

*"This was the first year that we played in a central reception room. Before that, we had to drag our instruments from floor to floor. There were too many of us to fit on a single elevator, so we split up between elevators. To keep ourselves entertained we would play a song as we got in the elevators and see if we were still together when we got off."*

**- Robert Haggett**



1975 State Convention Niagara Falls. Back Row, L to R - Andres Vaska, Fred Morgan, Lee Farrington, Dick French, Joe Liotta, Dave Flint, Robert Haggett, Elmer James. David Donahue, Tim Donahue. Front Row - Richard Spies, Jerry Gallagher, Lyle Camp, David Russell, John Cotey



1976 State Convention Watertown. Front Row L to R: Elmer James, John Cotey, Andres Vaska, Dennis Williams, Fred Morgan, Lyle Camp. Back Row: Dave Flint, Bob Thorpe, Tim Donahue, Dick French, Bill Felix, Eric Coons, Andy VanDuyne.





1977 State Convention in Syracuse. Kneeling, L to R: Bob Thorpe, Robert Haggett, Dave Flint, Tyler McHugh, Andres Vaska, Dennis Williams, Joe Liotta. Standing: Chris Clark, Dick French, Eric Coons, Bill Felix, Jerry Gallagher, Tim Donahue, Andy VanDuyne, Lee Farrington, John Wolfe and Gerry Dreysee.



*"This was my first convention as manager. The band stopped at Dick French's before going to the hotel so we were in a good mood by the time we checked in to our rooms, located on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the hotel. Someone brought firecrackers and we started throwing them out the windows and getting a good laugh when hotel residents would bump their heads on the window upon hearing the loud "BANG". Hotel security was dispatched and they soon came to our door just as someone was walking out of the bathroom with an armful of water balloons. It took some effort to keep 3 members from getting kicked out before convention even started!"*

- Robert Haggett



Let's Take 5



Tire Check!





*“We have traveled by use of our own bus since 1970. The bus trip sets the mood with card games, singing and of course a good cold drink. On the trip to Rochester in 1980 we had a flat tire ten miles from our destination. We stayed at a volunteer firehouse. As we had no transportation to get into the city to play our concert, there was only one thing to do. The Chief of this volunteer house started up an open cab fire truck and transported the band into the city. Just imagine driving along the expressway and meeting a fire truck carrying a 21-piece brass band playing ‘Hot Time in the Ol’ Town Tonight’! “*

**– Robert Haggett**



**1980 State Convention in Rochester. Front Row L to R: Robert Haggett, John Wolfe, Bill Reid (kneeling), Dave Flint, Lyle Camp, Bob Thorpe, FASNY official (kneeling), Bill Felix. Back Row: Joe Liotta, Dick French, Roger Davis, Bob Winchell, Roy Ferin, Dave Rourke, Jim Decarr, Rich Merchant, Dennis Williams, Gerry Dreysee, Elmer James.**



# Firemen Play In Assembly

ALBANY- The Norwood Volunteer Firemen's band, the officially designated state band for all volunteer firemen in New York, performed here Monday in the state Assembly chambers.

The band's visit was arranged through Assemblyman David O'B. Martin, who represents the 112th Assembly District.

The Albany stop was one part of an extended downstate tour by the group.

Martin said.

Martin said such performances in the chambers are not without precedent, but are nevertheless quite rare.



This is a copy of the actual minutes of the January, 1979, session of the New York State Assembly. Assemblyman David O'Brien Martin presented this speech to the Speaker before our performance at our State Capitol in Albany.

## NORWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND "The Brass Firemen"

Robert C. Haggitt  
Band Manager  
14 Morgan Street  
Norwood, NY 13668  
315-353-8873

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker

THE SPEAKER: Mr. Martin

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, one of the distinct benefits of representing the 112th Assembly District is to have within that District, the Brass Firemen, members of the volunteer fire department band of Norwood, New York, which is also the official band of the volunteer fire departments of Northern New York.

