

April 16, 1961

GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

Hendricks' Married
By Yugoslav Church

NOVI SAD, Yugoslavia (BP)--Our motor trip through Yugoslavia was not landing us in Novi Sad on Sunday. We had little hope of finding mid-week services in this faraway place on Wednesday evening. But that is just what happened!

We arrived at the Baptist church 30 minutes early. The "sisters" were having their meeting in the auditorium. I hoped to sit in on a Yugoslavian "WU," but they were having closing prayer.

Later, our children and I took seats on a rear bench. We felt the curious glances thrown our way. My husband was escorted to a pew seat beside the minister.

I learned later their earnest conversation was an apology, on the minister's part, that my layman-husband could not be invited to bring the message due to state laws. And an assurance, on the part of my capable but very untalkative spouse, that he did not feel slighted at all!

Our drive through Yugoslavia had been thrilling, full of discoveries and adventures. Very seldom had we met people who were genuinely friendly toward us. Due to hotel shortages, we had spent one night in a private home where we were coldly received.

In Novi Sad we found all the love and friendliness that had been lacking elsewhere! Every person present shook the hands of all five of us. Some claimed kinship other than our Baptist bond: "I have a sister living in California!" "My son is working in America!"

We did not understand the sermon, but the hymn tunes were familiar. We followed the Yugoslav words in the hymnals. The prayers were fervent and moving. Though our languages were different, our family all knew we had been in a Baptist prayer meeting when we left Novi Sad Baptist Church!