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CITY Bosses

By
Yakov Usherenko



Except for a few full-time paid officials, all the 350 deputies to the Orel City Soviet are employed in a variety of trades and professions. (Left to right) Lydia Zasedateleva, garment worker; Yelizaveta Ryabova, housewife; Anatoli Markov, fitter; Nina Loginova, saleswoman; Valentina Nikiforova, chairman of the City Soviet's executive committee; Ivan Komashinsky, engineer in a watch factory; Tamara Pcholkina, house painter; Tatyana Kretova, teacher; Andrei Tinyakov, physician; Leonid Nekrasov, locomotive engineer.

OREL, one of the oldest Russian cities, will be celebrating its 400th birthday in 1964. Founded in the sixteenth century as a fortress on the southern frontier of the young Russian state, it grew by the labor of generations into a city of considerable size and cultural importance.

In these four centuries of troubled history Orel has gone through difficult times, but no other period even begins to compare with the two years of death and destruction from October 1941 to August 1943 when the fascists held the city.

The Nazis tortured and murdered thousands of residents, leveled every one of the 57 large industrial plants, burned more than half the dwellings, dug up the parks and gardens, wrecked the transportation system and shipped the streetcars, buses and even the tracks off to Germany. When Soviet troops freed the city, not a single hospital, school or theater was left standing.

After the war Orel was rebuilt, its northern and southern limits expanded by 260 new streets. The population has grown almost one and a half times since 1940 and now numbers 160,000. The ruined factories were reconstructed and new ones added. Textiles, road-building machines, reinforced concrete, footwear, ready-to-wear clothing, watches and clocks, furniture, spare tractor parts—all these and many other items come off the conveyor belts of the city's factories.

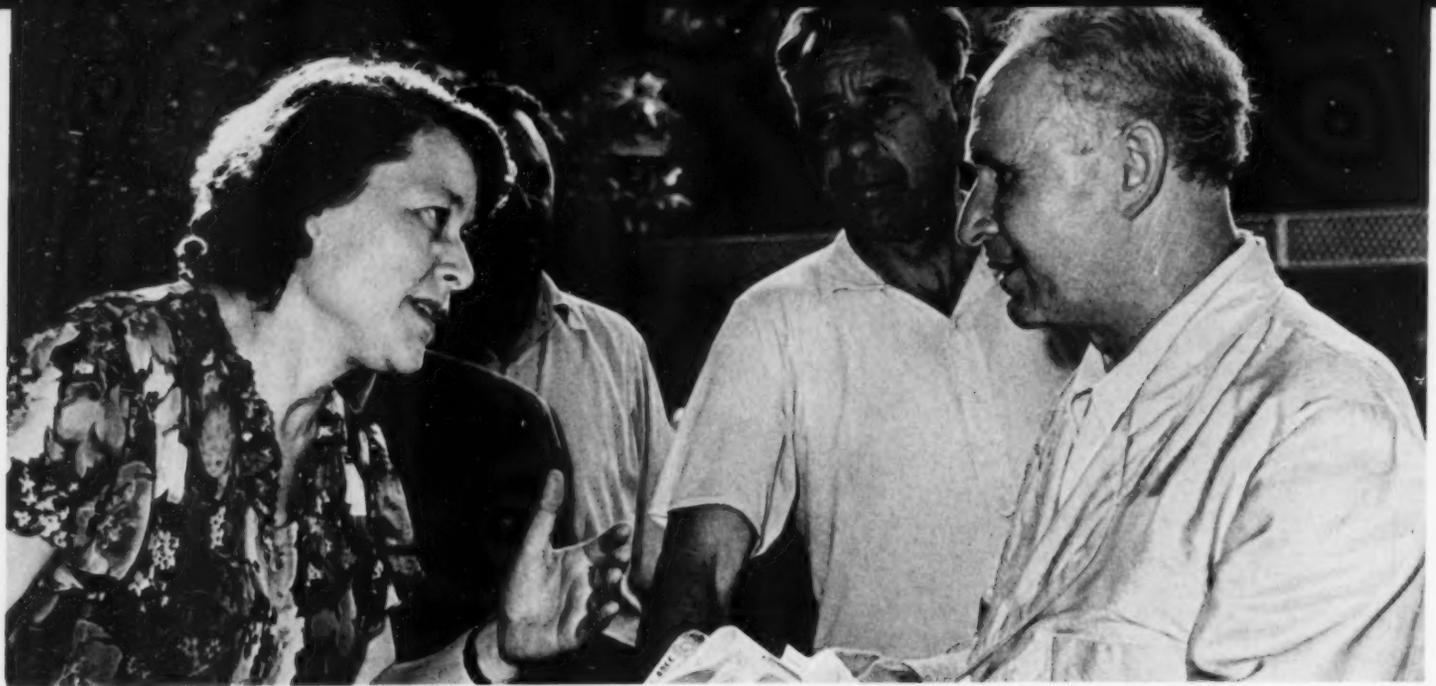
The Heart of the City

The life of Orel centers around a yellow building in Lenin Square where the offices of the City Soviet of Working People's Deputies are located. People come to this building for an infinite number of reasons—to discuss plans for setting up a new plant or industry, to request that a school be built or a street be extended, to arrange for moving into a new apartment or to register for their old age pension.

Every second year all Orel citizens who have reached the age of 18 elect their City Soviet by secret ballot. Orel's present Soviet was elected on March 1, 1959. There were 101,000 men and women, or 99.7 per cent of the eligible voters in the city's 350 election districts, who cast their secret ballots for deputies. Old-timers recall that in the Duma, that prerevolutionary pretense at self-government, only 4,000 privileged people voted. They were merchants and czarist officials for the most part; the working people had no electoral rights.

With a few exceptions all of the 350 deputies in the Soviet make their living at one trade or another. They are not professional politicians—176 are workers, 21 are high school teachers, 10 are doctors and nurses, 18 are engineers and 10 are housewives and pensioners.

About 50 per cent of the City Soviet depu-



Mayor Valentina Nikiforova asks Deputy Vasili Slyunin's opinion on a city problem. He is secretary of the Orel Committee of the Communist Party

ties are women, 174 to be exact. In the old days women could not even vote, let alone hold office, no matter how high their social or financial status. Today a woman, Valentina Nikiforova, is the city's mayor. She is a building technician by training. Another woman, Vera Novikova, who began her working career at a farm machinery plant, is secretary of the City Soviet

Orel's population is overwhelmingly Russian by nationality, with relatively small numbers of people of other national groups. This is reflected in the City Soviet—335 of the Soviet members are Russian, 6 are Ukrainian, 5 are Jewish, 2 are Byelorussian, 1 is Lithuanian and 1 is Armenian.

Fourteen of the deputies are full-time administrators and are paid out of the city budget—among them the chairman of the executive committee, the three vice chairmen, the chairman of the city planning committee, the city architect, the chief of police, and the chiefs and secretaries of the major city departments: finance, local industry, municipal economy, education and health.

Standing Committees

Every deputy, besides actively participating in meetings of the City Soviet, serves on one or more of the Soviet's 12 standing committees—finance, municipal economy, housing, industrial and housing construction, local industry, education, health, public improvements, trade, communication and transport, culture and sports, law.

These committees are advisory, but their recommendations have, of course, considerable weight with the Soviet and the executive committee, which is empowered to act for the Soviet between meetings. The session of the Soviet and the executive committee do not pass any important decisions without the standing committees' recommendations.

The recommendation of a committee will generally incorporate the point of view of hundreds or even thousands of Orel residents.

Witness a recent report of the education committee, headed by deputy Tatyana Kretova, assistant professor at the Teacher Training Institute. To provide the information that would give a reasonable basis for its recommendations, the committee asked some 660 teachers and parents to prepare a study of every single one of the city's schools.

The committee's report to the City Soviet proposed that the double school shift be discontinued; the study showed that with good planning and organization all children could be accommodated in a single shift, but it would be necessary to expand present facilities and build ten new school buildings to carry this out. The report recommended that factory directors be required to work more closely with the schools on the pre-vocational aspects of the curriculum. And thirdly, it proposed a series of changes in the teacher training program.

The committee's recommendations were all approved by the City Soviet, after which they acquired the force of law.

The law requires that the full Soviet meet at least once every two months. The deputies get time off from their jobs for these one- or two-day sessions.

The meetings are held in one of the large public auditoriums in Orel to accommodate the many invited guests—workers, office employees, students, housewives—who are not only onlookers but active participants in the discussion and debate.

The City Budget

A particularly important session of the Soviet, held traditionally on New Year's Eve, considers the industrial production and trade program for the incoming year submitted by the City Planning Committee, and approves the budget submitted by the Finance Committee.

City funds come from the 18 municipally supervised factories, from streetcar and bus fares, and from water, electric and other util-

ity and service charges. Income taxes provide an insignificant part of the city revenue and will soon be non-existent since by 1965 they will have been completely abolished.

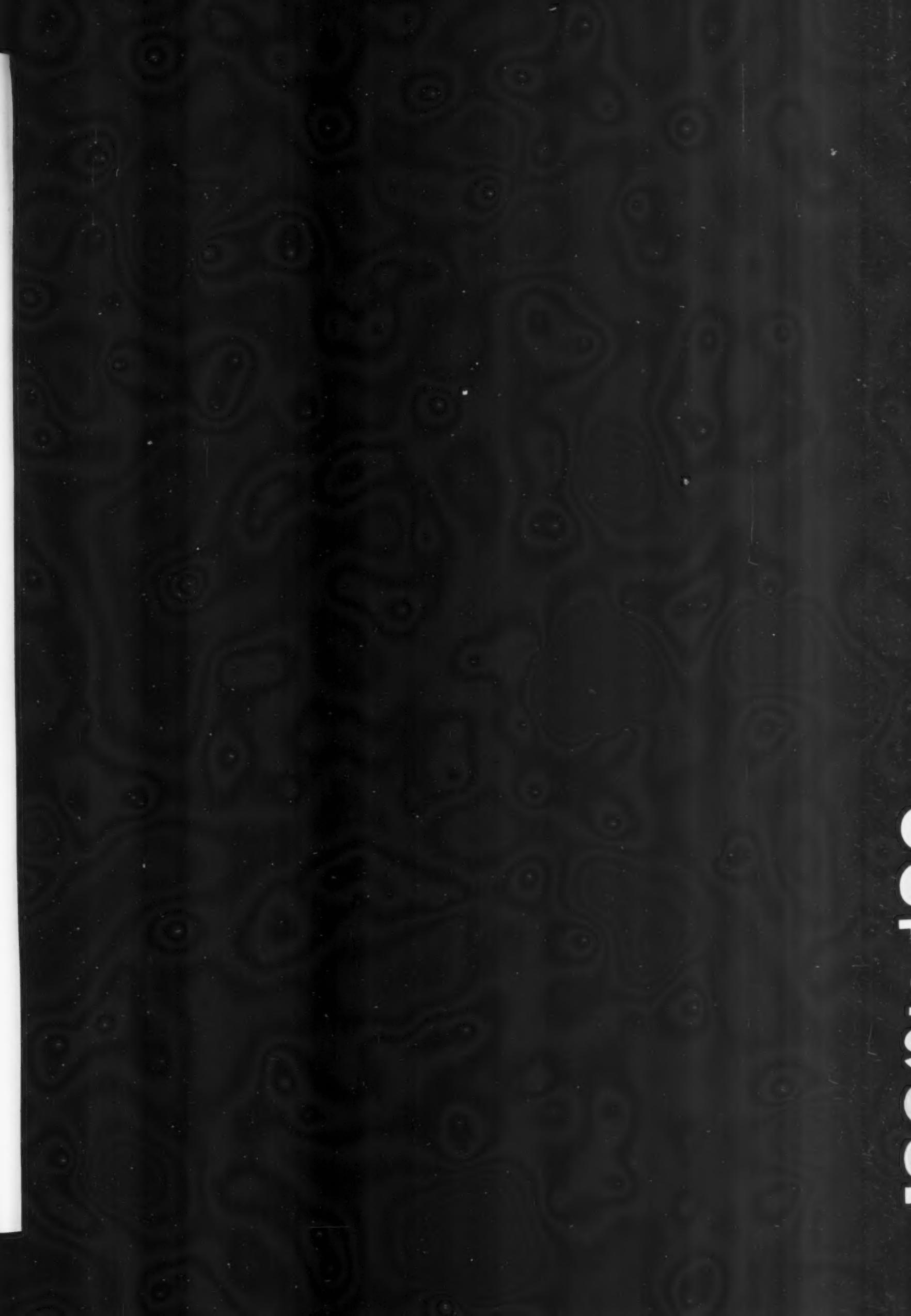
As Orel's local industry grows, city income grows with it. In 1940 it totaled 22.7 million rubles; in 1950 the figure was 37.4 million; this year it is expected to top 107 million.

But the funds available to the City Soviet are not restricted to budgetary allocations. There are many large industrial enterprises of national importance located in the city. On instructions from the government of the Russian Federation they are run by the Economic Council of the Orel Economic Area, which takes in not only the city of Orel but all of Orel Region. Inasmuch as the people of the city work at the plants and factories of the Economic Council, the City Soviet requires that the management of these enterprises help with housing and other construction by contributing funds from their accumulated reserves. Seven out of every ten buildings that go up are financed in this way. They include clubhouses, stores, restaurants, kindergartens, nurseries, and the like. About 7,000 new apartments were built in Orel between 1957 and 1960. However, even though the funds of Economic Council enterprises are used for housing construction, distribution of apartments must be approved by the City Soviet, which represents the entire population of Orel and has the final say.

Public Participation

For two or three weeks before the City Soviet meets, its newspaper the *Orel Pravda* lists the items that are to be discussed and the comments of citizens. By the time the meeting opens, the deputies have a fairly good notion of public sentiment.

The decisions of the City Soviet are binding on all institutions and organizations in Orel. After each session the deputies report to their constituents in every one of the 350 election







1. Deputy Leonid Nekrasov is a long-time railroad man. His run is from Orel to Kharkov and Moscow.

2. Fitter Anatoli Markov was elected by his fellow workers at one of Orel's machine-building plants.

3. Besides attending council meetings engineer Ivan Komashinsky serves on one of its permanent committees.

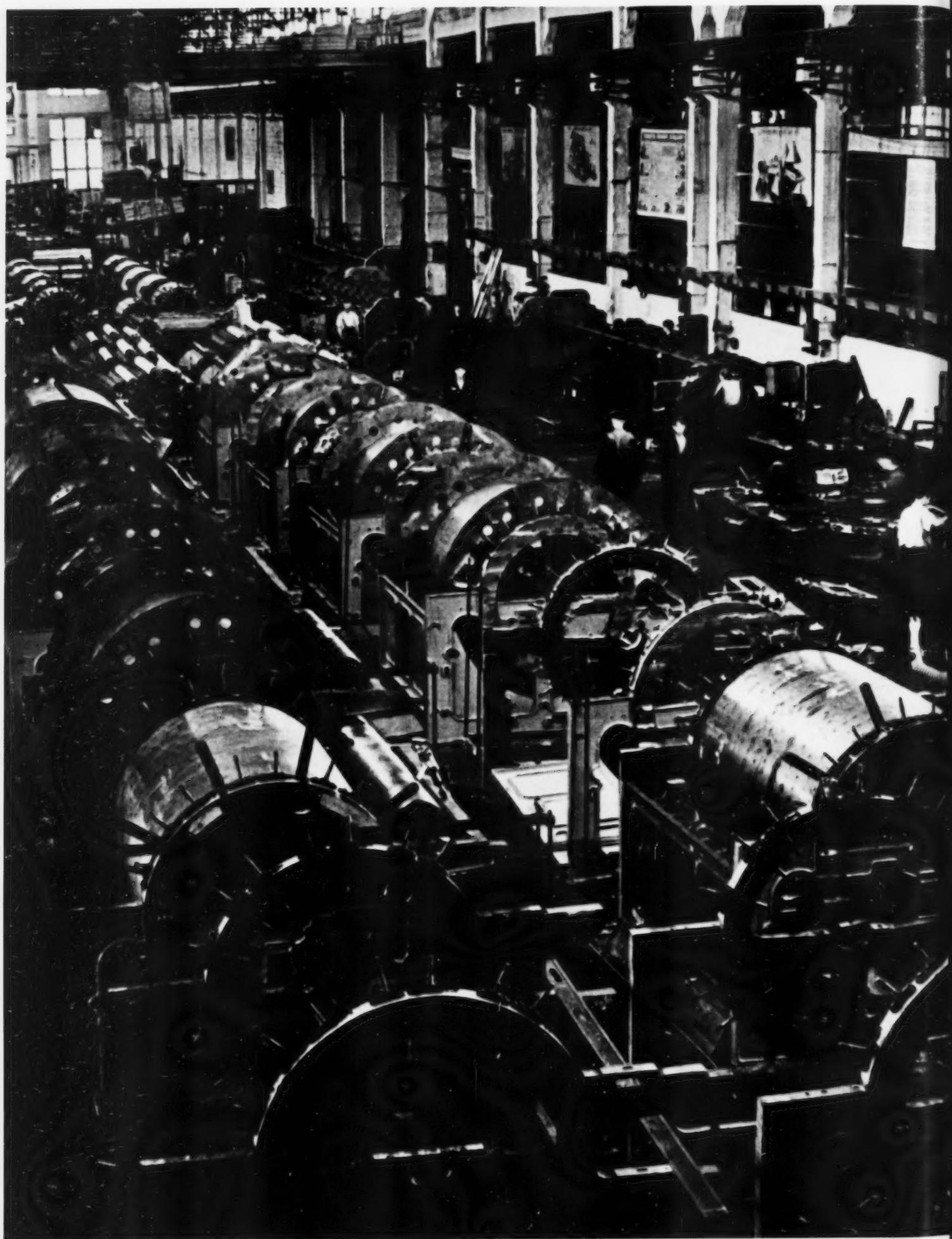
4. Saleswoman Nina Loginova is one of the 174 women who legislate for this city of 160,000 people.

5. Deputy Sergei Fyodorov, Orel's chief architect, reports on housing construction to the City Soviet.

6. Deputy Tamara Pcholkina, a house painter by trade, is presently working on a school building.

7. Tatyana Kretova, professor at the Teacher Training Institute, heads the Soviet's School Committee.





Funds for the city budget come from the eighteen municipally supervised factories — this textile machinery plant is one — from streetcar and bus fares, and water, electric and other utility charges.





districts. They tell the people about the decisions of the City Soviet and explain the citizen's part in carrying them out.

Three or four times during a deputy's two-year term of office he is required to report to his constituents on his work.

Nikolai Koroshchenko, a machine-building engineer, is deputy from a fairly representative election district that takes in the neighborhood around the Textile Machinery Plant. In the year and a half since his election, he has reported to the people in his district three times. He told me: "Once, at the end of 1959, I reported on the work of the whole Soviet, and twice on my own work as deputy. Although they approved of my record on the whole, they didn't make any bones about pointing out a number of items that I had slipped up on."

Like all the other deputies, Koroshchenko receives his constituents once a week in an office made available to him especially for that purpose. They come to him with all sorts of problems, public and private.

Voters have the right to recall a deputy who does not carry out their mandate, and elect someone to replace him. So far none of Orel's deputies has been recalled, and, if City Soviet Secretary Vera Novikova has her way, the voters will never have cause for enforcing this right.

Such public organizations as the trade unions, the cooperatives and the various scientific and cultural societies help the Soviet make Orel a good town in which to live and work. A large number of the city's 70,000 trade unionists are active in municipal affairs. So are the 20,000 Young Communist League members. The aim of Mayor Valentina Niki-forova and the other members of the City Soviet is to have every Orel resident participate directly in the management of his city.

Within recent years many functions previously exercised by government bodies—maintaining public order is one—have been turned over to organizations of citizens. The trade unions administer social insurance funds, see that labor protection legislation is carried out and take an active part in managing industry. More than 2,000 of Orel's young people are members of volunteer squads whose job it is to see that the high standards of behavior expected from Soviet citizens are maintained. Pensioners and housewives help to govern the city by serving as members of neighborhood committees or on school parents' committees.

The guiding spirit of all this activity is the Orel Communist Party branch. At the last election 195 Communist Party members were elected to the City Soviet, a tribute to their work in behalf of their neighbors and colleagues. Vasili Slyunin, secretary of the city Party organization, who has a 30-year record of work for the public welfare in Orel, was elected a member of the Soviet's executive committee.

There are 10,000 Communists in Orel. They work at factories, railways, schools and hospitals like all other Soviet people. They have no special privileges. Their Party membership only pledges them to a larger share of public responsibility than the average citizen is willing to assume.



This stadium in construction is a pet project with the more sports-conscious of the deputies.



Timofei Kudryavtsev, like all the other deputies, keeps open house for constituents once a week.



tank divisionD

In a traditional ritual the famous Korsun Tank Division that drove the Nazis from 15,000 Soviet towns and villages is disbanded at Osipovichi. (Below) Journalists who came to watch the ceremony interview the men.



DEMobilized



"Wishing to make a new contribution to the cause of ensuring a stable peace and creating the most favorable conditions for agreement on general and complete disarmament, the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics resolves:

Article 1. To effect a new considerable reduction in the Armed Forces of the USSR, namely, by 1.2 million men.

Article 2. In connection with this, to disband a corresponding number of units, formations and military schools of the Soviet Army and Navy, with a corresponding reduction in armaments, and also reduce the expenditures of the Soviet Union for military needs under the State Budget of the USSR."

(From the law adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the 15th of January, 1960)

NO UNIFORMS are to be seen these days in the streets of Osipovichi, a quiet town framed by a green belt of forest a few dozen miles to the southeast of Minsk. In conformity with the law adopted at the recent session of the USSR Supreme Soviet to reduce the country's armed forces once again, the famous Fifth Red Banner Korsun Heavy Tank Division, which had been stationed here, has been disbanded. The Division is one of a number of military units whose men and officers have been returned to civilian life.

Formed at the beginning of World War II, the Division battled its way for almost 7,000 miles from the Caucasus to the Austrian Alps and drove the Nazi invaders from 15,000 Soviet towns and villages. Its tanks passed through Rumania, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Austria and killed and captured more than 40,000 of Hitler's troops. For its part in the heroic Korsun-Shevchenkivskyi operation, which took place in the Ukraine, about 100 miles to the south of Kiev, the Division was honored with the name Korsun. Nor was this the only time this famous tank division was mentioned in front-line communiqués.

At the demobilization ceremonies Colonel of the Guards Ivan Velichko reminded the fighting men just turned peacetime civilians that their talents and abilities were needed everywhere. He quoted Nikita Khrushchev's words, "We need strong hands and warm hearts all over the country—in Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Altai Territory."

