

## THE FEAST OF VARTANANTZ

Every year, on the Thursday preceding Lent, Armenians throughout the world celebrate the anniversary of an important event in their history. This is the religious war waged between pagan Persia and Christian Armenia, which took place near the Doughmood River in 451 A.D. This battle was fought for the freedom of conscience and for the preservation of the Christian religion of the Armenian people. As the commander in chief of the Armenian army, Vartan Mamigonian was the hero of this battle - therefore, it is called the Battle of Vartanantz and by his name the day is called the Feast of Vartanantz.

Vartan has become the most outstanding hero of the Armenian nation. He, with his comrades in arms, together with millions of others throughout Armenian history, laid down their lives so that the coming generations of Armenians might worship their Lord and God freely.

As a result of such battles in our history and the fine spirit which the Vartanians displayed, the Christian religion has survived in Armenia throughout the centuries and under most trying conditions and circumstances. We are indeed proud inheritors of this unconquerable spirit and may God make us worthy of this glorious legacy.



### ODDS N' ENDS

DID YOU KNOW --- that famed ballet dancers Tamara Toumanova and Leon Danielian are Armenians - that Gregory Peck is not Armenian, but David Hedison of "Voyage To The Bottom of the Sea" is - that world famous photographer Youssef Karsh of Ottawa is Armenian - that the apple originated in Armenia - that Lorraine Serabian, an understudy in the current Broadway hit "Zorba", was rushed into a major role on opening night and now (according to reviews) "regularly stuns audiences with an electrifying voice" - that stage and T.V. personality Arlene Francis is Armenian and has been responsible many times for sponsoring young Armenian girls from overseas to come to this country - that the Euphrates river, cradle of ancient civilization, rises in Central Armenia, just northwest of the city of Kharpert and east of Arabkir - that Erivan is said to have been founded by King Ervant. The city was earlier known as Ervantavan - that specialists of the Armenian Institute of Viticulture have created 42 new varieties of grapes which have been successfully grown in the southern areas of the Soviet Union.

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"Over and above all considerations of trade and politics we will continue to urge the claim of outraged humanity in the stricken land of Armenia" ---

President Theodore Roosevelt



# ARARAT

Newsletter

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BITS OF NEWS

Hasmik Allers is home from the hospital recovering from surgery.

Armen Najarian is again a proud grandmother with son Joe and wife welcoming a baby girl.

INTERESTING FACTS:

WORLD'S ARMENIAN POPULATION REACHES 6,000,000

Yerevan: At a conference on Demographic Problems scholar Hagop Krikorian noted that there are about 6 million Armenians in the world, according to the latest data available. Of that 6 million figure, about 68 percent live in the Soviet Union, but 11 percent of the population is in Georgia and 12 percent of the population in Azerbaijan. There are also Armenians living in the Trans-Caucasian countries of Uzbekistan and Turkmenia as well as in the Ukraine, Moscow and Leningrad.

The number of Armenians living in foreign countries is about 2 million. The largest number is to be found in Asia - approximately 850 thousand. America boasts of more than 600,000, France has about 200,000, Lebanon 180,000 and Syria 150,000 Armenians. There are also large colonies of Armenians living in Argentina, Brazil, Iraq, Bulgaria, India, and the U.A.R., Uruguay, Greece, Rumania, Canada and Australia.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Armenian Young Marrieds is now known as the Armenian Young People's Group and is welcoming with open arms all single Armenians in Texas to join them at the monthly get-togethers. These have become very popular and we all have a lot of fun, and we sincerely hope that all of you will be there at the next one, which will be held March 15th at the home of Jani Ohanian, 11403 Triola Lane, in Bellaire West. The time is 8:30 - contact your editor if you have any questions.

"With a devotion surpassed by no age or country, they (the Armenians) remained all the time steadfast in their Christian faith through a martyrdom of centuries."  
-- Edwin A. Grosvenor

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH!!

Editor's Note: This interesting and well-written article appeared in the January 10th issue of the Texas Catholic Herald. It is extremely informative and should be of interest to all of us.

### NEWEST EASTERN RITE CHURCH: EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIAN CULTURE by Father Anselm Walker

Texas Christians are so accustomed to thinking of Christianity as either Protestant or Catholic that new churches made up of Christians from the Near East pass almost unnoticed among us. Those who are Christians belong to neither of the main categories to which we are accustomed are spoken of vaguely as "Greek Orthodox" and dismissed as being of little moment since they are not as numerous as the Baptist or Catholics, to quote two familiar examples. Many of us may realize that we now have an Orthodox Cathedral in Houston with a Greek bishop residing here, directing the 12th Missionary District of the Greek Archdiocese of North and South America. Fans of Oriental Christianity also may be aware of St. George's Orthodox Church which is made up mostly of people of Syrian descent, but who use English entirely in their liturgy. Some may even know of St. Vladimir's Russian Orthodox Chapel on Garrott Street where some of Houston's Russians worship. Until about eight months ago we even had a Western Rite Orthodox group who met at the religious center at the University of Houston. This group has since disbanded since it has no priest, the members now practicing their faith in the Greek, Syrian or Russian Orthodox Churches that follow the Byzantine Rite, depending on their preference. Besides all these representatives of the various national groups that make up the Eastern Orthodox Churches we have added a new group who use the title "Orthodox" but who are not in communion with the Federation of Eastern Orthodox Churches. This new group is the St. George Armenian Orthodox Church located on Bering Drive here in Houston.

The Armenians are a hardy folk from the high, mountain ringed plateau of Eastern Asia Minor. Racially they are cousins to the Iranians or Persians. They themselves claim to be the descendents of Haik, the grandson of Noe, and according to Armenian tradition, the ark came to rest after the flood on the peak of Mt. Ararat, almost the geographical center of their country. The Armenians claim, and there is some evidence in their favor, that they were the first nation to adopt Christianity as their national religion. It was their Christian faith that united the diverse tribes into one national group so that religion and nationalism among the Armenians, as among so many other Eastern peoples including the Jews, is intertwined and blended so that to separate the two would damage the whole concept of Armenianess.

From the very first the Armenians have had to fight to retain their identity and their independence. They have kept the former largely through their national church, but they have often lost the latter, as they have in our own day. Very early the fire-worshipping Zoroastrians of Persia strove to subjugate Armenia and to convert the people to its dualistic religion. The Armenians managed to overcome these efforts and sometimes with the help of their Byzantine neighbors, for, after all, Armenia was a buffer state for the Eastern Roman Empire. After the rise of Mohammedanism in the Near East in the 7th Century, efforts were made by the Arabs, Turks and other Moslems to conquer Armenia and convert its inhabitants to the religion of the Prophet. It was the Armenian National Church which always formed the backbone to resistance and survival in these dark times of persecution that helped them to endure these trials. The darkest hour in Armenian history was the closing years of the First World War. During that period over a million Armenians were slaughtered in cold blood by Turkish and Kurdish Moslems, who tried, before Hitler, to solve the Armenian problem. This resulted in a mass exodus of Armenians from Asia Minor to other Near Eastern countries, where they were relocated and tried to begin life over again. Armenia finds herself today divided between Turkey and the Soviet Republic of

Armenia where the people are allowed to develop their national culture within the "socialist" framework, which means atheism in the long run.

The conversion of Armenia is attributed to St. Gregory the Illuminator, who received baptism, instruction, ordination and consecration as a bishop from the Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia. He in turn converted King Tiridat, a member of the Arsacid dynasty which also ruled in Iran at the time, and with the king's help the nobility was converted to the new faith. In time the common people followed. The process was rather slow until two Armenian clerics, Sts. Mesrop and Sahag, invented an Armenian alphabet so that a native literature began to flourish, Armenian scribes then began to translate from Greek and Syriac almost everything that they could get their hands on, so that many works of ancient writers and church fathers survive only in Armenian translations. Due to their isolated position and their constant preoccupation with defending themselves from the Persians, the Armenians learned early to depend on themselves so that in time their church no longer retained effective communion, jurisdictionally speaking, with the Greek-speaking churches to the West, much less with the Holy See and the Latin Church of Western Europe. ~~Armenia participated in and accepted the decrees of the first three General Councils --~~ Nicea 325; I Constantinople, 381; and Epheusus, 431 -- but for some reason did not participate in the Council of Chalcedon of 451, and did not receive its teaching on the one person and two natures in Christ. The Armenians keep to the terminology of St. Cyril of Alexandria in this matter, "One nature of God the Word Incarnate" -- one person, and one nature in Christ. Some scholars represent the difference between the Armenian teaching and that of Chalcedon as a mere matter of terminology and nothing more.

