

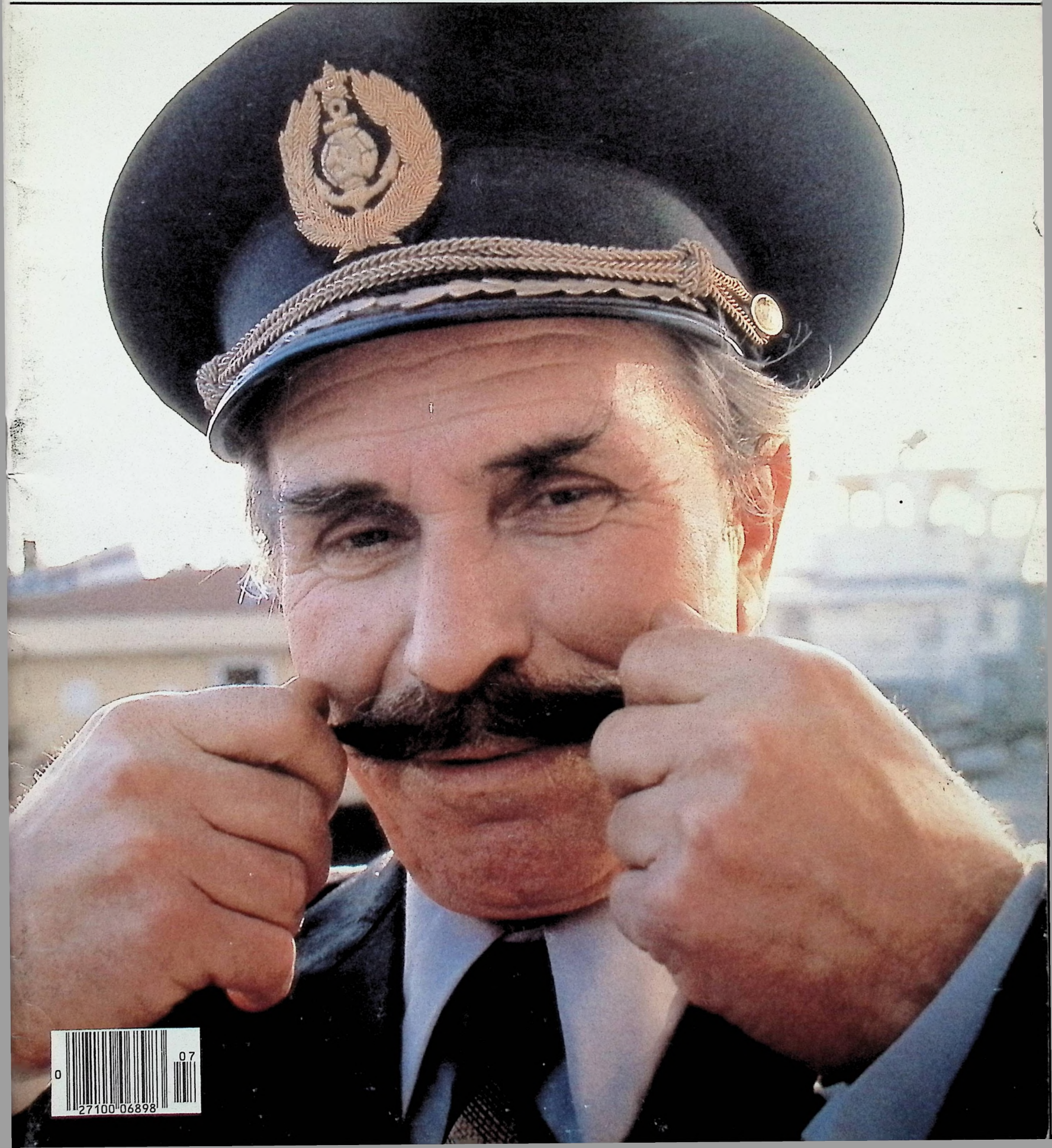
SOVIET LIFE

July 1985 • \$1.25

FACES OF PINSK

U.S. CONGRESSMEN
VISIT THE USSR

CZAR PETER I ON NBC



COMMENTARY	2	FASTER NATIONAL GROWTH IS THE MAIN TASK by Gennadi Piatrovsky	
	3	ARMS RACE AND DISARMAMENT TALKS ARE INCOMPATIBLE by Spartak Beg'ov	
	4	U. S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISITS THE USSR by Alexander Grigoryev and Yuri Kupin	
SPECIAL REPORT	8	WORLD SAYS YES TO SOVIET TRADE by Gennadi Zhuravlyov	
	10	SOVIET-AMERICAN TRADE THROUGH THE EYES OF AN EXPERT by Vladimir Sushkov	
TRADE CONTACTS	16	THE SAILING DIRECTIONS OF HIS LIFE by Vyacheslav Khadosovsky	
	20	PINSK PEOPLE A kaleidoscope of the city	
IN FOCUS	21	PAGES OF HISTORY	
	23	AND THE BEAT GOES ON— by Alexander Tropkin	
	26	HALF AN APPLE by Grigori Kolobov	
	29	THE PROBLEMS OF THE CITY by Vyacheslav Khadosovsky	
	32	DAWN ABOVE THE PINA by Svetlana Savrasova	
	33	WORKERS OF THE PINSK KNITWEAR AMALGAMATION by Natalya Buldyk	
	40	MEET ARCHBISHOP VLADIMIR by Svetlana Savrasova	
	YOUTH FORUM	46	PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG NATIONS A chronology of youth festivals
		48	NUCLEAR-AGE MENTALITY by Fyodor Buritsky
	NEW BOOKS	58	THE APOLLO-SOYUZ TEST PROJECT—TEN YEARS LATER
62		"THE SINGING STONES" by Vasil Belov	
SCENE	64	PETER THE GREAT SPEAKS ENGLISH by Valeri Kadzhaya	
	46	CALENDAR	
DEPARTMENTS	58	THE WAY WE LIVE	
	60	THINGS CULTURAL	

July 1985, No. 7 (346)

SOVIET LIFE

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Front Cover: River captain Victor Pronyuk is an experienced navigator. His profession is among the most prestigious in Pinsk. Articles on this Byelorussian city begin on page 11.

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Moscow Editorial Board
APN, Zubovsky Boulevard 4
Moscow, USSR
Editor in Chief—Yuri B. Savenkov
Layout by Nikolai Smolyakov

Washington Editorial Board
1706 18th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
Editor—Oleg P. Benyukh
Managing Editor—Oleg G. Shibko

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EDITOR'S NOTES

THE Twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union will be convened on February 25, 1986, as has been decided by the Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, which was held in Moscow on April 23. Held once every five years, party congresses play a special role in our society. They review the performance for the past five years, define guidelines for economic and social development and set foreign policy strategy.

So now too, in the time remaining until the congress, the 18.5-million-strong party of the Soviet Communists and the public at large will review the progress made since the last congress in 1981 and discuss plans for the economic and social development of the country for the next five years, from 1986 to 1990, and the period to the year 2000. The forthcoming congress will pass decisions on these questions and approve a new edition of the Communist Party Program and changes in the party Rules.

In his report at the Plenary Meeting Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, pointed out that

there had been a lack of persistency in working out and implementing large-scale measures in the economy. "... We must," he emphasized, "achieve a substantial acceleration of economic and social progress. There is simply no other way." He urged Communists and all Soviet people to do everything to ensure that their pre-congress collective discussion would be held in a critical and constructive spirit.

Two commentaries in this issue deal with the materials of the Plenary Meeting.

Also in this issue we welcome you to Pinsk, Byelorussia, an average Soviet city. You'll meet the people who live there and discover how they think and what they do. You'll learn about the problems they face and how they're tackling them.

The articles on Pinsk were put together by a team of SOVIET LIFE journalists: Natalya Buldyk, Georgi Kolobov, Svetlana Savrasova, Yuri Sapozhkov, Alexander Tropkin and Vyacheslav Khadosovsky, and by news photographers Victor Drachyov, Yuri Ivanov and Yevgeni Koktysh.

Yuri Savenkov

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For nearly two years I have been an avid reader of SOVIET LIFE magazine. I am never disappointed in a single issue. But I am especially delighted with the new series "The Way We Live" by Darya Nikolayeva. I like this series for the appealing picture it presents of day-to-day life in the Soviet Union. I can compare this with the way I live in the United States. ... Most of all, however, Darya Nikolayeva's informal and witty style of writing about her family and her life gives me a warm feeling of friendship for a family I have never met. I feel I could sit in her kitchen and have tea and (language problems aside) a pleasant conversation with enjoyable company. Thank you for including this series in your wonderful publication.

Mary Clark
Laurel, Maryland

I am a 21-year-old college student (history, English) who would very much like to travel your land.

Gary Smith
Portland, Maine

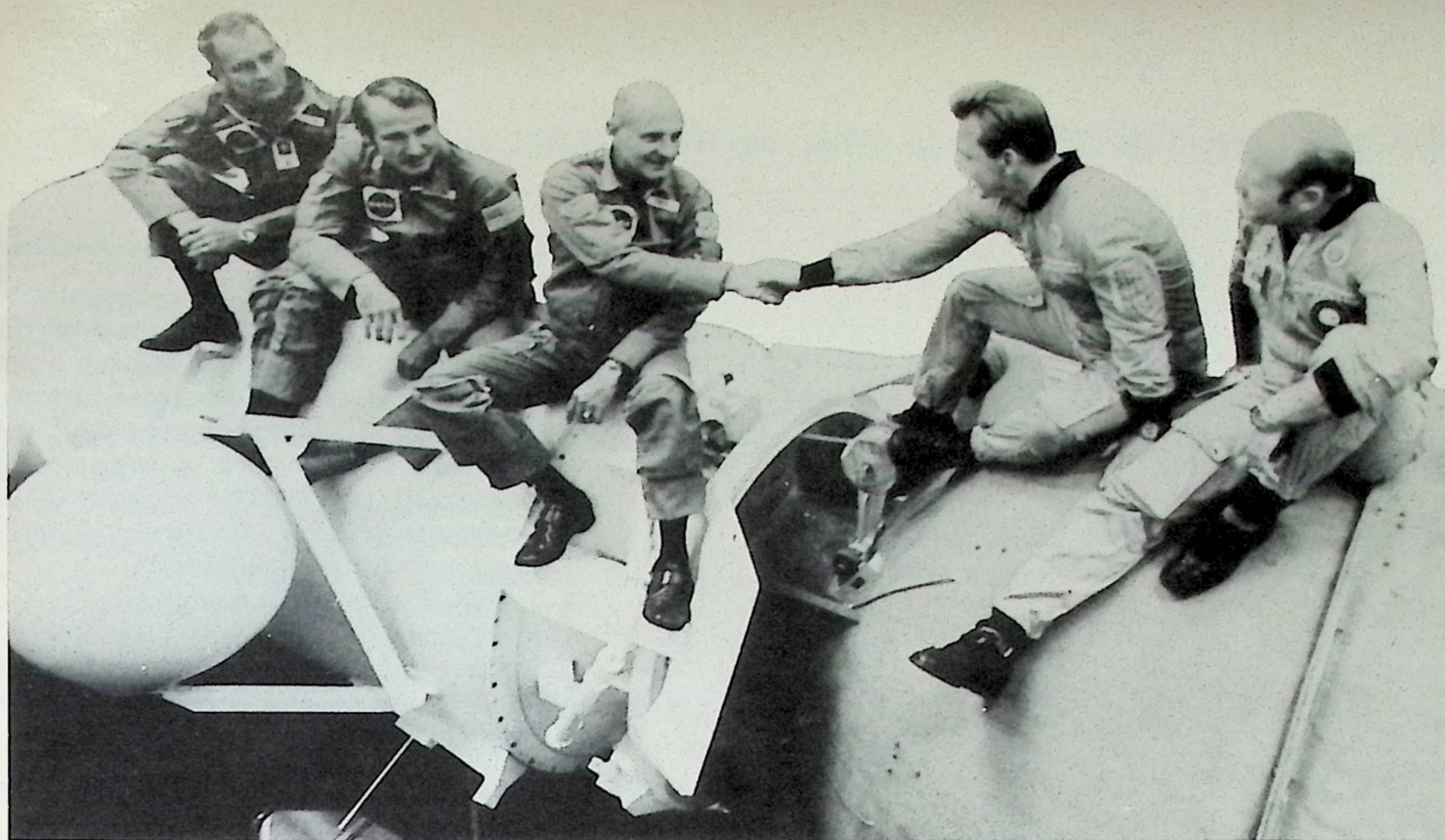
I thank you for SOVIET LIFE. It presents a people with the same philosophy of life of most Americans. I pray our governments will get together and work out a means whereby we can live in peace and with no fear of each other and the annihilation that we are in danger of bringing on our world.

Edward Hook
Sayre, Pennsylvania

SOVIET LIFE is a magnificent publication. I was especially delighted with Alexander Bovin's article in the November issue. It provided insight for a book I am preparing.

Continue with your large canvases of SOVIET LIFE. But don't let us forget that the big picture would not be what it is without the people who put the nuts and bolts in place.

Rea Ward
Englewood, Florida



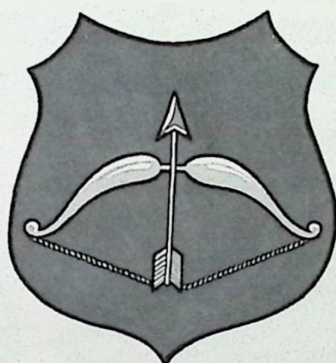
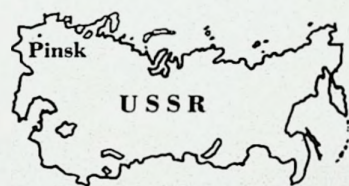
54

In honor of the tenth anniversary of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, which is celebrated this summer, Alexander Tropkin talks with Alexei Leonov about the historic handshake in orbit.

PINSK

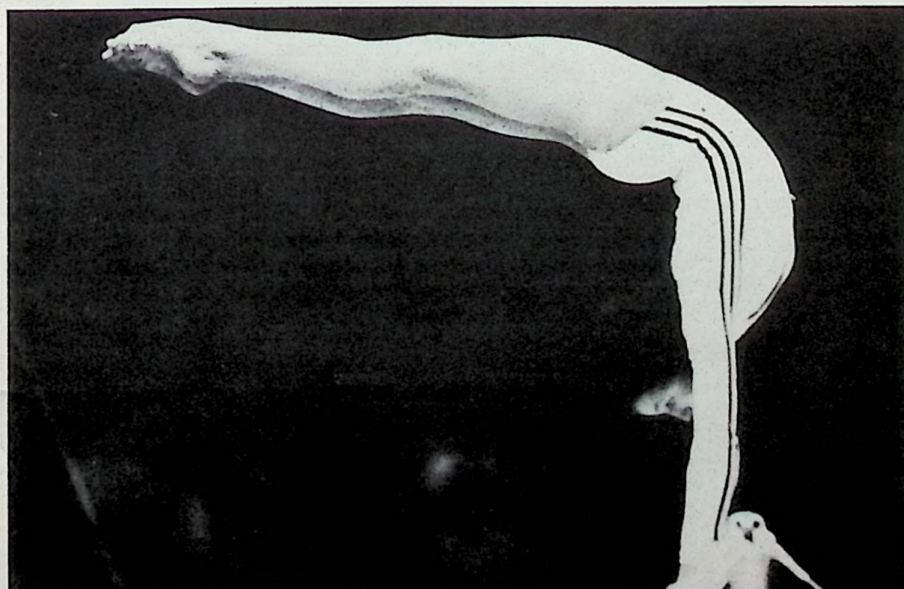
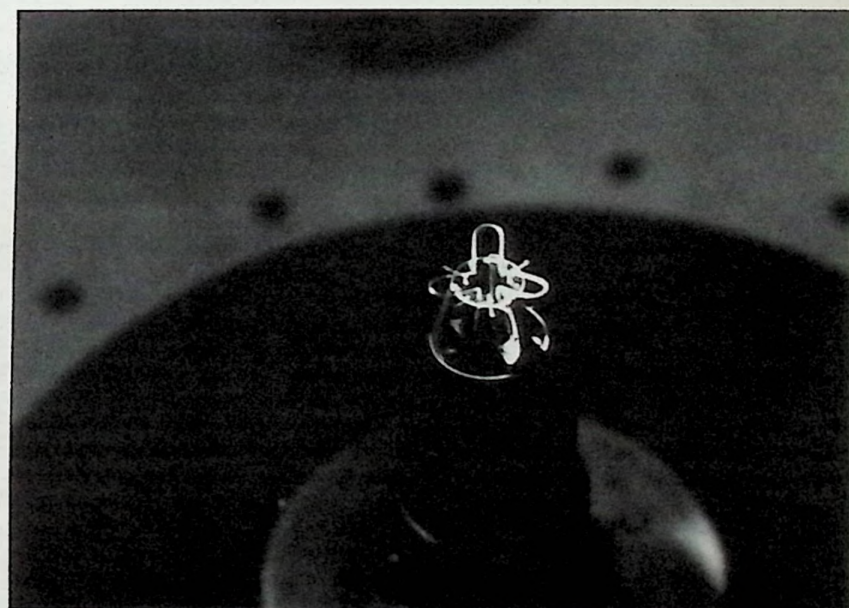
6

Introducing the assembly-line concept in the operating room is helping hundreds of people receive needed cataract operations, relates Natalya Bianki in her report on the new ideas in the sphere of eye surgery.



11

Pinsk, Byelorussia, is typical of many cities in the USSR. Its location at the confluence of several navigable rivers has not only shaped the history of the city but also greatly influenced the people who have chosen to live there. Since being granted the right to have its own emblem (above) and to elect burgomasters in 1581, Pinsk has experienced years of tragedy and boon. Today it is a busy river port and a hub of modern industry.



49

It is five years since the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Anatoli Srebnitsky recalls the star athletes of the Games and gives an update on their current standings.

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV: "NO NATION WANTS WAR. IN THIS FACT LIE ENORMOUS RESERVES AND

On April 23, 1985, a plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was held. General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev delivered a report "On Convening the Twenty-seventh CPSU Congress and the Tasks Involved in Preparing for and Holding It."

The Plenary Meeting adopted a resolution on the report by Mikhail Gorbachev, and considered organizational questions. It promoted Victor Chebrikov from alternate to full mem-

FASTER NATIONAL GROWTH IS THE MAIN TASK

Social and Economic Aspects
Of Mikhail Gorbachev's Report

By Gennadi Pisarevsky
SOVIET LIFE Commentator

IN preparing for its Twenty-seventh Congress, which will open on February 25, 1986, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union primarily seeks to present a realistic, well-considered definition of the present stage of development of Soviet society, and it is mapping out plans for its comprehensive refinement. Creative, imaginative work, the unity of words and action, initiative and responsibility—these are the main slogans of the party on the eve of the Twenty-seventh Congress, stressed Mikhail Gorbachev in his report at the April 1985 Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee.

"Relying on the advantages offered by the new system, the country has, within a historically short period of time, attained summits of economic and social progress."

Deep-going social changes have occurred in our country. The guaranteed right to work (there has not been unemployment in the USSR for three generations of Soviet people), society's concern for people from birth to old age, wide access to culture, respect for the dignity and rights of the individual and the steadily growing involvement of workers in management are all immutable values and integral characteristics of the socialist way of life.

But life itself and its dynamism prompt the need to accelerate the pace of national development and effect further social changes.

The economy has a decisive role to play in the process of streamlining Soviet society. Along with obvious successes, however, there have also been some unfavorable trends in recent years.

The cost of producing, transporting and processing raw materials has steadily been rising. This inevitably calls for using, as geologists say, the "poorer" mineral deposits, along with increasing allocations for the development of Siberia and other

Eastern regions. The growth of labor resources has sharply dwindled, leading to a shortage in a number of areas. Maintaining the country's defense capability at a proper level also requires considerable expenditures. For the past six years (1983 was an exception), the harvests have been bad.

All this, of course, has adversely affected the pace of economic development. But the main cause for the difficulties is that the changes in the objec-

"In everything concerning the people, their work, material well-being and recreation, we must be extremely attentive. . . . It is a key question of policy."

tive conditions for the growth of production and the necessity for its speedier intensification and the introduction of improvements in the methods of management were not considered ahead of time. "By making wide use of the achievements of the scientific and technological revolution and by bringing the forms of socialist economic management into conformity with the present-day conditions and requirements, we must achieve a substantial acceleration of economic and social progress. There is simply no other way," Gorbachev emphasized.

For the period 1986 to 1990, the period of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan (its program will be examined by the Twenty-seventh CPSU Congress), a significant boost in scientific and technological progress is to be achieved in all sectors of the national economy. The development of Soviet society will be largely determined by qualitative changes in the

economy, by its changing over to intensive methods of development and by a rise in efficiency.

The main task is to change over as quickly as possible to the production of new generations of machinery and equipment that will assure the introduction of progressive technology, increase productivity by many times and help reduce material-intensiveness and raise the returns on investments.

The CPSU regards as the highest purpose of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development a steady, step-by-step improvement of the people's well-being, an improvement of all aspects of their life and the creation of favorable conditions for the harmonious development of the individual.

This involves quite a lot of work to improve the supply of foodstuffs and other goods to the population and increase the quality of services. Public health and education are given much attention.

"In everything concerning the people, their work, material well-being and recreation, we must be extremely attentive. To us, it is a key question of policy," Gorbachev pointed out. He called attention specifically to the need for improving the living standards of retired people and of the conditions of life for young couples, maternal and child care and housing construction, with a view to eventually providing each family with an apartment or a house.

The CPSU approaches the solution of the complex problems of perfecting Soviet society in a profoundly scientific, well-thought-out and responsible manner. It keeps people informed honestly and frankly about both our achievements and our setbacks. As Mikhail Gorbachev stressed, only by relying on the creativity of the people, on their wisdom, talent and labor, is it possible to meet the great challenges that lie ahead, the most important of which is more rapid national development. ■

ber of the Politburo of the Central Committee, and elected Secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee Yegor Ligachev and Nikolai Ryzhkov full members of the Politburo of the Central Committee.

The Plenary Meeting also elected member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Minister of Defense Sergei Sokolov an alternate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee and member of the CPSU Central Committee Victor Nikonov a Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

ARMS RACE AND DISARMAMENT TALKS ARE INCOMPATIBLE

Soviet Foreign Policy on the Eve
Of the Twenty-seventh CPSU Congress

By Spartak Beglov
SOVIET LIFE Commentator

THE APRIL Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union gave top priority to questions of foreign policy. The leading body of the party stated that the international situation is complex and that the tensions are acute, a situation which demands more than ever before the political will for peace and a better future.

"The Soviet Union declares once again that it will steadfastly pursue the Leninist policy of peace and peaceful coexistence, which is determined by our social system, morality and world outlook."

All controversial issues and conflict situations should be resolved by political means—this is our firm conviction, stressed General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev in his report at the Plenary Meeting.

Humankind faces a choice: Either a further buildup of tensions and confrontation, or a constructive search for mutually acceptable agreements that would stop the preparations for a nuclear conflict. The Soviet Union has always regarded the second alternative as the only acceptable solution, and it has been doing all that it can to strengthen the world community's faith in its feasibility. "We are convinced that a world war can be averted," Gorbachev said.

An appropriate program of action has been advanced, developed and delineated at all top forums of the CPSU in recent years.

It is proper to recall here that the previous, the Twenty-sixth CPSU Congress, held in February and March 1981, defined the struggle to weaken the threat of war, to curb the arms race, as the pivotal line of Soviet foreign policy. It formulated a program of real and workable measures aimed at cutting short the menace threatening humanity.

Among the measures were a constructive continuation of Soviet-American talks on the limitation of strategic armaments, a moratorium on the deployment in Europe of new medium-range nuclear missiles and the extension of the zone of confidence-building measures in the military field. In 1982 the Soviet Union pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and in 1983 it assumed a unilateral moratorium on putting antisatellite weapons in orbit.

"The Soviet Union declares once again that it will steadfastly pursue the Leninist policy of peace and peaceful coexistence, which is determined by our social system . . . and world outlook."

Mikhail Gorbachev recalled the latest Soviet proposal in this area—a mutual Soviet-American moratorium, for the duration of the talks in Geneva, on the development of space weapons and a freeze on strategic nuclear arsenals. As a measure of its good will, the USSR declared a unilateral moratorium on the deployment of medium-range missiles and committed itself to pursuing other countermeasures in Europe.

The arms race and the disarmament talks are incompatible. This was made perfectly clear at the Plenary Meeting in Moscow. "For its part, the Soviet Union will work persistently in Geneva to reach practical and mutually acceptable agreements that would make it possible not only to put an end to the arms race but to achieve progress in disarmament," said Gorbachev.

In connection with the fortieth anniversary of the victory over fascism, the Soviet leader said: "Remembering the huge price paid for victory by the Soviet people and other peoples of the anti-Hitler coalition, recalling again and again the tragedy that befell humankind, the Communist Party and the Soviet Government consider the main task of their foreign policy to be the prevention of such a tragedy ever occurring again, even more so the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe."

The Soviet Union advocates fruitful and all-round economic, scientific and technological cooperation based on the principle of mutual benefit and excluding any sort of discrimination; it is prepared to continue to expand and develop trade relations, to develop new forms of economic relations based on the mutual interest of the sides in the joint mastering of research, engineering and technological innovations, the design and construction of enterprises and for the exploration of raw material resources.

Comprehensive improvement and enrichment of cooperation among the socialist countries are becoming an even more important task. The Soviet Union is also for a further expansion of diverse cooperation with the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Confirming its readiness for extensive multifaceted and mutually advantageous cooperation with the nations of Western Europe and with Japan, for improvement in relations with the U.S., the Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee reaffirmed adherence to the Leninist principles of peaceful coexistence. The Soviet Union is in favor of stable, correct and civilized relations among states based on full respect for the norms of international law.

"We have many differences at home, but we are all Americans," said Thomas O'Neill, head of the U.S. Congressional delegation visiting the USSR. "We have a love of freedom, believe in the value of each individual and have a supreme desire for peace. It is this last point . . . that brings us here to the Soviet Union."

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISITS THE USSR

By Alexander Grigoryev and Yuri Kupin

Commenting on the arrival in Moscow on April 7, 1985, of a U.S. Congressional delegation, Lev Tolkunov, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union, one of the two chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said that it was a reciprocal visit to promote the contacts established during a recent visit to the United States of a Soviet parliamentary delegation.

Among the U.S. delegates headed by Speaker of the House Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., were both Republicans and Democrats, including 13 senior members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Leading the Republicans was Minority Leader of the House Robert H. Michel of Illinois. The other members of the delegation came from various parts of the United States, from the shores of California to the distant shores of Massachusetts, from large urban areas to rural regions.

"We have many differences at home, but we are all Americans," said House Speaker O'Neill. "We have a love of freedom, believe in the value of each individual and have a supreme desire for peace. It is this last point—the desire for peace—that brings us here to the Soviet Union. As would all Americans, we would like to see the United States and the Soviet Union, despite their different systems, not only avoid war but work together for a safer and more prosperous world. We hope that during our visit here and our meetings in Moscow and Leningrad, we will find that the new leadership in the Soviet Union also shares our goal."

The Congressional delegation didn't have to wait long to see that the Soviet leadership also wants a lasting peace. On April 8, *Pravda* ran an exclusive interview with General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev. In it, the Soviet leader profoundly analyzed the current state of Soviet-American relations. He said, among other things, that he would like to meet U.S. President Ronald Reagan

and that the Soviet leadership wants Soviet-American relations to return to normal mutually beneficial cooperation, to ensure respect for each other's interests and to create a better international situation. The Soviet leader also advanced the Soviet Union's proposals that both the USSR and the U.S. impose a moratorium on the development of space weapons and a freeze on strategic nuclear arms for the duration of the Geneva negotiations. At the same time, the deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe should be halted as well as the Soviet retaliatory measures, Gorbachev said, adding that as a measure of its good will, the Soviet Union would impose a moratorium on the deployment of its medium-range missiles and would halt other retaliatory measures in Europe. The moratorium would last until next November.

Commenting on this, House Speaker O'Neill said: "I don't know all the details, but I am happy. I think it is beneficial for world peace if the leaders of the two predominant nations of the world get to the table and sit down to find a compromise somewhere along the line. If they only keep talking—that's the most important thing."

About the Soviet proposal for a moratorium, O'Neill said that the main factor was that it showed there was a disposition for talks, and that was beautiful.

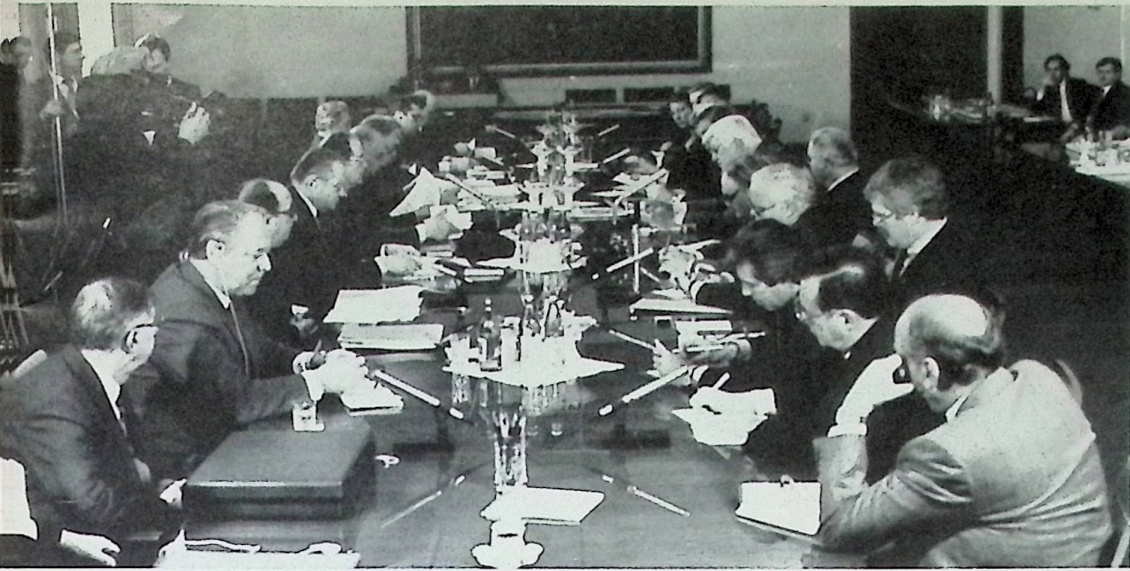
Over the course of the three days that followed the *Pravda* interview, the U.S. Congressmen had many opportunities to obtain the most detailed explanations of the Soviet position. For two days they met with members of the Soviet parliament. Chairman of the Soviet of the Union Tolkunov said: "We had meetings and talks in Moscow on Soviet-American relations and debated some global issues, including disarmament, above all, nuclear and space disarmament. We also discussed bilateral relations that are crucial for global stability, and several regional issues."

Then the congressmen had a chance to hear firsthand the Soviet Govern-



Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and head of the visiting U.S. Congressional delegation Thomas O'Neill, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, meet in the Kremlin.





Andrei Gromyko (right), First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and the USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs, talks with the head of the American delegation. Left: the American delegation at a meeting with members of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

ment's point of view. On April 9 the delegation was received by Andrei Gromyko, the First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and the USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs. He told them that Soviet-American relations were a crucial factor of world politics and that the Geneva talks offered a good opportunity for achieving an agreement on preventing an arms race in outer space, stopping the arms race on Earth and substantially cutting nuclear arms. Whether this opportunity is used or not will depend on the American side, Gromyko said.

The congressmen replied that they wanted Soviet-American relations to get back to normal, adding that they hoped that the Geneva talks on nuclear and space-based weapons will bring both sides closer to achieving that goal.

Culminating the delegation's visit was Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with House Speaker O'Neill, House Minority Leader Michel, Congressmen Dan Rostenkowski of Illinois and Silvio O. Conte of Massachusetts, and the U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union Arthur Hartman.

The Soviet leader told them that both nations can benefit enormously from large-scale and fruitful cooperation. The differences between the two systems and ideologies must not be a reason for severing all ties, let alone a reason for whipping up hostility, he said. On the Geneva talks, he stated that the Soviet Union agreed to the negotiations so as to conduct them honestly and seriously, seeking to agree on real and tangible results, on drastic reductions of strategic nuclear weapons and medium-range missiles. Stating the Soviet proposals once again, Gorbachev said that stopping the arms race on Earth and preventing it in outer space were issues that should be dealt with in a comprehensive manner, in keeping with the understanding reached between the USSR and the USA when both nations agreed to begin the talks.

The Soviet leader said that the USSR sincerely wanted the Geneva talks to

result in some specific agreements and Soviet-American relations to return to normal mutually beneficial cooperation and mutual respect. He asked members of the delegation to convey this to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Administration.

In Moscow the U.S. delegation had a busy schedule of meetings and talks. The group's visit to Leningrad, the second largest city in the USSR, was more for entertainment, and the cultural program planned for them was varied. One place of interest for the American delegation was the Hermitage State Museum, the world-famous art museum with 26 million exhibits.

Leningrad is known for its monuments, some of which have been built in recent times, like the monument to the heroic defenders of the city during World War II. It honors the people who fought gallantly during the 900-day siege to prevent the Nazis from conquering the city. Leningrad's dead numbered 641,000 and the damage that was inflicted was later estimated at about 50 billion rubles.

These statistics seemed to stun the congressmen. On behalf of the delegation House Speaker O'Neill wrote the following in the Visitors Book at the monument: "The death of these great people must be a remembrance to the world that it must have peace."

Vladimir Khodarev, the mayor of Leningrad, cordially received the visitors. He told them that the city is proud of its museums, monuments and industry.

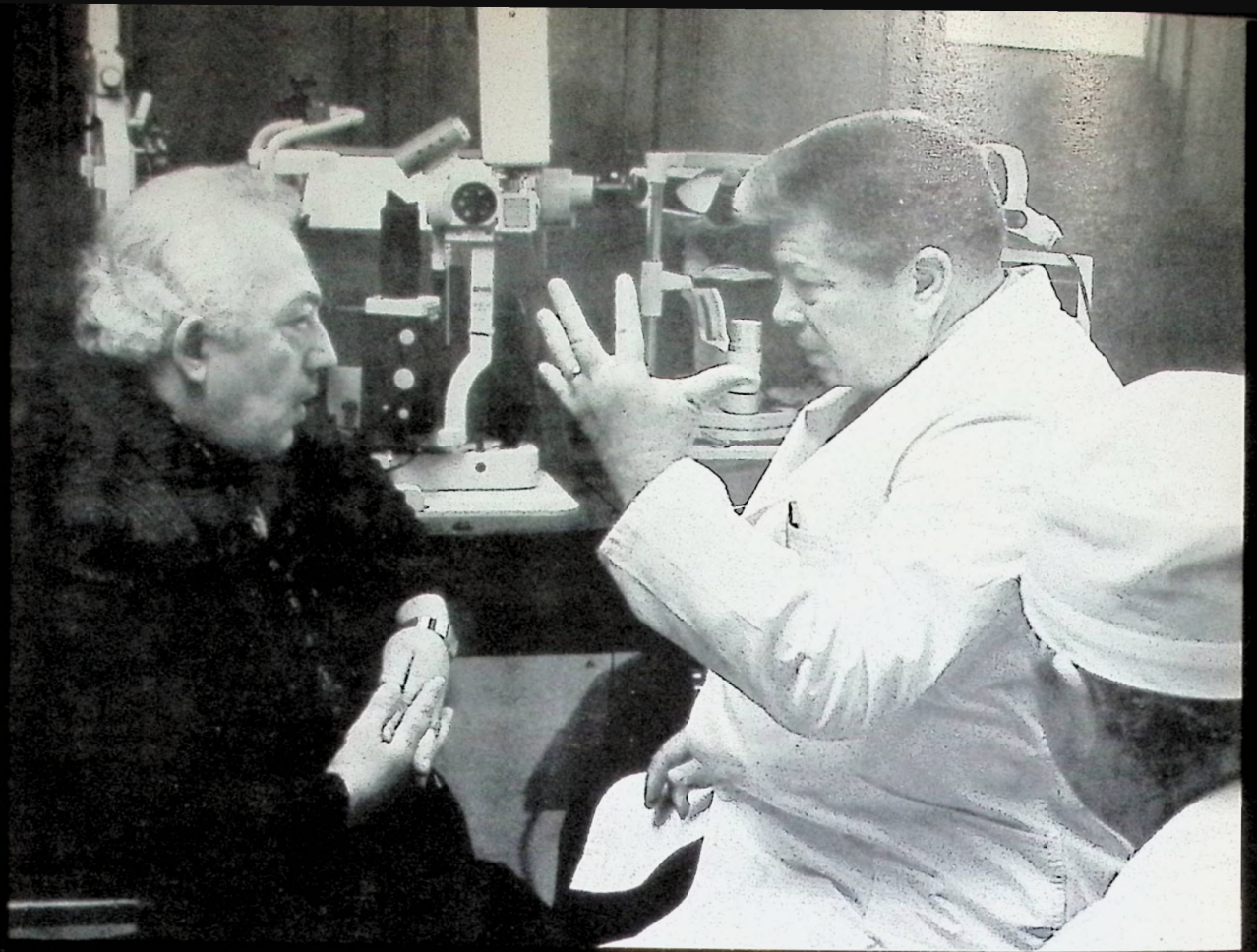
Tied by the limits of official protocol, the congressmen couldn't see everything there is to see in Leningrad, and before leaving, House Speaker O'Neill expressed regret that their visit to the city was so short.

