



Federation Focus December

International Naturist Federation Newsletter

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„Gentle in manner – firm in fact“

Taking into account the social development since 2014, and in reference to rather numerous calls, we may say: We are Humans. Scientists. Naturists.

Well, yes: We are Christians. Our principle is a firm open-mindedness. Our languages are German and English. We are interested in our own and other religions, without ever tending to give up ours for that reason.

Religion is a matter of souls, not politics. Therefore we consider it quite improper to forbid certain groups, with reference to public, governmental or even religious orders, to celebrate private or religious feasts or traditions. – Authorities are clearly displacing themselves from the globally accepted UN-Human Rights Act, as soon as they start or continue to declare habits or celebrations other than the own ones illegal, or perform certain acts of dictatorship under the banner of a conviction.

Our open-minded concept allows every Female, Male, or Child their very individual creeds and hopes, as far as thereby other people keep being accepted and treated with respect. Accordingly, we do esteem any benevolent, political or religious, intellectual concept – even if we wouldn't share it.

We have always liked to join in any, fair, inter-cultural, interreligious, inter-disciplinary discussion. Any kind of political or religious fanaticism or solipsism will never become our goal.

Even more so, we believe that, as being humans, we shall co-operate frankly and with joy. We consider it a form of weakness, if people hate each other or „the others“.

It is unacceptable to enjoy hospitality from a stranger and, at the same time, think contemptuously about one's host.

According to recent issues, we may add: Honest females deserve the same respect as honourable males. Trans- or Intersexual-born individuals need to be respected in exactly the same way. – Anyone unable to accept that keeps being trapped in a misunderstanding of biology, which accordingly fails to serve in legislation – even for a „leading“ nation. Our information is available to the public. There will not be found anything that could justify any „ideological outrage“ whatsoever, by no party, political group, nor individual.

The latter, and outbreaks of violence, are not capable of bringing „justice“ to the world.

Visitors to our sites will be identified by random checks, as we like to know about our guests and about one or the other user of our publications. We may selectively close the access to specified users, according to International Copyright Law, as soon as we find such downloads being probably misused, or being used by any party refusing to respect our position as depicted above.

We appreciate our guests to casually contact us, rather than individuals staying anonymous, nevertheless using what is presented here: We happen to be quite old-fashioned representatives of benevolent politeness.

Sincerely,
Birgit und Volkmar Ellmauthaler

Info Focus February

Deadline to remit articles: 20. January 2017
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Near the Alps, at 25 km from the center of Turin, 20 minutes from the airport Caselle. Caravans, plots for Recreation Vehicles and tents, completely equipped bungalows, caravans with chalet. Pool, solarium, jacuzzi and sauna. Clubhouse restaurant, petanque, mini-tennis, table tennis, Volleyball. Mountain bike circuits and trails in the Park Mandria

Sights: Venaria Royal Palace and Park, St. Michele Abbey, Rivoli Castle, Mole Antonelliana, Egyptian Museum, Piazza S. Carlo, Basilica of Superga.

Via Lanzo 33 - 10040 La Cassa (TO) - Italy, Tel/Fax +39.011.984.29.62 - Tel +39.011.984.28.19
Mail: info@lebetulle.org Web: www.lebetulle.org





„RAB - legend of the founders of Croatian naturism and camping 1936-2016“

It is not rewarding to write a chronicle about the beginnings of naturism and camping in one country and tie it with a place and people as legends and the establishment of offer, especially because it is almost impossible to accurately and consistently investigate all the facts related to this selective tourism segment after eighty years of its development.

It is also difficult to choose from the gallery of hundreds of people from abroad and the country, whose scope is linked to the development of Rab, to choose the most deserving personalities and events because they all, in their own way, contributed to the development of tourism, naturism and camping.

That's why, with a dose of subjectivity, a corrective served as criterion that all these people were the first in something, exercised some steps because they accidentally found themselves in a certain life and business situation and knew how to recognize tourism, naturism and camping as an opportunity for their lifestyle and business projects. But all these people with their long and hard work have proved they found the true way for a new segment of tourism - naturism.

In describing, chronologically the poorest are the first development years (after 1930), and here we were leaning more on the existing structure in the research of naturist camps (especially the information left by a tourist historian and professor PhD Ivan Blažević) which were better documented and for which there was a quality track of tourist events.

