Ukrainians just aren't Russians

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By EARL ARNETT

Wolodymyr C. Sushko prefers "big mosaic" as a term to describe the ethnic variety of the United States instead of "melting pot," the more familiar stereotype.

"People can nurture their cultural heritage here and can also contribute to this country," he said. "Understanding your cultural heritage makes you a better citizen who can contribute to the whole."

Mychajlo Choma, principal of the "School of Ukrainian Sciences," nodded his head in agreement. Both men were talking to their visitor at the school's headquarters in the building belonging to the Ukrainian Self Reliance Association at 239 South Broadway.

During the regular school year, 31 students in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades come here from 9 A.M. to about 2 P.M. every Saturday to study the Ukrainian language, literature, geography, history and culture.

"Through gaining an understanding and love of their own cultural heritage, the Ukrainian students gain a better understanding of and respect for the cultural heritage of other ethnic groups in this country," they wrote this year in the school's application for Maryland accreditation.

"The use of Ukrainian language makes them fluent in another language at an early age. This may encourage them to learn additional languages in their public schools. Being immersed in Ukrainian cultural studies, and at the same time attending the public schools, students have a chance to share their experiences with children from other ethnic groups; this is a '*Plus*' in their education by adding private to public education rather than eliminating one or the other."

The students pay a nominal tuition to a parents committee that administers the school. The three teachers volunteer their services and conduct all the classes in Ukranian.

Most of the students know each other well by this time. They have studied together in the Saturday schools for younger children located at St. Michael's Catholic Ukranian Church of the Byzantine Rite on South Wolfe street, and St. Peter & Paul's Ukranian Catholic Church in the Curtis Bay area. Many of them also belong to Plast, the Ukranian scouting organization, as well as other youth organizations.

Although people with Ukranian names were in North America as early as the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, the majority of Ukrainians did not immigrate to this country until after the Civil War. They came by way of New York and populated that state, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, manning the coal mines and filling the factories.

The first Ukrainians probably arrived in Baltimore around 1890. Most of them had come from the western portions of the region, particularly from Galicia, then part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. Like many other immigrants, they found jobs, built churches around their neighborhoods, established self-help societies, schools, clubs and other groups to help make the adjustment to a new country.

Immigration stopped during World War I, slowed down to a trickle in the 1920's and 1930's, and picked up considerably after World War II, when over 85,000 refugee Ukrainians were admitted into the United States after passage of the Displaced Persons Act in 1948.

As with similar immigrations from Eastern Europe, the last group of Ukrainians were generally better educated then earlier groups, most of whom were farmers from rural areas. The postwar immigration of the late 1940's included people from all over the Ukraine, many of them professional people seeking escape from the Soviet Union, which reasserted its forced inclusion of the Ukraine as a Soviet Socialist Republic in 1945.

"There are around 3,000 Ukrainians in Baltimore now," said Mr. Sushko. "It's the smallest community on the East Coast and the last one south. There are 50,00 or more Ukrainians in Philadel-

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Ukrainians really aren't Russians

UKRAINE, from B1

phia and New York and close to 100,000 in Chicago."

The history of the Ukraine goes back to the Sixth Century when the first Slavic tribes began inhabiting this fertile area north of the Black Sea. By the Tenth Century an empire centered in Kiev had become the cultural and political capital of most of Eastern Europe.

Invasions from the east finally led to the fall of Kiev in 1169, and many of the tribes went their own cultural way, leading eventually to the modern nationalities of Ukrainian, Russian and Byelorussian. Under Lithuanian and later Polish control in the Fourteenth Century, the Ukraine became an area dominated by other nations that has continued to the present.

The Cossacks carved out a romantic part of Ukraininan history in the Seventeenth Century, but they did not last long. By 1800 the Ukraine was completely under the control of Russian czars. Taras Shevchenko, the country's most famous poet, spurred a revival of Ukrainian nationalism in the mid-1800's. After the czarist empire collapsed with the Bolshevist revolution in 1917, the Ukrainians declared themselves an independent state in 1918. But the new state only lasted about two years. The Ukraine was carved up by treaty in the early 1920's with the bulk incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1923.

To call a Ukrainian a Russian, according to the students at the Saturday school, is like calling a Frenchman a German. With a distinct language, history and culture, the Ukrainians in the United States resent being ignored under the general label "Russian." Such perception only aids the Russian cultural imperialism within the Soviet Union, they say.

