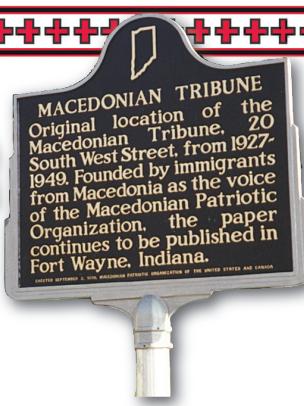


OLDEST MACEDONIAN NEWSPAPER in the world inspires sense of pride for 80 years



From the editor

TRIBUNE belongs to all Macedonians

That the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** has been in continuous publication for 80 years is remarkable. It is a reflection on the dedication of our parents and grandparents, who kept the presses rolling — no matter what. It also reflects our will to continue.

Through the years there have been many changes. And that's acceptable because we as a people also have changed.

Since our newspaper is many different things to our readers, not all expectations will be met in each issue. Often we strain to accommodate the desires of several generations from varied backgrounds.

A few years ago it was decided to focus more on our people and our accomplishments and to print exclusively in English. That editorial policy continues.

Additional articles focus on the topics of the MPO Convention Resolutions — recognition of Macedonia by its constitutional name, NATO and EU membership for Macedonia, territorial integrity between Macedonia and Serbia/Kosovo, expansion of trade and investment in Macedonia and encouragement of the international community to revisit the Treaty of Bucharest which divided Macedonia. At the forefront is the issue of human rights for all

Macedonians. See MPO mission statement page 2.

With an eye to the future, the *Youth Section* was recently resumed, and *Kidz Korner* added. I hope the younger members of your family have noticed and will contribute something in the near future.

Our regular contributors give the paper great diversity and bring new dimensions to the paper.

Luba Rochette has done an outstanding job finding really good recipes to publish each month. Hers is one of the most-read columns in the paper.

Andrea Andrioff Alusheff adds a spark of nostalgia and humor with her memories, hopes and complete commitment to our people, our organization and our newspaper. A few years ago, Andrea asked to add the *Happy Birthday Section*. It is a great way to remember your loved ones. Children in particular enjoy seeing their picture in the paper. The birthday announcements only cost \$5, although some donate more.

George Koroloff writes passionately about human rights for our people everywhere. Our founders must have felt the same ardor since they mention the rights of Macedonians in the very beginning of the MPO by-laws.

George Lebamoff has been relentless in drumming up advertisers. Thanks to his hard work every year, advertising is growing, which impacts our bottom-line.

Box Scores reports the athletic deeds of our people. Remember it the next time your athlete kicks a goal or participates in a sport.

As the **TRIBUNE** reprints front pages of past issues, I hope readers will take the time to read translations of the headlines to know what the **TRIBUNE**-of-old considered newsworthy.

Once in a while I hear people say, "I can't read the Cyrillic. It is too small and not very clear. Why do you waste the space?"

And then, a 16-year-old observes, "It makes me feel comfortable to see those old pages even though I can't read them. I feel an instant connection to my baba and dedo."

In this electronic age, more and more people are turning to the Internet for information, yet **TRIBUNE** readers remain supportive. There is nothing like reading a newspaper over a hot cup of coffee with one eye on TV news.

This issue recaps many points of history of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**, which for 80 years has chronicled the lives of our people in North America as it advanced the cause for a free and independent Macedonia.

Feb. 27, 1927, TRIBUNE covered these stories

Following are translations of page one headlines from the Feb. 10, 1927, issue of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**: Macedonian Tribune — Macedonia — Donations favor Macedonia (Upsurge in New Forces for the Fight; Donations for Macedonia at the Beginning of 1927, In America and in Bulgaria, For the benefit of the Macedonian Liberation Movement) — Photo (Atanas Shinkoff) — In Defense of Macedonia — For the Refugees in Bulgaria. Source: Macedonian Tribune, PAGE ONE, Major Events of the 20th Century, published by the MPO, 1999.

EDITORS of the MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE



† Luben Dimitroff



† Borislav Ivanoff



† Christo N. Nizamoff



† Dimitar Popov



Anton Popov



† Boris Zograffoff



Dorie Atzeff (Reynolds)



† Ivan A. Lebamoff
Chairman
Editorial Board



Dr. Lubomir Todorov



Paul Simoff



Virginia Nizamoff Surso



† Jordan Tchkatroff
Championed the
founding of the paper



† Assen Avramoff
Produced the paper from
October 1930 until 1932

The mission of the Macedonian Patriotic Organization

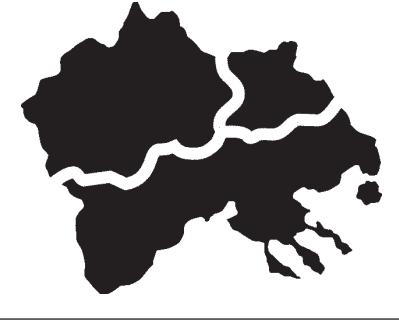
is to

- Continue to work for human, civil and economic rights for all Macedonians of the world
- Promote and preserve the ethnic traditions, customs and history of our people
- Promote and develop the cultural and social growth of our youth
- Promote and strengthen our organization

The **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**

is our primary voice
in achieving this mission.