The liturgy of the Armenian Church is interesting. It is celebrated in classical Armenian and is always sung to oriental chants that sound wierd to Western ears (all chants sound wierd to Western ears). It is basically the Byzantine Rite in an older form with some Western additions added at the time of the Crusades when Latins and Armenians were allies, members of the crusading nobility intermarrying with their Armenian counterparts. There was even intercommunion with the two Churches, at least among the Armenians of Southwest Asia Minor. From that time there has existed a group of Catholics of the Armenian Rite who use the same liturgy as their Orthodox brethren, but who have given up their nationalistic isolation by entering into communion with the Catholic Church. Overtures have been made by the Greek Church from time to time, but the Armenians have never been too serious in their negotiations on Church union with them.

All in all, Armenian Christianity is a very old and very interesting example of ~~Christian faith and culture. They bring a new perspective to Texas Christianity,~~ especially a knowledge of how to exist and survive in dispersion and persecution. Let us extend to them our sympathy and interest and our brotherly help for their well-being and success among us. May God bless their efforts to serve Him.



Don't forget -- ARARAT cannot function without the information and news supplied it by its readers, so be sure to forward any and all information, articles or newsworthy items to:

Mrs. Helen Hekimian, Editor ARARAT  
5604 Evergreen Street  
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Phone: MO 7-1684

THANK YOU!



# ARARAT

## Newsletter

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE FAMOUS MOUNTAIN - Armenian historians explain the word "Ararat" as consisting of the Armenian word "Air"(Ayr) (that is "Man"), and "Ara," the name of a legendary Armenian king. Thus "Ararat" would mean "Abode of Ara The Man." (It's really "Ayrarat," not "Ararat"!)

Mount Ararat has two peaks, known in the West as "Ararat Major" and "Ararat Minor." The Armenians also know Mt. Ararat as "Masis Ler." Thus, there is a "Medzn Masis" (Ararat Major), and a "Pokr Masis" (Ararat Minor).

The word "Ararat" derives directly from the term "Urartu" applied to Armenia in biblical days. Noah's Ark landed on the Mountains of Ararat, not Mount Ararat. See your Bible. What is really meant is that the Ark grounded itself in Armenia.

The higher peak of Ararat is 16,900 feet high.



RUMORS ARE FLYING - that a movie is soon to be made of that famous book, Forty Days of Musa Dagh, written by Franz Werfel, author of the popular "Song of Bernadette." His book is expected to be made by the French-Armenian film maker Henri Verneuil (Ashod Malakian). The novel relates the story of an Armenian village's resistance to the Turkish massacres. Heretofore, constant pressure from Turkish sources has prevented filming of this best seller in this country.

Apparently the making of a movie from this book is not the only thing the Turkish government is sensitive about. Turkish governmental offices in Istanbul have been advised by Turkish sources in Washington, D.C. that an American publishing house has issued a world map showing eastern Turkey as "Armenia." Istanbul was advised that the publishers are headquartered in New York and that their maps are supplied to schools all over the United States. The western portions of Turkey are overprinted with the word "Turkey" while the eastern provinces are labeled in heavy black as "Armenia."

The Turkish ambassador in Washington reportedly has been advised to "effect corrective measures."

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Women's Auxiliary is going to have an Easter get-together at the Community Center April 13th at 5:00 P.M. The admission will be one dollar and they will be serving traditional Easter goodies.

The Armenian Young People's Group is again going to meet on the 19th of this month in the Club Room of the apartment unit at 6060 Skyline Drive. The host and hostess will be Vartan and Seta Kosharian and they would like to inform us all that this is to be a "Hye-Pee" (Hye-hippie or Armenian hippie) party and they want everyone to come as a hippie. Remember - this group now includes those single as well as married and any friends they'd like to bring too, so bring your beads and your bottle and be prepared to have a wonderful time!

Your editor wishes to say, "HAPPY EASTER"!

## SOME POPULAR CUSTOMS AT EASTER TIME

The best known of the Easter traditions is the use of eggs. This custom has practical origin and symbolic meaning. Almost all popular customs of the Church had their origin in some practical use; their symbolic meaning usually came later. Under natural conditions, chickens would start laying eggs about Easter time. Therefore, people had a good supply of this commodity during this time of year. And as Easter was a great occasion of joy and happiness, people started to put color on the eggs, symbolizing the victory of Christ.

Easter was celebrated for three days in the old country. The Monday and Tuesday following Easter Sunday were also days of rest and time for families to visit each other. Easter Monday, although a memorial day according to the Armenian Church calendar, was one of the most joyous days of the year. On this day the cemeteries were places of sports and picnics. People would eat their dinner near the graves of their loved ones and invite all the poor people of the neighborhood to come and take part in the food and rejoicing. This was a kind of attempt to bring even to the departed souls the joyous spirit of Easter. It was also a popular way of expressing and celebrating the victory gained over death.

The Blessing of the House is another custom of Easter time. The parish priest visits the houses of the members of his parish and blesses them. Easter is the day for visiting one another and sharing and conveying the joy of the day. The priest is a spiritual member of each and every family of his parish so he visits all parishoners on Sunday as a member of the family.

Priests in the old days did not receive any set salary, but depended entirely on the free gifts of their parishoners. It was natural for the parishoners to offer, on such a joyful occasion, a little gift to their priest to express their thanks and appreciation for the spiritual services that this humble servant of God used to give to the whole congregation without monetary recompense.



DON'T MISS THESE!!

NEITHER TO LAUGH NOR TO WEEP, A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide by Abraham H. Hartunian. Beacon Press, Boston, 1968, 205 pp., \$7.50. This is an account of an Armenian clergyman's inexplicable survival, with his family, through the Turkish massacres in Anatolia from 1895 to 1923. It should be especially meaningful to us since April will be the anniversary of this tragedy.

100 ARMENIAN TALES and Their Folkloristic Relevance, collected and edited by Susie Hoogasian-Villa. These tales from the ancient land of Noah are the largest known collection of Armenian folktales to appear in book form in the American language. The author collected the stories from friends and relatives in an Armenian community in Detroit, Michigan and in translating these tales, told by Armenian immigrants in their native language, has retained their original folk flavor. Even more interesting is the first part of the book, where she delves into Armenia's past and tells us how the folk tales originated and how they tied in with Armenian daily life. It is printed by Wayne State University Press, Detroit, Michigan, 48202, and the price is \$9.95.



# ARARAT

## Newsletter

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### BITS O NEWS

Zorinne Najarian has just got back from a ten day vacation in Chicago and Cincinnati.

Lucelie Hovsepian was married to Darrell Kerr on Saturday, May 3rd.

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN** - Are Vartan and Seta Kosharian, who left late last month for San Diego, California. Vartan was a member of the Parish Council and both of them were instrumental in forming and keeping together the Armenian Young People's group. We are all going to miss them, but wish them all good luck and best wishes.

**RUMORS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED** - of the filming of "Forty Days of Musa Dagh," the heroic story of the Armenian cause of 1915. As stated in a previous issue of ARARAT, the story had been shelved since 1935 due to Turkish opposition. Now the team of Jerry Gershwin and Elliot Kastner, who have just released, "Where Eagles Dare," state definitely that at last the Werfel novel will reach the screen under their direction. The rights have been bought and the cast will soon be named.

**DID YOU KNOW** - that the title "Kharpert" derives from a principal stem "Khurri" plus "pert," that is, "Redoubt of the Khurri." The Khurri were a people some say predate the Nairi civilization of Armenia and perhaps even anterior to the Hittites of Asia Minor . . . that the "sharagans" are the Holy Hymns of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Some have been incorporated into the Mass, others are sung on special occasions . . . that there are 38 characters in the Armenian alphabet as now used. The earlier and classical language's alphabet had 36 . . . that the Haiasa were a clan of the Nairi people - the proto-Armenian states of antiquity. Note "Haiasa" and "Haiastan" . . . that 1969 is the 100th anniversary of the birth of the immortal Komitas Vartapet, in whose memory the choirs of Armenian churches are named for . . . that the name "Megerditch" means "Baptist." Thus, "Hovanness Megerditch" would be "John the Baptist." . . . that the Turkish city of Sivas used to be known as Sebastia . . . that the city of Yerevan is 2,750 years old.

### AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPORTANCE!

**S** The May get-together of the Armenian Young People's Group will be held at the home of Helen and Yohannes Hekimian, 5604 Evergreen Street in Bellaire, on May 24th at 8:00 P.M. This is the last party before we break up for the summer so we will be expecting everyone there. Remember now - Saturday, May 24th, is the date and we'll be looking for all of you there! **e**

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ARMENIAN MOTHER --

Her first noble quality has been her whole-hearted devotion to her family. She sacrifices herself, her pleasure and her time for the sake of her children and husband.

The Armenian woman has kept her home life sacred through the centuries. This fact has gained the admiration of well-known travelers and historians. No honor can be greater to a real Armenian mother than to see her offspring following this code of purity and family loyalty. Divorce was something practically unknown in Armenia for centuries. Only through our contact with other so-called "civilized nations" has this social curse, divorce, been introduced into Armenian families.



Purity inspires courage and self-confidence. The Armenian woman had this virtue of heroism as well. To protect her honor she fought fiercely. She faced death as a relief rather than be captured to live in slavery. There are many stories, especially during the massacres and deportations of 1915, of many Armenian women who threw themselves from cliffs or jumped into the fires of their burning homes, or into rivers, in order to escape slavery and apostacy. They preferred to die with courage when they saw that it was impossible for them to live with dignity and in their Christian faith.

Another characteristic of the Armenian woman is her great working capacity. She is a tireless housewife. No amount of poverty and difficulty is too great for her to cope with. When she has to toil for the bread and maintenance of her family, no work is too menial for her, as long as she is earning honorably the daily bread of her family.

The most outstanding characteristic of the Armenian mother has been her piety, her godliness, and her devotion to her Church and to charitable institutions. She went to church daily, as there were morning and evening church services every day. At her work, she turned her inner eyes to heaven and entreated God to help her in her daily life, to protect her children and to give good health to all sick people. She believed in the power of prayer. She received Holy Communion as frequently as she could and without fail at Easter and Christmas. With great reverence and with a clean heart she approached the Holy Communion, first forgiving others and then seeking forgiveness of others.



ATTENTION!!!

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Inasmuch as the next issue of ARARAT will be the last one for the summer, there will be a very important announcement in it concerning subscription prices for next September, when it will again be printed.

Also, if any of you have any news or articles to submit before ARARAT closes for the summer, be sure and send them in sometime this month to:

Mrs. Yohannes Hekimian  
Editor ARARAT  
5604 Evergreen Street  
Bellaire, Texas 77401





# ARARAT

## Newsletter

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ARMENIAN OF THE MONTH -- Earl Gagosian helps people live better while they travel.

As the sun sinks slowly over the rim of the steering wheel, where is a vacationing family likely to put in for the night? At the first "vacancy" sign they see, say the executives of Holiday Inn. At the first cheap place they can find, contend the officers of Motel 6, a chain of \$6.00 a day motels. "At my place," answers Earl Gagosian, president of a California-based chain of just about the most expensive motels in the country.

Lately, more and more people have been staying at Earl's. In the first half of 1970, a relatively bad year for the motel industry, profits of Gagosian's 40 Royal Inns in eleven states have tripled, to \$389,000. Room occupancy is down 7% nationwide, Royal Inns' is up 6.7%. This month Royal Inns will open four new motels, one a 15-story inn that will be the largest building in Anchorage, Alaska. Nine others are being built in California, Arizona, Georgia and Florida.

The secret behind the five-year-old empire's fantastic success is expensive, self-indulgent luxury. "We want to give the guest something more striking and exciting than he left behind," Gagosian explains. "The old motels that offer nothing much more than shelter are being wiped out." And at Royal Inns, they cannot avoid getting more. Gagosian places his newest motels in the middle of downtown areas - often miles from the main highways, but convenient to theaters and stores. Behind gold-and-white facades are elegantly designed rooms. In addition to free color TV and vibrating beds, Royal Inn rooms typically have white satin bedspreads, deep pile carpeting, antique white furniture and a full wall-size mural. Some rooms are equipped with bars, refrigerators and log-burning fireplaces. All Royal Inns have swimming pools, sauna baths and therapy pools at no extra charge. Some, like the year-old Royal Inn-at-the-Wharf in the company's headquarters town, San Diego, have a gymnasium. The Royal Inn planned for Anaheim, California, will have a movie theater with free admission for guests. But Royal rooms do not come cheap: As much as \$20 for a single, \$30 for a double, and \$250 for the "high roller" suite in Las Vegas.

Gagosian, 46, was one of the first to recognize the American traveling trends. Son of an Armenian immigrant who was converted to Mormonism ("I'll bet I'm the only Armenian Mormon you ever met"), Gagosian literally helped pour the foundation of the nation's motel industry. In a 20-year career as a hardhat construction worker and later as vice president in charge of construction for Travelodge Corp., he helped build more than 300 motels. He tired of duplicating Travelodge's basic pattern, and in 1965 assembled three fellow employees and \$50,000 to build his own motels. All four founders have since become wealthy, mostly through stock options. Counting splits and stock dividends, the shares of Royal Inns have multiplied 19 times since the company was founded. This week the shares will be traded for the first time on the American stock exchange.

Mindful of Gagosian's success, other innkeepers are moving away from the motel industry's tradition of standardized shelter. Holiday Inns, for example, is planning an elaborate motel-resort at Hialeah near Miami. But Gagosian, who well remembers his hard life on the construction crew, has built a margin of safety into his luxury empire. "If times should get really bad in the economy," he says, "there is not a room in our chain that we couldn't rent for \$8.00 -- and pay our expenses at 70% occupancy."

# HAVE YOU HEARD...

That on November 27th we here in the Armenian community will be privileged to have as a visitor Archbishop Torkum Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. The following schedule should be of interest to all of us and it is hoped that everyone will participate:

**FRIDAY, November 27th:** Arrival and meeting with the Parish Council of the church.

**SATURDAY, November 28th:** Visits to any members who are ill or in the hospital. There will be a general meeting that evening for everyone at the church.

**SUNDAY, November 29th:** Celebration of the Divine Liturgy at 10:30 A.M. There will be Holy Communion and group confession. A requiem service will be sung and any who wish to have names of departed loved ones mentioned should contact the president of the Parish Council and submit these names in writing. Afterwards a community dinner or banquet will be held. If there are any children or adults to be baptized, members of the council should be notified. Baptisms may be performed either on Saturday afternoon or on Sunday after the services and before the community dinner.

Details will be forthcoming soon from the Parish Council. Meanwhile, mark your calendar for this momentous event.





# ARARAT

## Newsletter

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### BITS OF NEWS

Katherine and Michael Hutter are the very proud parents of a second baby boy.

Armen Najarian is expecting the arrival of her brother from Cairo any day now.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Kerr (she is the former Lucelie Hovsepian) are the proud parents of a baby girl.

Our sympathies are extended to Zaven Kirksharian and his family. Zaven's mother died this summer after a lengthy illness.

### ARMENIAN CIVILIZATION COURSE OFFERED AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK CITY

This July 6th numerous attempts to organize and sponsor a course in Armenian Civilization and History at Columbia University came to fruition with ten students enrolled.

Covering the period from 600 BC to 1375 A.D., the course is taught by Mr. Krikor H. Maksoudian, who also teaches the Armenian language at Columbia University. The Gulbenkian Foundation has generously established a fund for ten students presently enrolled and if the course is a rewarding one, as all indications show, similar course offerings in the summers to come may be made available at Columbia.

For the past five years Columbia has offered a full graduate program of Armenian Studies leading to either the M.A. or the Ph.D. degree. This program, which includes courses in Modern Armenian, Classical Armenian, Ancient, Medieval and Modern Armenian history, history of Armenian literature and advanced studies in particular problems of Armenology, may be pursued under the auspices of the Department of Middle East Languages and Cultures, where it may be presented as either a major or a minor field of specialization for the doctorate. At the same time Armenian history may also be presented as a field for degrees in the Department of History and a program in Armenian studies may be combined with studies in other departments. Students interested in a program of Armenian Studies may avail themselves of the financial help given by such special grants as the Clara and Krikor Zohrab Fellowship open to students of Armenian descent and providing for both free tuition and a living stipend, or the Armenian General Benevolent Union Fellowship of \$2,000 given annually to a graduate student in Armenian studies.

