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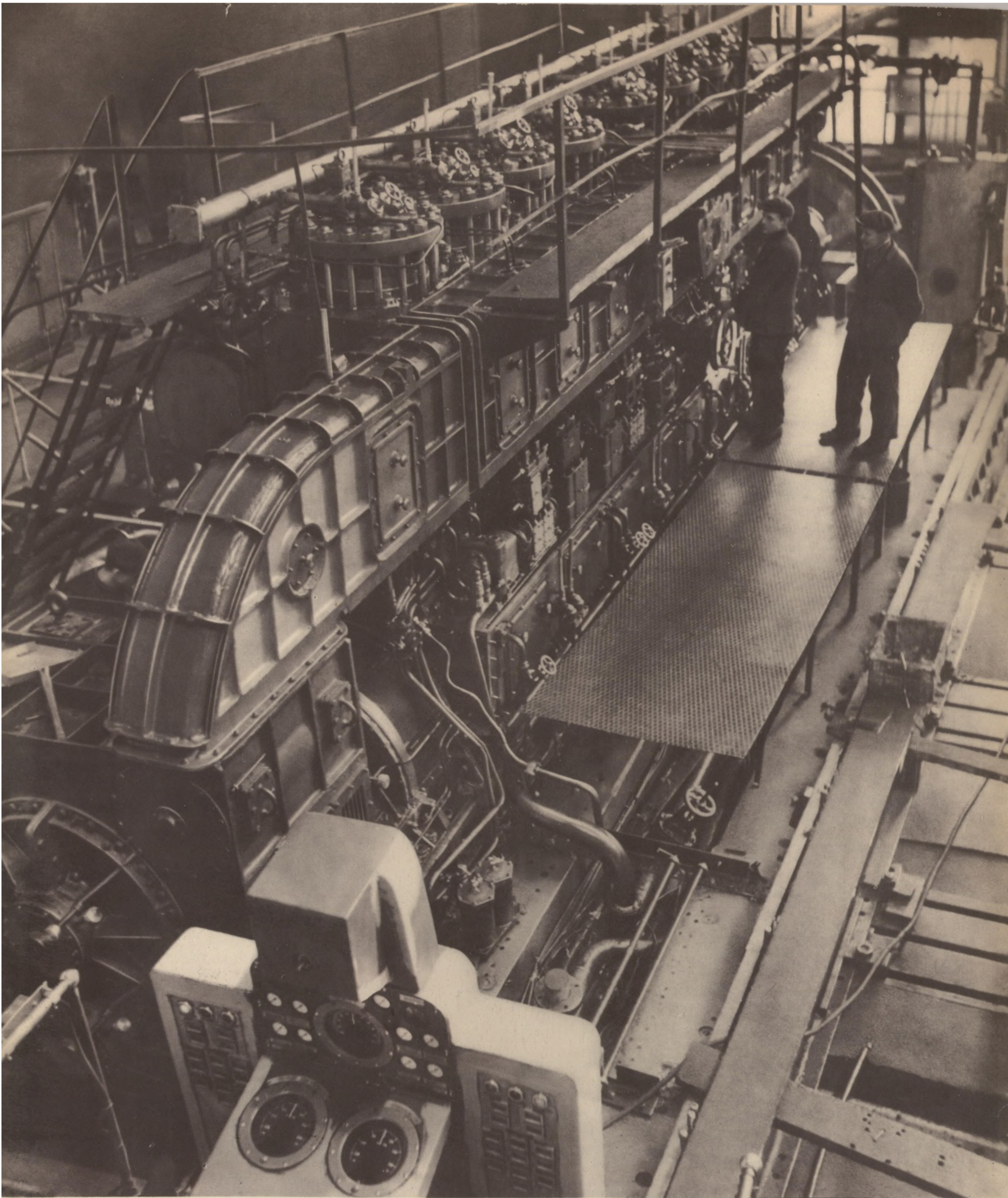
SOVIET UNION



No. 7 (41)

JULY 1953





Running in a powerful new diesel engine at the Russian Diesel Works, Leningrad

Photo by B. Utkin

COVER: *Montage by V. Shukhovskoi and A. Zhitomirsky*

SOVIET UNION



ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

No. 7 (41)

PUBLISHED IN SIX LANGUAGES: RUSSIAN, CHINESE, ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN AND SPANISH

JULY 1953



Wheat harvesting in the fields of the Kuban State Farm, Krasnodar Territory. A rich grain crop has been raised this year in the Soviet Union, and the collective farmers and sovkhoz workers are harvesting it quickly and efficiently. Their work is facilitated by the considerably enlarged fleet of tractors and up-to-date harvesting machines, put out in increasing quantities by the country's industries. So vast is the Soviet Union that while harvesting is now nearly over in the southern districts it is only starting in the North

Photographed by N. Khorunzhy



KUIBYSHEV. A general view of the construction pit of the lower shipping lock of the Kuibyshev Hydroelectric Station. The builders pledged to fulfil their eight months' quota by August 21, the third anniversary of the Government's decision to build the power station, and they are making good their word

Photographed by A. Bryanov



MOSCOW. Subscription to the State Loan for the Development of the National Economy of the USSR (1953 Issue) was a notable success in every part of the country. The picture on the left shows workers of the Stalin Auto Works subscribing to the loan. The funds accumulated will go to finance peaceful construction: to build mills and factories and hydropower developments, to supply the machine-and-tractor stations with the latest machinery, to promote science, education, and the health services. Subscription ended in three days, exceeding the announced sum

Photographed by V. Zunin

A COMMENTATOR'S NOTES

With midsummer coming into its own, more and more holiday-makers, hundreds of thousands of them, men and women of every trade and occupation, are spending their annual leaves in the Crimea, the Caucasus, and on the Riga seaside, the country's best summer resorts. They are enjoying a well-deserved rest after a year of fruitful work to promote the prosperity of their homeland.

The Soviet holiday-maker goes on leave with an easy, unworried mind, knowing that his fellow-workers will keep things running smoothly until his return. And can it be otherwise in a land where everything is made

to serve the working man and where the new attitude towards labour breeds an ever-present desire to enhance its social value?

The Soviet citizen regards his day-to-day work as a small but necessary part of the work conducted by the whole people, as his contribution to the country's peace effort, its progress and its fight to defeat the threat of a new war and to promote friendship among nations.

These aims thread the everyday activity of the Soviet society. Engaged in peaceful construction the Soviet people never forget that strengthening the

friendly ties between nations facilitates the victory of the forces of peace all over the world.

... In answer to a call issued by the World Peace Council the Soviet public commemorate the 2230th death-anniversary of Tsu Yuan. Twenty-two centuries have passed since the death of that great Chinese poet and patriot, but his poetry is still an effective weapon in the hands of progressive humanity fighting for peace and freedom.

... Thirty delegates representing the Soviet Union's sixteen republics arrive in Copenhagen for the World Congress of Women. The keynote of the

LENINGRAD. Great rallies and meetings were held in the towns and villages of the Soviet Union in response to the Berlin events of June 17. The picture below was taken during the meeting held at the Stalin Metal Works, Leningrad. The speaker is M. V. Chistyakov, a fitter. The Soviet working people denounced the acts of provocation by the foreign hirelings as the latest villainous attempt of reaction and fascism upon the peace and the security of the peoples

Photographed by A. Mikhailov



Congress is: peace, freedom, international friendship. When the Congress ends the Soviet Women's Anti-Fascist Committee invites large groups of delegates—from India and South America—to visit the USSR. The visitors acquaint themselves with life in the Land of Soviets and with the people's peaceful creative labour.

... Soviet delegates attend a session of the World Peace Council in Budapest. The decisions adopted are welcomed by the Soviet people, who unanimously appraise the broad programme outlined in Budapest as corresponding to the vital interests of the ordinary people of the world. The Soviet people wholeheartedly support the World Peace Council's appeal calling upon the peoples of the world to redouble efforts for negotiation among the governments to achieve a peaceful settlement of international controversies.

... The Berlin events of June 17 evoke a wrathful indignation on the part of the Soviet people. Great rallies and meetings throughout the USSR brand the events as a dastardly onslaught of reaction on the peace and on international security. Soviet men and women denounce the fascist instigators who attempted to undermine the democratic regime and to attack the interests of the German people. In resolutions passed by these meetings the Soviet people extend their fraternal greetings to the population of the German Democratic Republic and wish it new successes in upbuilding a peaceful life and in working for a united, peace-loving, independent, democratic Germany.

... On June 24 the Soviet Government announces the issue of a new State loan for the development of the national economy of the USSR. The loan is set at 15,000 million rubles, which is half the sum of last

year's loan. This reduction was made possible by the constantly-growing financial accumulation in the Socialist economy. Subscription to the loan proceeds with great success among all sections of the population and in three days exceeds the original sum by 343,000,000 rubles, after which it is closed.

The rapid floating of the loan reflects the Soviet people's unity of interests. They know that the savings they lend to the State will promote economic and cultural construction, increase the wealth of the Socialist Homeland, and bring about a fuller satisfaction of the society's material and cultural requirements. They know that promotion of their country's might and prosperity is their most important contribution to the cause of peace. A Peace and Progress Loan—that is how the Soviet people termed the new State loan.

... The whole Soviet Union is engaged in peaceful constructive labour. June is a busy month in the countryside. This year the crop area considerably increased as against 1952; more valuable food and industrial crops were planted. In the second half of June grain harvesting begins in the southern regions. Bumper crops are gathered in the republics of Central Asia, in the Transcaucasus, and in the Crimea. Everywhere the harvesting has been mechanized. Word comes from the harvesting districts that grain crops of 25-30 centners per hectare (1-1.2 tons per acre) have become commonplace this summer.

Such, then, are the everyday events of Soviet life. Separately and collectively, they illustrate the Soviet people's striving to do their utmost for the greater prosperity of their Homeland and for the cause of peace and friendship among nations.

THE "SVERDLOV" VISITS ENGLAND

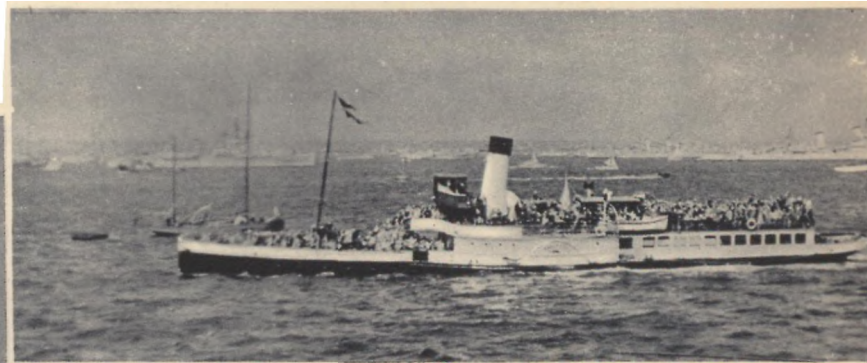
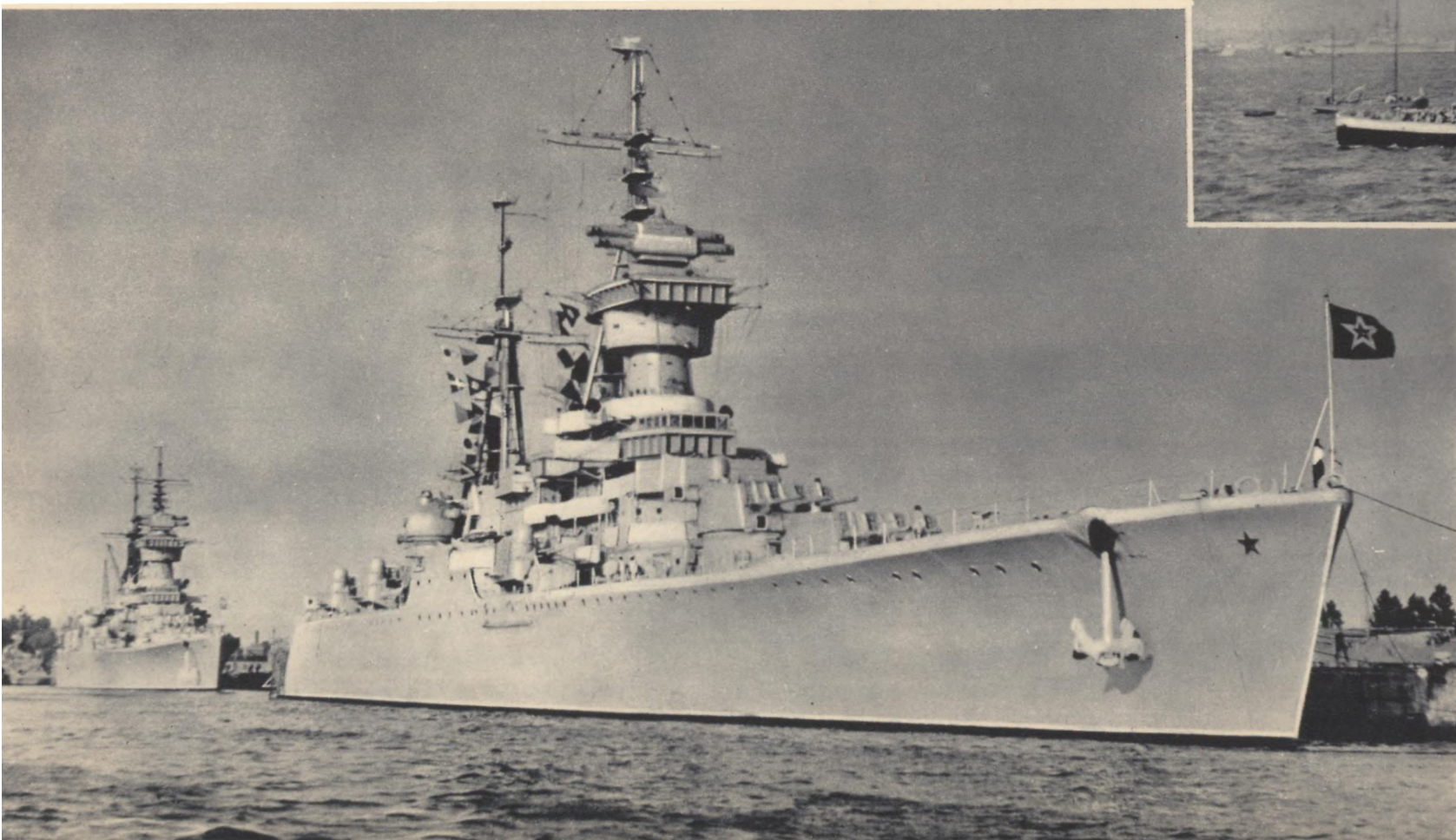


Commodore O. I. Rudakov, captain of the "Sverdlov," chats with British visitors on board the cruiser

On the invitation of the British Government the Soviet cruiser "Sverdlov" took part in the naval parade held in honour of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. For days the attention of the British public was focussed on the Soviet cruiser. Crowds thronged the shore and viewed the cruiser from steamships, yachts, and motor boats which swarmed round it all day long. Navigators were thrilled by the 12-minute anchoring of the "Sverdlov" at Spithead, as compared with the 1 hour and 20 minutes set for the operation by British naval standards. Many delegations from British public organizations and working people went on board the cruiser. Numerous letters and telegrams of heartfelt greetings were received by the crew from various parts of Britain. The messages praised the cruiser, paid tribute to the high efficiency of the Soviet sailors and spoke of the high esteem in which the ordinary people of Britain hold the Soviet people. The visit of the "Sverdlov" served to promote friendship between the Soviet and British peoples.

