

A SHORT HISTORY OF MARKO SIVUK AND MATILDA CONICH BUNETA



The history of the James J. Booth family wouldn't be complete without a short history of their next door neighbors Mike and Nettie Buneta.

Maybe I should explain up front here that our family nickname for Matilda was Nettie. As young children we couldn't say their last name right so we called her "Nettie" and him "Mike"

Jim and Alice Booth lived at 24 North 6th Street in Tooele, Utah for 20 years (1935 - 1956) before moving to the west side of Tooele. Mike and Nettie lived next door to the North at 32 North 6th Street.

Mike was born April 25, 1875 in Gospic, Yugoslavia a son of Mile and Mara Buneta. Nettie was born September 21, 1876 to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Conich in Gospic, Yugoslavia. They were married June 13, 1898 in Gospic, Yugoslavia.

Mike's obituary provides the following history. They came to the United States in March 1902. They first lived in Magna, Utah for ten years. They resided in Idaho for nine years, and came to Tooele in 1926 where they lived out their remaining years.

Mike worked as a blacksmith for Tooele City and others as the need required. Later in his life he had a small blacksmith shop set up in his yard where he did work for anyone in need.

The following is a history authored by Orrin Miller.

TOOELE'S NEWTOWN

During 1908 the Anaconda Corporation decided to build a copper smelter east of Tooele, Utah. Corporate executives living in Montana, were aware of the fact that building a smelter and a railroad in Tooele County would create need for housing and service facilities to serve several hundred laborers and staff members. Thus the basis for Tooele becoming a boom town was laid.

The Tooele Improvement Company, a Corporation of the State of Montana, was formed to purchase land, in the Plat C of Tooele City. They in turn sold approximately 50 whole blocks, 86 acres of land and many vacant lots to the Tooele Building Association of Salt Lake City.

The Tooele Building Association subsequently sold lots to builders. For example, Martin Bezek of Montana built Bezek Building at 48 North Broadway in 1909 for \$8,500.00.

Newtown was not a "Company Town". Anaconda purchased a large part of Plat "C" from Eli B. Kelsey and S. F. Doremus. This land management agency was the Tooele Improvement Association.

Property deeds to private land owners contained a smelter easement clause. This easement protected Anaconda from damage suits in case of smelter smoke/emissions damage to their land.

The block in Plat C was only 1/3 the size of the blocks laid out in the 1853 survey of Tooele City. This arrangement provided a more efficient use of land for residential purposes.

The business area was Broadway which became Newtown Main Street.

A Cadre of Anaconda staff and skilled workers were sent to Tooele to teach local laborers how to operate a copper smelter. Local supply of labor was inadequate so labor was imported from Southern Europe.

The first furnace at the smelter was fired in September 1910. However the Newtown of Tooele was not completed until 1916. Many people lived in tents and shacks until modern homes could be built.

At one time there were four large rooming houses and three saloons. Many of the new laborers were single men. Many of the single men subsequently immigrated their wives and families.

Within Newtown there were three major communities, the Italian, the Greek and Yugoslavs. Each community patronized their own grocery stores and saloons.

EARLY SLAVIC SETTLERS IN TOOEELE

by Helen Elich Penok

Much of the immigration from southern Europe to the United States occurred just prior to World War 1 during the years 1900 to 1915. These were primarily young people in their teens who left their families in search of what this country had to offer: freedoms that were denied them in their native lands and opportunities to earn a living. The Slavic people were hard workers and they settled in communities where there was mining and smelting. Those who came to Tooele mostly worked at the Tooele Smelter. In most cases, they found themselves with their own families to support and never had the opportunity to return, even for a visit with the loved ones they left behind in Europe.

At the time when the Slavic people came to Tooele, they were called Austrians because the land they left was part of the Austrian Empire. At the end of World War 1, the country of Yugoslavia was formed in 1918 consisting of six republics including Croatia, Serbia, and Slovenia. Many of the immigrants from what is now Yugoslavia became citizens of the United States.

