoors beckons. By the time you're reading this, I'll be at a crystal clear, fresh water lake in northeastern Pennsylvania partaking of the most joyous diversion known to man, fishing with my father and my son, all three of us.

Your dues for 1990 are needed. Please make your \$5.00 check out to Albert Peterlin. Put Slovenian Genealogy Society dues on the memo line. Our Society does not maintain a separate checking account. Bank fees are high enough to seriously impact our bottom line. **[See new instructions regarding membership on our website.]** We need all the money we raise to cover the cost of our simple newsletter, newsletter mailing fees, and the mailing fees for the delivery of booklets and manuscripts we are having translated. Since we're talking about giving, remember: we need your donation of Slovenian books and publications for our library. If you live in a city that has or had a Slovenian Church have you contacted them to obtain a copy of their church history for our Society? Mike Vidmar has recently donated photocopies of anniversary books from **St. George's Parish in Chicago, Illinois**. He also mailed us a photocopy of a book from the International Eucharistic Congress held in Chicago, IL, June 20- 24, 1926. This book was written in Slovenian. Our translators will be working on it shortly. Finally, if you've made any headway in your genealogical search, have you updated your ancestor index cards?

I recently purchased a copy of a small paperback book, **They Came In Ships** by John P. Colletta. It's available through Ancestry Publishing, Salt Lake City, Utah. The book is clearly written and would be especially useful to those just starting their genealogical search. However, I believe most, if not all, of the information is covered by **The Source**, the standard genealogical reference text. If you have a limited genealogical book budget, spend it on **The Source**. *[See previous issues for more information on this book.]*

I received a complimentary copy of a genealogical magazine, **Heritage Quest**. I enjoyed it. The magazine is published 6 times a year. Membership rates are \$30.00 yearly. The print is easily readable, the copy is professionally done, and the articles are clear, concise, and address a wide range of genealogical issues. There are feature and regional articles, a section on news for genealogical societies section, many book reviews, and a special section dealing with information about the most important genealogical library in the world, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

I first started collecting information on my grandparents in the middle 1980's. One of the first things I did was contact the Social Security Administration (SSA). To my surprise, I was told that my grandparents' records (both their original application form and their all-inclusive file) had been destroyed. I couldn't believe the waste of such a valuable collection of documents so I wrote my Congressmen, the SSA, and the National Archives. With much help, I learned that the original Form

SS-5 filled out by my grandfather had been microfilmed and I could obtain a print of it. Time passes, and now the Social Security Administration charges \$7.00 for a microprint of the Form SS-5 if you provide the social security number, \$16.50 if you do not. A search for your ancestor's claim file is \$14.00. There may be additional costs, but you should be able to get a good estimate from the Social Security Administration before you begin the process. The Social Security Administration is a primary source of information, and you should not hesitate to contact them.

The January 15, 1990, issue of *Time Magazine* carried an article about Aaron Lansky, the executive director of the National Yiddish Book Center. The goal of the center is to collect a copy of all 40,000 works that were published in Yiddish, before the last generation of native Yiddish speakers' dies off. To date the center has collected 25,000 titles, a remarkable accomplishment. We face a similar fate. The generation of our Slovenian speaking forefathers is about to pass, and it is our responsibility to collect and preserve the Slovenian documents they cherished. Please contact elderly Slovenian people in your community and let them know we will work hard to protect and preserve any book given to us.

We've mentioned many times before that Joe Balazic donated a copy of **Telefonski Imenik SR Slovenije 1982** (the 1982 telephone book for Slovenia) to our Society. The book is large and serves as a primary source of names for individuals trying to renew contact with the old country. For years we've been trying to obtain copies for additional years, but we've had little luck. Finally, an organization in Slovenia, *Zdruzena Ptt Organizacije Slovenije*, has sent us a copy of **Telefonski Imenik SR Slovenije 1989-90**. This is a beginning, but we must keep trying to obtain copies for other past years. There is a Yugoslav Embassy or Consul General Office in Washington, DC; New York, New York; Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland, Ohio; Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; and San Francisco, California. Each of these offices must have numerous copies of recent Slovenian phone books, probably many past issues. They must do something with the copies no longer needed for official functions. We're asking our members in or near these cities to contact the Consuls and ask that unneeded copies be donated to our Society.

