

Features

Entertainer recalls service

USO celebrates 40th birthday

United Press International
SALT LAKE CITY — Entertainment provided by the United Service Organizations isn't always Bob Hope and pretty girls singing and dancing on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier.

Sometimes it's Eugene Jelesnik and his violin entertaining half a dozen airmen in a radar dome in the wilds of Alaska.

The USO celebrated its 40th birthday Wednesday. Russian born Jelesnik has worked for the organization for 37 of those years as an entertainer and national board member.

Jelesnik, a short, balding man of 66, looks more like an agent than a performer. But he has been in show business since he was in his teens. He had his own orchestra on Broadway, appeared on some pioneer TV programs in the 1930s and has hosted a weekly TV variety show in Salt Lake City for 26 years.

He also has taken troupes of

entertainers on 19 tours for the USO. He calculates he has traveled two million miles and performed in front of half a million servicemen. His tours have taken him throughout the Far East, the Pacific, Europe and the Caribbean — and to remote outposts in Alaska and Iceland.

Jelesnik made his first tour in 1944, to military hospitals across the United States. USO then sent him overseas to Italy where he played what became known as the "foxhole circuit."

"There were three of us in that troupe," he said, "a guitarist, a mind reader and me."

"We were right at the front lines. We performed on a flatbed truck and sometimes the troops were in foxholes around us. Being up on the truck bed made us a little nervous."

Jelesnik did a Victor Borge type comedy-music routine, using a violin instead of a piano. He has a similar routine today, but

has replaced the mind reader with pretty girls.

"One thing never changes," he said. "The guys want to see as many girls as possible."

Jelesnik has fiddled and joked for troops in three wars — Vietnam and Korea, in addition to World War II. But he almost didn't survive the first tour.

"We had done a show outside a small town in Italy and decided to sleep that night in the back of an ambulance. When we woke up the next morning the Army was gone."

"We had no idea where we were. I looked around and saw a red cross on a building off in the distance. I figured it was a hospital so I decided to walk up and ask directions."

Jelesnik said he started out walking across a field and as he got closer to the building he noticed patients looking out of windows at him. People also

poured out of the doors and lined up to watch.

"When I got to the hospital, a priest walked up to me and said, 'Son, we prayed for you. You just walked across a mine field.'"

Over the years he has played to crowds ranging in size from six men in an Alaska radar dome to 10,000 troops in Vietnam. He and a troupe of lady performers once spent hours puddle-jumping across the Pacific to reach Marcus Island "where we played for 18 U.S. Coast Guard men."

"They were thrilled," he said. "They hadn't seen any girls in a year."

For his troubles, Jelesnik has won a silver medal citation, a bronze medal and the Civilian Service Award Ribbon, the highest civilian award given by the military. He also received the USO National Council Award in 1978.

Death rays' future in space unlikely

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Despite frequent talk about the use of lasers and particle beams as weapons in space, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist says such space-based death rays are beyond the realm of practicality for the foreseeable future.

"Even if eventually they could be developed, the cost of replacing, supplying and maintaining them would be prohibitive," said Kosta Tsipis in a report to the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In addition, he said energy beams would be fatally vulnerable during their initial stages in space. And even if they were made operational, he said they probably could be neutralized by a variety of countermeasures.

However, Tsipis said airborne lasers as anti-satellite weapons do appear feasible within the next two decades.

Physicists have known for years that concentrated columns of light or beams of atomic particles could carry potentially destructive amounts of energy hundreds or even thousands of miles away.

But unlike today's weapons which use chemical or nuclear explosives, lasers or particle beams must physically hit the target, requiring extremely accurate aiming systems which themselves would pose formidable developmental problems.

The problem with particle beams, Tsipis said, is that the energy would disperse to such an extent that there would not be enough to damage a distant target in space.

It would not be practical, to produce enough energy to deal with that problem.

"One can therefore safely conclude that particle beam weapons are not practical for use from exoatmospheric (space) platforms, even without considering the difficulty of beam aiming and countermeasures that burden a particle beam weapon," he said.

Lasers, on the other hand, would not suffer from such energy dispersion in space, Tsipis said.

But he said a spaceborne laser system capable of delivering knockout pulses to a swarm of intercontinental ballistic missiles would require a high quality light-concentrating mirror perhaps 10 feet in diameter and several thousands of tons of hydrogen and oxygen to generate the energy required.