Sergeant Khukolenko spoke for the men. The Division, he said, would now add to its glory with new victories in peacetime building.

Then an order transferring the Division's standard to the Central Soviet Army Museum



Long before the Korsun men and officers were demobilized, they were getting job offers from plants and farms all over the country.

in Moscow was read. The band played a stirring march and the Division paraded for the last time past reviewing stands decorated with streamers that bore the soldier's oath, "I am always ready, at the order of the Soviet government, to come to the defense of my country, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

While in service the officers and men learned the fundamentals of new trades. They are now working as mechanics, technicians, tractor drivers, electricians and communications workers. Many of them are doing professional study at universities and institutes.

Workers of every trade and profession are in demand. Long before the division was disbanded, its soldiers and officers received any number of offers from factories and mills, collective and state farms in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, the Baltic Republics, Siberia and the Far East.

Private Alexander Mitrofanov's new home is a state farm in the Altai. He learned how to service tractors in the army. Sergeant Vladimir Khukolenko and Privates Mikhail Zakharenko, Leonid Dolgikh and Nikolai Vavilov are following the same trade in other parts of the country. Sergeant Vladimir Khristoforov is helping to build a new railroad in Balashov. Colonel Alexei Meshkov took an engineering job in the town of Osipovichi. Private First Class Pyotr Loiko is working on a collective farm in Byelorussia, and Lieutenant Gennadi Kubaikin on a construction project in the Urals. Major Sergei Postnikov is going to Kalinin to teach school, and Senior Lieutenant Ivan Shchursky to Leningrad to continue his studies.

On that festive day when the Division was being disbanded, there were a good many journalists about. One of the foreign newsmen looked at the row of decorations pinned to Warrant Officer Alexander Dyachenko's blouse and asked him if he had ever been abroad.

Dyachenko answered, "Many times."

The reporter asked, "As a tourist?"

"No," he answered, "as a soldier. And I hope it's the last time I will ever have to travel in uniform."



To the strains of music and the applause of the townpeople gathered to say good-by, the Division parades in military formation for the last time on the way to the station and civilian life.

There are no tears at this parting. Others like it are taking place in many towns where military units are being disbanded in the latest arms cut ordered by the USSR Supreme Soviet.









How workers decide factory policy

By Yuri Graftsky

Photos by Alexei Bryanov

Seven million workers — both young and old, Communists and non-Party people, trade union members and people who do not belong to unions—take part in the work of the permanent production conferences at Soviet plants and factories. These conferences discuss such matters as the organization of work, wage schedules, production quotas, the installation of new machinery, and the introduction of automation. An average of 35,000 innovation proposals on the improvement of production are made every day at these conferences all over the country. In a single day more than 25,000 such proposals are introduced at the country's enterprises. This is a story about one workers' production conference.

A MEETING of the permanent production conference at the Kuibyshev Automobile and Tractor Equipment Plant is just about to begin. We tell the girl at the door that we are preparing a magazine article and take our seats. We ask the man sitting alongside us about the people in the hall. He identifies Vasili Morev, who looks more like a heavyweight boxer than the assistant director of a big industrial plant; thoughtful-looking Ivan Rybakin, an electrician; gray-haired Georgi Kirillov, one of the old-timers, an automatic machine adjuster; plant director Fridrikh Sushin, a quiet, dignified man.



At the permanent production conference chief engineer Ionkin (upper left) and assistant director Morev (upper right) report what has been done about proposals made at the last conference.



Worker members of the production conference Moisei Vekslin (left) and Mikhail Shcherbinin (below) want to know why work on the housing project grounds is not moving along faster.



Very soon the hall is filled with people, cigarette smoke and the hum of talk. There are 120 men and women present at this meeting which is one of the regular sessions of the plant's production conference. "The item to be discussed," announced Vasili Kitkalov, member of the executive committee of the permanent production conference and also vice chairman of the plant's trade union committee, "is safety engineering and accident prevention. Before we get to that point, though, I want to call on chief engineer Ionkin to tell us what the plant management has been doing to carry out the recommendations we made at our last meeting when we discussed automation. If there are no objections, I'll ask Comrade Ionkin to report."

Alexei Ionkin, a short energetic man wearing glasses, walks briskly to the rostrum. By the way he rounds out his "o's" you know he comes from the Volga region. "We've been making good progress on mechanization and automation. We haven't carried through all the recommendations made at the last conference, but that's only because there were so many. If you remember there were about 180 proposals made to improve the machines and the production processes.

"Many of these proposals have been carried out or are in the works. I don't want to take the time to go through the list. All I want to do is to assure you that the management hasn't been sitting on its hands. Only one more word on this matter. I think you've all found the work easier with our automatic lines. The men displaced by the new machines have been transferred to new jobs, not a single one has been dismissed. Our production has been expanding so much and so fast that we've been hiring additional men—more fitters, lathe operators and foundrymen."

Then he turned to the main item on the agenda. "Our new machines," he said, "make work easier and safer. Take the automatic machines for zinc plating parts in the galvanizing shop. They are built so as to shield workers completely from harmful chemical fumes."

On the credit side of the safety balance sheet Ionkin also listed the plant's first-aid posts in the shops and the modern polyclinic, but he had some few words to say about things that still needed doing.

There he was seconded by speakers from the floor. Timofei Gordienko, a fitter in the electric machine shop, got up to say that a group of workers and he had checked on the condition of the safety devices in the forge and press shop and, to say the least, they weren't happy about them.

"The seven new machine tools in the die repair section are all good and fine," said Gordienko, "but why didn't the management do something about the ventilation while it was at it? There's still the same old exhaust fan and nothing else. Another thing—we feel that the forge and press shop ought to be moved to a separate building. The noise interferes with the work in the other shops."

Yuri Kovalenko, a worker in the shipping department, had a complaint to make about safety at the loading platforms and a proposal, applauded by everyone, for easier and safer operation.

The debate became livelier and livelier. The workers saw many things that management did not, and management had a bit of explaining to do during the meeting.

Mikhail Shcherbinin, a veteran worker at the plant, was very critical of the management's housing director. He said: "A lot of new houses have been built for plant personnel, and that's fine. But the grounds around the apartment houses are still in bad shape—with wire and stones every place and a couple of trees and shrubs scattered around. When is this going to be taken care of?"

The meeting was businesslike, short—an hour all told—but by the time it adjourned, the recording secretary had received 100 oral and written proposals for improved safety conditions.

As the men left the conference hall, we stopped to talk to Nikolai Dontsov. He is a man in his fifties, an adjuster in the winding shop. In the 20-odd years he's worked at the plant Dontsov has handled scores of machines and thousands of machine parts. He holds several certificates for machine improvements—the type of man who would naturally be chosen a member of the permanent production conference. "I was elected

by the members of my shop," he told us. "So were 83 other conference members. Fifty-three of us are workers."

"But there seemed to be many more people at the meeting today," we said.

"You're right, and that's the way it should be," continued Dontsov.

Besides this all-plant production conference, each of the shops has one of its own. Some 400 workers are members of the shop production conferences. Some of them were invited to sit in on this plant production conference meeting along with the committee that prepared the report on safety engineering and accident prevention. This committee is one of many set up to prepare reports on specific questions to be taken up at production conference meetings. Both elected members of the production conference and leading workers attend committee meetings.

These 500-odd members of the plant and shop production conferences are only the nucleus of a much larger group of workers interested and active in expediting production and in improving working conditions. In the past 18 months about 5,000 plant employees submitted laborsaving and work-improvement ideas, the large majority of them useful and constructive.

The permanent production conference makes regular reports on its activity to the plant trade union committee. Conference members are elected annually but may be recalled at any time between elections by workers' meetings if they are not doing a satisfactory job.

The plant production conference meets once or twice a quarter; the shop production conferences meet once a month. Between meetings, an executive committee, or presidium of 15, carries on. One of its major functions is to prepare the agenda for conference meetings.

The cooperation within the presidium between the representatives of the management and the workers—between assistant plant director Vasili Morev and lathe operator Fyodor Batayev, for example, or technical inspection department chief Saul Levin and foundryman Nikolai Zybin—is a good indication of the way the conference keeps its eyes on major plant problems. Along with automation, mechanization and labor protection, the workers also handle such matters as the quality of the equipment produced by the plant and the storage and use of raw materials and instruments. They take part in discussing and drawing up current and long-term production plans, consider questions pertaining to the organization of work, wages, and the setting of technical standards, and submit proposals on housing and public utility projects.

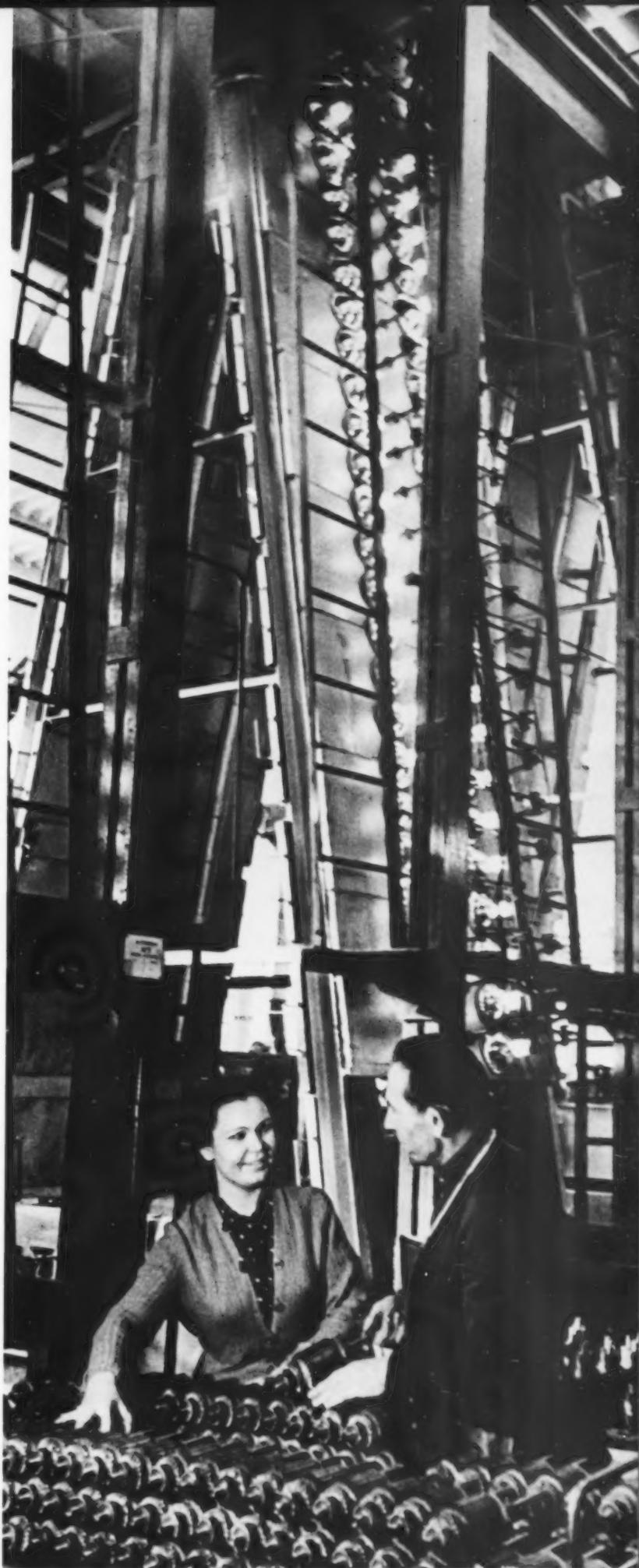
The production conference does not substitute for the management. The director has the final say in all plant matters. But the conference does represent the collective experience of the plant personnel, and the director listens and learns from and makes use of that experience.

The recommendations made by the permanent production conference are included in the orders issued by the director and become obligatory for all plant employees. The fulfillment of orders is checked not only by the management but by the workers, too, including those who attended the production conference, the committee that prepared the report and the members of the permanent production conference.

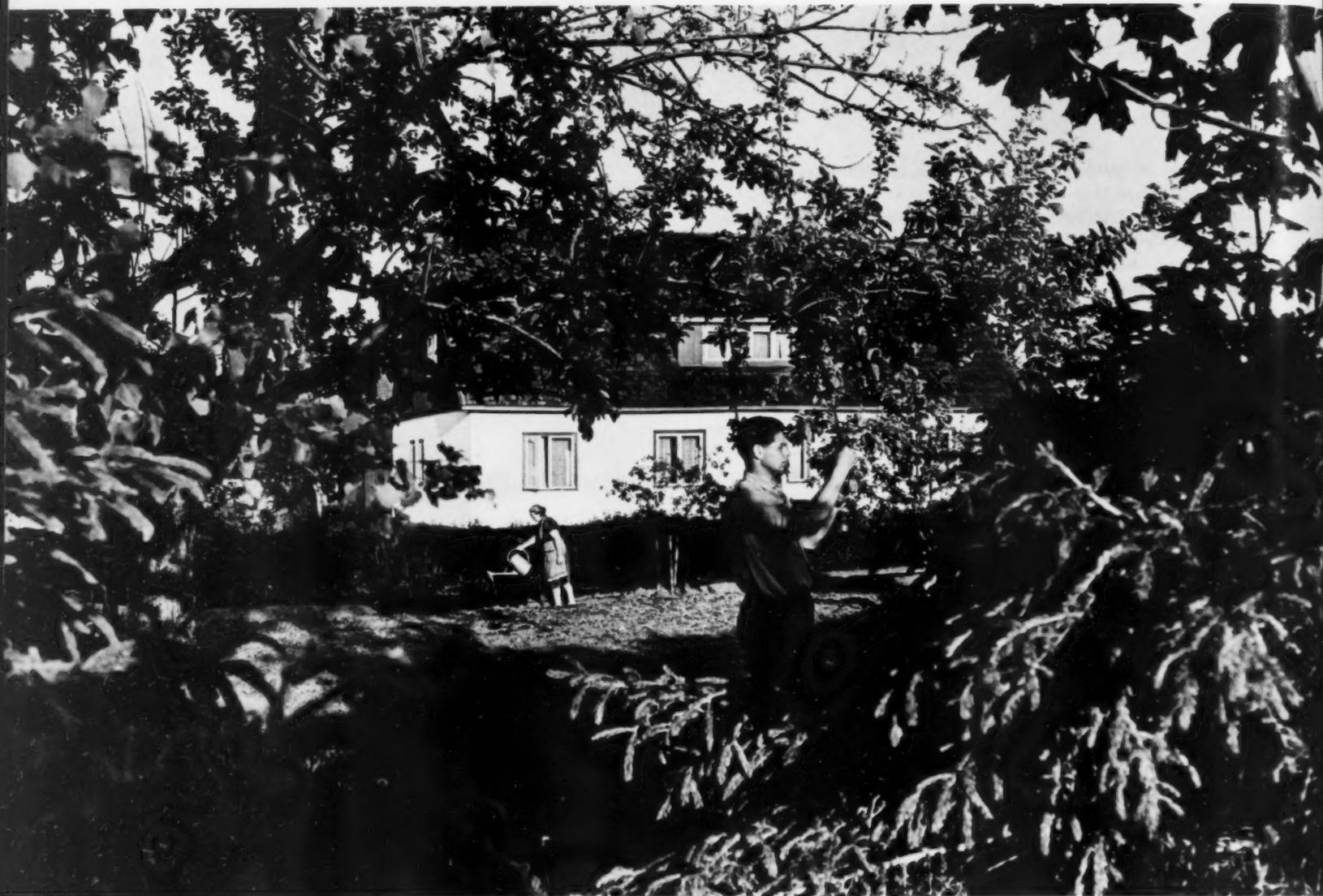
But since people are not machines, things do not always work out as smoothly in practice as they do on paper. The proposals are not always carried out in time and in full measure. And that is when the presidium of the permanent production conference steps into the picture.

We attended several sessions of the presidium where representatives of management reported on their activities. Plant director Fridrikh Sushin, assistant chief of the power supply department Pavel Sukhov and chief of the repair and construction shop Alexei Savin and Alexei Nashatyarkin were usually present. Speaking frankly, the people responsible for any delays had a hard time of it.

In this combination of active mass participation of workers in administering their factory and the control they exercise in seeing that their proposals are carried out lies the tremendous influence which the permanent production conferences have on the work of each enterprise and on the economic life of the entire country.



An average of a hundred and more suggestions for increasing output and improving working and living conditions are made at each session of this auto and tractor equipment plant's permanent production conference. This is the result of one such recommendation—an installation for drying armatures with infrared rays. Through these conferences workers make plant policy.



The family of collective farmer Gustav Viimsalu lives in this seven-room house in Vjaatsa village.

TWENTY YEARS AFTER

THE BUS to Paida takes you past new and old Estonia. This is country out of a Walter Scott novel—castles, mills blackened by time, inns serving the traditional sausage and beer. The collective farms with their tall silos, modern barns and new cottages stand out in sharp contrast.

You see the contrast in the bus passengers, too. There are the neatly shaved old men who sit dignified and sedate, and young girls chattering away with hardly a breath between sentences about college entrance examinations they have just taken at Tallinn, the Estonian capital. Here are two generations of a people who declared themselves for a Soviet republic only twenty years ago.

We are on our way to Vjaatsa village to

visit one of the older generation—56-year-old collective farmer Gustav Viimsalu. He lives in one of the new houses in the village—large and airy looking. Gustav is still in the fields, but we are invited in to wait for him. His wife Anete shows us around, and although she says very little, her pride in the house, the new furniture and her housekeeping is evident.

We haven't long to wait. Gustav is a pleasant man of medium height with blue eyes and gray hair cut very short. His face and neck, burned brick red by the sun, mark him unmistakably the farmer. So do his work-hardened palms. He gives us a hearty, vigorous handshake, excuses himself to wash, and we sit down to cold pork and mashed potatoes, ham and eggs, bread and butter.

After dinner we move to the sofa. Gustav lights a pipe and we talk farming and the farmer's No. 1 topic—weather. Would he mind telling us something about his house? What did it cost him to have it built?

"Well," he says, "it's hard to say exactly. The collective farm helped out with materials and transport, but I did the building myself. I'd say it cost me about 40,000 rubles."

Gustav built the house several years ago. Now things are different. The collective farm builds cottages and sells them on credit to the farmers. Since a number can be put up at the same time, they cost less than single houses would. Last year ten new ones were built. There are four going up now and more to come.

The farm, originally made up of 200 indi-



Gustav, who is considered the best potato-grower in Estonia, has headed a field team for 10 years. Here the men discuss the work program for the day.



The village library with its collection of 6,000 books is well patronized by its 200 members. Librarian Saima Roo shows Farmer Viimsalu new arrivals.

By Adolf Antonov

vidual holdings, is called *Ninth of May*, in honor of "V" Day that ended the war against nazi Germany. It grows wheat, corn and potatoes and raises cattle and pigs. Its annual income runs higher than four million rubles.

"Our" Farm

The Viimsalus have a small plot of their own for a kitchen garden and fruit trees, an apiary, a cow and two pigs. They sell their surplus milk and honey at market. But their major income is derived from their share of the collective farm profits. Gustav can figure on 1,000 to 1,200 rubles a month and Anete, who looks after the pigs, makes from 800 to 900 rubles. Their combined annual earnings run better

than 25,000 rubles, more than enough to live comfortably.

This wasn't always true. They had a hard time in old Estonia. Those days Gustav worked from dawn to dark on his small plot of land for a bare living, and often not even that. The house they lived in was always on the point of caving in. The farmers around him were no better off than he. Each one worked alone, just as hard and as long as Gustav and for just as little return. It was pretty much every man for himself.

Now Gustav talks of "our farm." The pooling of land and work has brought him comforts and ease he wouldn't have dreamed possible twenty years ago, not to speak of honors. Gustav is rated the best potato grower in

Estonia. He was awarded a medal by the Soviet government for his achievement.

In the old days a trip to a neighboring town was a big event. Now Gustav travels to distant parts of the country as a matter of course. He went to Moscow for the Agricultural Exhibition, and last year he attended a meeting in Minsk of the leading collective farms of four neighboring republics — Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Byelorussia.

In the evening we meet the rest of the family. The Viimsalus have four daughters and one son. Villo, a strapping young man of 24, travels to and from nearby Paidra on his motorcycle. He is a construction foreman. Vive, the youngest daughter, has just graduated from agricultural school and expects to



Viimsalu is fond of horses but he's all for farm machinery taking over the hard work.



Villo, his 24-year-old son, motorcycles to his job as construction foreman nearby.



With three of the girls married and away, mealtime seems a little quiet.



The collective farm club has its quarters in this house that once belonged to a baron.

be working on the farm. These two live at home. The other three daughters—Elvi, Valve, and Vaikke—are married and live in different parts of Estonia. He doesn't miss the noise, Gustav says, but he does admit that the seven-room house feels a little empty these days.

The Village Club

Before the farm was organized, the village was a dull place for young people. This is the part of the world where the evenings are long; in this northern region twilight lasts till dawn.

Now the club is the center of a great deal of activity—social, cultural and sports. It is housed in what was once a baron's country home. But it is beginning to be cramped for space, and the village is planning to put up

a larger building before the year is over.

The club has its own chorus and folk dance group as do collective farms throughout the country. Last summer the village singers and dancers acquitted themselves with distinction at the folk festival held to celebrate Estonia's twentieth anniversary as a Soviet republic.

More than a hundred thousand amateur singers participated in this giant song fest. Estonians have had an enviable reputation as song makers for centuries. Their *leelo* (tales), in which minstrels sing the life of the working folk, are beautifully melodious.

Estonians are also justly famous for their embroidery work, and we find some very lovely samples in the Viimsalu home—runners, doilies, tablecloths—done by Anete. This is her favorite hobby.

Gustav's major interests, outside the farm, are twirling the knobs of his radio and reading. The village library has 6,000 books and is heavily patronized by its 200 subscribers. The most popular volume at the moment, we learn from the librarian, is *The Book of Ice* by the Estonian writer Juhan Smuul, who spent a year in Antarctica.

Before we leave we look through the family album. There are the Viimsalus at their wedding 27 years ago—Gustav, stiff in a swallow-tail coat with a rose in his lapel, and Anete leaning on his arm.

Gustav says, "We really began a new life twice, Anete and I. First, when we got married, and the second time when Estonia joined the Soviet Union and our collective farm was organized."

SPUTNIKS

ON OCTOBER 4, 1957, the first artificial earth satellite was launched, and the Russian word "sputnik" was added to the other languages of the globe.