Through your good offices, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Emery, as the Minority Leader, we have the opportunity for them to be here today representing all volunteer firemen in the State of New York, to hear them play a short concert. And, I think you will find shortly, Mr. Speaker, the enthusiasm of the Brass Firemen is indicative of the enthusiasm of the volunteer firemen throughout the State of New York. I thank you kindly for the part you play in having them here today.

Now, for your listening enjoyment, a short concert from the Brass Firemen.

(Whereupon the Brass Firemen held a concert.)

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, we want to thank you for your good offices, in having the Brass Firemen stop here as a tribute to all the firemen and volunteer firemen in the State of New York. I also want to remind the membership that this afternoon, depending upon the schedule of this House, between 5:00 and 7:00, we ask you to stop by the Parlor, and we will have a small reception for the Brass Firemen. Now, they will be leaving the Chamber, and as they do, they will play my favorite number, and Mr. Dearie and Mr. McCabe will recognize it as well.

THE SPEAKER: We thank you for bringing the Brass Firemen from Norwood, New York. If they do their jobs down there as well as they play, your community is safe. Thank you.

(Applause.)



Firemen held a concert.)





# Norwood Band Bows in D.C.



Only 10 minutes behind schedule, with excitement and anticipation, members of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Department Band (The Brass Firemen) departed from the Norwood Fire Hall at 6:20 on Saturday morning for Washington, D.C. where they were to perform on the Capital steps from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

A tape of their performance was recorded and sent to Watertown to be aired on WWNV-TV news Tuesday evening.

The group were guests at a luncheon reception held in Congressman Martin's office following their performance. Congressman Martin also pre-arranged tours through the White House and the House of Representatives.

An aide to Congressman Martin met the Brass Firemen at the Ramada Inn Saturday evening upon their arrival at 6:27 p.m.

Fred Morgan, unable to travel because of his health, was telephoned by Bob Haggett as they boarded the bus and was telephoned regularly throughout the trip. Morgan, of

Cemetery Road, sometimes referred to as "Grandfather of the Band," reorganized the band in 1945.

"I'm let down, wish I could go but it is just one of those things that comes with life. I think it is just great the band is this good. I am a proud grandfather," says Morgan. "They are really enjoying themselves and they keep telling me I am there with them," exclaimed Morgan.

On Sunday Morgan had the opportunity to talk by telephone with Congressman Martin. Martin told Morgan that this was the greatest bunch of people he had ever known.

Billy Van Kennen of Norwood drove the bus hired by the group. Billy received word on Friday night at 5 p.m. he was to meet a group in Norwood. To his surprise he learned Saturday morning that the group he would be driving was the Brass Firemen, several members of the band having attended school with Van Kennen.

Those traveling to Washington were fire chief Tim Donahue and wife; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer James; Mr. and Mrs. Chris Clark; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Haggett; Mr. and Mrs. Marilyn Edwards; Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Camp; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Davis; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Flint; Mr. and Mrs. Don Hoyt; Mr. and Mrs. Don Lustyik; Mr. and Mrs. John Boyd; Mr. and Mrs. Dick French; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Gallagher; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Reed; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Sawyer; Bob Thorpe; Tim Levison; Alice Goodrich; Jay Allison; Bill Reed; Bill Felix; Lee Farrington; James Callahan; Dave Cateforis and Joe Liotta.

*"Dave Martin's brother Edson from Malone owned a beer distribution company at the time and donated 50 cases of beer for our trip. When Dave approached our bus, of course he asked for a cold one, and someone replied, 'There aren't any left in the cooler!' Needless to say I was quite embarrassed. After that I was careful to be sure the cooler was always stocked and ready."*

**- Robert Haggett**



*"I enjoyed playing with the Brass Firemen while I was a student at Potsdam Central High School. I played sousaphone and baritone horn with the Brass Firemen and seem to recall that we played "When The Saints Go Marching In" more than any other number. My most vivid memories include long bus rides during which we would play endless rounds of nickel-ante on a big sheet of wood... also drinking cans of beer and soda kept cold in an ice bucket in the back of the bus."*

**- David Cateforis**



# Norwood Brass Firemen

## Serenade Nancy

By Alan Emory

Times Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — It was hot, but for the 22 members of the Norwood Brass Firemen it was beautiful.