These courses are likewise open to students in the other undergraduate divisions of Columbia University, namely Columbia College and Barnard College, as well as in Teachers' College and other faculties.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the Annual Shish Kabob Picnic sponsored by the Houston Armenian Women's Association. It's Sunday, September 27th, at 1:00 P.M. at the Church and Community Center on Bering Drive. Hurry and get your reservations in early for all that delicious food by calling Shake Berberian (JA 3-6160) or Armen Najarian (JA 8-3153) no later than the 23rd. Only \$3.50 per person donation and \$1.50 for the kiddies.

Remember the April-May issue of ARARAT? There was an article on Kirk Kerkorian, an Armenian "wheeler-dealer" who is a millionaire. Well, in the last three or four months, things have changed just a little for Kerkorian, and the following story tells what happened:

When he was young, Kirk Kerkorian was a high roller on the Las Vegas craps tables. Then he switched to another game, parlaying a dealership in renovated DC-3's into a profitable charter airline. Two and a half years ago, at the age of 50, he became a financial operator of national stature. In a series of bold maneuvers, Kerkorian (1) sold his Trans International Airlines, a non-scheduled carrier, to Transamerica Corp. and then sold his Transamerica stock for \$104 million, (2) bought control of Western Air Lines for \$67 million, (3) bought control of MGM, the ailing movie and television company, for \$70 million, and (4) bought his way into the Las Vegas hotel and casino business in a big way by purchasing the Flamingo and building the International Hotel. Next he sold to the public stock in the company that owned these hotels.

Then his luck began to turn. As the stock market slid and money became scarcer and costlier, Kerkorian showed increasing signs of strain. To pay for some of his ventures, he had borrowed \$72 million in Europe and agreed to put up as collateral stock with a market value of 140% of the loans. Every time the value of his holdings shrank, he was compelled to deposit more shares with the banks, to which he still owes about \$62 million. The value of other stocks has shrunk from a half billion dollars in 1969 to \$79 million last week -- a paper loss of some \$400 million.

To raise cash, Kerkorian has been trying to sell his corp. and his hotels, which are his only profitable ventures. Last week he made a sale to Hilton Hotels at fire sale prices -- Hilton will buy 44% of International's stock from Kerkorian at \$6.08 a share. At that price, Kerkorian stands to collect only \$17.7 million. Last year the 2.9 million shares that he is selling were worth \$193 million.

In a complex deal, Hilton agreed to pay an extra premium if International's 1970 net earnings, multiplied by eight, come to more than \$6.08 a share. But Las Vegas is feeling the recession. There are almost as many visitors as usual, but they are spending less, and the International and Flamingo casinos are often busy mainly with penny-ante gamblers. Las Vegas hotelmen are so worried that they have called a meeting this week to discuss emergency plans for grandiose promotions designed to lure more tourists, the spending ones, that is.

Kerkorian, the quiet, taciturn son of an Armenian immigrant, admits that he did not see the recession coming. He does not believe in economic forecasting: "If economists were any good at business, they would be rich men instead of advisers to rich men." Kerkorian's view of business: "Sometimes you lose, but that's the nature of the game. There's always another game and another chance to win."

A MESSAGE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

ARARAT is beginning its third year, with Volume III, which is this issue. For those of you who have not yet sent in their subscription form, please fill out the form below and mail it immediately. This will be the last reminder (and issue) you will receive.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would very much like to continue receiving ARARAT for its third year and hereby enclose a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help defray expenses for the year 1970-71.

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# ARARAT

## Newsletter

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### BITS OF NEWS

Souren and Jeannette Barsamian in Orange, Texas are proud parents of their second baby girl.

Our sympathies are extended to the Keramian family whose son, Vatcheck, narrowly escaped death in a serious motorcycle accident.

Vacation of the year -- Joseph and Nina Hovsepian plan on spending the month of August traveling through Paris, Vienna and on to Moscow to see her aunt, then on to Leningrad and Yerevan, where they hope to meet her parents and visit her grandparents there.

Its a girl for architect Vahe Sahakian and wife Annabella at Saint Joseph Hospital. They named her Anna Maria.

Armen Najarian is eagerly awaiting the arrival of her nephew and his family from Cairo next month.

Our former Deacon Dickran Metjian was ordained last week in Saint Vartan's Cathedral in New York.

Hratch Azadian is now District Manager for Kuwait Airlines.

The Yohannes Hekimians entertained Mr. and Mrs. Asadour Vorperian from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, who stopped in Houston on their way to Mexico City (see details below).\*

Anton Hagopian's niece's mother-in-law died recently.



\*Mr. Asadour Vorperian, who visited the Hekimians recently, was greatly interested in ARARAT and wished the Armenian Community here to know that there is an Armenian basketball team in Addis Ababa. There were five teams altogether who competed in the first division basketball championship tournament in Addis. The Armenian team, appropriately named Ararat, won the title for 1970. The deciding match was played against the Greek team Olympiacos. The Ararat team had previously won the Bishop Trophy, named after the first secretary of the YMCA in Ethiopia.

INTERESTING ITEMS - Israeli actor Haim Topol, who played the lead in the movie, "Fiddler on the Roof," will star in "Forty Days of Musa Dagh" to be filmed in Israel next year..... Writer William Saroyan recently visited Roumania and Bulgaria and received a warm welcome from local writers and literary groups. Indicating he knows many writers of Roumanian origin, Mr. Saroyan disclosed that he considers "My Name is Aram" his most successful work, since it offers reminiscences of his childhood and simplistic manner of life his forefathers lived in their Armenian homeland before moving to their new home in America.....The Armenian Ministry of Education and Cultural Relations with Armenian Abroad have invited 183 Armenian children from all over the world to attend summer camps in Armenia. They will make a tour of Armenia and familiarize themselves with the life of children in Armenia. Some 300 Armenian children abroad have already vacationed in Armenia in the past few years.





gatory. "Tigran Vartanovich, a toast!" someone shouts, and Petrosian visibly shudders and nervously fingers his hearing aid. Bravely he raises his glass and pretends to drink. By the time supper is finished his table is littered with bottles of cognac, little cakes and bits of Armenian candy, straight from Yerevan. Tigran dutifully nibbles, sighs and wishes he were somewhere else, like facing Botvinnik again.

In play he appears deceptively relaxed. Not that the quality of his chess is any different, but his combat mannerisms have become notoriously easygoing. Onstage he often chats with spectators and continually strolls around kibitzing on other games while waiting for his opponent to move. He deplores the mere idea of psychological chess, but his habits can rattle all but the strongest.

There is a rather benign quality to Petrosian now that he has arrived at the top of the heap. His life as a largely self-employed person (he is officially a chess coach for a group of trade unions) is remarkably otiose in the no-nonsense economics of the Soviet Union. He lives in a comfortably rumped apartment with his wife and their two sons, the younger of whom is inevitably named Vartan Tigranovich, and he does pretty much as he pleases. He is not even particularly ambitious.

"Mostly I just take it easy," he admits. "Being champion, I can make about as much money as I want. All sorts of magazines will pounce on anything I write. I suppose I could lecture and play exhibitions all year around if I wanted, but what I get without hard work is enough."

Petrosian has been thinking of writing a book for a long time, and wants to call it, "Ten Easy Lessons on How Hard Chess Is."