During the three years that have since passed, Soviet scientists and engineers have been penetrating the cosmos in a persevering and methodical way. In November 1957 the second Soviet earth satellite was orbited with the dog Laika aboard; half a year later, on May 15, 1958, the third sputnik, weighing 2,925 pounds, took off; and on January 2, 1959, the first cosmic rocket was successfully launched. The rocket bypassed the moon by about 3,500 miles and became the first artificial planet in the solar system.

On September 14, 1959, the second Soviet cosmic rocket landed a pennant with the state emblem of the USSR on the moon. Twenty days later the third Soviet cosmic rocket was launched with an automatic interplanetary station aboard. The rocket's photographic equipment gave man his first picture of the side of the moon hidden from the earth.

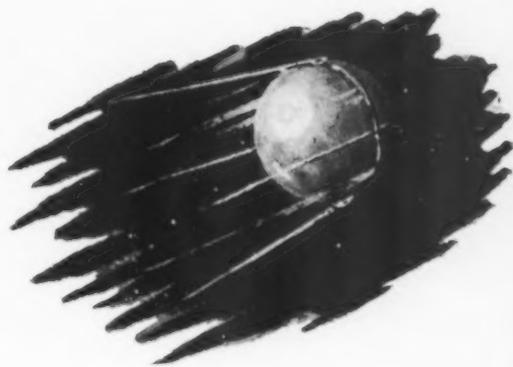
This year has also been an exciting one

for cosmic exploration. In May a Soviet interplanetary spaceship weighing five tons and containing a sealed cabin with a dummy astronaut, equal in weight to the average man, started on its cosmic journey. The results of the experiments conducted with the help of this cosmic ship, the prototype of the one that will carry man into space, warrant the conclusion that preparations for manned cosmic flight are about ready.

The flight of the second cosmic ship this past August is ended. Aboard were the now famous dogs Strelka and Belka, who were returned home safely. When the first astronaut takes off for the cosmos, we will remember these four-legged pioneers who blazed the trail back to earth, making it possible for science to provide for man's safety during such flights.

Perhaps the most difficult obstacles to man's flight into the cosmos have now been overcome. We have learned how to re-enter the atmosphere, to brake and to land. We shall use this knowledge to reach the moon, Mars, unnamed planets, the farthest stars.

SOVIET DIARY



VANISHING TAXPAYERS

AS OF October 1 of this year, the tax abolition law passed at the May session of the Supreme Soviet goes into operation. By 1965 the word "taxpayer" as applied to the individual citizen will have been eliminated from the Soviet economic vocabulary.

As first steps all workers who make 500 rubles a month or less will no longer be required to pay an income tax after October 1. Those who make 600 rubles a month will pay only 40 per cent of their regular tax this year and will not have to pay any at all in 1961. This also holds true for those who pay the present bachelor tax and the one levied on small families. Taxes presently paid by citizens in the higher wage brackets will be gradually reduced in subsequent years until they reach the vanishing point in 1965.

Economists estimate that the October tax

cut alone will leave about 3.6 billion rubles more in the pocketbooks of Soviet families. These economists estimate further that by 1965 tax savings will give Soviet workers an additional 74 billion rubles to spend.

Although a very small part of the national revenue comes from income taxes—7.5% of the budget—the total is still considerable, some several billion rubles. How is the deficit to be made up? From larger earnings of socialist enterprises, which result in larger profits. In 1959, the first year of the seven-year plan, profits increased by 20 per cent as compared with 1958—a result of thrifty and efficient management. The additional billions of rubles added to the revenue of the national budget by increased profits from industry will more than make up for the sum lost by abolishing the income tax.



GOOD FARM YEAR

THIS WAS a good year for Soviet farming, with fine harvests reported from the southern, central and northern regions of the country. From the East, the newly reclaimed virgin lands, the word is "bumper crops."

These reports are all the more remarkable because of bad weather. Spring in the Soviet Union this year was late. Later on the South and middle parts of the country were hit by dust storms that ruined crops over a vast area and, to fill out a weather picture which couldn't have been much worse, by drenching rains at harvest time.

In different circumstances this would have spelled catastrophe for thousands upon thousands of farmers and a serious food shortage for the country generally. Not the way farming is carried on in the Soviet Union, however. With liberal help from the government, the fields where the plants had been killed

were sown anew, and, to make sure, additional acreage was seeded. All told, the sown area of the country was increased by more than 117 million acres compared with last year to reach the all-time high of better than 500 million acres.

This time nature was generous. The fields of the Kuban, which had been leveled by the savage dust storms, gave a high yield of almost a ton of grain per acre. The grain districts of Stavropol Territory, Rostov and the Ukraine, which also suffered from the black storms, did almost as well. So did the drought regions of the Trans-Urals.

It is evident in this second harvest year of the seven-year plan that Soviet farming has accumulated enough resources to fulfill the goal set by the seven-year plan—to produce from 180 to 198 million tons of grain, as much as the country can possibly use.



A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD SCIENCE

IN A BIOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH into the cosmos no less momentous than the technological breakthrough of the first sputnik, the Soviet Union sent living organisms into outer space and returned them safely to earth after they had circled the globe 18 times on August 19 and 20 and had traveled almost 435,000 miles.

The retrieved capsule, which carried other forms of animal and plant life besides those two now world-famous canine cosmonauts Belka (Squirrel) and Strelka (Arrow), landed in a meadow a bare six miles from the point predetermined. Collective farmers working in the fields nearby were the first to witness the descent. They excitedly surrounded the capsule to read the inscription that asked the finder to send a message to the given address.

Just before they could reach a phone, an observation aircraft had brought scientists who rushed to the capsule. Were the dogs alive? They were, very much so. When the hatch was thrown open, they jumped out, very pleased with themselves and with the solid earth and fresh air. They frisked about, barked and smelled everything and everyone. Not a scratch or a bruise anywhere—these were two very healthy dogs.

Through a television installation in the dogs' cabin scientists observed the behavior of the animals during the flight from the time the spaceship took off to practically the time it began to land. The experimental animals were televised throughout the period that the ship was within the zone where the receiving stations were able to pick up its signals.

The images received were registered on film. Every shot was synchronized with the telemetrically transmitted data. Later, when scientists studied the films, they were able to compare what the TV camera saw with what the instruments registered.

At the moment of the start the dogs pricked up their ears and looked in bewilderment at the floor of the cabin: What was that unusual noise? During the first seconds of the flight the dogs looked worried and tried to rush about. As the ship's speed was accelerated, they were gradually pressed to the floor by the increasing force of gravity. Strelka tried to resist by pushing back hard. She looked around anxiously. Then both animals stood stock-still. The ship had reached its orbit.

After the great overload, a condition of weightlessness set in. The dogs found themselves suspended in air, their paws and heads limply lowered. At first glance they appeared lifeless. Only the readings of the telemetric system showed that their pulse and respiration were normal—they were simply resting after the excitement experienced during the take-off and were becoming accustomed to new and very unusual sensations.

Gradually the dogs started to raise their heads and move their paws. Everything was strange. Belka even became angry and started to bark. Little by little both dogs became accustomed to the condition of weightlessness. Incidentally, the feeding trough opened automatically just as it was supposed to.

Strelka and Belka traveled in a pressurized cabin equipped with special automatic devices that maintained an optimal climate—proper temperature, humidity, gas composition and barometric pressure. The oxygen the animals required was emitted by special chemical elements that simultaneously absorbed carbon dioxide and steam.

At scheduled intervals the feeding trough opened up. It held a compound food—nutritive substances and water. The fastening devices gave the dogs some degree of freedom to move so that their behavior under weightlessness could be observed. They were able to get up, sit down and lie on either the side or the stomach.

Special pickups were attached to the bodies of the animals to check their physiological behavior in outer space—the effect of vibration, noise, acceleration, zero-gravity and other flight factors. The instruments recorded heart action, blood pressure changes, breathing, body temperature and related data.

Strelka and Belka were sent on their history-making mission after long and meticulous preparation. They were trained to withstand long confinement in limited areas, to wear space suits, not to be bothered by pickups attached to their bodies and to eat specially prepared food from automatic troughs. Like their famous predecessor Laika—the first cosmic traveler, who died in the second sputnik three years ago—they come from a gentle, quiet and uncomplaining breed not much given to temperamental outbursts.

The dogs, as well as the other living things carried in the retrieved capsule, have been under continuous observation since the flight to study the possible long-term effects of zero-gravity, cosmic radiation and other hazards of outer space.

The spaceship was a veritable flying biological laboratory with its two dogs, forty mice, two rats and drosophilae flies. Besides that it carried plant life—spiderwort, chlorella, fungus cultures, seeds of different varieties of corn, wheat, peas, onions and Nigella. It also carried ampules of human and rabbit skin, cancer cells, intestinal bacilli, fermentation bacteria, staphylococci, desoxy-nucleic acid and bacteriophage.

Instruments in the ship were designed to study light and heavy nuclei in primary cosmic radiation, X-ray and ultraviolet radiation of the sun and the doses of cosmic radiation in the animal container.

Aside from the television equipment the spaceship carried a radio transmitter and

radio telemetric equipment to transmit data on the condition of the test animals and the operation of the various installations.

This was the heaviest of all cosmic vehicles yet launched. It weighed 10,140 pounds without the last stage of the carrier rocket. The ship went into a nearly circular orbit at an altitude of about 200 miles. Various stages of flight were guided by control systems operated from earth.

The research program was scheduled to take 24 hours and was completed within that time. When the ship was making its eighteenth revolution, the command was given by the ground control station to move out of orbit and descend to earth. The control system and braking device operated faultlessly.

The descent was the most crucial stage of the whole flight. Unless special precautions were taken, the probe could become overheated and burn up like a meteorite when it reached the earth's atmosphere. While a certain amount of overheating can be permitted in the descent of a capsule that carries only instruments, it obviously cannot be if the capsule carries anything alive.

In this ship the dogs and other organisms were protected by a special thermal shield. The speed of the ship was decreased very gradually so that the overload during braking did not exceed the limits a living organism can stand. When the ship reached a low altitude, the capsule was jettisoned to make sure it landed safely.

Both the capsule with everything it contained and the spaceship itself came down undamaged during the passage through the dense layers of the atmosphere. From the very beginning of the re-entry stage all data on the braking system and the system of descent control was recorded. Further study of this data has great practical value for future flights of cosmic ships and their safe return to earth.

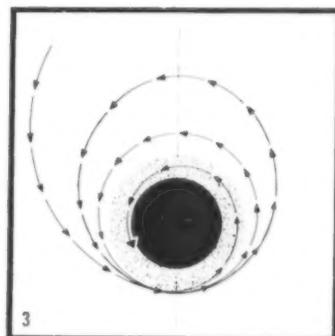
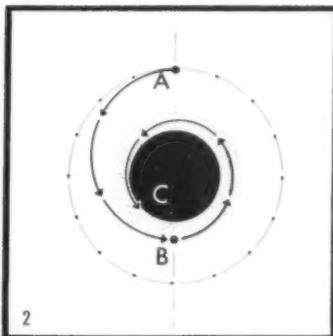
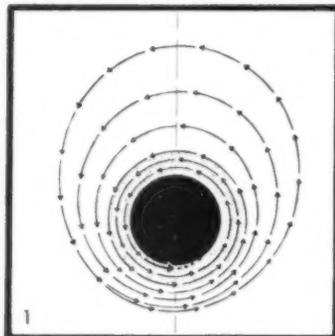
The guided flight of the cosmic ship with a capsule containing animal and plant life is a great contribution to world science. For the first time in history living organisms were returned safely to earth from the cosmos, and now scientists are studying the voluminous data on the vital activity of these organisms in conditions of space flight. From the biological point of view this experiment is of paramount import because it makes it possible to verify such effects as, for example, those of cosmic radiation. Among the questions involved is the influence of space flight on heredity.

The safe return to earth of a heavy-weight sputnik from outer space shows once again the progress of Soviet science and technology. Practical possibilities for man's flight into the cosmos are being created, opening a new page in the history of cosmic exploration.



A few unretouched photos taken from the spaceship's television broadcast that showed the behavior of one of the dogs during flight.

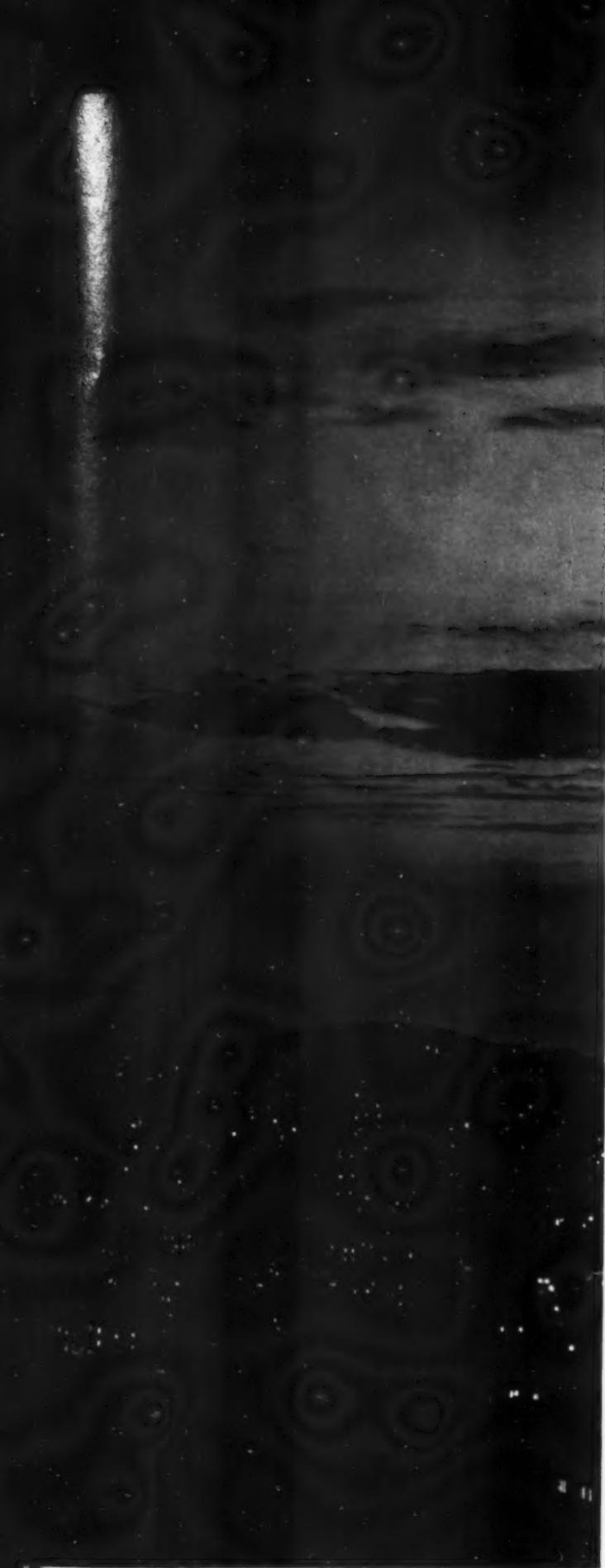
DOGS IN SPACE



FROM OUTER SPACE BACK TO EARTH. 1. *Trajectories of first sputniks:* The perigee, the lowest part of the orbit, was at an altitude where the atmosphere is still relatively dense. Air resistance impeded the movement and the orbit gradually shrank, with the apogee, the highest part of the orbit, lowering much faster than the perigee. As the perigee also dropped little by little, the sputnik encountered ever increasing air resistance. It began heating and finally burned up like a meteor. 2. *Recovery of the capsule with the animals:* When the spaceship was on its eighteenth revolution around the earth (point A), a command for descent was given from the ground control station. The ship's rocket engine, with its nozzle turned in the direction of the flight, was switched on and retarded the movement. Losing speed, the ship began approaching the earth in an extended arc (point B). Upon reaching the dense layers of the atmosphere, it slowed down even more to avoid heating. At last, having lost its speed, the ship landed on earth (point C). 3. *Returning from interplanetary space:* The velocity of the future interplanetary ship upon reaching the earth's atmosphere will be very great, and therefore it will be unable to go into a circular orbit similar to that of the ship with the animals. More likely, it will at first go into an orbit along contracting ellipses and for a while will be circling the earth like the first sputniks. But to speed up the further descent the interplanetary ship will have to enter the atmosphere at an altitude where the air resistance is relatively high.







EVERY CITY has its own highly individual character, determined by its history, location, industries and a hundred other tangible and intangible factors. But occasionally you will have two cities with a curiously similar personality even though they may be separated by distance, tradition and national boundaries. Our Vladivostok and America's San Francisco are such cities.

Vladivostok's population of 300,000 is considerably less than San Francisco's 2,721,000, but these two cities have very much in common in spite of this difference. Both are Pacific gateways of their countries, both stand in beauty on coastal hills that slope gradually to the sea, and there are resemblances even in place names—the Golden Horn Bay washes the coast of Vladivostok, and the Golden Gates Straits connect San Francisco with the Pacific.

The people living and working in these two cities are also very much alike. When Mayor George Christopher of San Francisco toured the Soviet Union some months ago he said: "My city traditionally has been a city of peace, and here in your country I found people who have exactly the same feeling. . . . I don't see why we can't be friends. . . . We have many things in common, and the foremost of these is a desire for peace and friendship."

Mr. Christopher and his group toured many of our cities and met many people from all walks of life. I believe that contacts of this kind are most instrumental in building peace and friendship between our peoples.

I look forward to the day when American merchant ships with full cargoes will steam through Vladivostok and when our freighters will be docking at San Francisco.

Industrial and Cultural Center

There was a time when our merchants carried on a brisk trade with America's cities on the Pacific and when many trading posts were set up on Russia's Pacific coast. They subsequently grew into cities. It was at that time, a hundred years ago, that Vladivostok was founded on the shores of a quiet bay surrounded by wooded hills.

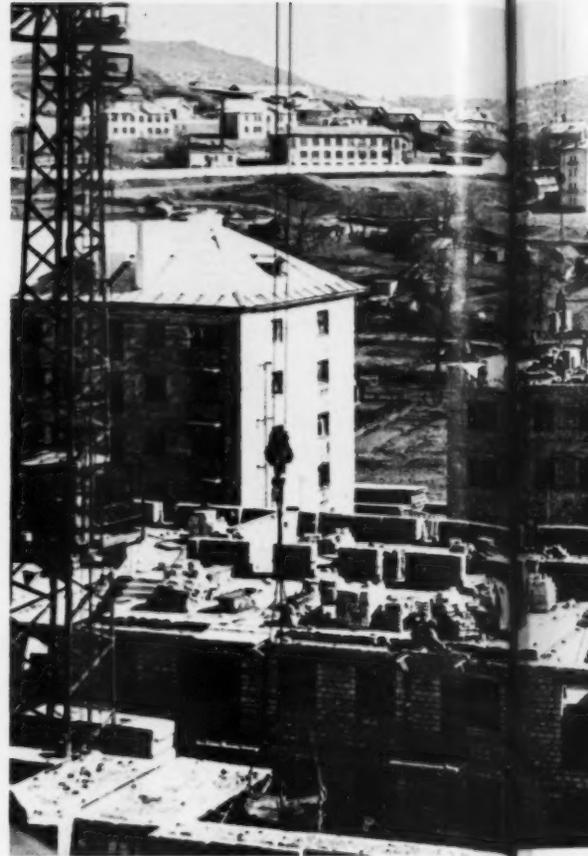
This deep winding bay protected from ocean storms was an ideal site for a port.

"WE HOPE TO BE COMPETING WITH SAN FRANCISCO FOR THE TITLE OF MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY ON THE PACIFIC," says Boris Averkin, Chairman of the Vladivostok City Soviet.



Vladivostok is home port for freighters, passenger ships and a big fishing fleet. Sea lanes out of this busy city on the Pacific coast radiate to many countries of Asia and America.

The railroad station. Vladivostok, which in the past 40-odd years has become the hub of the Maritime Territory in the Soviet Far East, is the terminus of the Siberian Railway's main line.



The city that grew around the busy harbor looks like an amphitheater descending to the coast, with row upon row of streets whose houses seem to be standing upon one another's shoulders.

Vladivostok soon became the major Russian commercial port and naval base on the Pacific. A new page in its history began at the turn of this century when the Trans-Siberian Railroad connected it with the rest of the country. But with all its significance as the center of a vast region, the Maritime Territory, Vladivostok remained a comparatively small town of wooden houses.

It was only after the Revolution that our city really began to grow. Take the population—during the Soviet period its rate of increase has been six times higher than in czarist times. This, in a way, reflects the very rapid development of the whole Maritime Territory.

Our land is very rich in natural resources. We have coal, iron ore, tin, lead, graphite, gold and tungsten. All these treasures, buried and unused in the old days, are being tapped now, and Vladivostok is playing a pioneering role in the economic expansion of this frontier region.

Our leading industries are ship repairing, fish processing, woodworking, coal mining and production of building materials. The city's life is in many ways connected with the ocean. Vladivostok is home port for our Pacific merchant and fishing fleets. Fishermen, crabbers, whalers, seal hunters leave

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The city's construction plan calls for building more new housing in the next six years than in the 100 years since the city was founded, besides dozens of schools, nurseries, hospitals and theaters.

here for far-off fishing grounds and return for unloading and repairs. Radiating from Vladivostok and its young neighbor, the port of Nakhodka, are sea lanes to Chukotka, Kamchatka, the Kuril Islands, the Okhotsk coast, Sakhalin and many countries of Asia and America. Cargoes of coal, oil, timber, cotton and machinery are loaded here for other cities in the Soviet Union and abroad.

Besides being an industrial and shipping city, Vladivostok is an important cultural center. Back in 1914 there was only one college in our city with 200 students. Now we have almost 16 thousand students enrolled in six institutions of higher education and nine specialized secondary schools. Most popular among young people are Far Eastern University, Far Eastern Polytechnical Institute, Far Eastern Medical College and the Higher Merchant Marine School.

The Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences has its Far Eastern Department in Vladivostok. There are also several research centers, like the Institute of Ichthyology and Oceanography, the Hydrometeorological Institute and the Geological Institute. The main direction in their work is the study of the region's natural wealth and the investigation of possibilities for its use.

A Beautiful City

Much has been done to rebuild Vladivostok from a town of wooden houses into the modern city it is today. We are proud of our

beautiful city with its wide streets and hill-sides terraced right to the harbor. All along the beaches of golden sand are health and vacation resorts and clubs for water sports.

In the near future our city will become even more beautiful. These next six years we expect to build more new housing than in the entire hundred years since Vladivostok was founded. We are building dozens of schools, kindergartens and nurseries. In addition to the three theaters we now have, we will build a drama theater and a circus.