When one of our members mentions that he/she will be visiting Slovenia in the future, we urge them to visit the *Nadskofijski Ordinariat, Krekov trg 1, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia*. However, you must be especially careful because research time is limited. It would be wise to write for a schedule of open hours, possibly making an appointment to discuss your needs with an archivist on their staff. The Archives are located next to the Cathedral in the old town. The Archives are the obvious place to research baptismal, marriage, and death certification, but member, Joanne Plut Fix, urges that the Status Animarium or stanja dusa in Slovene (translates as State of the Souls in English) be checked also. The Status Animarium is a record of church members that was kept by the parish priest. It listed the names of each member of the household, their relationship, birth, death, and sometimes marriage. The entries were kept by household, and since one family often lived in the same house for generations, this one record source could provide generations of information.

## COLORADO'S PIONEER SLOVENES

*The following is a translation by Joseph Drasler of an article on Colorado's first Slovene inhabitants that appeared in the 1934 Ameriski Druzinski Koledar.*

In 1866, there were four Slovene and three Croatian families known to be living in the city of Denver. Among these early founders of the city's Slovene community were: Joseph Plut, Peter Grabrian, N. Kofalte and Martin Klemenc. One of the earliest Slovene gold and silver prospectors, John Witine, came to the U.S. in 1852, stopping in the city on his journey westward. The story is told that he panned gold at one time on the very location now known as Leadville. Another early arrival in Denver was Jacob Stonich, who arrived in 1883, followed by a number of oldtime "pack-peddlers" like Matija Pogorelc, Frank Crne, Anton Terbovec, John Rebol, and William Sitter. Pioneer Joseph Bukavec arrived in the city in 1870 and established a farm about nine miles to the north. In his wake came oldtimers such as Jakob Plut, Maks Malich, and John Blatnik.

Colorado Springs received its first Slovene settlers, John and Louis Lovsin, John Govze and Anton Zobec, who came from the homeland city of Ribnica. In Pueblo, the first Slovene settlers were: Matt Grahek, Jerry Plut, and Jacob Jerman, from Crnomelj, Ulrick Papes, from Ambrusa, and John Rus from Struge. Mike Fatur, an early resident of Trinidad, reported that among the first Slovenes in 1880

from Struge. Mike Fatur, an early resident of Trinidad, reported that among the first Slovenes in 1880 were: T. Vidalic, V. Zovanic, and J. LaVernic. Gasper Pavlovic and Frank Kasinger were residents of Bear River before other Slovenes began showing up in that city around 1915. Original arrivals in Crested Butte, about 1883, were: Joseph Rezman, Joseph Gelebic, John Pasic, and Lukas Oresnik. They began their careers in agriculture and later reverted to cattle ranching.

It is reliably recorded that Slovene men were already in Leadville in 1870. However, the first group settlement occurred in 1880. Canon City welcomed its first Slovenes in 1892, namely: Peter Potocnik, Frances Arko, Anton Adamic, John Arko, Andy Konty, and John Konty.

Joe Novak, Joe Oblak, Joe Dernovsek, John Susman, and Lorenc Pagon, among others, were the first of their nationality to settle in the Walsenburg area. Slovene and Croatian people came to Aspen in 1888. Among them were: Nick and Martin Gerich, from Gospica, Croatia, Joe Tekaucic and John Zupancic from Brezovecadola, Valentin and Anton Oberstar from Hinje, Frank Solka from Bela Krajina, and Martin Ohkrant from Cemsenika na Stajerskem. These men were all employed in metal ore mining.