"Macedonia for the Macedonians!" -William Gladstone



Macedonian Tribune
the oldest Macedonian
newspaper in the world;
published continuously since
February 10, 1927, by the
Central Committee of the
Macedonian Patriotic Organization
of the United States and Canada,
founded in 1922, stands for a free
and independent Macedonia,
a Switzerland of the Balkans.

MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE

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MPO Homepage: <http://www.macedonian.org>

Manuscripts can be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We are unable to comment on returned or unused manuscripts.

Letters and signed articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the MPO. We reserve the right to edit all materials, as does any newspaper.

Deadline is one month prior to publication.

Editor: Virginia Nizamoff **Surso**

Designer: Nadine Kline

MPO Central Committee:

(Board of Directors)

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Vladimir Atseff, Vice President/US
George Koroloff, Vice President/Canada
Andrea Alusheff, Secretary
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MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE trademark
affirmation is valid until September 4, 2014.

Early Days in TRIBUNE Office

(Following is a translation of the article about the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**, from the Macedonian Almanac, published in 1940 by the MPO. It was written by Peter Atzeff.)

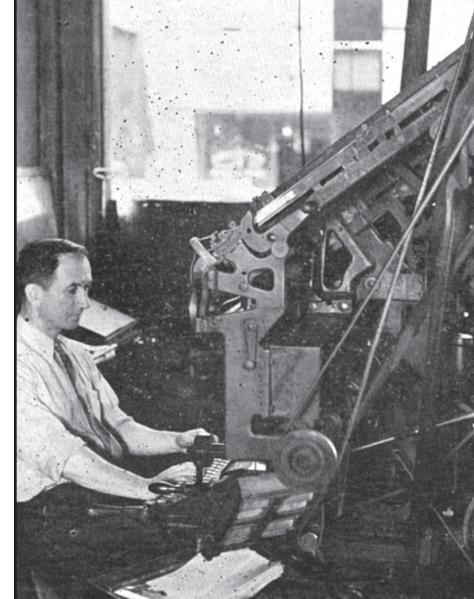
A contemporary organization without a publication is like a body without a soul. The role of the press primarily is to provide information. In fulfilling the tasks assigned it, it must act as a protector and signpost for the organization. The press irons out differences and shapes the organization's view on specific issues. It serves as a link between units of an organization, which are untied in thoughts and feelings, arouses them, points them in a definite direction, generates motion and pursues specific goals.

What would the world be like today if newspaper did not exist? The earth would be enveloped in an eternal dark night. Although the press is a necessity for modern man, it is twice as essential for a movement, a struggle, which is inspired by great principles and ideals.

Realizing just how important the press is, Macedonian immigrants to the new world, uniting around the banner of the MPO, considered it an irrevocable obligation to establish their own publication. There were many important reasons for this.

After the Great War, (World War I), the Macedonian immigrants found themselves at a crossroads. Failures of the past had disheartened some and thrown them into indifference. Fortunately for our liberation movement, this was a temporary crisis. This apathy was used by some to advocate doctrines foreign to the Macedonian national liberation movement.

Some tried to paralyze the Macedonian spirit and foment unacceptable ideas. Some individuals yielded to such suggestions, but the overwhelming majority of the Macedonian immigrants remained attached to the land, which nurtured them, Macedonia. It is not easy to destroy the indissoluble bonds



Linotypist Christo N. Nizamoff later became editor. He worked for the MPO longer than anyone. In 1924 he helped establish the Macedonian Information Bureau in New York City. When he died in 1989, he was writing an article for the **TRIBUNE**.

between the Macedonians here and those in the old country, which are unified against the common enemies of Macedonian freedom and independence.

There were other societies as well which strove to keep the Macedonian immigrants disunited. They were spurred by personal and economic interests. These persons published a private paper. It was their goal that Macedonian immigrants organized under the MPO remain without their own publication. They understood



Todor Vasileff at the large press.

quite well the enormously important part played by a purely Macedonian paper supported by Macedonians themselves.

The Macedonian immigrants needed to have their own publication, not only because the existing papers written in Bulgarian had nothing in common with Macedonia and their ideals, but also because they were instruments of defeat and factionalism, which were not in the best interest of the MPO struggle on this continent.

The truth could shine forth in its full force in a Macedonian paper, which falsehood and defeatism could be fiercely and unceasingly attacked. In addition, the part which a Macedonian paper could play in uniting the Macedonian immigrants and point them in a correct and well-understood path of resistance, was also obvious.