Paul Fenchak, a teacher at Pikesville Senior High School, is also the secondary school coordinator of the Association for the Study of the Nationalities (U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe) Inc. For years he has probed the reasons behind the lack of American knowledge of Slavic culture and history.

American school curriculum planners and even professional scholars have either ignored this part of the world or succumbed to Russian interpretations of events, he maintained. The result has been a general failure in this country to grasp the complexity of an area that includes Russians, Ukranians, Byelorussians, Poles, Slovaks, Czechs, Serbians, Croatians, Slovenes and Bulgarians. Non-Slavic countries with distinct identities within Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have also been misunderstood or ignored, he said.

Just as Americans are beginning to revise their textbooks and perceptions in relation to minorities within the United States, so will we have to correct and improve our understanding of the many cultures in Central and Eastern Europe, he said. Otherwise we will be basing our decisions and opinions on myth and propaganda instead of truth.

The Baltimore Ukranian community will present an ethnic festival Saturday and Sunday at Hopkins Plaza in an effort to close such cultural gaps. Part of this year's "Showcase of Nations," promoted by the city, the event will feature food, music, arts, crafts and dance. The students of the Saturday school will participate. They want the public to know more, they said. They're tired of meeting puzzled looks when they tell someone they're Ukrainian.

Available in October, 1977 . . . . . A Bicentennial Era book by the Ukrainian Education Association of Maryland, Inc.:

The Ukrainians of Maryland

Edited by Stephen Basarab, Paul Fenchak, and Wolodymyr C. Sushko, the book contains 450 pages and over 200 photos. Many previously unpublished materials and photos of Marylandia and Ucrainica are included.

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Chapter Four

Geography of Ukrainian Population in Maryland

Hlib S. Hayuk

The early pioneers who arrived in small numbers from 1620 to the 1870's settled widely throughout the United States from Jamestown, Virginia, to California, Alaska, and Hawaii. It seems that no section of the country held a special attraction for Ukrainians. As a result there was no definite geographical concentration of Ukrainians anywhere in the United States at this time.

Beginning about 1877, when the first mass migration of Ukrainians took place, they tended to settle in the northeastern part of the United States. These immigrants were attracted by jobs and economic opportunities which were available in the industrial and urbanized northeast. The geographical sketch established by the first mass wave created the pattern of settlement for the other waves that followed. The only major exception to the rule was the post World War II influx of political refugees who, although tending to follow the previous settlement outline, inclined to diverge considerably and moved in large numbers to the south, southwest, and the west coast of the United States.

Immigration records maintained between 1899 and 1930 showed that for every 100 Ukrainians 43% indicated Pennsylvania as their destination, drawn primarily by employment openings in coal mines and steel mills of that state. An additional 23% listed New York and 11% New Jersey, led there chiefly by various jobs in industry and transportation and secondarily by farm land available in

the Mohawk Valley of New York and the coastal plain of New Jersey. As thus officially recorded three quarters of all Ukrainians during this time settled in three northeastern states. Of the others, 4% listed Ohio, 4% Illinois, 3% Connecticut, 3% Massachusetts, 2% Michigan and 7% seven different states, including Maryland.

Today the vast majority of Ukrainians is found in the same places. During and following World War II and accelerating in the 1960's, an internal movement of Ukrainians in the United States occurred. Thousands moved outside of the original northeast states, establishing Ukrainian communities in the south; in cities like Miami, Atlanta, Richmond and Arlington; in the southwest, in Houston, Denver, and Phoenix; and on the west coast, in Los Angeles, Hollywood, San Francisco and Seattle.

The post World War II internal movement of Ukrainians is partially due to second and third generation Ukrainians leaving the northeast for better economic opportunities and partially because of the thousands of professionals who entered the country during the 1947 to 1955 period and accepted employment wherever it was available. Pockets and clusters of Ukrainians today can be found in practically every American city. Many Ukrainians stay in touch with their *kraiani* (countrymen) through the ethnic press, fraternal organizations, various associations, youth camps and even common vacation areas for young and old such as Kerhonkson and Hunter in New York, or Wildwood Crest in New Jersey, just to name several out of many.

Geographical space is no longer looked upon as an insurmountable obstacle for maintaining contact with the community. Likewise, what may appear to be geographically isolated pockets or small communities may not feel small at all because they are in constant touch with other communities all over the state of Maryland or even other parts of the country.

Based upon church records, rosters of various organizations and extensive field work by the authors of this book, it is felt that there are approximately 20,000 Marylanders of Ukrainian extraction living in the state.