Members of the delegation at the monument to the defenders of Leningrad. Below: Lev Tolkunov (center), Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, at a reception for the visiting congressmen.



new ideas

The Moscow Research Institute of Eye Microsurgery directed by Dr. Svyatoslav Fyodorov is the world's first medical facility to introduce the assembly-line concept in eye operations. With the new system a team of five surgeons can perform 100 operations a day.



THE SURGICAL ASSEMBLY LINE

By Natalya Bianki
Photographs by Victor Chernov



With the surgical assembly-line system, operating tables slide slowly along a rail on the floor from one surgeon to another. The moment an operation is completed, a green light goes on, and the line resumes motion. This system considerably increases the productivity of ophthalmologists, while it ensures the highest quality of treatment. Right: Instruments used by the eye surgeons in the clinic. (The match stick on the right is shown for scale.) Top left: The Moscow Research Institute of Eye Microsurgery. Top right: Dr. Svyatoslav Fyodorov, director of the institute, performs the laser technique.



The team approach to work has frequently been in the news lately, but it is usually associated with industry and agriculture. But what about using the approach in medicine?

Dr. Svyatoslav Fyodorov, a top Soviet eye surgeon, started experimenting with the teamwork approach in surgery nine years ago in his small operating room by operating on two patients at a time. After completing the operation at the first table, he would immediately move to the second one. That was about all there was to it. In the beginning Fyodorov's surgical "assembly line" performed 16 operations a day.

Clinic, Research Center and Industrial Complex

Today the Moscow Research Institute of Eye Microsurgery is not only a major clinic and research center but also a scientific and industrial complex. It produces artificial lenses, corneas and supersharp scalpels and precision instruments. Over 3,000 sets of specialized ophthalmological scalpels a year are supplied to 150 clinics in the Soviet Union.

The Moscow ophthalmological center is unique, but, unfortunately, it cannot accept everyone who applies for admittance.

"We're still short of eye clinics," Dr. Fyodorov said. "What should be done? Should we continue to build more hospitals? It seems to me that the endless extension of hospital facilities is not the best way to invest money and effort. No matter how experienced and ingenious the surgeons are, they

can't perform even the simplest eye surgery, not to mention sophisticated operations, without special instruments. It's unrealistic to think we can equip all the eye clinics and hospitals.

"I see the way out in using what we have and in setting up 10 to 12 big regional centers for eye microsurgery. If they are equipped with the most up-to-date facilities, they will be able to treat everyone who needs surgery. Our institute can serve as the model. Teamwork has enabled us to enhance our clinic's efficiency by 3.5 times. The number of operations has increased and their quality has improved.

"It is vital that each surgeon perform only one part of an operation. Actually, this has been the practice in surgery for a long time. An experienced surgeon concentrates on the most essential part of the operation, while his assistants perform the initial and final stages of it."

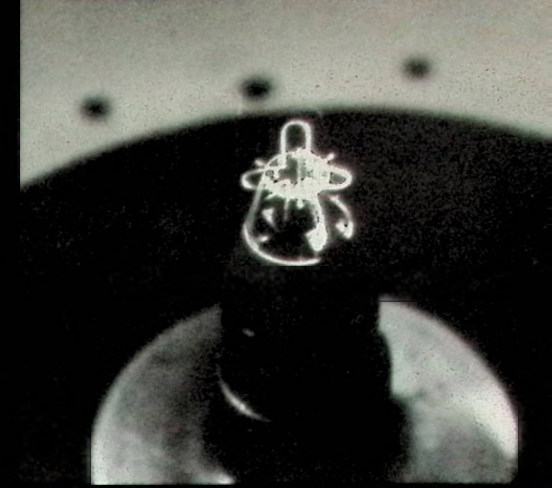
Today the eye clinic of the Moscow Research Institute of Eye Microsurgery is the only medical facility in the world where surgeons are employing the assembly-line concept in the operating room.

"Since last autumn we are having five surgeons perform one operation," said Dr. Fyodorov. "Each is responsible for one of the stages, which can take from three to five minutes. This means that every three to five minutes a patient comes off the 'eye-sight-restoring line,' as we call it. Using this method, our ophthalmologists can perform about 100 operations a day."

In the Operating Room

Two opposing walls and the ceiling in Dr.

It takes from five to seven minutes to perform a cataract operation.



The iris-clips lens designed by Drs. Fyodorov and Zakharov at the eye clinic in Moscow has a diameter of about five millimeters. The lens is used to attach an artificial crystalline lens to the iris.

Fyodorov's new operating room are metal. The other two are glass doors, which take up the entire width of the wall itself. Each door opens automatically when a special button is pushed. A rail on the floor runs the length of the room.

When the doors (surgeons call them "the visors") open at one end of the room, a patient on an operating table attached to the rail rolls in. The surgeons are seated to the right of the rail. Each surgeon has a surgical microscope as well as all kinds of microscalpels within reach.

As soon as the patient is rolled in, Surgeon No. 1 begins his work, that is, in this case preparing the eye for a cataract removal. When he finishes, the table moves to Surgeon No. 2, who marks the places for the incisions, which have already been calculated for the individual patient. Then he makes the first peripheral incisions in the iris. This done, the table moves to Surgeon No. 3 (the most experienced member of the team), who extends the incisions to the central zone of the iris, cuts around the edge of the cornea and penetrates the scalpel into the eye. Since the surgeon's microscope is connected to a large display monitor, everyone present in the operating room can observe the entire procedure.

"When a cataract is present in the eye, the lens looks like a grape: a thin cover on the outside and a jellylike viscous mass with a hard nucleus. This is the part that must be removed from the eye as soon as possible," said Dr. Fyodorov. "I don't like to wait until a cataract is 'ripe,' as we surgeons put it, before removal because the opaque crystalline mass can have a detrimental, sometimes irreversible, effect on the eye as a whole. However, most of my colleagues believe in waiting until the cataract is ripe and can be seen with the naked eye. It's easier to remove then."

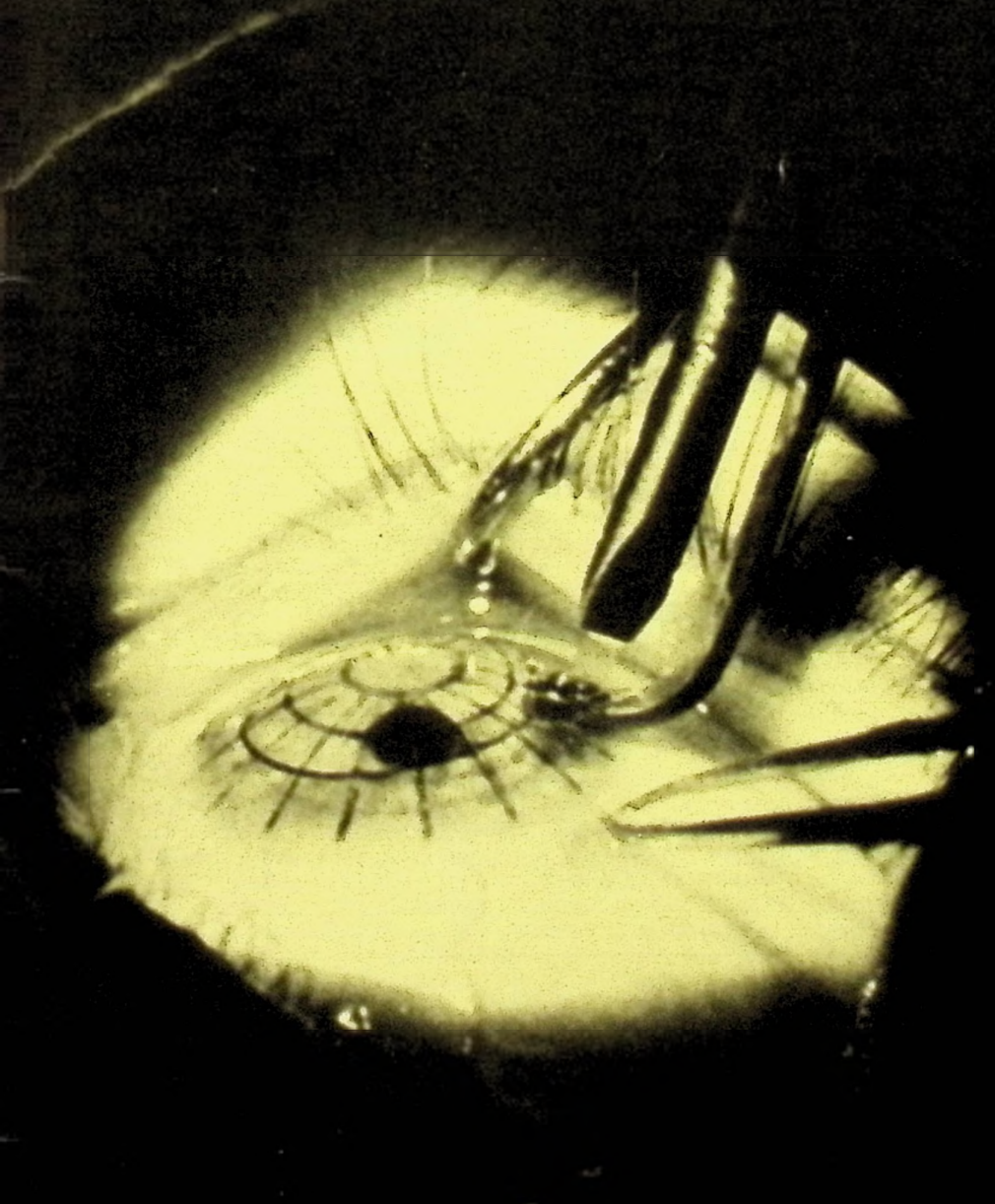
The assembly-line operation continues. The patient is now next to Surgeon No. 4. The iris has already been moved out of the way, and the cataract "grape" has been isolated by a sharp retractor. Surgeon No. 4 removes the dense nucleus and dries the soft parts of the lens with a hollow needle powered by a micropump. The opaque mass is gone, but at this point vision in the eye is not yet fully restored. The patient can see bright light, but acuity is still dim. The eye's natural lens has been removed, and the focus lies far behind the retina. A superthick, very heavy artificial lens can correct the eyesight, but the patient will cease to see a three-dimensional world: visual images become flat.

Back to the operation. Surgeon No. 5 corrects the depth of vision, washes the incision and administers antibiotics, and the table rolls out of the operating room. The whole procedure takes only about seven minutes to perform.

What if there are complications? Then the line is stopped, the operating table removed from the rail and taken to an adjoining room.

The main advantage of the surgical assembly-line system is that the most sophisticated part of the surgery, the incisions in the central part of the corneal optical zone, is done by the best surgeons.

The division of duties among the specialists makes it possible to significantly reduce the time needed to train young, inexperienced surgeons. It also gives them the opportunity to master every stage of the operation.



trade contacts

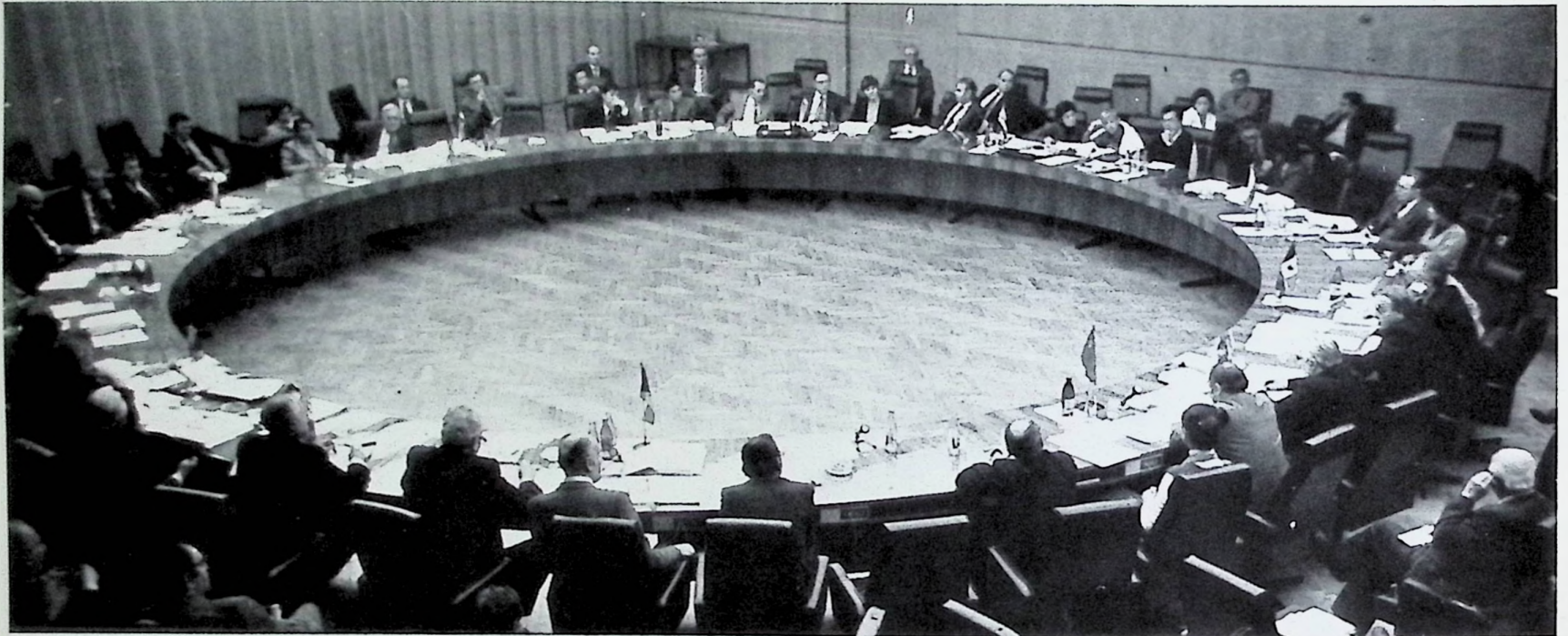
The USSR avails itself of all opportunities for expanding business cooperation with all countries, taking into consideration their desire for cooperation and the existing trade and political situation in the world.

WORLD SAYS YES TO SOVIET TRADE

Soviet Foreign Trade Contacts in 1984 And the Prospects for Their Development

By Gennadi Zhuravlyov
First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of the USSR

A conference of CMEA member countries.



In 1984 the Soviet Union carried on trade with 145 countries. The total volume of the country's foreign trade was 139.7 billion rubles, distributed as shown in the table below. This was a 9.6 per cent increase over 1983. The credit of the balance of trade exceeded 9 billion rubles.

In groups of countries, the foreign trade of the USSR was distributed in the following way:

DISTRIBUTION OF USSR FOREIGN TRADE (In billions of rubles)		
Countries	1983	1984
Socialist countries	71.4	80.3
Industrially developed capitalist countries	38.4	40.9
Developing countries	17.7	18.5
TOTAL	127.5	139.7

As in previous years, the socialist countries accounted for the main part of the USSR's foreign trade turnover. In 1984 their share increased to 57.5 per cent. The total volume of trade with these countries grew by 12.5 per cent during that year, amounting to 80.3 billion rubles.

If we take the socialist countries within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) separately, the volume of trade with them during the same time period increased by 11.5 per cent, amounting to 72.7 billion rubles.

There has been a considerable growth in trade with all socialist countries. The major partners among them (in billions of rubles) are the German Democratic Republic (14.8), Czechoslovakia (12.6), Bulgaria (11.7), Poland (11.4), Hungary (8.8), Cuba (7.2), Yugoslavia (5.8) and Rumania (3.6).

A special role in the foreign economic contacts of the USSR is assigned to cooperation with the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The Soviet Union is giving, as far as possible, economic aid and technical assistance to the emergent countries to help in their efforts to develop their national economies.

In 1984 the Soviet Union had trade relations with 103 countries within this group. Trade turnover with these countries grew, as compared with 1983, by 4.3 per cent. The most important trade partners among the developing countries (in billions of rubles) are India (2.8), Libya (1.3), Argentina (1.1), Afghanistan (0.9), Iraq (0.9), Egypt (0.5), Iran (0.5), Syria (0.5) and Brazil (0.5).

Trade and economic cooperation was also successfully developed with Algeria, Turkey, Ethiopia, Morocco, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Angola, Tunisia and other countries.

Trade has expanded with the industrially developed capitalist countries. Compared with 1983, the volume of trade with these countries grew by 6.6 per cent, reaching the value of 40.9 billion rubles. The share of these countries in the total foreign trade turnover of the USSR was 29.3 per cent. The change in the volume of trade with individual countries varied as can be seen from the following table:

CHANGE IN VOLUME OF TRADE ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES (In billions of rubles)		
Country	1983	1984
Federal Republic of Germany	7.0	7.5
Finland	5.2	4.7
Italy	4.4	4.5
France	4.1	4.2
Great Britain	1.8	2.2
The Netherlands	1.7	1.9
Belgium	1.6	1.7
Austria	1.3	1.6
United States	1.9	3.1
Japan	3.0	2.9
Canada	1.3	1.4

The year 1985 is the final year of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan period in the Soviet Union, and the country is preparing to enter another five-year plan period.

It must be noted that a further increase in the volume of foreign trade in all areas has been planned for the current year. Trade agreements have been concluded and protocols have been signed with all socialist countries for the current year. These agreements and protocols envisage further growth in the mutual exchange of commodities.

Protocols on the turnover of goods have also been signed with a number of other countries, including Finland, India, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Morocco, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Syria and Turkey, among others.

Within the framework of intergovernmental commissions for economic cooperation and by way of other bilateral contacts, the question of further trade and economic cooperation with many Western countries has also been considered.

Up to the Year 2000

At the present time Soviet planning bodies, in conjunction with the country's economic organizations, are completing the draft of the Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1986 to 1990 and for the Period Ending in the Year 2000. In close coordination with the proposed tasks of developing the entire national economy of the USSR, similar work is being done to draft guidelines for the further expansion of foreign trade contacts.

An important fact is that the country's future domestic and foreign economic plans are being worked out taking into account the tasks of further expanding socialist economic integration. These plans were agreed upon at the CMEA Economic Summit in June 1984.

Covering the period up to the end of the present century, the documents adopted by the summit conference set the long-term trends in economic cooperation and mutual assistance among the CMEA countries. Ways have been jointly found to solve the more important national economic problems.

The main means for realizing the above-mentioned trends in economic cooperation and the extension of socialist economic integration is by expanding cooperation in the area of planning. It has become the practice to carry out on a planned basis agreed-upon five-year plans of multilateral integration measures, long-term target-oriented programs of cooperation in the key branches of production, and long-term bilateral programs of specialization and cooperation in production.

When drafting its current and long-term plans for foreign trade, the USSR, as previously, will avail itself of all opportunities for expanding its business cooperation with all countries, taking into consideration their desire for such cooperation and the existing trade and political situation.

Expansion of Exports

In 1984 Soviet exports totaled 74.4 billion rubles. In volume of exports the USSR has in the past few years ranked sixth or seventh among all the countries of the world.

The development of the country's oil and natural gas production, the creation of a broad network of oil and gas pipelines, including those for export purposes, and also the fair demand for these goods on the foreign market have made it possible for the Soviet Union to considerably expand its export of oil and to begin exporting large quantities of natural gas. These commodities have become the important export items. On the whole, the entire group of fuel and energy-producing goods made up 54.4 per cent of the total exports of the USSR in 1984.

At the present time the Soviet state's efforts are aimed at expanding its export potential, improving the range of exports and increasing its effectiveness with products of the machine-building industry and other finished articles and goods that need a greater degree of processing.

It is quite clear that this is not an easy task, and time will be required to accomplish it. To carry it through, a good economic and managerial base has been created, which is being expanded and consolidated.

The Soviet Union exports increasing quantities of diverse types of modern machinery and equipment, including complete plants, computerized metal-cutting machine tools, press-forging plant and metallurgical equipment, equipment for nuclear power plants, electric generators, turbines for thermal and hydroelectric power stations, electronic computers, electric locomotives, planes, helicopters, trucks and automobiles, tractors, excavating machines, farm machines, instruments, household appliances and other machinery. Last year the export of machine-building industrial products totaled 9.3 billion rubles, or 9.6 per cent more than in 1983.

The bulk of the items produced by the Soviet machine-building industry now goes to the socialist countries, and the USSR's export potential is constantly growing. Work is now being done in the country to develop machine building and to produce new advanced types of products matching the highest world standards.

At the same time that the export of machinery and equipment has been expanding, the production and export of finished articles, semifinished items, and materials obtained through the thorough industrial processing of oil, gas, coal, ferrous and nonferrous metals, wood and other raw materials has been increasing. Exported in growing quantities are, for example, motor fuel, electric energy, iron pellets, ferrous rolled stock, ferroalloys, cellulose pulp, paper, cardboard, chipboard, fiberboard, plywood, textiles, medicines and other goods.

Measures to improve the structure of Soviet exports are being carried out in

close coordination with the integration activities within the framework of CMEA to provide the member countries with the fuel, energy and raw materials they need as well as up-to-date machinery and equipment, foodstuffs and manufactured goods.

The Soviet Union, therefore, ensures guaranteed deliveries of oil, gas and basic raw materials to the CMEA countries. Such deliveries will continue in the next five-year plan period. In the future, there will be an increase in natural gas deliveries to the socialist countries of Eastern Europe. For this purpose a project is now being studied for the joint construction of a new export gas pipeline from Yamburg to the western border of the USSR. The volume of gas delivered through it will amount to 20 to 22 billion cubic meters a year.

Growth in the export of electricity to the socialist countries is accelerating. With Soviet assistance, the CMEA countries have built, or are building, dozens of high-capacity plants of various types: thermal, hydroelectric and nuclear, with special emphasis on the expansion of nuclear power production. The development of nuclear power production rests on the firm foundation that has been created by the CMEA countries. It is one of multilateral specialization and cooperation in production and mutual deliveries of all the equipment needed for nuclear power plants.

To receive fuel or raw materials from the Soviet Union, the particular CMEA countries concerned take part in the construction of related industrial projects on Soviet territory. For example, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia are presently taking part in the construction of the Khmelnytsky Nuclear Power Plant in the Ukraine, and Rumania is participating in the construction of the South-Ukrainian Nuclear Power Plant.

During the next five-year plan period, the new important projects of joint cooperation with the CMEA countries will include the construction of the gas pipeline from Yamburg to the western border of the USSR, the construction of the Krivoi Rog Integrated Concentrating Mill and the development of the Caspian lowland oil-and-gas deposits.

An important channel for increasing the export of Soviet machinery, equipment and transport facilities to the CMEA countries is the growing joint effort in regard to the specialization and cooperation in production in the machine-building industry. Such efforts are now most widely applied in the production of equipment for nuclear power plants, automatic transfer lines, computerized machine tools, hydraulic and pneumatic equipment, automobiles and farm machines. Cooperation being established in the production of robots, micro-processing facilities and microelectronics. In the future the CMEA countries are to cooperate in the production of heavy stripping machinery, dump trucks with a load-carrying capacity of 180 metric tons, powerful bulldozers, excavating machines, pipelayers, and energy- and material-conserving machinery and equipment.

Soviet Imports

The most important part of Soviet imports has always been machinery, equipment and transport facilities. In 1984 they accounted for 36.6 per cent of imports. Last year 17.9 billion rubles' worth of products of the machine-building industry, or 74.4 per cent of their aggregate imports totaling 23.9 billion rubles, were imported from the socialist countries.

Dominant among them are still machinery and equipment for the chemical, metallurgical and gas industries. The proportion of industrial equipment for the machine-building industry is rising. Larger quantities and a wider range of machinery and equipment are being imported for agriculture and the related industries and for light industry.

Along with the import of complete plants and of separate types of equipment, ever wider use is being made of inviting, wherever it is expedient, firms and organizations in foreign countries to build big industrial enterprises in the USSR, including terms of completion. A metallurgical plant for the production of bars from scrap with a capacity of 500,000 metric tons a year was put into operation in Zhlobin, Byelorussia, last year. The plant was built and completed to the last detail by the Austrian state-owned concern Voest Alpine Aktiengesellschaft, with the participation of the Italian firm Danieli and Co. In January 1985 a contract was signed with the same firms under which they are to build at the plant a facility for the production of steel-wire cord and alloyed-steel rolled products.

The Soviet Union is carrying out a vast program of developing gas deposits and constructing gas pipelines. Some 36,000 kilometers of gas mains have been built during the first four years of the current five-year plan period alone. The world has not yet known such a scale and rate of construction. And this requires huge quantities of pipes, hundreds of gas compressor stations and a great deal of other equipment and materials. During the current five-year plan period, the Soviet Union has annually been buying an average of two billion rubles' worth of large-diameter pipes alone, mostly from Western countries.

An important place in Soviet imports is held by foodstuffs and manufactured goods, as well as raw materials for their production. The main suppliers of these are the socialist countries. At the same time, considerable quantities of these products are bought from capitalist and developing countries, among them grain, raw sugar, meat and meat products, butter and vegetable oil, citrus fruit, bananas and wine.

Altogether, over the past year 14.7 billion rubles' worth of spices and raw materials for processing them were imported, which is 20.8 per cent more than in 1983. The share of these goods in the total imports of the USSR has risen to 22.5 per cent.

Manufactured consumer goods are always sizable import items: clothing, knitted goods, footwear, textiles, perfumes, cosmetics, medicine, furniture, and the like. The proportion of these goods in Soviet imports in the past year remained approximately at the 1983 level—11.7 per cent.

SOVIET-AMERICAN TRADE THROUGH THE EYES OF AN EXPERT

SOVIET LIFE correspondent Boris Alexeyev interviews Vladimir Sushkov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of the USSR, on the state of Soviet-American trade relations.

Sushkov is the cochairman of the Soviet-American Trade and Economic Council (ASTEC), a public organization of the business communities of both countries. Its main task is to promote mutually advantageous trade, economic and scientific cooperation between the USSR and the USA.

Q: The fourth meeting of the working group of Soviet and American experts was held in Moscow in early January 1985. What was it about?

A: The working group was to outline the basis for resuming the activities of the Soviet-American council on trade. We also discussed the state of bilateral trade and exchanged views on the possible ways to overcome obstacles in trade and expand business contacts.

Q: You used the word "resuming." Please explain.

A: Over six years ago, through no fault of ours, all official trade-related contacts with the U.S. were broken off. Since then, a lot of complicated issues have piled up in our trade relations.

Consenting to sign a new grain agreement and to extend in 1984 the long-term agreement to facilitate economic, industrial and technical cooperation, we were guided by long-term considerations, rather than transitory and immediate ones. We understand that it will take time to mend the situation. In so doing, we took into account the desire of U.S. business for broader trade exchanges with our country.

Q: Is the Soviet side still interested in trade with the U.S.?

A: We regard trade as an important instrument for bettering relations between nations. But, frankly, after almost everything that was achieved in the 1970s in our trade and political relations was lost, the Soviet buyers' interest has dwindled considerably.

Q: How does the picture for trade between our countries look today?

A: By 1984 results, with the volume of mutual trade turnover amounting to 3.1 billion rubles, the U.S. ranks fifth among our trade partners in the West. The balance of trade is always in America's favor.

Last year its edge over the USSR amounted to 2.5 billion rubles.

This state of affairs has been brought about mostly by our massive grain purchases in the U.S. If these purchases were discontinued, it would sink to fifteenth place in our trade with the West.

Q: But hasn't the Soviet side always regarded the United States as a good market for equipment?

A: It's unlikely that we'll be able to buy complete plant in the U.S. Why? So far U.S. legislation is not very clear with respect to the USSR. The notion "high technology" is not sufficiently precise. And it is hard to guess ahead of time when, if ever, a license will be granted or whether a U.S. supplier will be able to honor a signed contract. Months are wasted while we sort out these issues with U.S. companies. Meanwhile, we have our plan targets to meet.

In short, these difficulties reduce the Soviet buyers' interest in the U.S. market to the minimum.

Q: What about the agricultural and grain market?

A: Here the situation is better. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has announced that there will be no grain embargoes in the future. A law has been passed on the inviolability of contracts within 270 days of signing. This example shows, by the way, that a favorable trade climate is possible.

U.S. grain dealers have serious competitors for our market that have improved their standing with us. Following the embargo, we signed long-term grain agreements with a number of suppliers. They are offering to increase their supplies of agricultural products to the USSR.

Q: Isn't ASTEC, of which you are the cochairman, concerned with the organization's becoming one that exclusively protects grain interests?

A: I'll answer that in the following way: American companies participating in ASTEC are concerned with having Soviet grain purchases rise, rather than fall. They want the U.S. to remain one of the main suppliers of grain to this country and to begin supplying agricultural semifinished items and products.

Yet most U.S. business people participating in ASTEC maintain that it isn't to their advantage to let the organization be turned into one protecting only grain interests. The business people who attended

the meetings of ASTEC's directors and its executive committee expressed the desire for a number of major projects, which American companies are better prepared to handle than others. A group of U.S. companies showed an interest in the Soviet Energy Program, which envisages large investments and, consequently according to them, affords an opportunity for lucrative exports of equipment from the United States.

Two hundred and twenty-five U.S. companies belong to ASTEC, and most of these are engineering companies.

Q: What is the Soviet point of view on foreign trade?

A: The country's principles were laid down by Vladimir Lenin shortly after the October 1917 Revolution, and they have never been changed. We favor trade that benefits both partners, that is, mutually advantageous and equitable trade without discrimination.

In addition, you shouldn't forget that mutual economic isolation is not conducive to a better political climate.

Q: Let's turn back to ASTEC. How do companies view it?

A: In short, I'd say its prestige is high. This is a significant factor in maintaining and developing contacts between Soviet foreign trade organizations and American companies that ASTEC helps with their work in the Soviet market. It was instrumental in the success of the recent U.S. agricultural machine-building exhibition in Moscow. Presently, we are working on generating among Soviet organizations an interest in U.S. processing industries, including the processing, packaging, storing and transporting of farm products, something that is in accord with the tasks involved in the implementation of the Soviet Food Program.

Q: But why only these industries?

A: Because here there are some guarantees that the contracts will be honored. In conclusion, I would like to note that we are certainly concerned with the small scale of Soviet exports to the U.S. and the considerable imbalances. We in ASTEC are prepared to continue giving support to U.S. businesses in expanding their interests in the Soviet market, but we hope that the United States, too, will take steps to facilitate Soviet exports to the U.S.



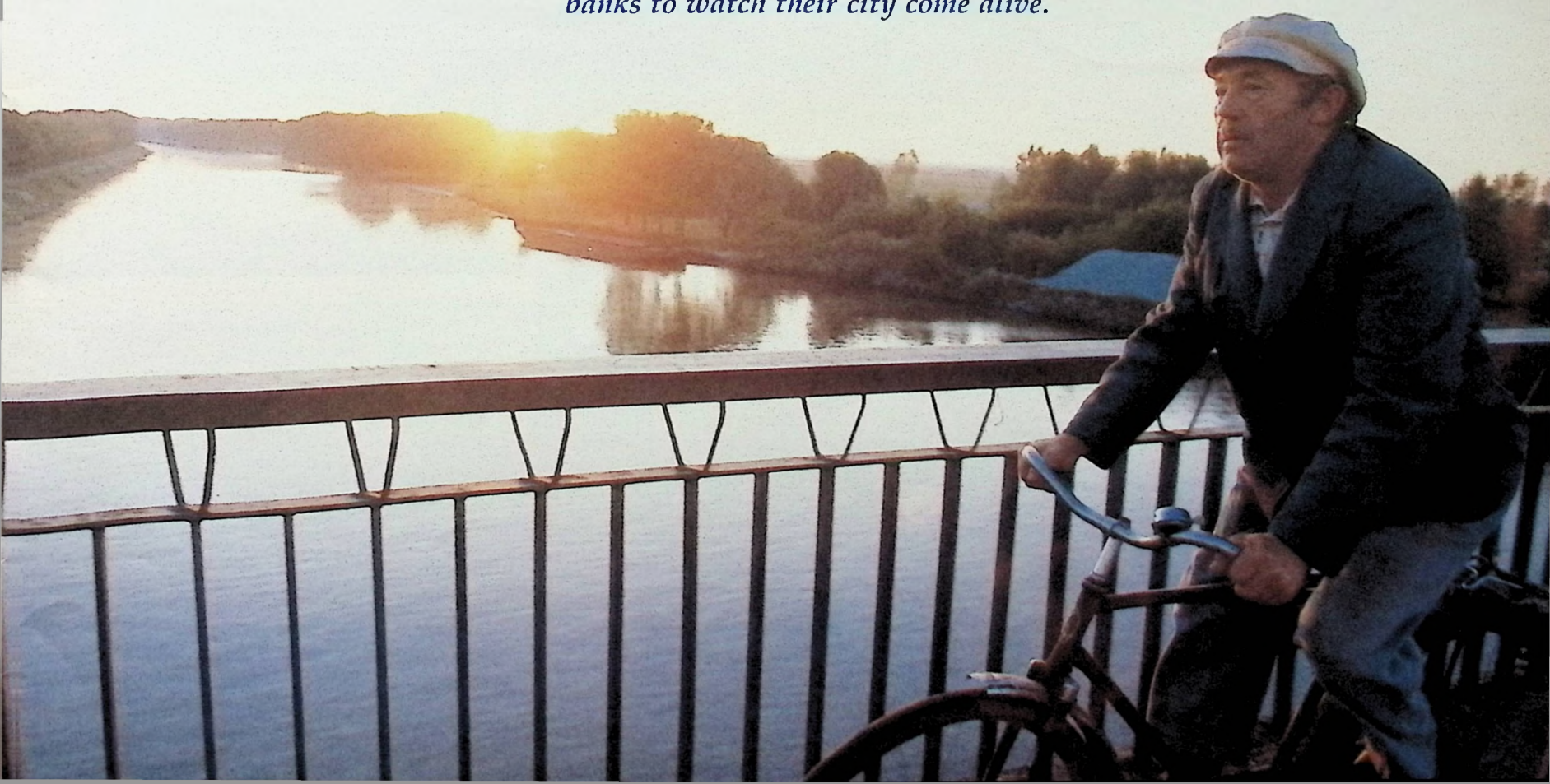
WELCOME TO PINSK

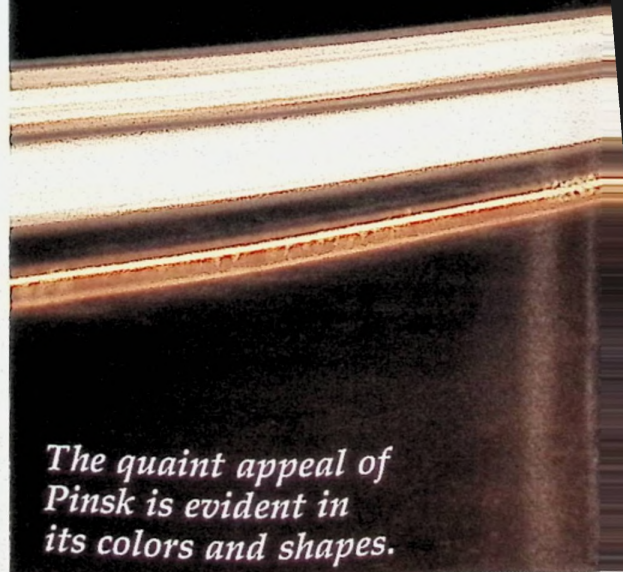
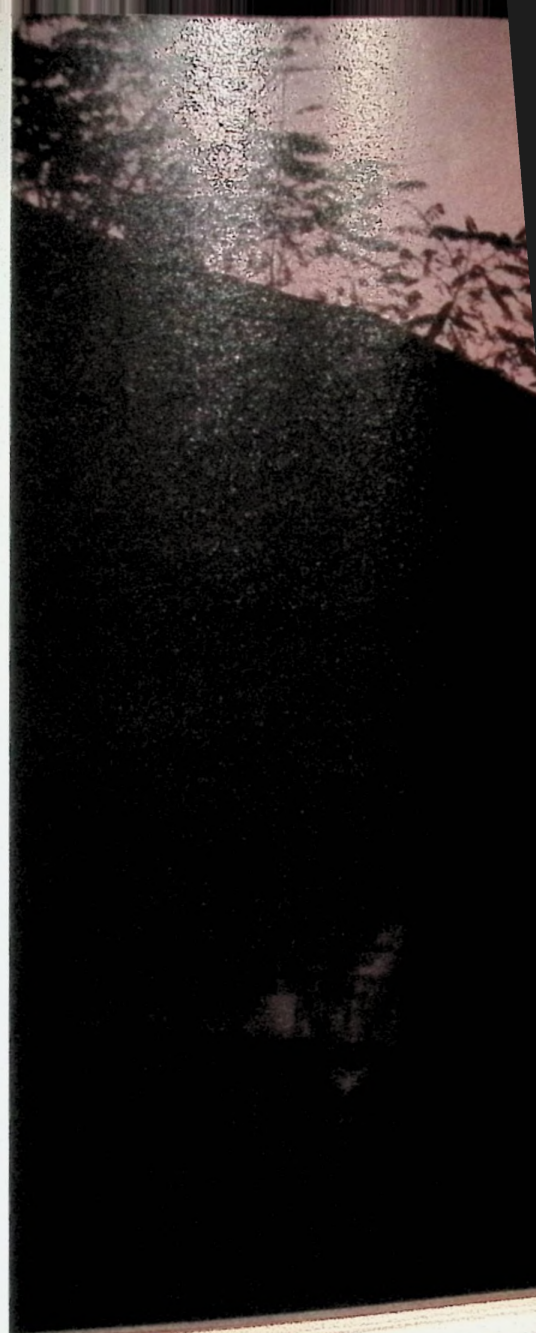
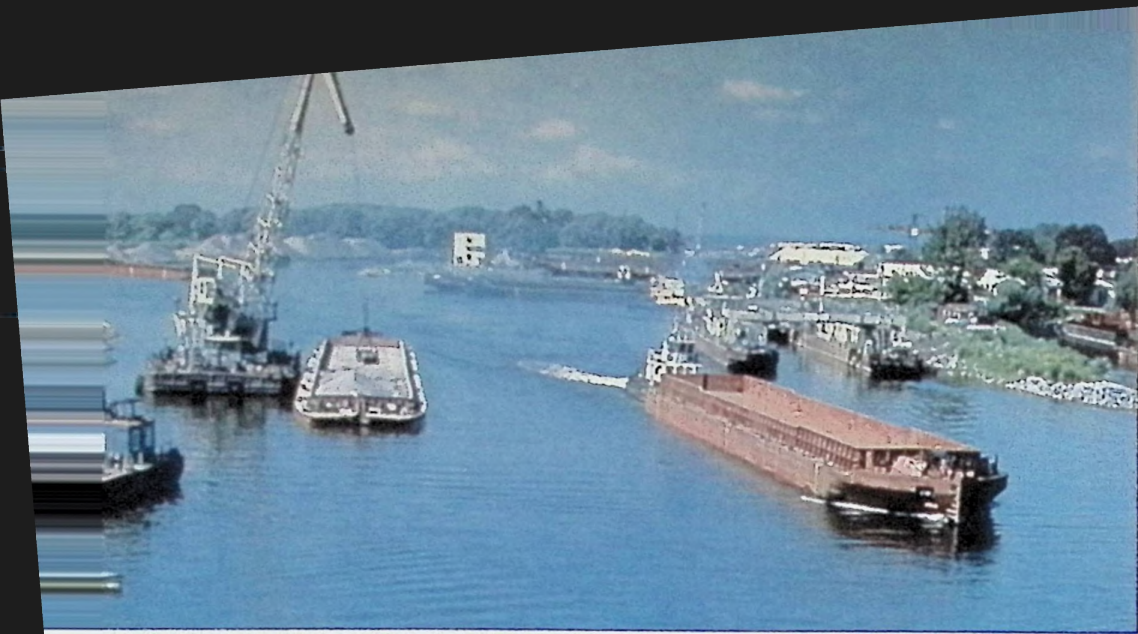
An Average
Soviet
City

