

Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Vladivostok Russia St Paul Minnesota

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The Knights of Columbus Were in Vladivostok!

By V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

Was I shocked when I received this note from our benefactor, Ron Rosmer:

“KC in Vlad!--I found this page at the following website*. Look under 1918.”

What I read amazed me:

“The book THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN PEACE AND WAR by Maurice Francis Egan and John B. Kennedy (1920) states: “The initiation and develop-

43 Svetlanskaya St in Vladivostok where the Knights of Columbus had their headquarters and café for Allied servicemen during the Russian Revolution as seen on a picture postcard from that era. And the same building as it is today, a bookstore.



ment of Knights of Columbus working with the American forces in Siberia was distinctly fortuitous. [The Americans came to Vladivostok to guard the Transiberian Railroad as the Russian Revolution was played out across the vast Russian territory.] The number of our troops in Siberia had been (for various reasons, some of which were, perhaps, not unconnected with the practical evidences of displeasure shown by American soldiers detained for duty in European Russia), strictly guarded as a secret by the War Department. Mr Garry McGarry, a young actor of considerable talent and energy, requested the Knights of Columbus War Activities Committee to send him to the Far East, to Honolulu and other

See you in Las Vegas! See Page 8.

points where American garrisons were stationed. The committee was not enthusiastic over the project but, sensing the possibilities of rendering service to men who needed it, Mr McGarry was dispatched as a courier for the Knights of Columbus to the Philippines. There he produced several successful theatrical entertainments under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus, His Grace the Archbishop of Manila and other prominent Catholics congratulating him on his achievement.

“Later he went to Vladivostok, and discovered in that port that some six thousand American troops stationed along the Trans-Siberian railroad were woefully without means of recreation. This fact, cabled to the committee, brought instant response. Six Knights of Columbus Secretaries were promptly sent to Siberia [as Americans call this region, but the Russians call it the Russian Far East], and as quickly as space could be secured, large shipments of the famous Knights of Columbus creature comforts, with athletic equipment and cinema and theatrical supplies, were sent forward. With characteristic thoroughness, the Knights, in November, 1919, sent a Christmas ship to Vladivostok,--the "Mercia," laden with all manner of good things for distribution among the troops there. Later, Mr William F. Fox of Indianapolis, a member of the Board of Directors, and associate, for more than a year, of Mr William P. Larkin, Overseas Director, went to Siberia as Knights of Columbus commissioner, Mr McGarry having been promoted to the rank of supervisor. Plans were formulated and put into effect to give adequate service to the American Troops at Vladivostok and other Siberian towns, up to the last minute of their presence there. "

So I sent a note about this to Grand Knight Drew Beck at Georgetown University who had been here to visit us, and he sent the message to Susan H. Brosnan, the Archivist at the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council in New Haven. She replied with a picture! And some further information from the transcribed diary of William F. Fox, a member of the K of C Board of Directors at that time, which said, “Jan. 2, 1920 Awoke this morning and found ourselves in the ice bound harbor of Vladivostock (sic).Called on General Graves, Commandant of the Siberian forces and Commander of the USS Albany. Found we had no funds on hand so deposited twenty thousand to our credit and changed system of handling our accounts. ... Found McGarry running two cafes at which all allied soldiers were being fed at a minimum cost for the food. Instructed him to see to it that American soldiers and sailors were given their food free.

“Welfare work: This work consisted of giving vaudeville (sic) performances at the various camps about Vladivostock (sic) also doing the same as far as 2000

miles up the line, the free distribution of creature comforts and looking after the soldiers welfare. Conditions in Vladivostok made the work most trying and it was done under serious handicaps. The Russians were executing daily a number of men for disloyalty to the Kolchak cause. This became so unbearable to the Social democrats of Vladi that a strike was called for Saturday January 31 as a protest. The strike was a complete success with no bad results. All laboring men joined in even the Govt employees. The success of the strike resulted in a cessation of the executions which had been taking place. Living conditions in Vladi almost intolerable - no water-no heat. Bread lines in four different places. Many refugees in the RR yards housed in box cars. these refugees mostly from Moscow & Petrograd (sic) many of noble birth-- hundreds of orphans on Russian Island across the bay-- One woman with 8 children in box car in RR yards hungry and cold. In refugee trains on way down the sick and dying would be stripped of their clothing and tossed out of the cars. The Commandant of the Polish forces informed me of the condition of their sick. All suffering from hunger and physical defects. In the Polish Army a sick man is not counted--they would rather he was dead--there he would not be an incumbrance (sic).