A lot of the data we drew from the book of the late president of INF-FNI and DFK from Germany, Karl Dressel, who in his book "History of World naturism" in many cases mentioned Croatia.

Camp-product and naturism are not Croatian inventions; they originated primarily under the influence of the developed world in Central Europe (England and Germany).

But naturism in the open market offer as a commercial entity and the product is for European terms a typical Croatian product.

Before opening of Koversada in Europe there were no naturist centers of opened type, but were open only to members of naturist clubs. Croatia at the time, perhaps unconsciously, changed this rule and maybe it is the first in the world.

Croatia is the first European country to open naturist centers as legal entities in the public and later private property with the management that, although professional, was not generally of naturist orientation.

Until 1961 all naturist centers and resorts in the world were in the hands of the clubs or naturist associations. Almost all naturist centers in Europe first had naturists as organizers, shareholders and generally managers of naturist centres and the organization of life in the naturist village, and later centers similar to ours appeared (Ruthar Lido, Austria). In 1961 in the world of naturism a naturist-nudist resort Koversada in Vrsar appears for the first time as a result of advice and conception of the travel agency MIRAMARE Reisen and his co-founder Rudolph Halbig from Munich.

Regardless of our and foreign entrepreneurial ventures, naturism certainly would have never develop enough without naturists themselves and their umbrella organization INF-FNI International Naturist Federation. Therefore we emphasize that the right and the first impact on development of our camps as need for naturist holiday is from various clubs - recreational societies and people from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Germany and Italy, as the countries of emissive nature, closest to our environment.

All of them already acted as organized clubs and societies. The entire course of development today would have been certainly different, and even this chronicle, if there was no World War II and Hitler, who with his regime and the law at that time absolutely forbade naturism in Germany and Austria, in the thirties of the last century. Perhaps it is because of this fact that the inflow of Austrians during those years was much higher on the island of Rab, but world naturist movement and even the offer in any form, remained deprived and impoverished for ten years.

Such events as the origins of practicing naturism were closely related to the transport links established by the Austrian Lloyd from Trieste in 1853 when the first steamboat came on the island of Rab. Immediately after, in 1855, the first "Locanda" hangout was opened, owned by Andrija Vidović from Rab, located on the waterfront for the acceptance of ship passengers. But recognition of Rab is due to Alberto Fortis, travel writer who, for almost a hundred years before the establishment of steamship connection (1773), came to Rab and described its tourist benefits.





But that Rab is strategically destined for tourism, primarily thanks to the Austrian institutions and private capital at that time, says the fact that in 1909 "Health society Rab" (Kur Insel Gesellschaft pro Arbe) was founded and thus hit a cornerstone of the tourism on the island of Rab in general.

A great passion for dealing with catering and tourist offer has always existed. This is proved by the fact that Rab was among the first to receive a modern prospectus for its offer in 1940 just before the beginning of World War II.

But looking at naturism and camping, the Croats are not express campers or naturists (as Slovenes, for example) so camping and naturism was not created because of the needs of the local population, although during the first years after the World War II (1958 and 1960) at a modest 250.000 overnights there was 5% of the domestic clientele. But even these were not Croats because in Yugoslavia most prominent guests campers were Slovenians.

A camping and even a naturist offer today is an established, high-quality segment of the tourist offer with a very optimistic development perspective.

The island of Rab is credited to be the first in our region that began, consciously or unconsciously, under the influence of various factors, capital, habits and ideas, but mostly because of its cli-

mate and natural factors, this now highly desired and contemporary offer. But it should be emphasized that 12 years before the formation of Koversada, the island of Rab reputed as the exclusive and only meeting place for naturists from Austria and especially from Vienna.

But for the founding of naturist camps and camping in Croatia in general year of 1934 can be defined, the island of Rab and Lopar where PhD Richard Ehrmann von Falkenau was the first who opened the camp for twenty of his students, which was the first camp of this kind in Croatia. More on that is stated below with a description of his first trip, which Dr. Ehrmann during his life in 1973 specifically described.