By Alexander Trovati

Photographs by Evgeni Koktysh

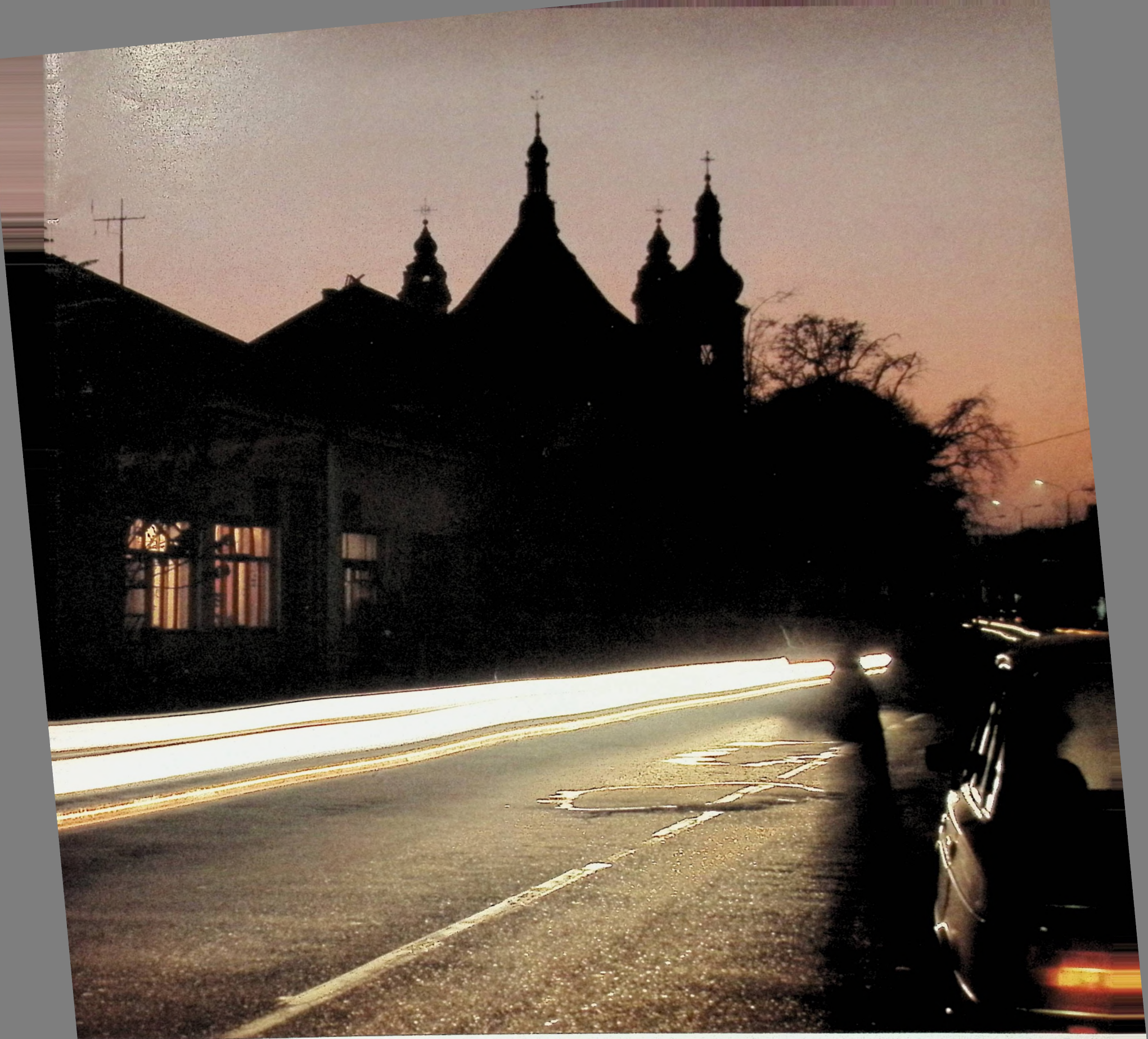
At dawn the river port city of Pinsk, Byelorussia, begins to awaken. And it's not long before the sounds of barges and dry-cargo ships on the Pina River fill the air. Early risers head for the river banks to watch their city come alive.





The quaint appeal of Pinsk is evident in its colors and shapes.

For centuries Pinsk has been a center of river trade. In the sixteenth century it was called "another Liverpool." Its location at the confluence of several rivers made it convenient for merchants to buy grain and ship it to their own countries. Today ships carry equipment, wheat, building materials, fruit and vegetables to other cities and towns in the republic. Left: The river is not only a working river, it's also a scenic spot frequented by pleasure boats on weekends. Above: A nighttime silhouette of the local Russian Orthodox Church is a reminder of the ancient city's eventful past. Right: The hush of nightfall silences the cranes at a construction site.



Pinsk can be reached by every modern means of transportation: air, rail or car, and even steamer since the town is situated at the confluence of several rivers. Photographer Yevgeni Koktysh and I chose going by car. The thing was that after leaving Minsk, capital of Byelorussia, we would have to drive west nearly halfway across the republic and cover a distance of 250 kilometers to get to Pinsk. Traveling by car, we anticipated seeing much of the countryside.

After several hours of driving, the seemingly endless central Byelorussian plains dotted with islands of wooden areas, the golden fields of flax and wheat, and the handfuls of towns and villages with storks' nests gracefully situated next to TV antennas on the rooftops of the cottages give way to the thick coniferous forests of Polesye. During World



The number of weddings in Pinsk continues to rise and so does the population, which today is more than 100,000. This happy couple has just tied the knot. Right: Although large modern apartment complexes are beginning to change the cityscape, the smaller cottages give Pinsk its special charm. Below: This monument in the shape of three bayonets stands in the center of the city near the old Roman Catholic Church. It honors the soldiers of the Soviet Army who freed the city from the grips of the Nazis in July 1944.



Closer to the center of the city the houses grow larger. Some are real architectural gems.

War II these pine and fir forests provided refuge to thousands upon thousands of Byelorussian partisans, the residents of hundreds of villages burned down by the Nazis. And from these woods came the deadly retaliative blows lobbed at the invaders. Now, driving along the highway, we come upon numerous mushroom pickers carrying baskets. Today the woods are peaceful and full of mushrooms and berries. Soon our Lada* passes the industrial buildings and residential neighborhoods of the town of Baranovichi, then those of Lunints and then, after another hour of traveling, we approach the outskirts of Pinsk.

On the Banks of the Pina

The northeastern suburbs of the city are made up of blocks of 16-story apartment houses. As we drive down the main thoroughfare, the windows of the tall buildings sparkle in the sunlight. Young trees and shrubs line both sides of the street. This district is relatively new and has large open areas between the apartment houses and the other buildings, though, frankly, it couldn't make any special claim to architectural elegance.

Next we come upon small, one-story cottages, which are nestled among little orchards laden with ripening apples and plums. Perhaps, travelers passing through Pinsk 50 or 150 years ago might have had this same view of Pinsk, a quiet little place, rural and somewhat provincial.

By the way, it was in Pinsk District that the young teacher Konstantin Mitskevich (1882-1956), who became the future great Byelorussian poet Yakub Kolas, settled 84 years ago. The modest wooden house where the poet spent seven hard years, where he wrote his first poems and where his first son Daniel was born still stands. The house has become a cherished historical relic for Pinsk residents, for all Byelorussian people.

Closer to the center of the city the houses grow larger. Some are real architectural gems: mansions with classical façades, molded caryatids and atlantes supporting intricate cast-iron lattices on balconies or bay windows. The most striking feature here is the abundance of flowers. They are everywhere—growing in beds and pots alongside the sidewalks, in tiny gardens with two or three benches in the shade of old limes.

Cooing pigeons flock in the central square of the city. This is where all the main thoroughfares in Pinsk meet. Surrounding the square are old stone mansions and modern buildings standing side by side. Dominating the square is the severe-looking building of the former Town Hall. It was built in the seventeenth century in the days of the town's self-government, when Pinsk was allowed to elect burgo-masters and have its own emblem. Next to the Town Hall is the old Roman Catholic church, with its spires reaching to the heavens. The walls and towers of the cathedral still preserve the dark memories of the Byelorussian people's oppression in the sixteenth century. Directly across the square stands the modern concrete-and-glass Pinsk Palace of Culture, built after the horrible disaster of World War II. It exemplifies the city's aspirations for the future.

All of the main streets in Pinsk meet at the central square. From there the asphalt streams flow to the banks of the Pina River. The river is not very wide within city limits (no more than 200 meters), but the residents of the city have a special feeling for the waterway. The Pina has given the town its name, and it has fed and provided water for the townspeople for centuries. As legend goes the early residents of Pinsk were fishermen. And in July 1944 it was also from the river that the first detachments of the Dnieper River Flotilla landed, liberating the town from the nazi occupiers. The banks of the Pina,

lined with poplars, are favorite spots for evening strolls. Beyond the river lie idyllic meadows, from which the wind carries the fragrance of newly mowed grasses and the coolness of the Polesye breezes into the city.

"Another Liverpool"

"An apothecary was opened in Pinsk 20 years earlier than in Moscow," our guide Mikhail Samuilik tells us. "The Moscow apothecary served only the czar, whereas its Pinsk counterpart served all the townsfolk. It was opened in the fifteenth century. The apothecary belonged to a man named Stanislav."

In the sixteenth century Pinsk was called "another Liverpool," which was not simply a metaphor. Situated at the confluence of several rivers, it was convenient for foreign merchants to buy grain and ship it to their countries. Also imported merchandise from Europe could be loaded onto boats and transported to the central parts of the Russian state. Pinsk reached the peak of its prosperity in the sixteenth century. During the period of Polish and German domination the town lost its trade and other significance and fell into obscurity.

The first celebrity who honored Pinsk with his attention was the distinguished Russian poet Fyodor Glinka, who visited there in the 1820s. His impressions were distressing. He wrote:

"The land must be first drained, then populated and only later educated. For all one can see everywhere is poverty and decay . . ."

Indeed, till the 1940s Pinsk was surrounded with impassable swamps, and malaria was the most common disease carrying away hundreds of people every year. In the early part of this century there was only one general practitioner and an ignorant feldsher in this town with a population of 30,000.

At present there are 600 doctors in Pinsk and nearly twice as many nurses. A total of 12 medical facilities are located there, and Pinsk residents are no longer the unfortunate victims of malaria.

Faces in the Crowd

Whenever I'm walking down the street in a strange city, I always like to study the passersby I meet in an attempt to see how they are different from residents of, say, the capital, and how they are similar. Do they wear the same clothing? Are they happy or sad, friendly or reserved? In a crowd, you look for answers to dozens of questions. Of course, these impressions are not conclusive, but if you combine them with the unemotional figures of the city's statistics, they become more or less objective.

The main impression of all visitors to Pinsk is that it is a youthful and dynamic city. More often than not you catch a glimpse of young, healthy faces. The women outnumber the men, but the young men draw your attention by their confident stride of river boatmen or formal dark-blue uniforms of a local technical school. Statistics confirm that the majority of the city's population are young people and that the number of students attending technical and vocational-technical schools is about 9,000 (men and women).

Naturally, the city wants to ensure the future development of its industry and promote land reclamation, which is so important in Polesye. That's why the most sought-after schools in Pinsk are the industrial and land-reclamation schools, followed by business and teachers colleges and other educational institutions. As for the school where riverboat captains are trained, it is beyond competition. Young people from all parts of Byelorussia are dying to be admitted there.

Choosing a Career You Like

It's easy to explain why Pinsk residents are usu-

ally cheerful and optimistic. Dozens of big industrial enterprises and offices are located in the city, and literally each of them is always in need of skilled workers and engineers. There is even a kind of competition among them. For example, the local shipyard, eager to attract young people, emphasizes the romantic aspect of its jobs associated with ships and river voyages. The local forge and press transfer lines plant that manufactures industrial robots stresses its leading position in having the latest equipment and the newest industrial technologies. There are plenty of jobs available in Pinsk, and that means that everyone can choose a career to his or her liking. In addition, the management of each factory provides new workers with accommodations and child-care facilities. However, since the population of Pinsk is growing at such a rapid rate (5,000 per year), the city can't as yet satisfy the demand for apartments. Young people are always offered a place to live in factory dormitories, so there's never a problem of not having a place to live. As for day-care centers and nurseries for the little citizens of Pinsk, that problem has actually been solved: Every enterprise in the city has at least one child-care facility, and, often, more than one. The city's eagerness to provide good living conditions for its residents, to speed up housing construction and to improve the amenities in new residential areas, which has been so obvious in recent years, has had a positive effect on every family in town. As a result, since 1983 the divorce rate in Pinsk has plummeted. In other words, the number of close-knit families in the city has increased significantly.

Style and Trends

We took special note of how fashion conscious everybody is in Pinsk, both in what they wear to work and what they wear to go out. In fact we saw no differences between what people are wearing in Pinsk and what they are wearing in Moscow as far as style goes. Blue jeans have ceased to be trendy both in the capital and the provincial city. We saw men in corduroys here and there, but never in a concert hall or a restaurant. Dresses and skirts, both mini and maxi, and loose-fitting blouses with all kinds of feminine accessories are very popular now. Sporty fashions seem to be especially common among the younger guys, who prefer wearing waterproof slickers and jackets made of shiny, "wet-looking" fabrics of all colors and shades. Women have daringly borrowed wide-brimmed hats from men, and sweaters are very popular among both sexes. In winter the women don the so-called Motel sheepskin coats (named after the village of Motel near Pinsk, where the coats are made), which are intricately embroidered in a folk style. In fact, folk motifs are quite common in Pinsk fashions. Among the town crowd in the summertime you often see frilly, lacy blouses and trendy ladies' boots.

Actually Pinsk has become somewhat of a leader in the fashion industry because the Pinsk Knitwear Amalgamation, the largest factory of its kind in the country, is located there. Judging by the demand for the sweaters, dresses and suits designed by its staff, the amalgamation can satisfy the most exacting taste.

As for hospitality, Pinsk can be ranked among the best. At every house we visited, we were invited to sit down to a table laden with delicious dishes, and the conversation was always interesting. We didn't dare have too much of the "infamous" sweet and sour (often homemade) beverages that are made from berries and herbs of Polesye. But we couldn't resist the tempting *draniki* (potato pancakes with onions), the *galushki* (small cakes stuffed with potatoes and meat) or the delicious potato and mushroom pies. We gorged ourselves with these. Potatoes are the traditional and most popular food in all of Byelorussia, including Pinsk.

*The trade name of a model of a Soviet-made automobile.



Lower the flag!" orders the captain, and the sailor on watch steps out onto the deck. For a moment the low roar of the ship's engines breaks the silence of the captain's quarters, and a gust of moist freshness wafts in. The crimson strip left by the setting Sun and the black night clouds billowing above it have almost completely disappeared beyond the horizon. The thousand-ton hulk of the ore-carrying barge, being towed by our hard-working tugboat, can hardly be made out against the fastly fading lights of the town. The shallow bed of the Pripyat River seems unable to handle all of our bulk, and the troubled waters look almost ready to spill over onto the low banks.

Lowering the flag at sundown and raising it with the Sun's first rays are long-standing naval traditions. By the time the tugboat reaches far-off Brest and returns to Pinsk, the procedure will be repeated three times.

A Glimpse of Childhood

The first time Captain Iosif Kachanovsky felt deck planking under his feet was about 40 years ago. His father was a barge skipper and used to take his teenage son along on his runs. Iosif would haul in

the anchors, make fast the mooring lines and help out in the galley. Did he ever think then that he'd stay on a riverboat all his life?

"Yes and no," reminisces the 55-year-old captain. "Everything in Kachanovichi, the village where we lived, was interlinked with the river. There was never enough land for farming, and there was nothing but swamps everywhere you looked. So the residents had to turn to the Pripyat for their living. They took up fishing, raft timbering and mowing grass for hay on the floodlands. We'd even go to the market in Pinsk by boat. As a boy, as far back as I can remember, I always seemed to be on the river. How could a lad who was forever watching waves not dream of traveling?"

Kachanovsky has done quite a lot of traveling. He served in the coast guard on the Pacific, then plied up and down every Byelorussian river. But for some reason, as the years pass his native Kachanovichi grows dearer to him, and he never misses a chance to visit the village of his youth.

Fortunately, he does get the opportunity every now and then. To raise the level of the water in the upper reaches of the Pripyat, a dam has been constructed near the village, and while the ships wait for their turn to pass through the locks, he has enough time to go ashore. Just on the other side of a small orchard is his parents' house.

The swamps that had once decimated the local farmers with malaria are no more than a painful memory. Around the village are the tidy rectangles of drained peat bogs, which yield excellent harvests. And yet, even if progress is inevitable, it doesn't always come without problems. The land-reclamation specialists built a new settlement in the center of the drained land: brick cottages with all modern conveniences, asphalt-covered streets, stores and a community center. The architects peremptorily stated that there was no future for all the small villages, including Kachanovichi. The young people were pleased to move to the new settlement, but the older people, those who have much of their lives linked to this particular spot, did not want to uproot themselves and go—even for a more comfortable and easy life.

On a low hill stands a modest obelisk with the inscription: "Here lie our countrymen—partisans who fell in the battle against the Hitlerites." A long list of names follows.

"The Nazis hardly ever turned up near the village," says Kachanovsky. "They were too afraid of quagmires. But our men refused to sit snug, protected by the swamps, while the enemy was wreaking so much havoc nearby. Many of us joined the partisans. That's why there are so many monuments like this one on the banks of our rivers!

THE SAILING DIRECTIONS OF HIS LIFE

By Vyacheslav Khodosovsky
Photographs by Yuri Ivanov

According to legend, the first resident of Pinsk was a river boatman, who fished in the Pina and Pripyat rivers and sailed his bark to the southern seas. Shipbuilding began in the town a hundred years ago. Today next to the shipyard is a large, busy river port. And the profession of a river captain is still held in high esteem.



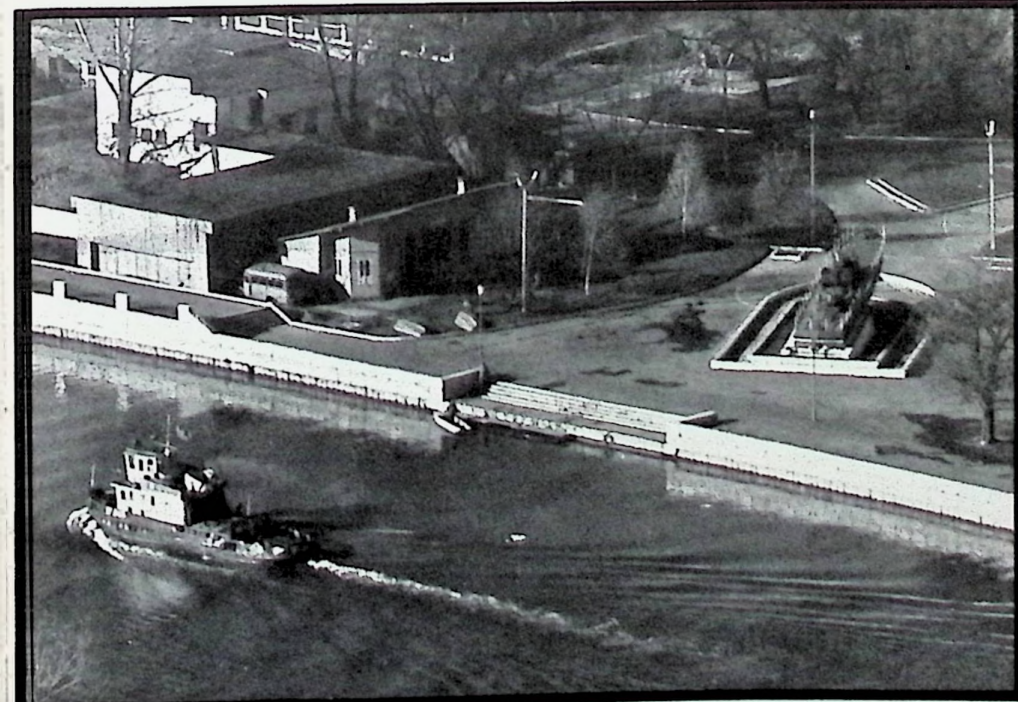
The confident gait of Captain Iosif Kachanovsky shows that he's in charge.

Left: In Pinsk, on the bank of the Pina River, the main waterway of the city, stands a battleship of the Dnieper River Flotilla, which liberated the city from the Nazi invaders in 1944.

"Boatmen say, 'Everything floats downstream,'" says the captain, sharing his great stock of worldly wisdom. "But you simply can't let life carry you like a river. If you don't set your own course in life, you're liable to get stuck in the very first backwater where it's calm and quiet. You won't even notice when fate begins showing you its taillights. That almost happened to me, too. I thought I had coped with everything: Although the postwar years were hard and hungry, I finished captains school, took a correspondence course at a river-transport vocational school and brought up two daughters. Then my wife started complaining about my constantly being away from home and asked me to come ashore for good. 'I'm tired of waiting for your return, of always taking a vacation in winter,' she'd say. 'But who'll I be if I give up the river?' I would tell her. 'A man who's lost his identity. And little joy I'd bring you then.' Thank goodness she understood what I was saying. It's a pity that not all river boatmen are as lucky with their wives as I am."

Port of Call—Polesye

At dawn I began to recollect the past night's voyage as an episode in some picturesque and colorful film. The eyes of the foxes that had come down to the river to hunt for coypus caught unawares ▶





"If you don't set your own course in life," says Captain Kachanovsky, "you're liable to get stuck in the very first backwater where it's calm and quiet. You won't even notice when fate begins showing you its taillights."

days, it's the land-reclamation specialists that carry Polesye on their shoulders. At times when I'm sailing down the Pripyat, the Coryn or the Dnieper, I can't help but marvel at the enormous effort that went into transforming this tremendous territory. In place of the godforsaken swamps, there are now reservoirs, lush green fields stretching to the very horizon and excellent new roads. Just look at our collective farms and their abundant harvests! At one time we were afraid that the reclamation work might destroy the beauty of the region, but now we realize that as long as the work is well planned and executed, the way a true master of the land would do it, it can even enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. As for us, river-transport men, we've got a lot of work to do nowadays—hauling gravel, timber, iron ore, sand and equipment to the construction sites."

The Captain's Watch

From time to time Captain Kachanovsky likes to say, half-jokingly: "A vessel is a technical structure intended for implementing the state plan." The humor of the words lies, of course, only in the clumsiness of the official wording. As for the content, it's the essence of everything the captain and his crew of five do.

To be a real captain means to recognize yourself as a master of the river, the port, the shipyard and the vessel itself. And if you're the master, you'll worry about every hour that is wasted waiting for a barge to be loaded and you'll argue with the dispatcher who's drawn up an absurd timetable for the following week. You'll spend almost nine months of the year sailing and cover over seven million ton-kilometers. That's the Polesye captain's seasonal watch.

"Today I can't even compare our working conditions with those that existed when I just started sailing," says the captain. "Now on board a barge we have the same comfort we'd have at home. Each of us has his own cabin, and there are hearty meals, TV, a library and reliable instruments. We spend 20 days on the river, 10 at home. Now I've got the time to go fishing, the time to take my girls on vacation."

Tugging barges up and down the rivers of Polesye is by no means an easy job. At almost every kilometer the river manages to twist and turn so that the barge often scrapes the banks before you reach a straight run. And if the barge is loaded, you might have no more than 30 to 40 centimeters of clearance underneath. I was told the job is much easier at sea.

Is Iosif Kachanovsky satisfied with his choice? "Perhaps, I might have done better at something else, but the hardest job of all is being your own captain. There just aren't sailing charts that can take you through life without making a single mistake and tell you what's still to come."

"And what is it you'd like to have ahead?" Shrugging his shoulders, Kachanovsky answers, "The same thing everyone else—life."

The radio on board comes alive as we approach Pinsk:

"Calling 0594! Tie up at Pier No. 7. Captain, two ore carriers to Brest are waiting."

"I'll take them," Kachanovsky replies. ■



flashed in the beam of the searchlight. The crooked tentacles of age-old oaks seemed to stretch out to touch the sides of the ship. Winking through the darkness were the lights of villages—at times nearby, at others hardly discernible. Then, suddenly, lit up by buoys the abutment of a bridge would appear out of nowhere.

In daylight the Pripyat—Polesye's main river—comes to life. A group of fishermen in orange-colored life-preserver vests busily set their nets. A haystack crosses the river on a long tar-covered boat, slipping almost under our bow. The haystack is so large that we can't catch a glimpse of the man at the helm. Then a ferry passes by, and the drivers of the milk trucks on board wave to us. A bit further on I make out the weather station, recognizing it by the radio antenna on its roof.

The landscapes of Polesye can't be compared to anyplace else. Low-lying, smooth meadows, at times swampy, stretch for kilometers on both banks of the Pripyat, dotted here and there by clusters of elms and thickets of willows. Little rivulets meander in intricate silvery loops between them, a literal wealth of game on their banks. The nests of herons can be seen in the crowns of huge acacias. Flocks of wild ducks take to flight right from under the barge's prow, and wild boars lie peacefully in the rushes.

"The 20 days away on the river make the 10 days at home extra special," says the captain. Top: "When it's time to get Papa ready to leave for another voyage," says Nadezhda, Iosif's wife, "the whole family gets into the act."

"I could never give up my profession—if only because of all this beauty," says Kachanovsky, not trying to conceal his delight. "There's, most likely, no corner in all of Europe as wonderful as Polesye. I've read books that say that millenniums ago a sea covered this region. Herodotus wrote about it. Until the fifteenth century sailing charts show a huge lake in this area. On some it's called Lake Amadon, on others Poleskoye Lake. I've heard stories that even recently people have come across ancient anchors made of pig iron in the fields here. So we're not actually river boatmen; we're seafarers!"

"Another local legend says that our land lies on a huge fish named 'Malimon,'" the captain continues. "Every seven years it dives deeper into the sea, then it surfaces. That's why one year we'll have a lot of rainfall and then drought. But not too long ago other people have taken over the fish's job. Nowa-



Huge, powerful
equipment looms over
the busy Pina River
port at Pinsk.

PINSK PEOPLE

*A Kaleidoscope
Of the City*

FAMOUS AT BIRTH

By Natalya Buldyk
Photograph by Yuri Ivanov

She wants to become a movie star and be famous without realizing that fame has already come to her. She is known to everyone in Pinsk, and her photo has already been carried by the local newspapers many times. The rally held in her honor attracted thousands of townspeople. There is even a unique medallion five times larger than usual with her portrait engraved on it.

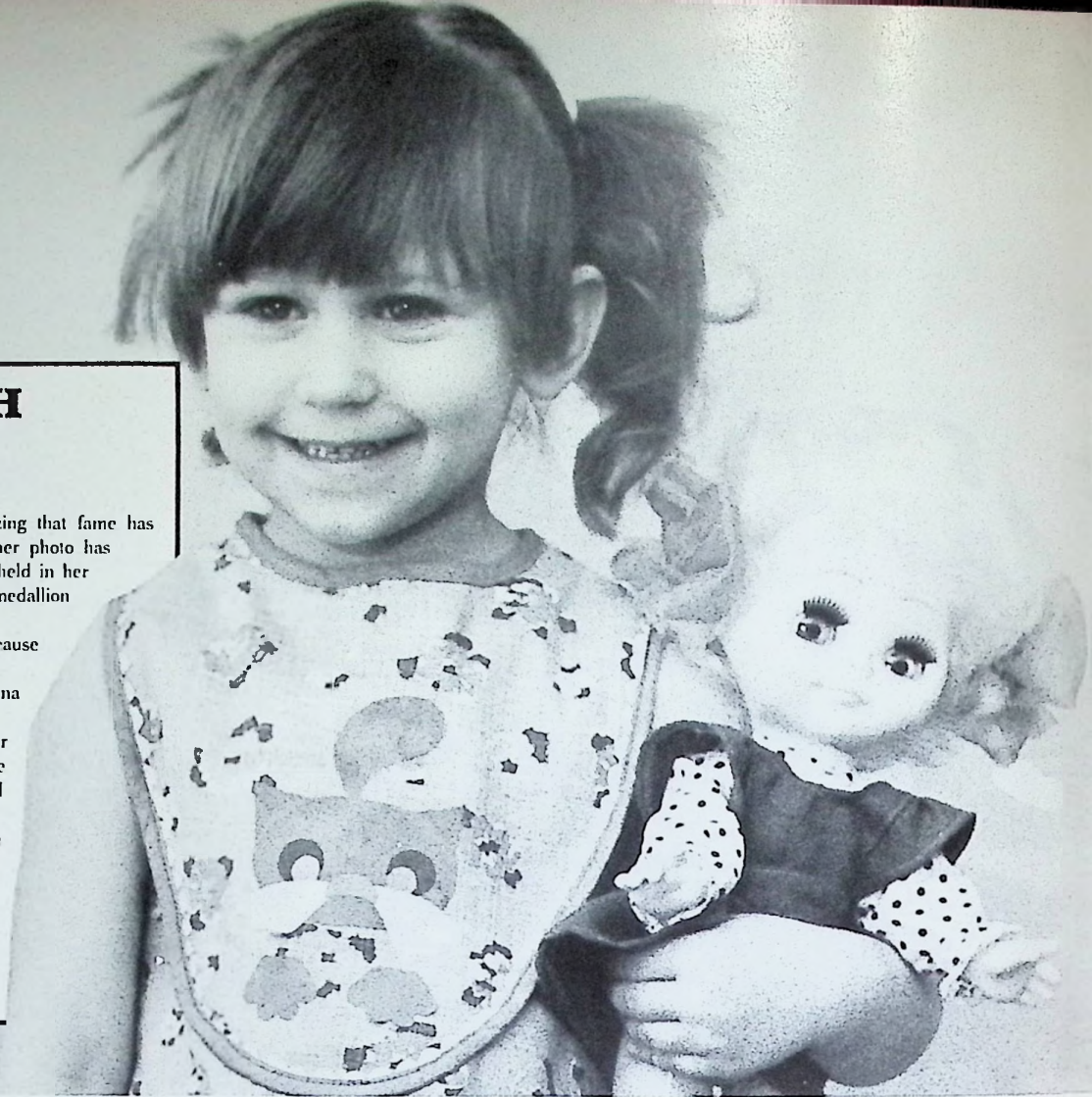
But Ira Smolina slept through all the festivities held in her honor because she was only several weeks old then.

What has made her so famous? On February 18, 1982, Ira Smolina was registered as the 100,000th resident of Pinsk.

Ira is three and a half years old now. She is fond of helping her mother around the house and playing with her younger brother. She especially likes it when her father picks her up from kindergarten. "I love to talk to my daddy," she says.

Ira's play time is spent appliquéing and drawing. Her most favorite thing is the Sun because "it's yellow and hot." The three-and-a-half-year-old's other interests are singing, dancing and trying on Mommy's clothes.

As for the commemorative medallion that hangs on the wall in her room and that, incidentally, was designed by her father, who at the time had no idea who would receive it, Ira never gives it any thought.



I'D HUG MY CHILDREN

By Svetlana Savrasova

On May 9, 1985, the day marking the fortieth anniversary of victory over fascism, the street where Nikolai Novikov, honorary citizen of Pinsk, lives was named after him.

Though Nikolai has resided on that street for a number of years, he has never taken a single step on it. For the past 36 years he has been confined to a wheelchair.

"It happened four years after the war was over," Nikolai says.

"Less than a year after our wedding," adds his wife, Valeriya.

In 1948, Valeriya worked as an agronomist on one of the Byelorussian collective farms that was only just beginning to come alive again. There she met the 26-year-old Nikolai, who was charming and handsome in his well-worn military uniform. He often brought her sugar—a precious gift in those days—but he would never touch any of it himself. On their wedding day Nikolai amazed his fellow villagers—and his bride, too. On the left side of his jacket, in the exact spot where boutonnieres are usually pinned, was his Gold Star of the Hero of the Soviet Union.

In 1941, like millions of his contemporaries, 18-year-old Nikolai went to the front lines. But unlike most of the men who saw battle, he lived to see V-Day.

For Nikolai the concepts of "war" and "pain" coincided. Valeriya told me that at first Nikolai was a medic and personally carried 200 wounded men and officers out of battle. Then he became a tankman, sustaining six wounds and two contusions. Later he headed the regiment's intelligence unit and brought in 113 identification prisoners, all officers. Once he even jumped out of the fourth floor of a German headquarters. On one mission, he had to sit absolutely still, in the deep snow, right under the noses of the Nazis. The slightest sound would have given him away. The tension made his throat dry, and he wanted to cough. To prevent that, he kept sucking on lumps of sugar. Since then, he can't stand the stuff.

When doctors warned him of his debilitating condition—the result of his war wounds—Nikolai, Valeriya and their newborn daughter left their village and came to live with Valeriya's parents in Pinsk. The pension Nikolai received was adequate for them to live on, but Valeriya made up her mind to find a job. She didn't want to shut herself in, to be isolated from other people. She began teaching soil science and agriculture at a specialized secondary school. When her husband was too ill to be left alone, the students would come to the Novikov home. They carefully took notes on the lectures she delivered, but when it came time for them to leave, they would linger in the hope that Nikolai would talk to them. When he was able, he'd tell them about his experiences in the war, episode by episode. The students made hurried notes on these stories as well. Valeriya never complained about the crowded gatherings because they helped Nikolai cope with depression, that inevitable concomitant of physical disability. Leaving her husband for an hour or two with her students, she even was able to do some scientific research.

Nikolai starts off his day by reading the morning newspapers, which are propped up for him on a music stand shaped like a clef. There are many of these makeshift appliances in the Novikov house, and they partly do the job

of Nikolai's hands. But more often than not he resorts to calling for his customary and unflinching assistant, "Valeriya!" No matter how softly he calls her, she responds at once.

"We're fortunate to have three children," says Valeriya. "I decided to have another baby when I began to sense Nikolai's condition was slipping, or rather, when I saw he was really losing courage. He's a very loving father, and out of a sheer sense of responsibility to every one of our children he struggled to survive, and in this way the threat to his mental health would pass.