Bearing in mind the above reasons, conscientious Macedonian immigrants began to think of preparing the ground for the realization of this great idea: the acquisition of their own publication. At the fourth annual congress of the MPO, which convened on Sept. 6, 1925, in Indianapolis, it was agreed to pursue this option. The details of its realization were considered, and it was decided to sell shares at \$10 a share to raise the sum needed to begin publishing the paper. At this congress, it was resolved to name the paper **MAKEDONSKA TRIBUNA (MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE)**.

Once the initiative had been taken, it was embraced with enthusiasm by Macedonian patriots, who competed in buying shares not so much from an economic standpoint as much as to implement the idea as quickly as possible. The energetic activity of Jordan Chkatzoff, secretary of the MPO at that time, greatly helped to accelerate fulfilling the goal. A full year passed of collecting money and considering way to begin publication.

On Sept. 6, 1926, the fifth annual congress of the MPO convened. The Central Committee of the MPO reported on progress for issuing the paper. The campaign for shares was given a new impetus. More and more shares were sold. After this congress, the necessary sum of money was collected to begin the paper. Various printing presses were collected, and a search was made for personnel and all other items needed to publish a paper. After several months of intense work, on Feb. 10, 1927, the first issue of the Macedonian beacon in the US, the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**, was published.

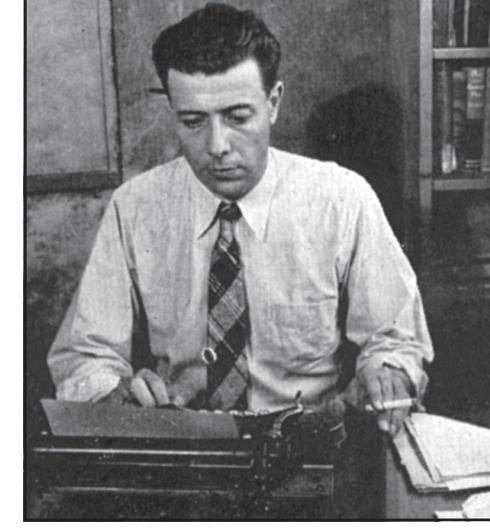
We should note the noble gesture of our patriotic fellow countryman Atanas Shinkoff, member of MPO "Ilinden"

- New York, who gave the Central Committee the value of a Buick he had won in a lottery in order to help start the paper. This generous gift was made in memory of his cousin Nikola Shinkoff, who had perished in the struggle for freedom.

The publication of the paper was greeted with great enthusiasm by the patriotic Macedonian immigrants, who as soon as the first issue appeared began making voluntary contributions of \$20, \$10, \$5 or \$1 depending on their abilities and out of a sincere desire to help fund the paper.

The Board of Directors of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** chose Boris Zograff, born in Bitola, as editor. Then living in Sofia, Bulgaria, he was specially invited to fill this post.

The publication of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** gave a new impetus to the Macedonian Political Organizations on this continent. Published regularly every week, the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** quickly made its mark and impressed the immigrants as a serious and authoritative paper. Prominent Macedonians not only from this continent, but also from the old country began to collaborate on it.



Luben Dimitroff served as editor for 30 years, longer than anyone. An MPO chapter was named for him and a scholarship recently was named for him and Assen Avramoff.

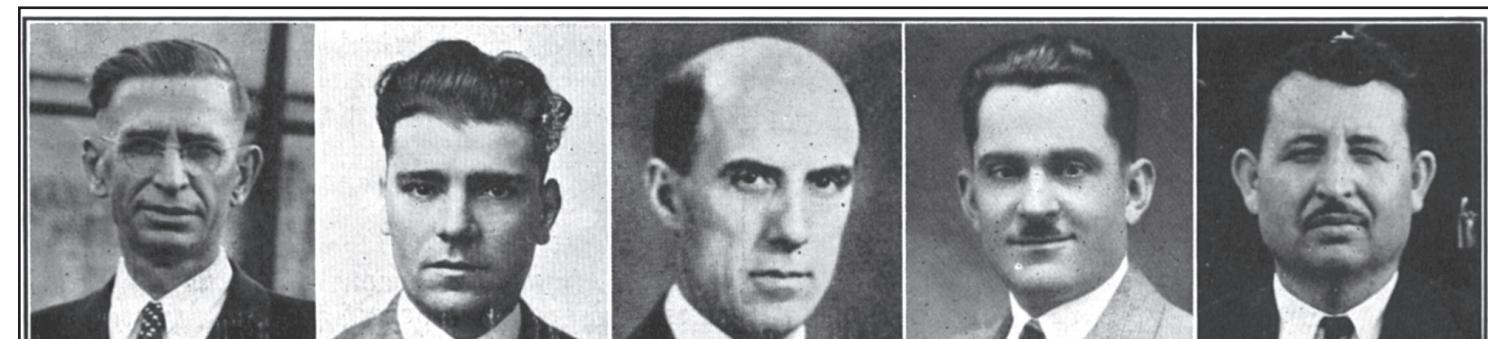
The publication of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** was greeted with enthusiasm by Macedonian emigrants in Bulgaria, Europe, Australia and South America.