A list of immigrants is provided with this article. It states the following:

Marko (Civok) Buneta 1875 - 1956

Matilda Canich 1876 - 1965

Mr. Buneta was a blacksmith by trade and worked until his retirement. Mr Buneta was a familiar figure in this community, having driven his well kept 1926 Ford in many of the local parades.

They lived in a small home next to the Booth family. The home consisted of a kitchen, two bedrooms, a front room, a bathroom and a back room where they stored their food. Their bathroom was a converted porch they built in to make room for a tub and toilet. In about 1954 the city of Tooele installed a sewer system in that part of town. Until then each home had an outhouse located in the

back yard. Under the back porch there was a stairway to a dugout basement where Mike made his own wine and brandy. He was very good at this and was well known for it. He often collected the grapes for the local grocery stores to make the wine and used fruit from the many trees located in the area for the brandy.

Long after Mike and Nettie passed away their home burned to the ground when someone else was living there. It no longer exists.

Most of the community in Newtown raised their own food. Each raise several pigs, a flock of chickens and what ever other animals they had room for. Mike and Nettie had a pig pen at the back of their property. A chicken coop was located nearby. There was a covered area where he parked his beloved Model T Ford. The whole yard was inclosed by a high wood fence.

They kill and process their own pork. They cured the meat in a brine solution and made their own sausage from the intestines and stomach of the animals. Every part of the pig was used as this was the only meat they had to eat. They caught the blood from the animal as they butchered it and made blood pudding. This they didn't share with anyone as it was considered a delicacy. They made head cheese from the head of the pig and pickled pigs feet with the feet.

When it came time to butchered the animals, it was a group effort. Each family would help the other to process their animals. They always took one animal and roasted it over an open fire. They had a spit they would place thru the animal and place this on a set of stands over a fire they started and let burn down to coals. There was a metal shield a person sat behind to operated the crank they turned the pig with. This was the time to party and they made the most of it. The wine was passed around and so was the brandy. Loud singing could be heard for a distance. Once the pig was done, all would eat and enjoy each others company. They were a close knit community and often met together.

Jim and Alice's children considered them to be their Grandparents and they treated the children as such. They were considerably tolerant of them. We visited them often and would enter the home with a knock and a "knock knock come in" statement. They often visited Nettie long after Mike was gone and they had moved to the west side of town.

Jim and Alice didn't have a car that worked at the time of their son's (John) birth. The hospital was located on Vine street several block away and when Alice went into labor with him, she was transported there using Mike's Model T Ford. They made it to the parking lot of the Hospital where John was born in the front seat. This story is a famous one with the family. Below is the photos that were taken during the summer of 1956. Later that year Mike passed away and these are the only photos we have of them.



Alice and John Booth



John Booth. Licence plated dated 1956.



Alice and John Booth



John, Linda and Alice Booth



Mike and Matilda Buneta, John, Alice and Linda Booth



Mike and Matilda Buneta, John, Alice and Linda Booth

They never had any children of their own. In approximately 1918 they adopted a wonderful little girl Katheryn Rukovina Padgen. Katie as she was known, passed away in 2006 and her obituary tells the story of how she come to be their daughter.

OBITUARIES

Katheryn Rukovina Padgen

Jan. 23, 1913 -

April 21, 2006

The Matriarch

How can I explain in so many words the beauty of our sweet grandmother, mother and friend, Katheryn Padgen. With her family surrounding her, she took her last breath on April 21, 2006. The reason for her death was her graceful age of 93 years old. She passed away with all the dignity and pride she always carried within her.

Katheryn — or Katie Padgen — was born in Park City, Utah, on Jan. 23, 1913, to a family that had emigrated from Croatia. Her parents were Anthony Rukovina and Mary Marvich. She had one sister, Francis Grossi, and one brother, Robert Rukovina. Because times were tough, Grandma was placed in St. Anne's orphanage in Salt Lake City. When she was five years old, a nice couple came to the orphanage and chose her for their child. Her foster parents and the people who raised Katie Padgen were Marko and Matilda Buneta.