"No sooner had our youngest child Kostya grown up when we began looking after our first grandson. The children have always helped me a lot in caring for their father. From an early age on they never shirked any household chores I asked them to do."

Sometimes, Nikolai's three-month-old grandson is laid across his knees, and a touching expression of happiness appears on his face.

"Some people never value what they possess," Nikolai says. "However, though blind and bedridden, Nikolai Ostrovsky, that legendary writer, wrote his famous *How the Steel Was Tempered*.

In his letters the courageous man said that he dreamed of taking a good run in the morning, of working in the mines, of wielding a pick with strong arms. As for me, I'd be overjoyed if I could wield a pencil, if I could manage to write by age to write by

"To be quite

honest, if I had the chance to move only once again in my life, I'd use that precious

moment to take the

Gold Star from

my jacket and

pin it on my

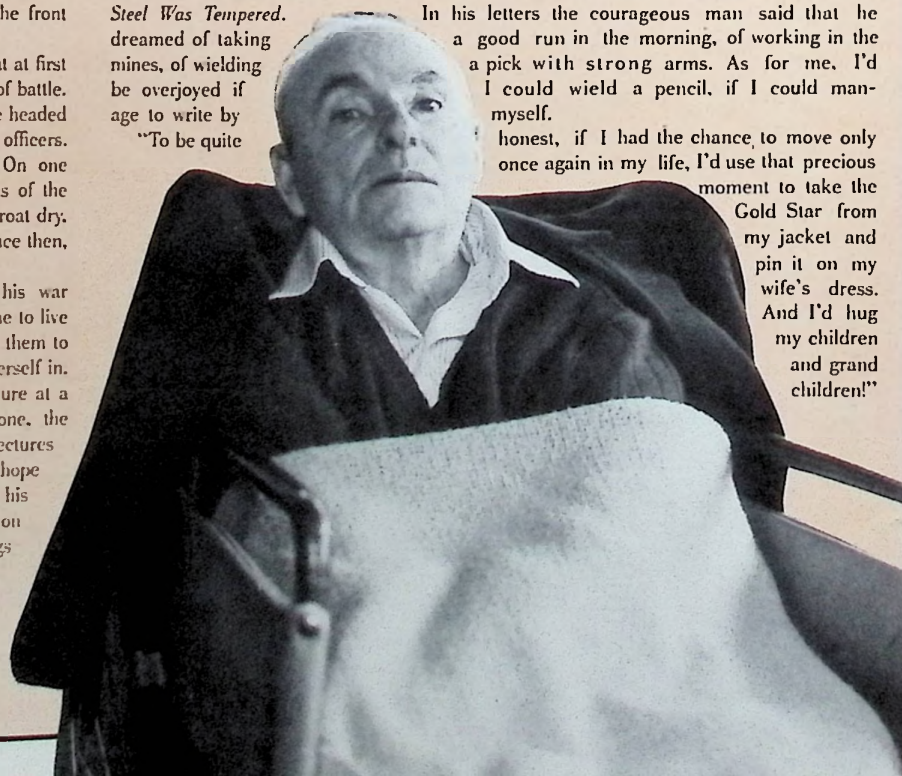
wife's dress.

And I'd hug

my children

and grand

children!"



THE CHEF OF THE NESTERKA CAFÉ

By Vladimir Khodosovsky
Photographs by Yuri Koklysh

The carved wooden tables are covered with linen tablecloths and laid with folkstyle tableware, dishes overflowing with modest-looking but appetizing Byelorussian autumn fruits, vegetables and mushrooms as well as bottles of the strong Byelovezhskaya vodka and champagne. Small bouquets of fresh flowers complement each table. All this means that the Nesterka Café is about to have another wedding reception.

While the café is still empty, a short, stout man in a chef's cap is busily arranging tables. Andrei Litvin, 40, is not only a master chef but also the manager of the café with a staff of about 30 people. Despite his managerial duties, he has never given up his main occupation, cooking, especially on big occasions.

"We always have a large number of wedding receptions, with 100 to 150 invited guests," Litvin explains as he continues his work. "We also serve up to 500 customers a day. The café is particularly popular among young people, so we have to combine our main function with all kinds of parties and celebrations. Why'd I choose this profession? Well, I come from a large family of seven children, and we all had to pitch in around the house. Gradually, I took a liking to cooking. After I graduated from high school, I worked as a cook's apprentice. Later I attended the Institute of National Economy while I continued to work. My son Igor has followed in my footsteps. He graduated from a culinary institute and is now working in a restaurant."

"What's so special about the national Byelorussian cuisine?" I ask.

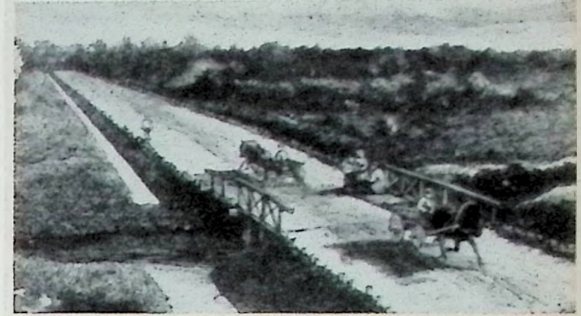
"Perhaps it's not as exotic as Oriental cooking," he answers, "but it's just as authentic. Typically, it consists of numerous potato and pork dishes, *okroshkas* [cold soups] and yogurt dishes, mushroom and flour sauces, and soft drinks made of berries.

"Among other things Nesterka's specialties include Polesye-style *zharenka*, Pinsk-style *vareniki* and *pampushki* Pripjat. *Zharenka* is a beef and chicken dish with onions, mushrooms, potatoes and carrots. Everything is put into a clay pot and smothered with a sour cream sauce made with mushroom broth. A dash of our special spicy paste is added to give it its zing. It's topped with a flour-dough crust just before it's popped into the oven. Pinsk-style *vareniki* are dumplings stuffed with potatoes and mushrooms. And *pampushki* Pripjat, a mouth-watering treat, are meatballs made of minced pork, onions, mushrooms and spices."



PAGES OF HISTORY

The history of Pinsk is long and eventful. Slavic princes and Byelorussian peasants, fighters for national justice and Red Army soldiers who liberated Byelorussia from the Nazis in World War II have all left their imprint on the city. Below Mikhail Samuilik, local-lore expert, historian and journalist, takes us on a short journey through the centuries.



This etching titled *Pinsk High Road* by a nineteenth century artist shows the only road that linked Pinsk with other areas of Byelorussia.

- Pinsk is one of the oldest Slavic towns. Experts put the date of its emergence from the tenth to the eleventh centuries. The ancient Russian chronicler Nestor first mentioned it in his brilliant *Povest vremennykh let (Chronicle of Times Past)* in 1097. At that time Pinsk was already part of Kiev Rus. Byelorussian historians have established that Pinsk is older than Moscow, capital of the USSR, by at least 50 years.

- Some contemporary linguists attribute the name of the town of Pinsk to the Pina River since the word "*pina*" meant "water" in the language of the Western Slavs, the people who inhabited this territory. But as early as the nineteenth century an interesting hypothesis came to the forefront linking the name of the town on the Pina with the word "*pinus*," which means "pine tree" in Latin. Specialists maintained that during the Roman Empire high-quality pinewood was produced in the area of Pinsk, which was transported by water first to the Black Sea and then to Rome to be used for galleys.

- Though the invasion by the steppe people that ravaged the Russian lands did not directly affect Pinsk, it substantially influenced the destiny of the town. In 1292, Pinsk Prince Dmitri Yurievich had to recognize the sovereignty of Lithuania, which had grown strong by that time, and between 1316 and 1320 Lithuanian Prince Gediminas conquered the Pinsk Principality. Up to the year 1521 Pinsk was ruled by princes of Lithuanian origin, who preserved its feudal autonomy and mode of life within the framework of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

- In 1385 the Union of Kreves was concluded between Lithuania and Poland. According to the treaty, Lithuania, and Pinsk along with it, became part of Poland. The purpose of this move was to form a unified defense against the Teutonic Order, which was continuously threatening Poland and Lithuania. The decisive battle with the Teutonic (German) conquerors took place in 1410 in Tannenberg (Grünwald), Poland, where the combined Russian, Czech and Polish-Lithuanian forces inflicted a crushing defeat on the Knights of the Teutonic Order. The Russian regiments, including the one from Pinsk, made a large contribution to the historic victory.

- According to a survey carried out in the sixteenth century, the town of Pinsk occupied an area of approximately 51 hectares. The inhabitants mainly engaged in handicrafts and trade. The list of the occupations included smith, fitter, jeweler, gunmaker, potter, carpenter, shoemaker, saddlemaker, painter and fisherman. Crop farming also played a great role in the townspeople's life. The description didn't give an exact number of inhabitants, but it enumer-

Continued on page 28

FLOWERS ON THE WALLS

By Svetlana Savrasova

Pinsk has more than 100,000 residents. Nineteen men became honorary residents of the city after their death on the battlefields of World War II. Out of the city's 250 streets, 19 bear their names, inscribed on marble plaques in gold letters: Nabyulla Nasyrov, an Uzbek; Yakov Moshkovsky, a Jew; Vladimir Gaidayenko, a Ukrainian; Pavel Belov, a Russian; Ivan Shubitidze, a Georgian; Ivan Chuklai, a Byelorussian; among others. These people were members of the Red Army and partisans who showed great heroism in liberating Pinsk from the nazi invaders. Other plaques honor people who played an important role in that struggle and were fortunate to survive.

Under every plaque are vases filled with green curls of spiderwort and ivy in summer and fluffy fir branches in winter. Young schoolchildren and high school students as well as the people who live in the houses bearing the plaques take care of the floral arrangements.

"My husband Iosif was killed in 1944 near Warsaw," says Nadezhda Dikovitskaya. "I don't even know where he is buried. Looking after the flowers on the wall brings me comfort."



ул ОЛЬХОВСКИХ

ОЛЬХОВСКИЕ
ДЕТЯ ЕДИНОВРЕМЕННО С НАМИ БЫЛИ В ОДНОМ ВОЕННЫМ ПОХОДЕ
ПОСЛЕ СМЕРТИ КРАСНОГО 12 ИЮЛЯ 1944 ГОДА
В БОРЬБЕ ЗА ОСВОБОЖДЕНИЕ С ПИНСКА.



“MOTOBALL WAS THE TURNING POINT”

By Vyacheslav Khodosovsky



The roar of the engines is so loud that you think the sky will come crashing down. Ten young men in helmets gun their motors while they rear up onto the back wheels of their motoreycles. Then they're off, speeding past spectators on the traditional lap of honor reserved for the visiting team. A regular motoball competition has ended at a city stadium.

Why is this sport so popular in Pinsk?

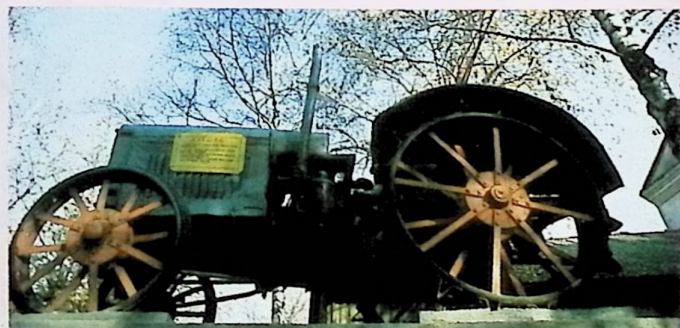
“It is a game for ‘real men,’ where they can test their prowess, courage and stamina,” the competitors say. “It is a captivating and thrilling event,” enthusiastic fans contend.

“Motoball was the turning point,” says Sergei Goreglyad, a forward on Avtomobilist, a local team. “I was a problem child and was always causing a lot of trouble for my parents. I even had a few brushes with the local militia. Then I met coach Vasili Korostel. He invited me and several other fellows like me to join his sports club. I didn't even notice how he managed to remold us, but all of us graduated from high school with decent grades and turned into law-abiding and industrious young adults.”

Coach Korostel is considered the godfather of motoball in Pinsk. There are now two teams in the city. They have been hotly vying with each other and for many years have been capturing the top prizes at the Byelorussian championships. The 500 other boys in the Motor Sports Club make up their reserve. Sports has given the boys a sense of belonging and the feeling of working as a team.



Summertime brings out young couples and families for a leisurely stroll along the tree-lined sidewalks of the city.



A TRACTOR IN HIDING

Although this antediluvian tractor has over half a century behind it and it has been standing on a pedestal in Pinsk for a number of years, it still is in demand. The outlandish mechanical creature with its four spiked iron wheels, one of the first Soviet tractors of its kind to be manufactured, is wanted by the Kharkov Tractor Plant, the factory that produced it. The tractor plant has had long-standing correspondence with the other contender, the museum in the city of Pinsk, where it now stands. “It's the only surviving specimen,” writes the plant in Kharkov. “Its number—No. 1126—shows it to be one of the first machines we made. Therefore, you must understand why we want it in our museum.”

The people of Pinsk are of a different opinion. It appears the veteran tractor has a history closely associated with Polesye in Byelorussia. Prior to 1940 it plowed Byelorussia's fields, belching puffs of smoke from its exhaust pipe that stood erect like a ship's mast as it chugged along. Shortly before World War II, the tractor had plowed its way to Polesye. There, in the village of Tura, near Pinsk, it came into the hands of Vladimir Potrubeiko, and the tractor jostled him up and down almost every field in the region.

When the war broke out, Vladimir had no time to evacuate. The Nazis were already entering his village as he ran to the spot where the machine was kept. First he removed the tractor's pulley so that nobody could crank up the engine. He made another rendezvous at night, when he came to dismantle it. He didn't want the enemy to lay its hands on even this rickety machine. With his wife's help Vladimir greased each of the parts, wrapped them in sackcloth and buried them near his house. A few days later Vladimir joined a partisan group. He returned home only after the Nazis were cleared out of Polesye. The first thing he did was to unearth his tractor. A week later he could be seen riding it toward the local collective farm fields.

The tractor was still in service until 1956. Then it took its place outside the city's museum. Vladimir is now a pensioner and lives in the same village. He sometimes goes to Pinsk to stand for a while beside his old tractor, to touch the iron spikes on its worn-out wheels.

FROM GRANDMA'S TRUNK

By Svetlana Savrasova



A factory in Pinsk owes its success to old and primitive tools. The goods Amade there carry the label “From Grandma's Trunk.”

The art of weaving, popular with Byelorussians from time immemorial, had almost completely died out by the turn of the century. In 1946 several folk art enthusiasts went from house to house searching for old looms and people who still knew the art. They found both and set up a special workshop, which has grown into a full-fledged factory.

Red and black are colors symbolizing passion and grief but with only these two colors Pinsk weavers express various feelings. The two-color ornamental patterns of their linen pieces suit any occasion.

After the war the ornamentation on the linens was primarily black with sparse red stitching. Today's patterns are predominantly red.

AND THE BEAT GOES ON—

By Alexander Tropkin
Photographs by Yevgeni Koktysh

From grandfather Osher's fiddle to father Joseph's classical violin—and now to son Oleg's modern jazz improvisations, the musical talent of the Venger family has passed the test of time.



Music teacher Oleg Venger, 43, believes strongly in improvisation. Many of the students in his class compose their own pieces. Above left: A family photo of Joseph Venger, Oleg's father. The violin never left his side, not even when he fought as a partisan in World War II. Left: At a rehearsal of *The Sounds of Time*, the jazz group that Oleg leads.



At the turn of the century Pinsk was more or less a big village where everyone knew almost everything about each other. Neither the thick walls of the stone mansions belonging to the local nobility nor the high fences that surrounded the one-story cottages of the lower middle class could save anyone from the watchful eyes of the village gossips, who provided a kind of oral record of family quarrels, christenings, weddings, purchases and sales. Of course, Pinsk was not without its own "celebrities." There were the teachers of the only high school, the clergymen, the head of the police force, the manager of the matchmaking agency and last, but not least, the mayor. Whenever these notables appeared on the streets of Pinsk, passersby would flash an ingratiating smile and doff their hats, which the notables considered their due.

Bustling with Urban Life

Today Pinsk, with a population of over 100,000, is a modern city bustling with urban life. Residents still greet their neighbors on the street and share the latest news with them or comment on the weather. But, on the whole, the twentieth century has brought its own rhythms, concerns and problems to the city. Still, there are people everybody knows about. At the top of the list, no doubt would be the musical Venger family.

When Joseph Venger, the head of the family, died several years ago, the streets of Pinsk were crowded with people. Leading the funeral procession was a 60-man band made up of Joseph's former students who had come from all over the country to pay their last respects to their maestro. Pinsk had never seen anything like it. Now Joseph's son Oleg, a teacher at the local music school, has stepped into his father's shoes. His special love is jazz and rock 'n' roll, but as it turns out, he has a multitude of interests.

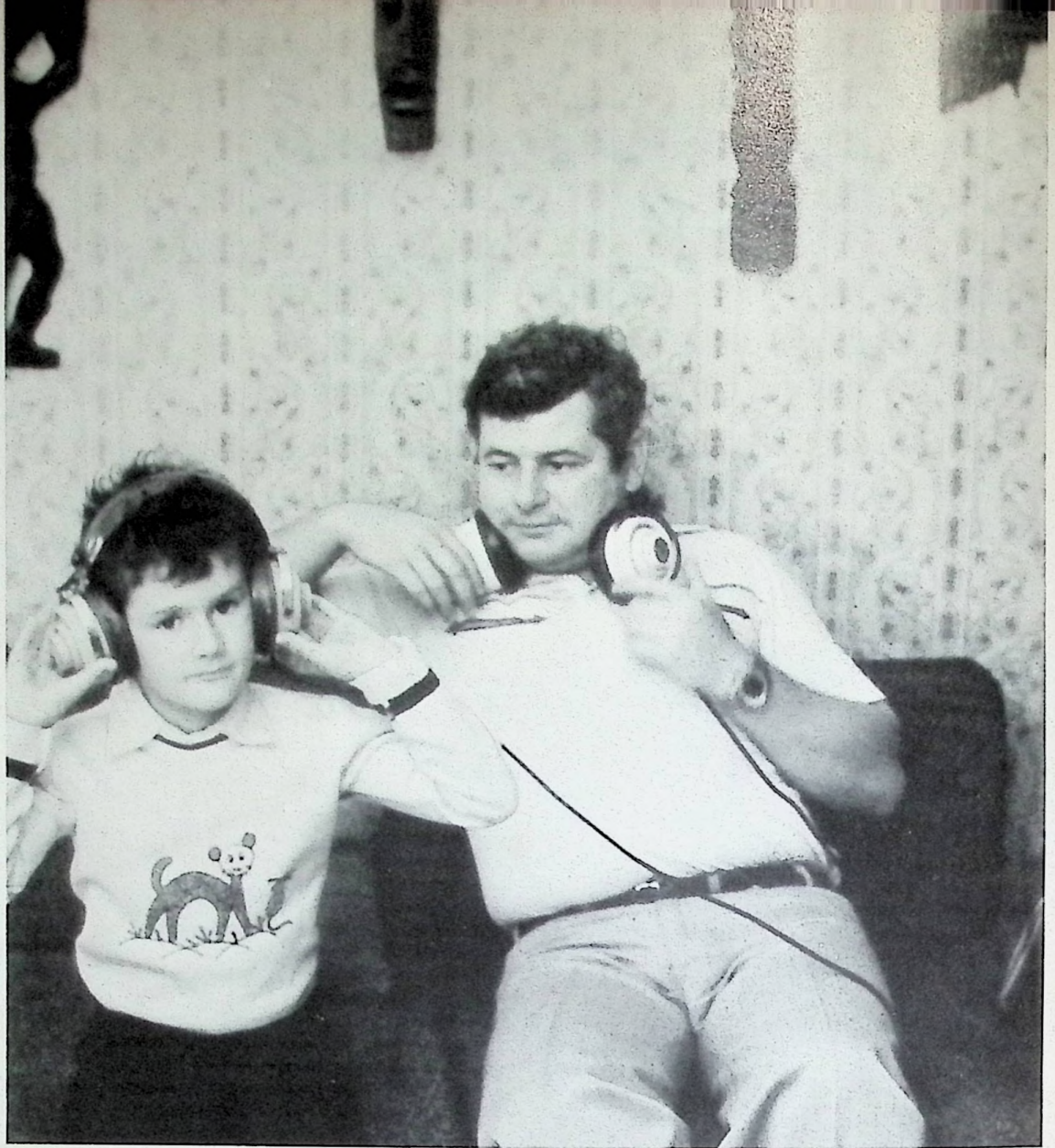
Visiting a Local Legend

The Vengers' cozy apartment situated on a quiet street in the center of the city reflects the modern tastes of the inhabitants, 43-year-old Oleg and his wife Yelena. Hanging on the walls are African ritual masks, items made of copper chasing and articles made of macramé. In one of the rooms is a grand piano, a powerful stereo system, a large collection of records and tapes and a big ceramic vase with an elegant arrangement of dried branches and flowers with a Japanese motif. Oleg's elderly mother Irina, lives here, too, but her room is decorated along more traditional lines. Among the framed photographs and bric-a-brac, mementos of her late husband and her youth, is the well-worn case with Joseph's famous violin and stacks of his sheet music yellowed with age. Two worlds, two tempos of life,

exist side by side under the Vengers' hospitable roof.

"I know about Osher, Joseph's father, only from my husband," says Irina Venger. "He had a big family, which lived in extreme poverty. In those days a Jewish fiddler couldn't earn much playing at weddings and funerals of the common people or in the inns and town squares. Osher couldn't ever dream of having a solo recital, though sometimes for the family he would play pieces by composers like Brahms, Handel and Winkler. When Western Byelorussia was invaded by the White Poles in 1919 and later by the Nazis in World War II, Jews, like the Byelorussians, were considered second-class citizens. A Jewish musician was regarded even lower. Joseph used to speak of his childhood as of a period of endless humiliation, hunger and cold." Despite these hardships the Jewish fiddler suc-

Will Oleg's son carry on the long-standing Venger tradition? It's too early to tell yet since right now he's more interested in playing with his friends (below). But father and son (right) spend a lot of time together listening to records.



ceeded in a great accomplishment: Osher handed down to his children a love for music and taught them to value it more than any earthly reward. His sons Myron and Joseph were his special pride. The boys could play anything they heard by ear, and they learned to read sheet music without anyone's help, probably even before they learned to read and write. When they were teenagers, they joined him in his performances, forming a kind of family ensemble. Myron also had a special knack for making and tuning fiddles. Some said that his instruments sounded as good as the expensive violins brought in by the opera companies that came to Pinsk on tour from the capital. With danger to his life Myron eventually fled to Leningrad from occupied Western Byelorussia. His musical skills played a decisive part in his future life, and he became a recognized authority on the violin. Soviet virtuosos and violinists with prominent orchestras would turn to him for help.

Joseph remained in Pinsk to take care of his gravely ill father. No one can tell what would have happened to the gifted young man if Western Byelorussia had not been liberated from the invaders by the Red Army in 1920. Soviet government existed for only two months in the city, but it succeeded in accomplishing several things: No one was oppressed or humiliated any longer, all adults were given jobs and children were sent to school, and the sick and the old received free medical care. The people rejoiced. Hundreds of people could listen to Joseph's fiddle and sing and dance to his music. Around that time the Polesye Revolutionary Committee decided to send the talented youth to study at the Vilnius Conservatory in neighboring Lithuania. There Joseph became a professional violinist, gave many concerts, played in orchestras and even tried his hand as a conductor.

In 1939, when Western Byelorussia again became a part of the USSR, Joseph Venger set up a music school for children in his native Pinsk. He gave violin lessons, formed an orchestra and conducted. He



Free time is a precious commodity for busy Oleg, so whenever he has the chance, he goes underwater fishing with his wife.

also gave solo recitals in the city and toured the nearby villages. It was then that he became known as "The Pinsk Maestro."

Serenity Is Shattered

World War II dealt a cruel blow to quiet and peaceful Pinsk. On the third day after entering the city, the Nazis shot Joseph's wife and daughter. Narrowly escaping death, he joined the partisans in the woods. For a year he didn't touch the violin. He

had neither the desire nor the strength to do so. But after some time he began to realize that the fighting, the sight of death, had taken a toll on the men in his group. They needed music to lift their spirits, and he again took up his fiddle. It was in the woods of Polesye that Joseph acquired the name "The Partisan Paganini."

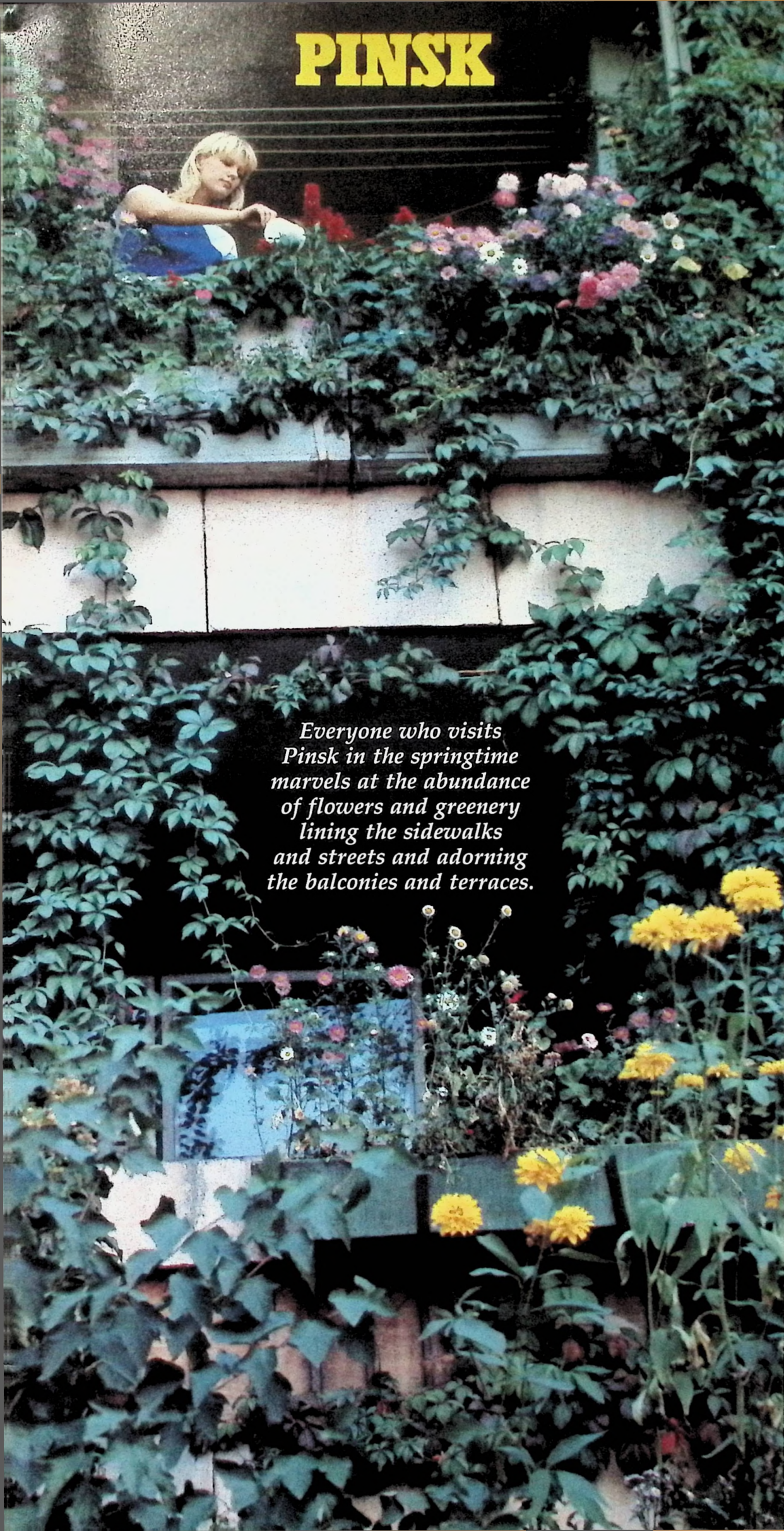
After the war Joseph settled in Pinsk again and remarried. He began making arrangements in the city devastated by the Nazis for the reopening of the music school, the purchase of musical instruments and even the supply of firewood to heat the classrooms. But firewood was still very scarce in the city, so the music lessons more often than not took place in the Vengers' apartment. Despite this, Joseph taught strictly by the book: classes in sol-feggio, the history of music, and piano and violin techniques.

The city was still healing its wounds when Joseph Venger started promoting the idea of organizing a brass band. People tried to brush him aside, explaining that the time for that hadn't come yet—some even considered the enthusiastic musician a little crazy, but Joseph was persistent and finally obtained his objective. In the evenings, like in a forgotten dream, the ageless waltzes of Strauss and Dunayevsky, Argentine tangos and fox trots floated through the public gardens of the city. On those nights nearly everyone in Pinsk would gather around the old stage where the band was seated, enthusiastically conducted by Joseph Venger. The grateful public was ready to do anything for him.

In the meanwhile Joseph's son Oleg was growing up. He, too, revealed a talent for music. "He was three years old," recalls Irina, "when one of my husband's students was struggling to hit a particular note. Oleg crawled from under the table where he was hiding and sounded it with such purity that our mouths dropped open in amazement. The following day Joseph started teaching young Oleg harmony."

Continued on page 48

PINSK



Everyone who visits Pinsk in the springtime marvels at the abundance of flowers and greenery lining the sidewalks and streets and adorning the balconies and terraces.

HISTORY Continued from page 21

ated the names of 800 owners of plots of land within the town.

- The inhabitants of Pinsk had to perform certain duties for the right to live in the town. In the sixteenth century their main duty was to pay rent for land and for the premises used in their trade and make payment for the right to engage in handicrafts. There were other duties, too.

- In keeping with the Magdeburg Law, in 1581 the town of Pinsk was allowed to have its own emblem and to elect burgomasters. The emblem consists of a shield with a golden bow and arrow against a red background. The bow was drawn, and the arrowhead was of steel. The inhabitants of Pinsk were also permitted to put up a town hall in the central square. The land which it occupied was exempt from rent. Also the people were given the right



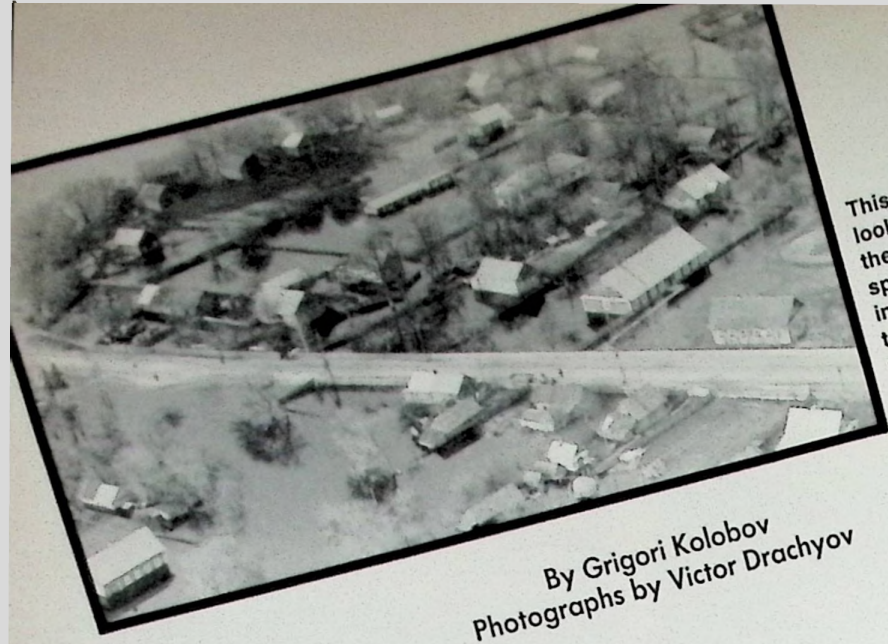
Among the items in the Pinsk Museum of Local Lore are a twelfth century pink-shale coffin (above) and a nineteenth century bell (top). Experts believe the coffin held the Turovo-Pinsk Slav Prince of Kiev Rus. The bell was bought by serfs in the 1860s to commemorate the long-awaited freedom from the Pinsk lords.

to open small butcher shops and bakeries.

- In the seventeenth century religious-political associations called church brotherhoods emerged in the towns of Western Byelorussia. The brotherhoods advocated preserving the Byelorussian language and the customs and culture of the people. They set up print shops, distributed literature and engaged in other enlightening activities. In 1633 the Pinsk brotherhood managed to get permission to open a town school in which instruction was conducted in the native tongue, unlike the Jesuit collegiums in which Latin predominated.

- The inhabitants of Pinsk paid dearly for their struggle to free themselves from feudal oppression and from the bondage of the monasteries. The wave of emancipation spread in the early seventeenth century, and the Polish troops trying to suppress it were brutal in their treatment of the com-

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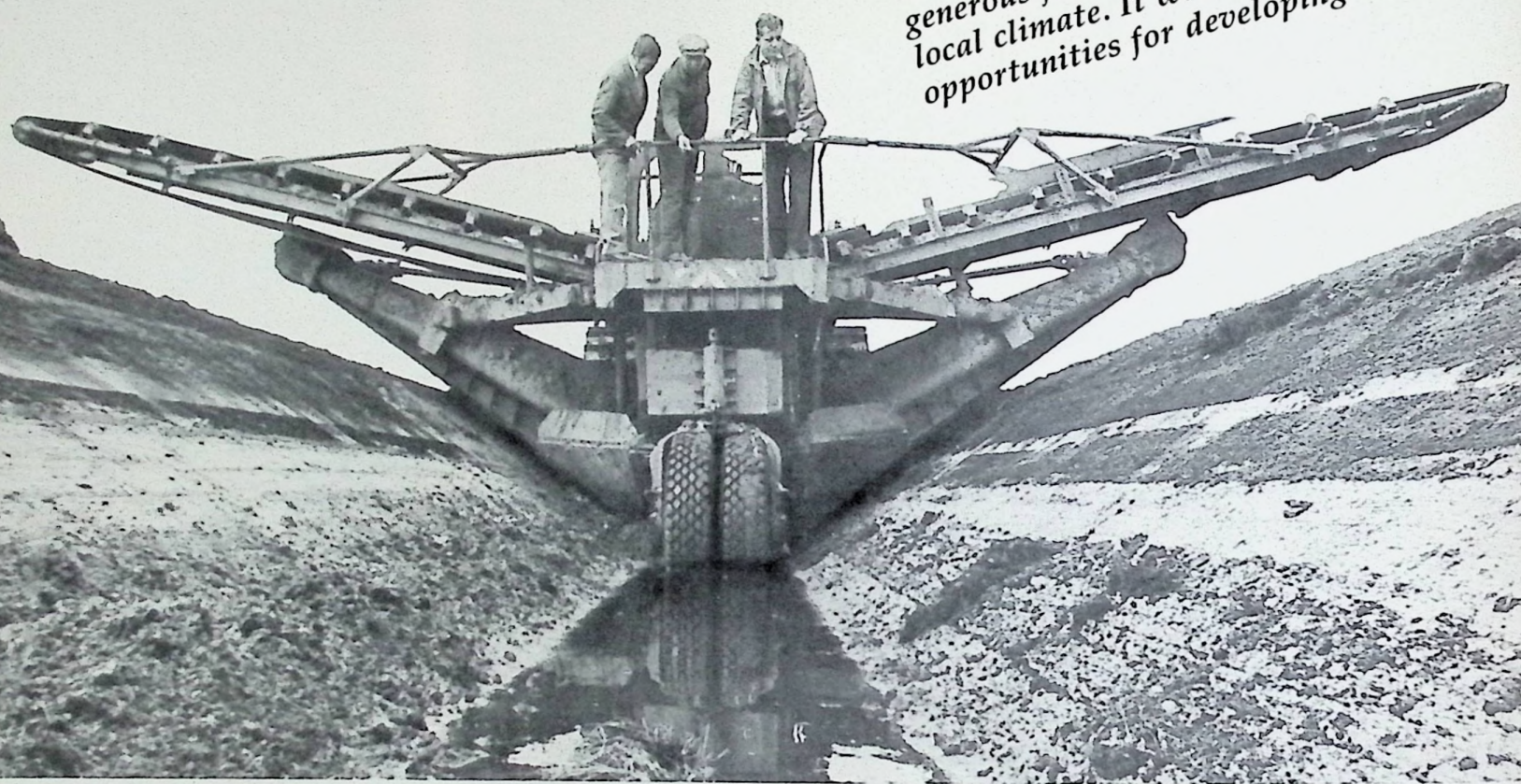


This is how Polesye looked before the land-reclamation specialists got involved. Below: New techniques are solving the problem of how to make use of the potentially fertile land.

By Grigori Kolobov
Photographs by Victor Drachyov

HALF AN APPLE

Draining the notorious Polesye marshes is one of Byelorussia's most acute present-day problems. The land-reclamation work going on in the region around Pinsk will result in generous farm crops and an improved local climate. It will also open up vast opportunities for developing the city.



Five years ago, when the old houses on one of the most remote villages of Polesye were being torn down, the inhabitants were mostly older people. (The younger ones had long since moved to the modern settlements that had been put up on the state farms.) This marked the beginning of the lengthy process of reclaiming the land in this swampy region.