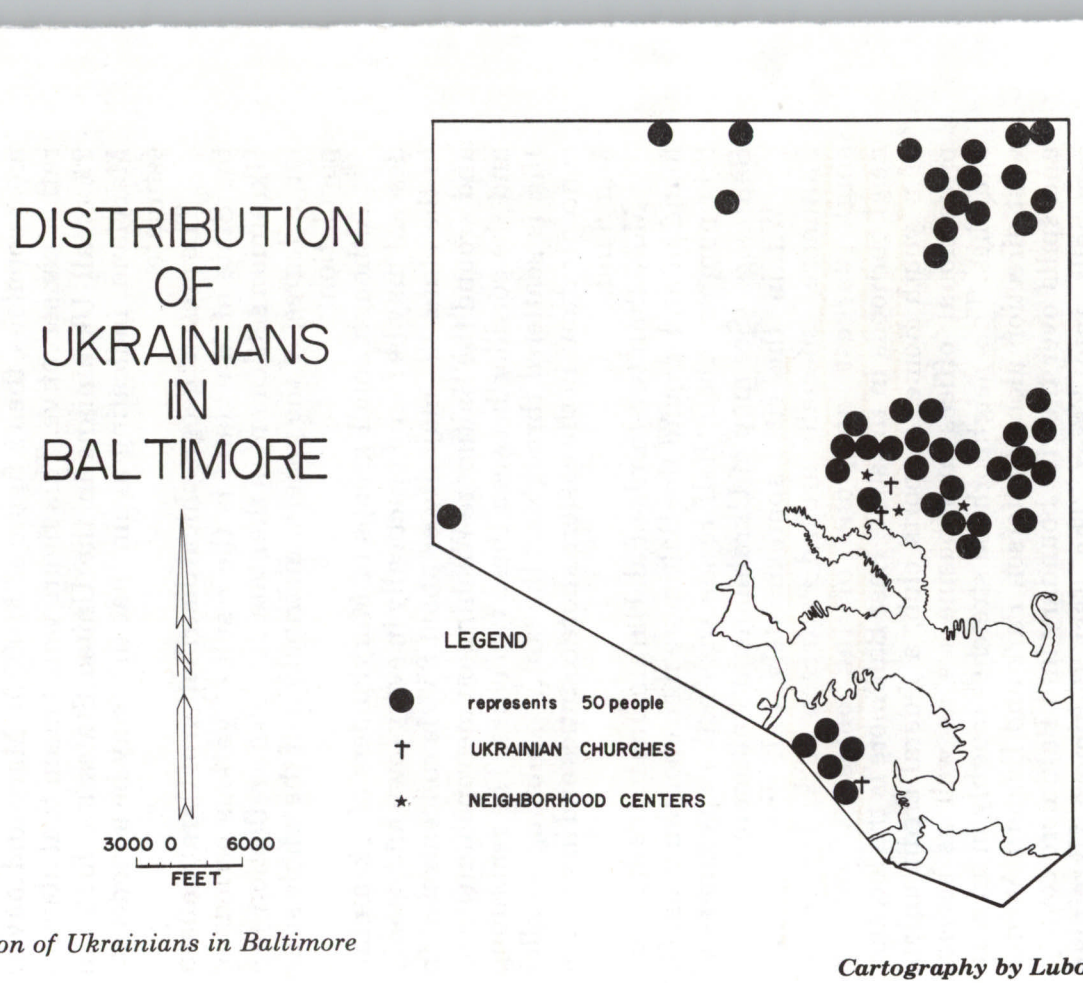
The figure of 20,000 Ukrainians for the state of Maryland is not at all exorbitant. If it is considered that there are between 1.2 and 1.5 million Ukrainians in the United States (and perhaps over 2 million according to some authorities), and that the vast majority is located in the northeastern states with Maryland's neighbor, Pennsylvania, being the most populous, then a figure of 20,000 for Maryland may be rather conservative. This figure would mean that about 1-2% of all Ukrainians in the United States are found in Maryland, indicating again that this may be a moderate estimate.

The present geographical distribution of Ukrainians in the State of Maryland is the result of various periods of Ukrainian settlement in the state. It is also a reflection, to a large degree, of the general distribution of the whole state population.

Although small groups of Marylanders of Ukrainian descent may be found practically in every town and county in the state, the majority or about 85% is concentrated in and around the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan areas and the corridor between these two cities. The remaining 15% is scattered throughout the state, exhibiting smaller concentrations in the eastern shore counties and in western Maryland.