This is the last issue of ARARAT before next September. As you can well imagine, your editor has been hard put to it to find interesting articles and news to print in ARARAT for this second year. It is extremely difficult to find newsworthy items on Armenia and also news on the Armenian community here in Texas, since it is so small. For this reason, your editor is serving notice that ARARAT will be put out on an every-other-month basis starting next September. Subscription rates will still be on a donation basis, and ARARAT will still be printed, but only when there is enough news to put it out. Bearing this in mind, all you readers who are still interested in receiving ARARAT (and your editor hopes you will be interested!) please fill out the form below and mail it without delay to:

Mrs. Yohannes Hekimian  
5604 Evergreen Street  
Bellaire, Texas 77401

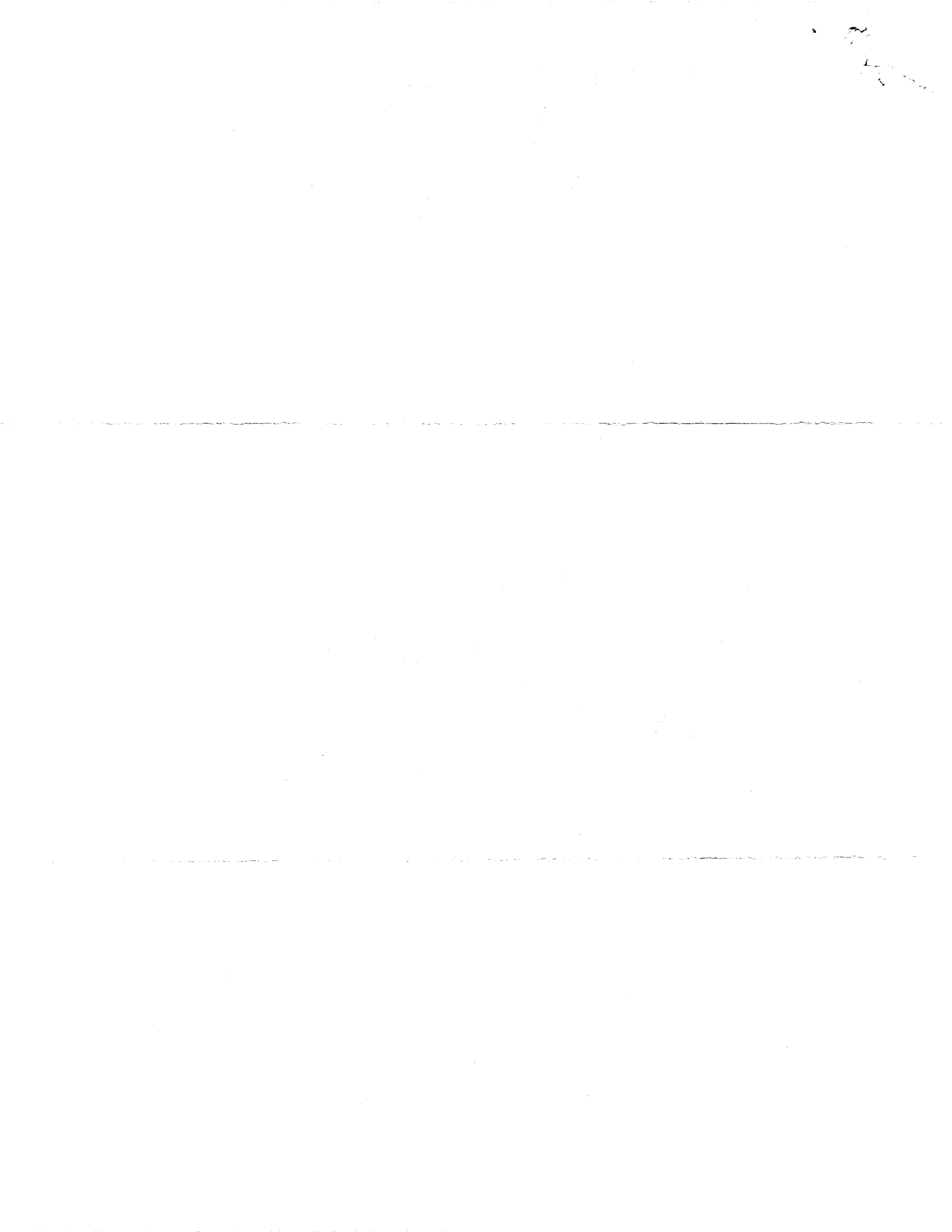


Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to continue receiving ARARAT for its THIRD year and hereby enclose a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help defray expenses for the year 1970-71.









# ARARAT

## Newsletter

### BITS OF NEWS

Sona Kirksharian's sister was married recently in Cairo.

Yervant Adanalian and wife Eileen are very proud parents of a baby girl, Kelli Angel.

We are all really going to miss Val and Nancy Asbedian, who were transferred to New York City. If anyone would like to keep in touch, they will be residing at 21 Thorpe Lane, Plainview, N.Y. 11803.

The Armenian community here should be very proud to know that Leon Harrison's biography appeared in the "Encyclopedia of American Biography," Volume XL (40).

### IN HONOR OF MOTHER'S DAY-CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ARMENIAN MOTHER (reprinted by popular request)

Her first noble quality has been her whole-hearted devotion to her family. She sacrifices herself, her pleasure and her time for the sake of her children and husband. The Armenian woman has kept her home life sacred for centuries. This fact has gained the admiration of well-known travelers and historians. No honor can be greater to a real Armenian woman than to see her offspring following this code of purity and family loyalty. Divorce was something practically unknown in Armenian for centuries. Only through our contact with other so-called "civilized nations" has this social curse, divorce, been introduced into Armenian families.

Purity inspires courage and self-confidence. The Armenian woman had this virtue of heroism as well. To protect her honor she fought fiercely. She faced death as a relief rather than be captured to live in slavery. There are many stories, especially during the massacres and deportations of 1915, of many Armenian women who threw themselves from cliffs and jumped into the fires of their burning homes, or into rivers, in order to escape slavery and apostasy. They preferred to die with courage when they saw that it was impossible for them to live with dignity and in their Christian faith.

Another characteristic of the Armenian woman is her great working capacity. She is a tireless housewife. No amount of poverty and difficulty is too great for her to cope with. When she has to toil for the bread and maintenance of her family, no work is too menial for her, as long as she is earning honorably the daily bread of her family.

The most outstanding characteristic of the Armenian mother has been her piety, her godliness, and her devotion to her Church and to charitable institutions. She went to church daily, as there were morning and evening church services every day. At her work, she turned her inner eyes to heaven and entreated God to help her in her daily life, to protect her children and to give good health to all sick people. She believed in the power of prayer. She received Holy Communion as frequently as she could and without fail at Easter and Christmas. With great reverence and with a clean heart she approached the Holy Communion, first forgiving others and then seeking forgiveness of others.

**ATTENTION:** All readers of ARARAT!! The next issue will be the last for this year. There is going to be an important message in it regarding the printing of ARARAT for the coming year, and also subscription prices, so watch your mailbox!!

Mrs. Yohannes Hekimian  
5604 Evergreen  
Bellaire, Texas 77401

ARMENIAN ENTREPRENEUR - Kirk Kerkorian of California

"I can see it only getting better and better. Wages are going higher, and hours are getting shorter. People have got to have a place to spend it." That is the basic business maxim of Kirk Kerkorian, the travel-and-leisure entrepreneur whose retiring manner belies the fact that in 20 years he has amassed a fortune estimated at \$275 million.

By betting on his conviction that the leisure field is bound to grow, Kerkorian has become second only to Billionaire Howard Hughes as a developer in Las Vegas. Kerkorian dislikes being compared with Hughes, saying, "He is a mountain, but I'm a mole hill." Still, he outdid Hughes by building a 1,519-room hotel, the International, opposite Hughes' new 476-room Landmark Hotel. The International cost Kerkorian \$52 million and is designed for family-style leisure amidst pools, lagoons and tennis courts; there is even a special camp for juvenile guests. Kerkorian is also the largest stockholder in Western Airlines, which serves Las Vegas and other Western cities. That investment could bring him into even closer competition with Hughes, who is trying to win control of Air West, which flies approximately the same routes.

Kerkorian does not care much for the thrill of the roulette wheel. He lives with his British-born wife and their two young daughters in a \$250,000 ranch house next to Las Vegas' Desert Inn golf course. Only recently has the slim, dark-haired entrepreneur begun to show signs that the jet-set life might appeal to him. Last winter, he launched a 147-ft. motor yacht and traded up from a Lockheed Jetstar to a white-and-green DC-9 jet in which he installed a lavish office. It was the first such plane in the world acquired for personal use - a second was sold later to Playboy Hugh Hefner.

The son of Armenian immigrants who fled a Turkish massacre by cattle boat, Kerkorian was reared on a farm in California's San Joaquin Valley. He dropped out of school in the eighth grade to help the family and was signed on as a logger for \$25 a month in the Civilian Conservation Corps. Every spare penny that he earned in a variety of odd jobs went for flying lessons, and he qualified as a civilian flying instructor with the Army Air Corps at the beginning of World War II. Later, as a civilian pilot for the RAF, he ferried bombers from Montreal to England.

