

*Slobodan Selinic*

*Life at the Youth Work Rallies in Yugoslavia 1946–1963*

*Summary*

Very harsh living and working conditions prevailed at youth work rallies, especially during the first post-war years. Scant machinery and meager experience, shortage of drinking water, lack of adequate clothes and shoes led to a large number of young people falling ill. It can certainly be said that at least 185 young people died or accidentally got killed at these rallies. Cultural, sport and educational life was fostered in the rally brigades. Illiterate young people were taught to read and write (from 1946 to 1952 around 70 000 young people were made literate), a large number of young people completed industrial and agricultural vocational courses, took part in sport events, watched movies, participated in cultural workshops, gathered around camp fires, some of them read books and newspapers and wrote their own diaries. The Yugoslav youth was also assisted by at least 14 000 young men and women from around the world. The leadership of the Yugoslav Youth Organization organized for them lectures about Yugoslavia and its system and foreign policy, as well as excursions, sport and cultural activities and promoted comradeship with their peers from Yugoslavia.