Georgi Danilovich, who heads one of the largest land-reclamation bureaus in Polesye, remembers that time well. Once, he told me, he felt tears welling up in his eyes as he watched a middle-aged woman sitting next to an apple tree. She calmly sat by while her house was razed by a bulldozer, but it was obvious she couldn't tear herself away from the tree, which, most likely, had been planted when she was only a child.

"Don't worry, we won't harm your apple tree," Danilovich told her, trying his best to comfort her. "Nothing will happen to it, you'll see."

Hearing this, the woman picked a large red apple off the tree and cut it in two. She offered one half to Danilovich and took the other for herself. According to Byelorussian custom, sharing an apple is a sign of deep gratitude.

Nowadays many people are grateful to land-reclamation specialist Georgi Danilovich, who made possible projects like the construction of large-scale agro-industrial complexes and new state farms. He is also credited with setting right the mistakes made

in the past and, at long last, with comprehensively solving the problem of using the potentially fertile lands while preserving intact the rich tracts of peat bog that feed many of the rivers in Byelorussia and the Ukraine.

Several decades ago Polesye, which is now situated in the urbanized part of the country, was still regarded as an undeveloped region. A considerable part of the area lies on a swampy plain, which is interspersed with dense, almost impenetrable forests, infinite grassy marshes, shifting sands, slow-moving rivers and breathtakingly beautiful lakes hidden among quagmires and thickets.

The mild climate, which is influenced by the Atlantic Ocean, the huge tracts of water-soaked land and the peat bogs—all of this contributes to the region's being excellent for the development of intensive agriculture, in particular, livestock breeding.

Improving Wisely

"Right after World War II," said Danilovich, "sheer necessity forced us to solve problems quickly, so we were limited merely to draining the swampy areas. But for more than 10 years now we've been improving the territory wisely. The natural water network of Polesye requires both constantly controlling the flow of the water that's there and setting up a closed-cycle irrigation system. Let me explain. For three years we'll get an excessive amount of precipitation, then we won't get enough. Also every spring hundreds of thousands of hec-

tares of fertile land become inundated with floodwaters. At the same time, the drained lands must be irrigated to avoid soil erosion. It was for this very purpose—to carry out all the work in one project, comprehensively—that our land-reclamation bureau was established. Everything on this land—the settlements, modern farm towns, artificial reservoirs for commercial fisheries—began with land reclamation."

Forty-nine-year-old Danilovich has headed the firm for the past eight years. The son of peasants, he grew up in this region, attended a rural school and graduated from a local vocational school and a higher educational institution. Danilovich started working in land reclamation as an unskilled worker. Later he was made a team leader, then a work superintendent and then a foreman.

Himself a Poleshchuk (that's what the local people are called), Danilovich has great respect for the land of the region, and he is very aware of how hard it was for his ancestors to win the battle against the swamps.

Right of Choice

"Never having as much as heard of the scientific concept of 'land reclamation,'" Danilovich said, "a Poleshchuk dug ditches all of his life in order to drain his plot. Water was the measure of all of Polesye's troubles and all of its boons. The swamps doomed the peasants not only to a backbreaking struggle for subsistence, but also to isolation. I



Georgi Danilovich, 49, heads one of the largest land-reclamation firms in Polesye. Born and raised in the region, he is quite aware of what it took for his ancestors to win the battle against the swamps.

once came across a copy of the *Minskoye Slovo* (*Minsk Word*) newspaper that my parents had saved. It was dated July 27, 1911. One of its articles read:

... A peasant's cow yields from one to two glasses of milk a day—and not every day at that. The cattle sheds are always cold, dark and stand far from the house. The horses are usually small-sized and are fed mainly straw. Blackened huts, sunken halfway into the ground, a large amount of ugly structures scattered in every direction—this is the picture of a village in Polesye.

"There were 200 small villages surrounding Pinsk alone. And in early spring you couldn't reach some of them even by helicopter. There was nothing but floodwater and ice everywhere. I shouldn't even call them villages; they were *khutors*—isolated farmsteads. A Polesye *khutor* was made up of a couple of houses, several wells and a few sheds. Present-day intensive farming and modern standards of life just can't cope with this scattered maze. Something has to give. When the *khutors* are pulled down, the people living there have the right to choose where to go. Even land reclamation, with its army of machinery, large allocations of millions of rubles and peremptory notifications like 'Your plot will be drained, so by next spring you must move,' hasn't yet solved the entire problem. The *khutor* can be encircled by drains, a new settlement can be built there with all modern conveniences in a year's time, but how on Earth are we to convince the farmers

that we envisage them, and only them, in the center of all this transformation, that our main concern is in the interests of the new Poleshchuk?"

A Reprimand for a Beach

Danilovich can do a lot of things very quickly. But when he's in a village, you'd think he wasn't in a hurry at all. He stops whenever he meets any of the local residents and exchanges small talk with each of them.

The land-reclamation specialist hates indifference and laziness. He is always the first to arrive at work, and he never raises his voice and is easily accessible.

Once when the construction of a commercial reservoir was nearing completion, the local residents suggested that since the machinery was already at the site, a recreational beach might be put in as



well. The head of the construction work flatly rejected the proposal. The work was almost done and they had a deadline to meet, he argued. "They should have come up with the idea sooner," he said.

The residents turned to Danilovich. After researching the situation, he reproached the construction head sternly. Why hadn't he, the contractor, taken into account the needs of the residents? Why hadn't he found out in the first place what type of reservoir would best serve the people? Who, after all, were they building it for? The plan or the people? Danilovich ordered the construction head to postpone the deadline for completion, correct the plans, put in the beach and lay roads to it.

"It's We Who Are Responsible"

The problem of developing Polesye is so complex and broad that the top Byelorussian scientists—and not only Byelorussian but Ukrainian since Polesye covers part of the Ukraine, too—have been drawn into helping to solve it. The aim is to make a truly comprehensive study of the natural resources of the region, including the basins of the Dnieper, the Prip'yat (a tributary of the Dnieper) and the Dniester rivers, which will guarantee their most rational use and protection. All in all, the staffs of a scientific and research institutes are working to "crack" this "ecological nut."

"It is we, the land-reclamation specialists, who translate their projects and proposals into reality," said Danilovich. "The farmers hardly ever see the scientists themselves in action. What they do see is the final result—the transformed lands which we, the land-reclamation specialists, hand over to them. So it's we who are responsible for everything. And each time we're obligated to put up a fight against the Poleshchuk's philosophy of life."

Last year the first stage of land reclamation—the closed draining of arable land—was completed on one of the region's state farms. Immediately, the farmers wanted to begin plowing the improved ar-

reas. But Danilovich managed to contain their enthusiasm and, to be on the safe side, had the new tract of land encircled with canals in order to prevent the farmers from bringing agricultural equipment in anyway.

"Now that the second stage of land reclamation—irrigation—has been completed," said Dmitri Rutsky, the state farm director, "we realize how right Danilovich was. All of our arable lands and all of our pastures have to be both drained and irrigated. Now that the work is finished—the ponds put in and the fields marked out—we're certain to yield good harvests despite the weather. The sprinklers in the fields and pastures will give us the necessary moisture no matter what. The land-reclamation project cost twice as much as simple draining would, but the extra money that was invested will be recovered in no time, perhaps in two to three years, since we now have everything we need—machinery, transport and fertilizers."

Even newcomers to Polesye find it hard to tear themselves away from the forests with their abun-

dance of nut bushes, from the swans in the city park, from the caraway bread and from the dairy's fresh milk. I was crossing my fingers that something might delay me, and I wouldn't have to think of railroad stations or airfields for some time. Luck was with me.

"Come and see how we fish," Danilovich suggested.

Thirty minutes later our boat was in a quiet backwater. Danilovich slipped off his shirt and quickly dived under a tree that had long ago drowned. A moment later he emerged and threw a crucian carp, weighing at least a kilogram, onto the shore. Then another one and still another.

"When it's warm, the fish sleep in the evenings," he explained, "so it's easy to catch them with your bare hands. We've got crayfish here, too."

He disappeared again, then reappeared. In his hand this time was a huge crayfish. "See," he said, quickly throwing the critter back into the water. "Mustn't catch them now—this is their spawning season." ■



Helicopters are used to make quick surveys of the swamps. Above: It won't be long before the land being reclaimed at this site will be used by the Molodezhniy State Farm.

Unlike big industrial centers, Pinsk cannot be called a minion of fortune; nevertheless, it is one of the most rapidly developing cities in Byelorussia. What problems are facing the local officials and how are they being solved? I asked several Pinsk officials to comment on this.

Zoya Malysheva, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Pinsk City Soviet: Problems will continue to arise because the residents of Pinsk want to see their city grow more beautiful and comfortable. So far there has been no limit to such desires. Every day the City Soviet receives letters that contain questions, such as, why the restoration of the historical center of the city is proceeding so slowly, why a department store hasn't been built in one microdistrict or another, when the floating restaurant will be opened on the river or when the new movie house will be built.

A special agency in the city handles all of the suggestions made by the residents. Based on these suggestions, we work out a plan for urban development and draw up a budget. Of course, not everything can be tackled at once. Therefore, it is the job of the city officials to determine which of the projects is the most important, or, better still, to handle a situation before it becomes critical.

For instance, it had come to our attention that our public health facilities needed to be augmented. However, building modern hospitals is expensive. After studying our budget, we realized that the money we had wouldn't cover the cost of everything we intended to do in this area. So we turned to the republic's Ministry of Health for assistance. Our request was granted, and over the course of several years we built a big general hospital, a maternity hospital, a children's polyclinic and other medical facilities. Our doctors and nurses now have everything they need for the next 10 years at least. The problem of kindergartens and that of developing a system of roads and public transport have been solved in a similar way. To my mind, problems connected with construction, public utilities and other economic needs do not present any difficulties in general. They are being effectively solved by long-term planning and by pooling the financial resources of various state departments.

Does this mean there are more complex problems? I wouldn't say so. I'd say the problems are more subtle, ones that can't be solved by the investment of money alone. For instance, the spiritual needs of residents must be taken into consideration. A certain peculiarity is observed in this area. Over the last 15 years the population of Pinsk has increased 2.5 times. For the most part this is due to people moving here from the countryside. So now we are faced with the problem of combining the city way of life with elements of traditional folk culture that the people moving here bring with them. For example, such precious traits of the rural personality as cheerfulness and congeniality should be preserved.

Are some things bound to be lost? Not always. More likely the mutual enrichment of cultures takes place. Let me explain. Folk singing and dancing have been very popular in Polesye since the old days. So now we have dozens of big and small amateur song-and-dance companies in the city. We provide them with facilities, professional instruction, musical instruments and costumes. The companies are actually deluged with people wanting to join them. From this has sprung an abundance of old folk customs. It's impossible to transplant all rural customs in urban soil, but something had to be done so that they wouldn't disappear altogether. We've also come across some interesting ways to help the customs take root in the city. At present there isn't another town in Byelorussia that could rival us in the number of large folk festivals held in the city. Also song festivals, carnivals, street festivals and even courtyard get-togethers are a regular occurrence. The people who live in Pinsk are quite fond of celebrating family occasions, such as weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, etc., with their neighbors. I believe that the city shouldn't alienate people, but make everyone who lives here feel at home.

Valerian Kerber, director of the Forge and Press Transfer Lines Plant: People often blame urban problems on industry. They say that industry does great harm to the environment. It goes without saying that industrial production is not a bed of roses, but is progress possible without it? This is a very complex problem. Large urban areas are no longer able to locate new plants within city limits. If they were, a type of urban sprawl would occur—and, consequently, the painful results it would produce. The industrial boom has involuntarily spread to medium-sized and small towns as well. Therefore, it is particularly important to plan for the future in order to head off as many problems as we can.

For example, industrial enterprises should be built in areas that won't interfere with the construction of city architectural ensembles. We also have to consider how to make their impact on the environment as negligible as possible and to decide where a particular plant should be built so there won't be any difficulties with labor and reserves of raw materials.

THE PROBLEMS OF THE CITY

By Vyacheslav Khodosovsky
Photographs by Yevgeni Koktysh



Zoya Malysheva, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Pinsk City Soviet.



Valerian Kerber, director of the Forge and Press Transfer Lines Plant.



Yuri Korchokho, head of the Polesye Department at the Byelorussian Scientific Research Institute of Land Reclamation and Water Conservation.

In Pinsk there are no grounds for worry at present, in my opinion. Over the course of 15 years the volume of industrial production in the city has increased seven times. But in spite of this Pinsk has not suffered any ecological crises. Our new industrial zones are separate from our residential areas. Also new enterprises are not being put into operation without the installation of purification systems. When the location of an enterprise is being studied, the demographic situation is considered, too. In the past Pinsk used to be chiefly a city of male trades—metalworking and construction. Today there is a big knitwear amalgamation here. This has improved the situation for our women workers. It should be mentioned here that the goods produced by the industrial enterprises of Pinsk are exported to over 20 countries.

Some people would say that directors probably worry more about the state of things at their plants than about urban problems in general. But I don't think so. It goes without saying that there must be order in production. But the industrial plants are not merely "residents" of the city. According to the law, plants located within a city must allocate means for its development. Only having started some six years ago, our plant is one of the youngest in Pinsk. However, over this period we've built, in addition to factory buildings, three nine-story dormitories for young workers, a grocery store, a café, a service center, a small branch of the children's polyclinic, four apartment houses with 318 apartments and the best kindergarten in the city. We even have our own swimming pool, which cost us about a million rubles. Over six million rubles has been spent for the construction of highways and the stringing of telephone lines for the city. Actually, we are building a big district with all the modern amenities for the people who live here. Similar districts have been built by other plants.

Are the relations between the city and its industries absolutely cloudless? Well, conflicts do occur sometimes. From time to time certain executives try to get out of their duty to improve the city. Sometimes even "internecine" conflicts take place when it is necessary to pool all financial resources for the construction of some particularly important building for the townspeople. However, the main job is to strike a wise balance between the growth of industry in the city and the interests of the inhabitants. We've accumulated a lot of experience in this field. This makes it possible for us to have an optimistic outlook for the future.

Yuri Korchokho, head of the Polesye Department at the Byelorussian Scientific Research Institute of Land Reclamation and Water Conservation: Our ancestors chose a good site for the city, on the whole, but the proximity of the full-flowing rivers and the marshes poses a potential threat. The two big floods that occurred in the region over the last decade confirm this. The main culprit is the Pripyat River. During the spring and the autumn the river expands, flooding dozens of kilometers along the flat meadows. A giant project has been worked out and is already being put into practice to protect the nearby villages and town from the floods. A decision was made to dam the treacherous Pripyat in several places along its length. This will result in about 1,500 kilometers of protected areas. In Byelorussia alone this giant project will require nearly a billion rubles.

The land-reclamation organizations located in Pinsk are in charge of all the work. But the city benefits from land reclamation in other ways too.

Figuratively speaking, the land-reclamation specialists are correcting the faults of nature, which has dealt with Polesye in a rather uneconomical way. Though there seems to be a surplus of water here, it is distributed unevenly during the year. What results is the formation of swamps, floods and a shortage of arable land and pastures. The giant project for the improvement of the land traced out for the country as a whole also concerns the part of Polesye located in Byelorussia. We are draining millions of hectares of marshland, collecting water where there is a shortage of it and setting up new agricultural and industrial complexes on the reclaimed land. One result is that Pinsk is flourishing. Here is an example: A big livestock-breeding complex has been built not far from the city, on land reclaimed from marshes. It is producing over 5,000 metric tons of pork a year.

What are the negative aspects of the land reclamation? Have there been any changes in the climate, for instance? Our institute is currently studying questions like this. So far we haven't observed any serious disruptions in the ecological balance. But of course there have been some microclimatic changes, for instance, the air has become a little drier. At one time we were afraid that man's interference in nature might change the regimen of the Pripyat's flow within the boundaries of the city and that the river might become swampy. But the planners took this possibility into account ahead of time, and they have taken precautions that will keep the river as pure and beautiful as ever. Nevertheless, the land-reclamation specialists are still indebted to the city. One of the primary tasks is the development of recreational areas near Pinsk. Not only the city itself must be beautiful and comfortable, but its environs as well.

In July the residents of Pinsk place wreaths on the Pina River in memory of the heroic soldiers who died liberating the city from the Nazis in July 1944.

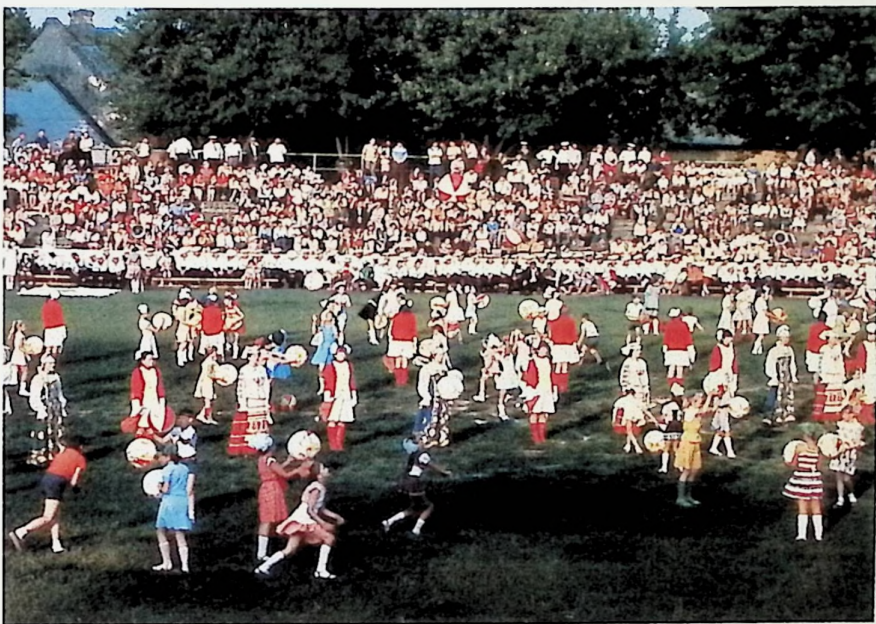


PINSK PEOPLE



Acts from the Leningrad Circus often come to Pinsk. Here the performers go through their paces in the city center.

Below: A symbolic children's dance for peace crowned the celebration marking the fortieth anniversary of the city's liberation from the Nazis.



"I LIKE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL"

By Natalya Buldyk

Photographs by Victor Drachyov

"I like to go to the hospital," a little boy in Pinsk told me. Recalling how afraid I was of doctors, injections, pills and even a thermometer when I was a child, I was surprised by his words. But I was still more surprised when I saw the hospital he spoke about.

It doesn't look like a hospital at all; it somewhat resembles a ship. What gives this impression is the windows, or rather scuttles, the original façade, the colored stairwells and the combinations of bright, contrasting paints, for example, red and white. Even the ventilating system blends in harmoniously. The architects have designed the air ducts to look like miniature fortresses or captains bridges. There are also playgrounds in the hospital's courtyard, where children forget all about their ailments.

When the hospital was under construction, the planners thought of another good strategy. They invited the local children to help them decorate by planting flowers and trees.

That's why many of the 30,000 children in Pinsk regard the health center as "their own" hospital.



THE SKAZKA CHILD-CARE CENTER

By Natalya Buldyk

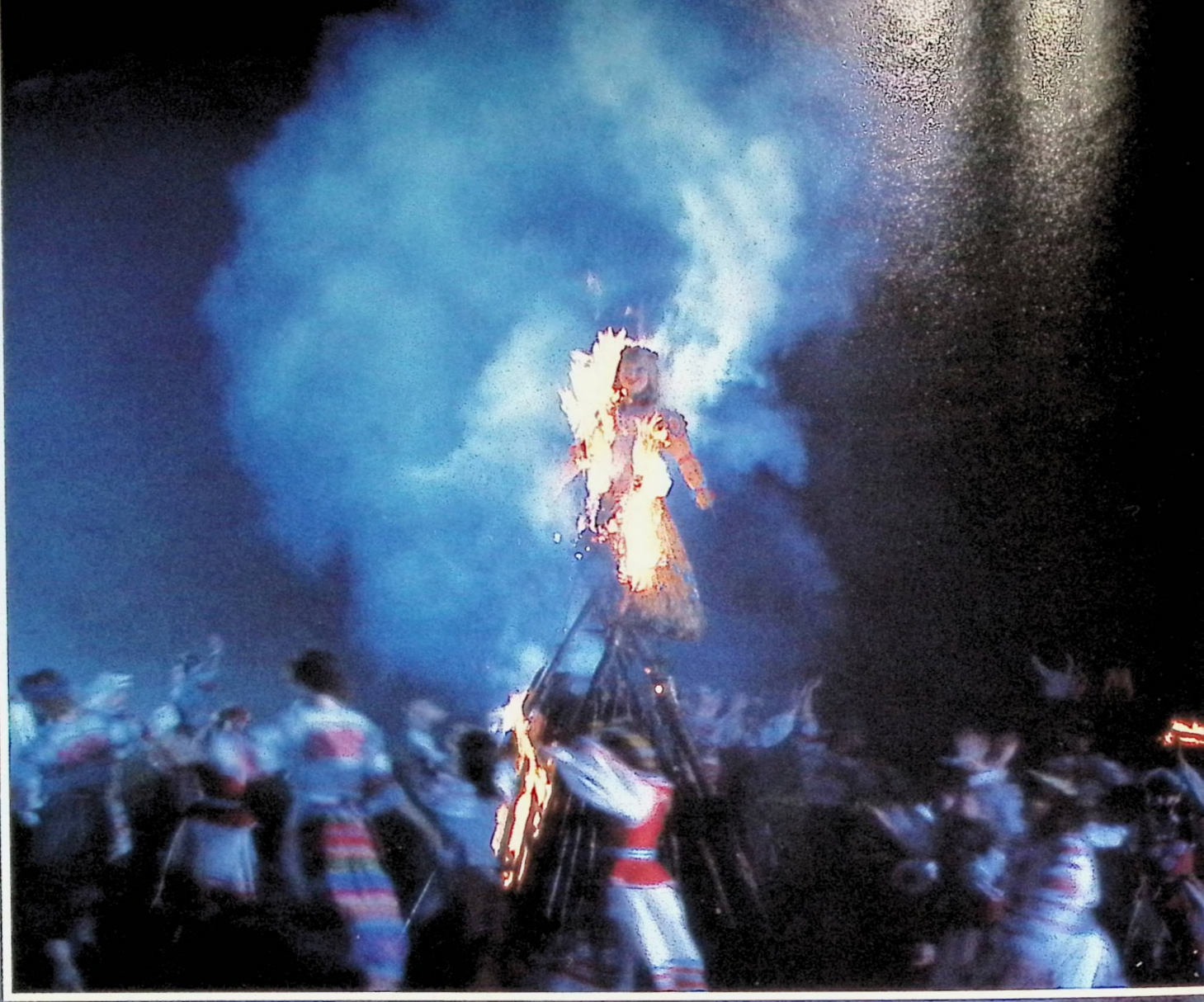
In the USSR child-care centers are usually built by municipal authorities. However, the construction of the Skazka (Fairy Tale) Child-Care Center at the Pinsk Forge and Press Transfer Lines Plant was financed by the management. It cost 700,000 rubles.* The operating budget of the child-care center amounts to 150,000 rubles a year.

During the day, 320 children of the plant's workers draw, sing, dance and go in for physical exercise under the supervision of qualified instructors. The parents pay only 10 to 15 rubles a month for their children to attend the center. The remainder of the cost of the program is covered by the plant.

Not long ago, another item of expenditure was added to the plant's budget—a gardener was hired to take care of hundreds of rose bushes that grow in the child-care center's yard. This might seem a bit extravagant at first glance. But, the plant director, Valerian Kerber, explains it this way: "Children are our most important resource."

*One ruble is equal to approximately \$1.20 U.S. at the official rate of exchange.





DAWN ABOVE THE PINA RIVER

By Svetlana Savrasova


Every year Pinsk residents— young and old—eagerly anticipate the Pinsk Dawn Festival, which begins on

August 25. That was the date in 1944 that Pinsk was liberated from the Nazis. The festival opens when a brightly painted plane appears in the skies above the city, dropping thousands of leaflets which gently fall to Earth like large snowflakes. These are the announcements inviting everyone to join in the fun that lies ahead: the concerts, theatre performances, circus acts, games and motor rodeo. The festival lasts for five days and attracts an impressive array of talent. Thousands upon thousands of Pinsk residents pour into the streets, heading for the central square to join the parade that is just starting. The amateur brass bands are the first to appear in the square, their polished instruments sparkling brightly in the Sun. War veterans wearing all of their orders and medals follow behind the bands. Then the workers and scientists, teachers and schoolchildren stream into the square to take their places. Young mothers pushing baby carriages and little children clutching toys in their hands bring up the rear. The parade moves toward the park on the bank of the Pina River, where the wartime attack boat rests on a pedestal. It was the first boat to land the liberating troops on the banks of the Pina. The crowd moves in multicolored waves, yet the color red—the color of flags, carnations, posters and balloons—is everywhere. Many people believe that that's how the festival got its name of "Pinsk Dawns." ■



The Pinsk Dawns Festival is a special cultural event of art, music and dance. Below: Opening-day festivities are marked by round dances performed by local young men and women dressed in national costumes. Above: Once a year the women of Pinsk don their colorful embroidered dresses. Above left: The roots of the festival can be traced to the ancient Slavic games. The burning of a straw-stuffed figure symbolizing evil is the climax of the five-day festival of merrymaking.



A woman with dark, wavy hair is smiling broadly. She is wearing a white, long-sleeved button-down shirt with a decorative element at the collar and red pants. She is leaning on a dark metal railing. In the background, a wide canal or river flows through a city, with a tree-lined promenade on the left and a building on the right.

WORKERS OF THE PINSK KNITWEAR AMALGAMATION

By Natalya Buldyk

Pinsk has many features, but what strikes you immediately on arrival in the city is the large number of young people who live there. The workers at the Pinsk Knitwear Amalgamation are a prime example. Their average age is 24.



Who runs the factory?" I asked Victor Naidenko, the director of the Pinsk Knitwear Amalgamation. "Women," he answered. "Ninety per cent of our workers are women."

The amalgamation incorporates three factories: the knitwear and the bulk-yarn factories and the worsted mill.

"In two days we put out enough knitted goods to clothe all of the residents of Pinsk," said Irina Lysko, 23, a spinner. "We also produce 6,000 tons of worsted yarn and 5,000 tons of bulk yarn. All of our garments are designed here too—by the artists and fashion designers working at the amalgamation."

More than 8,000 people work at the Pinsk Knitwear Amalgamation, and about 4,000 of them are close to Irina's age. When a new design is being considered, it's not only the director who gives the okay for it to go into production. The women workers discuss whether they like it or not and estimate how much it will cost to produce it and what the price to the consumer should be.

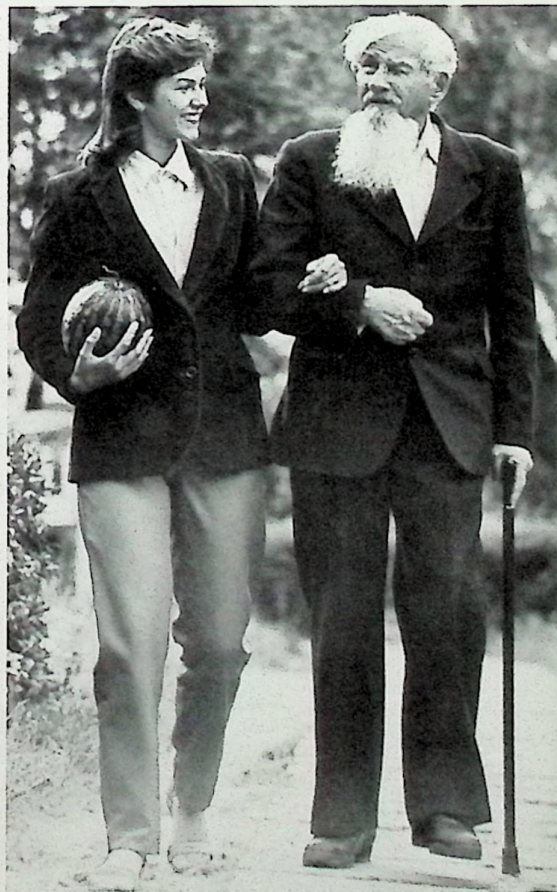
"Just the other day we asked the management to drop two outmoded articles of clothing," Irina said. "Our request was granted, and the old-fashioned items were replaced by new designs."

Last year the bulk-yarn factory was completely renovated. The workers worked with the engineers in calculating how much new equipment would be needed and drew up a plan for where it was to be placed. The result was greater efficiency. There are now two shifts at the factory instead of the previous three, while the output of goods has increased by about one-third. Naturally, the management could have handled these problems by itself, but sometimes the workers are the best ones to judge what they need. Incidentally, the amalgamation saved 600,000 rubles by implementing workers' proposals in production.

Worker Benefits

Quality-control inspector Lena Korneva, 19, has been working at the knitwear amalgamation for two years. Like most of the other workers, she came here straight from high school. She had no

Since 90 per cent of its workers are women, the amalgamation organizes weekend outings for them with friends from other industries in Pinsk.



Quality-control inspector Lena Korneva, 19, has been at the factory for two years. The advice she gets from retired workers, she says, is invaluable.

previous job training and knew next to nothing about the work she was going to do. The first thing she did was to enroll in classes given at the factory school. Besides training newcomers, the

school helps workers improve their skills, better their qualifications or learn a new or related trade. Every year about 300 workers study at the factory school. The amalgamation covers all expenses.

The amalgamation has five dormitories for workers. One is for married workers and their families, while the rest are for young single women. Lena Korneva gave me a tour of the child-care center, apartment houses and sports complex—all built by the amalgamation. There is even a beauty salon located in one of the buildings.

"Management is doing everything to make things more comfortable for us," said one young woman. "The factory spends from 80,000 to 100,000 rubles every year to improve working conditions, and it doesn't cost the workers a kopeck. What is more, we have many other benefits. For instance, I spent several months training to be a quality-control inspector. In other words, I was going to school and was not on the job. Even so, I got paid. Or take one of the other workers. She recently got married and is expecting a baby. The amalgamation's doctors have decided that in a couple of weeks she'll have to be transferred to an easier job, but her pay will remain the same. She's entitled to four months' maternity leave at full pay and a portion of her salary until the baby is a year old. As for me, I'm taking a correspondence course at college, so I'm entitled to two paid leaves to take examinations in addition to my customary vacation. When I graduate in a few years, I want to become an engineer."

I was told that more than 2,000 of the workers at the knitwear amalgamation are enrolled in higher educational institutions and trade schools or are taking individual courses. The schooling costs workers nothing since all expenses are covered by the state and the amalgamation.

Love and Marriage

Believe me, finding a husband is not an idle issue for the 4,000 young single women working at the amalgamation. They say the number of eligible men can be counted on the fingers of one hand. That's why workers from the predominantly "male" industries, like the local ship repair yards, are often invited to events at the amalgamation's palace of culture.

A good job and an active social life add up to happiness.

Large outings are also organized on weekends for the workers and their friends from other plants in town. They go on picnics, pick mushrooms and berries, hold sports events or put on amateur shows for the residents of the nearby villages. The knitwear amalgamation provides all of the buses and sports equipment, among many other things.

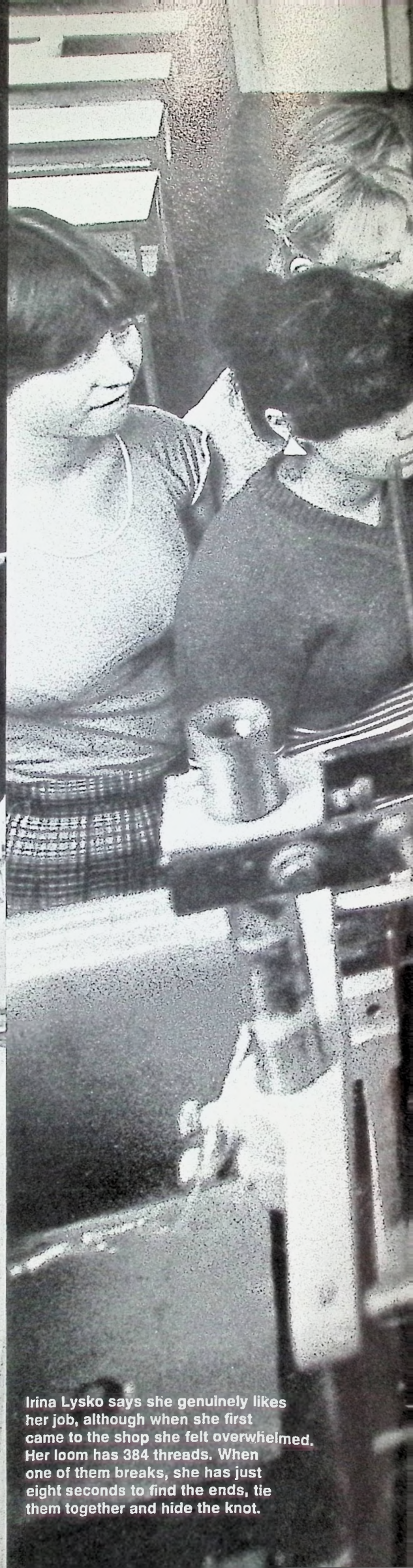
The result is that hardly a Saturday goes by without several weddings being celebrated in the amalgamation's palace of culture. And the population of the city has been growing by 800 every year "thanks to" the knitwear amalgamation.

Lena Korneva is a soloist in the Vyasyolka (Rainbow) Dance Company set up at the knitwear amalgamation. The group is not only known in Pinsk, but in many other places in Byelorussia.

"Involved in Everything"

What other problems face young people in Pinsk?

"We have our problems," admits Ira Lysko. "I've been terribly upset this past week. I might even have to quit my job. I recently got married to a guy from another town, and he doesn't want to move to Pinsk because if he does, we'll have to rent an apartment. Though there are a large number of apartment houses in the city, the number of people wanting new apartments is greater than ▶



Irina Lysko says she genuinely likes her job, although when she first came to the shop she felt overwhelmed. Her loom has 384 threads. When one of them breaks, she has just eight seconds to find the ends, tie them together and hide the knot.





the supply. After all, many couples are settling down here and having families. So getting an apartment would present a problem. My husband, however, already has a house in his home town, but I don't want to leave my job and my friends."

The knitwear amalgamation is trying to solve the housing problem by building an additional dormitory for young married couples and providing the workers who rent apartments instead of living in a dormitory with a special allowance for rent. The management is also attempting to find jobs either at the amalgamation or at some nearby enterprise for the husbands-to-be. Even so, the number of workers who leave because of marriage is large.

"Whether they want to deal with the situation or not, they'll have to do it," says Lena Korneva. "It's inevitable. But there are other problems, too. For example, just last week three women in my shop quit. They said the work was too difficult."

Most of the young workers at the knitwear amalgamation, however, like their jobs and feel they play an important role in helping management solve various problems. To begin with, they have a say in how newcomers are trained for a particular job and in how and in which shops the equipment is replaced. They are also active in the trade union, which is currently constructing a sports stadium.

Irina Lysko says that though it may seem strange to some people, the young women at the factory want to have a say in their work. They feel that everything is their business, and they discuss their jobs even in their free time. "I suppose that's the way we are," she says "and it's not likely we'll change. We're accustomed to being involved in everything."

Young workers at the Pinsk Knitwear Amalgamation enjoy their leisure time, but more importantly, they like having their opinions count on the job.



Most workers at the knitwear amalgamation feel that they play an important role in helping management solve various problems. Management agrees. Last year, for instance, the factory saved 600,000 rubles by implementing workers' proposals. Above: "Love, marriage and the baby carriage" is taking its toll of women workers. Management is trying to alleviate the problem by building a new dormitory for workers and their families and finding jobs either at the knitwear amalgamation itself or at other nearby plants for the prospective husbands.

Since coming to the knitwear amalgamation when she was 16, Irina Lysko, a spinner, has learned a trade, gotten married and is expecting a baby. She is now eligible for maternity benefits which include a four months' leave at full pay. Below: All of the garments produced at the amalgamation are designed by its own fashion designers.



HISTORY Continued from page 25

mon people. In Pinsk, 5,000 houses were burned down, and about 14,000 townspeople were killed by the Poles. It took the devastated town a long time to recover from these heavy losses.

- In 1793 Pinsk became a part of Russia and was made a town district of Minsk Guberniya (province). At that time the population numbered a mere 3,700. The reunification with Russia created favorable conditions for the economic and cultural development of Pinsk. Trade and handicrafts were revitalized to a great extent, but again the process was hindered in 1812 when Napoleon began his war against Russia.
- Pinsk experienced an industrial upswing at the end of the nineteenth century when rather large wood-processing plants—plywood, timber and match factories—were set up there. A railroad reached the town. In 1900, Pinsk already had 27 industrial plants with 2,000 workers (two-thirds the total number of employed workers in Minsk Guberniya), as well as 2,025 craftsmen.

Clothing worn by nineteenth century Byelorussian peasants. Women's garments (left) were constructed of homemade fabrics. The shoes (right) were primitive and usually made of birch bark.