The enslaved Macedonian population greeted the new Macedonian beacon with no less enthusiasm. Not long after its publication, the tyrannical governments of Belgrade and Athens forbade the entry of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** into Yugoslavia and Greece. This fact was sufficient to convince everyone of the fear, which had seized Belgrade and Athens at the appearance of the new Macedonian protector.

The paper was edited by Boris Zograff until September 1930, when the 10th annual regular congress of the MPO was held in Youngstown, Ohio. After this, the Board of Directors of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** chose Luben Dimitroff, born in Bitola, as editor. They invited him to come from Sofia, where he was living at the time. Dimitroff arrived in the US in June of 1931 and at once took on the post of editor of the paper, which he still holds.

With the growth of the MPO, the needs of the struggle itself increased. In order to meet these needs, additional printing equipment was purchased to expedite various manual tasks, consisting of composing invitations for meetings, dinners and dances, wedding and engagement parties, printing brochures, reports and bylaws and annual calendars issued by the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**.

See **Early days** on page 3



Members of the Macedonian Tribune Board of Directors in 1940 were (from left) Tashe Popcheff, adviser; Peter Atzeff, secretary; Dimiter Medich, president; George Adjieff, treasurer, and Carl Chaleff, adviser.

Since 1940 . . .

The following continues the saga of the **Macedonian Tribune** since the Macedonian Almanac was published in 1940.

The men who developed the **Macedonian Tribune** worked diligently to make it a remarkable chronicle of the struggle for a free and independent Macedonia as well as the lives of our people at home and abroad.

These men, all cited in the early history (see page 2) include Peter Atzeff, Luben Dimitroff, Stereo Nickoloff, Christo Nizamoff and Todor Vasileff.

When they began, they were young, educated and dedicated. They never lost this dedication. In their own way, each worked for the ideals of a free and independent Macedonia to the end. None lived to see the Berlin Wall fall, Eastern Europe open or the Republic of Macedonia recognized as a sovereign nation, yet they knew in their hearts it would happen.

This bevy of men worked together through the Depression and World War II enduring the hardships and tragedies these events brought to people everywhere. Be-

cause of their work, they were out of touch with family in Macedonia under Greek oppression, Bulgarian and Yugoslav brands of communism.

Soon after World War II, it became apparent that the **TRIBUNE** could not support so many employees. It was decided that Dimitroff and Nizamoff would continue the work, while the others found employment elsewhere. Even though most established their own businesses, they continued to provide articles and financial support and remained active in the MPO.

Immediately after World War II, Dimitroff and Nizamoff were asked by the US government to work for the Voice of America. While at the Voice, substitutes covered their work in Indianapolis.

Shenna Grammaticoff came from St. Louis to typeset the **TRIBUNE** on the old bi-lingual Linotype machine during this time as well as during annual vacations. She and her husband Vasil worked on the *Naroden Glas* published in Madison-Granite City, Ill. He held down the fort there, while she assisted in Indianapolis.

In the early 1960s, when Dimitroff

became terminally ill, it was apparent that Grammaticoff could not stay and that Nizamoff could not handle the entire work load, so interim writers came to the rescue, and the **TRIBUNE** never missed an issue.

These included Christo Ognyanoff, Ivan Ilcheff, Jivko Ghelev and Mile Simeonoff. Ognyanoff and Ilcheff also worked for the Voice of America,

All were intellectuals. They followed a tradition set earlier when Assen Avramoff worked provisionally between the first editor Boris Zograff's leaving and the second editor Luben Dimitroff's arrival, as mentioned in the *Macedonian Almanac* article.



Editor Christo N. Nizamoff greets Mitcho Andreoff, right, Springfield, and his friend in the office at 107 South Capital Avenue, Indianapolis. The furniture in the photo is displayed in the Macedonian Museum.

Although Dimitroff was editor for 30 years, the next 45 years saw many people at the helm: Borislav Ivanoff, Christo N. Nizamoff, the Popov brothers, Dimiter and Andon, Dori Atzeff (Reynolds), Ivan Lebamoff, Lubomir Todorov Ph. D., Paul Simoff and Virginia Nizamoff Surso.

Even though Dimiter Popov was the sole employee during much of the 1970s, he made sure the **TRIBUNE** never missed a publication date. He worked long hours sometimes without pay, and held a second job to make enough money to maintain his family.

When MPO President Ivan Lebamoff moved the **TRIBUNE** to Fort Wayne in 1983, Dorie Atzeff (Reynolds) became the first woman editor. When Atzeff resigned, Lebamoff instituted an Editorial Board, to make decisions regarding the publication. Other members were Maria Tsakova, Surso and a second generation Macedonian from Fort Wayne.