Like many wartime pilots, Kerkorian started his own little airlines after the war. His capital investment was \$17,000. The company kept busy mainly by flying gamblers to Las Vegas. Kerkorian got to know them and their town well. Military contracts in the Korean War gave his airline a mighty boost. By 1959, with a world-wide charter business, Kerkorian renamed his outfit Trans International Airlines - three years later he started switching to jets. Kerkorian overextended himself, but managed to turn a near-disaster into a financial coup. He sold TIA to Studebaker in 1962, retaining a share of the airline's subsequent earnings as part of the sales price. Record profits produced by the jets enabled him to buy back the entire line two years later. He sold TIA a second time for \$90 million in Transamerica Corp. Stock, which he unloaded last month for about \$108 million in cash. Part went to pay for his 31% interest in the Airlines, and part to finance the International Hotel. His first real estate deal in Vegas was purchasing a 40-acre plot for \$900,000. Caesars Palace was later built there, with the owners paying him \$660,000 annual rent, and he sold it last year for \$5 million.

He now plans to go to Acapulco, but admits "if there's a good deal I'll go anywhere." Wherever it is, the busy entrepreneur expects to wring handsome profits from other people's free time.

*Remember - you read it in Ararat!*



# ARARAT

## Newsletter

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### BITS OF NEWS

Jeanie Berberian and Dave Carney were married Feb. 14th in St. Paul's Methodist Church and spent their honeymoon in Laredo. Previous to her marriage, Jeanie was honored at several showers, a cocktail party and a dinner given by friends.

On the ailing list, but better, are Sona Kirksharian and Mr. Bardoony.

Monique Azadian is looking forward to a visit from her mother, who lives in Germany.

Anton Hagopian and wife are planning a trip to Expo 70 in Japan, with side trips to Hong Kong and Thailand.

Mrs. Sweet's daughter and son-in-law are in town visiting from Turkey, where he has been stationed with the U.S. Air Force. After a lengthy visit, they hope to go on to San Francisco and Japan.

Our sympathies are extended to Levon Varteressian, whose sister-in-law died recently in Pittsburgh.

The Yohannes Hekimian family is eagerly awaiting the arrival, around the first week in April, of Yohannes' father and mother from Ethiopia.

The Kouyoumdjian family in California are grandparents.

### STORY AND POSITION OF THE ARMENIAN WOMAN IN HISTORY

We ought to pay tribute to the accomplishments and virtues of the Armenian woman. It is a story too easily forgotten.

During the 12th Century, having no male issue or heir, King Levon the Great, of Cilician Armenian, obtained his council's approval of his proposal that his daughter Zabel succeed him. This was something that had never happened before the event. Respect for our women goes back to the days of King Arshag (Arsaces), whose wife was respected for her skill in politics, for the important role she played in the business of the realm. Armenian women enjoyed high esteem in the past centuries. King Dertad (Tiridates) decreed that the image of his sister Yeradoh be impressed on the obverse side of coins bearing his royal image. During the Middle Ages, coins of King Hetoum bore both his likeness and that of his queen.

Although we remember the courage displayed by Western women in obtaining their rights to suffrage, we forget that Armenian women long before the "female revolution" in the West enjoyed precisely that privilege. In 1441, Armenian women for the first time in history were summoned to attend an ecclesiastical conclave and they were extended the right to vote in elections of the Catholicosi of both Cilicia and Etchmiadzin. We note that decisions to allow these rights to women were arrived at in the councils of the men of the nation. It was not until the final quarter of the 19th Century that other Christian nations accepted the principle of female voting.

Respect, status and the right to vote were a few of the privileges enjoyed by the women of the nation. Most of all, she practiced the role of humanist. Nowhere else in the historical record is there such evidence of a greater devotion to that cause among the women of other nations.

Through her admirable and noble endeavors, historic convents and churches were built throughout Armenia. The ruins of these edifices today evoke our admiration.

The pre-Christ history of the Armenians bears little information of the activities of Armenian women in the field of humanism; but with the Christian era, we find constant mention of their great charitable endeavors. Churches were built under the aegis of the Armenian woman, relief homes, inns and guest quarters to house pilgrims and wayfarers were made available. Hospitality is another ingrained characteristic of the Armenian woman. In fact, the world-honored hospitable traits of the Armenians stemmed from their women. As an example, let us note this story told by the Armenian Deacon Zakaria:

"One autumn, an itinerant Persian peddler, bearing his merchandise, showed up at an Armenian village known as Piapor. He went from house to house displaying his wares. One of the homes at which he stopped was owned by an Armenian shepherd. The latter's wife invited the stranger in. She indicated that she wished to purchase some of his pearl necklaces. Instead of asking money in return for his goods, the peddler asked for bread, for he was hungry. The woman immediately brought him bread, butter and eggs. Impressed by her hospitality, the Persian insisted in vain that she and her daughter accept from him a beautiful pearl necklace, but the woman insisted on paying for it."

"It so happened," Zakaria continued, "that this Persian peddler was the Shah himself. He had the custom of wandering among his subjects in disguise the better to learn of true conditions among his people. On returning to his palace, the Shah summoned the shepherd and his wife to his presence, expressed his admiration of their hospitality, declared their village to a royal estate, and the shepherd its prince."

With the advent of wars and suffering, the Armenians suffered greatly and as a result the Armenian woman lost some of her freedom. Before and after the Christian era, women of other nations were simply suffered. The menfolk had all say in all matters. Churches and governmental institutions were dead set against any idea that would grant women freedom and rights. The woman was considered a second-class citizen, whose sole domain was the house. Women were considered to be weak of body and mind and thus were given no place in society. But as mankind progressed and civilization developed, women rejected the old standards and strove to change their image and campaigned to obtain their just rights as human beings.

It was not until 1910 that women for the first time raised their banner and marched in their demand for equal rights. Seventeen nations sent representatives to a special Convention in Copenhagen. This gathering established "Women's International Day," a demand for the right of vote. Despite many obstacles, some bordering on persecution, women remained firm in their demands. March 8, 1914 was declared a day of official celebration.

The 20th century is the century of women's victory - and the Armenian woman's victory in particular. Today, she enjoys all rights denied her in the past and she stands shoulder to shoulder with a man not as his servant but as his companion. She is a mother, and her motherhood is honored.

(Reprint from ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY WEEKLY, marking the 60th anniversary of that organization)

ODDS AND ENDS: In 1968, 16,000 tourists visited Soviet Armenia, a 25% increase over the previous year. Preparations are now being made to receive 4,000 tourists this year.

The State Arts Museum of Georgia has acquired the portrait of Sayat-Nova, a new work by Robert Nalbandian. Nalbandian has been conferred with the title of Merited Artist of Armenia and Georgia.

HAPPY EASTER!!!



# ARARAT

## Newsletter

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**NOTES ON THE LENTEN SEASON:** In the Armenian Church all Sundays of Lent have meaningful names, which remind us of various Christian basic truths to meditate upon during that day and the whole week following.

The Sunday preceding the first day of Lent is called "Poun Parekentan," which means literally "carnival day." "Parekentan" is an Armenian word used for all Sundays preceding a week of abstinence and means good or happy living. People who intend to observe Lent give this day to feasting and merriment.

According to the Armenian Church calendar this Sunday commemorates the happy and healthy life which our first parents, Adam and Eve, enjoyed in the earthly paradise. The second Sunday of Lent is called the "Sunday of Expulsion" and reminds us of the sad consequences of sin, when God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden. The remaining Sundays are named after the Parable of the main lesson of the day, read during Divine Liturgy.

Besides regular morning service, the Armenian Church has another morning service called "Arevakal", which is generally sung during the Lenten season. This service has beautiful prayers and the hymns which are mostly in supplicative tunes, are always sung during this service.