More than two-thirds of all Ukrainians in the state are found in and around the Baltimore metropolitan area. Of this number, about half reside within the city limits of Baltimore. (See map of Ukrainians in Baltimore.)

Within the city approximately half live in East Baltimore, especially around Patterson Park. This is the single largest and one of the oldest Ukrainian neighborhoods in the state. East Baltimore is the location of a youth home, a sports club, a federal credit union, professional offices and businesses as well as several churches. This neighborhood stretches roughly in an east-west direction along Patterson Park and Eastern Avenue and spills over the city boundary into Baltimore county, especially into Essex. The East Baltimore Ukrainian neighborhood experienced a large influx of people after World War II. Today the neighborhood is decreasing in size



Distribution of Ukrainians in Baltimore

Cartography by Lubomyr Blaszkiw

and in geographical area as the first and second generation Maryland-born Ukrainians acquire better education and more gainful employment, many of whom then move into the suburbs, especially into the southern part of Baltimore County but also to new communities such as Columbia in Howard County, between Baltimore and Washington.

The second, less distinct and less compact, Ukrainian neighborhood is found in the northeastern corner of the city, popularly referred to as Hamilton. Quite a few post World War II Ukrainians have purchased homes in this area running along Harford and Bel Air Roads to reinforce the already considerable number of Ukrainians already settled there. This neighborhood spreads into southern Baltimore County into Perry Hall and Parkville communities.

The third very distinct but smaller Ukrainian neighborhood is located in the southern part of the city known as Curtis Bay. It extends into adjacent Anne Arundel County.

The fourth area of Ukrainian residence in the city is found along north Charles and north York roads blending into southern Baltimore County in the Towson and Ruxton communities. This area is inhabited by the more affluent and some professionals. A few Ukrainian families are also found in the southwestern part of the city which merges into Catonsville in the southwestern part of Baltimore County and into Ellicott City in adjacent Howard County.

Outside of Baltimore city there is a heavy concentration of Ukrainians in Baltimore County, especially in Towson, Lutherville, Parkville, Perry Hall and Essex communities. Smaller numbers are found in Timonium, northern Baltimore County, Pikesville, Randallstown, Reisterstown and Catonsville.

In Howard County there are many Ukrainian professionals and a few farmers, especially of the post World War II category, who have settled in Columbia and Ellicott City.

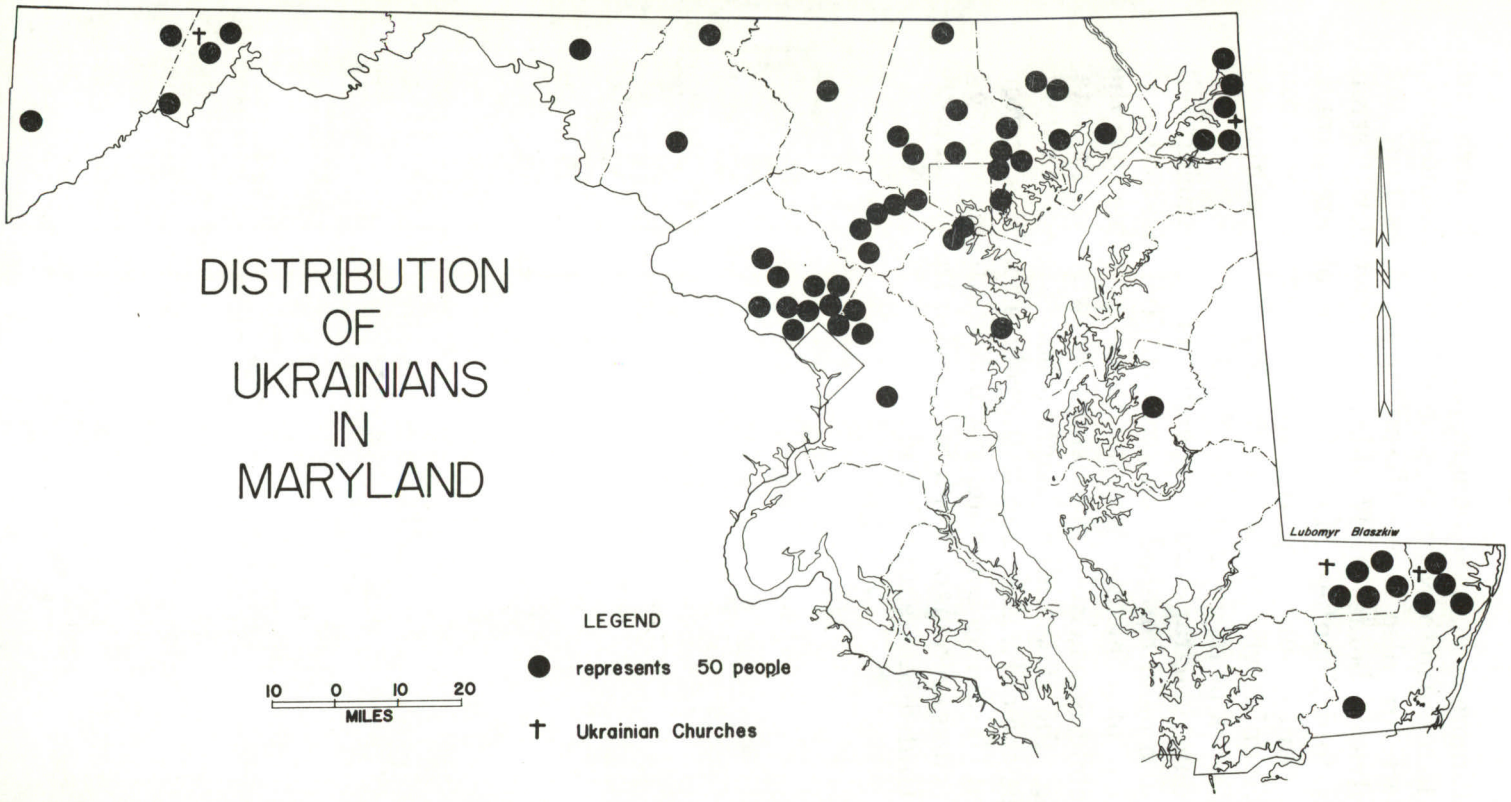
Outside of the Baltimore metropolitan area the next highest gathering of Ukrainians is found in the