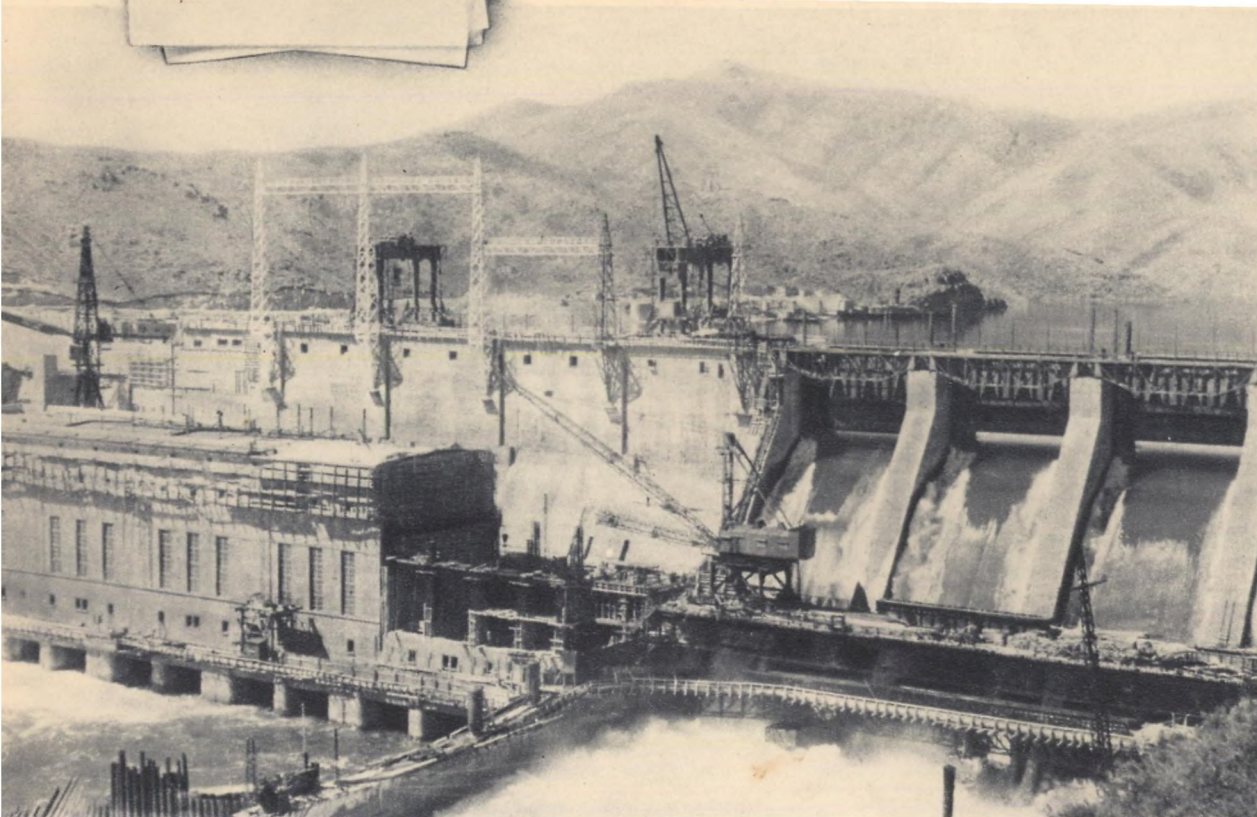


Vladimir Mayakovsky (1893-1930), the most talented poet of the Soviet era, whose 60th birth-anniversary was observed on July 19. Anniversary meetings were held in clubs, factories, schools, and libraries. Many exhibitions devoted to the poet's life and work were opened. Mayakovsky is one of the best-loved Soviet poets. His works have been published in the USSR in 51 languages in a total of 20,391,000 copies



One of the steamers from whose decks the British viewed the Soviet cruiser during its stay at Spithead. Said the "Observer": "With a fleet of about 250 splendidly varied but overwhelmingly British ships to choose from, we have all been upset by one Russian cruiser, the 'Sverdlov.'"

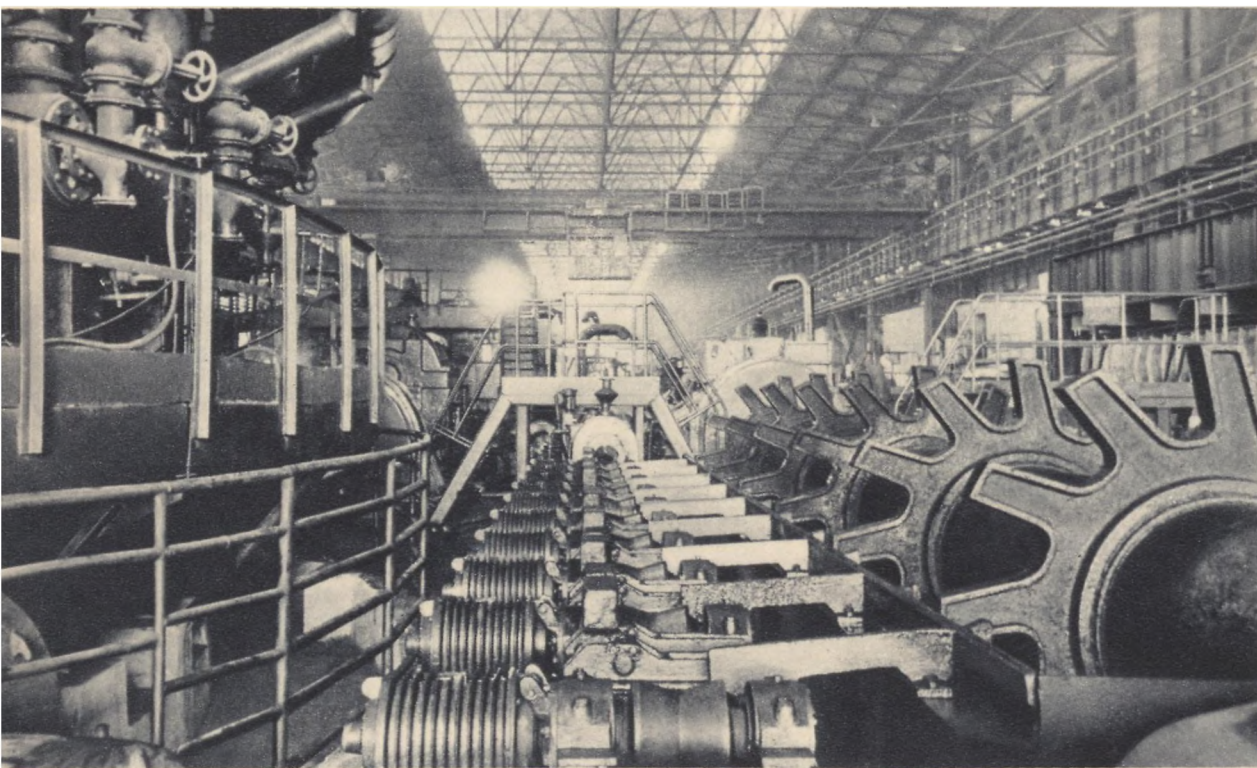
Left: The Soviet cruiser "Sverdlov"



UST-KAMENOGORSK. A view of the Ust-Kamenogorsk Hydroelectric Station which together with a navigation lock was recently put into operation. The station on the river Irtysh is one of a series of large power installations to be built and commissioned under the current (fifth) five-year plan *Photographed by V. Smirnov*



COPENHAGEN. Members of the Soviet delegation at the World Congress of Women. Seventy countries were represented. Participating in the work of the Congress, the delegates from the USSR, the Chinese People's Republic, and the People's Democracies made a new contribution to mutual understanding and co-operation among the peoples



PERVOURALSK. An automatic cooling bath for rolling mill rods. At the Novotrubny Works in Pervouralsk, Sverdlovsk Region, as at all Soviet factories and mills, laborious processes are steadily being mechanized *Photographed by S. Preobrazhensky*



KRASNODAR TERRITORY. A combine discharges grain in the Lenin Kolkhoz, Pashkovskaya District. Grain harvesting will soon come to an end in the southern areas of the USSR. The collective and state farms are reaping a bountiful harvest. The Lenin Kolkhoz, for instance, gathered 32-34 centners per hectare (1.3-1.4 tons per acre) of barley. Harvesting is almost entirely mechanized *Photographed by G. Efimov*

KOLOMNA. This new powerful "Po-beda" passenger locomotive was made at the Kuibyshev Locomotive Works *Photographed by N. Verinchuk*



SVERDLOVSK. A political education circle at the Urals Heavy Machinery Works reviews its progress. More than 57,000,000 Soviet people are studying today. A great number improve their political knowledge at seminars and in study circles and special schools of Party education, studying problems of current politics, the history of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and the Marxist-Leninist classics *Photographed by A. Grakhov and S. Preobrazhensky*



YOUNG ENTHUSIASTS

Each passing day brings reports of the production achievements, big and small, registered in towns and villages throughout the land by thousands and hundreds of thousands of Soviet patriots. Front-rankers in industry and agriculture, their goal is bigger and better output. In close collaboration with scientists they are persistently seeking ways and means of raising labour productivity and of perfecting technological processes.

A striking reflection of this quest for the new is to be found in the country-wide Socialist emulation movement aimed at early fulfilment of the fifth five-year plan. The movement has brought into the public eye thousands of worker-innovators who are doing much to promote the utilization of all production reserves, to economize maximum quantities of raw and other materials, and to perfect machinery and equipment. They are altering the shape of cutting tools, introducing technological novelties, improving

Oishahon Yuldasheva, a young Uzbek woman who is a member of the Maxim Gorky Collective Farm, has been awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in recognition of her outstanding work achievements

Photo by G. Dubinsky



A. Shashkov at the control panel of an open-hearth furnace in the Kuznetsk Iron and Steel Works. The name of this young innovator, who was one of the first to introduce new work methods among steelmakers, is widely known in the Soviet Union. Last year he produced more than 3,000 tons of steel over and above his quota

Photo by Y. Korolyov

Here we see Ekaterina Katanskaya (centre) and her friends going through some of the nearly 250 letters she received in the day's post. A member of the Molotov Collective Farm in Ramenskoye District, Moscow Region, she has gained outstanding successes in vegetable growing. Not long ago this young collective farmer wrote an article in the "Komsomolskaya Pravda" describing her work methods, and now she is flooded with letters from agricultural innovators in all parts of the country who tell her about their own methods and ask for advice

Photo by Y. Chernyshov

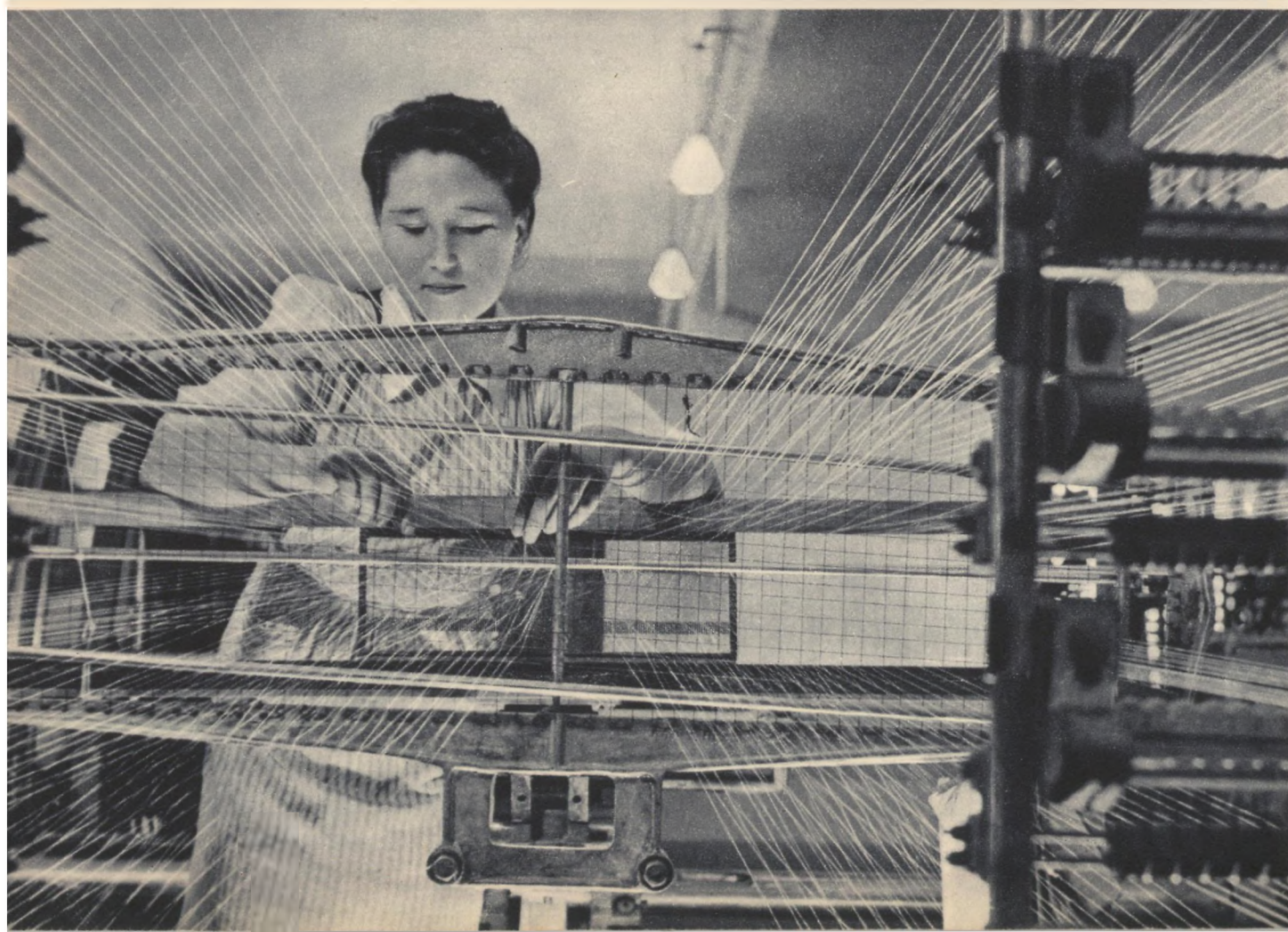




Vasily Kokoshka, young foreman in the forge shop of the Stalin Auto Works, is one of Moscow's leading Stakhanovites. He and a group of his fellow workers initiated a campaign for economy of metals in the manufacture of each article. Last year alone this campaign produced a saving of many thousands of tons of metal at the plant

Photo by V. Zinin

Gulsum Muhametshina operating an automatic beaming machine. She is the best beamer in the preparatory department of the Leninabad Silk Mills



the design of machine tools, and solving important problems relating to production at their factories and mills. Among the front-rankers there is a tremendous number of young men and women, young patriots, enthusiasts for their job.

In one of the pictures accompanying this article the reader will see Ekaterina Kharkova, a weaver, and Maria Zhilina, a spinner. Not so long ago these two young women were known only at the Kupavna Fine Woollens Factory, where they work. Today they are famous the length and breadth of the Soviet Union as the initiators of a movement for exceeding production targets without additional raw-material outlays.

Ekaterina Kharkova and Maria Zhilina focussed the searchlight of bold inventive thought on the technology of textile manufacture, which has always entailed a large quantity of waste. Ekaterina Kharkova found a way to reduce waste, and the raw material thus saved has enabled her to put out hundreds of yards of cloth over and above her quota. Maria Zhilina has made noteworthy improvements in spinning methods.

The Kupavna workers caught up the ideas proposed by the two young enthusiasts and have promised to manufacture 20,000,000 rubles' worth of fabrics above the five-year plan target. Not only the country's textile workers but workers in many other industries are following Ekaterina Kharkova's and Maria Zhilina's example of exceeding output quotas without any additional expenditure of raw materials.

The men and women of Socialist society, who are the owners of all the means of production, are noted for the thrifty use they make of their country's resources. "Communism begins," said Lenin, "when the rank-and-file workers begin to display a self-sacrificing concern that is undaunted by arduous toil for increasing productivity of labour, for husbanding every poond of grain, coal, iron and other products, which do not accrue to the workers personally or to their 'close' kith and kin, but to their 'distant' kith and kin, i. e., to society as a whole. . . ."

The fruit of the front-rankers' labour is a valuable contribution to the popular effort in building Communism.

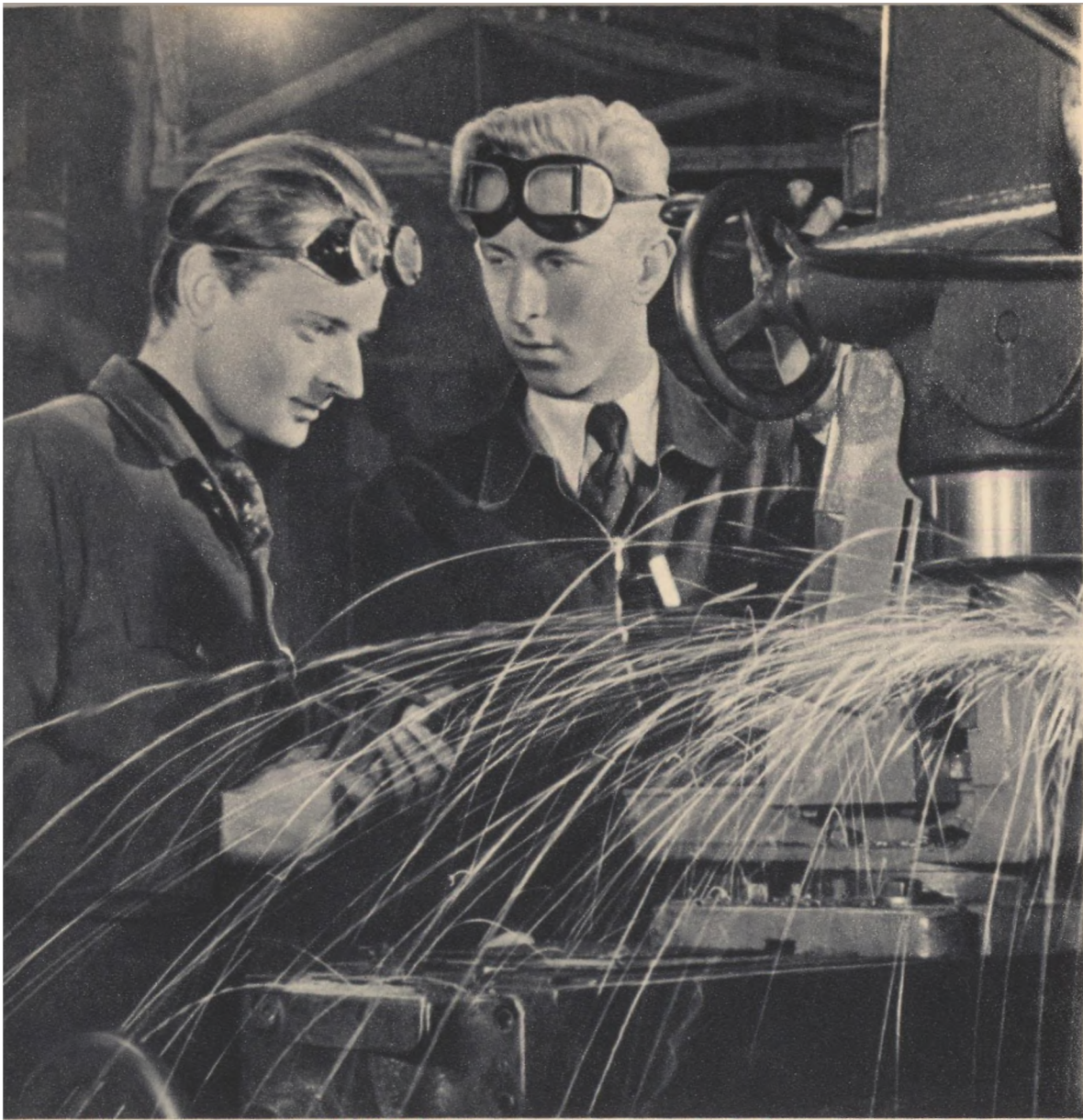
Nikolai Batsura, a facer employed at the construction of one of Moscow's multi-storeyed buildings, learned his trade a comparatively short time ago, but thanks to his conscientious attitude towards his job and his striving to improve work methods he has achieved splendid results. By organizing the work of his team in a new way he began to do the quota of ten days in a single shift. Today Nikolai Batsura holds the title of Moscow's best facer, and he has numerous pupils and followers.