During Lebamoff's era at the helm of the MPO and the **TRIBUNE**, he saw to it that every issue was preserved on microfilm, a program that continues today. Some are saved in the Indiana History Museum in Indianapolis, some by the Library of Congress, Washington.

He also qualified our newspaper for an Indiana Historic Marker placed at the site of the original location, 120 South West Street, Indianapolis. This lengthy process was aided by the earlier recognition by the Indiana Historic Society. The marker was unveiled at the 1990 MPO Convention in Indianapolis, and the **TRIBUNE** continues to be a part of Indiana history.

Todorov, who became editor in the late 1990s, was replaced in 2001 by Simoff who took the title of managing editor. Both were volunteers who oversaw the editorial content

from a distance. Todorov had journalism experience while a student in Europe. Simoff holds a masters degree in journalism from Ohio State University.

Surso, who was named editor with the October 2006 edition, returned the **TRIBUNE** to a full-time working editor. She graduated with a degree in journalism from Butler University, Indianapolis, and has worked as a reporter on the staffs of the *Indianapolis Star*, *Wholesale Drug Magazine*, *The Westside Messenger*, all in Indianapolis, and the *Times Union*, Warsaw, Ind. She received numerous awards for articles.

"The **Macedonian Tribune** continues to chronicle the lives of our people as it diligently works for human rights for Macedonians everywhere and the good of the Republic of Macedonia without which there is no hope for Macedonia," she emphasizes.

For more information read Macedonian Tribune, Page One, Major Events of the 20th Century, published by the MPO, 1999.



Shenna Grammaticoff came for vacations and during times of need to run the Linotype machine to produce the newspaper.

The Macedonian Tribune



Editor Borislav Ivanoff (left) and his wife Rose are shown in 1987 with Marie Spahiev and Christo Ognyanoff outside the current location at 124 West Wayne Street, Fort Wayne.

Early days from page 2

All of this equipment, of course, required money. The patriotic Macedonian immigrants, by their support of the paper and by sending in orders, as well as by contributing to the **Macedonian Tribune** fund, provided all the money needed. We can now state with pride that the Macedonian Tribune, Inc., is not only free of debt, but has money in the bank.

Throughout its existence, the **Macedonian Tribune** continues to play its part as a paper, which nobly serves the popular liberation movement. The paper is delivered not only within the US, Canada

and Australia, but also to nearly all the countries in Europe (until the war began), plus Turkey, Palestine, Egypt and various other patriots.

In 1934, the **Macedonian Tribune** began to play an even more important role. As we know, on May 19, 1934, the Serbophile government of Kimon Georgiev came to power, followed by other similar governments. The Macedonian press in Bulgaria was banned along with other Macedonian legal activity. The **Macedonian Tribune** remained as the only official publication of the Macedonian liberation movement.

It took on new tasks, beginning to record all those shameful facts concerning the Macedonian movement in Bulgaria, acts, which were painful to contemplate since they were part of a policy of Bulgarians turned against Bulgarians. The protests of the Macedonian Bulgarians of the whole world were published in the **Macedonian Tribune**, and therefore, publication of the paper was banned in Bulgaria, as it had been banned by the governments of Belgrade and Athens. Despite this, the **Macedonian Tribune** found ways to reach its readers in the old country, who read it avidly.

When the **Macedonian Tribune** became the only official expression of Macedonian aspirations, it thrived even more. It was sought by foreign correspondents and foreign governments, which bought subscriptions to it in order to learn the opinions of the Macedonians on issues concerning the fate of the Balkans.

With an increase in the influence and



Macedonian young people in Indianapolis helped mail the paper. They include (from left) Carl Kargoff, Daisy Popcheff, Wheaton, Ill., and Menka Guleff (Dimitroff), Detroit.

importance of the paper, it was improved in many aspects. An illustrated section was gradually introduced, which contained many views of the enslaved country — Macedonia — as well as photographs of the life of local immigrants organized under the MPO.

Starting in January 1938, a special English Page was introduced to the Macedonian younger generation on this continent. The aim of this paper was to familiarize younger Macedonians with the principles of the struggle and with the events of the Macedonian Liberation movement. This page created an enthusiasm among the young people's sections of the MPO and many young people began to col-

laborate on it. It appeared periodically at a time when the paper was six pages long.

The **Macedonian Tribune** is the pride of the patriotic Macedonian Bulgarians in the US and Canada. They support the paper generously; eagerly await every issue, and all hope that the day is near when the ideal to which it is devoted will be achieved.

The ideal is to create from the geographic boundaries of Macedonia a separate political entity in which all nationalities will enjoy equal rights and equal duties. Stated briefly, this ideal consists in the words of the immortal English statesman William Gladstone: "Macedonia for the Macedonians."