Since antiquity, the Holiday of the Sea has been celebrated in Pinsk. Today, as in days past, the residents don national costumes and make colorful wreaths. Carrying their offerings, they proceed to the banks of the Pina River and place them in the water, which will float them out to sea. Shown above in the photo are participants in a celebration held at the turn of the century.

- At the turn of this century the working conditions for workers at the privately owned factories were extremely bad. It was particularly hard for teenagers, whose pay was far below that of adult workers. Of the 674 workers at the match factory, 108 were children.
- In 1901, a Pinsk Social-Democratic Committee leaflet was circulated at the town's industrial plants. It called upon the workers to demand a shorter

Continued on page 44



St. Barbara's Church in Pinsk, at which Archbishop Vladimir officiates, was built at the end of the nineteenth century.

MEET ARCHBISHOP VLADIMIR

By Svetlana Savrasova

Photograph by Yevgeni Koktysh



The Archbishop considers himself a lucky man. When he's not tied up with church affairs, the priest loves spending time in his garden with his grandchildren and their pet fawn. It was found abandoned in the forest by a group of hunters who brought it to the Archbishop's house to be nursed back to health.



For feast-day services, the Archbishop wears his special church vestments, which are embroidered with gold thread. His mitre is decorated with precious stones. Far left: One of the Archbishop's duties as the leader of a church and head of a diocese is performing baptisms.

Vladimir Kotar was 70 on his last birthday. Many years have passed since he became an Archbishop in the Russian Orthodox Church. Presently, he is in charge of the 37 parishes in the Pinsk Diocese. He also is the head of St. Barbara's Church, in Pinsk.

Archbishop Vladimir was vague when asked the exact number of his parishioners, but he said his church is always filled to capacity on feast days for the four services that are held.

Archbishop Vladimir's memory for faces is phenomenal: He can recall people he's seen only once, even if he meets them five years later. As for his parishioners, he knows them all by name.

For the Archbishop religion is the essence of life. "My grandchildren have grasped the concept not so much with their soul as with their imagination," he explained. "They have created a sort of fantasy about it that is more real to them than life itself. My children, however, consider their faith in God of primary importance and believe it enhances their desire for self-knowledge, for an understanding of the world they live in. I am an old man, and for me my faith is a foundation stone that is no less reliable and indispensable than a cane. And it's a bit more, too. Yet I understand that for some people faith is the desperate thirst for miracles to happen in times of despair."

Feast Days

The Feast of the Transfiguration, which is celebrated in late August, coincides with the early peasant harvest festivals, and on that day the fruit and honey produced that year are blessed. For Tamara, the Archbishop's granddaughter, this feast is her favorite. The churchyard is overflowing with ripe fruit and honey, and rejoicing. Everywhere you look are transparent winter apples, deep purple plums and heavy bunches of grapes. Challenging these colors are the elegant shawls and embroidered shirts worn by the parishioners, who are decked out in holiday attire. There is also a church service.

"Feasts are hard work. They make me feel old," Archbishop Vladimir told me. "Thank God, for the good people who help," he added, referring to the women who volunteer to clean the church and assist him at the services. About an influx of young believers, the Archbishop isn't very optimistic. He remarked rather woefully that even though the dormitories of a technical college are located nearby, the students have shown no interest in attending services. True, there are exceptions. Archbishop Vladimir smiled when he spoke about Natasha, a young expectant mother who was brought to church through a misunderstanding. Someone had told her that it is written in the Holy Bible that woman must travail to bring forth a child, and she was afraid that if she were to deliver her baby under an anesthetic it would be a sin. Naturally, Archbishop Vladimir advised her to follow the advice of her doctor. Eight weeks later Natasha returned to the church with her newborn baby.

The Other Side of the Moon

In front of St. Barbara's I came across an unbelievable sight. Two shabbily dressed old men and three no less shabbily dressed women of the same age. What a shock! Beggars? I thought. This was the first time I observed anything like it. "Who are these people?" I asked Archbishop Vladimir.

"A traditional attribute of a church," he sighed and added in explanation, "and its curse. But let's not jump to conclusions. Look at these paintings by Vasili Surikov, Rembrandt, Jusepe Ribera, Antoine Watteau," he said, placing reproductions of the great paintings in front of me on a table. "What a gallery of God's blessed and God's fools they have painted! In what way, would you say, do their lots differ?"

"Look into their eyes," the Archbishop continued. "Notice, the people in the parvis hide theirs. The eyes of the people in the paintings are filled with entreaty, dismay and despair, while the eyes of our parvis sitters are filled to satiation. They will betray their owners, so these misguided souls sit with their eyes downcast, so they won't give themselves away."

Many years ago, when Vladimir Kotar first arrived in Pinsk, he was perplexed to see these "lords" of the parvis. Who are they? When one of them, the "blessed" Agafia died, her true face was revealed. Clothed always in rags when alive, Agafia was laid to rest in silk and chamois leather. Among her mourners were her well-dressed nieces outfitted like peacocks. They inherited a house with a garden and orchard, and quite a few thousand rubles from their aunt.

It turned out that none of Agafia's cronies was in dire need after the Nazis were driven from Byelorussia's soil. These were people made shameless and unscrupulous by their lust for money, and they exploited the church parvis, a traditional beggars' haven, to induce compassion in parishioners who abide by the Commandment to love their neighbor. All this will result, they hoped, in greater charity.

"These are 'make-believe' beggars," summed up the Archbishop. "Yet, on the other hand, they're much poorer in something than those who used to be driven to the parvis by want."

Settling a Dispute

One rural church had been the scene of an ongoing controversy, and the parishioners had lodged a complaint against their pastor with their local Soviet of People's Deputies. They complained about his rudeness, his interference in their church council's affairs, and his arbitrary changes in the schedule of services. At the Soviet they were told that church affairs were outside its jurisdiction, and it referred them to the head of the diocese or the local representative of the USSR Council for Religious Affairs. In short, the complaint has been refused. Yet, the parishioners would not be turned away, claiming this time that the priest, Father Nikolai, had offended their dignity as Soviet citizens. They urged the Soviet to intercede. The Soviet decided to send representatives to the church, guided primarily by the desire to advise the parishioners of their rights on the spot.

The Archbishop followed these developments with deep regret. He was convinced that Father Nikolai was guilty of undermining the church's authority in the eyes of his congregation. The Archbishop had noticed Father Nikolai's disposition toward quarreling on several occasions. Certainly, he had no right either to meddle in the church community's affairs or to control its funds. These are prerogatives of the parishioners or, more precisely, of the church council they elect. If the pastor felt that the council's decisions were unfair or he suspected the mismanagement of funds, he could have applied to the representative of the Council for Religious Affairs, but before doing so, he should have informed his superior, the Archbishop. Incidentally, the USSR Council of Religious Affairs was set up to adjust relations between the church and state and to ensure that the laws on freedom of conscience and performance of religious rites are observed. Archbishop Vladimir has applied to the council on various occasions and he said he always found it eager to provide the necessary support, assistance and advice.

While criticizing Father Nikolai for overstepping his bounds, the Archbishop listed all of the good work that the council has done, which ranged from assisting with church repairs and restoring old churchware to keeping the clergy informed about social economics.

Meanwhile, the representatives of the local Soviet sent to the church found the accusations of both parties groundless. Their only sin was mutual dislike and prejudice. Acting within its jurisdiction, the committee urged them to avoid friction in the future.

On his part, Archbishop Vladimir considered it necessary to transfer the quarrelsome pastor to another parish. This measure in his judgement, although quite fair, wasn't enough. The Archbishop decided to take Father Nikolai on a retreat to the Zhirovitsy Icon of the Mother of God at the Zhirovitsy Cloister, located in the southeastern part of Byelorussia, where he could examine his conscience and do penance for his sins.

Pilgrims

The Archbishop and Father Nikolai set out by car for the cloister at dawn. En route the Archbishop told his life story.

"My memory goes back to the Russian Revolution," he said. "The first thing I remember is my mother pinning a red satin bow on my coat. At that time we, my mother and the five children, lived as refugees in Kaluga, at the Holy Cross Monastery: We had been driven from our Byelorussia by World War I. After the Revolution my father, an army chaplain, retired from his duties, and our family returned to Byelorussia. But we soon found ourselves uprooted again when Western Byelorussia was ceded to Poland in 1921!"

At that time the Orthodox clergy and their families were discriminated against in every way. In 1934 only 5 out of the 25 graduates of Brest High School, who had been given instructions in Russian, passed their final examinations. Vladimir Kotar happened to be among the lucky five, and he soon entered the Theological Department of Warsaw University. When Soviet government was established in Western Byelorussia, many jobs were created, and he, who by then had graduated from the university, was offered a job teaching at one of the many Byelorussian schools opened at that time."

By now the twosome was nearing their destination.

At the Cathedral of the Dormitoni the two priests were surprised to bump into a group of Presbyterians from the United States, who had been invited by Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk and Byelorussia to visit the diocese and the cloister. Father Nikolai was amazed to see the Archbishop amicably chatting with two of the foreign visitors, whom he kissed and blessed at parting.

"I thought you said you weren't too fond of Protestants," joked Father Nikolai on the ride back to Pinsk.

"But I am fond of life," the Archbishop responded. "The debate over which religion is the true one can go on for eternity among Protestants, Catholics, Muslims and Jews. But, when faced with the issue of life or death, as we are now, everyone who stands for life must join hands."

The Archbishop and Father Nikolai returned to Pinsk the following evening. As the Archbishop drove up to his house, Mother Larisa, his wife, summoned Tamara, saying: "Granddad looks exhausted. Take him to see Romka."

Romka is the six-month-old fawn that hunters found abandoned in a forest. They brought it to the Archbishop's house. The Archbishop named the animal Romka, and it has become the family pet. ■



AMONG THE FAITHFUL

People who practice a religion in Pinsk represent several faiths. The church with the largest congregation is St. Barbara's, which is led by Archbishop Vladimir.

PINSK PEOPLE

THE STRADIVARIUS

By Yuri Sapozhkov

Among Pinsk collectors, Pyotr Shurkalo, 76, stands out as the owner of a unique object, a Stradivarius. Shurkalo says he inherited the violin from his grandfather, who had supposedly received it as a gift from the old gentleman whom he had worked for all his life. The instrument hasn't been authenticated as yet, but musicians insist the violin produces "the tenderest sound." Inside the instrument is an inscription in Latin stating it was made by Stradivari in 1716. This would clinch it if it were not for the fact that some copies of Stradivari's instruments were made in the nineteenth century. I asked Pyotr why he'd never had it appraised. His answer was quite unexpected. "I don't care who made it," he replied. "It's precious to me because it brought me back home. In 1929, when my village was part of Poland, my brothers and I went to Brazil to earn some money. My granddad gave me the violin as a going-away present. Fortunately, I left it home. In Brazil, we worked as drillers prospecting for coal. We made good money and even got married, but we missed our homeland very much. One of my brothers died, and the other became ill. As for me, I kept dreaming about my violin. Its sweet, clear 'voice' kept appearing in my dreams. I told my wife about that, and she said: 'You must go back to Byelorussia. It's calling you.' But she wouldn't come with me. My son still lives there, in Brazil. In 1956 I returned to the land of my ancestors. This should explain how much the violin means to me."



"THE SMELL OF WAR... IS FOUL"

By Yuri Sapozhkov

I do not fear shelling. Yet, the smell of war, and everything that goes with it, is foul. It lay in wait for me in my school years, taking various forms, and now it has gripped me by the throat. Why should we bear the smell of soldiers' uniforms? Going further, this senseless war will come to nothing. As every repulsive thing, it lacks any idea and is endless and ugly." This is the first entry in the diary kept by the great Russian poet Alexander Blok. It was written in 1916, in Polesye, near the town of Pinsk, where the then 36-year-old poet, recruited into the army, served with a unit digging trenches and building other defense fortifications.



Throughout his seven months' service in the army, Blok didn't write a single poem. "Words fail me. Poems do not come, either. I'll probably write something many years from now, recalling my genuine affection for the horses and the shameful feeling of guilt I get before the men placed under my command."

Many of Blok's biographers believe it's wrong to consider that period wasted. During his time near Pinsk the poet, refined

and aristocratic, came to know the life of ordinary people without any embellishment, and that helped him accept the ideas of the revolution. Several months later, in March 1917, back in Petrograd, he wrote his famous poem *The Twelve*—a brilliant hymn to the Revolution.

On display in a museum in Lopatino, a village near Pinsk where the poet lived, are copies of documents and photographs of Blok, his parents, wife and friends. There is also a large number of editions in various languages of his works and books about him.

The museum was set up through the efforts of Pinsk resident Fyodor Zhuravsky, a connoisseur of Blok's poetry. The museum's unique collection was compiled from gifts made by readers of his verses. Books addressed to Fyodor Zhuravsky still come in from various parts of the country. A short while ago he received the fifth parcel from Nikolai Trunin of Murmansk, in the far north of the European part of the USSR.

Trunin buys all of the books about Blok available in the city's secondhand bookstore and sends them to Pinsk.

I WAS DEAD FOR 10 YEARS

Tatyana Yagodka of Pinsk never speaks about her youth. In 1941, the first war year for the Soviet people, she was slightly over 20, married and the mother of two children.

No one in her family had managed to evacuate before the Nazis arrived. They arrested her husband as soon as they entered the city. He was Jewish, and he was taken out and shot for that.

Tatyana, too, was arrested because her husband was Jewish. Together with her little daughters, two-year-old Emma and four-year-old Nelli, she was thrown in jail. She was tortured throughout the night, and at dawn, thinking she was dead, the Nazis threw her into the street. That same morning they killed her children.

"Why did I survive?" she whispered, covering her eyes with her hand.

But in her mind's eye she keeps seeing what she would prefer to forget. She remembers the ravines that she dug out with her bare hands in the vain hope of finding the bodies of her daughters. She recalls the abandoned barn where she hid, and the barking of the approaching German shepherds. She remembers the suddenly empty eyes of the young girls who were captured, like herself, during the later



Tatyana Yagodka and her granddaughter, two-year-old Tanechka.

roundup and the dirty railroad car packed to capacity that took them far away from their homeland. She remembers the whip of their German master for whom the semistarved, emaciated people worked. She thinks of her mother, a serene old woman, gunned down by the invaders, and her 12-year-old sister Raya with her dead eyes questioning, "What have I done?"

"There was no one to bury them," Tatyana said softly. "My elder sister Valya managed to escape death and returned to the village after it was liberated from the Nazis. Later she received a death certificate for our brother Zhenia, and then the news that his wife was dead. She thought I was dead, too, and that killed her. Valya was only 27 when she died. I was left all alone in the world. I didn't want to live."

It was Askold who saved her. Tatyana met him at the front.

She celebrated Victory Day near Berlin, which she reached together with the Soviet Army unit she had joined. The soldiers who had liberated her from her slavery in Eastern Prussia had not wanted to take that terribly weak woman with them, but her sorrow was so great and her will so indomitable that no one dared insist on her returning home. Tatyana tended to the wounded and helped the army cooks and launderers. Every time there was a lull in the fighting, Askold was with her. They returned to Byelorussia together. For many years he looked after Tatyana, protected her from careless words and did his best to make her forget those horrible years. They married in 1950.

"Still, I was as good as dead. I remained that way for 10 years, absorbed in my terrible memories. It lasted until my baby girl was born. Later I had my second daughter. I named the first girl Nelli, the same as my very first child. Only then did I return to life. My family, Askold and the children, helped me become aware of spring and flowers again, and I started life anew.

"Now I have two grandchildren," Tatyana says, smiling through her tears, "17-year-old Edik and two-year-old Tanechka. When all the members of my family get together, I am almost happy. But it's still hard to talk about the war."

A BICYCLE AND AN ORNITHOPTER

On exhibit at the Pinsk Museum of Local Lore is a wooden bicycle made by peasant Vasili Ilyuchik many years ago. Distinct from present-day bicycles, which have about 300 parts, the wooden one has only 50.

"At that time there wasn't anything like tires with cams," says 80-year-old Vasili, who lives in the village of Bogdanovka, "so I covered the rims of the wheels with tin plate."

Shortly before World War II broke out Vasili began working on a wooden ornithopter, but the Nazi occupation of Byelorussia prevented him from completing it. At the end of the war only four houses out of the original 500 remained in his native Bogdanovka. So Vasili again took up a plane and an ax and for many years headed a team of carpenters in the village, building homes.

When the housing situation improved Vasili resumed his work on the ornithopter. He firmly believed that he could design a fly using the muscle power of one of two months to construct the craft from delighted villagers eagerly anticipated the unprecedented spectacle, but the wooden "dragonfly" rose to a height of one meter and fell to the ground. The disappointed designer equipped it with a gasoline engine taken from a saw, but this, too, proved unsuccessful. Distracted, Vasili took an ax to his invention, chopping it into bits.

"Now I'm sorry I did that because the ornithopter would also be on display at the museum," the craftsman says.



TRUTHS FOUND IN TRAVELS

By Vyacheslav Khodosovsky

In the cities are men of fashion; in the provinces, men of character." This French saying came to my mind when I met Sergei Tolkachyov, a journalist and literary critic who lives in Pinsk.

His study is so tiny, there's hardly space for his desk and a couple of armchairs. The rest of the room is taken up by bookcases—his collection of titles is truly enviable—and a rack piled high with old magazines and file folders full of clippings about writers, artists and actors. Hanging on the walls are drawings (Tolkachyov is also a pretty good book illustrator), portraits of writers, and the remarkable souvenirs he has brought back from all over the country. A prominent place is occupied by a collection of well-smoked pipes, one of which is always in his hand.

"I wanted to work in Pinsk to be at a good distance from the mainstream of literary thought," Tolkachyov told me energetically, using his pipe to emphasize his remark. "Don't get me wrong—Pinsk is by no means a backwoods, and I'm in no way trying to disclaim any well-known truths. But I believe people only become really sure of their purpose in life when they come to it on their own, by trial and error. Without that experience, it is utterly impossible to write about people and for people."

Tolkachyov began questing for truth, discovering his worth, long ago. As a schoolboy, he dreamed of being a famous geographer. He was completely carried away by the romantic legend of the "Land of Sannikov" inhabited by mysterious tribes that lay somewhere beyond the Arctic Circle. He did everything to prepare himself to become an explorer. He cooked leather belts and learned to eat them and went into the woods in the foulest weather with the lightest clothing in order to toughen himself up. And yet, a new passion—one for literature—won him over. At 18, he published his first short story. He entered the philology department of a college, but unexpectedly dropped out in his fourth year despite excellent grades: "I was tired of some of my classmates who were involved in getting a higher education but they remained completely indifferent to literature."

Restless and undaunted, Tolkachyov set off on a journey through the country. Over the next few years he tried his hand at a variety of jobs. He became a raftsman, a stage hand, an artist, a member of an ethnographic expedition, a bartender and a reporter for local newspapers. All of the time he kept storing up observations and publishing short stories about the people he met along the way.

"There are two subjects I'll never stop writing about," said Tolkachyov, "ordinary people and peace, the condemnation of war. It was my father who first told me about the

suffering war brings upon people. During World War II he commanded a partisan brigade. Throughout my life I've made friends with many people who are usually thought of as plain, ordinary people—woodcutters and river boatmen, fishers and hunters, land tillers and cattle breeders. They ask me why people in different countries dig fortification trenches instead of holes to plant apple trees in. I believe my job is to write so that their protest against the threat of a new war will be heard all over the world."

Settling down in a far-off town in Polesye in order to be "at a good distance from the literary mainstream," Tolkachyov himself has become an authority in one of the areas of literary criticism.

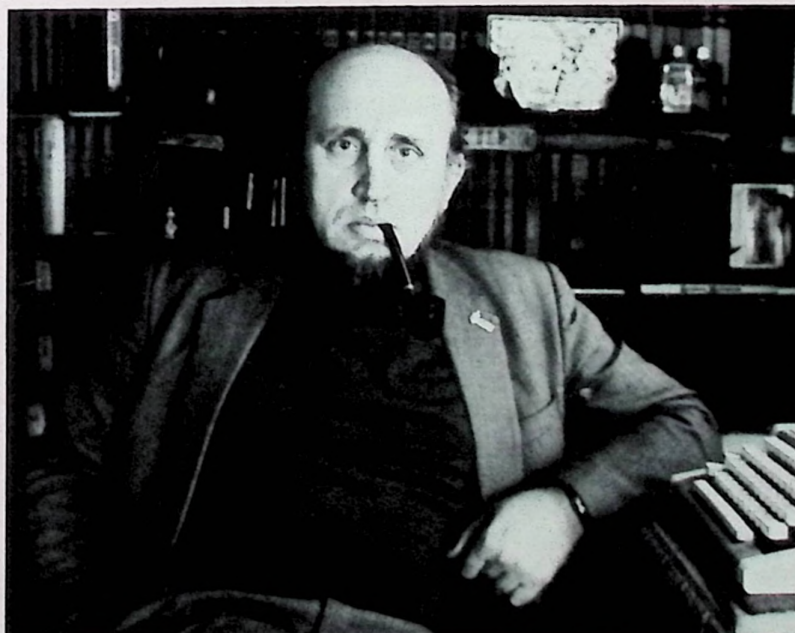
"Today, the most interesting discoveries are made in the areas where different branches of knowledge meet," says Tolkachyov. "That's why I try to combine journalism and literary criticism. I collect curious facts and anecdotes about the lives and work of various writers and artists. Then I write entertaining sketches and short stories about them. I would very much like readers, after becoming acquainted with my work, to be drawn to the bookshelves, those storehouses of wonderful thoughts."

Sergei Tolkachyov's favorite subject is Alexander Grin, the Russian writer of romantic stories and the inventor of fantastic lands inhabited by kind and strong-willed people. Even central libraries and the most well-known Grin scholars often turn to the Pinsk enthusiast, to his unique collection of materials, for assistance. His range of interests, however, is quite extensive. He's accumulated a lot of interesting data on Stevenson and Hemingway, Lermontov and

Dante, Flaubert and Cervantes, Charles de Coster and Robert Burns. To encourage as many people as possible to learn about them, Tolkachyov has set up the Slovo (Word) Club in Pinsk. The teachers, engineers, workers and students active in the club frequently hold readings in town. They've even created their own literary theater.

"I'd say that nowadays people stop being surprised at anything too quickly, stop believing in miracles, stop letting their imagination run away with them. I once attended a literature class of senior high school students. I asked them to think up an ending for a fairy tale. Only a few of the students could handle the assignment. Yet, I believe, people should have an unrestrained imagination, an unconventional mind. Without that they won't make good scientists, good writers, good engineers or even good workers."

At what age should people become respectable and settle down for good? The 43-year-old writer thinks there is no such age. And it seems that his present position in the editorial offices of one of Pinsk's newspapers may soon be vacant. Wanderlust—the unknown and the unseen—is once again calling him, inviting him, to set out on the road.



HISTORY *Continued from page 39*

workday (10 hours), a raise in pay, humane treatment, and freedom of assembly, speech and the press. That same year striking match-factory workers demanded shorter working hours and humane treatment. The strike resulted in a concession on the part of the employer, who was forced to reduce the workday from 14 to 12 hours.

- A report from the Procurator of the Minsk District Court to the Minister of Justice dated 1905 stated that the workers in the main workshops of the Poleskaya Railroad in Pinsk went on strike in early February 1905. The workers voiced the following demands: first, a reduction in working hours; second, a pay raise; third, polite treatment by the foremen and their assistants; fourth, no firings or fines for workers without the consent of worker's commission; fifth, disability allowances for all workers' families; and various other demands.



Fifty years ago the central square in Pinsk was a bustling marketplace. Today it bears the name of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet state.

"The workers of Galperin's match factory and of Chertok's tanneries went on strike on February 9. Sometimes crowds of up to 500 protesters gathered in the streets . . .," the reporter stated.

- In the period preceding World War I Pinsk developed very rapidly. A branch of a bank, a Mutual Credit Society and two savings and loan banks were opened there. Six fairs were held in town every year, at which goods totaling approximately 50,000 rubles were sold. By 1911, the population of Pinsk reached 37,700.

Then World War I took its toll. In September 1915, under the onslaught of the German armies, the Russian troops left Pinsk, and it was captured by the enemy. Trenches were dug along the shady embankment of the Pina River. A part of the population had evacuated to remote areas of Russia. The part that remained was deported to Germany to be used for labor.

- On January 25, 1919, Pinsk was liberated from the Germans by Red Army troops and partisans. The population enthusiastically welcomed the liberators, and town life began to normalize. The supplies of foodstuffs and medicines in Pinsk improved and classes in schools resumed. But it was not too long before a new threat loomed over the town. Rejecting Soviet peace proposals, Poland attacked the young Soviet republic. On March 5, 1919, the Red Army detachments left Pinsk after a fierce battle.

- A regime of cruel terror was established in the occupied town. Searches, roundups, mass arrests and executions began. It was forbidden for Pinsk residents to appear on the street after dusk or to leave the city without a special permit from the Superintendent's Office. In April 1919, 33 of the in-

habitants were shot without trial in the main square near the ancient Jesuit monastery.

- The new authorities returned the town's industrial plants to their former proprietors. A complaint lodged by the workers of the Lesze Plywood Factory with the labor inspector in 1936 describes the awful working conditions at the enterprises in town. It says that the workers, fearing dismissal, worked for 16 hours a day and without vacations for several years. The sanitary conditions were dreadful: The canteen was filthy and teeming with insects. There were no wash basins, the machinery room was dirty, and pieces of beams from the ceiling fell onto the workers' heads while they worked. There were no protective shields around the machines. Water poured through holes in the roof. There were no breaks for lunch. Pregnant women and women with babies were fired.

- When World War II began the Soviet people couldn't remain indifferent to the destinies of the fraternal peoples living in Western Byelorussia and the Western Ukraine. That's why, by decision of the Soviet Government, troops of the Red Army crossed the border to defend the life of the Byelorussians and the Ukrainians.

In September 1939 the Red Army units crossed the Yaselda River and came up to Pinsk. An archway entwined with flowers was erected in the eastern suburbs where a stadium now stands, and the townspeople formed a corridor there to welcome their liberators. In that same year Soviet government was established in all of Western Byelorussia, and it was reunified with the Byelorussian Soviet Republic once and for all and became an integral part of it.

- Pinsk was one of the first Soviet towns to be overrun by the invading armies of Nazi Germany, which treacherously attacked the USSR on June 22, 1941. Even before the Nazis entered the town, Byelorussia's first partisan detachment was organized there under the command of Vasili Korzh. Later, this detachment became a large partisan formation that consisted of 15,000 fighters who were the scourge of the Nazis. Today one of the streets in Pinsk bears the name of Vasili Korzh.

- The years of the occupation of Western Byelorussia during World War II were marked by monstrous crimes committed by the Nazis. In Pinsk Region alone, 59,084 local residents, among them 14,533 women and 6,138 children, were shot, hanged or burned alive. The Nazis set up five concentration camps and two ghettos for Jews in the town.

- A Sovinformburo bulletin dated July 14, 1944, read: ". . . The troops of the 1st Byelorussian Front forced crossings over the Yaselda and Pripyat rivers and, with the support of the Dnieper River Flotilla, seized the city of Pinsk, a regional center in Soviet Byelorussia . . ."

Liberated from the Nazis, the town of Pinsk lay in smoldering ruins—over 2,000 houses, all industrial plants and dozens of schools, hospitals and pre-school child-care centers were destroyed. Only 5,000 inhabitants out of a prewar figure of 40,000 were left in the city.

- In 1945 normal life was almost fully restored in Pinsk through the selfless efforts of the inhabitants. The ship-repair yard, the plywood factory and the port were put into operation. A hospital, an outpatient clinic and two pharmacies were opened, and studies were resumed at all general education schools, the teachers college and two junior colleges. The drama theater staged its first production, and the museum of local lore, three clubs and a movie theater were opened.

- Over the 40 years that have passed since the end of World War II, the city has undergone great changes and considerably enlarged its area. The following figures speak for themselves. It now has more than 50 industrial plants and transport and construction enterprises; 17 general education schools and a music and choreographic school; 6 junior colleges and 4 vocational schools; 12 medical institutions; over 100 shops and 40 canteens, cafés and restaurants; 2 palaces of culture and 13 clubs; 54 libraries; 40 sports arenas and gyms, 6 sports schools and 2 stadiums.

The population of Pinsk now numbers over 100,000. ■

PINSK

The city's eagerness to provide good living conditions and to improve the amenities in new residential areas has created a phenomenon. The number of couples getting married is increasing while the divorce rate is dropping. For these newlyweds the future promises happiness and prosperity.



IMPORTANT DATES IN HISTORY

July 4, 1776. The Declaration of Independence was signed in the United States of America. The Russian public heartily approved of the epoch-making document.

July 20, 1807. U.S. President Thomas Jefferson wrote to an editor in Philadelphia stating that he considered Russia the friendliest power in respect to the United States, and that Russian and American interests coincided, particularly, as far as neutral navigation was concerned.

July 1867. Ivan Turgenev's novel *Fathers and Sons* was published in New York. The translator noted in the Preface that he hoped the publication of the book in the United States would help bring the two nations together.

Turgenev's popularity in the U.S. increased with every year. Between 1868 and 1879, 21 of his works including six major novels, were published.

July 14, 1923. Soviet foreign-trade organizations concluded a treaty with an American company to import within the year a certain amount of goods, primarily agricultural and mining machinery, totaling 2.4 million rubles in gold. The treaty also envisaged the export of goods of equal value from the Soviet Union.

July 17, 1929. A delegation of 87 American businessmen arrived in Moscow. The bankers and representatives of various industrial and trading companies toured the Soviet Union for three weeks. Many delegation members displayed lively interest in dealing with Soviet organizations and expressed their willingness for business contacts.

July 1941. Harry Hopkins, adviser to U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, arrived in Moscow. His visit largely promoted Soviet-American cooperation during World War II.

July 1959. An American industrial exhibition was opened in Moscow. U.S. Vice President Richard M. Nixon attended the opening ceremony.

July 20, 1963. Soviet and American representatives signed a treaty on having a direct line connecting the two governments to facilitate and accelerate communication should an international crisis arise.

July 1968. The Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons was signed. It was prepared through joint Soviet-American efforts. Lengthy talks also resulted in the elaboration of the draft treaty on prohibiting the use of the seabed and ocean floor and the soil under it for military purposes.

July 1975. The joint Soyuz and Apollo space flight took place. It is considered a landmark in world science and in Soviet-American relations.

July 18, 1984. The Soviet participants in the Soyuz-Apollo flight, cosmonauts Alexei Leonov and Valeri Kubasov, wrote an open letter to American astronauts. In it they call upon their colleagues in the joint mission to defend peace and cooperation in space.

Peace and Friendship Among Nations

A Chronology of Youth Festivals

This summer, in July and August, Moscow will be welcoming the young people from around the world who are coming to attend the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students. The following is a record of the youth festival movement.

1947. Prague, Czechoslovakia. The 1st World Festival of Youth and Students opened on July 25. About 17,000 young people from 71 countries attended the event. The success of the festival surpassed all expectations.

1949. Budapest, Hungary. The Friendship Campfire and the 10th World Student Games highlighted the 2nd World Festival. Young people representing 90 countries attended.

1951. Berlin, the German Democratic Republic. The 3rd World Festival of Youth and Students was attended by 26,000 delegates from 104 countries. The most significant political action of the festival was the demonstration against the threat of a third world war.

1953. Bucharest, Hungary. The 4th World Festival was attended by 30,000 delegates representing young people from 111 countries.

1955. Warsaw, Poland. Participants of the 5th World Festival held a demonstration protesting the A-bomb. The slogan, "May each country have peaceful skies!" resounded throughout the world.

1957. Moscow, the USSR. The capital of the Soviet Union hosted the delegates of the 6th World Festival, more than 34,000 young people from 131 countries came. Among the highlights of this festival were the half-million-strong peace demonstration by young people and the 20 student workshops.

1959. Vienna, Austria. Delegations from 112 countries attended the 7th World Festival—the first one held in the West. It was keynoted by a demonstration for peace and friendship among nations, against the A-bomb and for disarmament and peaceful coexistence.

1962. Helsinki, Finland. The 8th World Festival was attended by representatives of 1,500 organizations from 137 countries.

1968. Sofia, Bulgaria. Twenty thousand participants from 138 countries gathered for the 9th World Festival. A forum on international politics was held within the framework of the festival.

1973. Berlin, the German Democratic Republic. The 10th World Festival was attended by 25,000 young delegates from 140 countries.

1978. Havana, Cuba. Young people from 145 countries attended the 11th World Festival. The broad spectrum of the political affiliations of the delegates marked this event. Also, there were 30 solidarity meetings attracting the delegates' attention by the scope and topicality of the problems discussed. The forum took up such important topics as peace, disarmament, détente and the rights of youth. There were also art shows, new films and athletic events.

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THE BEAT Continued from page 24

By the age of five Oleg could already play the violin, and at six he started giving recitals. Although everyone, including his father, predicted a successful career in classical music, the gifted Oleg couldn't resist the temptations of the times. The incomparable sounds of Duke Ellington and New Orleans jazz, the unruly rhythmic fantasies of the first Soviet jazz bands led by Leonid Utyosov and Eddie Rozner completely carried him away. Oleg tried to organize a jazz band from among the pupils of the music school.

The father was outraged. Joseph, who placed the classical music of Tchaikovsky and Moussogorsky above all else, suddenly felt as if a bomb had been dropped on everything he held dear. The jazz band was quickly dissolved, and the instruments were thrown into the attic. Oleg was made to play piano exercises for seven hours a day in order to prepare for entrance into a music college.

When Oleg returned to Pinsk from Brest after acquiring his certificate as a music teacher, he took over his father's position at the music school. Joseph's health had greatly deteriorated by that time because of the wounds he had sustained as a partisan. But he could still take off his old felt hat as hundreds of people in the street greeted him.

"I dream of enjoying the same prestige as my father had," admits Oleg frankly. "But my ways of teaching are quite different from his.

"Father was a teacher of the old school. I respect this, but the obligatory exercises, fugues and minuets that he insisted every student must learn bore today's youngsters. After capturing the essence and meaning of a piece, they quickly lose interest in it. Therefore, along with etudes I give them short simple fantasies of my own composition to learn in order to develop their imagination. The pieces contain various modern rhythms and harmonies. My emphasis is on improvisation. Some of the students even write their own pieces. I don't think it's as important to make professional musicians out of them as it is to teach them to appreciate music in general."

However, part of Oleg's heart still belongs to jazz and to his combo The Sounds of Time, which he has been leading for many years. Residents of Pinsk prefer motoball to any other sport and are enthusiastic fans of their local team. They are similarly devoted to their home-town jazz "idols"—The Sounds of Time.

To maintain their popularity, the group feels it must always be in the best form and a little better than required by even its most avid fans. Maybe that's why the seven members of The Sounds of Time never have any free time. They rehearse every day of the week, and sometimes late into the night. After these late rehearsals, they hurry to their jobs either on the Pinsk docks, in an artist's studio, at a plant or, like Oleg, to teach children the ABCs of music.

"I've written a new piece; let's try it," Oleg says to the group and, taking off his coat, he sits down at the piano. Then the miracle takes place: Seven musicians turn into musical magicians of jazz improvisation which, taking the most fanciful shapes, grows and fills the entire apartment. I ask Oleg's wife Yelena what she thinks about her husband's indefatigable passion for composition.

"I've learned to live with it," she replies softly. "Do you know how he cajoles me? With the jewelry he makes," she adds, stretching out her hands to me. On her fingers are three unique rings—one turquoise, one carnelian and one jasper. Noticing my admiration, she tells me that the "African" masks and the chasings gracing the walls of their apartment have all been made by Oleg.

"If he weren't a musician, he would make an excellent jeweler or artist," I remark.

"True, but that's absolutely out of the question!" says Yelena resolutely. "He wouldn't be able to live a day without his pupils and improvisations."

"What about your six-year-old son? What does he think about music?"

"He's not particularly fond of it. He prefers mechanics, which wouldn't be bad for a change." ■

NUCLEAR-AGE MENTALITY

By Fyodor Burlatsky

NEVER before has the need for humanity to grasp the new realities of our nuclear age been so urgent. This is the first time in history that humankind can actually lose the Sun and the Earth, and lose them irretrievably, forever. It would appear that such an ominous threat would have changed people's consciousness altogether and made them reassess the meaning of their existence and the nature of their relationship with others, with Mother Earth, the Sun and the universe.

That was the first thought that came to mind when I read the title of the book *Novoe myshlenie v iadernye vek* (*New Mentality in the Nuclear Age*) by Anatoli Gromyko and Vladimir Lomeiko.

New Concepts

The authors have found the right words. Humankind does need a new mentality if it doesn't want to disappear from the face of the Earth like its predecessors—the mammoth, dinosaur and perhaps some other creatures—disappeared for unclear, mysterious reasons.

As a matter of fact, this isn't the first time humanity has faced the need to radically change its thinking. That was the case when man conquered fire, which had been an object of dread and a cause of disaster. Or when he realized that the Earth revolved around the Sun, and not vice versa. Or when he discovered that he was not the sublime creation of the universe but, as scientists assured him, the distant relative of an ape that stood on its hind legs and that had evolved in many ways before becoming a human being.