Ekaterina Katanskaya is just an ordinary young woman, a member of the Molotov Collective Farm in Moscow Region. This year she and the other young women in the



Here we see Maria Zhilina, spinner (left), and Ekaterina Kharkova, weaver, Stakhanovite workers at the Kupavna Fine Woollens Factory, on their way to evening school. They successfully combine work with study

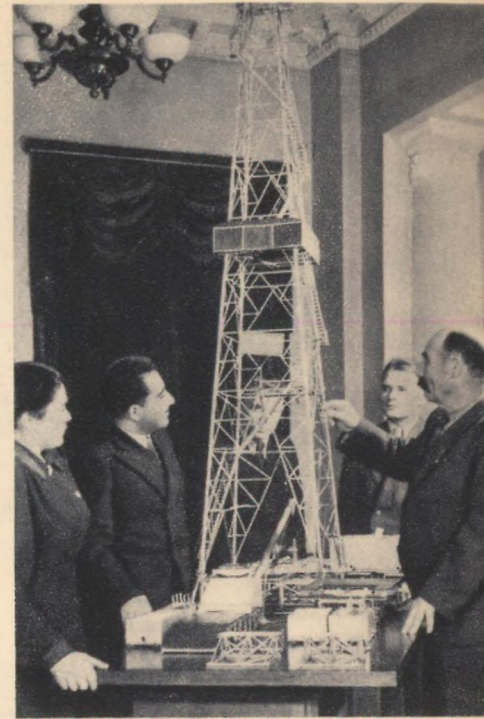
Photo by Y. Mesnyankin



Arturs Augenbergs (right), milling-machine operator at the Riga Turbomachine Factory, gives a lesson in high-speed milling to worker G. Pavlyukevich. Augenbergs, a young innovator, was the first in the factory to master high-speed milling. Thanks largely to his efforts, it has now been introduced in all the machine shops of the factory
Photo by N. Titenkov



S. Piskun (left) and Nikolai Batsura are building workers at the multi-storeyed hotel going up on Dorogomilovo Embankment in the Soviet capital. Recently Batsura was given the title of Moscow's best facer. Piskun has perfected Batsura's new work methods and achieved a result nearly twice as high: the quota of 19 days in one shift
Photo by V. Ruikovich



Giul-Balla Aliev, veteran Azerbaijan oil worker who is a Hero of Socialist Labour and a member of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, acquaints young front-rankers in production with a new model of a derrick
Photo by Y. Chernyshov

work-group she heads resolved to achieve a crop of 47 tons of cabbage to the hectare (one hectare equals 2.47 acres). To attain this abundant yield, they have worked out new agricultural practices.

In the Soviet Union, innovation on the job has become wide-spread. The Soviet system has inspired millions of plain men and women to take a creative attitude towards their work; it has awakened their creative energies, their gifts, their native talents. The people have come to know the joys of free labour and they are boldly blazing new trails, achieving results unprecedented in history.

The people of the Soviet Union are people with a new moral code. To them work is not an onerous burden or a private affair. It has acquired great social significance and is becoming more and more a vital necessity. The Soviet citizen knows that the riches of his native land belong to the people and serve the people, that the aim of Socialist production is the maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole of society. He regards work as his calling and chief patriotic duty, as the source of the people's wealth and prosperity, as creative effort for the welfare of society, as a powerful instrument for building Communism.



This picture shows Evgenia Pivovarova, a Komsomol member, in the orchard of the Molotov Collective Farm, Moscow Region. After graduating from a school for fruit and vegetable growing experts she became a gardener at the collective farm and has done much to increase the fruit crop
Photo by Y. Chernyshov



Vasily Silayev, senior furnaceman at the Novo-Tagil Iron and Steel Mill. He has twice been honoured with the title of Best Furnaceman in the Soviet Union
Photo by I. Tyufyakov



Among the young members of the Molotov Collective Farm in Moscow Region there are quite a few front-rankers in agricultural production. One of them is Nina Nikitina, dairymaid, who obtained an average of 4,776 kilogrammes (10,507 pounds) of milk last year from each of the cows in her charge
Photo by Y. Chernyshov



The 36-storey building of Moscow University on Lenin Hills

FOR THE SOVIET YOUTH

MOSCOW UNIVERSITY'S NEW BUILDING WILL SOON OPEN

E. J. Evans (Britain) and other readers have written to the Editor saying they would like to see a picture story in our magazine about the new multi-storeyed building of Moscow State University. Construction of the building has been completed and the final preparations for its opening are now being made.

In answer to these requests the Editor has asked P. Abrosimov, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Architecture and Stalin Prize winner, who was one of the designers of the university, to write a description of this Palace of Learning. Below we publish his article with pictures taken by "Soviet Union" photographers.

Vast landscaped grounds spread in front of the main façade of the Palace of Learning



A view of the assembly hall. Everything here is ready for the university's first study year

Thousands of bright street lamps are being set up along the drive leading to the new building

By P. ABROSIMOV,
Corresponding Member, USSR Academy of Architecture,
Stalin Prize Winner

Photographs by Y. Korolyov and Y. Chernyshov

In January 1949 excavators began to dig the foundation pit for the multi-storeyed university building, and a few months later, in the spring, assembly of the steel framework was started.

The architects (L. Rudnev, S. Chernyshov, P. Abrosimov and A. Khryakov) strove to create a symbol of the inexhaustible wealth of Soviet Socialist culture, of the greatness and beauty of the Socialist era.

Today the architects' plans have been translated into reality, and we take the reader on a brief excursion through the new Palace of Learning.

First, to obtain a bird's-eye view of the university grounds, we go to the top storey of the tower of the central section, which is topped by a 60-metre (200-foot) spire with a star that sparkles in the rays of the sun. It is difficult to find words to describe the vast panorama of Moscow that opens before us some 650 feet below. Etched against the blue sky stands a series of tall white buildings. Each is beautiful in its own distinct way, and together they give Moscow a unique sky-line.

In front of the main façade stretch splendid grounds with lanes of silver firs, Siberian larches, chestnut trees, and oaks. From above, the grounds look like a green carpet with intricate designs in the most varied shades. The agrobotanical gardens, spreading over an area of 37 hectares (90 acres), are a mass of blossom.

Now we shall try to give the reader an idea of the size of the Palace of Learning.

It occupies an area of 320 hectares (790 acres), or approximately 20 times as much as the territory of Columbia University, the largest in the United States. The volume of the main sections of the new building is 2,600,000 cubic metres (91,780,000 cubic feet). To circle the main 36-storey structure one would have to walk about a mile. The total length of the 119 stairways in this structure is nearly seven miles.

The new building has 148 auditoriums, 350 research laboratories, 350 large study laboratories and about 1,000 auxiliary laboratories. The total number of rooms of all kinds is more than 45,000. If a visitor spent one minute inspecting each room it would take him 750 hours, or more than a month, to see them all. In the 36-storey section alone there are 22,000 rooms.

The university library is designed to hold 1,200,000 volumes. A reader has only to ask for a book and a system of transporters and conveyors will deliver it to him on any floor of the building in a matter of minutes.

The university will consume as much electricity as an average-sized town.

Engineering features of the Palace of Learning include water and steam heating, hot and cold running water, plenum and exhaust ventilation, and apparatus for removing dust and supplying compressed and conditioned air.

We have already mentioned how long even a cursory examination of all the rooms in this giant building would take. For that reason, we shall limit ourselves here to the main, 36-storey section.

Let us begin with the grand portico. As you approach it you pass a rectangular pool lined by the granite busts of twelve Russian scientists. Thousands of jets spout from the four fountains in the pool. The columns of the portico are of red granite and are 14 metres (46 feet) high; their diameter at the base is two metres (6.5 feet).

Massive doors decorated with cast bronze and set in granite portals lead into the entrance hall; from there we pass into the cloak-room.

A short time ago hundreds of people were at work here, and there was an unceasing din; but now it is quiet, with hardly anyone about. Occasionally one sees a sculptor or a painter intently studying his creation, in order to give a last stroke of the brush, a last touch with the chisel.

Landscapes and portraits of scientists were painted for the university by the best artists in the country. The splendid visual aids, of which there are more than 350,000, are the work of the best craftsmen.

The lower floors of the 36-storey section are occupied by the Faculty of Geology. The Mechanics-and-Mathematics Faculty and the Geography Faculty have been given a tremendous amount of space, from the 10th to the 20th storeys. Many of the auditoriums (seating 600, 250, and 150) are already fully equipped. All due attention has been paid to acoustics, and audibility is equally good in every part of the largest of these auditoriums. If the lecturer wishes to

Putting the final touches to the foyer in the student club

When the rugs and runners are laid, the lounges in the hostel will be ready





Testing the acoustics in one of the numerous auditoriums. Students at the back will hear the lecturer just as well as those in the first row

demonstrate an educational film, there are special devices for quickly lowering the window-blinds. In the laboratories, in which each student will be assigned a permanent place, the walls are faced with glazed tile, and the floors are made of acid-proof tile.

For the Faculties of Chemistry and Physics and the Faculty of Biology and Soil Science special buildings have been erected, forming, together with the 36-storey section, a single architectural ensemble. Entering one of the 66 high-speed lifts we go up to the Museum of the Earth. This scientific institution is unique; its priceless exhibits might well serve as the subject of a separate article. The museum occupies six storeys. Its huge walls are connected with carved oak portals. The doors are of metal, decorated with an intricate design. The last of the museum halls, the Hall of the History of the Sciences, is situated at a height of 150 metres (492 feet) above the ground. It is a rotunda with a cupola roof.

In planning the lay-out, decoration, and furnishings of all the university rooms we aimed at providing the students with the best possible study and living conditions.

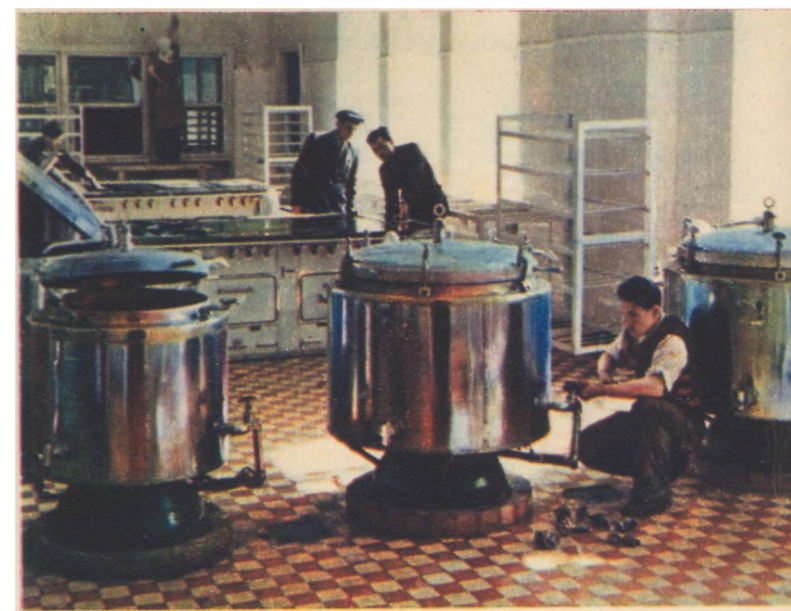
The students will come here in September. In the meantime the last preparations for receiving them are being made. A wealth of equipment—thousands of unique machines, instruments, and devices of great precision and complexity—is being installed. The cost of the university's equipment runs into hundreds of millions of rubles.

Thousands of young men and women from various cities* and from many collective-farm villages will study in Moscow University's new building. Our architects and civil engineers have taken great pains to provide them with really comfortable living quarters.

One of the very first steps in the designing work was to build life-size samples of two rooms for undergraduates and two rooms for graduate students. Then various specialists and representatives of the university's teaching staff and student body were asked whether everything had been provided for and whether any alterations or improvements were needed.

All their suggestions and wishes were taken into account, and today the 9- and 18-storey hostels await their occupants; 4,794 rooms for undergraduates and 768 for graduate students are now completely furnished.

Each undergraduate who lives in the hostel will have an apartment to himself. Every two rooms have a common entrance hall, toilet, and shower room. The walls are finished in light-coloured lincrusta. Next to the desk, which stands near the window, there is a small chest of drawers with bookshelves. The other furnishings are a built-in wardrobe, a divan-bed, a dinner table, and several chairs. The rooms for graduate students are somewhat larger and are furnished in the same way.



The kitchen of one of the student dining halls

Installing X-ray apparatus in a laboratory of the Faculty of Geology. A great amount of equipment of all kinds is now being set up in the laboratories



For every two storeys of the residential sections there are high-ceiled lounges with double rows of windows. A pleasant impression is made by the dining halls, with their white marble columns and stained-glass panels. There are, besides, several well-equipped kitchens on each floor for those who would like to do their own cooking.

From the hostel we go to the student club. On each side of the lower foyer there is an auditorium seating 600, which will be used for lectures and film showings. From the foyer a marble stairway leads up to a beautiful columned hall. It has a seating capacity of 800 and a stage equipped for various kinds of theatrical performances. Professional artistes and members of the student amateur-talent groups will perform on this stage.

Going down again, we come to a huge gymnasium. Next to it is a swimming pool whose size and equipment rank it among the best in Europe. There are numerous rooms for gymnastics, fencing, boxing, wrestling, and other sports.

The club provides the students with every facility, not only for recreation and sports, but also for broadening their mental horizon.

Limited though our time is, we must take the reader into the assembly hall of the Palace of Learning.

Three short flights of steps bring us to the foyer. Here we see bronze statues of the great Russian scientists Mendeleev, Zhukovsky, Pavlov, and Michurin. Florentine mosaics—one of the oldest forms of decorative art—is widely employed in the foyer. There is a frieze with 60 marble-mosaic portraits of famous scientists of the world—men who through the ages made outstanding contributions to mankind's progress.

We open the heavy, finely-ornamented oak doors and enter the assembly hall. It is high and filled with light, and there are 26 snow-white columns lining three of the walls. The seating capacity of the hall is 1,600. Everything here has been planned down to the smallest detail. For example, the sound-absorbing damask wall-coverings harmonize excellently with the parquet, with the moulded ceiling, the handsome radiator grills, the seats upholstered in tan velvet, and with the huge—100 square metres (120 square yards)—mosaic panel of smalt. Each of the eight central chandeliers in the hall weighs three tons. Incidentally, the main building has 75,000 chandeliers, fixtures, and lamps.


Our time is up, yet by no means have we exhausted our subject. Evidently we shall have to put that off until the next time, when the autumn term begins, and thousands of students—happy, optimistic Soviet young men and women, for whom all the doors to a full life are open—will come to the Palace of Learning on Lenin Hills.



These are Moscow secondary-school graduates on an excursion to the new university building. In the autumn many of them will start studying there

The main drive up to the Palace of Learning





On the Shore of Lake Balkhash

By A. MOLCHANOV, Engineer

Photographs by M. Galkin

Only two short decades ago the shore of Lake Balkhash (in central Kazakhstan), where one of the Soviet Union's largest copper-smelting plants now stands, was barren, dreary desertland. Today, besides the many buildings of the plant, we see there a fine modern town with shady, tree-lined streets.

Like scores of other works of the non-ferrous metals industry the Balkhash Copper Smelting Plant is a product of the Soviet period. It went into operation in 1938, the same year that the up-to-date Kounrad mine, situated nearby in a district with big deposits of copper ore, began to function. Although the Kounrad ore contains a relatively small percentage of copper the Balkhash plant turns out an exceptionally cheap product, thanks to the high level of mechanization in production.

No manual labour is employed in ore extraction at the Kounrad mine, all the work being done by ma-

chines. After blasting in the openworks the ore is loaded by powerful excavators into special 100-ton gondola cars.

Electric locomotives operating according to a strict schedule deliver trains of these cars to the plant's concentration mill. By pressing a button a worker sets into action a powerful mechanism which tips up and quickly empties the gondola cars. Next the ore is carried by transporter belts to crushing machines, where the big lumps are reduced to smaller ones not exceeding 20-25 millimetres in diameter. Further it goes along a conveyor to the ball mills for grinding. The ground ore, mixed with water, is pumped into the flotation department, where extraneous substances are eliminated, leaving only copper and other valuable metals. The flotation department is equipped with machines of improved design created by the plant in collaboration with scientists. The performance of these machines is far supe-

rior to that of all other machines of the same type, which are used throughout the world.