“While troops of other countries were having a hard time American Troops were being well cared for. Employment of Father Spannbauer Austrian prisoner for five years. His splendid work among the sick. Extreme Unction given boys at Evacuation hospital the day I was with him. Said as high as three Masses on Sunday. Many German prisoners in charge of Americans. "

“Also the REPORT of the Supreme Board of Directors Knights of Columbus for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1920 Educational and Welfare Work indicates the following: "In SIBERIA our work was carried on from June, 1919, until the last American soldiers left with General Graves, the Commander of the Forces, on March 29, 1920. During this time we furnished a very excellent line of recreation, entertainment and relief for the benefit of the service men. The greater part of our American Forces were scattered at various points for upwards of two thousand miles along the Trans-Siberian Railroad, the remainder being stationed in the City of Vladivostok. In addition to furnishing these men with creature comforts, many entertainments were given in Vladivostok free of cost, such as vaudeville performances, musical shows and moving picture entertainments. Two cafes were operated where American soldiers were furnished meals without charge. All of the work was carried on under difficult and unusual circumstances. Three revolutions took place in Vladivostok during our stay there. In one of these, and during the battle between the opposing forces, the

News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

American soldiers were called to guard the railroad station. Our secretaries proceeded to the scene with portable stoves and served the men during the nights they were on duty with hot coffee, sandwiches and other comforts. A hut was erected and operated at Spasko, a point about sixty miles west of Vladivostok, and another at Beresovka, a point about two thousand miles up the line of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, this being it is claimed, the farthest point at which welfare work was regularly carried on for the American soldiers during the war. In addition to the two cafes mentioned above, a large Service House and a theatre were operated in the city of Vladivostok."

Then Fr Christopher Zuger of Albuquerque NM sent us this site

<http://www.geocities.com/WallStreet/1242/vladwhat2see.html> where we read:

"[The building at] #43 Svetlanskaya St. [in Vladivostok] was constructed in 1901-1903. Before the Revolution there were several shops on the first floor of the building, and apartments, which were rented, occupied its other floors. In 1918-1919 the club of American Military Men Knights of Columbus operated in this building. Today the central book stores and the Primorsky Committee for Freedom of Speech are located here."

And I already forgot who sent me this: "The Order raised \$14,000,000 dollars and was given an additional \$30,000,000 from a combined fund drive. Centers were opened in Andernack, Germany; Vladivostok, Siberia; Dublin, Ireland; Italy; and France [during the war.]"

Then from Rome I get a letter from John Sonnen saying he is buying a KC postcard on eBay which was made in Vladivostok! He won the auction and sent it to us for our archive. See the photo!

I'm sure this story isn't done yet!

* <http://www.carr.org/~meripper/kofc/history/h1910.asp>

Opportunities

♥ Mr Will Cossairt, Executive Director of Total Life Care Centers (28 centers in Minnesota!) suggests the possibility of some of their Life Care Centers becoming "sister centers" with Women's Support Centers in Russia! Many Mission supporters also work with Pro-life in various capacities. Anyone want to be first to be a sister center?

- In St Paul, Minnesota on Sunday, June 18, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, at two o'clock in the afternoon, Nicole Angela Morse entered the novitiate of Sisters in Jesus the Lord. Fr Daniel Maurer, CJD, celebrated the Mass of reception into the novitiate. Nicole is the third member of the growing private association. She is the daughter of Kenneth and Kathryn Morse of northern Iowa and the first child in a family of six daughters.

Nicole spent one year as a postulant in preparation for this step. Her postulancy consisted of studying religious life and the spiritual life and taking undergraduate classes at the University of Saint Thomas. She received the religious name Sister Catherine Marie. The name Catherine is meaningful to Nicole because her grandmother, mother, and a deceased sister are named after St Catherine of Siena. Nicole admires St Catherine of Siena because of St Catherine's defense of the truth and the papacy.

As a novice, Sister Catherine Marie goes by her religious name and wears the burgundy habit and a white veil in the convent. She continues to study at the University of Saint Thomas and is beginning to prepare for her first profession of private vows, which will take place in two years. Following her graduation from the University, she would like to go to Vladivostok and begin her mission experience.



Sister Maria Stella, Sister Catherine Marie, and Sister Julia, the formation director.

- The first mass on Russian Island at our baby retreat center was held on July 13, 2006, in conjunction with a work-and-retreat for adults from both Vladivostok parishes. Parishioners spent the mornings working on the building to help get it ready for use, and then spent the afternoons in prayer, spiritual reading, and discussions led by Sr Evgenia. Since then the Children's Retreat was held there and the Couple Retreat. Even though the facilities are still insufficient, that fact that they are immediately used tells how important they are.



Participants in the work-retreat on Russian Island.

- On July 27, after received the container from St Paul with all the roofing materials, the workmen started on the roof of the Our Lady of Fatima Rectory. The work on the rectory is nearing completion, and we can hope to move into it by the Fall. It is a dream come true after 14 years of waiting. Give you a photo in the next newsletter.