In Palisade, the first Slovene inhabitants were Louis Brodnik and his wife. John Trojar was one of the early home-owners in Glenwood Springs, along with Frank Zaitz, of Leadville, a prominent businessman there who was also part owner of the famous Colorado Hotel and Spa in Glenwood Springs.

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### **Volume 4 Issue 3 Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society July 1, 1990**

Have you ever thought about history, what it really is, and who decides which event of all those that occur should be remembered as indicative of a time or a people? I certainly don't believe that the press accurately portrays how the majority of the people live. This view is far from original, however. In the 1930's, Tom Harrison, Charles Madge, and Humphrey Jennings, 3 Englishmen, formed an organization called the Mass Observation Archives, now at the University of Sussex in Falmer, England. Since 1937, the people of Great Britain have been able to send their personal comments on their times to an archive dedicated to preserving, not what newscasters are saying is occurring, but what the people themselves are talking about. Absent a Mass Observation Archive of our own, we of Slovenian ancestry must continue to collect and preserve the story of our people. There are many dedicated to preserving the evidence of our culture through the performing arts, literature, and politics. There are few dedicated to safekeeping the history of each individual. Join us. Send us any information you have on the live of Slovenians. Send us books and magazines you no longer want. If you have original Slovenian texts, we will try to find translators so the new generations of non-Slovenian speaking individuals will understand the trials and appreciate the accomplishments of their ancestors.

Our thanks to Mr. Carl Chesnik for donating a copy of the ***St. Mary's Help of Christians, West Allis, Wisconsin, 1907-1957, Golden Jubilee book.***

Early this year, F. Joseph Wagner sent us an article from the ***Sunday Herald News*** about the ***Slovenian Heritage Museum***, 431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, Illinois. The Museum shares space with the ***Slovenian Women's Union***, its parent organization. John Dennison has been hired by the Union to organize and provide direction to the volunteers that work for the Museum. I am enclosing some information about the Slovenian Women's Union with this newsletter. Their publication is called ***Zarja, The Dawn***. If you're in the Joliet area, stop and visit the museum. Visiting hours are 10 am to 1 pm daily, otherwise by appointment. Our Society has been looking for a place to display or store some of our material, and we have contacted the museum and will seek to establish some formal ties

with them.

We contacted Frank A. Korosec of Euclid, Ohio. Mr. Korosec is a student of Onomastics (one who studies the origin and meaning of last names). He is considering writing an article or two for our newsletter concerning the origin and meaning of Slovenian surnames. Since talking to Frank, I've picked up several books from the library, and have started to look into the origin of Slavic names, myself. We look forward to hearing from Frank.

I've heard from a researcher in Slovenia who will conduct research for our members for a fee. Rudi will charge just \$10.00 an hour for work in the city of Ljubljana, \$15.00 an hour plus expenses outside of Ljubljana. Please write to us for his complete name and address. We stress that while we do not guarantee the work of any researcher, we have taken great pains to insure that those we recommend are willing to reliably conduct genealogical research.

In an earlier newsletter, I included a listing of books available from *Studia Slovenica*, PO Box 4531, Washington, DC, 20017, or PO Box 232, New York, NY 10032. Several of our members have received no answer to their query for price lists and mailing charges. We'd like to know if any other members had difficulty in obtaining services from *Studia Slovenica*.

## MY RELATIVES IN SLOVENIA

*By: Carl Chesnik*

Our first stop upon entering Yugoslavia was Lake Bled with its beautiful blue water and magnificent Cathedral in the middle of the lake. The scenery was breathtaking. At the restaurant overlooking the lake we had lunch of goulash soup, green salad, sacher torte, and Turkish coffee. After a splendid dinner at our hotel, we did some gambling at the Casino. We could only gamble with foreign currency. They would not accept Yugoslavian money. The next morning we took a boat to the island to see the cathedral. We rang the bells, which resounded over the lake. On returning to the mainland we witnessed a bike race around the lake. After leaving Lake Bled we arrived at Postojna which we used as a focal point for travel to Zagorje and Starod.