The operations in the concentration mill are completely mechanized. Universal instruments automatically regulate and control the work of the equipment and the technological processes.

Every twenty-four hours the units of the metallurgical department produce several thousand tons of molten material. Into the huge reverberatory furnace baths flows what is known as "matte," a semi-product in the making of "blister copper." The matte is carried in ladles by overhead cranes to the converting furnaces, where treatment by streams of air under pressure and by fluxes eliminates the sulphur and iron.

Long gone are the days when the foreman operated the metallurgical units by rule of thumb, depending only upon his experience and intuition. Now the fur-

Loading copper ore into gondola cars at the Kounrad mine



naces are automatically regulated; all the technologist has to do is to set them properly for the smelting operations.

The electrolytic refining shops are also equipped with the most modern machinery.

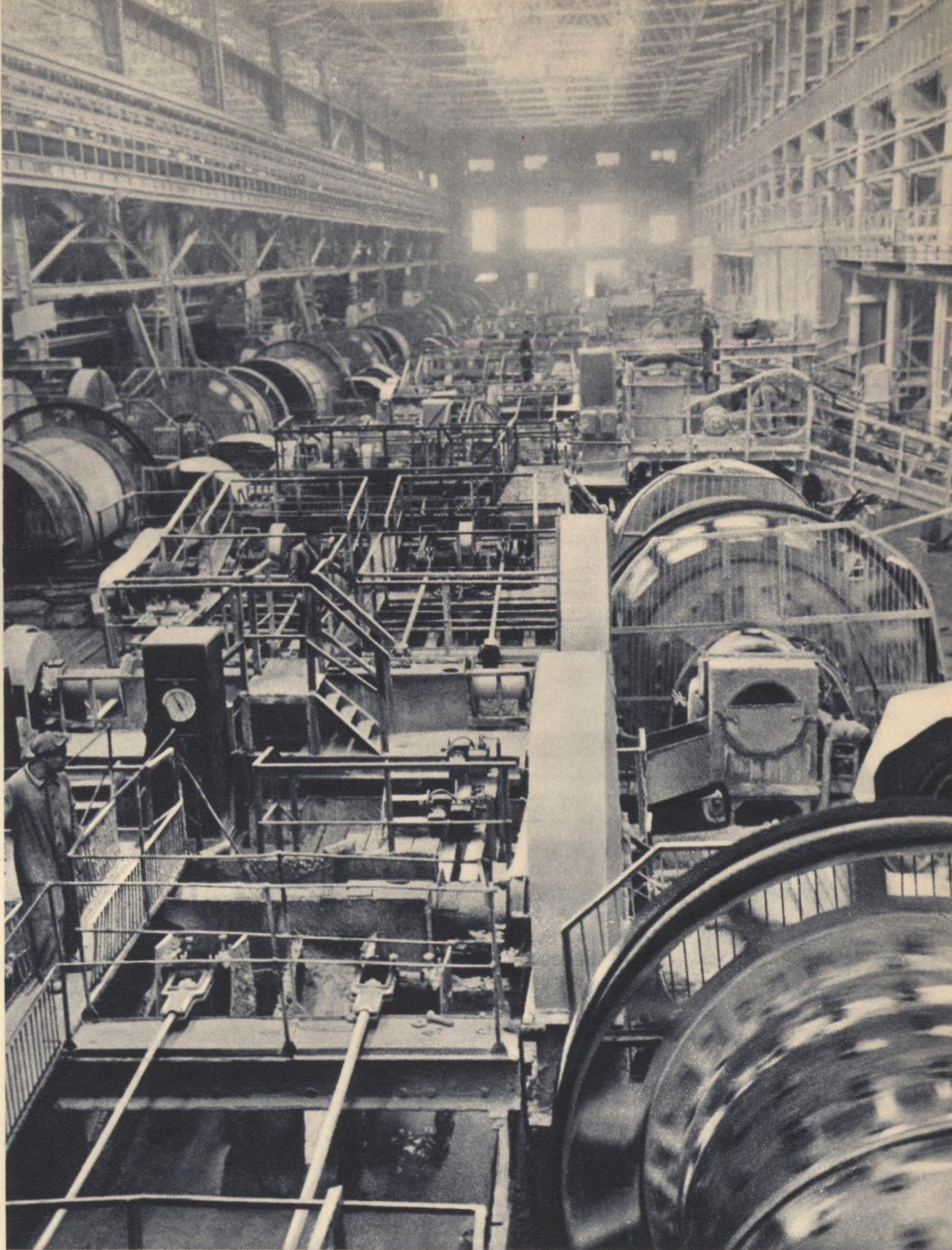
The Balkhash copper smelters are making full use of the wealth of machinery at their disposal. Their entire output is high-grade metal.

Together with researchers the leading workers, engineers and technicians of the plant and the mine have introduced many technological improvements making for greater productivity of the equipment. Fyodor Herman, well-known operator of an excavator with a three-cubic-metre bucket at the Kounrad mine, has mastered high-speed work methods to perfection. By combining several operations he has almost halved the time of the work cycle. Many workers are applying and developing Fyodor Herman's method and are also registering big successes on the job.

At the initiative of Y. Baklagov, a fitter, a fast method of equipment repairs has been worked out and introduced at the concentration mill. This method, which permits uninterrupted operation of all the machinery, is now widely employed not only at the Balkhash plant but at other plants of the Soviet non-ferrous



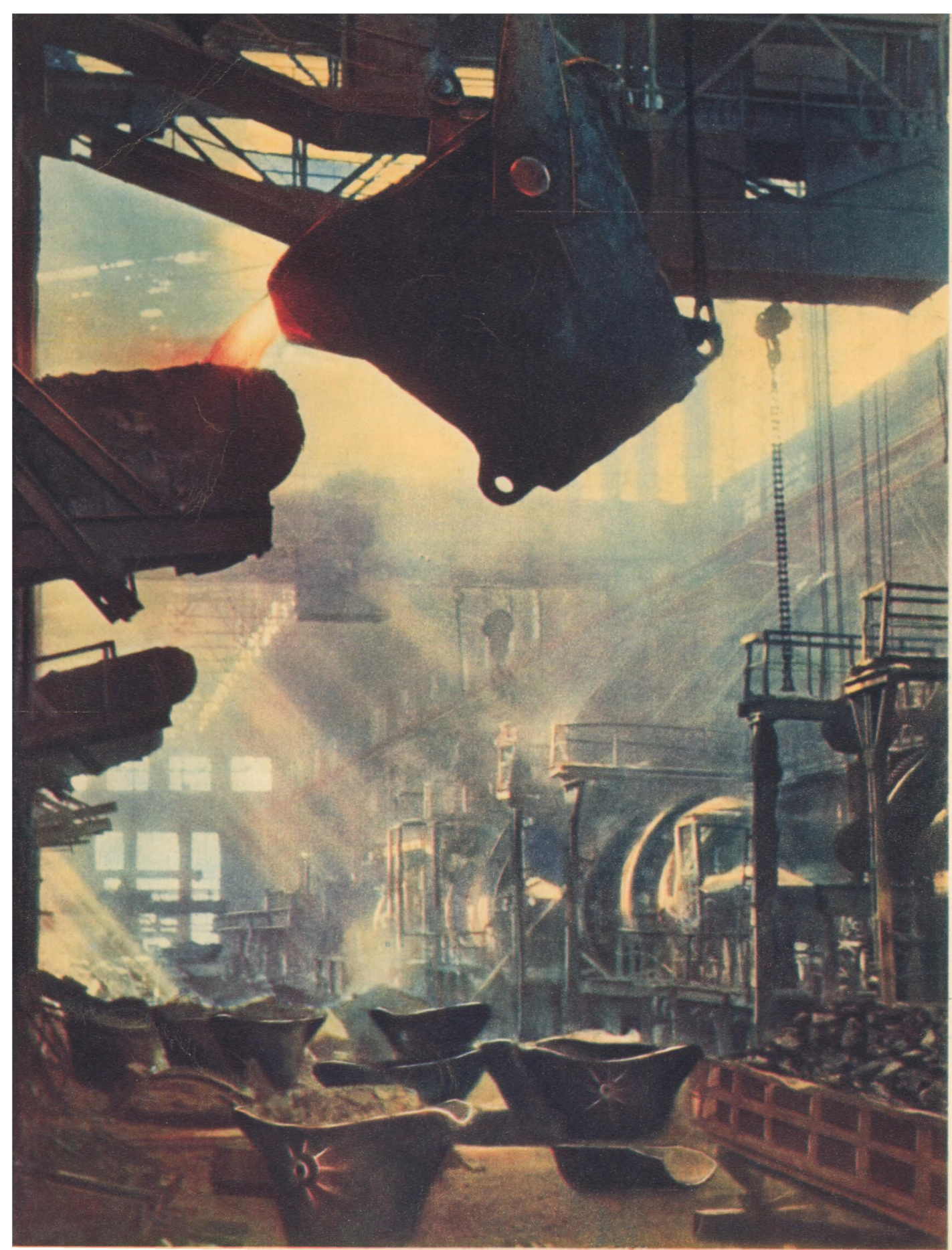
There are many inventors and rationalizers among the personnel of the Balkhash plant and mine. This picture shows A. Nesterov, chief of the technical department, examining a model of a scraper ballasting machine designed by technician A. Provtorov (right). The machine is intended for the placing of ballast in the construction of railway lines in the openworks



A view of the ore-crushing department



I. Tulkumbaev is one of the best foremen in the metallurgical department



Pouring the metal

metals industry. Improvements made by the plant's metallurgists in the design of the reverberatory furnaces have also yielded noteworthy results. The workers and engineers are steadily raising the quality and quantity of output and are economizing materials and funds. In the last two years alone the plant has increased copper output by more than 30 per cent.

The Soviet Government sets a high value on the work of the copper smelters. Nine members of the plant's personnel have been awarded Stalin Prizes. More than 1,000 have been honoured with Government decorations in recognition of their labour achievements.

Daily concern is shown for the metallurgists' health and material well-being. Those employed in injurious trades are issued milk and breakfasts free of charge. The working day in the shops injurious to health is six hours. Hundreds of workers from the mine and the plant annually spend their holidays at the country's finest health resorts. In summertime their children go to Young Pioneer camps. The Balkhash metallurgists live in modern houses with central heating, running water, baths and other conveniences.

In speaking of the Balkhash Copper Smelting Plant one cannot fail to mention the town that has sprung up near it, a town with schools, libraries, club-houses, cinemas, hospitals, clinics, children's nurseries, and kindergartens. In addition to its general secondary schools the town of Balkhash has a secondary technical school and several trade schools. There is a lecture hall where prominent specialists deliver lectures on political and scientific topics



Here we see the plant's Technical Council discussing new methods proposed for improving production in the concentration mill

This is the flotation department of the concentration mill, where special machines eliminate extraneous substances from the ground ore





Left: The auditorium of the Balkhash Palace of Culture. This Palace is one of the new buildings whose construction is now coming to an end in the copper smelters' town. Below: A general view of the Palace

The Balkhash copper smelters have a Palace of Culture whose fine architecture and rich interior decorations make it the equal of the best theatre buildings of many capitals. The Palace has a large cinema hall, recreation rooms, and rooms for various amateur talent activities.

The town has a stadium at which interesting football, athletics and other contests are held.

A favourite recreation place of the town's inhabitants is the Botanical Gardens, situated on the shore of Lake Balkhash. Besides their various species of trees, shrubs and flowers, the Gardens have a big area under fruit trees and berry bushes. At the Botanical Gardens and the plant's auxiliary farm there are melon patches. Balkhash water-melons, musk-melons, and tomatoes are famous for their excellent taste.

Anyone who visited the shore of Lake Balkhash some years ago would not recognize it today. On the once desolate tract stands a big, modern, fast-growing town. In the last two years alone 30,000 square metres (35,880 square yards) of new housing was turned over for occupancy. This year another 15,000 square metres will be completed. New cultural and public-service establishments and new factories are being built. Balkhash is a town with a big future.



Another fowl bagged. Ivan Oblapov, a fitter, is one of the shooting enthusiasts among the Balkhash workers. There is waterfowl in abundance on the lake, not far from the town, and in their leisure hours, especially on Sundays, many workers of the plant and the mine go there to shoot



In the mountains of Kirghizia. Bubukan Karymizakova, a Komsomol member, is manager of the library and reading-room at the alpine pasturage of the Tulek State Farm

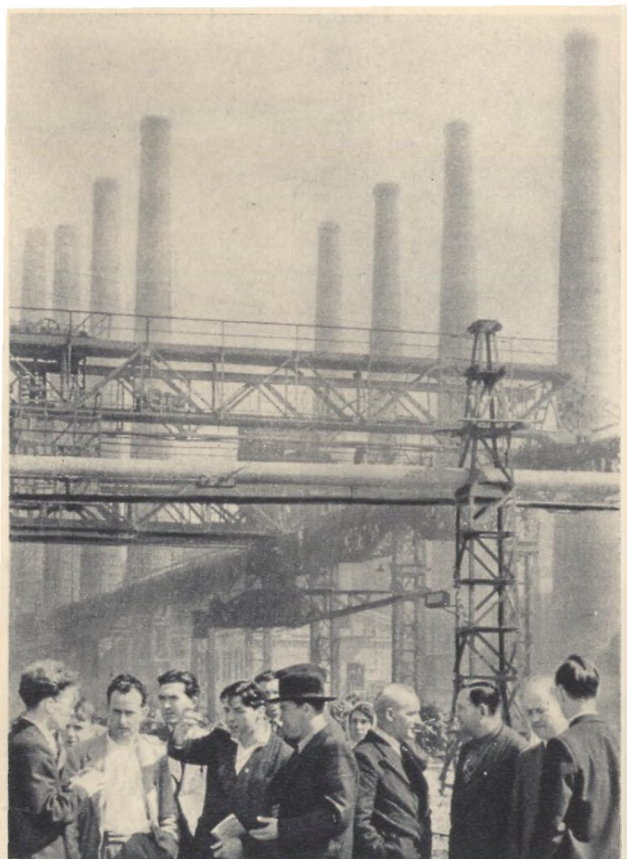
Photo by V. Noskov

VISITING THE USSR

Photographs by A. Garanin



Foreign visitors in Stalingrad wave back in reply to greetings from people of the city



The Joint Anglo-Scottish delegation at the Krasny Oktyabr Works in Stalingrad

Many trade union and workers' delegations from foreign countries came to witness the May Day celebrations in the Soviet capital at the invitation of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. After the celebrations, the visitors went on a tour of the Soviet Union. Delegates from nineteen countries paid a visit to Stalingrad, Rostov-on-Don, the health resorts of Kislovodsk and Sochi, and the V. I. Lenin Volga-Don Shipping Canal. Many other foreign delegations visited the USSR at the same time.

Statements made by members of these delegations recording their impressions of the tour and photographs by our cameraman are published below.

AN UNFORGETTABLE TOUR

We have had the pleasure of visiting the great Soviet land—the birth-place of Socialism and the bulwark of world peace. We came to Moscow from far-away Korea to take part in the May Day celebrations of our Soviet friends.

During our stay in the Soviet capital we went to the Lenin Museum and the Stalin Auto Works; we saw the underground palaces of the Moscow Metro and Moscow's beautiful port, a port of five seas. We saw the multi-storeyed buildings, towering in various parts of the city, and the new well-appointed dwelling-houses for the working people. We were much impressed by Moscow's broad, thronged

thoroughfares bearing an endless stream of motor traffic. At the Bolshoi Theatre, at other theatres and at Palaces of Culture we acquainted ourselves with the achievements of Soviet art.

We are happy to have visited the Volga-Don Shipping Canal and the heroic city of Stalingrad, so dear to the whole of peace-loving mankind. It has been an unforgettable visit.

Pak Chon Huan, Chan Ik Son, Pek Sa Sun, No Chan Hi, Han I Nam, Lim Ben Son, Li Glu Huon

Right: In Stalingrad foreign delegations place a wreath at the foot of the monument to the defenders of the heroic city



THE USSR BUILDS ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE

The opening of the Volga-Don Shipping Canal and the Tsimlyanskaya Hydroelectric Station was enthusiastically hailed a year ago by the Soviet people. During our visit to the USSR we members of the Italian delegation had the good fortune to see with our own eyes this impressive construction which could have been accomplished only by a people that had wrested itself free of capitalist exploitation. It is a telling example of the creative power of a Socialist society. We have seen barren steppes become fertile fields. We saw powerful machinery of Soviet make raise the water in the locks. We saw huge water reservoirs in the place of sun-scorched earth.

All our meetings and numerous talks with Soviet people convinced us that they are genuinely free and capable of shouldering the most magnificent creative

tasks. The Soviet people are imbued with a feeling of warm friendship for other peoples and strive for peace.

Our brief introduction to Soviet life was sufficient to confirm our belief that the might of the great Socialist land can never be shaken, because it rests on the colossal concrete achievements of Socialism, on the unity of the Soviet people and their Government, and on loyalty to proletarian internationalism.

Iotti Franco,
Secretary of the Confederal Chamber
of Labour in Reggio Emilia

Possigli Marisa,
member of the Women's Commission
of the Italian General Confederation
of Labour, Rome



The "Georgi Sedov" takes the foreign delegations through Lock No. 13 of the V. I. Lenin Volga-Don Shipping Canal



Inspecting the dam of the Tsimlyanskaya Hydroelectric Station



The delegates view the Narzan medicinal mineral springs gallery in Kislovodsk

PEACE - THE PEOPLE'S AIM

In Chile I had a warped idea of the struggle for peace carried on by the Soviet Union. Now that I have visited that great country and seen many of its cities and villages and talked with its people, I am convinced that they are a peace-loving, hospitable and sincere nation; they do not want war. The Soviet people, however, hate war not because they are afraid of it - quite the reverse has been demonstrated by the Second World War.