The St. Lawrence County musicians — two drums, cymbals and 19 brass — did their thing Tuesday evening at a White House reception for children of congressmen and their staffs.

Mrs. Nancy Reagan, in a simple purple dress with white collar, did the honors, praising the Firemen, the Johnson Mountain Boys and the United States Marine Band, but the Firemen did most of the playing.

They had expected to play for about half an hour before the formal reception got under way. Instead, in temperatures approaching 90 degrees, they spun off at least 25 numbers over about an hour, with no chance for their usual break.

They had just finished playing "America, the Beautiful" when Mrs. Reagan, accompanied by two wheelchair athletes and their coach, came out of the Oval Office and posed for a few pictures, then went over to meet the Norwood bandmen.

More photos were snapped, these including Rep. David O'B.

Martin, R-Canton, who arranged the invitation to play and was there with his full staff.

When Mrs. Reagan suggested, "Play 'America' again, boys," the perspiring musicians laughed, then did the First Lady's bidding.

Twenty-one of the group flew down from Northern New York Tuesday. Joe Laotta, who had been in Florida, drove up to Washington just in time to participate.

Bob Thorpe, the band's director, said that at first he could not believe the group would be asked back to Washington — it played on the Capitol steps in September, 1981 — and it

was "just great. We really appreciated playing for Mrs. Reagan. We could play all night if we had to."

He said the band's repertoire had nearly 75 numbers in it.

"We hope we impressed the Marine Band," he said with a smile.

The Johnson Mountain Boys and

the Marine Band performed from a band shell erected on the lawn, but the Norwood Firemen found a shady spot between two trees nearer the White House, where they played and sang.

Just before Mrs. Reagan arrived — about half an hour late because of White House picture-taking sessions and other meetings — a District of Columbia fire truck motored up the circular driveway that separates the White House from the lawn and provided a backdrop for the band.

Congressman Martin greeted Mrs. Reagan and introduced her to the band members and shook hands for photographers. During the concert Mrs. Reagan signed autographs for eager children.

White House aides said about 400 persons had accepted invitations, but closer to 250 actually showed up.

The Brass Firemen, who are managed by Andrew Van Duyn, wore blue epauleted shirts, navy pants with white stripes down the side and red firemen's hats.

After the Marine Band finished its numbers and Mrs. Reagan thanked every one for coming the Norwood group played a closing medley, starting off with "St. Lawrence River."

Then the musicians headed for the airport and the flight home after what all seemed to think was a rewarding, if exhausting, day.



"After we arrived, they wanted us to appear more like firemen, so they gave us these red plastic hats. Some band members had difficulty adjusting the inner band, and the hats were sitting too low on their heads. We played continuously for over an hour in anticipation of Nancy's visit in the 90 degree summer heat. I remember them setting up punch bowls filled with ice cold lemonade about 50 feet away, but we couldn't stop playing. We were relieved when Nancy finally arrived."

- Robert Haggett





**Sarajevo Trip, 1984.** Through some good connections, talent, and a little luck, the Brass Firemen were chosen by an Olympic committee to travel with the US Olympic delegation to Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. The band would play in the opening ceremonies for the Winter Olympic Games as the Olympic flag is officially presented to Yugoslavia. The challenge would be raising the money to fund the trip. Bob said, "What do you do when you have to raise \$18,000 in ten weeks? We went for all the publicity we could get. After many hours of work between Joe Liotta, my wife Judee, and me, we were able to cover our expenses and have over \$8,000 to spare."



## Brass Firemen Invited To Yugoslav Olympics

### Dance To Benefit Band

**NORWOOD** — An old-time and modern square dance will be conducted today to raise money for the Norwood Brass Firemen's trip to the 1984 Winter Olympics in Yugoslavia.