On May 13th we motored to Zagorje. Our first stop was the cemetery. There we chanced upon Joze Cesnik (no relation) who showed us the Mehlačov gravestones. Next, we visited the home of Pa's birth, Mehlačovi. We were greeted by Milka, widow of Maks, son of Ludwig, son of Josef (Pa's brother). Ludwig's widow, Ivanko, now is in a nursing home in Ljubljana. The Mehlačov home is in severe disrepair. It consists of three bedrooms, a kitchen and a living area. Attached to the home is a stable housing several cows, chickens, pigs, and a new field tractor-as modern as could be. The living area was previously the stable. The stable was formerly the living room. Above the stable door was a date, 1875, the significance of which no one knew. After a bit of prsut, domace kruha and Turkish coffee we departed.

At the late Jurij Cesnik's home we met more relatives. His widow, Antonia, and children, Marija (36), Ivan (44), and Albin (42). Albin and a sister Josie were from Windsor, Canada. Josie was visiting her in-laws in another town so we did not see her that day.

We then visited Frank Hrvatin, His wife, Stanislava, and their children, Klementine and Sebastijan. Frank is completing an Alpine type home mostly by himself. It is about 30 by 40 feet and has a basement, first and second floors and a standup attic, where Stana will dry clothes when the weather is inclement. The building is constructed of blocks of cement, wood shavings, a bonding agent and insulation material. He is building a cistern to take care of his water needs and filtration system to make the water potable. His metal stair stringers were welded by him and when complete he will add oak risers and treads.

In Knezak, we visited the Ivan Cesnik home but found only his daughter, Vilma. She is married to Janez Bilc and has a child, Jana (1). Her great grandfather was Pa's brother, Janez. The following day we visited Starod. On coming up the hill to the town we saw the people in the fields, planting. At Milan's home we tarried only momentarily as they were in planting potatoes in the nearby field and had to hurry to complete their work before the rains started again.

At Alojz's and Johana's we visited quite lengthily enjoying a meal of klobase, slanina, cheese, rakija and sok. While there we received a surprise visit from Marija Hrvatin Bubnic, widow of Joze Hrvatin.

At Mucici, we waited 4 hours for Emilija Hravatin Ruzic. She usually came home about 2 pm, but on this day she worked until 6 pm. During the interim her mother-in-law insisted we stay and offered us soup and Italian dumplings (njoke). Her son, Stanko, poured wine while Emilija's son, Miran, played the accordion. We departed with Emilija and returned to Zagorje where we found Jose from Windsor at home. Josie, Ruth and I went to see the village priest at the town church which may have been frequented by Pa. Here we received more information on our ancestors. We now go back to 1752 to great, great, great-grandfather Blaz and his wife, Marija. Leaving the church, I had a profound feeling of "belonging".

Next, we motored to Belgrade where we found Olga Hrvatin Dzo Dzo, Her husband, Zarko, and son, Gordon. At the hotel, foreigners are charged two and one-half times more for a room than the locals. Zarko insisted we stay in his apartment. He arrived at 7 am the next morning to carry our luggage to his apartment. We had a very delicious breakfast, which included Slivovic and wine. I think I could get used to such a breakfast! Zarko is a teacher in a technical school; Olga is a "testil inzenir" and Gordon is just graduating from high school. He will go into the armed services for eighteen months, after which he will attend a university to study linguistics. He is fluent in English. Olga is a successful businesswoman. Her knit dresses are in great demand and usually command a price of \$150 per dress. While in Belgrade, we were given a tour of the town and countryside. For dinner we visited the "Restaurant Kod Raca". After that we visited many historical places including memorial buildings dedicated to kings and royalty and the fortress of Kalemegdan, which is situated at the confluence of the Danube and Sava Rivers. We then said our warm goodbye's to Olga and her very hospitable family!