Linotypist Stereo Nickoloff binds finished forms of the Macedonian Almanac.

Views of former editors

Passionate devotion of delegates at third annual convention sparks idea for newspaper

By Christo N. Nizamoff, past editor

... The first time the question of our own paper arose was at the third annual convention. ... for lack of time it was deferred until the next annual gathering in Indianapolis. The delegates were instructed to discuss the issue on local grounds, feel the pulse of their membership and friends, and report at the next convention. ...

At the fourth convention in Indianapolis in 1925, the question of having our own publication was first on the agenda. ... Jordan Tchkatrossoff told the group, "We need our own publication to defend our right for a free and independent Macedonia ..." ...

As the convention was about to

close, someone said, "Let us not go back completely empty handed. Let us at least find a name for our future paper." ...

Srbren Anastasoff of Chicago put forth the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**. It was accepted by acclamation. ...

As we had decided the year before, the paramount issue on the agenda at the fifth annual convention in Steelton, Pa. was the newspaper. The Central Committee reported that according to its studies the necessary machinery and other equipment would cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000. With the approval of state authorities they could issue shares for a sum not to exceed, \$20,000. Each share would cost \$10. But, fearing that some wealthy man might

purchase a majority of the shares and gain complete control of the paper then change its policies, the Central Committee decided that no one could buy more than five shares.

As it turned out, that fear was unfounded. No wealthy man appeared to buy a large number of shares, and the local branches could hardly find many to buy five shares.

By the end of December 1926, an amount close of \$125,000 was on hand from the sale of shares and personal contributions. K. Shopoff of New York made a commitment to a loan of \$3000, interest free, if necessary. This enabled the Central Committee to purchase the

necessary equipment and rent two store rooms. In the meantime, Boris Zograffoff, our chosen editor, arrived in New York during the first part of January.

Lambo Kisselincheff, then vice-president of the Central Committee, and I met Mr. Zograffoff at the pier and kept him in our city for two days to acquaint him with the situation, the MPO and what was expected of him.

With the editor at his desk and the machine ready to run, Feb. 20, 1927, was set as the target date for the first issue of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**. The pleasure and joy were overwhelming almost everywhere.

I happened to be in Steelton, for an MPO meeting when the first batch of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** arrived. I can never forget the moment. Men and women held the paper to their hearts, then kissed it with tears of joy streaming down their cheeks. ...

The **TRIBUNE** is a product of the passionate devotion and unflinching determination of the founding fathers of the MPO. ...

The **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** is our only paper and the only link that unites us. Let us join together and keep it going. By doing so, we will pay a tribute to the dear ones who no longer are among us.

Excerpts from Feb. 25, 1988

TRIBUNE had a precursor

Political Bulletin was a precursor of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**. It appeared infrequently between 1924 and 1926, according to Dr. Ivan Gadjev, who is a former MPO Central Committee member with extensive documents on the MPO and its newspaper.

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION MONTH.

Send a gift subscription to a friend. There is no better way to keep them involved.

In the mid-1920s, our people raised \$15,000 to finance the beginning of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**.

WE STILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

The MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE: A Beacon of Freedom

By Borislav Ivanoff, past editor

The **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** has always played an important role in my life. As a high school student during World War II in Bulgaria, I waited anxiously for the smuggled editions of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** to reach our small city.

To receive the **TRIBUNE** in subterfuge, at a time when the government in power was strictly against the Macedonian patriotic movement and its goals and ideals was a great strength to those of us who had the ideal and wanted to work for the cause. The anticipation of waiting for every issue to arrive was overwhelming. All of us would avidly and voraciously devour the contents of the **TRIBUNE**, over and over and over, reading some articles as much as half a dozen times.

When I escaped from Bulgaria, I experienced the same overwhelming feeling of anticipation as, from time to time, the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** was smuggled past the Greek guards at the detention camp. My Bulgarian friends and I would spend hours reading the **TRIBUNE** and discussing the articles contained in each issue. The **TRIBUNE** became a beacon of freedom and hope for us.

After I was released from the camp and established my residency in Europe, I, of course, received the **TRIBUNE** on a regular basis. I know for a fact that it was widely received and widely accepted in

political and intellectual quarters.

Little did I know that I would some day be the editor of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**.

It was after I became editor of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** that I had the freedom to study the old issues going back to the date of the **TRIBUNE's** first publication. I was able, at that time, to learn that the **TRIBUNE** was not only important to those of us who lived in Europe, but that it was a beacon of hope and freedom to those who immigrated to the New World.

In its early stages, the **TRIBUNE** did an outstanding task of orienting our new immigrants to the new way of life. It kept them together and acted, not only as an information conduit, but also as a social network.

In the 30's and during the period of the Great Depression, the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** became the bastion of freedom and probably was the most influential and potent adversary of the Communist movement which was trying to make gains and inroads among the Macedonian immigration. Our members are a democratic people in the US and Canada today primarily because the **TRIBUNE** was a staunch and valiant guardian of our liberties and battled the Communist movement at every turn.