That's enough about the past. Let's now turn to the future. Anatoli Gromyko and Vladimir Lomeiko are absolutely right when they state that never before has the need for humanity to change its mentality been so great. This is particularly applicable to international relations. The Soviet class-based approach toward international relations is the basis for a universal approach because the USSR has consistently advocated preventing a nuclear war. The traditional values that have been accepted for centuries, the concepts of war and peace formulated by the Roman emperors, all that military "wisdom," has been turned upside down by the nuclear age. Past concepts, for example, those in George Orwell's book *1984*, have been turned inside out.

What is war? In the past it was a battle to defeat an enemy. Today a nuclear war is a method of self-destruction. The only comforting hope is that your enemy will also perish.

What is peace? In the past it was a period of friendly relations between peoples and countries. Today it is a time of frenzied stockpiling of thermonuclear weapons capable of guaranteeing absolute destruction of all life.

What are our children? Are they simply creatures we give birth to, only for them to be burned up in a nuclear explosion with a temperature of 10 million degrees?

Sounds horrible, doesn't it? Yet, this is the reality of the nuclear age, the potential reality so far.

Personal Recollections

The style of writing in *New Mentality in the Nuclear Age* and the way its authors, two leading journalists specializing in international affairs, make their point are very appealing. The writing is im-

mensely personal, sincere and emotional. In the beginning of the book we are given the life stories of two men whose fates are typical of the generation of Soviet people who experienced World War II.

This is what Gromyko writes about his life:

Our family lost two uncles, my father's brothers, in the war against the Nazis. Uncle Alexei was killed defending a Baltic republic, and Uncle Fyodor was killed liberating Byelorussia. My father's third brother, Dmitri, who was a partisan fighting the Nazis in Byelorussia, escaped death by a hair's breadth when he was on a reconnaissance mission. . . .

Then it is Lomeiko's turn to reminisce:

I was in Leningrad during the war, and the hunger in the blockaded city is one of my recurring childhood memories.

It is a picture of my mother, me and my two-year-old brother sitting at an enormous clean table. It is winter. On the table covered with a white tablecloth are three thin slices of bread. They look so tiny. We look at them in silence. Mother moves a withered piece of bread toward each of us, but she does not eat her piece. Trying not to let a single crumb fall, she carefully puts her piece on the thin, transparent palm of her two-year-old son. He looks at her with wide-open eyes and silently puts the bread in front of his mother.

This moving foreword fits in well with the general context of the book. The authors manage to find many new ways to describe unprecedented realities.

The Main Idea

What is the main idea of the book? I would formulate it this way: It is an attempt to prove there is a need to give up the traditional system of international relations for a system that would cause the ideology and policy of deterrence, the futile plans to strengthen one's security by producing even more horrifying weapons and the inability to arrange cooperation and seek compromise agreements to be abandoned.

The authors' insight into postwar history in itself is valuable. They trace the nuclear arms race from its beginning and make an in-depth analysis of the philosophy, ideology and psychology behind it. They recall their meetings with prominent Western leaders, present their arguments, and build a strong case against the strategy that serves to justify the arms race and the policy of deterrence.

The argument that the new technological revolution makes modernization of arms inevitable is no justification for the arms race. The authors maintain that people who possess a sensible attitude toward the problem can find ways of reaching agreement on freezing not only arms production but also arms research and modernization.

The concluding chapters of the book are particularly interesting. In them the authors ask the question "What must be done to survive?" and provide the following answer: Mutual security guarantees the security of each side and the security of the world as a whole. They call for the renunciation of bloc mentality in favor of a global mentality. That is the conclusion drawn in their book.

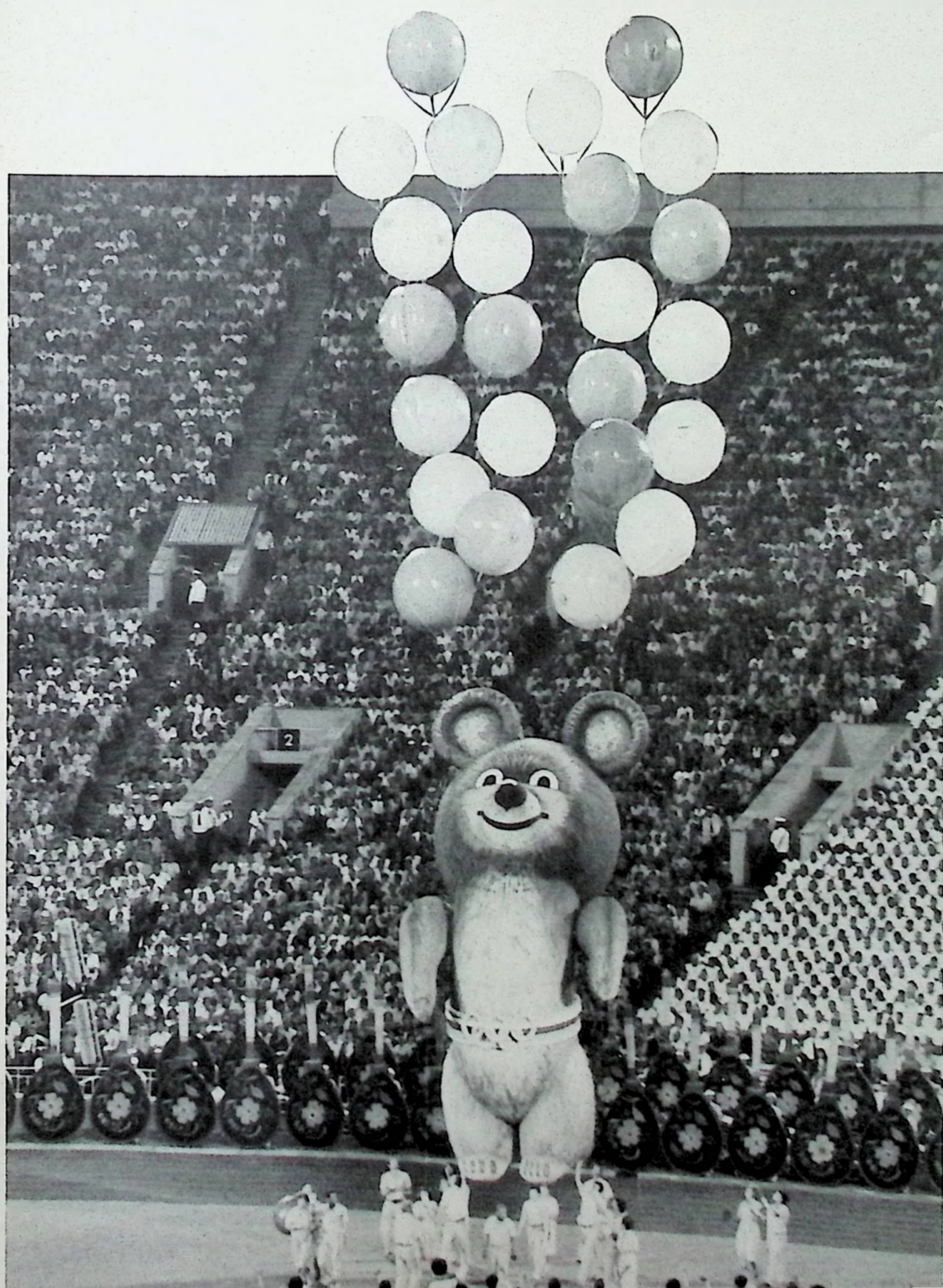
The authors have faith in human reason and brotherhood. They call on people around the world to assume mutual responsibility for the future of our planet.

Surrounded by multicolored balloons, Misha, the mascot of the 1980 Olympics, rose gently into the Moscow sky, signifying the end of the Summer Games. But the spirit of the event lives on in the hearts of people.

MOSCOW OLYMPICS

STILL REMEMBERED

By Anatoli Srebnitsky



The 1980 Summer Olympics were more than just a festival of sports for the people of Moscow and people throughout the Soviet Union. They were a thing of honor. This isn't just idle talk. Young people from cities and towns and villages all over the country offered

to work for the Games without pay as builders or in the service areas. The Organizing Committee spent a lot of time reading the many thousands of letters that poured in containing proposals and recommendations.

The bear cub Misha, the mascot of the Moscow Olympics, didn't disappear after the Games. He lives on in the hearts and minds of people. Although, according to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Rules, an Olympic city, not an Olympic country, is assigned the task of staging the Games, the 1980 Summer Olympics were prepared by everyone in the Soviet Union.

In one of his public speeches Juan Antonio Samaranch, who, in Moscow, was elected the eighth president of the IOC, stressed that the tremendous number of records set in Moscow shows that the athletes had an opportunity to compete under the best possible conditions, and this enabled them to attain unheard-of results in some sports.

"Olympics for Man"

Olympic Games are unthinkable without records and brilliant performances, but the heart of the matter does not boil down to the records. Well-known Italian film director Romolo Marcellini voiced the view that the Moscow Olympics would go down in history as the "Olympics for Man." He was referring to the spirit of kindness and compassion that reigned at the Games in the Soviet capital. The following are a few examples from old notebooks.

Alexander Portnov, 19, of the Soviet Union, and experienced Italian athlete Franco Cagnotto were in hot competition for the gold in diving. It was Franco's fifth Olympics and, to all appearances, his last chance to win an Olympic gold. As Portnov began his eighth dive, the spectators suddenly burst into ▶

Athletes from 81 countries competed at the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. Olympic medals went to 36 countries (gold medals went to 25). World records alone numbered 36, and continental and national records were difficult to count.

applause for the brilliant performance of Martina Jaschke from the German Democratic Republic in the adjoining pool. This caused Portnov, who was already in the air at that moment, to falter.

For Cagnotto, the road to victory was open. But the Italian athlete, gesturing frantically, ran up to the judges and began to persuade them that the burst of applause had hampered his rival's performance. The chief judge allowed the Soviet athlete to repeat his dive. As a result, Portnov emerged as the champion ahead of Cagnotto.

While Soviet athlete Sergei Kulibaba was performing a pole vault, his pole broke. The first person to run up to him was his main competitor, Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz from Poland. He helped Sergei get to his feet, asked whether he was hurt and gave him his own pole. Kozakiewicz finished on top in that contest with a new world record.

"After jumping 197 centimeters and evidently ensuring my win, I gave way under the strain and broke into tears," said Sara Simeoni from Italy, champion in the women's high jump. "My main rival, Rosemarie Ackermann, of the German Democratic Republic, did her best to comfort me though she herself had every reason to cry because she had lost."

In a statement at his first official news conference IOC President Samaranch stressed that the International Olympic Committee had not received one protest and that the IOC Medical Commission and its antidoping control service had not discovered a single violation of the rules during the Games.

The Passage of Time

Athletes from 81 countries competed in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. Olympic medals went to 36 countries (gold medals went to 25). World records alone numbered 36, and continental and national records were difficult to count.

A list of the top 10 athletes of the Moscow Games was compiled based on the results of a poll taken after the Olympics among 22 world and national news agencies. It came out as follows:

1. Vladimir Salnikov, Soviet Union, swimming.
2. Gerd Wessig, German Democratic Republic, high jump.
3. Teofilo Stevenson, Cuba, boxing.
4. Miruts Yifter, Ethiopia, long-distance running.
5. Sebastian Coe, Great Britain, middle-distance running.
6. Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz, Poland, pole vault.
7. Lutz Dombrowski, German Democratic Republic, long jump.
8. Yuri Vardanyan, Soviet Union, weightlifting.
9. Sara Simeoni, Italy, high jump.
10. Pertti Karppinen, Finland, rowing.

Where are the heroes of the 1980 Moscow Olympics now?

The sports careers of the champions don't last long nowadays because top-flight sports involve incredibly exhausting strain, both physical and psychological. Let's see whether this fact is indisputable—the five years that have passed since the Moscow Olympics is a rather long period of time in sports.

Long-distance runner Miruts Yifter and even the great Cuban boxer Teofilo Stevenson, who seemed he would be invincible for many years to come, have both ceded their positions under the onslaught of young newcomers.

Gerd Wessig, the 20-year-old cook from Schweirin, whose world record of 236 centimeters in the high jump was one of the biggest stories at the Moscow Olympics, now, at the age of 25, can still jump 230 centimeters and higher, but the new stars have surpassed him. The new world record, set by Zhu Jianhua from the People's Republic of China, now stands at 239 centimeters. Similar jumps are also being made now in indoor stadiums. For instance, the indoor record of the Soviet Union, established by Valeri Sereda in 1984, is one centimeter over Gerd's former world mark.

Pole vaulter Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz's sports career after the Games was much the same as that of Wessig. The vault of 578 centimeters that brought him the Olympic laurels in Moscow seemed fantastic. But it took only four years to add more than 15 centimeters to it. Sergei Bubka from the Ukrainian city of Donetsk has cleared the bar at 594 centimeters, only six centimeters under the six-meter mark. Although at the age of 32 (he's 11 years older than the new record holder) Kozakiewicz can still vault as high as before, this only allows him to keep at the level of tenth in the world.

The brilliant high jumper Sara Simeoni, the darling of the Moscow audiences, won the Olympic title with a jump of 197 centimeters. She reached 200 centimeters in 1984. But the 32-year-old athlete can't even dream of the heights achieved by Tamara Bykova, 26, from the Soviet Union (205 centimeters) and the new holder of the world record (207 centimeters), Lyudmila Andonova, 24, from Bulgaria.

Long jumper Lutz Dombrowski is still well under veteran age—he'll turn 26 this year. He finished tops at the Moscow Olympics with a new European record of 854 centimeters and has stayed at the same level, which enabled him to take a high—third—place in the world's rating list for 1984. But he's still far away from the world record (890 centimeters), while Carl Lewis from the United States has recently come close to it (879 centimeters).

Time marches on but, as we now see, some champions are able to resist it successfully.

Vladimir Salnikov, winner of three titles at the Moscow Olympics in freestyle swimming and No. 1 in the ratings at the Games, has not ceded ground in the past five years. The Leningrader, who is now 25, continues to break records and remains unequalled in the classical 400-meter and 1,500-meter freestyle events.

"This is fantastic! After what Yuri Vardanyan has done, I don't even dare to think of the limits of human potential. There is no limit!" This comment came from Gottfried Shoedl, president of the International Weightlifting Federation, after a performance by the famed Soviet weightlifter at the Moscow Olympics. The expert's admiration was certainly well grounded. Vardanyan, who stunned the sports world by reaching the 400-kilogram mark in the two-lift total in the 82.5 kilogram weight class, beat his mark after the Olympics and now, being the indis-

putable leader in his weight category, says, like the president, that he sees no limit to man's potential. A year after his triumph in the Soviet capital, Sebastian Coe, who made a great impression on Moscow sports lovers, beat the world record in the 800 meters and also took second place in the 1984 ratings in the 1,500 meters. The athlete, who will soon be 29, thinks about going for more.

Last but not least, there's rower Pertti Karppinen, champion of the Montreal and Moscow Games, who also finished tops in Los Angeles. The only other athlete to have won three Olympic titles in the men's single sculls is Vyacheslav Ivanov from the Soviet Union, who came in first at the Games in Melbourne, Rome and Tokyo.

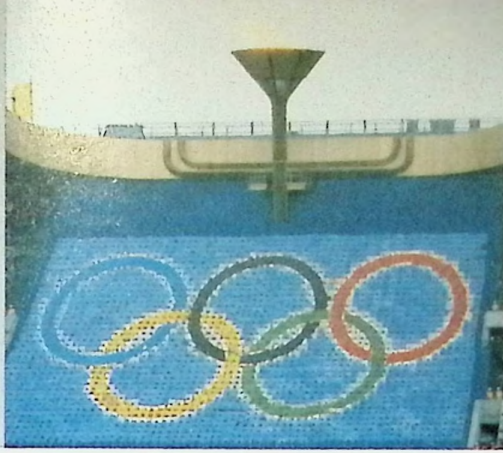
As we see, for some the Moscow Olympics marked the brilliant end of a sports career, for others they meant the rise to the pinnacle of sports and a springboard to further successes, and for still others they served as an excellent opportunity to mark their class and to make further headway in the top rankings of big-time sports.

The Moscow Olympics Continue

Apart from the training arenas and the old sports facilities that were modernized, Moscow built 10 large stadiums for the Games. They were sited across the capital in such a way that each of them would become the heart of a city district—the architects were also thinking of the future. The idea was that the new sports centers would not simply remain architectural monuments to the Olympics but would serve as centers of sports activities for the surrounding areas.

All of the Olympic facilities in Moscow (and they all meet international standards) are now in operation. They are used for city competitions and national and international contests, world championships included. Field hockey games are played in the immense demonstration arena of the Olympic Sports Palace during the summer. Swimming lessons for children and fitness training groups for adults have been organized at the swimming pool which is part of the sports center. At the Bitsa Equestrian Center you can rent a horse for riding. A riding school for adolescents has been set up there. Aerobics, which has become quite the in-thing, physical fitness groups for the elderly, school physical education classes, and more meet in the first-class sports arenas that were used by the Olympic athletes five years ago. A large sports center with various facilities was built in the southwestern part of Moscow. In 1980 it was used for training by athletes from 81 countries, who lived in the Olympic Village during the Games. Today the Olympic Village is a residential area of Moscow.

I think it is most relevant to say here, though it may seem to be a purely domestic matter, that the 1980 Summer Olympics gave a powerful impetus to the development and popularity of physical education and sports among the residents of Moscow. This is just one more result of the Moscow Olympics that has not been officially recorded anywhere. In this sense, it's safe to say that the 1980 Olympics are continuing in the Soviet Union. ■

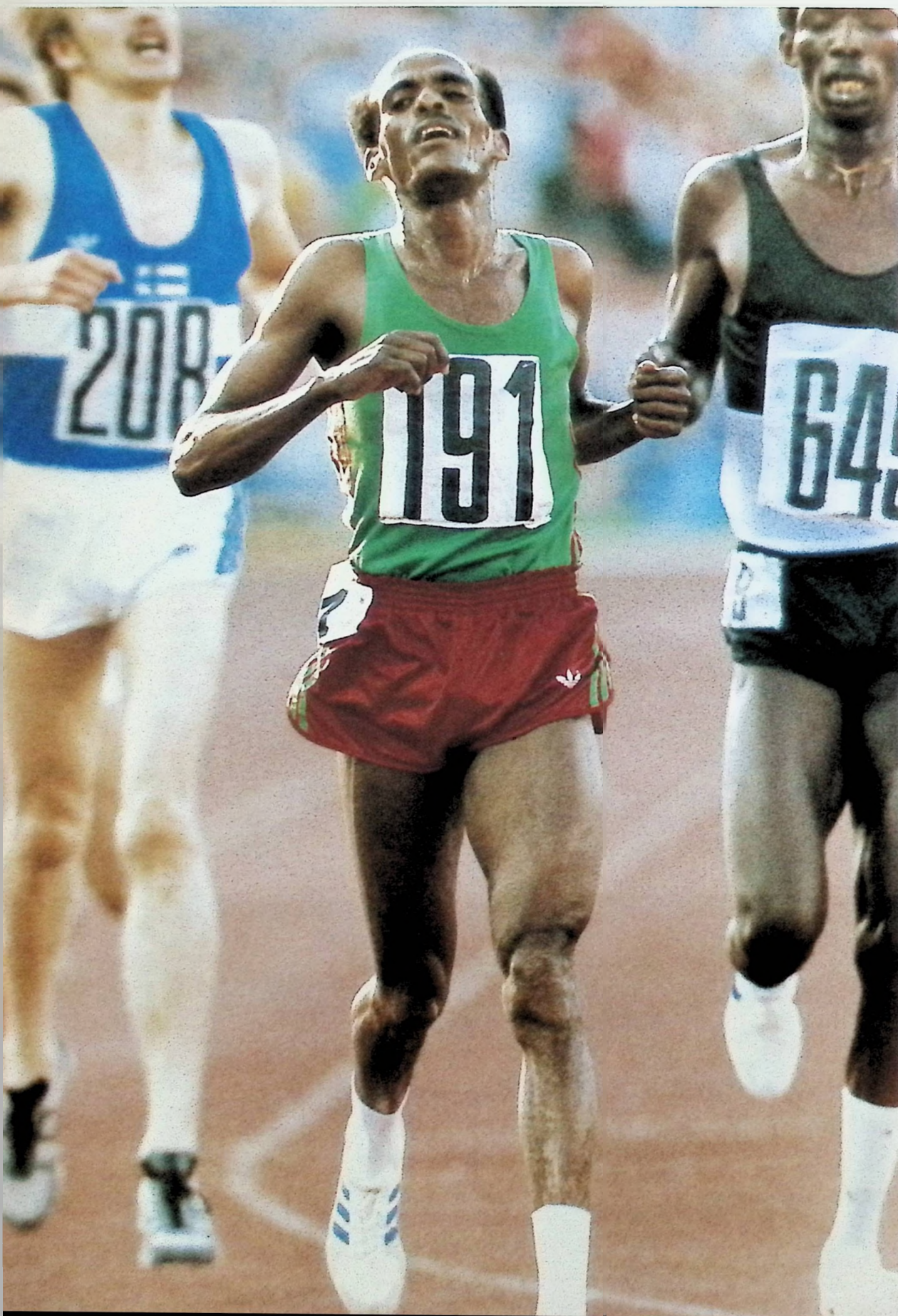


The magnificent opening ceremony of the 22nd Olympics in Moscow. The 100,000 spectators in the Lenin Central Stadium of Luzhniki, where the Olympic flame was lit, were seized by a fervent desire for unity and brotherhood among all peoples. Below: The harbor on Tallinn Bay. It was there, at the Pirita Yachting Center, that the Olympic regatta was held. Bottom: The cycling competition in the Moscow suburb of Krylatskoye.



OLYMPICS

Miruts Yifter won two gold medals in the 5,000- and the 10,000-meter runs. Below: The Soviet women's basketball team took the gold; the Bulgarian took the silver. Facing page, top: Judo wrestlers. Bottom: The rowing event at Krylatskoye.







Weightlessness was no hindrance to Soviet-American cooperation in orbit. The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project was a success.

Above: The Soviet and American crews. Below: Stafford, Leonov and Slayton.



It will be 10 years this month since the successful Soviet-American space mission known as the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) took place. For both countries, and for humanity in general, it was a historic event. It was an outstanding example of willingness to cooperate, to promote understanding among nations and to work for peace on our planet and in outer space. SOVIET LIFE correspondent Alexander Tropkin talks with cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, commander of the Soyuz crew that took part in the joint venture.

As you enter Alexei Leonov's spacious apartment in Stellar Town, outside Moscow, you're immediately struck by the large number of mementos of events that took place 10 or more years ago. The small study where the cosmonaut, who is 51, paints is crammed with books and canvases. The room is dominated by a huge easel with a recently painted canvas of a winter landscape and a portrait of the world's first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, who smiles from the wall at the occasional intruder. Next to it is a familiar photograph of that bold trio of American astronauts—Thomas Stafford, Donald Slayton and Vance Brand—and the Soyuz crew, which was made up of Leonov and Valeri Kubasov. There are innumerable presents and souvenirs, pins from American friends, an American flag that went to the Moon and back, the famous emblem of the Soyuz and Apollo spaceships docked in outer space and a commemorative plate with the same emblem.

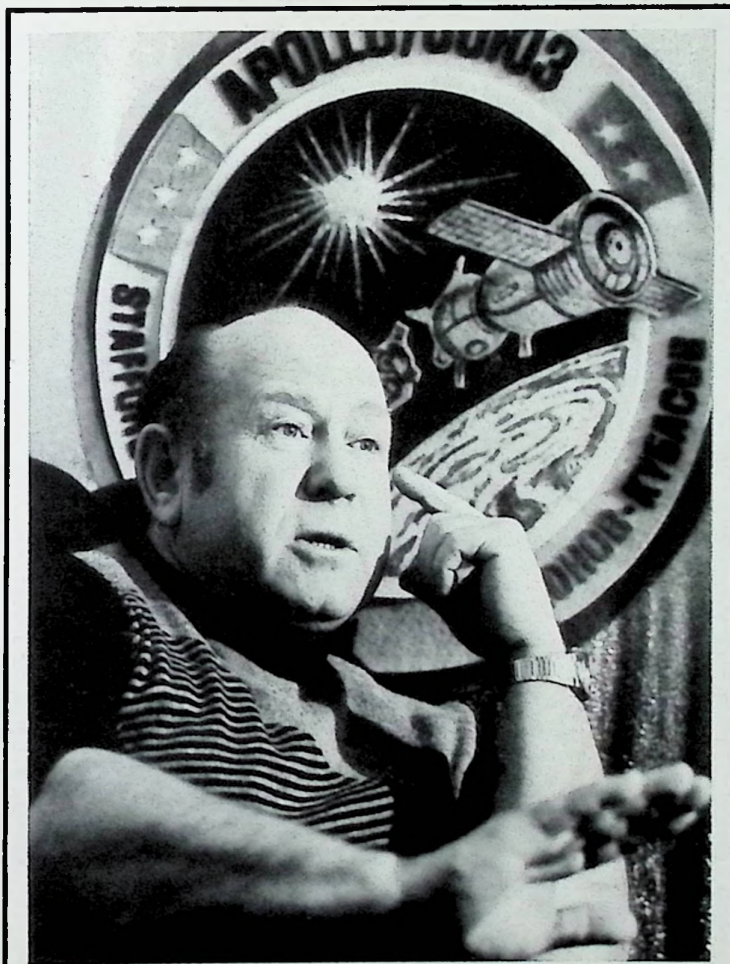
The Leonovs' apartment is filled with this stuff. As soon as we began to talk about the good old days, my host got out hundreds of photos from his family albums, shots of unforgettable moments during joint training sessions, snaps of conversations around the table, close encounters between cosmonauts and astronauts, their families in Moscow and Washington, in Stellar Town and at the Houston Space Center. The pictures erase the 10 long years, as if they never were, offering us intriguing details of that historic handshake in orbit.

Before Leonov took part in the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) he had flown a spacecraft only once. He belongs to the first generation of Soviet cosmonauts for whom the minimum qualifications were very tough. They had to have perfect skills in flying jet aircraft and to be in top physical condition. Leonov went on his first space mission at the age of 31 and almost immediately became the most popular cosmonaut, second only to Yuri Gagarin. In March 1965 the world watched televised reports about this man—the first to venture outside a space vehicle and "walk" in open space—with excitement and adoration. After the death of Yuri Gagarin, who had been a close friend of Leonov's for many years, he was promoted to Gagarin's post of deputy chief of the Cosmonaut Training Center.

Leonov: To tell you the truth, I had been waiting for the moment when both nations, which were individually exploring outer space, would begin to pool their efforts. I never thought then that I would be lucky enough to take part in an international mission. I had been working on improvements in the design of our orbital stations, and I was hoping to fly one of them. When the Soviet Union and the United States signed an agreement on cooperation in exploring outer space in 1972 and the ASTP project was conceived, which was some time later, I

HANDSHAKE IN ORBIT

Photographs by Vitali Arutyunov



"The successful Soyuz-Apollo space flight was only the first step toward Soviet-American cooperation in space exploration. It should be followed by other, more confident strides," says cosmonaut Alexei Leonov.

took part in mapping out programs for the joint mission as one of the chiefs of the Cosmonaut Training Center. With so much work to do, I never dreamed that I would be able to be part of it all.

Then one day I was called before the board and told that Valeri Kubasov and I were to be part of the group preparing for the ASTP flight. I had known Valeri for many years. We had worked together for a long time, and we had learned to understand each other almost at a glance. Kubasov is indeed an experienced engineer and a good friend. I couldn't think of a better assistant. And so we joined the Soviet ASTP team, which had already been working hard for six months to prepare for the joint flight,

training, studying technology and learning English.

Tropkin: Were you confronted by any problems while preparing for the joint mission?

Leonov: Of course, I was. My poor knowledge of English was one of the worst problems. I had no doubts about my technical knowledge or physical fitness, but my English was a disaster. My elder daughter, who had been taking English at school for several years, would laugh at seeing her father trapped in the jungles of grammar and vocabulary nine hours a day. A year later I knew English better than she did, and I could converse freely. I was able to hold my news conferences before the launch and after the mission without the help of an interpreter. I still remember how the Americans praised my English.

Tropkin: What did you know about your future flight partners, the American astronauts?

Leonov: I first met Tom Stafford in Moscow in 1971 under tragic circumstances. He had come to the Soviet Union to express his condolences on behalf of American astronauts over the death of the crew of Soyuz 11—Georgi Dobrovolsky, Vladislav Volkov and Victor Patsayev. I was asked to accompany him. I couldn't speak English at the time, but as Tom's guide I had to explain things and talk to him. After a few hours with Tom, I realized that he was a kind and sensitive man. I don't know how we understood each other then, but we somehow managed to discuss a lot of things.

Later, all of our guys appreciated Stafford's fun-loving nature. Tom is from Oklahoma, and of course he has an Oklahoma accent. When Kubasov and I visited the hospitable Staffords at their home after the flight, Tom's wife Faina said she couldn't imagine how we managed to communicate so freely with her husband. I've been married to him for 25 years, she told me, and I can't always understand what he says. You've got to go into outer space with him just once, I explained to her.

I had met Donald (or Deke) Slayton and Vance Brand about two years before our joint mission. We, too, managed to find a common language quickly. Deke is rather quiet. We had a lot of respect for his heroism as a military pilot during World War II and his perseverance in making his way onto the astronauts crew, and we soon saw that he was a top-class pilot and really knew what he was doing.

We unanimously decided to call Brand "Vanya," the Russian way. Vance impressed us as a very kind, cordial and polite man. What's more, he showed a rare ability to learn Russian, and we often talked with him in Russian.

Tropkin: Do you think there were any substantial differences between the Soviet and American training programs?

Leonov: I don't think there were any. We visited their training center at Houston and saw simulators there that looked very much like ours; nor was its visualization system any different from ours. Per-

haps, we pay more attention to planned physical exercise for our crews, to training the cosmonauts' system of balance. This approach has proved worthwhile, particularly when a person has to live for a long time in conditions of zero gravity. We willingly shared our methods with American experts.

While studying the American equipment at Houston, I made an unexpected discovery: Although the Soviet and American designers had vastly different methods, they arrived at the same result. In fact, Soyuz differed little from Apollo in its propulsion, controls and location of engines. The outward appearance and the air mixture of both ships were perhaps the only exceptions. But as far as I know, the Americans are now using our methods for creating an air mixture close to the one back on Earth in their orbiting station, instead of the one that they had used on Apollo ships. It had a low pressure of 500 millimeters and a high percentage of oxygen in it, which made it prone to catching fire.

Tropkin: Preparing for the flight, learning the technology and each other's language, as well as doing the physical exercises took up a lot of both crews' time. Nonetheless, you also had some leisure time that you spent together. Would you comment on that?

Leonov: It's true we didn't have much time for rest and relaxation then. So when we got together in the gym, we really let go. The Americans are tall fellows, and when we played basketball, they always won. But in soccer our team was invincible, and the Americans always lost by a big margin.

During the more than two years that we prepared for the flight, we spent a lot of time together, going on picnics, having dinner parties and visiting each other. Each time the Americans displayed a lively interest in our way of life and always wanted to know more about it. It was a manifestation of genuine affection.

Tropkin: Can you describe how you felt immediately before the launch?

Leonov: I think the dominant feeling was one of responsibility. We knew that we were carefully being watched by everyone in our vast country and by all of America as well. We wanted to carry out the assignment that we had been entrusted with perfectly. I think the Americans felt the same way.

Tropkin: Was the launch itself smooth?

Leonov: Not quite. Before liftoff we learned that one of our TV cameras had broken down. We decided to repair it in orbit. While we were fixing the camera and getting acclimated to the ship, the Americans started off. They were put into orbit seven and a half hours after us. When we communicated with Apollo, we welcomed our colleagues, and we learned that they too had been having some troubles—a hatch in the command module was stuck. After both crews had corrected the malfunctions,

we began docking. I heard Tom Stafford's voice over the radio: "We are quite close!" I was looking hard, but I couldn't see anything. To our great joy, the American ship turned up suddenly, as if coming up from underneath. We docked without any problems and began preparing for transfer.

Tropkin: How did the first meeting take place?

Soyuz-Apollo mission and the crews' research program. Would you outline the most important points?
Leonov: We got some interesting results while trying to produce new alloys in zero gravity and experimenting with primitive bioorganisms and plants. But what crowned the Soviet-American effort was the experiment simulating a solar eclipse.

When our ships undocked, I steered our Soyuz manually, while the departing Apollo moved away to a preplanned distance. The Apollo was then put exactly between us and the Sun to simulate a total eclipse so that we could photograph the halo of the Sun's corona using special equipment. Because it's impossible to take photographs like that from the Earth's surface, astronomers from both countries admitted that our experiment was unique. We obtained equally valuable data for astrophysicists by estimating the density of atoms of oxygen and hydrogen in near-Earth space.

Tropkin: How did the Soviet and American crews get along in orbit?

Leonov: There was complete mutual understanding. Although our schedule was tough and we had a large number of experiments to carry out, we always had time for a good laugh. One time when we gathered for dinner, Kubasov and I proposed that we all drink to the successful mission. Tom and Deke were delighted when we gave them tubes marked "Russian Vodka" and the famous "Stolichnaya." After toasts were made, all of us "had a drink," and the Americans were slightly disappointed to find that the tubes contained, of all things, Ukrainian borsch.

Tropkin: The joint mission was undoubtedly much more than a mere episode in Soviet-American relations. Walter Cronkite said that it was made possible by détente alone and that it clearly indicated the spectacular results that could be attained through cooperation. How do you assess the significance of the joint mission now that 10 years have elapsed?

Leonov: It would seem that everything has been said and written about our flight. It has been, indeed, described in every possible way by politicians, diplomats, journalists and the participants themselves. It was unanimously praised. And yet

the older the ASTP program gets, the more important it appears to us.

I think that the flight is a major landmark in the history of Soviet-American relations, like the historic meeting between our soldiers on the Elbe River during World War II.

Tropkin: Everyone would like to hope that Soviet-American cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space will continue in the future and that it will be elevated to a new level. What kind of joint space project could be undertaken in the forthcoming decade?

Leonov: To my mind, our countries could benefit if



Top: In keeping with a long-standing tradition in Stellar Town, each cosmonaut plants a tree after a journey into space. The Soviet-American crew was no exception. The birch saplings planted by the cosmonauts and astronauts 10 years ago are now big trees. **Bottom:** During their trip to the Soviet Union the American astronauts had many interesting encounters. In the photo Tom Stafford presents a gold cup to the best jockey at the Moscow cart track.

Leonov: When I opened the hatch of our transfer compartment, the first thing I saw was Tom Stafford's broad smile and the beaming face of Deke Slayton behind him. Before receiving the guests, we held something of a ceremony—a handshake on the "border." The borderline had been drawn on the transfer hatch. After saluting the American crew, I pulled Tom and Deke into our ship. For about five hours the Americans worked on board Soyuz, and then we gave a dinner in their honor. The next day I visited Apollo, and Vance Brand came to see us.

Tropkin: A lot was written back then about the

The Leonovs often reminisce about their get-togethers with American astronauts and their families. Alexei and his wife Svetlana treasure those moments. Their collection of hundreds of snapshots helps them recall every detail of the events that took place 10 years ago.

they were to cooperate in creating permanent settlements on the Moon. Both the Soviet Union and the United States have everything they need for the purpose, including propulsion facilities and orbiting stations to be used as go-betweens from the lunar orbit. That way it would be much easier to send people to get accustomed to living on the Moon. A project like this could be undertaken by the Soviet Union and the United States in eight to 10 years' time.

There could also be a joint Soviet-American mission to Mars, including landing people on that planet. Such a project would require a lot of training, but technically it is quite possible.

Tropkin: This is, indeed, a very tantalizing project. Would you personally like to take part in such a project?

Leonov: Of course, it would be very interesting, and my experience would permit me to do it, but keeping fit all of that time is also very important.

Tropkin: Ten years is quite a long time. What changes have occurred in your life since then?

Leonov: A wise man once said that a person's age can best be determined by looking at his children. That's the case with me. My elder daughter recently graduated from a university. She's an economist, specializing in international affairs. My younger daughter goes to college. I'm not doing too badly myself. Five years ago I defended my candidate's thesis, and I hope soon to have my doctorate. I have been named an honorary member of the Paris-based International Academy of Astronautics. The long Soviet-American effort has resulted in the creation of the International Organization of Cosmonauts and Astronauts. I was a strong supporter of the idea and did a lot to translate it into reality. In 1984 we set up the organization. My duties as deputy chief of the Cosmonaut Training Center also compel me to do a lot of work.

"If I were asked whether I'd like to go into space with the same crew, I'd answer in the affirmative," says cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, commander of the Soyuz crew.

In spite of it all, I've never abandoned my favorite hobby—painting. I still do a lot of painting when I have the time, and my pictures have been displayed at dozens of exhibits in Paris, Washington, D.C., New York, Prague, Bratislava, Belgrade and in many cities in our country.

Tropkin: Perhaps your American astronaut friends will read this interview. What would you like to wish them?