Driving along the eastern border of Serbia and Greece we arrived in Athens, Greece on May 18. Our hotel was near Syntagma Square in the middle of town. Barbara arrived the next day and we bused her back to the hotel. That evening we walked to the Plaka district for dinner at a roof top restaurant below the Acropolis. The following days we took a tour of Athens and an island cruise to the islands of Aegina, Poros, and Hydra. They were picturesque and sunny. The sea was a beautiful blue. Next we traveled to Delphi where we drank the water from the spring of the Oracle of Delphi-where the Oracle of Delphi sipped before issuing her visions.

On the 23rd, we returned to Yugoslavia, visited Titov Veles, Sveti Stefan, Herceg Novi, Dubrovnik, Motar and Sarajevo where we stopped for a picnic lunch on Mount Trebevic. Ruth and Barbara bought a few geological specimens home with them from Trebevic. The 29th found us in Portoroz after many harrowing narrow mountain roads. The Hotel Bernardin was an oasis of rest and relaxation. Here we met Jake Chesnic, Elfie and their son Bill. They had just arrived from London, England. On the 30th, I took Jake and family to Zagorje where we stopped at the cemetery. Jake took many pictures of the cemetery stones so his roots could be verified. Jake saw the Mehlačov homestead and also visited the home of the late Jurij Cesnik. After many pictures were taken, we headed for Mala Pristava and Sucieta where Elfie had a happy and tearful meeting with an aunt and uncle she had never seen before.

On returning to Portoroz I invited Lucijan Ujcic and his family for dinner the following evening. Then we celebrated Jake's birthday at a local restaurant. The next evening when Lucijan and his family came to visit us, his daughter, Ureka, seven, presented Ruth with a red rose and me with a music box on which Al played "box kja rada imala?" Barbara was given an embroidered handkerchief. His wife, Dvorka, and his daughter, Natasa, fifteen, were very lovely. Our dinner at the restaurant was a happy one. We returned to our hotel room and a short time later Jake and his family joined us. Barbara was the best of hostesses, pouring the wine, fruit juices and so on. While there, Lucijan dialed his aunts, Rosina and Marija Ujcic in Rome, Italy. Marija recalled how she and Pepo (our Joe) played together as youngsters in Starod. They also inquired about Mike. We said our goodbyes to the Ujcic's about 11:30 pm.

The next day we left Portoroz and headed for Lipici to see the famous Lipizzaners perform. We returned to Lake Bled. Barbara had not yet seen it. Ruth promptly sprained her ankle. Barbara, again, performed like a dutiful daughter and secured ice for the swelling. Leaving Bled we travelled to Rothenberg, Oberammergau, and saw the castles of Ludwig, Linderhof included. At Rothenberg I

thought Ruth and Barbara would never leave the Christmas stores-all I could think of was "how were we to carry all the purchases home?" But leave it to the women, they found a way-ME!

While we had a tremendous time we all were happy to return home!

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#### **Volume 4 Issue 4 Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society October 1, 1990**

Another summer has passed. For my wife and me, 1990, has been a very stress filled but interesting year. As I write this, my wife's brother has still not been able to escape from that hellhole of hospitality called Iraq. We pray daily that he will find a way out. September 1990 was also a time of endings, a time of new beginnings for us. Our youngest, we no longer call him our baby, has joined his older sisters at college, so his mother and I are now rediscovering the life we left 20 years ago. We seem to have time in abundance now to do the things we've always wanted to do, but there is that horrible echo that rings throughout an empty house to keep us from enjoying each other too much, at least for another week or two. By the time semester break rolls around we'll probably be enjoying our newly found freedom so much, we'll be happy to see all three head back to campus.

In the past few days, I've received an announcement from *Ancestry*, the genealogical publisher. They have published their latest volume, ***The Library of Congress: A Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research***. While I have not had a chance to order or read this volume yet, I must admit that if this book follows in the tradition of ***The Source***, and ***The Library: A Guide to the LDS Family History Library***, [See previous issues for additional information.] it will be a valuable addition to any genealogist's library. **NO**, I am not a partner in the Ancestry Corporation, and **NO**, I do not receive free copies of their products. These are three books that every public library in the country should have on their shelves. The best way to make that happen is to go in and make the request to the librarian.