Louis Sequin and Otis Blanchard will call the continuous dancing for all levels from 8 to 10:30 p.m. in the Norwood Municipal Building.

Cost will be \$8 per couple. All proceeds will be donated towards the \$18,000 the Brass Firemen need to travel to Yugoslavia Feb. 5.



With the fund raiser off the ground, we had to prepare for our trip. Several meetings were held to file necessary forms for visas, learn about Yugoslavia, and of course practice!



**SWEETS FOR BAND** — The 3-4 team at Norwood Elementary School held a benefit bake sale for the Brass Firemen on Friday, and raised \$196, which representatives of the 3-4 team presented in the band. Shown above accepting the check from Billy Gotach and Scott Cota is band member Bill Felix, far left. Kneeling are Andrea Clark, Erin McKenna, Melissa Hopsicker and Gene

**Robidoux.** In the second row, from left, are Josh Cook, Kathleen Mariani, Erin Meader, Mindee Peterson, Debra Potocar, Billjean Planty and Sarah McDonald. Third row, 3-4 teacher Mary Grant and Brass Firemen Andy Van Dyne and John Wolfe. Jan Murphy and Lori Duran, not shown, are also 3-4 teachers. (Betsy Baker photo)



Maja Vuckovic, a Potsdam exchange student, was on hand to explain her country to band members.





## Our Ambassadors

Early Sunday morning the Norwood Brass Firemen will board a bus for Lake Placid. From the site of the 1980 Winter Olympics they will travel, again by bus, to JFK airport, for the trip to Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, site of the '84 Winter Games.

Our best wishes go with them as they begin their journey. May their music bring enjoyment to the millions who will see and hear them, just as their music has brought enjoyment to the North Country.

Our critics notwithstanding, there are many good things about America and her people. The Brass Firemen will have a unique opportunity to demonstrate some of those good things as they perform their official — and unofficial — music-making duties in Sarajevo.

The Brass Firemen will be our ambassadors. From them, Sarajevo will learn something about our country, and about the North Country. We wish them a safe and joyful trip.



Fred gives the final inspection!

*"After departing from Norwood, we headed for Lake Placid to meet our chartered bus. We tagged our luggage and began to board the bus. It became apparent that all the bags would not fit in one bus. Don Hoyt, Bob Harper and Bob Donahue, fellow firemen, drove us to Lake George to load the rest of us on a second bus. We were off again on our journey to Sarajevo."*

**- Robert Haggett**



*"26 hours later, we arrived at our destination. During our stay, we lived with private citizens. Their homes were very accommodating and the people very helpful and friendly. The whole city was beautiful compared to anyone's standards."*

**- Robert Haggett**

*"We stayed in groups of 4 band members to each home. After we were settled in, we walked from home to home meeting the host families for each group. Our host families were quite hospitable and were generous with the Slivovitz (plum brandy). Regrettably, I don't remember much after the first visit."*

**- Darin LaGarry**

PUTNIČKA KARTA I PRTLJAŽNI LIST 115:4407013:657  
PASSENGER TICKET AND BAGGAGE CHECK



Small print text below the logo, including "Each passenger must carry a passport..."

JUGOSLOVENSKI AEROTRANSPORT  
MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (IATA)  
HEAD OFFICE - BELGRADE, BEOGRADSKA 1101

JAT JUGOSLOVENSKI AEROTRANSPORT		115:4407013:680
Class	Y	
Carrier	JAT	
Flight No.	401	
Origin	Lake Placid	
Destination	Sarajevo	
Class of Service	Y	
Baggage Allowance	23 kg	
Weight	23 kg	
Volume	150 dm <sup>3</sup>	
Remarks	JAT 401 11/13/83	



## Accident Stalls Norwood Band

Seven passengers were injured Sunday when one bus in a two-bus convoy taking Northern New Yorkers to catch a flight for the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, slid off the New York State Thruway near Poughkeepsie.

"They were minor injuries," State Police Sgt. Kevin M. Gallagher reported, "or, I should say, not life threatening."