Now I can boldly declare that the Soviet people are one in their fight for peace. The word "Peace" is heard everywhere in the USSR. The Soviet people are engaged in peaceful pursuits; their material and cultural level is always on the upgrade. The USSR wants to live in peace with the peoples of all countries.

Ramón González



The visitors from abroad displayed great interest in the turbine hall of the Tsimlyanskaya Hydroelectric Station



William Brown, of the joint Anglo-Scottish delegation, recorded his every impression in a note-book during his tour of the USSR

MEN WHO WORK FOR PEACE

During their stay in the USSR the members of the Cuban trade union delegation, as those of other delegations, visited any place they wished and talked with the man in the street. No one interfered in our talks. Soviet people gave candid replies to our questions and exhibited considerable interest in life in our country. We have been convinced that the chief desire of the Soviet people and their leaders is to live in peace with all other peoples.

We were amazed at the high living standard of the Soviet people. Unemployment is non-existent in the Soviet Union, and people speak with regret of a shortage of man-power at the large construction jobs.

I would like to stress in conclusion that everywhere in the USSR we were accorded a warm, hospitable and an altogether informal welcome. In their talks with us Soviet people invariably displayed a keen sense of international solidarity and a high political consciousness.

Segundo Quincosa,
leader of the Cuban trade union delegation

RIGHT TO REST AND LEISURE

In Sochi, one of the many health resorts in the USSR, I had the opportunity to see and to experience the realization of the right for rest and leisure enjoyed by the Soviet people. Together with the British delegation I spent three days in the sanatorium for miners.

The building itself is very nice, with comfortable apartments, a beautiful dining-room, a concert hall, a well equipped polyclinic, a sport hall, and a swimming pool.

The miners stay here for 28 days—their annual holidays. In that fine climate and surroundings every attention is being given, both of preventive and curative character, for workers to have a proper rest.

I have no words enough to describe my impressions after visiting the Soviet Union. I can only say in simple words to conclude my short article that the people as well as the Government of the Soviet Union want peace and friendship so as to conduct a gigantic construction programme in their country, to build a peaceful and happy life.

Waldiman,
representative of the Indonesian trade unions



The Cuban delegation view the baths of the magnificent oil workers' sanatorium in the popular health resort of Kislovodsk

The delegation from Argentina was particularly taken with the Stalingrad Tractor Works, which has risen from the ashes





In a railway compartment members of the French delegation hasten to make travelling notes after leaving Rostov-on-Don

WE SAW ALL WE WISHED

A visitor to the USSR from Scotland, I was most impressed by the friendliness of the common people. All along our route we were welcomed by the people in such a fashion that it brought a lump to my throat. Flowers were thrown to us, our hands were shaken. . . .

I talked with almost every type of worker, miner, railwayman, builder, as well as with housewives and children. I have met with no restraint whatever, and there is absolutely no truth in the absurd assertion that those people are hand-picked. On the contrary, we were advised to speak to anyone we liked in the streets and in the parks.

The Soviet authorities hid nothing from us. We saw the many thousands of huge modern buildings, where the working man and his family live in 3- or 4-apartment flats. We also saw that unsatisfactory housing conditions still existed. However, the people who live in such houses are patient, happy and content in the knowledge that they will be rehoused—they have absolute faith in their Government. Those are their own words.

William Brown



K. Rusinov, of Bulgaria, has a heart-to-heart talk with workers of the Krasny Oktyabr Works, Stalingrad

THE HAPPIEST YOUTH IN THE WORLD

We members of the French trade union delegation have had many talks during our tour of the USSR with ordinary people, and we have seen that the overwhelming majority of them are studying tirelessly. The Socialist system ensures the working people the opportunity to constantly increase their cultural, political and professional knowledge. All who wish to study are granted far-reaching privileges.

We took note of the very important part played by the Soviet trade unions in production, labour protection, wages, social insurance, education, and culture.

Our meetings with the Soviet youth, who gave us a warm fraternal welcome, is a vivid memory. Yes, the Soviet youth is certainly the happiest in the world. The girls and boys that talked to us spoke of the joy they took in their studies and of their wish to complete their education with the best success possible so as to become engineers, doctors, and teachers, and to take a hand in the great and thrilling tasks which lie before the Soviet people. Full of joy and hope, they told us about the youth's contribution to the cause of world peace.

We shall make it our duty to tell the patriots of our country the stirring truth about the Soviet Union.

Faure René,
Secretary of the National Federation of the Trade Unions of Workers of the Paper and Cardboard Industry of the General Confederation of Labour, member of the French delegation

A GOOD, GAY, KIND PEOPLE

We delegates of Swedish building industry workers were certain that a trip to the USSR would be very interesting, but what we actually saw surpassed all our expectations. It is difficult to say what impressed us most, for every day and every hour we spent in the Land of Socialism brought something that was new to us and captivating and stirring.

What first caught our eyes was the gigantic scope of construction in the USSR. The magnificent multi-storeyed buildings of the Soviet capital amazed us.

We knew that Stalingrad was razed during the Second World War. Therefore, the reconstruction of its powerful industrial enterprises, the construction of a great number of dwelling-houses and public buildings, achieved in the years that followed the victory over Hitler's armies, presented to us building workers an astonishing and breath-taking spectacle.

Our delegation formed a very high opinion of the Soviet people. Wherever we went we met joyful, gay and kind people who worked enthusiastically and knew how to have a good time in their leisure hours; they all love songs, and music, and dancing.

We greet the people who build for Peace!
Long live Peace!

Sven Sjöblom

The Chinese delegation inspect locomotives built at the Novocherkassk Electric Locomotive Works on an order from the Chinese People's Republic



WE PROFIT BY SOVIET EXPERIENCE

At the factories in Moscow, Stalingrad, and Rostov our delegation saw wonderful labour-saving automatic machines and witnessed the inspired labour of Soviet workers, engineers and technicians, and other employees. So high is the qualification of the Soviet worker that several complex machines are often run by one person.

All that we have seen in the Soviet Union opens up new horizons before us. Today in China, millions upon millions are studying the rich and varied construction experience of the USSR as well as the advanced Soviet science and techniques.

We are convinced that Soviet-Chinese friendship is unshakeable. We are confident of the success of the peaceful construction the Chinese and the Soviet peoples are carrying on. We believe that the sinister machinations of the instigators of a new war will be frustrated and the cause of peace will triumph.

Chu Wai-jen,
member of the Chinese trade union delegation

HAPPY CHILDHOOD

The delegation of Finnish workers in the Soviet Union was struck most by the truly tremendous educational work conducted among children and young people. The Soviet state stints no money on bringing up the rising generation destined to consolidate and further develop that which their parents won for them at the cost of great sacrifice.

Children in the USSR have at their disposal numerous well-appointed kindergartens, parks and club-houses. Miniature railways have been built for school children, and boys and girls eagerly play at engine drivers, guards, switchmen, station-masters, etc., thus acquiring useful technical knowledge.

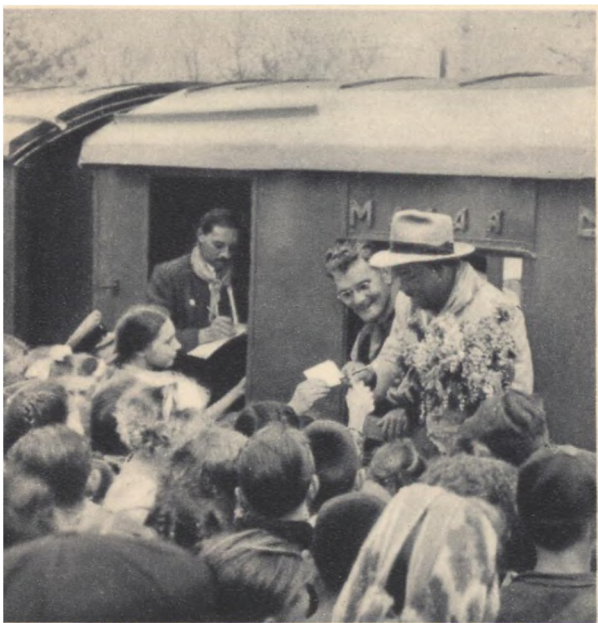
We visited a health-building home for children between 7 and 14 years of age, in Kislovodsk. For two months the children stay here, resting and receiving treatment. They told us they were very pleased with their stay at the home—they were very well cared for and had a cinema, recreation rooms, and playgrounds, and even a stage for amateur performances. We had a talk with a seven-year-old girl. She told us that her mother is a school-teacher in Sakhalin. One of us asked her where Finland was and she said: "Somewhere near Leningrad."

We were much impressed by what we saw and heard at the Kirov Palace of Culture in Leningrad. The Palace is run by the trade unions and has every facility to afford recreation and the various means of developing their talents to the workers and their families. There are also many amateur groups specially for children.

Karl Lindstedt, Viljo Saastamoinen, Johannes Viik, Lauri Vihtonen, Eila Kossila, Pekka Lammenmaa, Kalle Lähteenmäki, Kerttu Mellin, Ville Nylund, Tauno Heinonen



The picture above shows members of the Cuban delegation and of the delegation from the German Democratic Republic having a talk with a little passenger at Likhaya Station on the Children's Railway



After making a trip by the children's railway in Rostov-on-Don the members of the Cuban delegation give their autographs to Soviet school children

FOR PEACE, FOR FRIENDSHIP!

Our trade union delegation from the German Democratic Republic spent three weeks in the Soviet Union. Wherever we went we encountered the word Peace. The great construction work we saw in progress throughout the USSR is proof of the Soviet people's desire to build and not to destroy.

The Soviet people's attitude towards the German question has made a deep impression on our delegation: everywhere they wished us full success in our struggle for the democratic unification of our fatherland, split so far in two. Everywhere we were accorded a warm and hearty welcome.

How could we forget these constant expressions of friendship and the will for peace! We want to live in eternal friendship with the Soviet people, for our friendship strengthens peace!

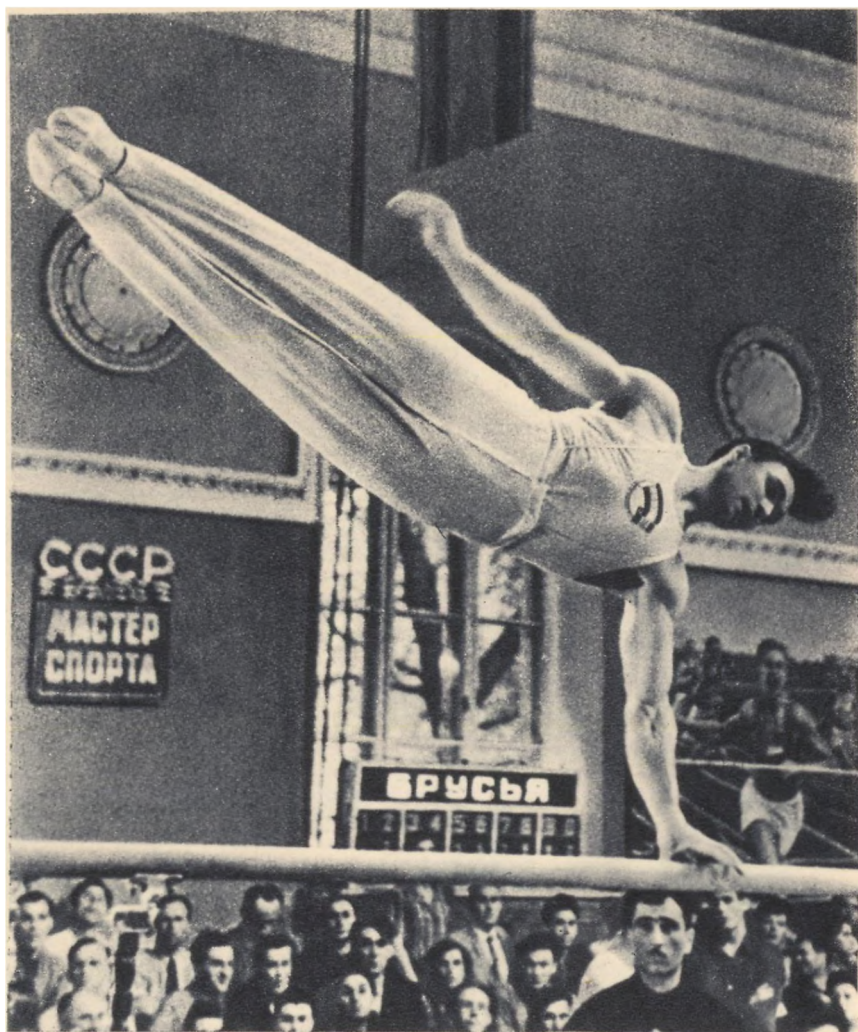
Herbert Warnke, Bruno Mischke, Rudi Sant, Ilse Marx, Peter Wassmuth, Elisabeth Senske, Paul Voitel, Ilse Nagel

Left: Maurice Carroué, head of the French delegation, bids farewell to the inhabitants of Kislovodsk who have come to see them off

Gymnasts

By N. LYUBOMIROV,
Editor, Newspaper "Sovietsky Sport"

Photographs by N. Volkov



Here we see Victor Chukarin (Iskra Sports Society), all-round gymnastics champion of the 15th Olympic Games, performing at the recent USSR championship held in Kiev, capital of the Soviet Ukraine. More than 350 men and women gymnasts representing 19 sports societies vied for the team honours and the all-round title. They were heartily applauded by the fans who crowded the big hall of the Sports Palace. First prize was won by the 1st Dynamo team

At the 15th Olympic Games in Helsinki last July, where the championship in gymnastics was contested by teams from 23 countries, it was the men's and women's teams of the USSR that emerged victorious. The Soviet gymnasts won 25 gold, 11 silver, and 2 bronze medals. Victor Chukarin and Maria Gorokhovskaya, both of them Soviet entrants, became the all-round gymnastics champions of the Olympiad. Victories no less impressive have been scored by Soviet gymnasts in other international contests as well.

Not long ago a contest among the country's leading gymnasts was held in Kiev. It showed once again how great are the reserves of Soviet sport. The younger generation is producing new star gymnasts, new record-holders, and they are outstripping those who only yesterday were deemed unbeatable. In Kiev, the title of all-round gymnastics champion of the USSR was won by Valentin Muratov, 24-year-old student of the Moscow Regional Pedagogical Institute.

Among the women, too, the competitions brought to light a number of gifted young gymnasts who demonstrated a high level of skill and technique. The title of all-round women's champion of the USSR was won by Henrietta Konovalova, a student of the Tashkent Pedagogical Institute. Henrietta Konovalova is 21. She first became interested in gymnastics at school.

Besides the experienced stars and Olympic champions Galina Urbanovich, Nina Bocharova, Ekaterina Kalinchuk and Polina Danilova, the list of the country's first ten women gymnasts includes the young newcomers Tamara Zhaleyeva, Valentina Lavrentsova and Margarita Petrova.

In the USSR gymnastics is widely practised and is highly popular. It is one of the main forms of physical training.

This year will see the 25th anniversary of the first USSR gymnastics championship. The country's gymnasts are preparing to observe the anniversary with new achievements, a further perfection of skill, and a still greater spread of the sport.