A group of new factories is being built in Vladivostok to provide all the materials needed for this large construction program. All over the city old houses are now being torn down and new ones put up. We are also in the middle of a big face-lifting job for our waterfront and beaches. The fishing and freight wharves are being modernized, and the port buildings are being remodeled.

When our construction program is completed, our city will look more like a resort than an industrial and port town, with parks and greenery and flowers everywhere. Most beautiful will be Primorsky (Maritime) Boulevard that will run through the city along the shore of Amur Bay and merge with the resort area in the suburbs.

San Francisco, our neighbor across the ocean, is acknowledged to be one of the beautiful cities on the Pacific coast. We hope, in a future not too distant, to be competing with San Francisco for the title of *most beautiful*.



Boatswain Rezvan of the 30,500-ton turbo-ship Soviet Union berthed at Vladivostok.



The city is built on beautiful coastal hills that slope gradually to the sea.

One of the main streets of this industrial, cultural and administrative center.



AMERICAN LABOR LEADERS



IN THE SOVIET UNION

By Klim Igoshin

LEADERS of the National Maritime Union (NMU) were guests of the USSR Sea and River Workers Union on a recent tour of Soviet port cities and industrial centers. This delegation of a union affiliated with the AFL-CIO included the NMU president Joseph Curran, who is also one of the AFL-CIO vice presidents; Steve Federoff, secretary-treasurer; Bernard Raskin, editor of the union's paper *The Pilot*; and William Perry, assistant to the president.

The reasons for their trip, as Mr. Curran described it in his article "Why We Are Going to Russia," published in *The Pilot* a couple of weeks before they left home, was "to have a good look at the way unions operate there, to examine the economic and social conditions of the people and the general state of the country. . . . Our Union can be proud that we are taking the lead among the unions in the American labor movement in sending an official delegation on such a visit to the Soviet Union. . . . The workers of two of the greatest industrial nations on earth cannot remain strangers to each other if we hope to make any contribution toward peace in the world."

The NMU leaders spent 17 days in the Soviet Union and covered some 8,000 miles traveling by plane, train, car and boat. They stopped in Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad, Odessa and Sochi. Their program included visits not only to docks and ships, but also to housing developments, health and vacation resorts, recreation centers and other cultural facilities. They talked to rank-and-file workers as well as to union, management and government officials at various levels, including Nikita Khrushchev. "We were able," Mr. Curran noted, "to see everything and talk to anybody we desired."

Tremendous Progress Everywhere

It was a busy trip with a crowded schedule for each day that kept them going from place to place until well into the evening. But that seemed to be their objective. The NMU delegates tried their best to make up for the lack of direct contacts in recent years.

Mr. Curran had been to the Soviet Union before—on frequent visits as a seaman in the early thirties and then in 1945 as a member of a CIO delegation. He said he had a good knowledge of the great tasks that faced the Soviet people in the postwar period. Now he and his friends saw with their own eyes what had been accomplished in these eventful years.

Summing up the impressions of the delegates, Mr. Curran wrote in the official report published in *The Pilot* that they saw a country "which has clearly made tremendous progress in many respects and is bustling with activity today." Here are just a few of their general observations:

"From what we heard and the visible signs of industrial activity, the production drive is getting results. . . ."

"There seemed to be plenty of activity in the stores and shopping areas whenever we saw them. . . ."

"Everywhere we went in the Soviet Union we saw a great deal of housing construction

under way. . . . The people . . . pay not more than 5 per cent of their wages for rent. . . . Most of the housing construction is done by . . . management for the workers. . . . There is also provision for state loans if a person wants to build a house for himself or if a group wants to invest in a cooperative dwelling. . . ."

"We saw more cars in the Soviet cities than we expected to find. . . . The crowds and traffic in Moscow actually reminded us of New York at times but it has a long way to go before it gets that bad. . . ."

Health and vacation resorts "at Sochi, mostly built recently, have the look of well-preserved palaces of the czars. . . . The few we were in impressed us as very well equipped and quite comfortable. . . ."

"Pioneer camps . . . run by unions for children of their members . . . are like well-equipped summer camps here. They give the kids a chance for several weeks of healthy, active vacation at low rates. . . ."

Although the American guests looked into many aspects of Soviet life, they were naturally most interested in seeing the maritime industry. "Russia's port facilities," their report reads, "took a terrible beating during World War II. A very impressive job of rebuilding has been done in those we saw on our tour."

In each port the Americans visited they saw both Soviet and foreign ships, visual evidence of broad trade relations with many parts of the world. "Odessa's port," their report reads, "was 90 per cent destroyed. They had restored it to its full prewar capacity by 1947. Today, we were told, it has three times its prewar capacity."

Working Conditions and Unions

Much time in the delegation's schedule was provided for a detailed study of working conditions and union activities. "Union and port officials," their report reads, "told us their major task on the docks is to increase efficiency through mechanization. With this, they have the problem of training workers needed to handle the mechanized equipment. . . ."

"The Odessa port has a special library of technical literature, models and charts of new cargo-handling equipment with a full-time person to conduct classes and answer questions of dock workers. This union also maintains technical schools and correspondence courses for seamen. Funds for these operations come from management and are provided for in the contract."

The guests toured many ships, both old and new. Crew quarters, they observed, "are quite good," and wages, in their opinion, "would put seamen among the highest-paid industrial workers." The guests especially noted incentive bonuses for good work that boost the basic wage, and all kinds of schools that train seamen for higher qualifications.

The Americans were obviously impressed by a great variety of union activities, ranging from participation in planning the national economy to settlement of grievances in local groups. In each of these areas the unions have great powers and are very influential.



The visiting leaders of the American seaman's union look round a collective farm near Odessa.



Curran shows the delegation a bullet hole, grim reminder of the war.

A visit with Georgi Sayenko (center) who heads the USSR seamen's union.



Chairman Nikita Khrushchev welcomes NMU president Joseph Curran at the Kremlin.

Describing "the wide range of jobs" unions are doing, the report of the NMU delegation cites many specific examples like this one: "The unions are also charged with inspection of plants and safety enforcement, and they claim the power to close plants down if they are not satisfied. And when that happens, the plant cannot open until the union gives its O.K."

Here is another example cited in the report: "Pension and welfare programs in Soviet industry are run by union and management, but the basic benefits and regulations are part of the national economic program. The benefits considered in terms of percentage of the normal wages are good. So are the eligibility requirements. Old age pension benefits run from 50 to 100 per cent of the person's former wage—with the higher percentage going to those in the lower wage brackets. . . . They also have provisions for permanent disability pensions, sick benefits and maternity benefits, all providing an impressive proportion of the actual wages."

The American labor leaders had ample opportunity to get firsthand knowledge of union

life in the Soviet maritime industry, which is typical of the way other unions in the country operate, and to clear up much of what they term in their report as "the areas of suspicion and misunderstanding which exist between the American labor movement and the Soviet labor movement."

But one visit is, of course, not nearly enough to eliminate all suspicion and misunderstanding accumulated during long years when there was no contact at all. The NMU delegates and their Soviet hosts discussed many problems of mutual interest. Both sides expressed their views openly and frankly, and these discussions helped them learn more about each other and trace possibilities for future contacts.

Why There Are No Strikes

"Why are there no strikes in the Soviet Union?" the NMU delegates kept asking in almost every place they visited.

The answers varied in wording but their essence was the same—there is neither ground nor cause for strikes. Under the socialist

system the working people themselves are the masters of the whole country, with all its wealth. Therefore unions work in close cooperation with management for the general welfare of the nation. If and when occasional grievances arise, the unions have effective machinery for settlement which protects the interests of the workers. Never since the late twenties, when there were still some private enterprises in the country, has a labor dispute developed into a strike.

Speaking at the concluding press conference in Moscow, Mr. Curran described relations between unions and management as both businesslike and most cooperative. "We have had many meetings with seamen and captains," he said, "and everywhere we saw contented people. . . . We have learned that when labor disputes arise, unions have the final say. . . . They represent the interests of the workers pretty well."

The Soviet people were proud to show their American guests the best of everything in their life. But at the same time they did not hide facts about the difficulties and hardships that face them in solving various

Curran says hello to a fellow seaman, retired boatswain Porfiro Matskailo.

Soviet school children join the grown-ups in greeting the visitors.



The American delegation places a wreath on the grave of an unknown sailor who died in the war against fascism.

problems. Nor did they brush off criticism if it served a constructive purpose.

The Odessa dockers felt very proud when their cargo-handling equipment produced a favorable impression, but they were not in the least offended when the Americans expressed the opinion that the hydraulic grab hooks used to lift raw rubber and cotton bales seemed impractical because too much additional work was needed to get the cargo into position for this machine to handle it. On some of the ships the Americans thought that more commodious cabins and more sanitary facilities for the crews would be desirable. In some housing developments they noted that quality was below standard—this may be explained only by the fact that it is sacrificed for speed.

For Peace and Friendship

"Your delegation," the NMU leaders report in their account of the tour, "was met everywhere in the Soviet Union with great warmth and friendship. Men, women and children would ask us to tell the people back

home that the Russians want only peace and friendship with the American people. They were obviously sincere."

The American visitors were very much impressed with what they saw in Stalingrad. They spent a full day going over the battlefields and through the war museum, and watching a film about the heroic defense of the city. Today's Stalingrad seemed to them something of a shrine city commemorating the great struggle against the Nazi invaders which turned the tide of the war.

"That beautiful city has been actually built anew," noted Mr. Curran, "and it is worthy of the memory of those who died defending it." And in the Visitors Book at the Stalingrad Defense Museum the delegation wrote: ". . . We shall learn to live in peace, and this will be a worthy monument to the heroes of Stalingrad. . . ."

Among the people they met in Leningrad, a city which survived a 900-day siege during World War II, was Captain Alexei Chistyakov. They were pleased to know that he had made several trips to American ports during the war, and they gave him a good

hand when he said: "American and Soviet seamen were good friends during the years of struggle against the common enemy. I hope that now our friendship will keep growing from day to day."

The American guests were welcomed with traditional Russian hospitality at every step of their tour no matter whom they met, rank-and-file worker or high official. Every meeting, Mr. Curran noted, demonstrated that "seamen throughout the world are friends and brothers in profession and speak one language that is always and everywhere understandable to them."

The trip of the NMU delegates was climaxed by a long talk with Nikita Khrushchev, whom they met in his office in the Kremlin. It involved most diverse questions and was held in a friendly atmosphere. "We agreed with the head of the Soviet government," Mr. Curran said, "that there should be more exchanges of delegations, friendly contacts and regular personal correspondence. We also told him that we would do everything possible to improve relations between our countries."

IS IT TRUE that the problem of fighting crime is being successfully solved in the Soviet Union and that re-education and not punishment is the most important weapon used?

This is a question I am frequently asked by my foreign colleagues. Crime, especially by juvenile offenders, is a more serious problem than ever for many Western countries; in the USSR crime is on the decrease, and many common types of criminal behavior are extremely rare occurrences.

Last year Judge Samuel Leibowitz of New York visited our country. He gave his impressions of our penal procedures in an article published in *Life* magazine. At the outset, let me make it clear that the opinions of Justice Leibowitz are not ours; they are very much his own. On his tour our American guest visited a corrective labor colony near Moscow. He looked around wherever he wanted to, talked to the prisoners, had dinner with them and interviewed the instructors.

"The Russian penal colony . . . some 45 kilometers from Moscow," Judge Leibowitz writes, ". . . does not boast the massive, stone-wall, fireproof construction of a Sing Sing, nor does it contain the psychiatric staff of a Matteawan or the Golden Gate scenery of Alcatraz. It has something much better: intelligent, humane, farsighted administration from top to bottom. . . . I have dealt with crime and criminals, both from the defense counsel table and from the bench, for 41 years," Judge Leibowitz continues, "and in that time I have had to visit prisons many, many times. What I saw in this colony amazed me."

Re-education and Rehabilitation

Judge Leibowitz took the trouble to explain why he arrived at this decided, even though unexpected, conclusion. Listing the points of the methodical program followed in re-educating prisoners through work, he points out: ". . . They are also given ample opportunity to learn the trade of their choice. They are actually paid just as much for the work they do in prison as they would receive for corresponding work on the outside. It is hard to realize how important that single fact is . . . in

Russia they earn and pay for their own keep. But over and above that they earn about 400 rubles (\$100.) a month. A small percentage of this they can use to buy small luxuries. The remainder goes to the support of their families so that the families are not a burden to the government either, as they are in our country. . . . He is still supporting his family and is building a nest egg so that he can start a new life upon his release. This means that he preserves his self-respect while serving his sentence. When he finally leaves prison he is prepared financially, educationally and psychologically to become a useful citizen.

"That last is further encouraged by the Russian custom in many cases of expunging a man's criminal record, once he has served his time. His past mistakes are simply forgotten."

This way of fighting crime is made possible by the new morality and laws that grow out of the Soviet way of life, founded on faith in humanity and trust in man's unlimited potential for good.

The education and rehabilitation carried through by the present-day Soviet corrective-labor colonies that Justice Leibowitz wrote about is only one aspect of the fight to abolish crime. The basic aspect of the fight against crime and of strengthening law and order is the prevention of crime. Here the decisive role is played not by the police or the courts but by the public at large, and in particular, by various citizens' organizations.

The Social Basis of Crime

But before we proceed with a description of the methods by which the public generally acts to prevent crime, we must make note of this crucial element—that in the USSR the social factors that give rise to mass crimes have long ago been eliminated. Unemployment has been done away with, so has exploitation of the working people. The standard of living climbs upward year by year. Guaranteed to every citizen by the Soviet Constitution is the right to a job, to a paid vacation, to free education. There is the additional factor, to my mind the importance of this point should not be minimized, that in the USSR gutter literature, which serves to corrupt the youth, may not be published, just as

By Lev Sheinin

THE PUBLIC



films featuring bloodthirsty crimes and sexual vice may not be produced.

In the USSR people are no longer arrested for political crimes. Gangsterism and other such threats to law and order have, for all practical purposes, disappeared. In our country there are not, nor can there be, such crimes as are commonplace elsewhere. We have no "Murder, Incorporated," no traffic in narcotics, no gambling dens, no bank hold-ups. All this is foreign to our country. It is precluded by our social system, a system of law and order, by our socialist way of life.

Crime Prevention

Visiting penologists are struck by the success the Soviet Union has had not alone in fighting crime, but in crime prevention. The annual decrease in the number of offenders is marked. For example, in the Russian Federation the number of persons sentenced during the first quarter of 1960 was only a third of the number for the same period last year. Soviet criminologists are gratified, as they have reason to be, but they are pushing hard for larger achievements. Their feeling is that Soviet society at its present stage of development offers every possibility for eliminating crime altogether.

We still have criminal offenders, of course, in spite of the sharp decline—thieves, hoodlums, and very rarely, murderers. Convicted under Soviet law, these offenders are sentenced to prison or to corrective labor colonies, or, in exceptionally grave cases, to the supreme penalty—death by shooting.

For all that, we are convinced that the problem can not be solved by punishment alone. This does not mean that we feel crime should go unpunished. On the contrary, a man about to commit a crime should have no reason to hope for impunity.

But we do believe that the answer for our country lies in re-education and rehabilitation. The USSR criminal code, revised recently by the Supreme Soviet, states in part: "Punishment is not merely a penalty for the crime committed; the goal toward which it is directed is to correct and re-educate the criminal, to instill an honest attitude toward work."

This principle develops out of Lenin's admonition to the Soviet court system that it is entrusted with the great task of educating the people in a spirit of socialist labor discipline.

In recent years educational work in places of confinement has been much expanded with the help of the Soviet public. Prisoners not only work, they also attend high school classes, form athletic teams, amateur art and dramatic groups, print their own newspapers, and elect their own councils to supervise work. The public is most helpful there. Industrial workers and farmers of the plants and collective farms in the vicinity teach the prisoners trades, educators arrange lectures and forums, and local amateur musicians and theater groups present concerts and plays.

The relation of the workers of the Chelyabinsk Pipe Factory to the corrective labor colony nearby is illustrative. In several cases they have vouched for a prisoner, petitioned for his discharge ahead of time and arranged a job for him at the plant, where he enjoys all the privileges and benefits accruing to other workers. As a general rule these released prisoners are a credit to their sponsors. They do a good job and speedily win the respect and even the admiration of their bench mates, and their past is forgotten. In my opinion this method of vouching for wrongdoers, which is quite common in our country, has proved to be a good one. In the overwhelming majority of cases, the reform is permanent. It is the very rare ex-convict who reverts to his criminal past. It is natural for these people to do their best to justify the trust placed in them.

Role of the Public

With help from the public, prisons have done a great deal of educative work. There is, of course, plenty left to do. Re-education, to be effective, must be a continuous and cumulative process. But the results are evident and they are most gratifying. Were Justice Leibowitz to visit the same colony near Moscow in a few years from now, he would find the number of prisoners greatly reduced and the educational work better organized.

There is, of course, no arguing the fact that once a man has to be sent to a corrective labor colony, no matter how effective its re-education

AND LAW

Workers of the Moscow Automobile Plant gather for a sitting of their Comrades' Court where the offender is tried by his own bench mates.

The defendant is Anatoli Vetrov, a locksmith. He has been charged with insulting one of the men he works with and starting a fist fight.





The three judges, who were elected at a trade union meeting, listen very attentively. The verdict of the Comrades' Court must be well considered.

program, we have to admit we have failed somewhere along the line. Our primary task is to see to it that there are no colonies because there is no one to imprison. And this is not nearly as Utopian as it sounds. In many of our cities we have had prisons closing because of lack of "boarders."

More and more, as time goes on, the fight against crime and criminals becomes the function of public organizations, rather than the police, the Procurator's office and the courts. There are citizens' voluntary public order squads functioning or in process of being organized in all cities. Some are doing so excellent a job that the local militia, with nothing to do, has been disbanded.

We are far from convinced that the way to free society from criminals is to separate criminals from that society. On the contrary, our experience shows that the more the public is permitted to influence the criminal, the greater assurance there is that he will cease his criminal activity.

Citizen Courts

The Comrades' Courts have been developing as important social influences. The judges are the offender's own neighbors or work mates, and the trial is held in public. The severe but understanding judgment by people the offender knows well seems to exert a most salutary influence. This social pressure acts as a real deterrent and inclines the offender not to repeat his anti-social behavior.

The Comrades' Court at a Leningrad factory is fairly typical of many now functioning in plants and collective farms all over the country. Each session is carefully prepared for and attended by a large audience. The chairman of the court is foreman Nikolai Kovalev, and the other judges are all esteemed and respected workers and engineers.

Citizens' public order squads also play an important role. Although they have taken over some police functions, they by no means serve as an auxiliary police force. These are voluntary organizations which seek

out the authorities only when they need help and support in their activities.

The only weapons these citizen squads carry are persuasion and education. They explain new laws to people, put out photo-newspapers and leaflets that satirize law breaking and admonish citizens who are prone to anti-social behavior. Wherever they function, they earn the cooperation and good will of the people.

This is serious and responsible work. Flighty people are not welcomed nor are those who like to throw their weight around. Those who join the squads, usually the younger folk, are forerunners of the future Lenin talked about—when the people themselves will suppress the excesses of those who violate public order.

Trust Is the Basic Principle

The principle by which a socialist society operates is humanism, respect for the individual. The basis of its penal code will therefore necessarily be trust. During the first years after the socialist republic was founded Felix Dzerzhinsky, a leading government official, and educator Anton Makarenko worked out a program founded on trust for rehabilitating young criminals.

Special communes were formed in which young offenders were given the chance to choose their own leaders, learn proper working habits and master trades. Makarenko's books *The Road to Life* and *Learning to Live* have won the commendation of criminologists, psychiatrists, teachers and parents the world over.

"It is not enough for us," wrote Makarenko, "simply to reform a man, we must bring him up in a new way, that is, we must bring him up to be not simply a safe, or harmless, member of society, but to be an active worker for the new era."

I myself have spent 27 years of my life in fighting to eliminate crime, first as criminologist and then as writer. What understanding I have



A shopmate testifies. If the court finds Anatoli guilty, it may decide to reprimand him publicly or turn the case over to the courts.



The sentence is brief—"Public Reprimand." The court's duty does not end here. It must help the culprit mend his ways so that the offense is not repeated.

achieved as a writer I owe to those years I spent seated at an investigator's desk. The theme I keep returning to in my books and articles, the one closest to my heart, has to do with the man who has served his time and returns to resume an honest life. I feel that in our Soviet society there is a point of return for the man who has committed a crime, so long as he breathes, sees, thinks. But he must be helped to make the return and the help must be knowledgeable.

That is why I found it so gratifying that in recent years the Soviet public as a whole has concerned itself with this problem of rehabilitation and is willing to place its trust even in offenders who hardly seem to deserve it. But that kind of faith is rarely misplaced. An appeal to any man's better side, even a criminal's, will almost always elicit a grateful response.

But more than that, to trust a man means to lend him new strength, to give him a belief in himself and his future. A man whose past has always been darkened by the distrust he evokes can change remarkably if he is given the feeling that people are willing to trust him. Trust can break down the habits and attitudes of years. I have always believed, and have never had reason to change my belief, that trust is the mightiest weapon in our crime-fighting arsenal.

Perspective for the Future

In the summer of 1959 the Soviet daily *Pravda* published a number of letters from former criminals addressed to Nikita Khrushchev. He had spoken a few months previously at the Soviet Writers' Congress and in the course of the speech described a meeting with a recidivist thief. He told the assembled writers how he had helped the man find honest work. He described the rehabilitation of this former thief with so much sympathy and understanding that the entire audience rose to its feet because Khrushchev was expressing their collective sentiment.

I noted previously that the rising living standards of Soviet workers

has much to do with the low incidence of crime. There are significant accompanying factors here—the wide-open opportunities for education, the flowering of culture, the enthusiasm and anticipation of an ever-better future so generally felt by Soviet people.

As our society grows and develops, there will be continuing changes in the methods of legally controlling the citizen's behavior. The range of action of legal regulations, whose implementation is directly connected with the application of state coercion, will grow narrower and narrower. The decisive role in carrying out the law will belong to the public, which by methods of moral persuasion and education will direct all the activities of the Soviet state.

We are now at a stage of development where that is beginning to happen. Soviet people are beginning to exercise their own public controls, are taking over the job of fighting crime. This is evident in the growing role of the workers' voluntary public order squads, the Comrades' Courts and other public organizations.

