

Ukrainians Mark Independence Day

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira Heights—Nearly 200 persons gathered at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church Jan. 29 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Ukrainian independence.

Ukrainians throughout the United States annually commemorate Jan. 22, the date that their independence was declared in 1918, only to have the Soviet Union assert control four years later. The observance demonstrates the Ukrainian people's desire that the country's freedom be re-established, speakers noted.

St. Nicholas' commemoration, delayed a week by bad weather, featured a dinner of Ukrainian food and the announcement of a collection of books in that language in the Elmira Heights Library.

John Dowzycky emphasized the importance of the day, noting that Ukrainians "value freedom very dearly."

Ukrainians will continue to work for Ukrainian independence, Dowzycky said, however difficult that work is.

He also noted that Ukrainians should be a positive influence on the United States, while retaining their culture. "I hope American culture can be enriched by diversity, not divided," he said.

Observances of the independence day are important, he said, for Ukrainians "trying to present our just cause" for their freedom.

As with most speakers, Dowzycky gave his address in Ukrainian and English.

Kenneth Fielding,



Sandra Waschezyn speaks at the Ukrainian fete.



Photos by Martin Toombs

John Waschezyn directs the St. Nicholas Ukrainian choir.

assistant director of the Steele Memorial Library, described the acquisition of the 66 books in Ukrainian being added to the collection at the Elmira Heights branch. The books include novels, poetry, history and biography, he said. He also reported that future plans call for pur-

chases of more Ukrainian-language books, as well as English translations so information on the Ukraine can be available to the entire Elmira community.

Proclamations from Mayor John M. Kennedy of the City of Elmira, and Mayor Raymond G. Oldroyd

of Elmira Heights also were read.

The St. Nicholas Choir, directed by John Waschezyn, entertained those attending by singing three national songs. They also led a spirited singing of the Ukrainian national anthem, which concluded the afternoon's formal events.

SOUTHERN TIER
AUBURN-GENEVA

Series Examines Old Testament

Elmira—St. Patrick's Parish is sponsoring an adult education series, titled "The Modern Catholic Approach to the Old Testament," Thursday evenings Feb. 16, 23 and March 2, 9.

discuss the two creation accounts in the Book of Genesis, and how each forms a different model for the theology of Baptism.

The course will be taught by Joseph Kelly, professor of Old Testament for seven years and now director of continuing education at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Several verses from Isaiah will be examined at the third meeting, to look for an understanding of Old Testament prophecy. The final session will be an examination of the Book of Job.

The first session will examine how Scripture came to be written, and how it can be interpreted now. The second class will

The classes will begin at 9:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's Auditorium and will be open to the public.

Dr. Spremulli Set As Next CIM Speaker

Elmira—Dr. Gertrude Spremulli will speak on the "Dilemmas of Scientific Research" as the next lecture in the Christian Institute of Man series at Park Church, Monday, Feb. 13 at 8 p.m.

of American Men and Women in Science, she has written a book, "The Essentials of Chemistry for Health Sciences," published in 1974.

Ms. Spremulli, dean of administration at Elmira College, holds degrees in chemistry from Heidelberg College, Case Western Reserve and Penn State. She is a professor of chemistry at Elmira College, and a member of the American Chemistry Society, the American Institute of Chemists and the New York Academy of Science.

VP Named To State Body

Elmira—Arnold Jerome, vice president for government relations and planning at St. Joseph's Hospital, has been appointed to the Committee on Management and Planning Services of the Hospital Association of New York. The appointment has been made by the chairman and was announced by Elwood A. Opstad of Huntington.

Listed in the Who's Who

Pre-School Program Marks Successful First Year

Seneca Falls—The annual celebration of Catholic Education Week took on a special dimension this year at St. Patrick's School here. This school year marked the beginning of a pre-school

program for three and four-year-olds. The pre-school program was implemented at St. Patrick's as a result of a study done by the school which showed a need for

such a program, and a request from the school parents, said Sister Dolores Monahan, SSJ, school principal.

Information was gathered to determine finances, curriculum, educational enrichment and practicality for the parish, she said. The study showed that the need for a pre-school class was there and the tuition, plus donation of materials, would make the program feasible, she said.

Sister Dolores said the "Cope" curriculum is used in the pre-school classes as it combines informal academic learning with play and social activities at the children's level.

"We feel that this program will not only help the parish financially, but will also help to focus on education at St. Patrick's at an earlier age," she said.

It is not necessary to be a member of the parish to register or to be Catholic. Both morning and afternoon sessions are available. Formal registration for the 1978-79 pre-school program will be on March 4-3. A child must be three years old by September to register.



Pre-school teacher Mrs. Deborah Jones supervises three of her charges (from left) Tricia Pignone, Al LaManna and Lisa Morganti in a learning exercise at St. Patrick's.

Deaths

Mrs. Whitten, Teacher

Corning—Shirley A. Whitten, a teacher in Corning Catholic schools for 24 years, died Friday, Jan. 27. A teacher at Catholic School South, Mrs. Whitten was stricken in school the previous day; she died in St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira.

Mrs. Whitten taught in St. Vincent de Paul School before moving to Catholic School South with the junior high students when the Corning schools were consolidated. She taught seventh and eighth grade English and mathematics.

In his homily, Father Hogan described Mrs. Whitten as a "superb educator," noting that "God himself fashioned her to be an extraordinary teacher."

Father Hogan called her a "shining light in the world of darkness," pointing out that she had touched many people. Through the years, he noted, there never was a generation gap with Mrs. Whitten; she adjusted to the times, he said, "lost the dust of the old," and took on "the best of the new." He offered her as an example of a great teacher for other teachers to emulate.

She was a life-long resident of Corning and a convert to Catholicism. Mrs. Whitten, 51, is survived by her husband, David, her mother Pearl Eggbroat of Corning, a son David of Painted Post, a daughter Valerie of Corning and several nieces and nephews.

A concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was offered in St. Vincent de Paul Church, of which Mrs. Whitten was a parishioner, Monday, Jan. 30. Homilist was Father Joseph F. Hogan. Mrs. Whitten's eighth grade students formed the honor guard.

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