The well-known Soviet gymnast Galina Urbanovich, many-time champion of the USSR, on the parallel bars

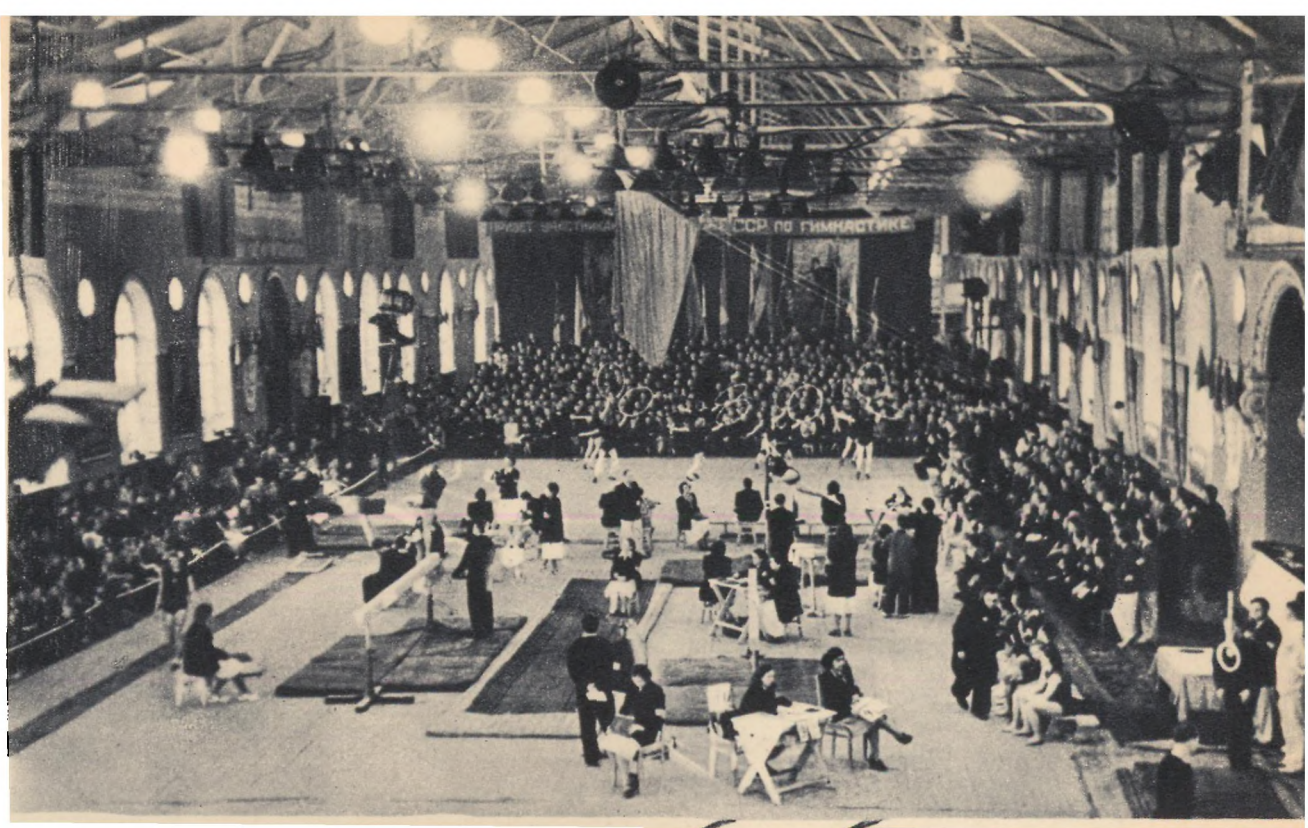


Young Master of Sport A. Azaryan won the title of the USSR champion on the rings



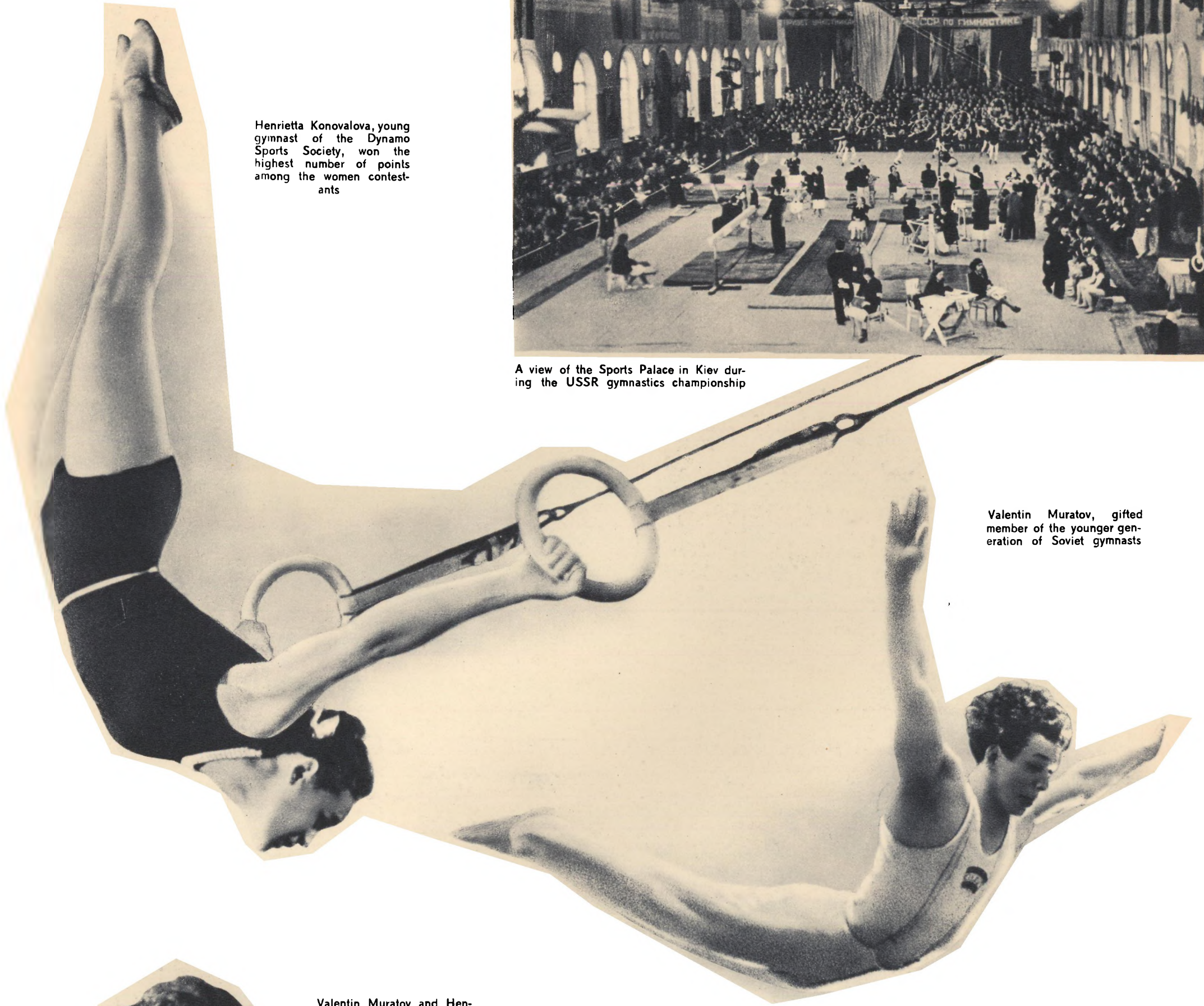
Balance on the beam is demonstrated by Olympic champion Nina Bocharova, a star gymnast

Henrietta Konovalova, young gymnast of the Dynamo Sports Society, won the highest number of points among the women contestants



A view of the Sports Palace in Kiev during the USSR gymnastics championship

Valentin Muratov, gifted member of the younger generation of Soviet gymnasts



Valentin Muratov and Henrietta Konovalova are the all-round gymnastics champions of the USSR for 1953

Gymnasts of the Iskra Sports Society perform a group exercise with hoops



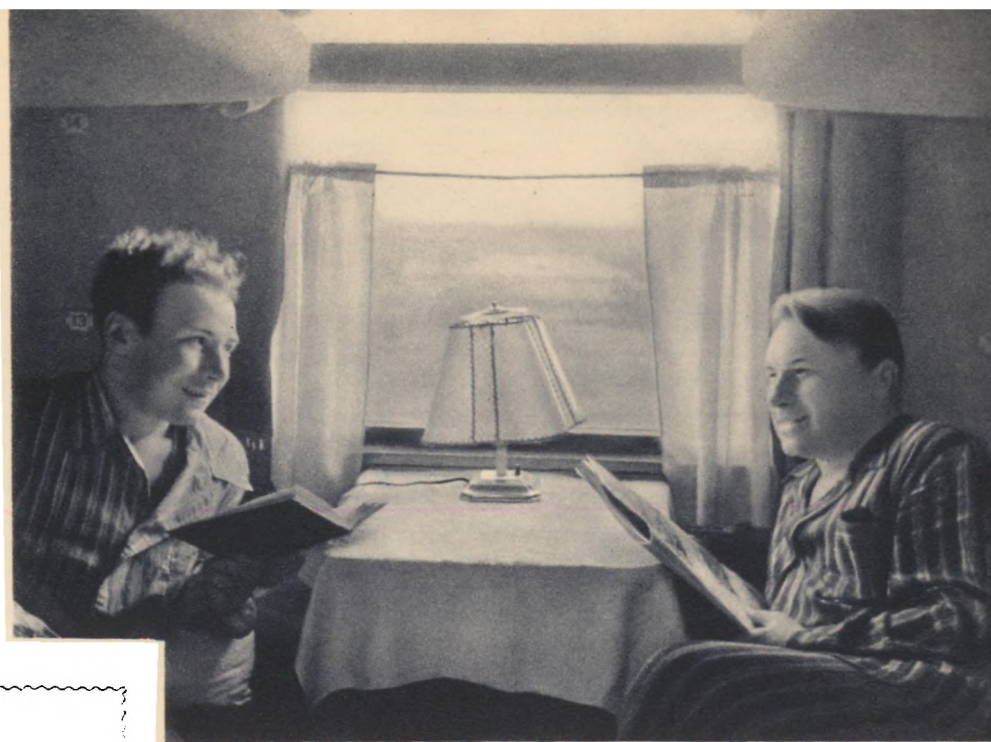


An after-dinner gathering on a balcony in the women's section of the Khrushchov Sanatorium. This sanatorium, situated in the Transcarpathian Region of the Soviet Ukraine, is one of the 1,300 owned and operated by the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions

Photo by N. Khorunzhy

A Miner Goes on a Holiday

Picture Story by M. Grachov



Nikolai Vedeshkin (left) in the Moscow-Tskhaltubo train

Concern for the welfare of the people, for the satisfaction of their constantly rising material and cultural requirements is the supreme law for the Communist Party and the Soviet Government. One of the manifestations of this concern is the great attention paid to the people's health, to the creation of the best possible conditions for rest and leisure. The citizens of the USSR have at their disposal fine sanatoriums, holiday homes, parks and gardens, Palaces of Culture and clubs, sports stadiums, water sports centres, tourist centres, mountaineering camps. . . .

The Constitution of the USSR guarantees Soviet citizens the right to rest and leisure. This right is ensured by providing all workers and office employees with annual paid holidays, and by the establishment of a broad network of sanatoriums and holiday homes.

In pre-revolutionary Russia there were only 36 health resorts with 56 sanatoriums, which could accommodate no more than 3,000 people; besides, these health resorts were frequented only by members of the privileged, wealthy classes. Now in the USSR there are over 350 balneological, mud-therapy and climatic health resorts, comprising nearly 2,500 sanatoriums that cater for as many as a quarter of a million people at one time. Last year about 4,500,000 people took holidays at Soviet health resorts.

The trade unions maintain 1,300 sanatoriums and holiday homes in various parts of the country. A fifth of all the passes to these sanatoriums and a tenth of those to the holiday homes are distributed free of charge. For the remainder, workers and office employees pay only a third of their actual cost, the difference being covered out of the State social insurance funds. This year more than 3,000,000 working people will spend their holidays at the health resorts.

In the Soviet Union huge sums are spent on building, maintaining and extending sanatoriums, and on providing all-round facilities at health resorts. During the first five years after the war the trade unions alone spent nearly 7,000 million rubles for this purpose. This year more than 50 trade union sanatoriums are being built.

The country's rich natural features make it possible to set up health resorts in almost every region. Along with the expansion of the widely-known health resorts much attention is being devoted to the so-called local resorts, many of which are as good, from the health point of view, as the famous resorts of the Caucasus and the Crimea.

The Fifth Five-Year Plan for the Development of the USSR envisages a further considerable expansion of the network of sanatoriums and holiday homes. By the end of 1955 the number of places in sanatoriums will be 15 per cent larger than in 1950, and in holiday homes 30 per cent larger.

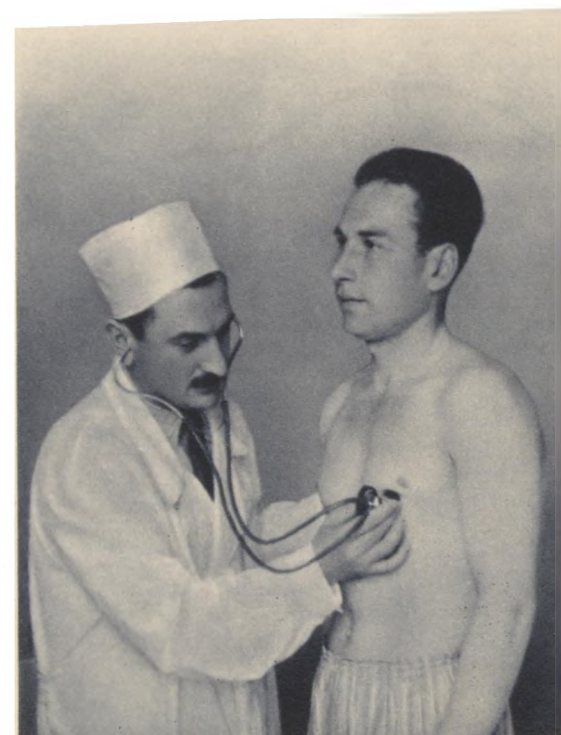
In several letters from abroad readers have asked how Soviet workers spend their holidays. Having decided to make a picture story on this subject, I travelled with a miner of the Moscow coal-field, Nikolai Vedeshkin, from Stalinogorsk to the Caucasian health resort of Tskhaltubo.

I was introduced to Nikolai Vedeshkin in the trade union committee of Kamenetskaya Mine No. 1, which lies not far from Stalinogorsk. The young miner had come to the committee to receive his pass to the health resort, which his trade union was giving him free of charge, at the expense of State social insurance. He told us jokingly how the doctors had examined him "inside and out" to recommend him what place it would be best to visit for his health.

Vedeshkin operates a coal-cutting machine in the mine. He is twenty-five, very interested in his job and takes a thoughtful attitude towards it, following up the work methods of innovators in production and thus achieving an increase in his output of coal. He is a rank-and-file Soviet worker, like millions of others in any part of the country.



Bath No. 6, Tskhaltubo, a Georgian beauty spot, is famous for its warm healing waters



Nikolai Vedeshkin, enjoying his holiday in a sanatorium for coal miners, makes a routine visit to the doctor



In the morning Vedeshkin was awakened by the telephone. His wife wanted to know how he felt at the sanatorium and whether he liked Tskhaltubo

And so we set out together for Tskhaltubo. In our carriage there turned out to be several miners from other pits. They were all bound for various health resorts in the south. We got talking. One of our fellow travellers had already spent a holiday in the Caucasus, another in the Crimea, a third at a health resort near Moscow.

"Last year I spent my leave by the sea at Riga," said Nikolai Vedeshkin. "The scenery there is indeed beautiful. Now the doctors have advised me to take baths at Tskhaltubo. That's where I'm going now. A lot of miners from our pit are planning to go to health resorts this year."

Through the windows we have glimpses of the wonderful countryside, and every now and again a busy scene of construction flashes past. Even those who have travelled recently in these parts are amazed at the latest changes. From time to time we pass new towns, high-tension transmission lines running into the distance, new station buildings, blocks of flats surrounded by scaffolding, new factories. Everywhere the countryside is bustling with life, everywhere something is being built.



In the dining-room of the miners' sanatorium. Vedeshkin is sitting in the foreground on the left



On the left Nikolai Vedeshkin is seen taking a curative bath. These baths are fed continuously by spring water at a temperature of 34°C.



In one of the sanatorium's lounges. Vedeshkin is playing dominoes with other miners who have come to Tskhaltubo from various parts of the country



Nikolai Vedeshkin and his new sanatorium acquaintances explore the surrounding country

This is the main entrance of the miners' sanatorium in Tskhaltubo. Nikolai Vedeshkin is seen on the right



From Stalinogorsk to Tskhaltubo it is 2,564 km. (1,600 miles). Our journey takes us through Moscow, Tula, Orel, Kursk, Kharkov, Rostov-on-Don, Sochi, and Sukhumi. The train goes farther and farther south. We leave behind the richly forested territory of the Russian Federation; now we are in the steppes of the Ukraine. Fields, orchards, pit-head works, an ever-changing panorama of industry. Beyond the Donets basin we reach the rolling expanses of the Kuban, that bounteous granary of the Soviet Union. The majestic peaks of the Caucasus are outlined on the horizon. After roaring through a series of tunnels, the train comes out on the Black Sea coast. Glistening seascapes, a picturesque coastline, sanatoriums smothered in vivid green...

And now we are at Tskhaltubo. Special employees and buses from the sanatoriums meet the guests. In a few minutes the bus draws up outside a luxurious building; miner Vedeshkin enters the reception hall of a sanatorium of the Ministry of the Coal Industry of the USSR.

An hour later Nikolai Vedeshkin and I looked over the sanatorium. It is a real palace, built in 1952 to provide rest and treatment for miners. Everyone who comes here is sure to receive a maximum of comfort, highly-qualified medical attendance, excellent food, and attention. The medical rooms of the sanatorium are equipped with the very latest apparatus.

Tskhaltubo is situated near the town of Kutaisi, in a broad valley of the Caucasus. It is one of the famous Georgian spas. The healing properties of its warm radio-active waters have long been widely known, but only in Soviet times has Tskhaltubo become a well-built health resort growing in size every year. Now the resort has many excellent sanatoriums, hotels, six well-equipped baths, a theatre, an open-air concert stage, a large library, shops, cafés, and restaurants.

A few days after his arrival Vedeshkin already had many friends: at Tskhaltubo he met miners from all parts of the country. They are resting, improving their health and having a good time in this delightful corner of Soviet Georgia.

OPERATING ON THE HEART

Until recently operations on the heart were performed only in the case of injury. Diseases of this all-important organ remained outside the surgeon's field of activity even when conservative treatment could not help the patient.

For some years past, in the clinic of the Second Moscow Medical Institute Professor A. N. Bakulev, Member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, and his collaborators—Professors A. V. Gulyaev and R. V. Bogoslovsky, Docent E. N. Meshalkin, and others—have been working on the problem of treating acquired and congenital heart-disease.

For a long time the clinic has been studying the results of broad experimental work by many Soviet scientists; numerous experiments have been carried out on animals. The great achievements of Soviet medicine and the teaching of Ivan Pavlov, which threw new light on the physiology of the blood circulation, helped to overcome serious difficulties in the performing of intracardiac surgical operations.