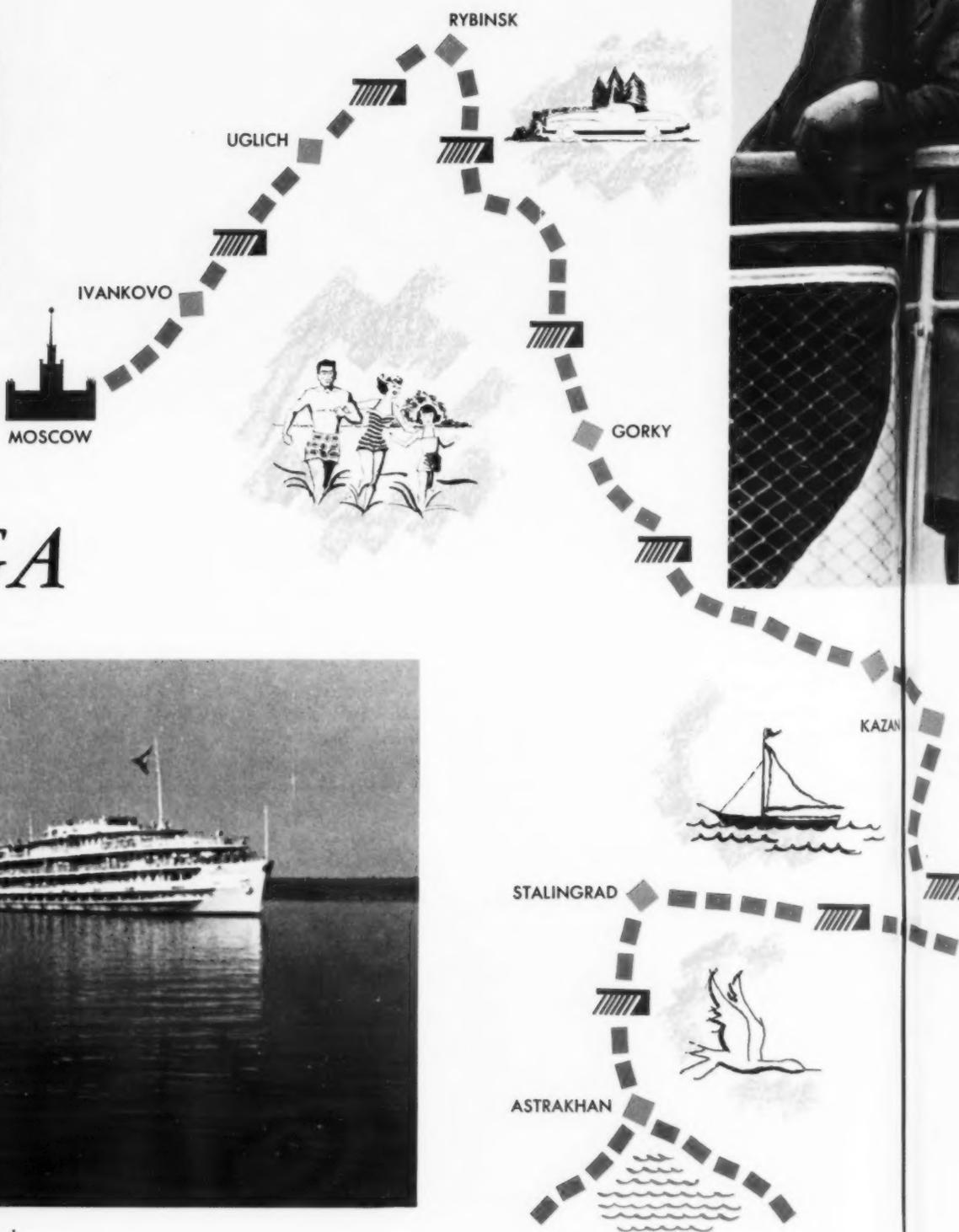
The development from socialist statehood to communist self-government derives from the very nature of our genuinely popular social system. It is also a product of the growth of civic consciousness, of education, of the responsibility each man bears for his country's destiny.

At present there is discussion going on throughout the country of a new draft law which enlarges the role played by the public in fighting crime. It requires that the punishment for certain crimes be imposed by the public rather than by the courts. The role of the public in enforcing law and order is larger year by year, with growing millions of Soviet people actively participating through the Comrades' Courts and voluntary public order squads.

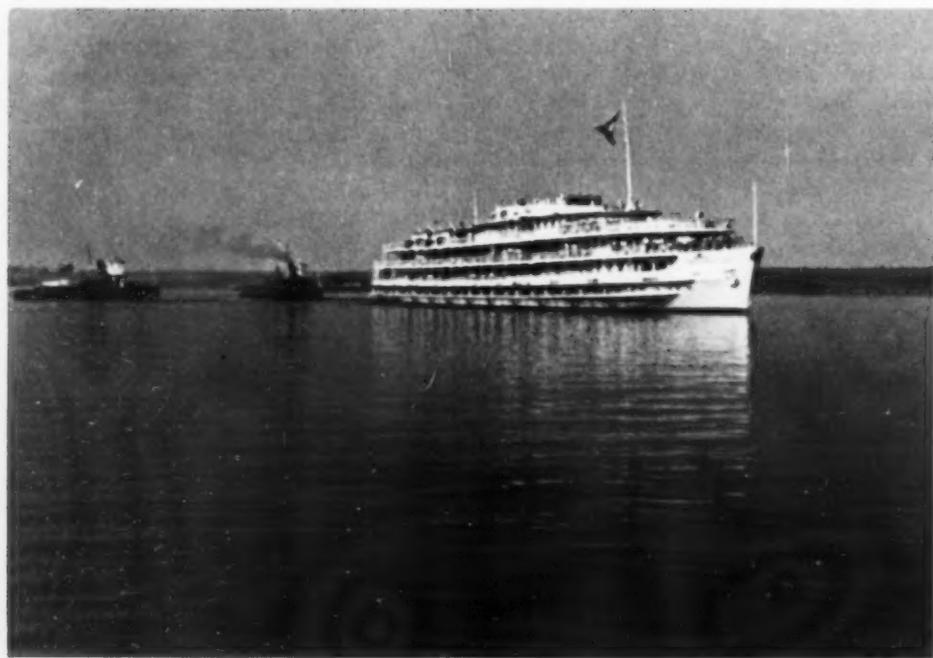
I think the time is not far off when any crime will be the rare occurrence in the USSR, when all courts and prisons will be closed and their personnel will have learned new trades and professions and when the few violations of the rules of behavior will be dealt with by the people themselves.



Captain Andrei Belodvortsev has learned every twist and turn of the river in his 42 years on the Volga.



cruise along the
VOLGA



The diesel-motorship Soviety Soyuz is one of the 36 luxury ships of the Volga River cruise fleet.



Our vacationers are embarked on a twenty-day pleasure trip aboard their floating resort hotel.



By Andrei Sakharov

WITH A LIVELY COMPANY of fellow vacationers Mikhail and Nelya Maximov board the diesel-motorship *Sovietsky Soyuz* at Gorky for a leisurely twenty-day cruise on the Volga River. From the upper deck the passengers wave to friends on shore as the ship casts off and moves slowly up the river. The ship will take them to Moscow first. Then, bypassing Gorky, it will go down to Astrakhan before returning to home port.

The ship's world is small. The floating resort hotel, the *Sovietsky Soyuz*, is one of 36 luxury ships of the Volga cruise fleet. It has three decks, two spacious salons, two dining rooms, a motion picture theater, a solarium, a library and some 400 feet of open deck space for promenading.

Before long you feel that every corner of this floating resort is well known to you. At every step you meet familiar faces and by the middle of the cruise you know whether your neighbor's little son has had scarlet fever and what the views of your table companions are on abstract art.

In a day the Maximovs feel as though they've known their fellow passengers for years. The Lobanovs are newlyweds—Vladimir is a foreman in a factory and Nina teaches domestic science in high school. Yuri Kuzmin is a mechanic. Galina Fyodorova is a saleswoman. Valentina Kolesova is a technician at a power station. They have a great deal in common with Alexandra Timoshina, an assembler at an auto plant, because they too are auto workers. Mikhail test-drives the

trucks built at the Gorky Auto Plant, and Nelya works in one of the plant laboratories.

The vacationing passengers are workers, farmers, teachers, engineers, doctors. Some get their passage free; others pay only thirty per cent. In both cases the difference is made up by the trade union to which the vacationer belongs. Those in the higher salary brackets pay the full cruise rate.

In Moscow

By the time the spire of the Moscow River Station comes into sight on the third day, everybody on board knows everybody else and people have grouped themselves off, the way people always do, in fours, or sixes or eights.

Everyone goes ashore at the capital to see the sights—plenty to choose from. The Bolshoi Theater? The famous Tretyakov Art Gallery? The permanent USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements featuring models of the sputniks, foodstuffs raised by collective farmers, woven fabrics of the most fashionable shades? The Maximovs decide on the Exhibition, while some of their new friends—Valentina Kolesova, Alexandra Timoshina and Galina Fyodorova—want a look at tall Moscow University.

"I've always wanted to see Moscow University," Valentina confided to her friends. "I've been thinking of enrolling there, but I haven't discussed it with anybody yet. I want to pass the entrance exams first."

After the sightseeing all the ladies insist, with some ineffectual objection from the gentlemen, on a visit to the glittering Moscow department stores. They return footsore but happy to supper and bed.



The ship's world is small and it doesn't take long for people to feel as though they're old friends.

Neither sunbathing nor chess can compete with the lunch bell. The ship has two dining rooms.



Morning on the River

The meadows along the bank are still wrapped in mist and in silence when Mikhail comes up on deck bright and early the next morning for a promenade. But early as it is, he has company—Arkadi Kononov, a textile engineer from Ivanovo.

By the time they take a couple of turns around the deck, the ship's company is up and about. A big group on the upper deck is following a physical culture instructor in setting-up exercises. The piano in the salon is banging out a tune, and some of the young folks are dancing amid much hubbub and laughter. Everything stops when the breakfast bell rings.

That well-fed feeling after breakfast calls for nothing more active than sun bathing in the solarium or lazing in a deck chair with a book or

paper, or playing a quiet game of chess or dominoes, except for a couple of restless souls who click-clack a ping-pong ball across one of the green tables.

Suddenly there is a shout, and everybody rushes to the side. Astern, an elk is swimming after the boat, his antlers lifted proudly above the water. The vacationers remain at the rail, watching a caravan of barges loaded with wheat, coal and oil pass by—it's rare that the Volga is deserted for any considerable stretch.

The caravan is hardly out of sight when a graceful white motorship, almost a copy of the *Sovietsky Soyuz* except that it is a little smaller, comes into sight around a cape. As the distance between the two ships diminishes, the chess games and dominoes are deserted and only the wind is left to leaf the pages of the books, forgotten for a time on the deck chairs. Passengers on both ships hail each other as they approach

By the time the vacationers get back home, they will be chock full of sun, sights and impressions.

A stopover at Uglich, founded in the twelfth century. The town is a mixture of the old and the new.



Through the Volga-Don Canal that links the river with the open sea.



with traditional shouts of "Hi! Greetings! Pleasant journey!" and whistles blowing. This routine is repeated a few minutes later when another ship passes. Then the *Raketa*, a ship with hydrofoils, speeds by, doing 40 to 45 miles an hour.

Later in the afternoon the *Sovietsky Soyuz* nestles against a short pier with fine beaches to the right and left. The public address system announces, "We're stopping here for a swim. Two hours until dinner."

As twilight descends, the ship is on its way again. A song floats down the river, a pensive melody shaped by an accordion and the quiet mood of the vacationers.

A new movie is being shown in the theater. In one salon a chess tournament is being played for the title of ship champion. In the other salon there is an impromptu music quiz contest. Listen to this melody. Is it Mozart? Haydn? Tchaikovsky? Prokofiev? Five points for the right answer.

Astern, almost at water level, is the dance floor, heavily populated by the younger people until 11 o'clock, bed time.

The Old Volga and the New

The stopover the next day is at Uglich, founded in the twelfth century. Like most Russian cities today, Uglich is a mixture of the old and new. Predominant are the blocks of new apartment houses, power plant, locks—all signs of the busy life of the beautiful, ancient city.

The ship sails down the river, passing through the six locks of Ivanovo, Uglich, Rybinsk, Gorky, Kuibyshev and Stalingrad.

The Volga cascade and its hydropower stations generate billions of kilowatt-hours of energy. The endless power lines carry Volga electricity for thousands of miles.

The old guidebooks used to say, "No navigation is possible upstream beyond Gorky." By the end of the summer only the smallest vessels could sail between Gorky and Rybinsk. But that was a long time ago. Now our big diesel-powered ship passes through the locks to emerge on the man-made Volga seas, 9, 12 and even 25 miles wide. Stormy weather sets the waves tossing as though these were natural inland seas.

That vacation mood calls for a lot of tanning and perhaps just an occasional glance at a book—if you don't want to look as lazy as you feel.



The ship stops for a while during the afternoon at Novookatova, one of the fine beaches along the river.



Soon after Stalingrad is left behind, our cruising passengers catch sight of the tall locks of the Volga-Don Canal that link the river with the world's seas and oceans.

Symbols of the Volga transformed are the new cities of Volzhsk, Stavropol and Novo-Zhigulevsk. A few years ago none of these were on the map. Now each has a population of several hundred thousand. Their river fronts are lined with factories old and new that turn out automobiles, tires, machinery, radio equipment, ships, tractors and other farm machines. The banks of the Volga now supply more oil than Baku with its fabulous wells. Pipelines from the Volga carry cheap gas fuel to far-flung cities and industrial centers. The ship continues its journey along the renewed banks of the great Russian river. The picturesque fields and woods, cities and plants drift slowly by.

Both Mikhail and Nelya Maximov have read and heard a great deal about the Volga, but the things they saw on their twenty-day journey amazed them, intensifying their love for the great river on whose banks they had been born and bred.

Once the youngster is bedded down for the night the program calls for a movie and a turn on the dance floor.



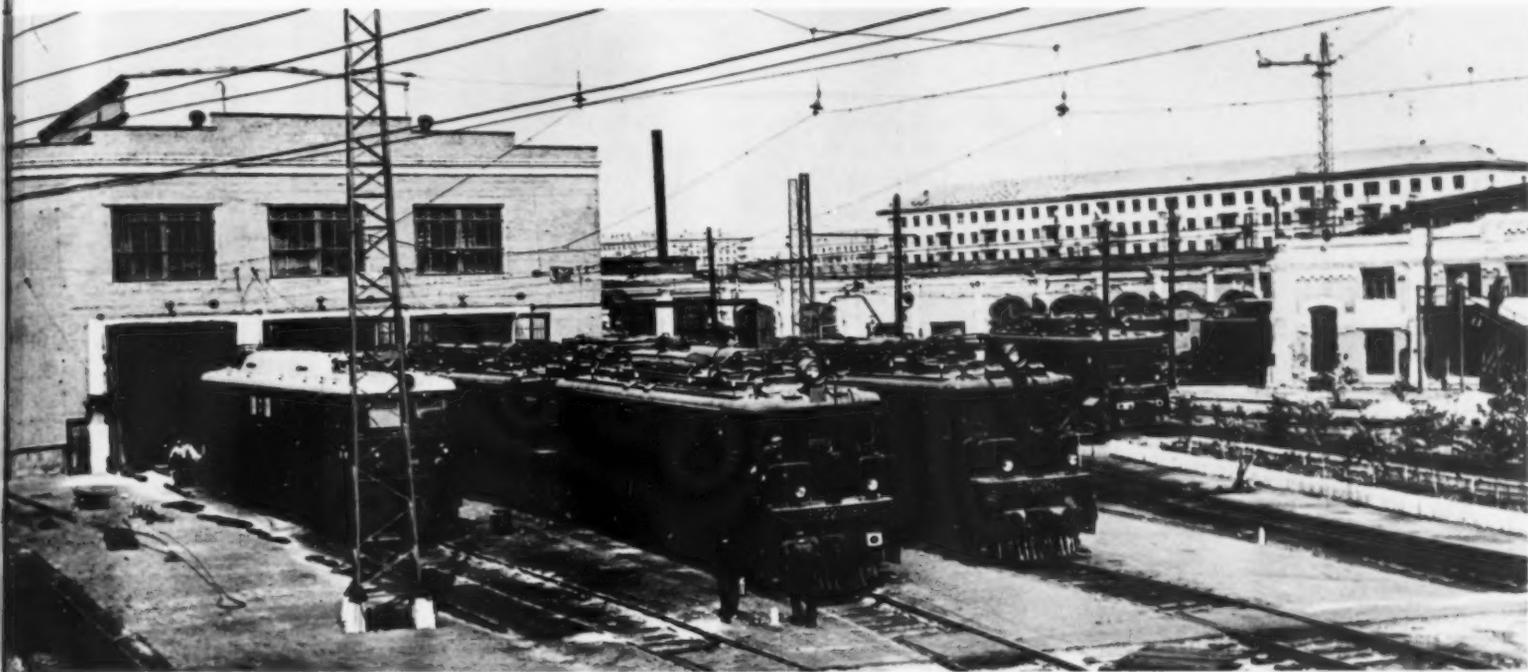
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LOCOMOTIVES FOR THE AGE OF SPEED

By Alexander Alexeyev

Corresponding Member, USSR Academy of Sciences





Electric and diesel engines are replacing the once familiar steam locomotive on railroads throughout the country. At one of the Moscow rail depots.

ON EVERY RAILROAD in the Soviet Union steam engines are being ousted by electric motors. Two years ago three-quarters of all rail freight was carried by steam locomotives. By the end of the seven-year plan they will be carrying a bare sixth, and in another five years they will be altogether obsolete.

This change could have been foreseen as far back as the beginning of the electric age, which really opened for our country in 1921 with Lenin's plan for the electrification of Russia. At the time, a special agency was set up to electrify the railroads of the Caucasian area.

Now, as you can see from the accompanying map, there are more than 6,000 miles of electrified roads, and the rate of changeover keeps rising. To support this statement there are the 2,500 miles of road that were electrified between 1956 and 1959; and the fact that by the end of the current seven-year period the total length of the Soviet Union's electrified railroads will top 18,000 miles. This is approximately as much mileage as in all the electrified roads in all the other countries in the world.

Electric locomotives are not the only kind of electric traction. There is the diesel locomotive with a great future which Lenin envisioned back in 1922 when he wrote: "It is most advisable that we utilize those funds left over after we fill orders for steam locomotives to get diesel locomotives. They are much more suitable for us."

On November 6, 1924, the world's first GE-1 train diesel locomotive started its run on the Oktyabr Railroad. It was designed by Professor Yakov Gakkel of the Leningrad Institute of Railway Engineers and the blueprints were approved by Lenin personally.

The world's first diesel railroad was also built in our country. This is the Ashkhabad Railroad which runs across arid and desolate land; in one spot it cuts across the shifting sands of the Kara-Kum Desert. Subsequently both diesel and electric locomotives were introduced on other Soviet railroads.

The really sharp changeover to electrification and modern locomotive traction, however, was triggered by the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party in 1956. In the few years since then progress has been exceedingly rapid. By early 1959 the mileage of roads with new types of traction added up to 13,000. This, I grant you, is not very much compared with the country's total railroad mileage of 84,000. But it's a fast start.

There is this consideration, too. In the past three years alone diesel and electric locomotives helped the government save 45 million tons of coal—equivalent to the annual output of 40 mines—and 10 billion rubles of operating expenses. The new locomotives more than paid for themselves.

Both Are Better

People ask me which are better—diesels or electric locomotives. A legitimate question, I suppose. I always give them the same answer

my little grandson does when somebody asks whom he likes better—his mother or father. His answer is, "Both are better."

The likelihood is that both types of locomotive will be operating side by side for a long time to come. By 1965 a total of about 60,000 miles of road will be changed over for new types of traction. About two-thirds of this traction will be diesel.

Why? Mostly to gain time. Electric locomotives are certainly more economical to operate than their diesel counterparts. They don't have to carry any fuel since their power comes from a contact line; a diesel has to carry a whole mobile power station. But electric traction does take more time and metal in building. You have to construct your contact line out of nonferrous metals, and you have to build traction substations.

The configuration of the country is also a factor. The characteristic features on a physical map of the Soviet Union are plains and mountains, great forests and steppes, humid subtropics and arid deserts. For mountain regions there is no question but that electric locomotives are the thing. They are also best in places where freight traffic is very heavy and congested and still growing. There is the super-long Moscow-Pacific trunk line, to take a case in point, which is now changing over. Electric traction will just about double its freight capacity and halve hauling costs.

Electric locomotives are also best in heavily populated areas, including suburban areas where people commute to work. They do very well in the cold northern regions. As a



Electric locomotive pulling a passenger train on the East Siberian line in the Lake Baikal region. By the end of 1960, the 3,000-mile line from Moscow to Irkutsk will be completely electrified.

matter of fact, they operate best at low temperatures. In cold weather they work with maximum economy and least power loss. But on arid plains and waterless lowlands, in thinly populated regions and on roads with comparatively little traffic, diesel locomotives are likely to be used for some considerable time to come, especially since they can be changed over—and will be later on—from oil to natural gas which we have in abundance. When that happens, they will be gas-diesel locomotives.

As I see it, diesels are an intermediate stage, and in the future they will be replaced completely by electric locomotives. The general trend favors electric power. That is true for the whole economy, and rail transport is no exception.

Gangway for AC

Alternating current is used so generally in industry and everyday life that it's a little surprising to find that roads in several countries still operate on direct current, in spite of the efficiency demands of our modern age. Beyond a certain point it just does not pay to electrify a railroad powered by direct current. With DC the voltage in the contact line cannot exceed 3,000-4,000 volts, and with that voltage it is very difficult to carry strong current to

electric locomotives so as to raise their power capacity.

Here in the Soviet Union we built a 16-wheel locomotive for DC electrified railroads. It has a capacity of 5,700 horsepower and could pull a 4,000-ton train. That sounds pretty good, except that the locomotive wasn't economical. It required stronger contact lines, and those we were using already had wires that measured as much as 0.8-1.0 square inches in cross-section. Besides that, the engine on the locomotive was too heavy, and at speeds beyond 55 miles an hour put such a burden on the tracks that they wore out too fast.

Electric traction with alternating current is quite a different proposition. AC can be transmitted through thin wires with as high a voltage in the contact lines as 25,000 volts. AC electric motors also weigh less. Moreover, an AC railroad needs fewer traction substations. DC electrified roads now stagger theirs at 12- to 15-mile intervals. The AC substations are also simpler in design and cheaper to build by as much as half.

It's easy to figure the economies that come with AC. Take a steam railroad and electrify it with DC, and you double its freight capacity. Take that same road and change over to AC, and your freight capacity rises by an additional 50 per cent, at least.