During World War II, the **MACE-**

DONIAN TRIBUNE did an outstanding job of bolstering patriotism and loyalty towards the US and Canada. One has only to read about the outstanding war bond drives, which the **TRIBUNE** undertook to understand fully that the **TRIBUNE** supported the Allies to its fullest extent.

Sadly, it served to inform our people in the Western Hemisphere of the loss of many of our young loved ones in that great war.

Now, the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** is celebrating its 60th anniversary, and we look forward with great anticipation to another 60 years.

Needless to say, your support and continued help is badly needed. Twelve dollars is very inexpensive for the quality product, which the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** gives to each of you. But we need more subscriptions if we are to maintain the **TRIBUNE** at its highest level, then of course as in any business, we must increase our volume.

Remember, the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** is the only paper published in the world which works for a free and independent Macedonia, for equal freedoms for all of its ethnic groups: Bulgarian, Romanian, Albanian, Greek, Turkish, Jewish, etc.

So join with me in a Happy Anniversary Subscription Drive. Let's make it the best subscription drive we have ever had.

Reprinted from Feb. 7, 1987

TRIBUNE adjusts to needs of new generations, editorial goals remain constant

By Dorie Atzoff, past editor

Since the publication of the first issue on Feb. 10, 1927, the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** has gradually adjusted to the changing needs of the ethnic community it served. Some changes were external: variations in the style of the original oriental Makedonska Tribune masthead and adjustments in the size and format of the paper were differences which were immediately apparent to faithful subscribers.

Beyond the new designs and stylized variations of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**, however, even more significant changes were taking place, changes which reflected the shifting attitudes and adjustments of an immigration which was expanding into second, third and even fourth generations. With a new community to serve and an already established one to maintain, the news and human interest content of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** shifted somewhat. New subscribers were as interested in learning about the history and culture of their ancestors as they were in assessing the current political situation of Macedonia.

Readers originally turned to the **TRIBUNE** because it was one of the few weeklies published in their new homeland

in a language which they understood. As the years passed, many of the children of those first immigrants had needs which were dramatically different from those of their parents.

Educated in the language of their new homeland, the succeeding generations of subscribers turned to the **TRIBUNE** to read the English language articles which gradually began to appear in some of the local chapter, organizational and social news reports. Eventually, major editorials were translated into English as the **TRIBUNE** began to appeal to a more diversified readership. The *English Page* was an obvious result of these transitional phases; and, after the first English page was published in 1938, YMPO *English Page* editors made significant contributions to the changing of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**.

The founding fathers of the organization determined to publish a newspaper because they understood the needs of the community which they represented. To accommodate to the inevitable changes, which were taking place in the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** community, dramatic shifts have been seen in the appearance, content and style of the newspaper.

In spite of those major changes, in spite

of the fact that the paper is now published half in English and half in Bulgarian, in spite of the fact that most of the subscribers are now the children of the founding fathers, the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** has survived. Unlike most ethnic newspapers, which ceased to exist with the gradual assimilation of the original subscribers into their new societies, the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** has survived since Feb. 10, 1927, and is now celebrating its 60th anniversary. Instead of a tombstone marking our past, we have another issue beginning our future.

And although some goals have changed, others have remained constant. The **TRIBUNE** has survived because it has a mission, a mission as deep and as significant as it was in 1925, when Jordan Tchkatrossoff, then Secretary of the Central Committee, explained, "We need our own publication to defend our right for a free and independent Macedonia."

As long as this need exists, the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** will continue to exist as it has done now for 60 years.

Reprinted from Feb. 4, 1987

Lebamoff moves office to Fort Wayne

"The convention was about to vote to disband the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**. I could not let that happen."

This was the driving reason that MPO President Ivan Lebamoff moved the **TRIBUNE** to Fort Wayne in 1983.

In a March 1985 issue he wrote more about moving the office: "A period transpired during which our own barbarians sacked and pillaged our archives; and in effect, burned the memory of Macedonian mankind. While they jabbered and jibbered, they were allowing the destruction of our past. ..."

"Suddenly, I was overwhelmed with

the thought that I was closing the coffin on an era of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE**; an era which was not always kind; an era which was all too often filled with false pride and invective, an era which did not need to be.

"As I puffed on the cigarette, the only thing that would come to mind were thoughts of bitterness and condemnation.

"But my better nature prevailed and our commitment during these past years became prominent: in essentials unity; in nonessentials liberty; in all other things charity."



In Fort Wayne, Dita Atzeff searched for documents amid the rubble that had been moved. Those she found were labeled and later catalogued by archivist Maria Tsakova.



Marie (Calcoff) Burton worked every week until all the newspapers were sorted and counted. Ten of each copy were saved, a process that continues. There were only two issues for which she never found copies.