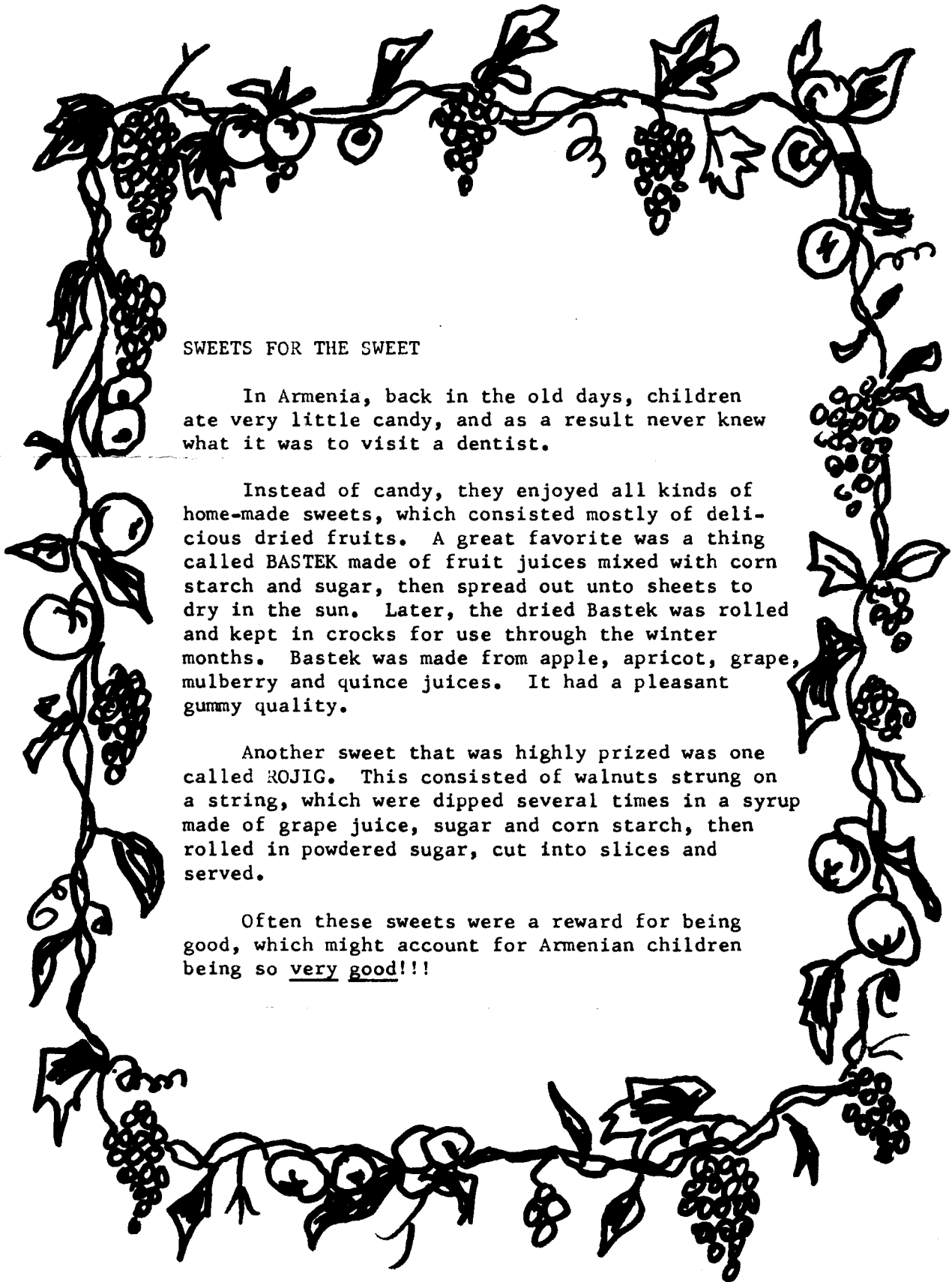


**ODDS AND ENDS:** The first volume of a defining dictionary of the Armenian language was issued by the National Academy in Yerevan. The dictionary contains over 23,000 words and also a section on the vocabulary covering a period of three centuries... Long-standing chess champion Tigran Petrosian lost his position as top chess player of the world ... King Haik is regarded as the Patriarch King of Armenians ... rumors are flying that Charles Asnavour will play Emile Zatopek, the famed Czech Olympics distance runner, in a film now in production in Paris.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Houston Armenian Women's Association is inviting everybody to a card party to be held at Mrs. Armen Najarian's home on Saturday, February 21st, at 8:00 P.M. Not only cards will be offered, but Bingo and lots of goodies will also be there, so bring your friends and come have a good time!!!





#### SWEETS FOR THE SWEET

In Armenia, back in the old days, children ate very little candy, and as a result never knew what it was to visit a dentist.

Instead of candy, they enjoyed all kinds of home-made sweets, which consisted mostly of delicious dried fruits. A great favorite was a thing called BASTEK made of fruit juices mixed with corn starch and sugar, then spread out unto sheets to dry in the sun. Later, the dried Bastek was rolled and kept in crocks for use through the winter months. Bastek was made from apple, apricot, grape, mulberry and quince juices. It had a pleasant gummy quality.

Another sweet that was highly prized was one called ROJIG. This consisted of walnuts strung on a string, which were dipped several times in a syrup made of grape juice, sugar and corn starch, then rolled in powdered sugar, cut into slices and served.

Often these sweets were a reward for being good, which might account for Armenian children being so very good!!!



# ARARAT

## Newsletter

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### BITS OF NEWS

Dr. and Mrs. Garbis Eknayan are the very proud parents of a second son, whose name is Byron Armen.

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Hagopian also welcomed his sister from Fort Worth during the holidays.

A big welcome is in order to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Galoostian, who have moved here to Houston from Omaha. Mr. Galoostian, originally from Isfahan, Iran, was transferred here with Houston Natural Gas Pipe Lines of America, and Mrs. Galoostian is a niece of Emma and Anton Hagopian.

Former friends of Paul and Lucy Murad, who were active in the Young People's Group, will be pleased to know that they now live at 8732 Fair Oaks Blvd., #36, Carmichael, Calif. and are the proud parents of a baby boy, Gregory Aram, born Dec. 16th.

### ARMENIAN FIRST NAMES AND THEIR MEANINGS -

Armenian names have character - they look different and sound different. They stand out and are seldom forgotten. They also have a certain dignity and do not lend themselves too readily to being chopped down into such nicknames as Tom, Dick or Harry.

Names become official at the time of a child's baptism. Usually much thought is given to their selection. The godfather of a child has the privilege of adding an extra middle name -- for instance, if the name decided upon by the parents is Krikor Vartan Hovsepian, the godfather can make it Krikor Vartan Torcom Hovsepian. Another Armenian custom is to name the first boy in a family after his paternal grandfather.

Following are some of the more popular names for boys and girls with their meanings:

|                         |                  |                       |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| ANTRANIG: First         | HEMAYAG: Charm   | BAIDZAR: Clear        |
| ASADUR: Gift of God     | KRIKOR: Alert    | KOHAR: Gem            |
| AVAK: Oldest member     | MARDIROS: Martyr | SERPOUHI: Saint       |
| AVEDIS: Good news       | VAHAN: Shield    | SIRANOUSH: Sweet love |
| BERJ: Rich              | AGHAVNI: Dove    | SHOOSHAN: Lily        |
| GARABED: Leader         | ARSHALUYS: Dawn  | TAKOUHI: Queen        |
| HAROUTUNE: Resurrection | ASNIVE: Noble    | VARTOUHI: Rose        |

### AN ARMENIAN MASTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY: The World of Yusuf Karsh

No one but Karsh -- no other photographer or painter in history -- has portrayed so many men and women of truly international renown. To be "Karshed" as one eminent sitter put it, has been a mark of accomplishment for a quarter of a century. Today, Yusuf Karsh, 60, is almost as well known as the personalities who come before his lens.

(continued next page)

"When history reaches out for an understanding of the great men and women of our time, it will use Karsh portraits," one critic predicts. Winston Churchill in December, 1941, spoke before the combined houses of the Canadian Parliament and was afterwards photographed by Karsh. Publication of this portrait, which symbolized the unconquerable spirit of the British people, brought Karsh into international prominence. Some years later, it was used as the basis of the Churchill commemorative stamps of six countries, including Britain, the United States and Canada. "Churchill felt like a roaring lion standing still," said Karsh. "I instinctively removed the cigar from him during the two-minute photo time allotment, resulting in Churchill's rather belligerent pose. It seems to me the image of England in those years, defiant and unconquerable." As Karsh says, "All I know is that within every man and woman a secret is hidden, and as a photographer it is my task to reveal it if I can."