The September 1990, issue of ***LIFE*** magazine offered a 12 page pictorial and written exhibition on the reopening of the facilities at Ellis Island. While the piece was interesting-the pictures compelling, there just weren't enough stories. In fact, nowhere near enough to warrant purchase of the book by those of us interested in genealogy. I would think that some publishing house would put together about 500 pages of stories and pictures and make it available on a continuing basis at Ellis Island. A three-page story on the Ellis Island reopening in the July, 1990, ***American Legion Magazine*** was more informative, but again, just too short for those of us infected with the genealogical virus. A very informative piece appeared in the Sunday, September 2, 1990, New York Times. It conveyed the unpleasant news that while the official opening of the magnificently restored main building has occurred, the money needed to complete the computerized access to the data on 17 million immigrants has not been forthcoming. \$14 million is needed, and the corporate sponsors of America have not seen fit to continue their generosity. Over \$20 million has already been raised by individual donors through the purchase of inscription rights for the Wall of Honor. Hopefully, some of this money can be used to complete the genealogically significant computerized portion of the refurbishing project. Why rebuild museum walls if the treasure it was meant to hold is neglected? Will we get a mausoleum or a living immigrant archive? One final note of regret, while the museum itself is a real value, it appears that the short ferry ride to the museum is greatly overpriced at \$6.00 per person. This is especially galling in light of the fact that a walking bridge is already in place and could be used by the public if the Park Service would permit it. The bridge was made to serve as a temporary structure, and it could easily be made structurally sound enough to allow the America public that has already paid for the museum to get to it without being financially assaulted.

I found a genealogical gem in an unlikely source, ***Federal Computer Week***, in early September. The article was on computerizing land grant documents in 13 states from the administration of George

Washington to Theodore Roosevelt. This will amount to a literal visual archive, preserving records from crumbling paper sources that will never again fade and be retrievable by anyone with access to a desktop PC. The records are being scanned, indexed, then stored on 12-inch double-sided, double density optical disks that can hold 40,000 images per disk. Original document images can be brought up and printed as desired. The Bureau of Land Management is completing this project, and it appears that the Library of Congress, The National Archive, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Navy is also interested in this off the shelf technology. This would be a very wonderful technology for all the Armed Services to acquire, as well as the Social Security Administration. I wonder when a private company will seize the initiative and start operating this type of data bank. In any event, Bureau of Land Management records should no longer be ignored by genealogists.

The Society would like to thank Mike Vidmar for a copy of an every name index to the SWU publication ***From Slovenia to America*** by Marie Prislant. Indexes like this take a tremendous amount of time and effort, and we appreciate the effort. Mike is also going to donate a copy of the publication to the Society. As always, we remind our members that our Society would appreciate copies of any and all Slovenian publications you come across. Many of our immigrant ancestors arrived in this country early in the century. As they pass, many of the Slovenian publications that bear witness to their struggle can be misplaced, lost, or discarded. Please don't let that happen.

Finally, our Society is at one of those important crossroads in the life of any organization. We have the capability of growing steadily and continuing to collect the documentation of the lives of individual Slovenian immigrants, or we must lose some momentum and plan for a lengthy but reduced workload. We need some volunteer help. If you can offer us some quality time, please write. We need several individuals to serve three-year terms.

We badly need someone to handle memberships. This would involve handling all new inquiries, maintaining our mailing list, and keeping our organization in the public's eye. We would also like to have someone to coordinate our effort in acquiring Slovenian publications, past and present. We could also use some help in organizing our translating, typing and indexing projects. If you'd like to help, write us. Let us know what position you are willing to fill and include an outline of the plans you have for accomplishing this task.

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