An AC locomotive can pull much heavier trains and at much greater speeds. Even a super-powerful 12-wheel monophasic AC locomotive is 60 tons lighter than a 16-wheel DC locomotive, and it has absolutely the same traction capacity. The power capacity of monophasic AC electric locomotives now produced in the USSR has been increased to 6,000 horsepower.

With AC a thinner wire can be used. To be more specific, there is almost five tons less copper wire used in each mile of an AC railroad. So that on 7,500 miles of road the saving in copper would come to 36,000 tons, enough to wire every one of the 15 million apartments that will be built by 1965.

The Seven-Year Plan

Our country's railroads stretch for tens of thousands of miles. And I'm proud that the best of it was built by my generation in Soviet times. I'd say that we have about five times more mileage now than we inherited from czarist Russia.

In the seven years of the plan we will be adding about 110-115 billion rubles' worth of equipment. We will be building another 5,500 miles of trunk lines and 5,000 miles of secondary lines. These new railroads will be laid in regions where great deposits of fuel, iron ore and bauxite have been discovered.

Our trains will be moving faster. We plan to speed up freight trains by 50 per cent and our passenger trains by 100 per cent to their maximum of 100 miles an hour. In addition to the automatic equipment presently used, by 1965 our roads will be provided with remote control and electronic equipment, computer mechanisms and automatic engine drivers.

This automatic engine driver deserves a few extra words. It is an intricate cybernetic machine that programs its own operation so that the train it drives runs exactly and unfailingly on schedule. There may be upgrades and downhill runs en route, but an automatic engine driver "knows" all this in advance. It is thoroughly familiar with the relief of the road and switches the engine on and off when necessary, with maximum effectiveness and minimum use of fuel and power.

Electric trains with automatic engine drivers and remote control equipment will eventually replace steam locomotives. Steam cannot possibly cope with the freight demands of the seven-year plan, which are expected to reach 1,800-1,850 billion kilometer-tons by 1965, almost 50 per cent more than the turnover in 1958.

The new locomotives will be able to handle this freight load easily, especially since electrification of a railroad tends to spur the mechanization—and automation, in some cases—of loading and unloading and other freight operations.

Changing Power Balance

Soviet railroads are now entering a new stage of their development. The power balance of rail transport is changing, and will be changing still more in the next few years. In 1958 the railroads consumed almost 20 per cent of all the coal mined in the country and a little more than 4 per cent of the country's electric power. By 1965 the railroads will need 500 per cent less coal (even though rail freightage will be 50 per cent heavier) and 100 per cent more electric power. But by that time the country's electric power output will have increased by almost 100 per cent, compared with 1958, so that there will be enough electricity—and to spare.

In 1965 the railroads will be getting 40 billion kilowatt-hours of electric power, twenty times more than was produced by all the power installations in prerevolutionary Russia, and almost as much as the Soviet Union's annual power production before the Second World War.

In 1965 the country's electric power stations will produce a total of 500-520 billion kilowatt-hours. Most of this power will be generated by the new thermal (including atomic) and hydroelectric stations. The cost of producing electricity will be substantially lower because the new stations will be equipped with super-powerful generators—300,000-kilowatt generators for the thermal stations and 500,000- to 600,000-kilowatt generators for such big hydropower projects as the one now under construction at Krasnoyarsk on the Yenisei River. This station, one of the world's largest, will have a total capacity of more than 5 million kilowatts.

The Soviet power industry is growing at an incredible rate, a rate great enough to make a reality of Lenin's dream to completely electrify the country's industry, transport and agriculture and to free man of backbreaking manual labor.



THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON SOVIET TEACHERS

By Ivan Grivkov
Chairman of the Union
of Educational Workers

ECONOMIC STATUS OF TEACHERS

*This is the second in a series of articles on the Soviet teacher.
The first, on teacher training, appeared in the September issue.
This article deals with the teacher's living and working conditions.*

OUR TEACHER is underfed, downtrodden, frightened at the prospect of losing his livelihood . . . For eight, nine months at a stretch he lives like a hermit, with no one to talk to; he stagnates in isolation—without books, without recreation. Should he ask his colleagues to come over, he will be pronounced a suspect . . . How utterly repulsive! . . . Sheer contempt for a person who does a big, awfully important job.

This is how Chekhov described the teacher in czarist Russia. No Soviet teacher would recognize himself in the portrait. Soon after the socialist state was founded Lenin declared that the teacher in a Soviet society merited the highest possible respect—a respect he neither had nor ever could have in a bourgeois society. The four decades since then have brought tremendous changes in the material and social status of the country's teachers.

These past forty years have witnessed so prodigious an increase in Soviet public education and so great a rise in literacy standards that only the term "cultural revolution" can describe it. The credit for this must go in large measure to our teachers. Their number, during the Soviet years, grew from 230,000 to 1,900,000. Their patient and tireless day-to-day work, so important a factor in building a communist society, has earned the esteem of the Soviet people.

Many speakers at the convention held in Moscow last July by teachers of the Russian Federation—a famous poet, a high government official, a member of a Communist Work Team, a collective farm girl—spoke of their first teachers with love and admiration. This was not a mouthing of empty phrases. The people's solicitude for their teachers is expressed in concrete terms of wages, working hours and living conditions.

At the convention of teachers of the Russian Federation in Moscow



Wages and Hours

The wage schedule for teachers throughout the country—for men and women alike—is uniform and takes into account educational background, length of service and number of teaching hours.

For the elementary grades the basic working week is 24 hours; for the upper grades (5th to 11th year) it is 18 hours. A teacher with 10 years of service—and the greater number fall within this category—is paid 350 rubles a month. If he takes on a larger teaching load than his required 18 hours a week, say 24 hours, his earnings increase by a third and will total 1,133 rubles.

Teachers receive extra pay for correcting homework and for supervising school laboratories and experimental garden plots. The wage schedule for this extra work is as follows:

For correcting homework, a teacher with an 18-hour schedule gets 60 rubles; one with a 24-hour schedule, 80 rubles; one with a 36-hour schedule, 120 rubles.

For taking charge of a home room—75 rubles; for taking charge of two home rooms, 150 rubles.

For supervising a laboratory, from 60 to 150 rubles.

This is the salary picture for a more or less typical teacher, of Russian, let us say, with more than ten years of service, who has a 24-hour a week schedule. He makes 1,133 rubles, plus 80 rubles for correcting homework, plus 75 rubles for taking a home room. His total monthly wage is therefore 1,288 rubles.

If he is an Honored Teacher—and more than 10,000 educators have been awarded the honorary title—he gets an additional 110 rubles a month.

Teachers who work in distant parts of the country—the North and Far East, for example—receive higher wages, ranging from 20 to 100 per cent above the base pay, depending on how remote the district is. Thus, in Irkutsk Region, the increase will be 20 per cent; in Murmansk Region, 50 per cent; on the Kuril Islands, 100 per cent.

The wage schedule is also higher for teachers who work with children who are hard of hearing or have bad vision, and for those who teach at sanatorium-type schools or in children's sanatoriums.

Teachers are entitled to special pensions for extra-long service. This is true for physicians also. For teachers who do not choose to retire after 25 years of service this is actually a wage increment.

All Soviet citizens, teachers included, are entitled to old-age pensions when they reach the retirement age of 55 for women and 60 for men. Pensions average from 50 to 75 per cent of previous earnings.

Teachers also receive a special pension for length of service. A teacher with a 25-year work record who has not yet reached the required age of 55 or 60 can either retire and draw a pension of 40 per cent of his wages or continue working, in which case he draws both pension and wages. When he reaches retirement age, he gets his regular old-age pension.

The teacher's real income, like that of all other citizens, is augmented by additional grants and services provided by the government—they include social insurance payments and pensions, grants to widowed mothers and to those with many children, student maintenance stipends, free medical care and free higher education.

Rent Free for Village Teachers

People who teach in the villages get their houses rent-free. The government also pays their light and heat bills. Some 60,000 cottages have been built especially for rural teachers in the past few years.

Teachers who prefer to build their own houses can take a government loan, issued on especially advantageous terms, that runs for ten years and is paid back on the installment plan. Housing materials and their transportation to the construction site are provided free of charge. Teachers all over the country have been doing their own building. Yaroslavl teachers got together and had a whole neighborhood unit of 50 houses built, complete with all modern improvements and individual kitchen gardens, on government loans.

In the villages and the new industrial settlements teachers are given a half-acre plot free for a garden and pasture land for livestock. The trade unions and the cooperative organizations arrange for purchase of farm implements, seed, fertilizer and other necessities.



Our teachers seem to go in for gardening as a hobby. In Sverdlovsk Region 558 teachers grow vegetables on their land. City teachers can get free plots for summer cottages and gardens. Not long ago the City Soviet of Kuibyshev allocated land to be used for summer cottage plots in one of the most attractive suburban spots on the Volga shore to 118 of the city's teachers.

The Soviet teacher gets free medical, surgical, hospital and dental care, as does everybody else in the country. The teacher's physical and emotional health is very much the government's concern. Should he fall ill, he is entitled to sick benefits up to 90 per cent of his wages. If he needs sanatorium treatment because of illness or overstrain, he can get free accommodations through his trade union. For vacations, he has a choice of rest home, resort or tourist camp where he is given special rates. All of this is financed out of the social insurance fund administered by his union.

Our country has a uniform system of social insurance paid for entirely out of the funds of the various industrial, commercial and other enterprises. There are no deductions from the worker's pay.

Twenty years ago the government turned over the administration of the social insurance fund to the trade unions. Sick benefits, old age and disability pensions, allowance to families who have lost their breadwinner and length-of-service pensions are all paid out of this fund. The Young Pioneer summer camps and children's sanatoriums are also financed from the fund.

Grants and Welfare Services

The Educational Workers Union administers the social insurance fund for the country's teachers. The sum annually expended runs into billions of rubles, that for the Russian Federation alone comes to about one billion rubles. The fund is used for grants to teachers temporarily disabled, for pension payments to those who choose to continue working after they are eligible for retirement, and for maternity allowances.

Large sums are spent each year to provide accommodations for teachers at vacation resorts, sanatoriums and rest homes. About one-fifth of the

teachers are accommodated free; the rest pay only a third of the regular cost. In the Russian Federation alone, the Educational Workers Union spends some 50 million rubles each year to provide 80,000 to 90,000 of its teachers with summer resort and sanatorium accommodations. The union has 22 rest homes and sanatoriums of its own in the Caucasus, the Crimea, Bashkiria and Tataria, on the Pacific shore, the Gulf of Finland, the Riga coast and elsewhere in popular resort areas.

Our teachers do a good deal of traveling on their summer vacations. They get two months at full pay. In 1959 more than 700,000 teachers and other workers in education went on tours and excursions. The union, at considerable cost, has set up tourist camps in various parts of the country. There are 59 at present—in Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad, Riga, Kishinev, in the Caucasus, on the Black Sea coast, in the Crimea and in Michurinsk where the eminent naturalist Ivan Michurin lived.

There are union tourist camps in some of the country's famed beauty spots—at Lake Seliger, where the Volga River has its source, Lake Chemal in the Altai and Lake Baikal in Siberia. A tourist camp—visited by 5,000 hikers and mountain climbers this summer—is maintained by the Krasnoyarsk Territory division of the Educational Workers Union. It is located in mountain country so high and beautiful that it is often called the Siberian Alps.

Soviet teachers are well represented among the country's sports enthusiasts. Some 200,000 play soccer, ice hockey and tennis; swim, skate, ski, and do gymnastics at the large number of sport clubs, stadiums, swimming pools and ski camps maintained by the union in various parts of the country.

At the teachers' convention last summer, the government presented awards and medals to the 1,204 delegates present as a mark of the esteem that Soviet educators enjoy. Teaching is a proud and honored profession in this socialist country. It is a far cry indeed from the teacher Chekhov described to the Soviet teacher today.

We do not want to leave our reader thinking we consider that everything has been done for the teachers in our country. We know that we have just begun to scratch the surface of satisfying their material and cultural requirements. This is a job at which we shall keep working.



By Mikhail Samoilovich

1,000-MAN MEDICAL STAFF







Vladimir Velikikh is one of the thousand medics who keep the Ilyich steel mill workers healthy.



Chief ophthalmologist Dr. Mark Zilberman does a periodic checkup. The stress is on prevention.



The department heads of the mill's 600-bed polyclinic in conference after their daily rounds.

The Ilyich Steel Mill, in the Ukrainian city of Zhdanov on the Azov Sea, is one of the country's oldest. Like every other large Soviet industrial or business enterprise, it has its own clinics, hospital and medical staffs. Below, health director Dr. Mikhail Samoilovich describes the mill's medical facilities.

OUR JOB is to keep the workers of the Ilyich Steel Mill healthy. Our name—Medical Prophylactic Service—describes our principal function. We do not limit ourselves to the treatment of the sick. If we did, we could get along with a much smaller medical staff than the thousand doctors, nurses and laboratory assistants we have. We devote most of our attention to disease prevention. Our staff people do not wait for the worker to come to them. They go to him, or to put it more accurately, they are right there in the shop where he works.

We have a large polyclinic and hospital that can take care of 600 patients. Besides the central facilities, we have medical stations in all the large shops. These are actually small, well-equipped polyclinics, with general practitioners in daily attendance and neuropathologists, surgeons, ear-and-throat men and other specialists on duty at specified hours.

The personnel of these medical stations apply first aid when necessary, but their emphasis is on prevention. They schedule physical checkups at periodic intervals to detect diseases as early as possible.

We had the case of 20-year-old Ivan Belchenko last year. He was hired to work in the open-hearth shop. The fourth month he was on the job, diagnostician Bertha Kogan established the fact that he had an inherited tendency to TB. The management thereupon transferred him to another job where he would not be subjected to factors that might activate the condition.

People suffering from high blood pressure, stomach diseases and other chronic ailments get special, often long-range, care at the medical stations. There was the case of Pavel Nostchenko, a 53-year-old machine operator who had been suffering from high blood pressure since the war. In 1958 it began to act up. We had him hospitalized for periods during 1958 and 1959. Under the strict regimen, his blood pressure dropped to normal. Then our polyclinic, to make certain it would stay normal, arranged for him to have free accommodations at the Sochi Health Resort Institute. Now he not only looks hale and hearty but he is. The medical station in his shop checks him regularly to see there is no relapse.

Incidentally, we issued about 120 free accommodation tickets to this health resort in 1959, and we'll be issuing even more this year. Every year from 1,200 to 1,300 of our mill workers go to health or vacation resorts. Most of them pay only a fraction—30 per cent—of the actual cost, some get their accommodations free. The difference is made up by the union out of the social insurance fund it administers. For those who need special treatment we recommend the particular sanatorium or health resort they will find most salutary.

Our medical stations in the shops serve only the steel workers. But our polyclinic, hospital and hydropathic division, just off the mill grounds, provide medical aid to the mill personnel and their families. Hours are from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., and specialists in every conceivable branch of medicine are on hand for diagnosis and treatment—urologists, gynecologists, surgeons, pediatricians, dentists.

Outstanding men are called in for consultation on difficult or baffling cases. Surgery of the most delicate kind is done at the mill hospital. The chief consultant of our new maternity ward, for example, is the eminent surgeon and gynecologist Spiridon Kirillov upon whom the government bestowed the title "Honored Doctor of the Ukrainian Republic." More than 10,000 children were delivered in our maternity division in the past three years. We also make home visits with the eight cars supplied by the mill management.

Our hydropathic division deserves a word. It was opened only a year ago and provides pine, oxygen, carbon-dioxide, radon, hydrogen sulphide and mud baths in addition to various kinds of therapeutic showers. It also has an excellently equipped electric cabinet with the usual quartz lamps and high-frequency and other apparatus.

All of our services to mill employees and their families are rendered free—examination, treatment, hospitalization, surgery, dentistry, maternity care and whatever else you can think of.

A 30-year-old steelworker, Nikolai Minayev, was laid up at our hospital for two months after surgery for a complicated urological complaint. After a convalescent period at the Pyatigorsk Spa, he is back on the job. He left this entry in the hospital book in which patients write their complaints, suggestions or general sentiments: "I was seriously ill but now I am in good health again, thanks to our medical service. I am grateful to our country which shows so much concern for the health of plain people like myself."

Minayev's stay in the hospital—his food, medicine, operation and the rest—cost about 4,000 rubles. He did not have to pay a kopeck. It was all covered by the government. In addition, the social insurance fund paid him 90 per cent of his wages all the time he was off the job.

Our operating funds come from two sources—the city and the mill. For 1955 the municipal budget allocated 9 million rubles to us, for 1959 the figure went up to 10.5 million, and for this year, 1960, it totals 12.4 million.

The mill foots the cost of erecting and maintaining the hospital buildings and equipping them. It also finances housing construction for the medical personnel. The mill's obligations are specified in the collective agreement concluded annually between the trade union and the management.

We doctors at the Ilyich Mill's polyclinic have at our beck and call facilities that enable us to care for our patients in such a way that everything humanly possible can be done to prevent their becoming ill. It gives a doctor a good feeling to know that nothing stands in the way of his achieving his ultimate goal—keeping people healthy.



SOVIET STAMPS

By Vyacheslav Merkulov

ПОЧТА СССР—this inscription, which means USSR Mail, is the identification of one of the largest and busiest postal services in the world. It appears on each stamp issued in the Soviet Union.

The average letter writer is likely to forget about these beautifully illustrated labels the moment he glues them on an envelope. Not the stamp collector, however. He has a cautious eye for the off-beat—the almost invisible variations in print, paper, perforation and color shades that make a particular stamp rare. To acquire such a rarity he will travel many miles and spend many more rubles than the nominal price.

There are hundreds of thousands of these indefatigable collectors of every age and vocation in the Soviet Union. The venerable academician and the adolescent schoolboy are both members in equally good standing in the country's philatelic societies. Many collect the stamps of all countries, but the greater number specialize in Soviet issues. Among them are some who are interested only in stamps illustrating historical events, others only in stamps with portraits of great men. Then there are collectors of stamps devoted to science and technology, or natural scenery and animals, or sports, or children, or you name it.

Soviet stamps provide plenty of room for variation and special interest. Even a partial listing of the themes used for Soviet commemoratives reads like an encyclopedia: history, geography, industry, farming, flora and fauna, political and government leaders, scientists, writers, musicians, explorers, memorable dates and events both at home and abroad, peace and friendship among the peoples of the world. Many stamps are devoted to Lenin, founder of the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

It was in 1845 that the first franked envelope was used in Russia. In 1858 the first stamp was issued. It showed the imperial eagle in a blue oval. In the sixty years up to the Socialist Revolution there were 128 stamps issued with scarcely any variation in design—they pictured either the reigning czar or the double-headed eagle.

Besides regular stamps for general use and some local issues, there were stamps for the Russian postal services in Turkey, China and Crete. There were also stamps issued by the czarist government for Finland and Poland, which before the Revolution formed part of the Russian empire.

The first Soviet stamp was issued in August 1921, somewhat less than four years after the Revolution. In the interim some czarist issues and various non-postal stamps of the pre-revolutionary period were used, as well as postal stamps issued by the provisional government of Kerensky in 1917 but placed in circulation only in 1918. During this same period there were also stamps issued by local post offices. In 1922 all these stamps were withdrawn from circulation.

The design of the first Soviet stamp symbolized the creative labor of a people free of exploitation—a worker trampling a prostrate dragon at the opening of a cave and looking toward the rising sun.

1. The first stamp of the young Soviet Republic, issued in August 1921. The worker trampling a prostrate dragon and stretching his hand toward the rising sun from the opening of a cave symbolizes labor freed from exploitation.

2-4. A 1946 series commemorating the 25th anniversary of the issuance of Soviet stamps.

5-14. A 1958 series commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first stamp issued in Russia. Illustrated in the first row is the evolution of postal service from the 15th through the 19th centuries (5-9). Stamp with Lenin's portrait (10) is inscribed with his statement on the significance of the postal and telegraph services for socialism. Stamp showing the Communications Museum in Leningrad (12) has an inscription dedicated to its stamp collection, one of the world's largest and most complete. Other stamps in this group show a variety of transportation means used for postal delivery.

15-28. Some of the air mail stamps. A 1922 commemorative for the 5th anniversary of the Socialist Revolution overprinted with a plane silhouette (15) was the first stamp to be used for air mail, but the first stamp actually designed for air mail (16) was issued in 1923. A commemorative for the first International Air Mail Conference (17). A stamp from a 1937 series showing various types of Soviet planes of that period (18). A stamp from a 1951 series devoted to aviation sports (19). The next two stamps (20 and 21), illustrating air-mail service to remote parts of the country, are philatelic rarities because of their overprints dedicated to the Soviet North Pole air expedition in 1955. A commemorative for the TU-104, the world's first jet airliner, and some of its early routes (23). Other stamps in this group show various models of modern Soviet civil aircraft.







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29-38. Commemoratives for some of the major events of Soviet history prior to World War II: from the series marking the 1923 Exhibition of Agriculture, Industry and Handicrafts that summed up early gains in rebuilding the country (29); from a 1929 series illustrating the goals of the industrialization program started by the first five-year plan (30); from the series commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Socialist Revolution—the newly built Dnieper Hydro-power Station, Europe's largest at the time (31); from a 1939 series dedicated to the opening of the permanent USSR Agricultural Exhibition showing achievements in collective farming (32); sculptured figures of a worker and a collective farm woman with hammer and sickle, a symbol of the unity of the two classes of Soviet society, for the USSR pavilion at the 1937 Paris World's Fair (33); the USSR pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair (34); the first Soviet air expedition to the North Pole in 1937 (35); the first USSR-USA nonstop flights over the North Pole in 1937—in June by Chkalov, Baidukov and Belyakov (36), and in July by Gromov, Yumashev and Daniilin (37); the drift across the Arctic Ocean of the ice-breaker Georgi Sedov in 1937-40 (38).

39-41. World War II and postwar reconstruction. A sample of wartime commemoratives (39)—it is dedicated to the Battle of Stalingrad. A commemorative for the 1943 Teheran Conference (40) whose inscription is a call for victory. The Dnieper Hydro-power Station rebuilt from the ruins left by the Nazi invaders (41).

42-46. Building communism: from a 1960 series honoring Lenin, the founder of the Communist Party and the Soviet state (42); from a series commemorating the Socialist Revolution (43)—the storming of the Winter Palace on October 25, 1917 (November 7, New Style now in use); from another series commemorating the Socialist Revolution—the new worker (44) and the new farmer (45) shown in contrast with the old (see lower left corners); from the series commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Young Communist League (46).

47-51. One of the many series picturing Lenin's life: the house in Ulyanovsk, formerly Simbirsk, where he spent his childhood (47); Lenin at Smolny Institute, the headquarters of the October Socialist Revolution (49); young Lenin with his fellow-students at the University of Kazan (50); the historical moment when Soviet power was proclaimed (51).