The bus was one of two charters — the other carried the Norwood Brass Firemen — traveling from Lake Placid to Kennedy International Airport on Long Island.

The group, organized by Essex County Publicity Director Lake Patnode, had been scheduled to take a Yugoslav Airlines flight due to arrive in Sarajevo early today.

The accident happened at 1:15 p.m., near the New Paltz-Poughkeepsie exit in Ulster County. Snow had been falling since about 10 a.m.

The bus carrying the Norwood Brass, the Dixieland-style band that is to perform at the Olympics, was following the one that crashed.







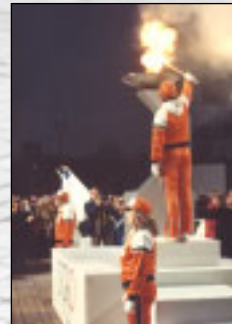
The band was assigned a bus, a driver, and an interpreter.



You're gonna buy WHAT??!

*"On Tuesday we were invited to perform at the arrival of the Olympic Flame. This would be the first time that we performed in Sarajevo. I remember looking around in complete amazement at the whole spectacle, trying to take it all in. I was used to playing field days to crowds of people who enjoyed our playing, but these people had never heard music like this before and were completely enthralled. There was a group of small children who danced for us in yellow snowsuits. They were there to perform a traditional dance, but first they danced to our music. The whole scene was like a dream."*

**- Darin LaGarry**





# World Watches Norwood Firemen

**NORWOOD** — The north country and the rest of the world Wednesday watched the Norwood Brass Firemen march in the official opening ceremonies of the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

Near accidents, delays, lost equipment, fouled paperwork, and botched room reservations have plagued the band, but the group is taking the near-catastrophes with the proper spirit.

"This group of guys, they make their own good times," said Mrs. Judee Haggett, wife of band manager Robert C. Haggett, who has been calling with daily progress reports and messages from the band members to their families.

And the pride of their achievement has made the problems fade.

As promised, the Norwood Brass played their "Sarajevo Medley: When The Saints Come Marching In, Babyface, A Closer Walk With Thee, and America The Beautiful" at opening ceremonies Wednesday, marching after the parade of athletes and behind the Olympic flag.

Mrs. Haggett watched the ceremony live on Canadian channels Wednesday morning, switching the dial back and forth to catch glimpses of the band.

"They were having some difficulty with the sound on Channel 10. Just as they came into view, the sound went off. They had some background classical music on, which was pretty funny," considering the jazzy Dixieland music the Norwood Brass plays, Mrs. Haggett said.

She switched the station to Channel 4 and "we could hear them. They sounded very good," she said.



An Olympic postcard sold in Sarajevo.

*"On Wednesday it was time for the opening ceremonies. We arrived in the parking lot and unloaded our instruments. We were all quite anxious and excited! Around us there were hundreds of young people in colored snowsuits who would also be performing in the ceremonies. Some of them were quite friendly (below). We waited patiently for the start of the ceremonies... when the time came we lined up and marched into the stadium to the usual street beat. We played what is now known as the 'Sarajevo Medley', while staying in perfect step the whole time. I remember trying my best to face forward and resist looking around at the spectacle. As we passed the crowd from the USA, the cheering was deafening."*

**- Darin LaGarry**



**We did it! Front Row L to R: John Wolfe, Chris Clark, Jamie Callahan, Kevin Murray, Lyle Camp, Roger Davis. Back Row: Lee Farrington, Joe Liotta, Jerry Gallagher, Jeff Brackett, Paul Haggett, Bill Felix, Matt Vaska, Dave Rourke, Chris Greenwood, Andy VanDuynes, Tim Donahue, Elmer James, Paul Vaska, Paul Santimaw, Bob Haggett, Bob Thorpe, Dave Flint, Darin LaGarry.**