Nowadays such operations are no longer uncommon in practical Soviet surgery. A considerable number of successful operations have been performed on children and adolescents suffering from congenital heart-disease. In most of these cases the circulation of blood was disturbed owing to stenosis of the opening of the pulmonary artery. Successful operations have also been carried out on patients suffering from acquired forms of heart-disease.

Operations of this kind are being successfully performed in the Soviet Union by Professors P. A. Kuprianov, B. V. Petrovsky, F. G. Uglov, N. V. Antelava, A. A. Vishnevsky, and a number of other prominent Soviet surgeons.

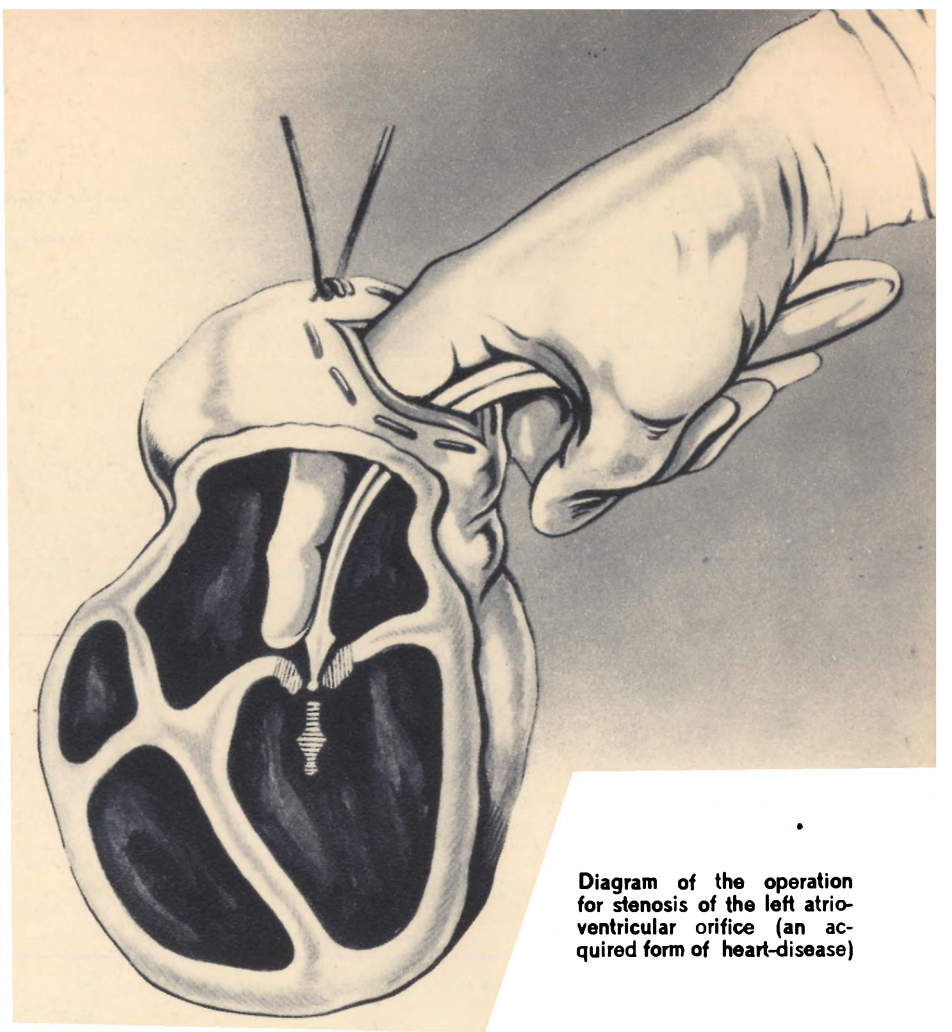


Diagram of the operation for stenosis of the left atrio-ventricular orifice (an acquired form of heart-disease)

Photographs by V. Shakhovskoi

Nothing breaks the silence in the operating theatre. Even the patient's breathing is inaudible—from a special apparatus a mixture of oxygen and anaesthetics flows into the lungs. Two nurses silently hand instruments to the surgeon.

The big operating theatre seems empty: there is no sign of the bulky apparatus needed for an operation, no anaesthetic apparatus with its cylinders of compressed gas, no electric suction pumps. Yet there is everything that is needed for any of the most complex operations on heart and lungs, but all the apparatus has been removed to an adjoining room. The pipes for supplying anaesthetics and pumping fluids and the wires charging the electric knife run under the floor. All that can be seen in the operating theatre is a control panel near the patient's head from which any instrument can be switched on.

Preparations for the operation are complete. The anaesthetist keeps a close watch on the patient's pulse, blood pressure, and breathing. Electrodes have been fastened to the patient's arms and to one leg, and the wires from them run into the adjoining electro-cardiographic laboratory where the impulses of the heart are recorded. The slightest disturbance in its functioning immediately becomes known to the surgeon. Apparatus for artificial respiration and electrical stimulation of the heart is kept in readiness. A special assistant is appointed to take charge of blood transfusion.

Professor A. N. Bakulev and his two assistants bend over the patient. The thorax is opened. The surgeon makes an injection of novocaine in the pericardium and carefully dissects it, exposing the heart. The heart is considerably enlarged owing to the contraction of an opening that increases the pressure in its cavities. The rhythm of the heart's beat is irregular,

its spasmodic contractions reflecting the inability of the heart muscles to pump the blood through the narrowed artery.

A soft clamp is placed on the wall of the heart and an incision is made. At the moment the clamp is removed the surgeon with his finger inserts a special thin instrument with a blade into the cavity of the heart. He carefully examines the cavity and the valve of the pulmonary artery. The orifice of the valve into which one can normally insert two fingers is now a mere narrow slit—the blade of the instrument can scarcely enter it. The edges of the orifice are scarred and calcified; the valve is dense.

With the instrument the surgeon dissects the edges of the contracted orifice between two fused valve flaps. The obstacle is removed. This is the crucial moment for the patient. For a short time the blood-flow is interrupted and the heart activity is sharply disturbed. The blood supply of the brain is diminished; the blood pressure falls; the breathing becomes very feeble.

The special assistant quickly makes an intraarterial blood transfusion and the heart activity is restored. The crisis is over.

The surgeon removes his instrument and the incision in the wall of the heart is immediately sutured. Although it was open for three minutes the patient lost hardly any blood.

Many people who have suffered from rheumatism, for instance, become invalids owing to stenosis of the cardiac orifices. Sometimes children are born with various forms of heart-disease. Until recently such diseases were considered incurable. To make these people healthy, to restore them to normal life and work is the task that Professor A. N. Bakulev



Professor A. N. Bakulev, Member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences (right), and Docent E. N. Meshalkin examine an X-ray photograph, checking the details of a heart operation they are about to perform



At the control panel in the apparatus room adjoining the operating theatre, S. V. Ryneisky prepares a gas anaesthetic

and his team of surgeons at the clinic of the Second Moscow Medical Institute have set themselves.

It is not very long since operations of this kind on the heart were considered impossible. It was thought that there were certain places on the heart that could not be touched without impairing its activity. Professor Bakulev and his pupils have proved that any part of the heart can be operated on.

Every day the clinic receives letters from patients suffering from heart disturbances asking to be operated on and cured of their serious conditions.

In February this year the professor received a letter from Lena Larikova, the daughter of a retired miner.

"I have heard of your surgical method of treating heart diseases," she wrote. "It is of great interest to me because I suffer from a congenital heart-disease. I am eighteen, I am young, and I want to live and be useful to my country. Illness has cut short my studies and placed a lot of restrictions on me. I ask you as a father: please, do everything you can to make me live!"

The girl was brought to the clinic in a serious condition. Her face, arms and legs were cyanotic, she was breathless, and could not walk even ten paces.

A month ago Lena was operated on. The surgeon exposed her heart and dissected the edges of the opening of the pulmonary artery.

...The girl is sitting up in bed and her face is radiant with joy. Today she will get up for the first time since her operation.

But when Lena makes her first few steps across the ward supported by a nurse, it is the surgeon's turn to be worried. Hiding his anxiety, he watches his patient's face intently. Will the telltale cyanosis again appear in her cheeks and lips, has the operation failed to cure her?

But there is no need for alarm. Lena's lips remain pink, every new step is firmer than the last. The operation has removed the acute circulatory disorder from which she had suffered since childhood.

The girl walks to the window. A cool evening breeze is blowing from the street. How wonderful Moscow is! Far away on the Lenin Hills glows the brightly-lighted building of the university.

Lena knows that now she will be healthy, that she will be able to study again, that now the doors of that magnificent palace of learning are open to her, as to any other young citizen of the Soviet Land.



A heart operation in progress. The anaesthetic is administered by intubation with the help of special apparatus. With this apparatus any combination of anaesthetic gases with a high oxygen content can be administered; the apparatus also provides for artificial respiration. The instrument on the left is for measuring blood pressure. An electric pump that is housed together with the gas cylinders in the adjoining room, and an electric knife are operated from the control panel on the table



Four-year-old Sasha Solovyov was in a very serious condition owing to congenital heart-disease. A year ago he was operated on, and now he feels very well



Eighteen-year-old Lena Larikova (right) suffered from congenital heart-disease. An operation cured her. Here she is seen with Nurse Maria Denisova in the hospital garden



Alexander Meshcheryakov also suffered from a heart-disease. A year ago he was operated on according to the new method elaborated by Soviet science, and now he even rides a bicycle

YOUNG PIONEERS IN SUMMER

Photographs by V. Mikosha and I. Petkov



A bugle-call sounds far into the forest. It is time to go back to camp for lunch

The school year is over. The holidays are here. It is the time for rest, for sports, for fascinating hiking trips and excursions.

When winter still lay all around, children at school and at home were already discussing their plans for the summer. And they had something to discuss, for ahead of them lay almost three months that could be full of fun and interest. And so some decided to go to a Young Pioneer camp, others to make a trip with a party of young hikers, yet others to spend their holiday at a health resort or go and live in the country. Many were looking forward to sports contests. Some decided to devote their leisure to their favourite hobby—building model ships or aeroplanes, or training for and taking part in sports competitions. . . .

The Soviet State spends lavishly on the education of the young, and on providing recreation facilities for them. In picturesque surroundings—on the sea-coast, in the forests, on the banks of rivers and lakes—Young Pioneer camps, country houses and health-building homes have been built for the children. The young folk who for some reason stay in town in summer have not been forgotten either. For them city Young Pioneer camps have been organized where they, too, can find plenty to interest and amuse them. Such camps are run by schools, house-manager's offices, and clubs; in many a park you will find a well-equipped camp with its own sports ground, bathing and boating facilities, and circles where amateur talent and hobbies are cultivated.

Last summer more than 8,000 country Young Pioneer camps were functioning and 2,800,000 school children spent holidays in them; 8,000,000 made trips to various parts of the Soviet Union and more than 1,000,000 attended urban Young Pioneer camps. Even more impressive figures are expected this year. On organizing holidays in Young Pioneer camps this year the trade unions alone will spend upwards of 1,000 million rubles.

Passes to Young Pioneer camps, health-building homes and tourist centres are provided at reduced rates; parents pay only a fraction of their actual cost, the remainder being paid by the State and the trade unions. Many children receive passes free of charge.

Every factory and office makes careful preparations for the summer, to ensure that the children of its workers get the best possible holiday.

Life is gay and exciting in the Young Pioneer camps. The children go for rambles and sight-seeing tours, join enthusiastically in the activities of various circles, read good books, and play games. Writers, scientists, artistes, and front-rank workers often come to visit them, and many a good story is told round the traditional Young Pioneer camp-fire in the evenings. Good accommodation and care, and wholesome, varied, well-cooked food is provided at the camps. Every camp has its own teachers, organizers, and medical staff.

Well-rested and invigorated, the boys and girls will go back to school in autumn with a host of new impressions they will long remember. There will be no end to the stories they will tell of what they had learnt, seen and heard, and the whole school will admire the herbariums, diaries, photographs, drawings, and all the other treasures they will bring back with them from camp and expedition.

This little girl is not yet a Young Pioneer. "When I grow up a bit," she says, "I'll go on holiday to a Pioneer camp too, and learn to swim without a float!"



With forests, fields, and river banks to explore, Soviet school children on their summer holidays in the Young Pioneer camps spend all day long in the fresh air



Catch it!



A party of hikers in the mountains of the Caucasus

In Gorky Recreation Park, Moscow. Young shipbuilders try out their models



There are many interesting things to do at a Young Pioneer camp, but these youngsters are sure that the most interesting occupation is fishing



Below is the beach of Artek, the big health resort for Young Pioneers in the Crimea. The launch in the background is also for the children



OUR TALENTED YOUTH

Photographs by A. Garanin



A rehearsal of the students' symphony orchestra of the Moscow Conservatoire

The Soviet people are very fond of art. Theatres, concert halls and picture galleries are always full to overflowing. Workers, collective farmers, office employees, soldiers and officers, doctors and schoolteachers, engineers and scientific workers, people of the most varied professions occupy their leisure hours with music, singing and painting, take part in plays and dancing displays at their clubs. And perhaps we should mention here that trade unions alone run some 9,000 clubs and Palaces of Culture in the Soviet Union.

Popular talent is given full scope in our country. Hundreds of thousands of gifted young people are studying at music schools, theatrical institutes, conservatoires, and special middle and higher schools of art. Not long ago many of them were workers, collective farmers, or office employees, people who performed only as amateurs.

Amateur performance is an unquenchable source of popular talent. In the clubs and Palaces of Culture, at the factories, mills, and offices there are over 125,000 amateur groups run on funds from the trade unions, which pay a lot of attention to fostering popular talent. Over 2,000,000 people belong to these groups. Amateur stage art is also flourishing at the collective farms.

In the Soviet Union regular amateur talent reviews have become a traditional event. At district, regional and republic reviews singers, dancers, and actors perform individually and in troupes. The best of them are

Yuri Umrikhin and Alexei Zhitkov, of the Leningrad Theatre of Opera and Ballet, perform the "Tumblers' dance"



Victor Kukhta, a student at the Kiev Conservatoire who plays the bandura. The Conservatoire has a special class for performers on this ancient musical instrument beloved by the Ukrainian people



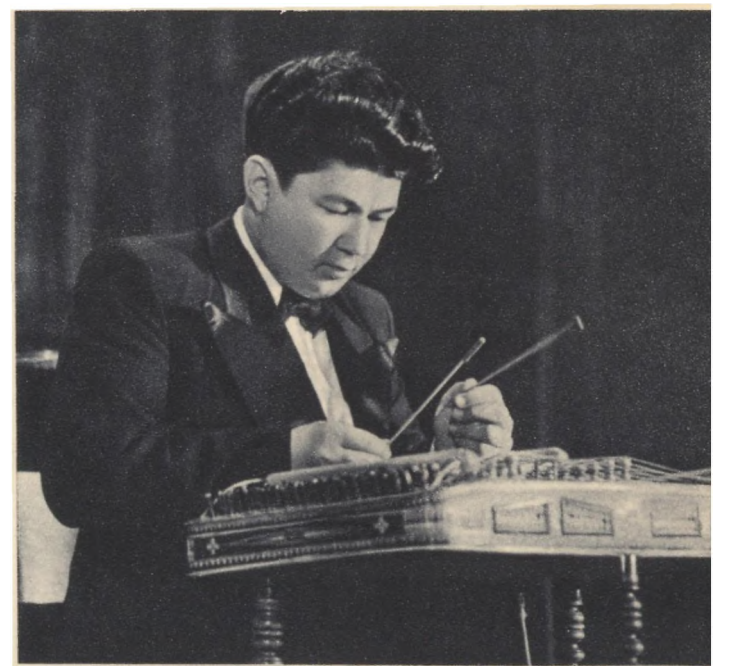
The Khorezm dance performed by the young Uzbek dancers Klara Yusupova and Uchkun Ganiev



Igor Kozolupov, a first-year student at the Moscow Conservatoire, has become known for his excellent 'cello playing



The young ballet performers Gyulnara Mavayeva and Uchkun Ganiev perform an Uighur dance



The chang, an Uzbek instrument, responds wonderfully to the touch of Faizil Kharratov, a student at the Tashkent Conservatoire

On the left is Nelly Kurgapkina, a young ballerina at the Leningrad Theatre of Opera and Ballet

selected for all-Union reviews in Moscow. After taking part in one of these reviews those who show especial talent are sent to music, choreographical, and theatrical schools, while sometimes they are immediately taken on by theatres in the capital, where great care is taken to perfect their natural talent. Many actors, musicians, singers, and dancers who are now well known throughout the country began their career in amateur groups, where the vigilant eye of an experienced leader saw in them the makings of an artiste.

Soviet audiences always show a great interest when a new name appears in the cinema, theatre, or at concert performances. And new names keep continuously appearing. Not long ago few people had heard of Nelly Kurgapkina, but today there is scarcely a Leningrader who has not heard the name of the young ballet soloist at the Theatre of Opera and Ballet.

A few years ago Alexander Rezhikov, the son of a Moscow lorry-driver, showed a wonderful talent for playing the accordion. From his amateur group the boy was sent to a Moscow music school. Now, this seventeen-year-old boy is preparing to take part in the fourth World Youth Festival.