52-59. A few samples of stamps dedicated to children: with Lenin (52 and 53); Young Pioneers (54 and 55); a 1960 series reproducing drawings done by children (56-59).

60-74. Capitals of the USSR's fifteen Union Republics and their national emblems: Moscow, capital of the USSR and of the Russian Federation (60); Kiev, Ukraine (61); Minsk, Byelorussia (62); Tashkent, Uzbekistan (63); Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan (64); Tbilisi, Georgia (65); Baku, Azerbaijan (66); Vilnius, Lithuania (67); Kishinev, Moldavia (68); Riga, Latvia (69); Frunze, Kirghizia (70); Stalinabad, Tajikistan (71); Yerevan, Armenia (72); Ashkhabad, Turkmenia (73); Tallinn, Estonia (74).



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75-82. The Soviet Union for world peace. Bronze figure Beating Swords into Plowshares by Vuchetich displayed at the 1959 Soviet Exhibition in New York and then presented to the United Nations as a gift from the Soviet Union (75). For disarmament and international cooperation (76). Atoms for peace: the world's first atomic power station (77) and the world's first atom-powered icebreaker Lenin (78). The 10th anniversary of the United Nations Charter of Human Rights (79). The USSR pavilion at the 1958 Brussels World's Fair (80). The 1959 Soviet Exhibition of Science, Technology and Culture in New York (81). Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the United States last year (82).

83-92. Soviet contributions to international scientific cooperation. The 1956 expedition to Antarctica (83). Research stations on drifting ice floes in the Arctic Ocean (84 and 85). Scientific bases in Antarctica set up under the International Geophysical Year program (86). The Vityaz, one of the Soviet floating laboratories for IGY oceanographic research (87). A 1958 series for the International Geophysical Year, illustrating different research fields: meteorology (88); study of the aurora borealis (89); study of geomagnetism (90)—this stamp shows the non-magnetic ship Zarya which was especially equipped for this type of research; study of solar activity (91); study of meteors (92).

93-101. Exploring the cosmos. A commemorative for Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, who at the turn of this century did the pioneering theoretical research on jet propulsion and was first to substantiate the idea of space investigation with rockets (93). When Sputnik I, the world's first artificial earth satellite, was launched on October 4, 1957, this stamp was overprinted with an inscription to commemorate the epoch-making event. Now the overprinted Tsiolkovsky stamp is a philatelic rarity. Almost simultaneously a stamp actually designed to commemorate Sputnik I was issued (94). Each of the successive space-exploring probes was commemorated by a special issue: Sputnik II carrying the dog Laika, the first cosmic traveler, was marked by a stamp that symbolically shows mankind penetrating the cosmos (95); Sputnik III was marked by an unusual double stamp whose inscription reads: "May 15, 1958. A third artificial earth satellite that weighed 1327 kilograms and rose to an altitude of 1880 kilometers was launched in the Soviet Union under the IGY program" (96); the first cosmic rocket that passed near the moon and then went into orbit around the sun (97); the second cosmic rocket that landed on the moon (98); the third cosmic rocket that photographed the "hidden side" of the moon (99 and 100); the 10,000-pound spaceship launched May 15, 1960, that orbited around the earth with a dummy astronaut (101).

Since 1921 almost 2500 stamps have been issued in the Soviet Union whose themes are as different from the old stamps as every aspect of life after the Revolution is different from old times. Soviet stamps are a history in miniature, a reminder of great tasks and great achievements in all spheres of national endeavor.

The first mass series of standard stamps honored the new masters of the country—the workers and the peasants. Designs for these stamps were copied from sculptured figures done by Ivan Shadr.

Most interesting among the issues of the twenties were the stamps marking the anniversaries of the Socialist Revolution. Their themes were landmarks on the path of a people building a new life.

In 1929 a series commemorating the first five-year plan was released. Its theme was the industrialization of the country. The first stamp in this series shows a worker at his lathe, and the inscription is a popular slogan of that time: "For lower costs, for labor discipline, for better quality of production." The second stamp shows a blast furnace, and its slogan reads: "More metal, more machines." The third stamp illustrates the country's goal to increase metal output, and the fourth shows the first Soviet tractors working in the fields. This four-stamp series which pictures the country's initial steps toward today's industrial might is now a prized collector's item.

From its earliest days the Soviet Union has worked for friendly relations with other countries. About 500 stamps issued at various times use this theme. An especially large number came out in the late thirties and the years following, a period marked by major developments in Soviet international relations.

A three-stamp series was devoted to the 1937 Paris World's Fair in which the Soviet Union participated. Two commemorative series were devoted to Soviet nonstop flights over the North Pole to the United States in 1937—first in the history of aviation. Among later issues on Soviet-American contacts are stamps dedicated to the USSR pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair, the Soviet Exhibition in New York in 1959 and Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the United States later that year.

Many stamps are devoted to the theme of international peace. As far back as 1934, on the twentieth anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, a five-stamp antiwar series was issued—a peaceful city bombed from the air, people fleeing a burning city, maimed soldiers returning home from the front, an ugly warrior with a sword destroying everything in his path, and soldiers fraternizing at the front.

During World War II most of the stamps were devoted to the theme of struggle against the nazi invaders. One, designed by artist Ilya Koretsky, portrays a mother seeing her boy off to the front. The inscription on the stamp reads: "Be a Hero!" The turning point of the war, the defeat of the nazi army at Stalingrad, is depicted in a stamp designed by Viktor Klimashin. It carries the inscription: "Stalingrad, the Hero City." Other stamps commemorated famous heroes and unknown soldiers, partisans fighting behind the enemy lines, people at the home front working for defense, the liberation of the country and V-day.

Many stamps of the earliest postwar issues show the nation working on the great task of rebuilding the economy. Subsequent issues show the progress of industry and farming, science and technology. The world's first atomic power station put into operation in 1954, the epoch-making first sputnik, the cosmic rocket going into orbit around the sun and the other landing on the moon, the space laboratory photographing the moon's hidden side, the atomic icebreaker *Lenin* launched in 1959—all these achievements are pictured in commemorative stamps.

Among the stamps devoted to peace themes the most interesting are the series catalogued under the titles: "We are for Peace," "Peace Will Conquer War," "For Disarmament and International Cooperation." Many stamps are devoted to such events reflecting combined undertakings of many nations as the International Geophysical Year, the World's Fair at Brussels or the Olympic Games.

Many more new issues in recent years have been dedicated to world-famous figures in literature, the arts and the sciences both at home and abroad. Among the great men of other countries to be honored in commemoratives were Victor Hugo, Robert Burns, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Heinrich Heine, George Bernard Shaw, Rembrandt and Mozart—to mention only a few.

All stamps in the Soviet Union are issued by the Ministry of Communications. Their designs are done by many distinguished artists. Frequently open contests are announced for the best commemorative, and people all over the country—both professional and amateur artists—submit drawings. One such recent contest was for the best stamp based on children's drawings.

Many of the Soviet stamps have been acknowledged outstanding works of art at world philatelic exhibitions. Gold medals were awarded Soviet issues at international stamp exhibitions at Basel in 1948, Leipzig in 1950, Riccione (Italy) in 1952 and Rome in 1954.

A postscript to the many American collectors who have been writing for stamps to the Soviet Embassy in Washington and to the editorial offices of our magazine. We regret that we are unable to comply with these requests and suggest that inquiries be addressed to the stamp sections of department stores, to stamp dealers or, if they don't have the issues needed, to J. & H. Stelow, 50 West 46th St., New York 36, N. Y., philatelic representatives in the United States of Mezhdunarodnaya Knjga, the Soviet foreign trade organization dealing in all kinds of printed matter, records and stamps.

Pianist

SVYATOSLAV RIKHTER

to perform in the United States

Svyatoslav Rikhter—"a genius at the keyboard," as some critics describe him—was interviewed at Tarusa, a quiet town 75 miles from Moscow, where he was preparing for his first concert tour of the United States.

I PLAN to give 25 concerts in the United States, and my programs will include sonatas by Beethoven, Prokofiev, Haydn, Schumann, Debussy, Liszt, Ravel, Chopin, Scriabin and Shostakovich.

I look forward to playing with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago and Philadelphia orchestras. It is a real pleasure for any musician to be soloist with these world-famous orchestras. We will be doing concertos by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Brahms, Liszt, Bartok, Saint-Saens, Dvorak and Shumanovsky.

I am interested in Shostakovich and other contemporary composers like Britten and Hindemith. In Moscow I met Aaron Copland at a concert of modern American and Soviet music. I consider him a very original composer and plan to include his compositions in my repertoire. During my tour I hope to hear a good deal more of modern American music.

Why have I chosen the works I will be playing in preference to others? To play all the fine compositions that have been written for the piano is, unfortunately, impossible. The choice is not always easy and is, of course, highly individual.

The pianist is both performer and musician—the two are not always identical. There are many compositions that I myself love to listen to but for various reasons do not care to play. On the other hand, there are pieces that I don't like nearly so much from the musician's point of view but that I find very challenging as a performer.

But whatever the choice, I hope that my American listeners will feel themselves surrounded by a world of beautiful sounds. For there the musician and the performer have the same function.



Svyatoslav Rikhter with the American pianist Van Cliburn in Moscow.





YURI

NAGIBIN

By Nina Vasilyeva

IN 1939 the widely read magazine *Ogonyok* published "The Double Mistake" by 19-year-old Yuri Nagibin. This was a story about a writer just embarking on his literary career written by a writer just starting out on his. "The Double Mistake" was a study from life—Nagibin's own—and set the pattern for all the author's later works. Nagibin writes about people he knows, events he has witnessed and places he has seen.

His was the generation that had to leave the schoolroom for the battlefield. Nagibin volunteered for active service at the front, leaving behind his unfinished diploma work. But he continued to write until 1943, when he was seriously shell-shocked. After regaining his health, he became a war correspondent for the trade union newspaper *Trud*.

The theme of all the stories Nagibin wrote at the front is the everyday heroism of Soviet soldiers. His heroes are the people with whom he served—ordinary men like radio operator Lodygin and signalman Vasilyev, men who did their best to win the war.

Nagibin writes about a variety of subjects. However, what Soviet readers appreciate most about his stories is not the diversity of topics but his portrayal of the inner world of his heroes, the harmony of their thoughts and feelings. It is this unity which is the outstanding characteristic of Nagibin's heroes. For all their individuality of character and background, they bear a common stamp—a scrupulous concern for duty, honor and the demands of conscience. This determines their attitude toward life. It is not surprising, therefore, that most of his heroes are young, with confidence and directness in their moral appraisal of human relationships, of duty.

Carefully and tactfully the writer reveals the immorality of individualism and of indifference. He writes about relationships that grow out of the concern of one man for another, a concern that becomes an integral part of man's nature and clamors for expression.

Nagibin's heroes are uncompromising in love. Yegor, in the story "Love," is a strong and kind-hearted man. He finds it hard to reconcile himself to the immaturities of his sweetheart Nastya, who tries to grab at happiness through the back door. But he is devoted to her, and the reader is left with the feeling that eventually Yegor will lead Nastya to an understanding of the real meaning of love.

Nagibin believes that the highest form of beauty is the great demands a man makes upon himself. He expressed this thought best in the story "The Winter Oak," published on the following pages.

Spiritual richness and creative energy, inherent in man, are the finest things on earth. Life's generosity is manifested in these qualities. This is the main idea of "The Winter Oak," a lyrical hymn to the people—the creators—those for whom every step in work and life is a discovery, a step forward.

In Nagibin's best stories he proves the reality of the highest kind of beauty—man's spiritual beauty—which, the writer says, is not necessarily manifested in heroic exploits, but rather in the routine, everyday events that make up the average man's life.



THE WINTER OAK

By Yuri Nagibin

IT WAS NO MORE than a quarter of a mile to the school. The teacher had tied a woolen kerchief round her head and thrown her short fur coat over her shoulders without bothering to put her arms in the sleeves. The cold was fierce, and the fitful gusts of wind showered her with snow from head to foot. But the twenty-four-year-old teacher did not mind it. She even enjoyed the stinging sensation on her cheeks and the momentary cold touch of the wind. Averting her face from the gusts of wind, she was amused to see the small imprints her pointed overshoes left behind, like the tracks of some forest creature.

The fresh, sunlit January morning filled her with happy thoughts. She had come here only two years ago, straight from college, and already she was considered the district's best Russian teacher.

Anna's first lesson was with the twelve- and thirteen-year-olds in the fifth grade. She entered the room as the last peal of the bell was announcing the beginning of classes. The children rose, greeted her and sat down at their desks. But it took some time for them to quiet down. Desk tops banged, benches creaked, somebody sighed heavily, evidently unwilling to switch off the carefree morning mood.

"We shall continue to study parts of speech today."

Now they became perfectly quiet. The sound of a truck slowly rumbling along the slippery highway could be heard distinctly in the room.

She adjusted a pin in her fluffy abundant hair and, with a feeling of confidence, began speaking in an even, calm voice:

"A noun is the word that tells the name of a person, place or thing. The subject of a sentence is a noun. A subject in grammar is anything about which you can ask the question: what is it? or, who is it? For instance: Who is it?—a pupil. What is it?—a book."

"May I come in?"

A small figure in big battered felt boots covered with melting snow stood in the open doorway. The round wind-reddened face glowed, and the eyebrows were still white with frost.

"Late again, Savushkin." Like most young teachers, Anna liked to be strict, but now an almost plaintive note sounded in her voice.

Considering the matter settled, Savushkin quickly slid to his place. Anna saw him shove his oilcloth schoolbag into the desk and without turning his head ask something of the boy next to him.

Savushkin's tardiness annoyed Anna; it somehow spoiled the fine opening of the day for her.

"Is everything clear?" she asked the class.

"Yes!" chorused the children.

"Very well. Then give me some examples."

There was a short silence and then someone said haltingly:

"Cat."

"Correct," said Anna, recalling that last year, too, "cat" had been the first example.

After that examples poured out like a stream... window... table... house... highway...

"Correct," Anna assured them. The children were joyously excited. It amazed Anna to see such joy at the discovery of a new aspect in long-familiar words.

"Well, that's enough," said Anna. "I can see you understand it."

The voices died down reluctantly. And then suddenly, as if roused from sleep, Savushkin stood up behind his desk and shouted eagerly:

"Winter oak!"

The children laughed.

"Winter oak!" repeated Savushkin, heedless of the laughter around him or of Anna's orders. There was something peculiar in his manner. The words seemed to have burst out like a confession, like some glorious secret which could not remain unshared.

"Why 'winter oak'? 'Oak' is enough," said Anna.

"Oh, an oak is nothing. A winter oak, that's a noun for you."

"Sit down, Savushkin. That's what happens when you come late. Oak is a noun, and what the word 'winter' is in this case we have not studied as yet. I'd like to see you in the teachers' room during recess."

"They'll give you your winter oak there," whispered somebody behind Savushkin.

Savushkin sat down smiling to himself, not the least bit upset by the teacher's strict tone. A difficult boy, thought Anna.

The lesson continued.

"Sit down," said Anna when Savushkin entered the teachers' room. With evident pleasure the boy sank into a soft armchair and bounced a few times on its springs.

"Will you please tell me why you are always late for school?"

"I really don't know, Anna Vasilyevna," he said with a gesture of surprise. "I leave home an hour before school."

"Aren't you ashamed to tell me you leave home an hour before school? Why it's fifteen minutes from your home to the highway, and no more than half an hour's walk down the highway!"

"But I don't never go down the highway. I take a short cut through the forest," Savushkin said earnestly.

"Don't ever go," Anna mechanically corrected him. Why did children have to lie? she thought unhappily. Why couldn't Savushkin tell her simply, "I'm sorry, Anna Vasilyevna, I stopped to throw snowballs with the kids," or something else equally straightforward. But the boy said no more and just looked at her out of his large gray eyes.

"It's a bad business," Savushkin. "I'll have to talk to your parents about it."

"There's only my mother, Anna Vasilyevna," Savushkin said softly.

Anna blushed. She remembered the boy's mother. She had never remarried after her husband had been killed in the war, and she was bringing up her four children as best she could. She certainly had enough worries without being bothered about her son's behavior. But all the same they had to meet.

"I'll have to come to see your mother then," said Anna.

"Please do, Anna Vasilyevna. She'll be so glad to see you."

"I doubt that. Which shift is she on?"

"The second. She goes to work at three."

"Very well then. I finish at two. We'll go together right after school."

Savushkin led Anna Vasilyevna along the path that started right at the back of the school. As soon as they entered the forest and the heavy snow-laden fir branches had closed in behind them, they found themselves in a different world, an enchanted world of peace and quiet.

Everything around was white. The dainty lacework of birch tops stood out against the blue sky as if sketched in with India ink.

The path followed a frozen brook, here right down along the bank,

there climbing up a steep rise. Occasionally the trees fell back revealing a sunlit clearing crisscrossed with rabbit tracks that looked like a watch chain pattern. There were larger tracks too, shaped like a shamrock. They disappeared into the densest part of the woods.

"Elk's tracks," said Savushkin, following the direction of Anna's gaze. "Don't be afraid of him," he added, reading the unspoken question in her eyes.

"Have you ever seen him?" asked Anna.

"The elk? No. No such luck," sighed Savushkin. "I've seen his droppings though."

"His what?"

"His dung," Savushkin explained, embarrassed.

Diving under a twisted willow the path ran down to the brook again. In some parts the surface of the brook was covered with a thick layer of snow, in other parts its icy armor lay clear and sparkling, and there were spots where the unfrozen water stood out in dark, evil-looking blotches.

"Why hasn't it frozen there?" Anna asked.

"Warm springs. Look, you can see one right there."

Bending over the clear water Anna saw a thin quivering thread which rose up from the bottom of the stream and burst into tiny bubbles before reaching the surface. It looked like a lily-of-the-valley, with a fragile stem and tiny white flowers.

"There are lots of these springs here," Savushkin explained eagerly. "That's why the brook never freezes over."

They came to another unfrozen stretch, with pitch-black but transparent water.

Anna threw a handful of snow into it. The snow did not melt but grew bulkier at once and sank, spreading out in the water like some jellied greenish weeds. This pleased her so much that she started knocking the snow into the water, trying to push off bigger lumps which took on especially fancy shapes. Carried away by the game, she did not notice that Savushkin had gone on ahead. He was perched on a low tree branch hanging right over the brook and was sitting there waiting for her. A thin layer of ice covered the surface of the brook there, and fleeting light shadows kept moving over it.

"Look how thin the ice is, you can see the water flowing underneath," said Anna, coming up to the boy.

"Oh, no, Anna Vasilyevna, it's the branch I'm sitting on. As it sways, the shadows over the ice sway with it."

Anna blushed. It looked as though she had better hold her tongue here in the woods.

Savushkin trod on ahead, bending slightly and throwing keen glances around. Anna followed behind.

Suddenly the path rounded a dense nut-tree grove. The trees stepped humbly aside and in the middle of the clearing, in sparkling white garment, stood an old oak, tall and majestic like a cathedral. Its branches spread far out over the clearing, and the snow nestling in the cracks of the bark made its gigantic trunk look as if inlaid with silver. It had not shed its dried foliage and stood covered to the very top with snow-capped leaves.

"The winter oak!" gasped Anna. She reverently approached the tree and stopped under its glittering branches.

Unaware of the tumult in his teacher's heart, Savushkin got busy with something at the bottom of the trunk, treating the magnificent tree with the familiarity of long-standing friendship.

"Come here, Anna Vasilyevna," he called. "Look!"

He pushed off a large lump of snow with earth and old grass clinging to its underside. A little ball plastered with decayed leaves lay in the hollow below. The skeleton-like remnants of the leaves were pierced with sharply pointed needles.

"A hedgehog!" cried Anna.

"See how well he hid himself?" And Savushkin carefully restored the protective covering of earth and snow over the immobile hedgehog. Then he dug at another spot and revealed a tiny cave with icicles hanging at its opening. It was occupied by a brown frog, its tightly-stretched skin shiny as if it were lacquered.

Savushkin touched the frog. It made no movement.

"Isn't he a sly one?" laughed Savushkin. "Playing dead. But just watch him leap as soon as the sun warms him up a bit."

He guided Anna on through this world he knew so well. There were numerous other tenants in and around the oak: insects, lizards, worms. Some hid among the roots, others in the deep cracks of the bark. Thin, withered, apparently lifeless, they slept there all through the winter. The powerful tree accumulated in itself a store of vital warmth, and those poor creatures could not wish for a better shelter. Fascinated, Anna watched this hidden forest life, so little known to her.

"Dear me, Mother'll be at work by now!" came Savushkin's anxious voice.

Anna looked at her watch. A quarter past three. She felt trapped.

"Heavens!" thought Anna. "If this isn't proof of my incompetence!"

The morning lesson flashed through her mind. How dull and lifeless were her explanations, how utterly devoid of feeling. And she was teaching the children their native language, a language so beautiful, so rich in shade, color and meaning! An experienced pedagogue, indeed! Why, she'd taken no more than a few faltering steps along a path that might well require a whole lifetime to cover. And how is one not to swerve aside, but follow the correct course? Yet the joy with which her pupils shouted familiar words, a joy she had not fully appreciated or shared, told her now that she had not strayed too hopelessly after all.

"Thank you, Savushkin, for the lovely walk," she said. "I know why you take your shortcut. I don't think it will be necessary for me to discuss it with your mother."

"Thank you," Anna Vasilyevna. Savushkin blushed with pleasure. He wanted to promise his teacher right then and there that he would never be late again, but checked himself for fear of failing to keep his word. He only turned up his collar and, pulling down his hat, said:

"I'll see you back to school."

"No, don't. I'll find the way myself now."

He looked at her in some doubt, then picked up a long stick, broke off its thinner end and offered it to Anna.

"Take this," he said, "if an elk comes your way, just hit him on the back and he'll run for all he's worth. No, don't hit him, just raise the stick at him. He might take offense, you know, and leave the woods for good."

"Don't worry, I won't hit him," she promised.

She went a few steps, then stopped and turned to take one last look at the winter oak, tinged with pink by the setting sun. She saw the small dark figure dwarfed by the tree. Savushkin did not go home. He stayed to guard his teacher's way, even if from a distance.

And suddenly Anna knew that the most wonderful being in that forest was not the winter oak but this small boy in battered felt boots and patched clothes, the son of a soldier killed in war.