Grandma was raised partly in



Katheryn Rukovina Padgen

Idaho as well as Tooele. She worked hard in the fields and helped her foster dad in many farm jobs. She loved to socialize and dance. She went to a dance in Murray, Utah, when she was a young lady and she met her husband, Mike Padgen. They were married Oct. 12, 1934. She worked at the first Tooele hospital and spent 21 years at Tooele Army Depot, where she retired.

Grandma lived in NewTown and had many friends. In fact, her foster dad was the first blacksmith of NewTown. Katie grew to be a strong, proud woman with only honesty and polite etiquette upon her brow. She made numerous afghans and donated them to St. Marguerite's, Tooele Nursing Home and the Eagle's Lodge. Katie thoroughly enjoyed her

church, St. Margurite's. She served as president of the Ladies Catholic Guild. She was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary at the Fraternal Order of Eagles for over 50 years. She served there in many offices including President and Mother. She was also a charter member of the Moose Lodge. The reason Katheryn was involved in these organizations is because she could utilize her unique talents to give to others freely. Not only did she occupy public positions, but also she had the task of being a mother who taught manners and propriety and a grandmother who loved as only grandmothers do, unconditionally.

"Mom, I don't know what I'm gonna do without you. Heart of my heart."

Katheryn and Mike Padgen Sr. had five children: Theresa (Emmett) Thompson of Montpelier, Idaho; Michael Padgen of Tooele; Mary Dillard (Jerry) of Tooele; Loretta Padgen (deceased); Tony Padgen (deceased). Her grandchildren include: Sean Thompson, Steven Thompson, Johnny Marshall, Mark Marshal, Paul Marshall, Steven Padgen, Eddie Padgen, Lisa Padgen, Keri Padgen, Terry Padgen, Jodie Munier, Kurt Dillard, Dorothy Dillard Boshinava, Jerry Eric Dillard (Bubba), Sara Dillard Jeppesen, Jenifer Dillard, Maryanne Dillard, Michael Dillard and Julie Dillard Hallam and 37 great-grandchildren.

Preceding Grandma to heaven were her husband, Mike Padgen; her sister, Francis Grossi; her brother, Robert Rukovina; her loving daughter, Loretta Padgen; her devoted son, Tony Padgen; her beloved son-in-law, Jerry Dillard; and the apple of her eye, her grandson, Jerry Eric Dillard.

Services will be held at St. Margurite's Church in Tooele. Prayer Vigil will be held Wednesday, April 26, at 6 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held Thursday, April 27, at 10 a.m. Burial will be at Murray City Cemetery. Luncheon will follow the burial at 2 p.m. at Tooele Eagles Lodge, 50 S. First Street. Tate Mortuary assisting in preparations.

Mike Buneta passed away October 28, 1956 in Tooele, Utah. Below is his Obituary and Death Certificate.

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Marko Buneta Dies; Funeral Set for Saturday

Marko (Civok) Buneta, age 81, died Sunday, October 28, at the Tooele Valley Hospital, following an illness.

He was born April 25, 1875, at Gospic, Yugoslavia, a son of Mile and Mara Buneta. He was married to Matilda Canich, June 13, 1896, in Gospic. The couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last June.

Mr. Buneta came to the United States in March 1902, settling in Magna in 1904, where he lived for ten years. He resided in Idaho for nine years, and came to Tooele in 1926 where he has since resided. He was a blacksmith by trade and worked until his retirement a few years ago.

Drove '26 Ford

Mr. Buneta is a familiar figure in this community, having driven his well-kept 1926 Ford in many of the local parades.

He was a member of the Coronation Fraternal Union and belonged to the Catholic Church, a member of the St. Marguerite's Parish.

He is survived by his widow, one daughter, Mrs. Michael Padgen, and five grandchildren.