Washington metropolitan area in southern Montgomery County and adjacent northern part of Prince George's County. This is the second most populous cluster of Ukrainians in the state. Most of the inhabitants here are federal employees working in and around Washington, D.C., although some are professionals and a few are in business. The inhabitants of this Washington cluster consist of mostly post World War II arrivals but also of many second and third generation Ukrainians predominantly those born in Pennsylvania but including significant numbers from other states and even Canada. The Washington Ukrainian community is well organized, maintaining several churches and supporting many organizations, including an exemplarily conducted elementary school of Ukrainian studies. This community is growing constantly as new arrivals, comprised mostly of young couples, obtain government jobs.

The third Ukrainian cluster is found on the eastern shore around Whaleysville in Worcester County and Salisbury in Wicomico County. Several Ukrainian families live near Pocomoke City in Worcester County. Practically all of these people are involved in farming although a few are in business activities related to Ocean City, Maryland. Some of the residents are already second and third generation Marylanders, although many are post World War II settlers and recent retirees.

The fourth Ukrainian cluster is found in the eastern part of Cecil County centered on Chesapeake City where there is a Ukrainian orphanage and a church. All of these people are second and third generation Marylanders and are involved in farming or work in nearby Elkton, on the Chesapeake-Delaware Canal, or in Wilmington or Newark in Delaware.

The fifth and last Ukrainian cluster is found in western Maryland in Allegheny and Garrett Counties. Many of these people came here when coal mining was an important activity. Today the community is decreasing in size as the second and third generation people pass away or move from the area because of the lack of economic opportunities. A few post World War II Ukrainians, who originally settled in



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Cartography by Lubomyr Blaszkiw

the Baltimore area, have bought property in the area and intend to retire in the vicinity, especially near Round Lake.

There are also some Ukrainian families near the Pennsylvania border in Washington, Frederick, Carroll and Harford Counties. Most of these people are second, third, and fourth generation Ukrainians from Pennsylvania who turned away from coal mining to factory work or farming in Maryland.

Today geographical dispersal is influencing all Ukrainian neighborhoods and communities. Scattering of members of cohesive groups, made possible by the automobile, is generally increasing everywhere in the state, diluting the Ukrainian neighborhoods and clusters. Perhaps the only exception to the rule is the Washington oriented Ukrainian community which is attracting people from various sections of the state as well as from other parts of the United States and Canada.

Reserve your copies now at $5.95 per copy, plus (Maryland residents only) 30¢ Maryland sales tax=$6.25. If to be mailed add 50¢ for postage and handling. Send order to John Malko, Treasurer, Ukrainian Education Ass'n, 1012 S. Bouldin St., Baltimore, Md. 21224.

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