Unloading the roof and organ parts in the courtyard.

- A man sent \$2500 to MN who had never given before. Sandie called him to say thanks, and where did he hear about us? He said that he was praying to the Holy Spirit about where to send his tithe when our brochure fell out of his prayerbook, and he took it as a sign!!

- The ultrasound machines continue to find homes. Here are the two latest photos for machines which go to Arsenyev and to Ussurysk.



WSC Arsenyev's director Tatyana Nicolaevna, with the head doctor of the Arsenyev Hospital Olga Vacilyevna and Caritas Administrator Sergei Akulenko. They are taking the ultrasound equipment to Arsenyev to be used by the Women's Support Center there.

Natalya Smirnova, the leader of the Women's Consultation Service in Ussurysk, Sergei Akulenko, and Women's Support Center Director in Ussurysk Yelena Yelishcheva, with the ultrasound in Ussurysk.



- Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Convention was held in Minneapolis on July 6. Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Fr Thomas Billmek (L) Estella Ramierez and (R) Maria Vicinaiz have graciously offered the fund the Lesozovodsk Women's Support Centers project in Russia to knit Christening gown sets. We are up to about 20 already. If you are interested in buying one and support our prolife work at the same time, please call Sandie Sonnen in St Paul.



A happy customers showing off the hand-woven garments from Lesozovodsk.

(L) Estella Ramierez and (R) Maria Vicinaiz of the Catholic Daughters who will help fund the workers in Lesozovodsk who knit the baptismal garments for kids.



- Here is a photo of our *Sunrise* crew with Fr Dan taken in June. This crew from Nativity Parish in St Paul very faithfully assembles and prepares the *Sunrise* for mailing six times a year. It is a big job. They've been at it for a long time, and we thought perhaps they needed a rest. We investigated what it would cost to have it done commercially, and the crew voted to continue to save the mission that money six times a year. Thank you very much for your generous offer of your time and energy!



- Congratulations to the Sister Parish Committee of St Joseph's Parish in Modesto, CA, on the publication of the first issue of their own newsletter. Vicky Trevillyan, the editor, says, "Our Sister Parish project has grown to include so many areas with so many loving people giving their hearts to God and our family in Russia. We are bringing you this newsletter spread the news of progress and needs out to even more of the parishioners. The newsletter will be published bi-monthly."



L-R, Jasmine Marquez, Daniel Lopez, Ruben Castenada, Sue Castenada, Vicky Trevillyan, Mary Jo Peyton, Harvey Esquivel, Maureen Lucas, and not shown is Craig Trevillyan, Jr.



The group lived totally from their carry-ons in order to bring as much humanitarian aid as possible.

The Retreat house needing work on Russian Island



It could be pretty stinky, unpleasant work!

Wallpaper to be removed and walls spackled.



Working with Children at the orphanage.



Vicky Trevillian working with a handicapped child.

Thank you, St Joseph's Parish and volunteers who came!



Lack of a common language didn't stop having fun.

A Parish Picnic with the guests.



How to Communicate with Us

Internet

Russian language: www.catholic.vladivostok.ru

English language: www.vladmission.org

Sisters in English: www.cjd.cc



The ferry ride to the Island.

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From the development desk...

Dear Vladivostok Mission supporters,

• Do you wish to meet Fr Myron Effing? Is he an old friend you would like to see again? Do you wish to know more about the revival of the Catholic Church in Russia? **Come to Las Vegas with us.** Be a guest of St Joseph Husband of Mary parish. Find out what beautiful things are happening in Las Vegas as well as in Russia. This town is alive with good Catholic vibrant communities. Two parishes are sister parishes to the Most Holy Mother of God Cathedral in Vladivostok. Come meet, enjoy, learn and have fun as well. We'll be waiting for you there!

• **Registration** for Weekend Conference with Fr Myron in Las Vegas NV. Please register as soon as possible. Call the office for details: 651-227-0208. Or call me at home: 651-690-1933.

_____ Yes I (WE) will be at entire conference with 5 meals for \$50 for each person.

_____ No I (we) will be attending only part of the weekend _____ Fri Eve _____ Sat _____ Sun

Name _____

Address _____

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email _____

Flight plans _____

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If you need our shuttle service, please make your hotel reservations at: Holiday Inn Express 702.256.3766 \$120.00 per night -up to 4 persons per room. Alternate motel down the street: La Quinta 702.243.0356 \$132.00 per night. If you rent your car and wish a casino hotel we recommend Suncoast Casino or Red Rock Casino. See You THERE! It will be World Mission Sunday weekend Oct 20-21-22, 2006.

God love you, David and Sandra Sonnen
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