*"We were quite elated leaving the stadium, giving each other high-fives, hooting, and hollering. As the participants and audience began to leave the area, we wanted to get some pictures taken of the band with the Olympic flame in the background. As we left our bus, the crowd surrounded us and we performed an impromptu concert for them. This was as exciting as marching through the opening itself. I must say that this moment was the best the band has ever sounded. We then boarded our bus again and were entertained at the City Hall by the Yugoslavian Folk Dance Group, who preceded us during the Opening Ceremonies. Much Pivo (beer), Slivovitz, and hors d'oeuvres were served."*

**- Robert Haggett**

2 B... The Atlanta Journal Wednesday, February 15, 1984.....

# OK, let's hear it for the Norwood Band

Watching the Olympics, it's hard not to be dazzled by all this sledding and skating and skiing... although personally I do not like sledding, skating and skiing.

In sledding, I have found, one's posterior suffers. In skating, well... one's posterior suffers. (At least mine did. And my ankles didn't fare very well either.) As for skiing, that I have never tried to do, and never will. The idea of sliding down snow, of which I am suspicious anyway, on two-by-fours or whatever, just seems to go against human nature, not to mention good sense.

So, despite all the thrills of these sports, the thing that sticks in my mind about the Olympics was seeing a bunch of fellows purposefully striding forth, blowing their horns and sending the unexpected strains of "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" out into the frosty air of a Communist country.

You can talk all you want to about the importance of Americans bringing medals home, but the Norwood Volunteer Fire Department Band to me is what America is really all about. And they're winners, even without the medals.

Norwood is a village of 2,000 folks not far from Lake Placid, N.Y., where the 1980 Winter Olympics were held. They've had a community band for more than 100 years, one that was incorporated with the local volunteer fire department band in 1946. Fifty percent of the members now are active volunteer firefighters;

**Frances Cawthon**



the chief, David Flint, plays the trumpet, and the rest are honorary members of the department.

I tried to talk to some folks in Norwood about this big event in their lives the other day, but they were much too anxious for a call saying their 24 band members had arrived back in the good ole U.S.A. to want to tie up the telephone lines.

When the fellows did return, band manager Robert Haggett (who also blows the trumpet) talked to me through the haze of jet lag.

It's the tradition, he said, for the mayor of the town where the last Winter Olympics were held to take the flag to the mayor of the city where the present Games are to take place — and to take his own musicians with him. In November, Lake Placid Mayor Robert Peacock invited the Norwood Volunteer Fire Department Band.

The Norwood Volunteer Fire Department Band could make a lot of good sounds, but the jingle of coins was definitely not one of them.

By Christmas week, they had raised only \$350. It would take more than \$18,000 to go to

Sarajevo. Suddenly everybody pitched in. Donations came from businesses, Norwood citizens, and the third- and fourth-grade pupils of the Norwood elementary school brought in cookies and fudge to sell for a nickel apiece. They donated \$190 from that sale.

Within five weeks, firefighter/musicians who are a cross section of American types — student, teacher, plumber, factory worker, retiree, small businessman, and so forth — were ready to go to a country none of them had ever seen before. And to be guests in the homes of Yugoslavians.

These Yankees specialize in music from the Deep South — Dixieland Jazz. They've been doing their own particular "North country style" of it for 40 years. "We don't read sheet music," explained Haggett. The guys just play, and each adds his own part.

After the Olympic flame was received at Sarajevo, the band gave an impromptu concert in front of the equivalent of city hall there. They also played in the opening ceremony, and after that event was over and the crowd was breaking up, people demanded more of such American favorites as "Baby Face" and "When the Saints Go Marching In."

"So we formed a circle and jammed for another 20 to 30 minutes," Haggett said.

Like I say, I would like America to win all those medals, but I feel the moment that opening ceremony took place, the Norwood Volunteer Fire Department Band already had put us on top.