Karsh was born in Mardin, Turkey in 1908 and grew up under the horrors of the Armenian massacres. He came to Canada in 1924 and after a brief schooling studied photography under John Garo of Boston. In 1932 he opened his present Karsh studio in Ottawa. Among the many people he has preserved in film are Ernest Hemingway, Helen Keller, Michael Debakey, John Kennedy, Pablo Casals and Albert Schweitzer. "The aim and the art of the portraitist who works with a camera are not merely to produce a likeness but to reveal the mind and the soul behind the human face."

PROFILES: (Editor's note: In the last issue of ARARAT, your editor promised to present each month a story of some Armenian family here in Houston, their history and background, etc. Upon calling maybe a dozen people, it was discovered that absolutely no one would consent to being first, but all would be delighted to be second. Inasmuch as it is impossible to be second without having a first, your editor has decided to start her feature with a story on the president of the Parish Council - and her husband - Yohannes Hekimian.)

Yohannes was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on May 22, 1932, to Bogus and Henazant Hekimian. His father escaped from the Turkish massacres to Greece and thence to Ethiopia and his mother, who was born in Adana, came to Ethiopia to marry Poppa. Yohannes remembers vividly the Italian occupation of Ethiopia and how his father hid Italian friends in their home to escape the Ethiopian soldiers. He was educated in the Armenian school in Addis Ababa, and went to work for Ethiopian Airlines, a subsidiary of TWA, while still in his teens. He rose in the ranks through the years to Shop Maintenance Foreman, and during his off-time became a local character around Ethiopia with his hunting experiences. It was during a hunting trip that he met his wife, the former Helen Bradley of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, who was in Ethiopia with the U.S. State Department working as a secretary at the American Embassy there. He maintains he "went hunting for four legs and came back with two" and she maintains that she "brought him back alive" -- any way you want to look at it, they were married about a year after they met in the Armenian Church in Addis Ababa, and four months later came to the States and to Michigan. Being foot loose and fancy free, they packed themselves and their African souvenirs into the car and decided to drive west and live in Arizona. On the way, they stopped to see relatives of Helen's in Houston, liked it here, and within a month had bought a house and both had jobs.

Yohannes is now owner and manager of Hekimian's Foreign Car Shop near the Southwest Freeway and Chimney Rock and he and Helen have two children, Steven Bogus, eight, and Karen Anoush, six. They are communicants of St. George Armenian Church and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Yohannes is a member of the Bellaire Chamber of Commerce, the Sports Car Club of America, president of the Parish Council of the Armenian Church and sponsors a soccer team here. Helen keeps busy as secretary of her church Altar Guild, publicist for the Armenian Church, editor of ARARAT and publicity coordinator for the Delphian Society. Yohannes has two brothers, one still in Ethiopia, and a sister in California.

One interesting footnote: Shortly after they came to Houston, Helen and Yohannes went to the Alabama Theatre to see a movie. When they walked up to the box office, they found it was being robbed. While Helen ran into the theatre to call the police, Yohannes ran down the alley and fought the gunman and retrieved the money. All this caused considerable excitement and Yohannes got his name in the morning papers -- and that's how Helen and Yohannes met all the Armenians here in Houston!!





# ARARAT

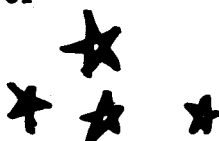
Newsletter

It is with a great deal of pride that this issue not only celebrates Christmas, but also the fact that this is Volume II, No. 4 of ARARAT Newsletter, a monthly publication that could not exist without the love and support of its readers. Your editor wishes, therefore, to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and to wish all members of the Armenian community in Texas a most happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

### BITS OF NEWS

Newly arrived in Houston - the twin brothers of Hratch and Nina, by name of Vahe and Vache Azadian.

A birthday to celebrate - Mr. Hrant Bardoony turned 93 years young last week!



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

451 A.D. -- The Battle of Avariar, in which Armenian forces, led by Vartan Mamigonian were defeated by a large Persian army, but won the war.

May 28, 1918 -- The Declaration of Independence of the Independent Republic of Armenia.

Feb. 18, 1921 -- Opening of the great Armenian revolt against the Soviet.

April 23, 1920 -- The Government of the United States of America recognizes the Government of the Independent Republic of Armenia.

April 24, 1915 -- Arrest of the Armenian intellectuals in Istanbul and starting the Turkish genocide of the Armenians.

HEY!! HEY!! HEY!! Let's not forget the New Years Eve party to be held at the church on that night starting at 9:00 in the evening. The food will be provided so all you have to bring is your drinks and yourselves and have a good time. DON'T forget now!

### SOMETHING TO REMEMBER DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON --

KRIS-DOS DZU-NAV YEV HAYD-NE-TZAV  
Christ was born and made manifest.

DAN A-VE-DIS ASH-KHAR-HI  
Giving good tidings to the world.

KHOR-HOORT MEDZ YEV UZ-KAN-CHE-LI  
Great and marvelous is the mystery

DZU-NAV NOR AR-KAH EE PET-GHE-HEM KA-GHA-KI  
A new King is born in Bethelam town

VOR HAIS'M A-VOOR HAYD-NE-TZAV  
Which on this day was revealed unto us

VOR-TIK MART-GAN ORH-NE-TZEK  
All ye sons of men, bless Him

HO-VIVK'N YER'KEN UNT HRESH-DAGS  
The shepherds sing with the angels

ZEE VAS'N MER MARM-NA-TZAV  
Who has become incarnate for our sake.



## SAYAT NOVA, Our Poet-Troubadour

In 1963, there was observed in Armenia and Armenian Communities throughout the world, the 250th birthday anniversary of the great Armenian poet-troubadour, Sayat Nova. He wrote beautiful verses, set them to music and sang then to the accompaniment of his kamancha, an old country fiddle.



According to historians, Sayat Nova was born sometime between 1712 and 1720 in the Armenian village of Sanahin. His real name was Haroutune Sayatian, but when he became famous, this was changed to Sayat Nova, which means King of Songs. While in his teens, the family moved to Tiflis, the capital of Georgia. There, young Sayat found work as a weaver's apprentice. He would sing his own verses as he worked and this caught the attention of his fellow workers and then that of his neighbors. Everybody listened with appreciation and wonder.

Soon Sayat was performing in the public squares of Tiflis, entertaining thousands of people, invited to enter into competitions with professional minstrels from Persia and Georgia. Sayat emerged the victor, time and again. News of Sayat's great talent reached the ears of King Heracle II of Georgia, a mighty ruler and warrior. He summoned Sayat to his court for an audition, and was promptly engaged as the official palace minstrel. For years, he enchanted members of the royal court with his inspiring personality and music. While serenading this regal audience, Sayat fell in love with Heracle's lovely sister, Anna. This offended the King and he banished Sayat to a remote monastery. To soothe his troubled soul, Sayat continued composing songs and ballads into which he poured his noble thoughts on life and love, nature and man.

Tragedy struck once again, in the year 1775, when soldiers of the Persian king, Mohammed Khan invaded Tiflis, where Sayat had taken refuge in the church of St. George. They offered him the choice of martyrdom or renouncement of his Christian faith. Sayat bravely replied with a fragment from one of his stirring ballads, "I shall not leave this church and I shall not deny Jesus." Immediately his death followed, but Sayat Nova lives on through his immortal poetry and music.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER --



Xvxn though our typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxcxpt for onx of thx kxyx. I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxxfxxctly. Thxrx arx 46 kxyx that work wxll knough, but ONX not working makxs all thx diffxxnce. Somxtimxs it sxxms that thx church is quitx likx this typxwritxr; not all thx mxmbxrs arx working propxxrly.

You may say to yoursxlf: "I am only onx pxrson: I don't makx or brxak a church." But it doxs makx a diffxxnce bxcaxsx to bx xffxxctivx our church nxxds thx participation of vxvry mxmbxr rlatxd to it.

So, thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson and your xfforts arx ot nxxdxd, rxmxxbxxr to rxcitx: "I am a kxy pxrson to God and I am vxry much nxxdxd!!!"

Deacon Dickran Metjian

ATTENTION PLEASE!!!

Two items to remember -- the new Armenian phone book comes out in January and be sure to get one!! This is the most up-to-date listing we can find on all the Armenians in Texas, and no home should be without one. Details will be in the January issue of ARARAT. Also, starting next month, ARARAT will have a new feature called "Profiles" where, each month, a small biography of one of our Armenian families here in the State will appear, so be prepared! Your editor might be calling on you soon!!