Leonov: Most of all, I would like to wish them good health. The older I get, the more I realize how important health is. I wish my American friends and colleagues good health and hope they will use it to promote the best human qualities and mutual understanding. ■



THE APOLLO-SOYUZ TEST PROJECT— TEN YEARS LATER

The beneficial influence of that joint project goes far beyond the framework of cooperation and includes spheres that don't seem to be linked to it in any way, building up mutual confidence.

Time goes by so quickly. It seems as though it was only yesterday that we were rejoicing at the success of the Soyuz-Apollo space experiment. Scientists and experts were summing up the results, while readers of newspapers and periodicals were waiting for the details of the six-day flight. But time is unyielding. New space heroes have come into the limelight to replace the participants of the flight and the reports about their tours of the Soviet Union and the United States. The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project has become history.

A retrospective look at those unforgettable summer days of 1975 reveals that this wasn't just one of the many international research expeditions. It was a landmark in the history of cooperation among peoples that has tangibly enriched humankind's political experience. The main conclusion that it suggests is surprisingly simple: Cooperation is advantageous to everyone and always promotes the improvement of the political atmosphere. The beneficial influence of that joint project goes far beyond the framework of cooperation and includes spheres that don't seem to be linked to it in any way, building up mutual confidence.

Considerations of expediency pale in significance against the backdrop of this time-tested conclusion, and momentary advantages are relegated to the background.

A decade is both a lot of time and not much time. However, during these past 10 years humankind has not marked time. Space technology has made rapid progress. These years have seen the record-breaking flights of the Salyut space station, international crews in space and scientific experiments with the participation of several countries. The most recent project is Vega*, the Venus-Halley Project, in which Soviet scientists are pooling their efforts with their counterparts from a number of countries, including the United States.

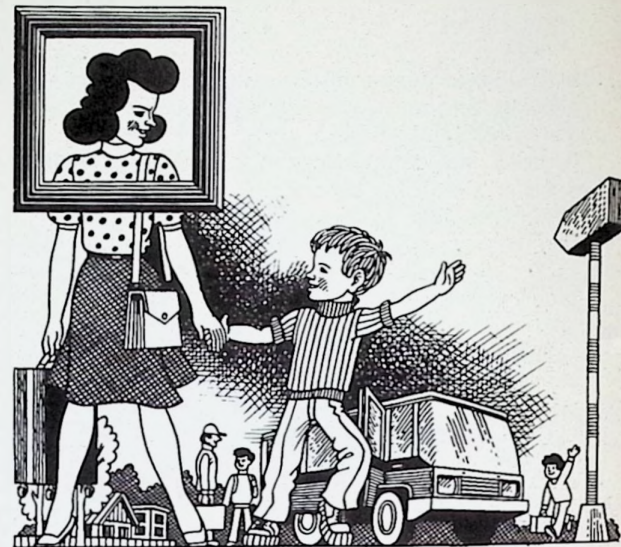
One more conclusion suggests itself in this context: Cooperation and confrontation are mutually exclusive. Proceeding from this assumption, the Soviet Union introduced a draft resolution at the Thirty-ninth Session of the UN General Assembly on the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful aims, for the benefit of mankind. This document says in no uncertain terms that the guaranteed pre-

vention of the militarization of outer space would ensure the opportunity for its peaceful exploration and use for the solution of major problems of economic, social and cultural development and would enable nations to pool their efforts in this field, including the establishment of a world organization for the use of space for the benefit of humankind. The General Assembly adopted a corresponding resolution on the basis of the Soviet proposal. This is still more evidence of the fact that the course toward the peaceful use of outer space in the interests of all humankind meets with the approval and support of the majority of the world's nations. This is also part of the experience of the Soyuz-Apollo flight.

There's one more consequence of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. Soviet participants in the flight—both cosmonauts and ground station personnel—recall their joint work with American colleagues, the conversations during brief breaks in work and meetings in the United States and the Soviet Union. Communication in the course of joint work always improves understanding between people and enriches their knowledge about the culture, history and traditions of another country. It implies a joint effort to overcome difficulties and to help each other, just as was the case during the historic events of the past war. It was no accident that the Soyuz-Apollo linkup in space reminded many of the linkup of the victorious soldiers of our two countries on the Elbe River 40 years ago.

And, finally, the last point. The experience of the last 10 years challenges us with a choice of further development. Strictly speaking, there is only one rational choice. "The Earth is the cradle of mankind, but mankind cannot live in the cradle forever," wrote the prominent Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, the father of cosmonautics. Humankind is actually trying to get out of its cradle. It is making first steps in space. But it can move ahead only if space is peaceful, if it benefits all humankind. The stars and the heavens should be a source of admiration, not fear. The militarization of outer space must be prevented.

A short anniversary article is no place for a lengthy discussion. On occasions like these people usually talk about past events, about all of the good things that they remember. The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project is part of humankind's historical experience. It is to be hoped people will use it correctly. ■



IHAVE always prided myself on being able to keep my temper. But when my husband came home from work one day and said that we had to put off the vacation we were planning to take together because something had come up at the office, I had a hard time keeping my cool.

I didn't hear a word of the explanation that followed. I was too busy formulating my argument about his job being more important than me.

As it turned out, he wasn't canceling our vacation altogether, just postponing it for two weeks. "We'll take our trip as planned, only a little later," he said. "Meanwhile, I can get cut-rate vouchers for you and Igor to spend two weeks at the Pine Grove Boardinghouse. Wouldn't you like to go there?"

His talk about the deal we were getting irritated me. However, our 10-year-old son picked up the unfamiliar word and asked, "What's 'cut-rate'?"

"That means that I can get two vouchers that cost 240 rubles for only 80 rubles. The remainder of the cost will be covered by the trade union," explained my husband.

"The price was reduced because no one wanted to take them. That's it," said Igor, volunteering an explanation.

Our son's knack for starting an argument in which everything is turned upside-down can only arouse the admiration of those who don't take part in it. While my husband was explaining the situation ("It's the other way around. A lot of people want to go, that's why cut-rate vouchers are given primarily to people who really need them or to those who do especially good work"), I tried to suppress my hurt feelings. This was the vacation we had decided to spend alone, just the two of us. Our daughter Tatiana was to remain in town after graduating from high school so she could study for the entrance exams to the university. Igor was to go to a Young Pioneer camp. Now, the plans called for spending half of my vacation alone with Igor. On the one hand, I wouldn't have the two weeks with my husband as I desired, but on the other, I would have the companionship of my youngest child.

It is said that Soviet children are steadily leading the world in the number of instructions they receive from their parents. If that's true, I am afraid Igor lags hopelessly behind the average. We are a very busy family, and sometimes he doesn't receive as much attention as he should.

So if I couldn't have one good thing, I could have another. I figured that the time with my son would help me get to know him better.

* The designation Vega is short for Venus-Halley (or "Galley," as it is pronounced in Russian).

SUMMER IS THE BEST TIME TO GET TO KNOW YOUR CHILD

By Darya Nikolayeva

My bubble that Igor would be constantly at my side burst the moment we stepped off the train at the little station near our destination. Next to the large bus waiting to take the vacationers to the boardinghouse was a large sign that read:

BOYS AND GIRLS!
DON'T HURRY TO BOARD THE BIG BUS!
IF YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF LEAVING YOUR PARENTS,
GET ON THE SMALL RED BUS
200 METERS TO THE EAST OF IT.

The opportunity of showing their independence immediately draws all youngsters together, and in no time they are bosom pals. It seems to us parents that our children can abandon us without any regret.



But the children were there to welcome us when we got to the Pine Grove. Then came the real surprise. As I was leaving the bus, a strange boy came up to me, addressed me by name and asked with the greatest dignity whether he could help me with my baggage. I was just about to say that my son never did anything like that when out of the corner of my eye, I saw Igor offering his services just as gallantly to somebody else's mother.

A tour of the grounds gained my approval and enthusiasm as well as Igor's. From outside the little cottage we were to stay in had the appearance of a barrel sawed in half, complete with hoops and rivets. Inside, it was comfortable and cozy. The paths meandering among the "barrels" merged a little distance off and led to a larger building from which an appetizing aroma came floating out.

"Why don't you eat lunch; I'll be back in a while. I want to see my friend," said Igor casually as he disappeared among the trees.

During lunch I learned the secret of the welcome that we received on our arrival. It appeared that in the little red bus the children played a game that develops observation. All the youngsters were to describe their parents to the boy or girl sitting next to them. They were to remember the names and the number of the cottages where they were staying.

Plans called for the red bus to arrive ahead of the big one. Then all of the youngsters were to pick out their partner's parents by the description they were given and offer their help. My son's partner was Dima, the one who had started the game in the bus. He looked older than the other children, and on second thought I was convinced he must be a counselor.

Later, trying to appear indifferent, I asked Igor, "How'd you describe me?" "Oh, I just said, 'Young, beautiful, with red hair,'" answered Igor in an offhanded fashion.

"Young" was a real present coming from the 10-year-old to whom even 18-year-olds seem over the hill. It was then that I made the solemn promise to forgive my son a lot of things during our two weeks together.

I could forgive everything but what I saw in the cottage when I returned from lunch. The place looked as if an elephant had just stamped through or as if a youngster had been looking for something in a hurry.

In this case it was the latter. I found Igor holding a little flashlight in his hand. "What do you need a flashlight for? It's daylight!" I exclaimed completely at a loss. "I am going to look for a man," he answered meekly and walked off leaving me open-mouthed.

Finally it dawned on me: He was playing at being Diogenes, the ancient Greek philosopher who lived in a barrel and walked the streets in the daytime carrying a torch in his hand. When the dumbfounded citizens asked him what he was doing, he answered, "I am in search of a man." This surprised me even more because until then I was certain that there was nothing but the names of pop singers and bands in my son's head.

The next few days passed in heavenly idleness. I strolled in the woods, went to the river, sat in the Sun and picked mushrooms and berries. We parents saw our children only when we went to the movies or a show in the evening. When the children got together by themselves behind a fence, they usually hung up the sign:

OFF LIMITS TO EVERYBODY OVER 16.

From morning till night the youngsters were off somewhere with Dima, who, as I had guessed correctly, was a counselor. By now I got used to saying "Your friend Dima" without a tinge of jealousy.

The children were being so secretive about their activities that the parents had a hard time stifling their desire to peep through a crack in the fence. Just as curiosity was about to get the better of us, we received notes—naturally, they were in code—from our children. They turned out to be invitations to a show that was to take place in a clearing in the woods. There was a hitch—we had to find the path to it on our own. Self-conscious in the beginning, we adults were gradually drawn into the childish game and did our best to decipher the markers that



had been put up to guide us along the path. We wound up having to solve a lot of riddles before we finally found the clearing where our children were to perform. The youngsters sang and danced and put on skits. I discovered that my Igor had a talent for parody. He acted out a pantomime based on life at the boardinghouse. The people he imitated were immediately recognizable. I, like the other parents, felt very honored and proud to attend this unique performance.

That evening the light in our cottage didn't go out for a long time. Igor and I kept jabbering about the show. "Tell me how you found the clearing?" queried Igor. I tried to recall every step and how we racked our brains over the puzzling directions. As soon as I would stop talking, he would blurt out: "What next?" or "Then what?" I became aware that he had taken part in writing the script for the show so he was very eager to hear what I thought. That interaction taught me a lot. I vowed that when we got back to town, I would try to be more attentive and to remember how much he needed my approval and praise.

"Did you have a good time?" asked my husband when he met us.

"Normal!" I said, borrowing the word from Igor and his friends who used it to express everything.

Igor was more prone to talk this time. "It wouldn't be so bad if your plans for next year's vacation go awry as well," he said, adding, "but next time we'll take you with us, too."



THE name of the famous ballerina Galina Ulanova has become a symbol of ballet art for a whole generation, a whole epoch. Her performances in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Les Sylphides* and *Romeo and Juliet* have gone down in the history of world ballet and have imprinted themselves in the hearts of audiences around the world. Twenty-five years have passed since the eminent ballerina retired from the stage and began teaching and coaching Bolshoi ballet stars, including such celebrities as Yekaterina Maximova, Nina Timofeyeva, Nina Semizorova and Vladimir Vasiliyev. This year the Bolshoi Theater and all ballet lovers celebrated Ulanova's seventy-fifth birthday with great pomp and ceremony. The celebration in the Bolshoi Theater, an enthralling spectacle tastefully directed by Yuri Grigorovich, the theater's chief balletmaster, was televised and enjoyed by millions of viewers. Ulanova's birthday became a real triumph and a festival of ballet. The film *The World of Ulanova* was shown following the broadcast of the celebration. It depicts the rich inner life of the ballerina.



CELEBRATIONS



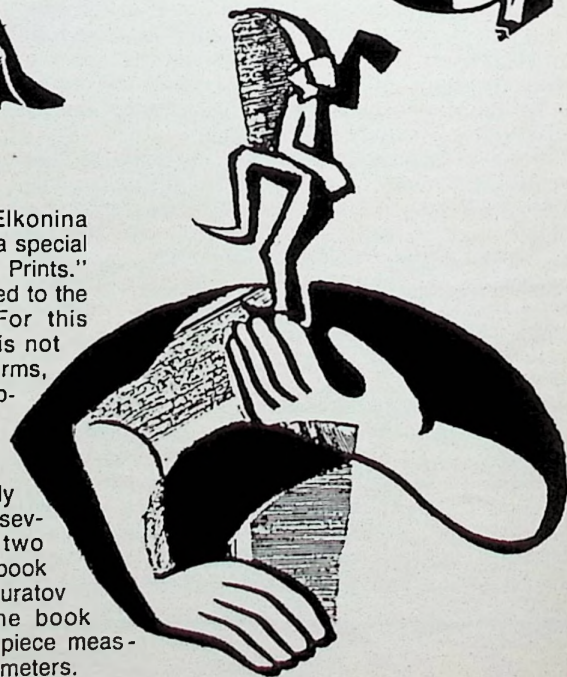
CIRCUS

CIRCUS artist Vladimir Serov has an extraordinary act in which he rides a unicycle on a slack wire. While perched on the unicycle, Serov flings five cups and saucers up into the air, catching them on his head. There's no need to mention how difficult it is to balance on a slack wire, stand on one wheel and juggle, smiling all the while. But when you watch the young artist perform his original act you completely forget this fact because he makes it look so easy. A graduate of the Moscow Circus School, Serov lives in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, but spends most of his time away from his home town. He has performed in different parts of the Soviet Union as well as in 55 countries, including the United

EXHIBITIONS



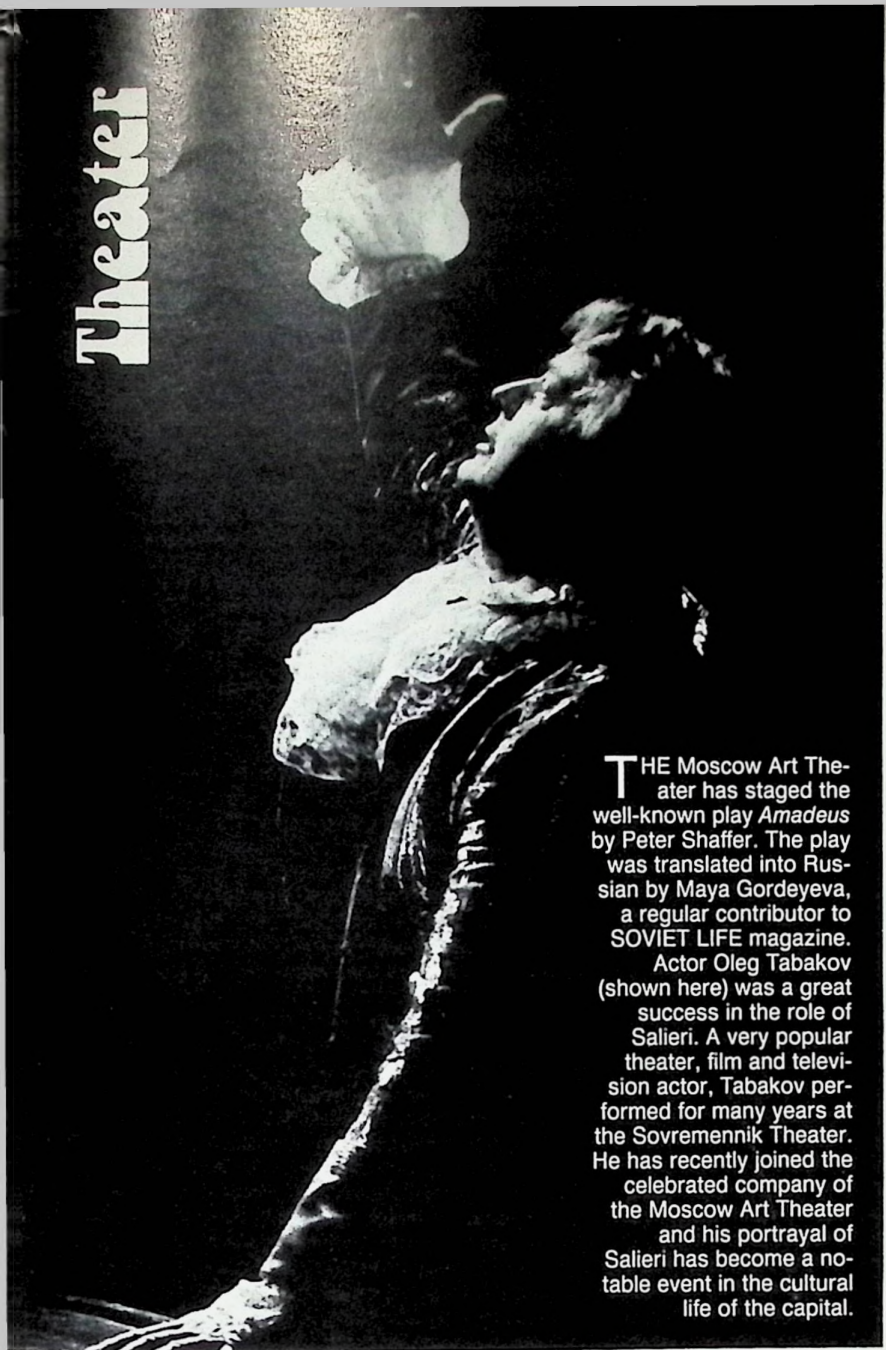
THE works of Marianna Elkonina (born 1935) are included in a special exhibit in Moscow titled "Book Prints." The exhibition is wholly dedicated to the genre of book illustration. For this genre, being a graphic artist is not enough. In the quest for new forms, the graphic arts have been approaching drawing and painting. Elkonina has been working in book illustration for a long time, and her creations are easily recognizable. Shown here are several examples of her work: two illustrations (above) for the book *Autumn Declarations* by Igor Muratov and an illustration (right) for the book *Dolls* by Kerim Atarov. Each piece measures 33 centimeters by 25 centimeters.



Journal's Cultural

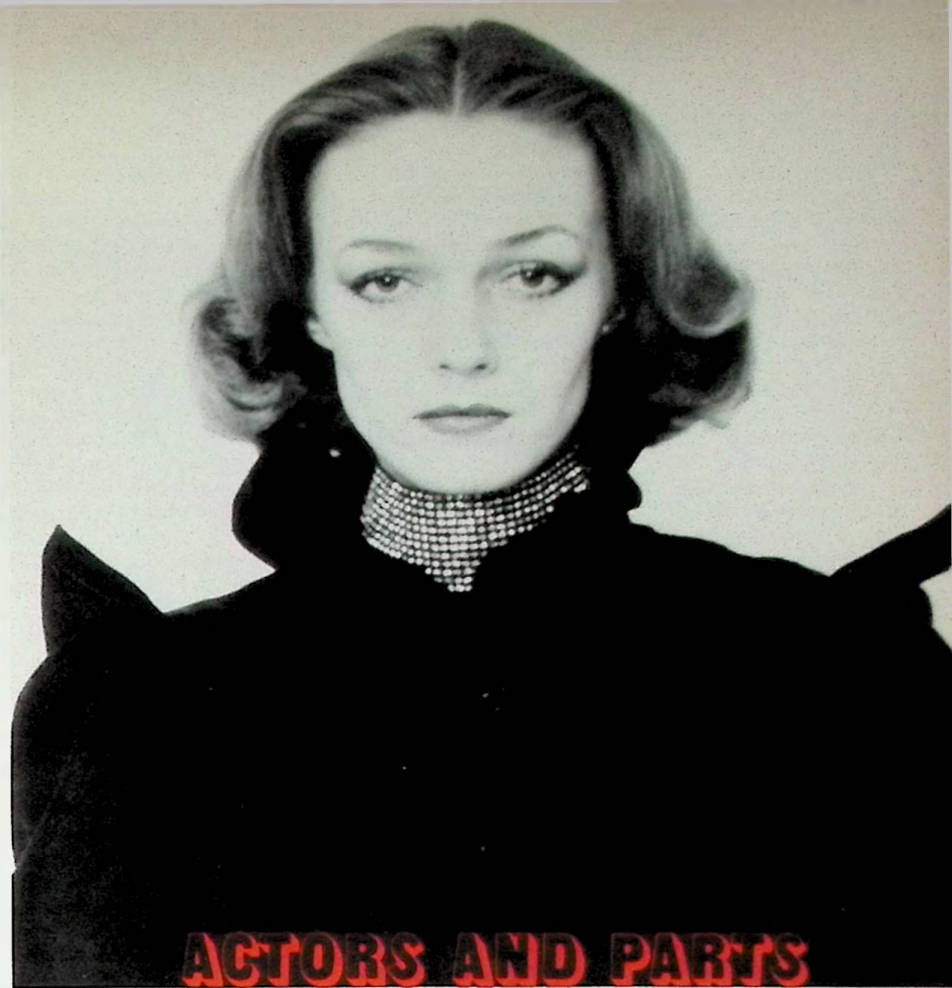
Things

Theater




THE Moscow Art Theater has staged the well-known play *Amadeus* by Peter Shaffer. The play was translated into Russian by Maya Gordeyeva, a regular contributor to SOVIET LIFE magazine. Actor Oleg Tabakov (shown here) was a great success in the role of Salieri. A very popular theater, film and television actor, Tabakov performed for many years at the Sovremennik Theater. He has recently joined the celebrated company of the Moscow Art Theater and his portrayal of Salieri has become a notable event in the cultural life of the capital.

ACTORS AND PARTS



IN the 10 years that Natalia Andreichenko has worked in films, she has made 20 pictures, but fame has only recently come her way. Millions of Soviet TV viewers were enchanted by her charming performance in the musical about Mary Poppins, which was adapted from the story by Pamela Travers, and she was showered with offers for roles in musicals. However, she turned them down for fear of being typecast. Instead, she chose to play in a film that has brought her true recognition as a dramatic actress—the role of Lyuba Antipova in *War-time Romance*, written and directed by Pyotr Todorovsky. Andreichenko has also just completed work on the American made-for-television movie *Peter the Great*, which was filmed in Moscow. In the movie she plays the part of Yevdokia Lopukhina, Peter the Great's first wife. An article about the production appears on page 64.

sculpture

FOR the past 30 years sculptors Vladimir Lempert and Nikolai Silis have spent the better part of their lives in their workshop (below right). Graduates of the Moscow Industrial Arts School, both sculptors have chosen to specialize in monumental sculpture, and, working together, they have accomplished a great deal in this area. To their credit are the Luzhniko Sports Complex in Moscow, the largest one of its kind in the country, several palaces of culture and Soviet embassies in various countries. Besides their main interest Lempert and Silis go in for small-sized sculptures (above) made of different materials such as stone, clay, metal and wood. The sculptors' productivity is amazing. Their workshop is literally teeming with sculpture pieces, including lighthearted caricatures of friends, historical images and literary personages. Pictured at left is Silis putting the finishing touches on a figure of Peter the Great.





I walked round the next islet, crossed the path through the fields and ran up the steep right bank. Bright spring sunshine flooded the earth, the river glimmered with sharp golden stars, the translucent air vibrated over the warm, freshly plowed field where some white-beaked rooks were waddling around, and frogs were croaking in pools covered with green slime. The yellow heads of coltsfoots were scattered fresh and bright all over the grass.

I sat on my suitcase and took a long look at the flooded meadow. Oh, how inexpressibly I had missed the spring floods, how often I had dreamed about this blue river flooding the meadow with its brushwood and fences, its smoke-seasoned bath-houses on both banks, the wooden planks from which the women rinsed their washing, and the oval boats, podlike dugouts.

The water produced a never-varying noise for many miles in both directions, and through this background din the rumble of a tractor came with the wind and died down beyond the white-legged

the eyes of that first love, shone brightly along the banks.

I held my head in my hands, puffing at my last cigarette. The larks were trilling with the same force, untiringly. I recalled a similarly happy afternoon in May when I was going to meet a girl beyond the river, and how my neighbor, an old man with a feminine-sounding nickname, Okulya, lent me his boat. Pushing the boat into the river, he instructed me how to talk to my sweetheart. "The first thing you need, boy, is an accordion. With an accordion you can make any of them fall for you. The right words are important, too, but the main thing is the first word you say. If you hit the nail on the head right away, it's a winning game. But exactly what you must say depends on all sorts of things."

I listened to him with the acute curiosity of a young lad in love. I blushed to the roots of my hair and looked away while Okulya went on with his stories, sincerely interested in my success. I recall bringing the boat back well after midnight, at cock-crow. While I had been on the other side, the water

off the sweat. And his plow kept hitting stones all the time and jumping so that it almost knocked his teeth out. That land was all stone, one stone on top of another. At each step his plow scraped a stone, and his every furrow went askew. So the farmer got tired and sat down on this very hillock. And suddenly, lo and behold, a forest princess came out from the forest and stood looking at him. Her eyes were as two deep pools, her braid reached to her knees, her hands were white and her headdress was made of gold webbing. The first blades of grass reached out to her happily. 'Will you love me, peasant lad? Or am I not good enough for you?' she said. The man stood up, holding his plow and marveling. He said to her: 'Of course you are beautiful! But it's no good. I'm not here to look into your beautiful eyes. The land is getting dry, too many stones, the Sun is setting, it won't wait for me.' And he went on plowing, digging deep into the soil, but his plow soon struck against another stone. The forest princess looked after the man and tears, like dewdrops, rolled down her face. 'So you won't love

THE SINGING STONES

By Vasili Belov

Drawing by Victor Adamovich

birch grove. Suddenly, a lark shot upward a mere three meters from where I sat. As if choking with the happiness of spring, it waved its wings now going downward and now soaring high, getting smaller and smaller until it dissolved completely in the white-blue sky. I no longer saw the lark, only the incredibly blue sky pressed hard on my eyes. Strangely, the lark trilled louder and louder, and it was incomprehensible how this tiny, jubilant creature managed to produce such strong, continuous sounds, now liquid notes, now a kind of joyful whistle. When does the little bird manage to gulp any of this blue air? How is it that this forceful song doesn't burst its tiny heart? Whence this richness? I looked up: Another one flew up on my left, then a third. Each sang its own song without interfering with the others, and it seemed as if the whole blue sky itself was singing.

The river produced the same even wide-spreading noise, and the sharp golden sparks still glittered on its reaches. I looked at the white-shingled village roofs, listened to the larks, and my childhood came back to me, reviving in my memory. There is the hillock where I pastured the foolish wet-lipped calves and made bonfires with my friends. It still smells of warm earth, and the same river is washing it on one side. Here green pikes still come to spawn in the waterweed. And this field, so thoroughly trodden by many feet, plowed for thousands of years, with boulders left by the Ice Age, and numerous larks' nests—is it not the same one? The sound of the river over the spring land is like the sound of flowing time. It calls to mind my ancestors, it excites me and stirs something in my rejuvenated heart, but some more tangible images push all this into the background. At a distance I see a boat partly pulled out of the water, with a light oar sticking out to one side and some fishing nets hanging on it to dry. It could be the same boat I crossed the river in, to meet my first sweetheart, while coltsfoots' eyes, like

level had gone down considerably and the village was peacefully sleeping its light spring sleep. Okulya sat smoking on a log in front of the bathhouse, at the very edge of the water.

"What d'ya think, boy, will it freeze by morning?" he asked me. "I'm of two minds—to cover the hotbeds or let them be. Never mind, leave the boat there. I'm going to have a look at the fish traps anyway."

He didn't say a word about my coming back so late, and no one in the neighborhood ever learned anything about my romance on the other side of the river. I was grateful to him for that. That memorable spring, like the lark's song, was a happy one and lasted long, but then another spring came, quite a different one—there wasn't any reason any more to go to the other bank, for there was no one there to go to. And besides, I was leaving the village soon. I was plowing this very field for the last time, and Okulya was carting sacks of grain, and we used to stop for a rest here on this hillock. Then, just like now, a lark flew up right from under our feet and started singing, and Okulya put down his cigarette.

"Listen to that little devil! Isn't he clever! He doesn't have a care in the world, just lives and sings as he likes. Do you know the story of this happy bird? No wonder if you never heard of it. It happened so long ago, I can't tell you how long ago. Once, on this side of the river there lived a young peasant. He plowed the land, felled trees and sowed barley. The woods here at that time weren't like they are now; the trees were at least twice as big around the trunk. So this man lived here, and he was the sort who wouldn't hurt a fly, but wasn't afraid of anyone either. He had a young wife who stayed in the house and wove while her husband worked in the fields. She was a good wife, hard-working, like her man. One spring day, about this time, the farmer came to his field, stuck his plow into the soil, made one round, then another, wiping

me?' she asked. 'It's not a peasant's business, dear, to run after other women when he's got a wife of his own.' 'If that's how it is, tell me, farmer, what can I do for you to reward your manly faithfulness?' 'I don't want anything, fair lady, thank you for your kind words.' Then she picked up a stone from the furrow, washed it in her tears, wiped it with her soft braid, gave it to the man and said: 'Throw this stone high up into the blue sky and look hard after it.' The farmer did so and, lo and behold, the stone turned into a happy lark, fluttered its wings and started singing with abandon. And just then all the little stones from the field rose into the sky bubbling as spring waters, and the field was free of stones, and the soil became like black down under the plow. The farmer looked around but the princess was gone, only the air where she had stood was trembling. And that, boy, is where the happy lark came from.

Since then it sings every spring. Only once some lord with a gun passed this way, and he started shooting larks just to amuse himself, and suddenly a hailstorm began, with each hailstone the size of a man's fist. And after that this field again became all stones."

Now, after many years, I recalled Okulya's tale about the singing stones as I sat on my suitcase and looked at the flooded meadow and listened to the lark's thrilling song. The spring sighed around me, the river flowed on, and the Sun was unbearably bright and high.

The singing stones were bathing in the blueness of the sky, now falling, now soaring toward the Sun.

Where are you now, Okulya? Are you alive? Have you still got your boat? Perhaps it will take me to the other side once more, and I'll see those unforgettable eyes again; perhaps someone still remembers me on the other side.

PETER THE GREAT SPEAKS ENGLISH

By Valeri Kadzhaya

Photograph by Vladimir Vyatkin



Omar Sharif as Peter the Great's ally Prince Romodanovsky (center) mingles with members of the film crew during a break in shooting.



RESTORATION EXHIBITION

Art Objects from 3000 B.C.

An impressive exhibition on the restoration of museum treasures was recently held in Moscow and Leningrad. Twenty-five leading restoration workshops in the country contributed more than a thousand exhibits restored by the top masters.



TRAPPED BY ICE

SOS for 3,000 White Whales

Rafail Bikmukhametov reports on last winter's dramatic events off the coast of Chukotka, where a herd of belugas was trapped by ice fields. The unique rescue operations went on for two months.

PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING

Youth Can Make a Difference

Our August issue will highlight preparations for the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students, to be held in Moscow in late July. The festival was initiated by the Young Communist League, better known as the Komsomol, the largest and most prestigious organization of young people in the Soviet Union. Victor Mishin, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the YCL and a member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, says in an interview that "the future belongs to the young is an axiom" that remains to be proved.

COMING SOON

A Closer Look at the Problems

One Friday evening in Suzdal on the bank of the Kamenka River, which flows through town, a wooden church burst into flames. It wasn't long before the flames spread to the nearby wooden houses, the type of structures Russians lived in three or four centuries ago. The fire raged for four hours. (Fire engines stood close by ready to go into action.) Visible in the light of the crimson flames was a throng of people darting among the houses as they were pursued by the *streltsy*. (The czar's regular army in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.) Yes, the *streltsy*. Of course, this wasn't really happening. The church, the houses and even the fire were the setting for the 10-hour miniseries titled *Peter the Great*, which was being filmed in the USSR.

Konstantin Thoeren, the line producer for the miniseries, said that millions of Americans as well as Europeans will have the opportunity to watch the life of the Russian Czar Peter I from birth to death on their TV screens during the 1985-86 season. The movie, produced by NBC, is the most expensive made-for-television miniseries ever to be shot by the West. The company invested 26.5 million dollars on the venture and contracted the most celebrated film makers for the production.

Among the cast of the epic drama are the flowers of world cinema: Laurence Olivier, Omar Sharif, Vanessa Redgrave, Lili Palmer and Hanna Schygulla, among others. Vittorio Storaro, who has the reputation of being the best cinematographer in the West, is the director of photography. Maximilian Schell, prominent actor, dramatist and director, portrays Peter.

Schell said he had played many roles, but none could compare to this one, and not only because Peter I was a great historical figure, but because he was also a great personality, a versatile and controversial man. Peter was an extraordinary combination of despot and revolutionary, of cruelty and kindness. Schell said it was fascinating to portray such a man, and uncommonly difficult at the same time. He used to think that he had a good knowledge of "the Russian character," but not until he had immersed himself in Peter's epoch, did he come to understand the great moral power inherent in the Russian nation.

Schell considers himself a great connoisseur of Russian literature and art. Chekhov and Dostoyevsky are his favorite authors. One of his aspirations is to produce Chekhov on the stage or in a film.

When he was already well known as an actor, Schell directed his first film, based on Ivan Turgenev's story *First Love*. It later won one of the top prizes at the San Sebastian International Film Festival.

Schell says he inherited a love for Russian literature and art as a child from his parents. That's why it is a stroke of good luck both for him and the viewers that he was chosen for the role.

Explaining why NBC had decided to produce the miniseries, Joel Katz, the Executive in Charge of Production of NBC said that Americans know little of contemporary Russia and even less of its history, and the name of Peter the Great doesn't ring a bell for 95 per cent of the people in the United States. In 1981 Robert K. Massie's book *Peter the Great* was published in the U.S. and won a Pulitzer Prize. The success of the book was what prompted the film makers to produce the series.

Katz added that the company was shooting *Peter the Great* with great good will, and it wanted viewers to feel the same way.

Asked about how the American crew was treated in the USSR, Katz answered that they were well received by the Soviet people. The Americans made friends with their Soviet colleagues, and everyone worked well together and relaxed together, too.

Though the film is not a joint production, many well-known Soviet actors, including Roman Filippov, Boris Plotnikov, Valentin Nikulin, Vera Mayorova and Natalya Andreichenko, portray roles in the film. The Gorky Film Studios in Moscow and, surprisingly, the Soviet Army also lent NBC a helping hand. It was amusing to watch an army captain lining up the *streltsy* and giving them orders. Schell especially mentioned how incongruous it looked to see a soldier in an old Swedish uniform and three-cornered hat suddenly climb out of a personnel carrier, which was being used to drag the cannons out of the mud. But that's exactly what he saw during the shooting of the Battle of Poltava. All the nature sequences were shot in Suzdal, and the capture of Azov was filmed in Bukhara.

As a reporter, I was interested not only in the mechanics of how the film was being made but, to a greater extent, in the mood on the set and the impressions of the American production crew and cast. Chief cutter James Heket told me that when he got to know the Soviet people on the set, he discovered their desire for peace and their desire to bring up their children and engage in their respective occupations. His only regret was that he didn't know the Russian language.

Many people told me that a spirit of good will and understanding prevailed on the set. The strangers who knew very little about each other were suddenly thrown together, but they worked with the greatest enthusiasm and cooperation.

Thoeren especially pointed to the high professionalism of the Soviet movie crew, adding that the Soviet actors were superb. He also considered Alexander Popov a real genius! Popov, the Soviet production designer, is the one who created the sets for Czar Peter's era. Popov re-created a corner of old Moscow out of papier-mâché near the brick walls of the Spas-Euphemia Convent in Suzdal, and he constructed life-sized façades of the Assumption Cathedral and the Faceted Chamber of the Moscow Kremlin at the site of the Kremlin in Suzdal. Ella Maklakova, the award-winning Soviet costume designer, is the costumer.

Besides the top-name actors chosen for the film, hundreds of local people were needed as extras to re-create the events of the time. This scene was shot on location near the Suzdal Kremlin. Right: Maximilian Schell portrays the mature Peter the Great. Below right: Vanessa Redgrave as Czarina Sophia.



SOYUZ-APOLLO
10TH ANNIVERSARY
1975-1985



Well known as a cosmonaut and the commander of the Soyuz-Apollo mission in 1975, Alexei Leonov is also a skilled artist. In his painting *Where Are They?* (left), he gives his humorous view of the American crew's search for the Soyuz. Below: Only a few minutes from the moment everyone has been waiting for: the historic docking of the spaceships and the handshake in orbit. Bottom: The Soviet cosmonauts' visit to the United States after the mission was an event of major proportions.

NASA-TASS photo