Quite recently the young coloratura Galina Oleinichenko was working at a kolkhoz. The first people to hear her sing were the Ukrainian collective farmers



Khalida Akhtyamova, a promising young violinist



The "Gift" dance performed by Bibisara Beishenalieva, who came to the Leningrad Choreographical School a few years ago from a distant village in Kirghizia



The Pyatnitsky Russian Folk Song Ensemble is very popular in the Soviet Union. No less popular is its dancing group. In this picture three of its dancers Andrei Klimov, Pyotr Sorokin and Vladimir Shubarin perform the Russian Pereplyas



Natasha Yuzbasheva, a young pianist studying in the tenth form of the Central Music School at the Moscow Conservatoire

when she gave concerts in the kolkhoz club. Galina's friends advised her to take lessons. Now her unusually beautiful voice has acquired a fresh subtlety of tone.

Talented young Soviet performers have had considerable success at three world youth and student festivals. Just now gifted young people all over the country are busily rehearsing for the fourth festival. Many outstanding talents have come to the fore. Among them are the singer Boris Shtokolov, a student at the Sverdlovsk Conservatoire, the young pianist Natasha Yuzbasheva who is still a schoolgirl, Igor Kozolupov, a 'cello student at the Moscow Conservatoire, and the Uzbek dancer Uchkun Ganiev. An inspired performer of works by Kazakh and Russian composers is the young singer Yermek Serkebaev, who performs at the Kazakh State Theatre of Opera and Ballet in the city of Alma Ata.

The list could be continued endlessly; more and more new talent is springing from the people. The country takes an affectionate interest in their growth, helps them to perfection and puts them on the high road to great achievement in art.



Boris Shtokolov sings Russian songs. He is a student at the Sverdlovsk Conservatoire with a fine bass voice

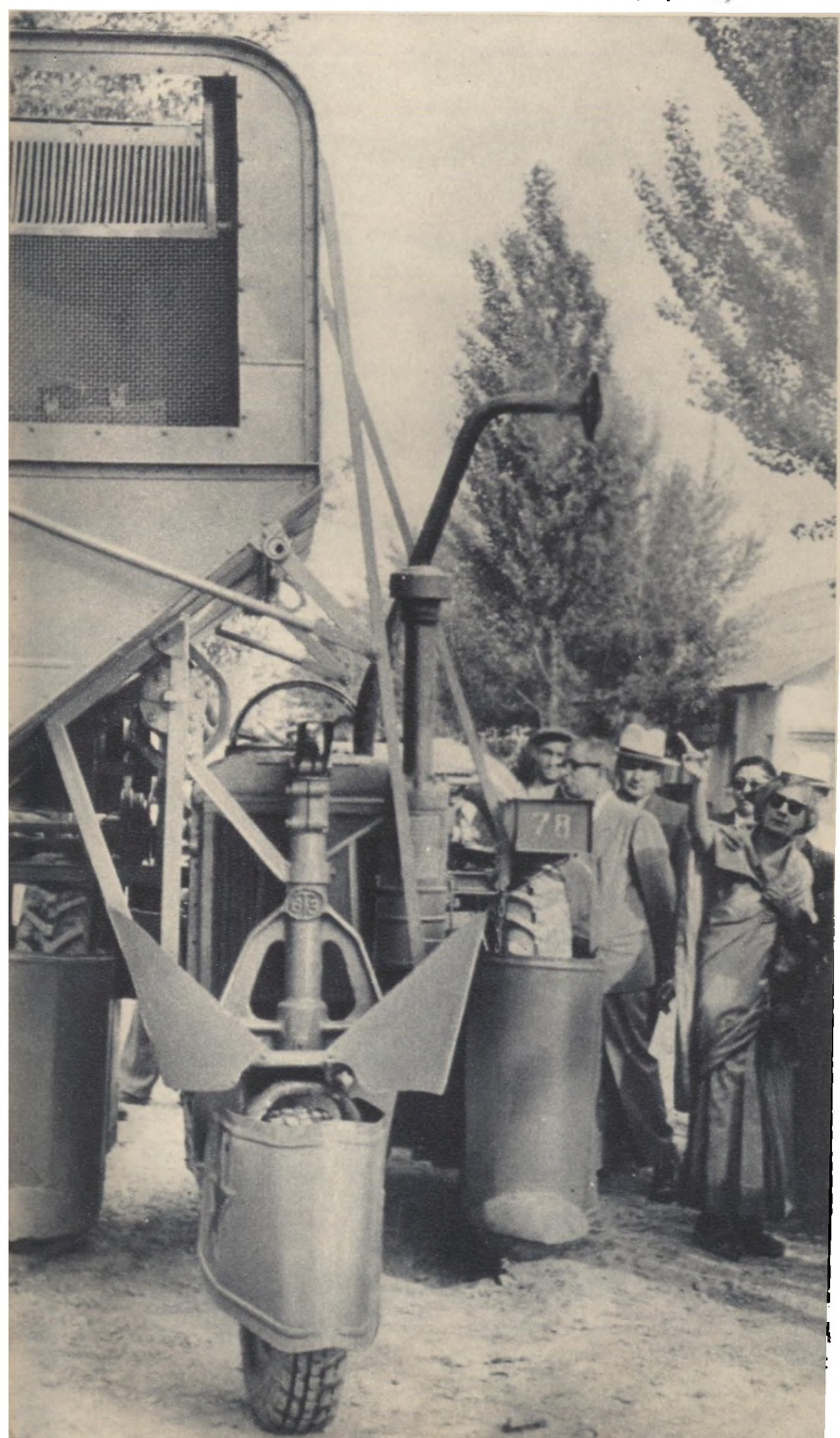


Fifth-year singing students at Leningrad Conservatoire, Talsia Syrovatko (left) and Bella Kalyada



MOSCOW. The Soviet public widely observed the 2230th death-anniversary of the great Chinese poet and patriot Tsu Yuan. The picture shows the presidium at the joint commemoration meeting of the Soviet Peace Committee, the Union of Soviet Writers, and the Institute of World Literature of the USSR Academy of Sciences
Photographed by Y. Berliner

YANGI-YUL. Madame Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Minister for Health, visited the Soviet Union to acquaint herself with the public health system in the USSR and other aspects of Soviet life. Below Madame Kaur and her companions are seen inspecting a cotton harvester at the Yangi-Yul Machine and Tractor Station, Tashkent Region
Photographed by I. Dushkin



Here and There



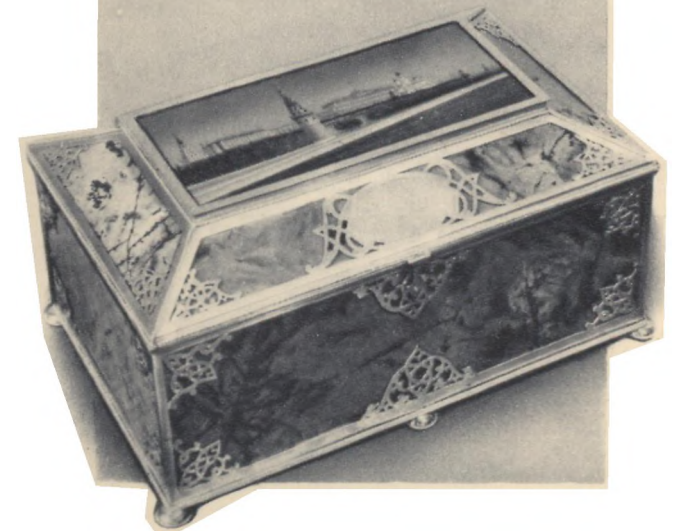
KISHINEV. Moldavian collective farms fly fruit to Moscow. The fruit crop is being gathered now in the southern areas. Daily dozens of aeroplanes carry fruit to the industrial areas of the Soviet North, East and West
Photographed by P. Lisenkin



STALINABAD. Collective farmers A. Rakhmanov, D. Tillayev, and S. Ishanov read a fresh issue of the humorous and satirical magazine "Khorpushtak" ("Hedgehog"), a new publication, in Tajikistan
Photographed by N. Sofyin



The album and casket were presented to the city of Stockholm on its 700th anniversary by M. A. Yasnov, Chairman of the Moscow Soviet of Working People's Deputies. The Soviet Union was represented at the Stockholm anniversary celebrations by M. A. Yasnov and K. K. Rodionov, USSR Ambassador to Sweden. After a word of greeting, M. A. Yasnov presented the city with an album picturing the sights of Moscow, whose 800th anniversary was observed a few years ago, and a casket made of Russian stones, finished in gilt silver of fine workmanship. The inscription "To the City of Stockholm on Its 700th Anniversary From the City of Moscow" is engraved on the lid of the casket, which has a picture of the Moscow Kremlin
Photographed by A. Tartakovsky



MOSCOW. One of the first self-propelled tea-plucking machines the production of which was recently begun at a Moscow factory. They will facilitate mechanization of the country's tea plantations. The machine gathers as many as 90 kilogrammes (198 pounds) in one hour
Photographed by M. Ananyin



Merited Master of Sport Victor Ilchenko, the famous Soviet glider-pilot, set a new world record recently when he made a straight-line flight of 829 kilometres 822 metres in the two-seater glider "A-10." He was in the air more than 9 hours. His result is 210 kilometres better than the world record established in 1938 by I. Kartashov, also of the USSR

Photographed by S. Emushev



Merited Master of Sport Alexander Anufriev, the well-known Soviet long-distance runner, established a new USSR record for the 3,000 metres at Dynamo Stadium, Moscow, on June 21. His time was 8:11.6

Photographed by N. Volkov



Nina Otkolenko set a new world record in the 800-metre run. She was clocked in 2:8.2

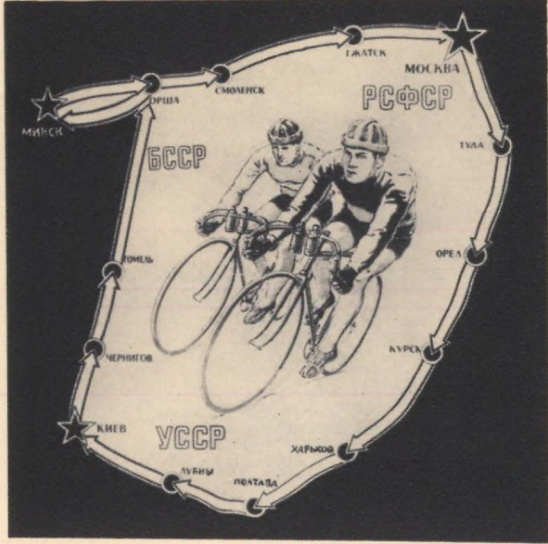
Photographed by V. Kivrin



Right: Virve and Öie Gustel, who won the title of USSR motor-cycle champions, 1953, for machines of the 125 and 350 c.c. classes

Photographed by N. Karasev

МОСКВА-ХАРЬКОВ-КИЕВ-МИНСК-МОСКВА



Here we see the start, in Moscow on June 18, of a many-day bicycle race over a 2,257-km. course. The more than 80 competitors were grouped in 16 teams representing different sport societies. The route was: Moscow-Tula-Orel-Kursk-Kharkov-Poltava-Lubny-Kiev-Chernigov-Gomel-Orsha-Minsk-Orsha-Smolensk-Gzhatsk-Moscow. The race ended on July 5. It was won by the first team of the Central House of the Soviet Army. Its captain, Rodislav Chizhikov, became the USSR champion in many-day bicycle racing. Left: A chart of the route

Photographed by V. Ktorin



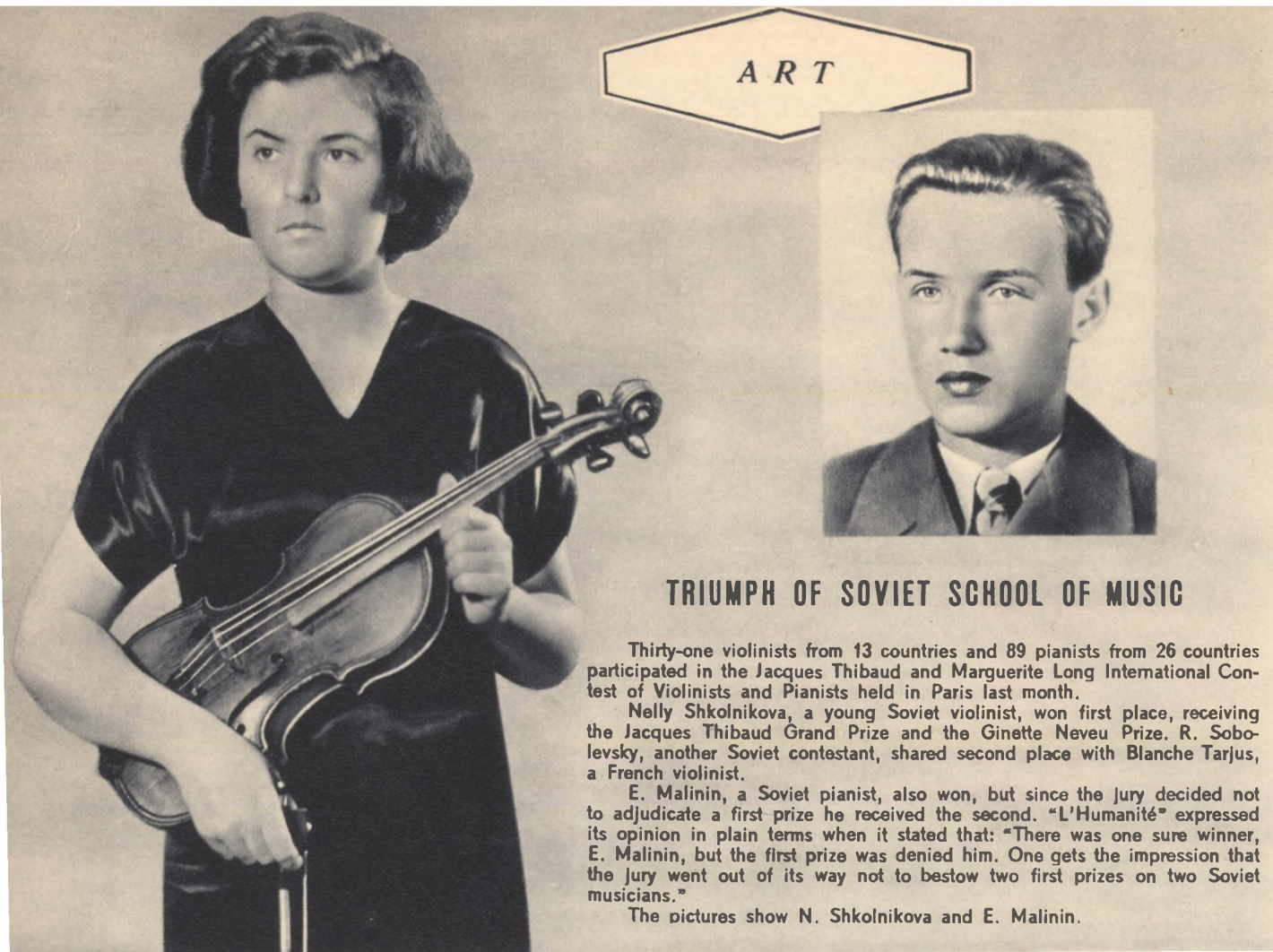
Horses from the collective farms of Burannoe and Sol-Iletsk districts. This race was one of the events of an equestrian sports show held at the hippodrome in Chkalov, during which about 200 thoroughbreds raised at the kolkhoz, sovkhos and state studs of Chkalov Region and the Bashkir Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic were put through their paces

Photographed by I. Baranov

I. Zatul, jockey, is shown here with Zator, a three-year-old belonging to the Budyonny Kolkhoz, which won the 1,800-metre race at the opening of a hippodrome in Salsk (Rostov Region). Riding Zator and Listok, I. Zatul won two opening-of-the-season prizes

Photographed by A. Abuladze





TRIUMPH OF SOVIET SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Thirty-one violinists from 13 countries and 89 pianists from 26 countries participated in the Jacques Thibaud and Marguerite Long International Contest of Violinists and Pianists held in Paris last month.

Nelly Shkolnikova, a young Soviet violinist, won first place, receiving the Jacques Thibaud Grand Prize and the Ginette Neveu Prize. R. Sobolevsky, another Soviet contestant, shared second place with Blanche Tarjus, a French violinist.

E. Malinin, a Soviet pianist, also won, but since the jury decided not to adjudicate a first prize he received the second. "L'Humanité" expressed its opinion in plain terms when it stated that: "There was one sure winner, E. Malinin, but the first prize was denied him. One gets the impression that the jury went out of its way not to bestow two first prizes on two Soviet musicians."

The pictures show N. Shkolnikova and E. Malinin.



"The Decembrists," a new opera by the well-known Soviet composer Yuri Shaporin, had its initial performance recently at the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow. The opera, whose première was a deserved success, is about the Decembrist uprising organized by Russian revolutionaries from among the nobility who were inspired by the lofty ideals of freedom and justice. On December 14, 1825, a group of progressive Russian officers, known in history as the Decembrists, led to the Senate Square part of the St. Petersburg garrison.

The uprising was crushed and its leaders either executed or exiled to hard labour in Siberia. We see in the pictures two scenes from the opera: on the Senate Square and the masked ball. Photographed by N. Sakhovsky

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Valve Veski is one of the best woman workers at the Punane Kolt knitted goods factory in Tallinn, capital of Soviet Estonia. A good organizer who takes a keen part in many social activities, she also sets a fine example in her work, exceeding her quota day after day

Photo by N. Khorunzhy



BACK COVER: Talented seventeen-year-old Alexander Rezhikov, lorry-driver's son, plays the accordion to his friends. Recently a member of an amateur group, this young accordion-player is now studying at a Moscow music school. Alexander lives at Skhodnya near Moscow and the local youth often gather round him to listen to his wonderful playing

Photo by A. Garanin