Requiem high mass will be held at the St. Marguerite's Church, Saturday, November 3 at 10 a. m. Rosary will be at the Tate Mortuary, November 2 at 8 p. m.

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UTAH CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

56 23 0083

REGISTRAR'S NO. 94

STATE FILE NO.

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY Tooele		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: Residence before admission) a. STATE Utah b. COUNTY Tooele	
b. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Tooele		c. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Tooele	
d. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION Tooele Valley Hospital		d. STREET ADDRESS 32 North 6th Street	
c. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		e. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
f. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) Marko (Ciyick) Buneta		4. DATE OF DEATH Month 10 Day 28 Year 56	
5. SEX Male	6. COLOR OR RACE White	7. MARRIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/>	8. DATE OF BIRTH 4/25/1875
9. AGE (In years last birthday) 81		10. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, seen if retired) Blacksmith	
10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Self Employed		11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Gospic, Yugoslavia	
12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? Yugoslavia			
13. FATHER'S NAME Mike Buneta		14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Mary (Unknown)	
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give year or dates of service) No		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	
17. INFORMANT Mrs Matilda Buneta - Tooele, Utah		Address	
18. CAUSE OF DEATH [Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).] PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Cirrhosis of Liver 5811 Conditions, if any, which gave rise to above cause (a), stating the underlying cause last. DUE TO (b) Heavy Drinking DUE TO (c) PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I(a)			INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH 5 m.
19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
20a. ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE <input type="checkbox"/>		20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of item 18.)	
20c. TIME OF INJURY Hour 11 Month 10 Day 28 Year 56			
20d. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/>		20e. PLACE OF INJURY (e. g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)	
20f. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Tooele		COUNTY Tooele STATE Utah	
21. I attended the deceased from 6/13/56 to 12/28/56 and last saw ^{her} him alive on 10/28/56 . Death occurred at 7:15 P. on the date stated above; and to the best of my knowledge, from the causes stated.			
22a. SIGNATURE D. Mayo, M.D.		22b. ADDRESS Tooele Clinic, Tooele, Utah	
22c. DATE SIGNED 10/29			
23a. BURIAL OR CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) Burial		23b. DATE 10/31/56	
23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Tooele City Cemetery		23d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) Tooele, Utah	
24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S NAME AND ADDRESS LaVar Tate - Tate Mortuary		25. DATE RECD. BY LOCAL REG. 10-31-56	
26. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Mrs. Anna Evans			

Nettie passed away January 7, 1966 in Tooele, Utah. Her obituary is below.

h t - H a r g Mrs. Buneta Passes in Death

Requiem mass was held Tuesday, January 11 in the St. Marguerites Catholic Church for Mrs. Matilda Conich Buneta.

Mrs. Buneta, 90, died Friday, January 7, at the Tooele Valley Nursing Home of causes incident to age.

SHE WAS born at Gospic, Yugoslavia, Sept. 21, 1876, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Conich and was married to Marco Buneta, June 13, 1896 in Yugoslavia.

They moved to the United States in 1902. Mr. Buneta died October 28, 1956.

She was a member of the Catholic Church.

SURVIVING are a daughter Mrs. Michael (Katie) Padgen, of Tooele; five grand children and six great grandchildren.

Burial was in the Tooele City Cemetery.

Found on the internet was a document that details their immigration information.

New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924 for Marko Buneta

The original image is viewable at ellisland.org

At ellisland.org you can view, print, and save the original image.

(fees may apply) [Visit Partner Site](#)

Given Name:	Marko
Surname:	Buneta
Last Place of Residence:	Ledenice
Date of Arrival:	06 Apr 1904
Age at Arrival:	32y
Ethnicity:	Hungary, Croatian, Austrian, Dutch
Port of Departure:	Havre
Port of Arrival:	New York
Gender:	Male
Marital Status:	M
US Citizen:	
Ship of Travel:	L'Aquitaine