

1.02 Pregledni znanstveni članek

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Življenje Poljancev pred drugo svetovno vojno, med njo in po njej

IZVLEČEK

Prispevek predstavlja življenje Poljancev pred drugo svetovno vojno, med njo in po njej. Razdeljen je na pet vsebinskih sklopov: 1. povezovalne vsebine: šola, cerkev in družina Kosler; 2. preživetvene strategije: kmetijstvo, obrt, trgovina, izseljenišvo, medsebojna pomoč in druženje; 3. vojno in povojno obdobje; 4. infrastruktura in komunikacije ter 5. družina Gregorič. Predstavljene vsebine se po izsledkih preučevanja delijo na štiri strukturirana območja: Poljane, Samoče (Vrh, Žukovo, Škrajnek, Bukovec), Ortnek z družino Kosler in Gorenje Podpoljane. Citati ustnih pričevanj, zapisani v knjižnem jeziku, ponazarjajo strokovne obrazložitve posameznih vsebinskih sklopov.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Poljane, Samoče, Ortnek, družina Kosler, družina Gregorič, šola, cerkev, vojno in povojno obdobje, infrastruktura, preživetvene strategije, kmetijstvo, izseljenišvo, trgovina, obrt, gostilna, suba roba, zadružništvo, medsebojna pomoč, druženje

ABSTRACT

LIFE OF THE INHABITANTS OF POLJANE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR

This article describes the life of the inhabitants of Poljane before, during and after the Second World War. It is divided into five sets of contents: 1. cohesive contents: school, church, and the Kosler family; 2. survival strategies: agriculture, crafts, trade, emigration, mutual assistance, and association; 3. war and post-war period; 4. infrastructure and communications, and 5. the Gregorič family. In terms of findings, the contents are divided into four structured areas: Poljane, Samoče (Vrh, Žukovo, Škrajnek, Bukovec), Ortnek with the Kosler family, and Gorenje Podpoljane. The quotes from oral accounts, which are recorded in literary language, convey expert explanations for individual sets of contents.

KEY WORDS

Poljane, Samoče, Ortnek, Kosler family, Gregorič family, school, church, war and post-war period, infrastructure, survival strategies, agriculture, emigration, trade, crafts, tavern, woodenware, cooperatives, mutual assistance, association



S U M M A R Y

Life of the inhabitants of Poljane before, during and after the Second World War

Collected, recorded, studied, analysed, and interpreted stories of the inhabitants of Poljane pri Ribnici offer the most direct accounts of village life. Through oral tradition, our informants' memories reach back into the second half of the nineteenth century, while their active memories span the period from the 1930s to the present day. By drawing on the inhabitants' memories and experiences, this article presents their life stories and casts light on various aspects of life in the northern part of the Ribnica valley. These aspects make up pieces of the emerging mosaic about family life and particularly family economy, which was closely associated with cultural forms and elements such as old customs, trade, tavern-keeping, as well as mutual assistance, especially in relation to the families' livelihood strategies, i.e., emigration, crafts, woodenware production and peddling, cooperatives.

Even in the nineteenth century, the number of rural households that still based their sustenance exclusively on farming was negligent and their different survival strategies were determined by social belonging. More and more people started to seek work in America due to the overpopulation of their home area, non-existence of domestic industry until the beginning of the 1960s, and widespread debt among farmers. Others emigrated for personal reasons related to the need for individualisation; for instance, children rejected their parents' authority in choosing their life partners and gave up inheriting the family

farm to pursue their happiness and livelihood abroad. And even successors of farms left for America in the hope to get rich. Some of them never returned, leaving the abandoned estates to provide the daily bread for the locals.

In addition to farming, the inhabitants of Poljane sustained themselves by performing other marketable activities: selling surplus agricultural products, woodenware making, peddling, gathering, selling and trading surplus produce in the market, and seasonal work such as forest jobs, transport, wagonry. Modes of economy changed with the passing of time and in congruence with state and global economic as well as ideological changes. For instance, after the Second World War, employment in the developing local industry grew under the influence of the socialist ideology, which praised the working class and prevented tradesmen from pursuing growth opportunities. Woodenware craftsmanship and peddling were gradually dying out. Local economy was, furthermore, crucially determined by natural conditions – limited possibilities for agriculture on the one hand and good conditions for cattle-farming and forestry on the other figured as important economic factors in crafts and farmers' cooperatives.

The diversity of family lifeways may also be ascribed to cultural differences between differently defined social groups of the population. These were most pronounced in the social and economic co-existence of farmers and the owners of the Ortnek mansion – the Kosler family, which to some extent also provided the local population with a source of income.

Family economy should be investigated in relation to the workings of state, political, social and economic processes. In this light, the family economy of the inhabitants of Poljane may be seen as torn between the state and local environments.