



What I Wish For You, Sweet... Românești

We wish to integrate, we wish for a better Romania, more exactly we wish to change the world, the society in which we live in, but this is not so easy to achieve. I am convinced that you, the readers have thought the same as I did, future journalist, that for achieving this beneficial alteration, we must start with the beginning, from the today's village space, where lives a profound Romania, without modifying the villager's habits and traditions...

Finding myself in Romanesti, a village located 100 km from Timisoara, in the Journalism camp, I made my way on the streets with a tape-recorder in my hands, as a true journalist; I questioned the villagers, tackling the problem of how could the village improve and be modern, at the same time. There was no delay in waiting the answers, and for my surprise, I noticed the spirit of initiative of those people, who lack only the courage of getting in contact with the local authorities and put into practice their ideas.

"Here in Romanesti we could set a village museum." Another villager proposed: "Here at the Community Center, there is a room in the back and it is unused. We would be willing to donate the old objects in order to make it work." One of them, declared: "We have at home clay jugs and looms and we feel sorry for them ending up in our attics".

Almost all the inhabitants with which I discussed, had taken very serious this proposal, thinking even at all the improvements that could be done, hence this would become a small business, very profitable in the future, that could attract more tourists, which eventually would raise a higher level of attraction and interest of this place "You should let the mayor know", said a villager. And the entrance fee could be 1 or 2 lei, and be raised when visitors come".

From that moment I decided to become their mediator, taking the responsibility of bringing up to the mayor's mind not only the problems of the villagers, but also their desires concerning a daring project, which could later become a small business.

Therefore, on the twenty second of July, when the meeting with the mayor, Mr. Eugen Cernescu and his promoter, Mr. Adrian Matei, took place, I brought into discussion the idea of setting a museum in the village.

The mayor's reaction was a positive one: "It is an interesting idea. We could collect objects made out of clay, folk clothing, and old tools from the villagers. We can definitely do this. The rector of the Cultural House can bring this idea into existence, but we haven't got a paid person, yet, but we can name somebody. The idea is not bad at all, sincerely I haven't thought at something like this and it is possible to put it into practice due to the fact that the majority of the people here still keep traditional clothing".

Moreover, the youth from Romanesti and the neighborhood village-Balosesti, are leaving for Vienna on the Christmas Day, with the help of the Country Council, due to the traditions that are still kept. Lately, various old habits were developed, financed as cultural projects, like the "Countering The Sheep Feasts" and others.

Arguments exist, we only have to hope that the idea will develop and be in the mayor's perspective, at least as a project...

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"William Shakespeare" College Timișoara



Come and see the light

The cave from Romanesti is the biggest one in the Timis County. The first research regarding the geology and fauna of it were made in 1872.

The cave is found in a calcareous mountain and it's located near the rivers Bega-Luncani and Poieni. Its length is 1.050 meters, it has 3 levels. Its entrance is 9.5 meters width and 2 meters high. Inside the cave one can see a unique geological formation called *tectonic rock* – a colored group of stones, which make the Românești, cave a rarity.

Once a year, in an autumn day the cave comes to life. 21 years ago, in 1984, Dr. Lupu - a psychiatrist and a speolog had the idea to host a concert inside the cave. This concert became a tradition being the only speo-concert in Romania and among the few in Europe.

The first concert was delivered by the orchestra of "Ion Vidu" high school from Timișoara, conducted by Marius Tănăsescu.

For this event the Romanian Mail Service launched philatelic envelopes, at the ex-glass factory in Tomești, and special cups have been made.

All those together with the planner's emotions, today, are just legends.

The cave has fascinating acoustics – it represents a natural underground concert hall. Until now over 20 concerts have been held with famous orchestras, famous soloists and famous conductors.

The concerts in Românești cave have continued every third Sunday of October, autumn, when the calc dries up and the water doesn't pour anymore, offering the cave it's unique acoustics.

In the following years the Symphonical orchestra conducted by Gheorghe Chiculiță, the children's Choir from Marga, The "Sabin Drăgoi" choir, the Banat Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonic from Arad, the Royal Orchestra from Denmark and many others have performed in the cave.

Because inside the cave the temperature is average about 14 degrees Celsius and also a lot of moisture, concerts don't usually last more than an hour.

Before each concert a group of 50-60 people work in order to create the necessary conditions to have these events.

The absolute audience record was scored by the violin player Ștefan Ruha, with 4000 sold tickets. Doctor Lupu states: "We have *resurrected darkness in the woods*"

Come and see the light and enjoy the sound of music from its depths.

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Waiting for lost time

It may see weird, but in the moment you came in Romanesti, a deep silence invades all of your body, so that you may thing you mistaken the place for your holiday. This thing...the silence you will can fill as long as you stay, but you will notice besides the work on the field and the fact that the most of the villages are retired and the youth don't have were to work, because the fabric of glass from Tomesti was been closed, here are some business who proviso the population, bring tourist...even if they are in passing by.

The village is situating at 100 kilometers from Timisoara, being a small place on the hill, approximate 1000 habitants (and the wind still blowing on the streets). The most important tourist attraction from this zone it is the monastery „Izvorul lui Miron”, which is holiday celebrate every year at 20th of July; in the same time whit Saint Elya.

In the rest this village doesn't impress with anything special... unfortunately!