Tsipis said there is little technical proof that such a mirror could be built "within the visible technical horizon" which he defined as stretching to the end of this century.

In addition, he said an anti-missile laser system in space would have to be able to detect a thousand or so targets, calculate their locations and direct the laser to fire several pulses at each within a few hundred seconds. He said the system also would have to overcome decoys or other countermeasures.

"To conclude, practical space-based directed energy weapons systems are not within the visible technological horizon," he said.

Spanish town suffers daily violence

United Press International
VALLADOLID, Spain — Slogans on the walls of ancient Valladolid tell the story.

"Killing Reds is a sport"
"Reds? No thanks"
"Death to the King"

The cathedral and industrial city 40 miles northwest of Madrid, where Christopher Columbus died in poverty, is a testament to the old Spain — the Spain of Generalissimo Francisco Franco where democracy is a dirty word.

Street violence by young fascists allegedly with police connivance has become a near-daily occurrence, especially in areas declared "Nationalist zones" by militants of the Franco-style New Force Party or the Nazi-styled Falange Party.

"This bullying and disregard for the law has made some areas of Valladolid as dangerous as the red light districts of a port city or the streets of Berlin during the rise of Nazism," the independent newspaper El Pais said recently.

Police and right-wing extremists frequent the same bars and, local police sources say, agree that reformist Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez is a traitor.

Within three months extremists killed two old people in an attack on a Communist Party office and sent four youths to a hospital after beatings and shooting sprees.

They have threatened violence to

dozens of officials including Civil Governor Roman Ledesma and have bombed city hall, Communist Party headquarters, Socialist Party headquarters, trade union offices, university buildings, bookshops, bars and a cinema showing a film on Basque separatist guerrillas.

A Communist militant who was kidnapped and "interrogated" on the outskirts of the city was released after five cigarettes were stubbed out on his face.

Although Valladolid has a strong right-wing tradition, it has voted left in elections since the dictator died in 1975 and was succeeded by the democratic minded King Juan Carlos.

"Valladolid is not a city of the extreme right," says Socialist Mayor Tomas Rodriguez Bolanos. But he accuses the police of going easy on right-wing thugs.

"We are a little surprised to see violent rightists who have been taken into detention walking in the streets soon afterward. These people go on gathering in bars and other well-known hangouts and no one does anything about it."

A local Socialist leader said the party once called police headquarters to alert them to an impending visit by Socialist leader Felipe Gonzalez. Only the party and the police knew of the visit, he said, but the following day city streets were full of graffiti insulting Gonzalez.

In an unprecedented move, a group of anti-fascist policemen recently leaked to a national newspaper a statement denouncing fellow officers for being friends of right-wing thugs. They expressed concern over "the constant invasion of right-wing extremists in the police."

In the Valladolid region, "the (post-Franco) constitution not only

has not been accepted by many police, but has been opposed with poorly veiled energy," they said. "The legality of the ballot box is also scorned."

Responding to criticism, authorities recently reassigned the top two officers and several lower-ranking officers in Valladolid police intelligence.

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30/International - Project management, planning, architecture, engineering, interior architecture, graphic design, and related services. Mr. Gary Boyd, Architect, from 30/International will be available to discuss professional opportunities overseas.

U.S. AID and Government Opportunities Overseas - Dr. Donald Boucher, Director of International Services at TAMU, will be available to talk about work or service opportunity overseas with government agencies.

Chicago Bridge and Iron - Design fabrication and construction of large metal-plate structures for storage of liquids, gases, etc., and related mechanical systems. Mr. Wood, recruiter from Chicago Bridge and Iron will discuss living overseas and international work opportunities.

International Placement through TAMU - Mr. John Gudelman, Assistant Director of Placement at TAMU, will briefly discuss the possibilities available for international placement through his office.

Women in Development and Title XII Strengthening Grant Program - Pamela Swan Horne is currently the administrator of the Title XII Strengthening Grant Program and Women in Development Coordinator at Texas A&M University. Dr. Horne will briefly address research in these areas.

"So You Think You Want a Job Overseas?" - Dr. J. Christiansen, professor in the Department of Agricultural Education, author of several bulletins and many national publications and currently involved in a service project to the Dominican Republic, will be available to talk about requirements for success in overseas work.

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