She waved at him and went on her way.











the BALLAD about a SOLDIER

By Grigori Chukhrai

Grigori Chukhrai is one of the most talented directors that the Soviet film studios have produced in recent years. His earliest motion picture, *The Forty-First* (1947), won a prize at the Cannes Film Festival "for its originality and lofty humanism." His second film, *The Ballad About a Soldier*, soon to be released in the United States, has also won several awards. Now he is directing his third film, *Clear Skies*, whose theme is love and fidelity.

In this article Grigori Chukhrai describes how the film *The Ballad About a Soldier* came to be made.

THE SUCCESS of a film depends to a great extent on the choice of topic or the message in its story. We didn't have to look for the story for *The Ballad About a Soldier*. We had lived through it; it lay rooted in our memories and clamored for expression.

My co-author, the script writer Valentin Yezhov, and I had both gone to the front directly from school. He served with the air force and I with the paratroops. On the long hard way from Stalingrad to Vienna I met many young people who had to give up their studies or their jobs. They had to leave their families and take up arms to defend their country. When the war ended, I wanted to tell about these men who were my contemporaries, and it turned out that Yezhov was taken with the same idea. So we began to work out the story together.

The Ballad About a Soldier came from our hearts. We were carried away by it, thrilled every time we came on the fine shading, the exact word, the precise detail of the scene that said what we wanted it to. It was no easy task, working out that scenario, but it gave us many unforgettable moments of joy and sorrow.

Our film has been praised for originality of plot. But originality was the last thing we

This is not a film of great and heroic deeds. It tells the story of a Soviet soldier in simple human terms. His name is Alexei Skvortsov and he is one of the millions of fine, good and kind young men who did not come back from the war.



Alexei has put two enemy tanks out of action and is slated for an award. Instead he asks for extra leave. Aboard the crowded train he meets a wounded soldier.

were concerned with. We wanted to remind people once again of something they had to be reminded of. It was this that governed both the plot and style of our film, its tone and shadings.

We did not set out to tell how valiantly our hero fought. There was no need to. The whole world knows that the Russian soldiers fought well. But not nearly so many people know what sort of men our soldiers were. That was what we wanted to tell.

The Ballad About a Soldier has none of the spectacular scenes of the usual war film. We wanted to portray heroism as we saw it.

A hero is often pictured as a man without fear, without nerves, as some sort of super-human being. But this is a falsehood.

The heroes we knew were normal men who were afraid of the horrors of war, sometimes

even terrified, but they were men strong enough to overcome their fears and carry on in the face of death. We did not set out to raise a monument of bronze and granite to our hero. We wanted to talk about him in simple human terms, for he was a plain fellow himself and had no use for bombastic eulogies to heroism.

We wanted to tell about a kind man and to show what a terrible loss it is to the world when even one good man goes to his death. So many fine young men did not come back from the war! That is what we wanted to remind everyone. We wanted to say in our film that this must not happen again.

Mothers do not bring children into the world to have them torn by bombs or crushed by tanks when they grow up. The houses and



The disabled soldier is fearful when he gets off to meet his waiting wife. How will she take it, living with a cripple?



Promising never to forget each other, Shura and Alexei part with the fervent hope that they'll meet again after the war.

factories destroyed by war can be rebuilt, but who can return a son, a sweetheart, a husband, or a father? War annihilates our most treasured possession—human life, and we were determined to tell about this aspect of war.

When we shot the story, we encountered difficulties and complications we had foreseen and some we had not. The fourth day we were filming, one of the cars in a scene went out of control and smashed into the truck carrying the camera and myself, with the result that I spent nearly five months in the hospital.

The main roles in our film are played by Zhanna Prokhorenko and Vladimir Ivashov. At the time of the filming Zhanna was studying at the drama school of the Art Theater and Vladimir at the Institute of Cinematography. But because we had to make the most



It's a long trip to his native village and his mother. On the way he meets Shura, who has lost all her kinfolk in the war. They take the same train.



Alexei promised to deliver a gift to the wife of a soldier he met on his way home. When he arrives, he finds that the house has been bombed out.



Finally the happy, excited meeting with his mother. But the trip has taken so long that they have only a few breathless minutes before he must leave.

of the summer, both these young people who had never acted in a film before had to face the camera without rehearsing.

It was a pleasure to watch these young actors grow, to see them turn into real artists. They developed so beautifully that I was often tempted to begin shooting the picture over again from the beginning.

Our film received much favorable comment from the press. It won first prize at the Minsk Film Festival and the high commendation of the Cannes Festival. But far more precious than all the prizes and awards were the tears and the laughter that our film evoked from Soviet audiences and those in many foreign lands. This tells us that there are many people in the world who cherish peace and hate war as much as we.

And as Alexei goes back to the front, his mother prays for the day when the war will be over and her son will come home to stay.



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BALLET PREMIERE



By Leonid Dugan

Photos by Miroslav Murazov

THIS is an unusual premiere we are invited to—the first performance of the ballet *Shuraleh* by the Tatar composer F. Yarullin at the factory club in Stupino, a town not far from Moscow. The cast of fifty—a well-trained ensemble—are members of the club's ballet group, all spare-time dancers and full-time factory and office workers.

Shuraleh is a fairy tale about the enchanted bird-girl Suimbik. She is carried away by the forest monster Shuraleh and saved by the fearless young woodcutter Bylytr. Laboratory assistant Albina Luchsheva stars as Suimbik, fitter Vasili Zinoviev is Shuraleh, lathe operator Vasili Kuzmin is the woodcutter.

Many people in the audience had seen the country's leading ballet troupes in *Shuraleh*, and even the most critical among them agreed that the Stupino dance group compares favorably with the best. It took a year of rehearsals with choreographer Mukhammed Baidavletov to prepare the production, and the response of the audience makes it evident that the time was well spent.

The professional performance of this amateur ensemble is not accidental. The group was organized sixteen years ago and has won first prize at many national dance festivals. Its repertoire includes two major ballet productions—*Coppelia* and *The Red Flower*—and many less ambitious divertissements.





1. Applauding the brilliant first performance by their factory club dance ensemble of Shuraleh, a ballet by Tatar composer Yarullin.

2. Shuraleh, the forest monster, has lured Suimbik away from her native village. He gives her the wings of a bird, and for a while she seems satisfied to live in the forest. But little by little the girl remembers her old life and longs to return to the village, to her people and, most of all, to the handsome woodcutter Byltyr whom she was about to marry before she was bewitched.

3. Shuraleh's menacing goblins try to prevent Suimbik from leaving the forest, but the fearless Byltyr rescues her and takes her home.

4. Suimbik's friends are happy to see her back and get busy preparing for the wedding. The whole village is invited to the festivities.

5. In the colorful finale, which includes the ballet's most beautiful dances, the people make merry as Suimbik and Byltyr are married.



CHILDREN'S

BAILIWICK

THIS COURTYARD—park would be a better word to describe it—is the bailiwick of the children who live in the neighborhood. It is set smack in the middle of a big housing project, one of those which were built in the southwestern part of Moscow in recent years. It is a self-contained community with its own stores, nursery, kindergarten, grade school, library and movie theater.

The emphasis in any of these micro-districts is on convenience, sunshine, fresh air and good family living. No problem of keeping children off the streets here, either figuratively or literally. Mischief? Of course. Children wouldn't be children otherwise—it's part of growing up. But there are also lots of useful and healthful activities of all kinds.

The youngsters who live in this project—

some 900 of them of school age and more of preschool age—all spend their play hours in the courtyard. The tots are traditionally with their mommies or grannies, but the almost grown-up ones are on their own here. They dash home from school, snatch a bite and rush off downstairs to join waiting playmates.

But playtime is also character-building time. This is where the adults step into the courtyard picture. They have a parents' committee of fifteen headed by Klavdia Shipunova, a motherly woman recently retired on pension from her job of accounting clerk. The other committee members are teachers, factory workers, engineers and housewives.

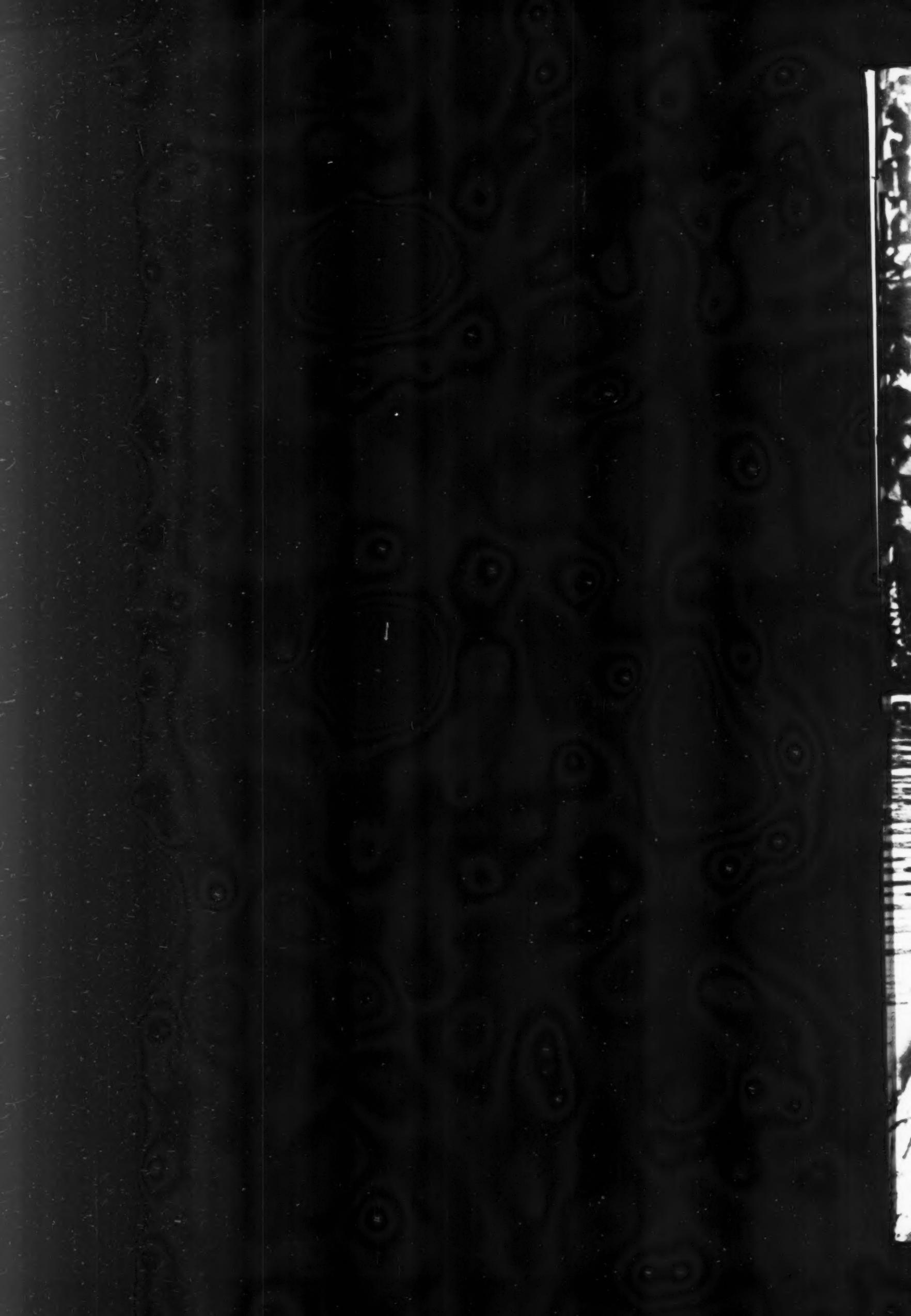
The committee's job is to work out projects that will help the children grow straight and

strong in mind and body, and in this it gets more help than it can use from volunteer assistants. There were some 300 of them at the last count.

Thus far the committee has fixed up basketball and volleyball courts, a soccer field and ping-pong tables. Courtyard matches and tournaments always draw big crowds—and they are not all youngsters. Committee volunteers helped the older children organize a drama group and an art studio.

Work can also be fun, the committee thinks. And the children agree. They help the adults look after the lawns and flower beds and keep everything in good order. They, too, are responsible members of the neighborhood community.

K





CHILDREN

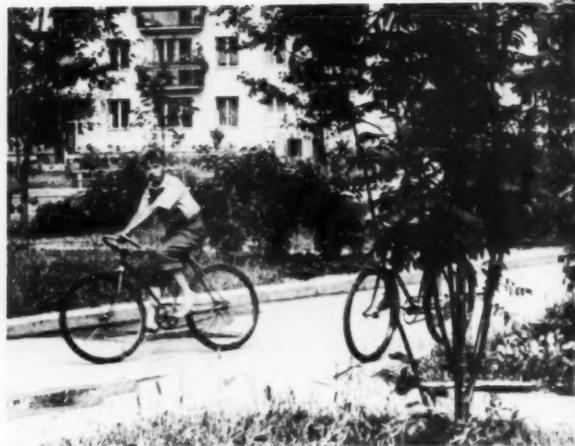


Two's company, three's a crowd.



Right size sea for small size mariners.

Bicycling is for the older courtyard set.



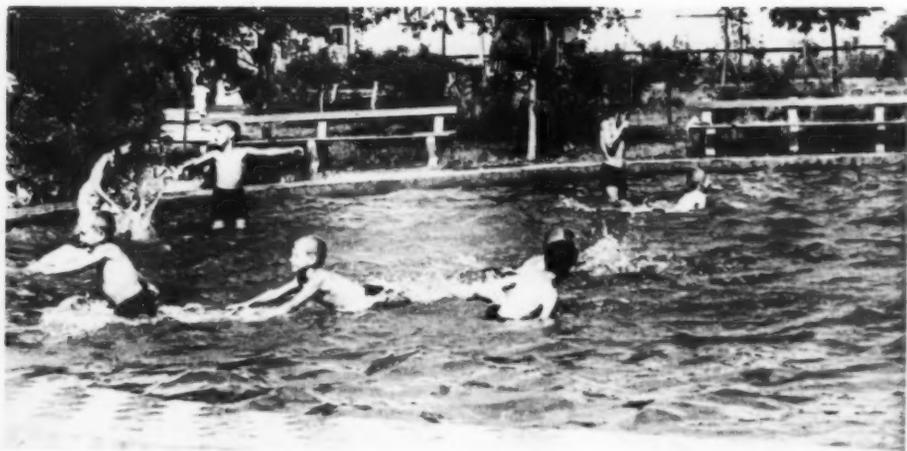
The girls visit the neighborhood library regularly.

These young members of the community look after the courtyard flower beds.





It's no great problem to keep children off the streets when they have a playground like this one.



If you have to spend a hot summer day in the city, this is certainly the right place to do it.



In a quiet corner of the playground.

Outdoor ping-ponging is more fun.



The idea is to keep it bouncing.



U.S.A.- U.S.S.R. TABLE TENNIS



PING-PONG—or table tennis if you insist on being formal about it—is probably as popular in the Soviet Union as it is in the United States, played by people of all ages, sizes and conditions. So it is only natural that the recent USA-USSR meet in Moscow between the youth teams drew a very sizable crowd.

In the first game of the meet James Blomer lost to Gennadi Averin, USSR champion. The Soviet players also won the next three games, and before the fifth encounter they needed only one more point to score the team victory. That beginning must have made them a little cocky—they lost the fifth and the sixth games to Blomer. But the Americans were stopped there. The Soviet team won with a 7-2 score.

Commenting on the outcome of the first day, USSR coach Nikolai Leonov said of the Americans: "They played well, but they seemed to be a little nervous. Understandable for boys who haven't had international match experience."

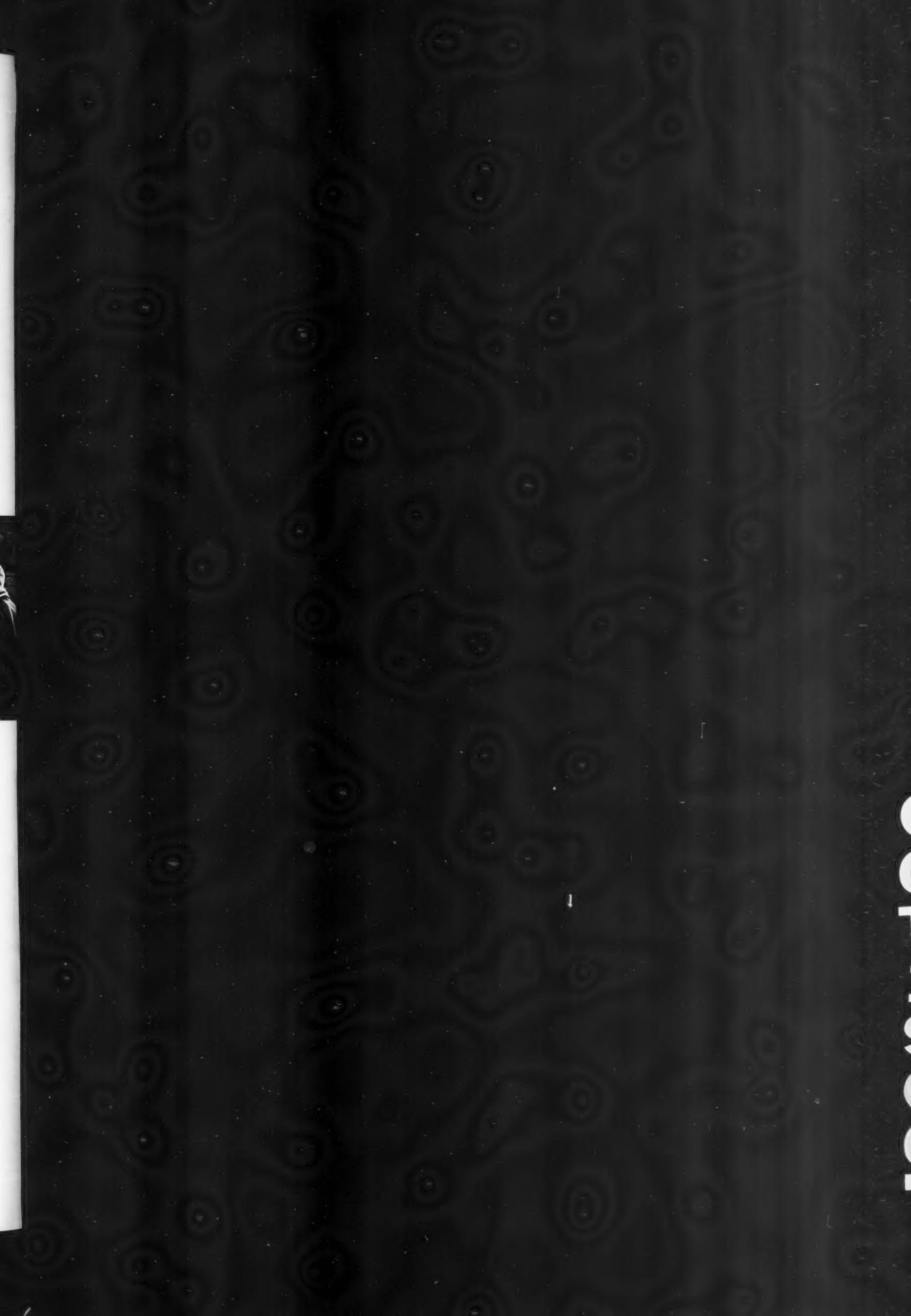
The second day of the meet opened with the singles tournament. The games were played on a knockout basis. Perhaps the most interesting was the Keim versus Ozerov game where the score stayed even for a

long stretch. It was a very tough fight, and the Soviet player literally clipped his opponent for the victory.

Minutes later, when the doubles tournament started, Keim and Ozerov were partners against Averin and Novikov. The American and Soviet players had never partnered each other before and, not surprisingly, they lost in two sets.

It turned out that both William Keim and Igor Ozerov were keen postage stamp collectors. They traded addresses and agreed they were going to institute a personal "cultural exchange." Keim had his shirt all pinned up with badges and buttons presented to him by Muscovite friends and admirers. "Enough to open a museum," the young American said.

Gennadi Averin, the individual winner, was awarded the prize—a Pobeda watch. He went over to Richard Card, USA champion, who had turned 17 that day, wished him many happy returns and presented the watch to him for the American team. "Let's hope," Averin said, "that it will hasten the time until our next meeting at a return match in the United States."



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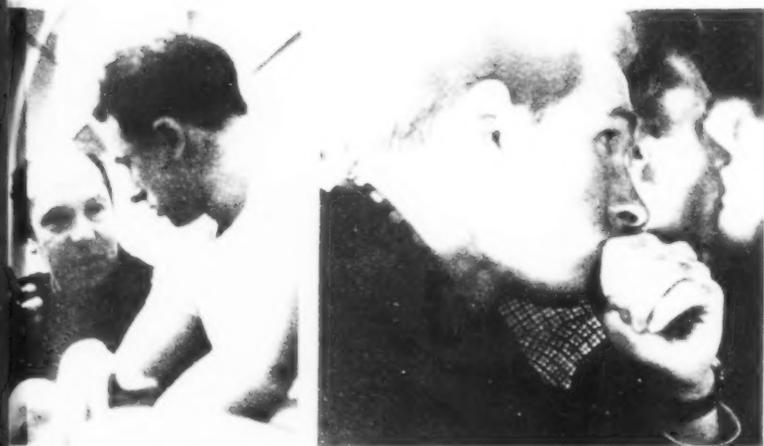
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ANATOLI MIKHAILOV

*has what
it takes to win*

WHEN Anatoli Mikhailov showed his heels last year to the German hurdler Martin Lauer, who holds the official world record, Soviet fans awoke to the happy fact that they had a potential Olympic winner on their hands.

This rising star is a sample of the current crop of college athletes. He cut his athletic teeth on basketball, as do many Soviet youngsters. Then he attended a school sports center run by Victor Alexeyev, a man with a reputation for creating champions by building physical fitness. Now at 22 he is a junior at the Leningrad Railroad Engineering College. His scholastic achievement matches his sports record—both are tops.

Anatoli is one of those boys who seem to do everything easily and with a winning smile. Athletics are just his way of keeping fit. His primary interest is his future profession, and the hobby he's really excited about is movie-making. The coaches say: "When he gets to Rome, he won't just be hurdling 110 meters at the stadium—he'll be hurdling all over Rome with his camera."

With winters as long as they are in our part of the world, there's always a lot of talk about the training problem. Since indoor athletics are pretty much at the infant stage, most of the leading coaches are inclined toward mixed indoor and outdoor work in winter. Anatoli is a product of this mixed training, and a very good one indeed. At the indoor meets held in Leningrad he turned in remarkable performances, not only in hurdling but in sprinting as well.

This is just the beginning of the climb for Anatoli. If he doesn't crack the world record this year, he's still a very likely candidate for the European championships two years hence.



