

# Soviets make their marriage a mockery

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Marriages may be made in heaven, but Jeanette Mager says her marriage to her husband Mikhail has been made a cruel mockery by Soviet authorities.

Mrs. Mager was in the Detroit area recently to tell the story of her husband from whom she has been separated for most of their three-year marriage.

The Magers were married in November 1972 in Vinnitsa, Russia in a Jewish marriage ceremony with a ring and two witnesses.

"We didn't have a rabbi because although Vinnitsa has a population of 20,000 Jews, there is no rabbi," Mrs. Mager said. "SHORTLY AFTER the marriage, Mrs. Mager left Russia for Israel with her family. She believed that her husband would follow soon after, but nearly 3 1/2 years later, Mager remains in Vinnitsa, separated from leaving by the Immigration authorities.

"Jews in Vinnitsa are afraid," she said, "because there were two trials in their town. One of them resulted in a seven-year prison term and the other, eight years."

"Local authorities need these kinds of things as an example."

Mrs. Mager said that both her and Mikhail's families first applied for visas to leave the USSR in July 1972.

"My family got permission and his was refused," she said. "The Russians said they don't want to supply Israel with young soldiers."

"After two months his parents and younger brother got permission but he was refused because of his army service. They said he had to wait a maximum of six months but it was a lie because we've been waiting over three years in Israel and he's still there."

She explained that the Soviets allow a maximum of five years after service in the armed forces when a man can be detained on the grounds that he may have been exposed to military secrets. But this time has elapsed for Mikhail.

MAGER, an electrical engineer, lost his job when he applied for the exit visa, and now supports himself by operating an elevator three days a week.

Mrs. Mager is on an odyssey that will take her from Holland to Omaha, Denver, Des Moines, Atlanta, San Francisco, Washington and Boston as well as Detroit.

Everywhere she goes she speaks about her husband and his plight.

"I have to get this publicity for him," she said. "It is important for his safety that his name be known in the west."

She said that Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield was one of the first groups to take an interest in her husband's case.

Mrs. Ida Joyrich said the sisterhood has sent money orders and packages to Mager and that she phones him regularly.

Like his wife, she has been unable to get through to him on the phone for more than two months.

She said it no longer pays to send money orders since the Soviet's new law whereby imposes a 40 per cent tax and that a package they sent in January has not yet been received.

Mrs. Mager expects to meet with U.S. Reps. William Broomfield and William Brodehead and U.S. Sen. Philip Hart when she visits Washington. Broomfield has al-



JEANETTE MAGER

ready made a speech on the floor of the house on behalf of her husband.

The intense young wife said she is quite concerned about Mikhail.

"For two months I haven't been able to get through to him on the phone," she said. "He may be arrested but we had no information in all these weeks. He is without a constant job, a flat, relatives or friends."

"I have a husband and I don't have a husband. For his parents it's the same."

PUBLICITY and pressure from the west have helped his friends and hers before, she said.

"This is not a question of Jews, but a question of human rights. Reunification of families was a most important part of the Helsinki Agreement."

Mrs. Joyrich agreed that human rights are everybody's concern.

"We feel we have every right to have our government intervene in these cases," she said. "We know the mail is not being delivered and telephone calls don't go through and those involve international agreements."

MRS. MAGER learned English in school in Odessa, Russia, but never used it before to speak. Now she has spoken in many parts of this country and will go to London, England, too.

Last Saturday, she was introduced to the congregation at Shaarey Zedek and addressed those gathered for the sabath service.

On Sunday, she marched in Oak Park with the Detroit Committee for Soviet Jewry in a walkathon to raise funds for their cause.

Mrs. Mager has been away from her home in Natanya, Israel for two months and she misses it, but she says she'll never completely enjoy her new life there until she is reunited with her husband.

Separated and Divorced Catholics Club will hold its monthly meeting and social evening at 8 p.m. Friday, May 14 at St. Columban School, 1776 Melton, Birmingham.

## Catholics meet

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# Snow delays only slightly the great mushroom hunt

Despite the unreasonable snow, mushroom hunters should still have good, though slightly delayed picking season, said Dr. Everett S. Beneke, mycologist at Michigan State University.

The black, true and false morels can now be found popping up through the snow within 50 miles of Lansing, Dr. Beneke reports, though the false morel is suspected of being poisonous.

"The snow will not destroy the fungi," he said, "but mushrooms found in the snow should be eaten soon after picking because they will tend to wilt rapidly."

Farther north, mushrooms will probably be harvested about a week behind schedule with the season extending through Memorial Day, he added.

IN MAY, mushroom hunters traditionally swarm to Michigan from places as far away as Seattle and Miami.

This year's Boyne City National Mushroom Hunting Championship will be held May 8 and 9 at Harrison, the Mid-Michigan Mushroom Festival takes place May 14 through May 16.

Michigan morels (scientifically, species of Morchella) can be worth as much as \$25 per basket, if they can be found. The size of the annual mushroom crop is difficult to estimate because mushroom hunters are as close-mouthed about their favorite picking grounds as trout fishermen are about their "lucky streams."

Mushroom poisoning is the major hazard the mushroom lover must face.

"The best insurance against mushroom poisoning," Dr. Beneke said, "is in learning all the traits of the particular species you're hunting and passing up unknown varieties of mushrooms encountered on the hunt."

When it comes to selecting nontoxic mushrooms there are no substitutes for experience.

"The old wives tale about poisonous mushrooms turning a silver spoon black doesn't hold water," Dr. Beneke said.

Fortunately, morels are generally considered safe to eat and are fairly easy to distinguish from poisonous fungi.

"To be safe," Dr. Beneke advises, "it's best to get a good illustrated field book or advice from an expert before picking and eating wild mushrooms."

Morels have a hollow, cone-shaped head which is connected at its base to a hollow stalk. There is no break between the head and the stalk, but there is a great deal of variation in size and color.

The second distinguishing feature of the morel is the pitted head. The size of the pits and the walls separating them can vary in different species, but all true morels have pits on their heads.

FALSE MORELS have ridges and depressions that somewhat resemble the pitted head of the morel. Species of false morels are known to be or are suspected of being poisonous, Dr. Beneke said.

The false morels also have a head or cap that is not attached at its base to the stalk. Instead, the cap is attached only at the top and then hangs down like a skirt around the stalk.

It depends on the particular species and where in Michigan you happen to be hunting. You also have to know which species are safe and which are toxic.

Morchella esculenta, a large edible species is found in moist rich earth, often near water. Experts seek this morel around dead and dying elms and in apple orchards.

Morchella angusticeps, common in the northern part of Michigan, pops up along roadsides, power lines and in mixed hardwood stands. A dark variety of this species, called "The Big Black One" appears about a week later than the lighter variety and is found around spruce trees and stumps.

Morchella deliciosa, abundant in the southern part of Michigan, is found in moist lowland hardwood forests.

Morchella crassipes the giant morel, lives in rich soils in the warmer part of the state. Good hunting grounds are orchards and around old elms. Because they grow along streams, commercial fishermen sometimes harvest this species when they wash out into Lake Michigan.