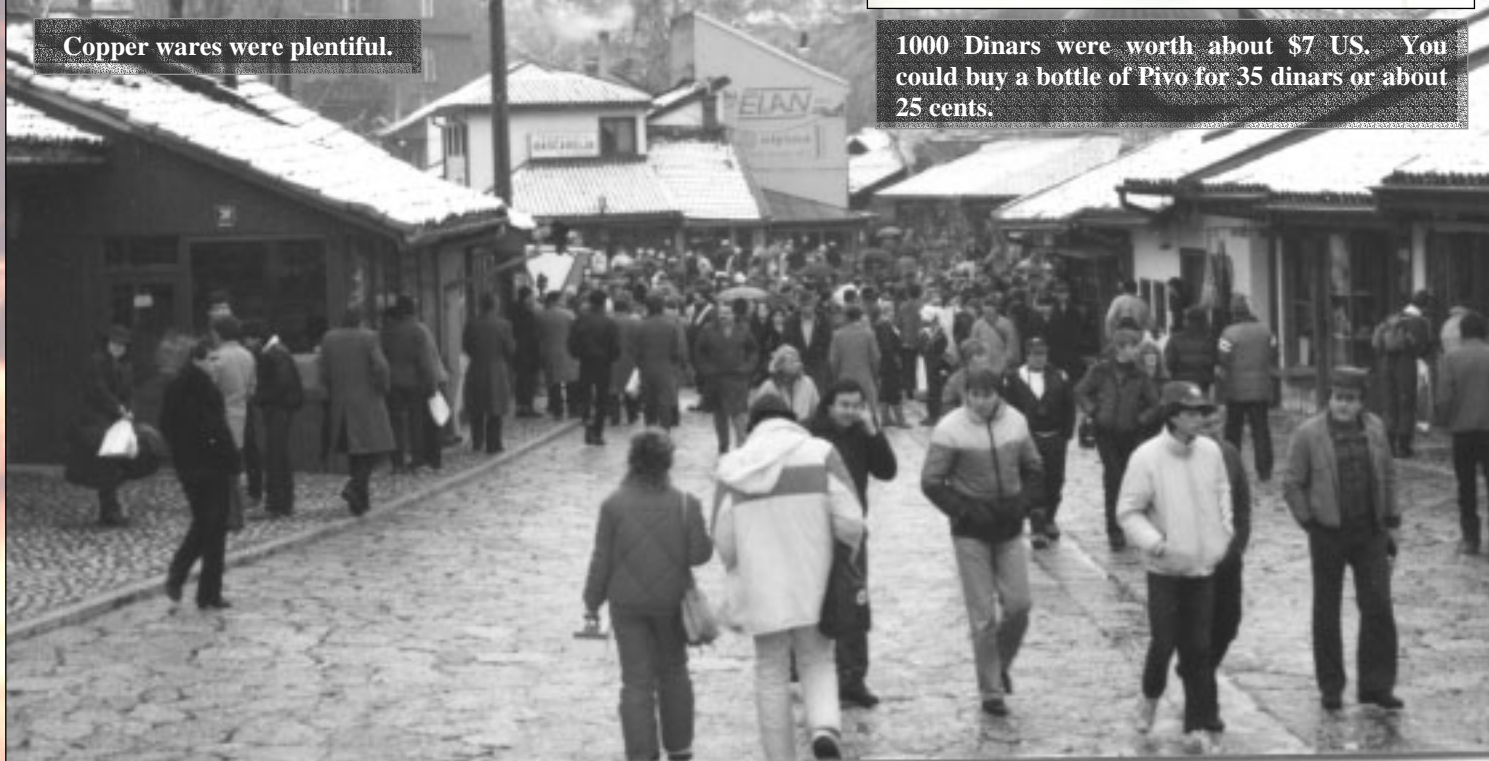




Copper wares were plentiful.



1000 Dinars were worth about \$7 US. You could buy a bottle of Pivo for 35 dinars or about 25 cents.



*"Thursday and Friday were days of attending some of the Olympic games as spectators. We also went shopping in Barcaraija. This is the old section of Sarajevo and one could spend all day in this section and not be able to see all of it. We were able to buy many gifts at a reasonable price."*

**- Robert Haggett**



USA-1, CZECH-4.