Until 1961 naturism was in Croatia conceptually unknown, although before the war an attempt to deal with naturism was recorded (1934 "Angel Cove" island of Rab). Rab nudism is also mentioned in the writings of Czech Josef Herman in 1907 and professor Günter in 1912, which proves that the local people had realized the bright perspective of this, for that time, very bold movement. But the real naturist offer was initiated by opening the first nudist beach Koversada in 1960/1961, and later by naturist complex and naturist camp Acapulco (today Konobe) in Punat on the island of Krk in 1963 and Valalte in Rovinj in 1968.

It is interesting to note that in 1963 a referendum was organized among the population of Punat on





the island of Krk so that local people could vote for or against the opening of Acapulco naturist camp. The result was only one vote against, from one elderly woman who was convinced that all the tourists in Punat shall walk naked. When she was explained that it was just about the camp, she agreed for the opening of a naturist complex. After this initiative, the naturist resorts were opened elsewhere in Croatia.

It can be said that the founder is Rab, and Istria is the cradle of specific and naturist camping offer in Croatia.

Although the pioneers of this initiative were watched with a great deal of reserve and distrust, although without any regional municipal guidelines and plans, their initiatives based on what was then a modest tourist demand for naturist centers have paid off. Today only Poreč area (coast from the Mirna River to the Lim Channel) in the naturist settlement has 3,000 beds and more than twenty thousand lots in the camps, and realizes more than 2 million overnight stays, which is more than a quarter of the tourist traffic of the area.

We can conclude that Croatia is in many ways the plume of naturism in the region: it first had a prominent guests and founders of naturism (Rab), it is the first in the world to open the naturist village of commercial and open character (Koversada 1961), it was the first to organize the World Naturist Congress in a socialist country (1972 Vrsar, Koversada), it was the first to organize a naturist exhibition (Solaris, Poreč, 1973) and established a naturist association (Vrsar 1971) in the then eastern bloc.

In my business contacts during the seventies of the last century while working in Vrsar (Anita) I had the special privilege to meet and mingle firstly with Mr. Rudolf Halbig, conceptual founder and conceptualist of Koversada, then with Dr. Richard Ehrmann as representative of INF-FNI for Yugoslavia who regularly visited me in Koversada. He visited Croatia 385 times. I also met Dott. Giuseppe Ghirardelli, the Milan architect and founder of the Associazione naturista Italiana (Anita) in Vrsar in 1966.

But on the other side what we do not understand is that to date not a single law or tourist ordinance, therefore no general and no tourist legislation, does not mention naturism as an offer and does not define naturism as such. Naturism is a foreign word at the Economic and tourist high schools in Croatia, and directors of naturist campsites are not naturists.

Strategy and concept of development during

these early years of naturism as well as future of naturist offer were not established by tourist strategists in government institutions that were supposed to take care of the tourism economy, but by small businesses entrepreneurs, foreign operators and owners of naturist clubs.

Care about this offer started in 1978 when we founded the first association of naturist campsites which was then called the Section for naturist centers and acted within the Business community for the development of Croatian tourism. The founders of the section were PhD Zdenko Tomčić, Jerko Sladoljev MA from Poreč and Branko Jakopović, a renowned expert in the hotel business and then director of the Intercontinental Hotel in Zagreb.

Among the special primates it should be noted that Croatia was the first in the world of naturism to organize a millennium photo in the naturist camp Kanegra in August 2013 (photographer Šime Strikoman) with the help of the Association of Naturists Liburnia from Trieste.

In 1973 the first naturist exhibition was organized and presented, then in Yugoslavia, thanks to cooperation with the naturist clubs and societies in the area of Alpe-Adria. The exhibition was organized with the support of a large company "Riviera" from Poreč.

Thanks to its concept and market relationship with naturists, Croatia has managed to remain one of the naturist oasis and super power with very high fidelity to their clientele and business indicators that cause respect.

The master-plan for long-term development of camper tourism has been announced, which would mean that all Croatian resources in the development of this supply shall be defined, strategic and marketing. Therefore, if those who are planning shall be wise and good forecasters, it could happen that this segment again occupies one-third of the Croatian tourism pie that is, if it is balked with quality and professional artistry, much sweeter and more profitable than any other travel tidbits. The island of Rab is in this sense strategically the most gratifying camping destination in Croatia.

Jerko Sladoljev