Walking through the village I had the lock to meet some villages which were eager or tell me the bed situation of the village, about the stores and how they are catering, about what had has remained from a village which in the time was more populate and in which the tradition they are kept only the Christmas and Easter habits.

For the villages, the most important source of life is the bakery, the only one in the village.

Everything started in 2002, when the „Viofil” flower mill was set up, a name, which later on would be carried by the bakery, too.

At the beginning it was harder, because the money invested in this business where borrowed from the bank. Currently, the bakery has two associates, because is a civiler service firm.

People came to us whit their wheat and they pay only the backing (round six thousand lei for a bread) and so they are not obligate to pay so much for a bread, and the quality can't compared to the one from the city, because we don't use E-s and the ingredients are traditional with flour, yeast and salt, and the result is an excellent bread it's made at home” declared one of the associates of the firm.

Concerning the integration in UE and the effect that it will leave in the prices end standards, he is ready and doesn't fear that he might lose the business because „the bread is a general need”. The quantity that bakery from Romanesti produces differs from a day to another, because the firm has no continuity, the man bring wheat only UN needed.

Another business that has become know in this region is the wood of high quality that is „Holzindustrie-Romanesti” sells.

This firm developed in 1996, but the first wood that cut, later in 1997. The wood is brought from Luncari-Poeni, but also from Hunedoara, Alba and Caras. It has four associates; one of them from Germany and it detains 50% from the capital.

Here is being hired 13 people, who live all in Romanesti.

In one year are being cut 4,000-5,000 m of wood from which 60-65% can sell. „The business started from 20,000 dollars and now we can say we have 6 milliard lei. The bed thing about it is that we can't export as much as we wish; because outside the price are lower than here.



Learning means better

One certainly wonders why is this message conveyed with a negative scent ? Well, in this little village named Romanesti, in a little edge of the world, at the bound of Poiana Rusca Mountains, the reality is more surprising then it seems. Why? Because sometimes it's not enough to do our best but to do what is necessary.

Striving to find an intriguing feature of this village and considering it's over 330 years old, I went on thoroughly enthusiastic in it's search, with my badge in my chest and the recorder in my hands. I started gazing around, in a search for something. Anything, until I reached a small room on which was written big and bare "Elementary school – Romanesti -Classes I-IV", thinking the high school must certainly be nearby. After long searches, I actually realized that, to my amazement that there wasn't any in the whole village! Moreover, the nearest high school was a few villages away!! So who wants to do some school, he'd better manage it on his own!

First question we ask ourselves is obviously what does the mayor do? there are few pupils...we have no funds...teachers aren't prone to this service...each class has about 6 students... (even if the village has about 1000 dwellers). Moreover, not even the only kindergarten and primary school don't have the minimum equipment required to cater for some decent conditions such as a refrigerator to deposit the incoming food from the famous program "The croissant and the milk". The mayor gladly narrates about the departure of so many teens from these villages to other countries, as here they had no good reason to stay, not even for a few years of high school. There is only one single high school in all the area, in Faget, and a single bus, which commutes between all the little villages.

He tells us that this is the situation. The waiting is probably in the hope to find the famous moneymaking tree. Aaa, if there actually is anything done...? Yes, the roads. I mean, sorry, they're trying.

In a place where people need education, possibilities to keep their culture, customs, traditions, feasts, holidays and everything that lays at the boundaries of this community, nobody does anything. Everybody takes care of their geese and cows, ignoring the true values that should be on the first place like: education, good manners, and general knowledge.

The saddest thing is that this is mentality issue, which unfortunately, difficulty changes. People are not aware of the whole natural and cultural treasure, which has been lost and is still being lost from generation to generation. They have no hope of something better because they don't know anything better and there is no one to open up a different horizon, a different possibility. It is said that a quest ends when what was looked for was found or when the last sparkle of light has died out. Here the future shows that not only are the efforts useless, but that hope will die.

Well, you have surely heard of the phrase: Romania is the country of all possibilities! In other words, it is truly possible for time's wings to fly over these people, covering some and uncovering the others without anyone acknowledging their simple and modest lifestyle, in order to help them and to show them there is room for better.

And as we Romanians all say: "N-ai carte , n-ai parte!"

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The director of this business gave me various information about the firm „Magtonvic”. „All began in 1996 as a srl, which as the main target trade, then in 1996, I brought two machines. At the begging it was rather complicated, because we didn't have the necessary machines, enough room; producing parquet needs time and special attention. Currently we have 25 employees and the biggest part of parquet is sending to foreign countries (France, Belgian, Ireland...), but also to individual person or forums of decorating indoor. Another aim is extending the business on local ground, in order to offer working places and in this way we are still discuses this whit the Town hall, in order to buy the field” said with a lot of pried Mr. Markesan Vasile, brother of the only associates.

Also in this area is a section of clothing manufactures which produced protection equipment for Italian firms, everything going for export.

Because things could have been better, or may they will, I specific the fact that the glass facture in Tomesti was brought by polish company, which developed the glass business in several countries. Unfortunately the orders of this company haven't been to Romania in long time to reopen the factory, but...hope die last.

How long will pass until we were hearing of investors in this eastern of Banat or until tourist advertising will reach the level of this places? Maybe more, maybe lost, it depends of lock and also on the will of people and authorities.

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