TRIBUNE chronicles lives

The following comments were excerpted from book *MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE PAGE ONE: Major Events of the 20th Century*, published by the MPO, 1999.

By Lubomir Todorov, Ph.D. From the preface:

As we approach the third millennium, we summarize the activities of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** during the 20th century. The result is this spectacular book, a magnificent chronicle of lives, ideal and actions of the Macedonian American, united in the Macedonian Patriotic Organization and of their devoted struggle for a free and independent Macedonian state.

This book is an important contribution to both Macedonian and American history. But above all, it represents the history of the Macedonian Liberation Movement as it was lived and as it will be remembered by future generations. ...

A distinct value of this book is in the fact that it is viewed from the perspective of Macedonian Americans, the only Macedonians in the world to enjoy fully freedom and democracy throughout this century. Only those Macedonians who lived outside of enslaved Macedonia had the real opportunity to freely voice their feelings, impartially, without fear or favor. ...

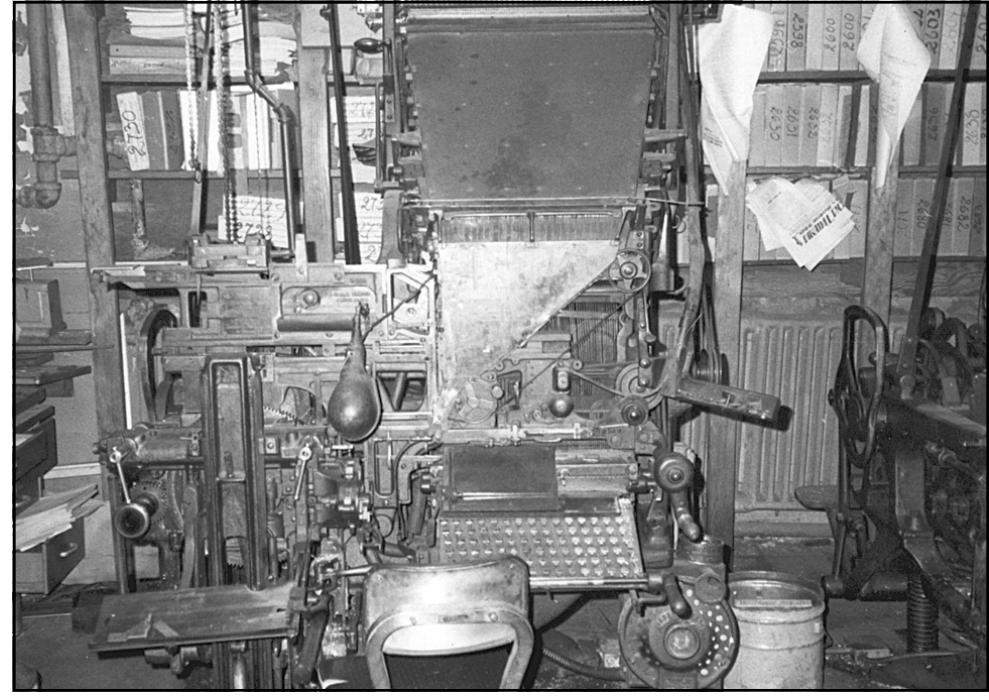
From the introduction:

This book is about Macedonia and its people. More specifically about a portion of its people who in search for liberty came to North America, but who never forgot the desperate need for freedom in their old country. ...

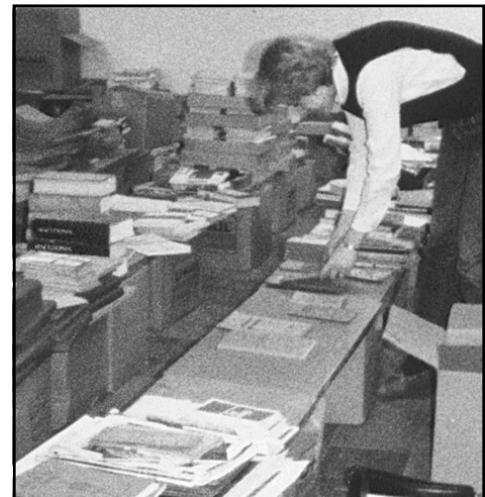
For Macedonia, the 20th century is a century of slavery, desperation and tragedy. At the same time, it is a century of vision, struggle and glory, which concludes in a



*The final location of the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** in Indianapolis was at 542 South Meridian Street.*



Mitko Popov worked in deplorable conditions, sometimes without pay.



Dorie Atzeff (Reynolds) helped sort through the thousands of documents, pamphlets, books and newspapers. Marie Spahiev also helped, but is not pictured.

Congratulations

MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE
on 80 years of continuous publication!

Jim & Pauline
Petroff,
Darryl & Vanessa
Toronto

Carl Petroff
Toronto

MPO "Rodina"
Northwest Indiana