

# Carpatho-Rus'

## Karpatska Rus'



SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT YONKERS, NEW YORK AND OTHER MAILING ADDRESSES

NO. 18, CARPATHO-RUS, YONKERS, N.Y., SEPTEMBER 2, 1994 VOL. LXVII

### AN IMPORTANT LECTURE

A lecture will be held at the Carpatho-Russian American Center Inc. on September 18, 1994 beginning at 3:00PM on:

"Who are the Lemkos?"  
by: Professor Paul R. Magocsi

Specific topics will include:

- The origins of the term Lemko
- The Russophile and Rusyn movements
- Operation "Wisla"
- The Lemko immigration to America
- The current Lemko Rusym situation

The format of the lecture will be a dissertation of approximately 30 to 45 minutes followed by a question and answer session. The lecture will be given in the English language and is targeted for the English speaking Lemko Rusyn community in America. There has been a general neglect about our Rusyn culture here in America that has caused a yearning among our people to learn more about their roots and ancestry. In Professor Magocsi we have the pre-eminent expert in North America on Rusyn history and culture. It will be good time to meet and speak with Professor Magocsi and others of the Rusyn community. There will be no entrance fee. The lecture is sponsored by the CRA Center Inc. For more information call (914) 969-3954.

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### 26th Annual Lemko Folk Festival

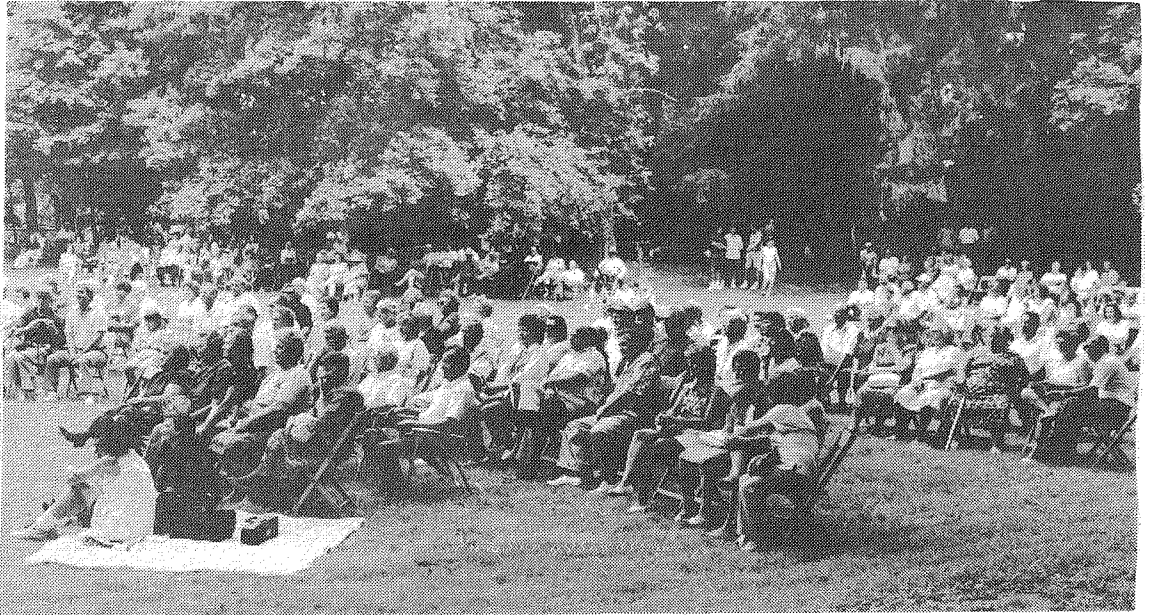
On Sunday, August 28, 1994 Lemko Park hosted the 26th Annual Lemko Folk Festival. The festival, which this year drew 500 people, took place in the gently rolling, forested green hills of upstate New York.

This year's program began, as it always does, with a 10am service at the Talerhof Memorial Chapel, located on the grounds of the 110-acre Lemko Park. Father Frawley presided, with approximately 100 worshippers in attendance.

After the service, festival participants strolled the grounds in groups or ate lunch at the Park's restaurant. The menu included tasty pirohy, kielbasa with sauerkraut, fresh ham and cucumber salad. Victoria Windish's popular borscht was in great demand and already gone by late afternoon. The kitchen was ably managed by Michael Kirpan.

### The Welcoming Ceremonies

At 1:00pm, the cultural program began. It took place on a large wooden stage in a clearing next to the Talerhof Memorial Chapel. Against a beautiful backdrop of pine, maple and oak, the program was opened with the playing of the American national anthem. The Chairman of the



Cultural Program, Janet Fuchila, then formally opened the festival and welcomed the people.

Remarks were made by Mr. Alexander Herenchak, president of the Lemko Association, and Mr. John Kirpan, president of Lemko Park.

Mr. Herenchak said that "We all feel strongly about our heritage and our ancestors. For 1,000 years, maybe longer, our people have survived in the Carpathians, which are really quite beautiful mountains.... In spite of being surrounded by neighbors who tried to assimilate the Lemkos, they retained their identity and traditions. We on the Executive Board of Lemko Association feel strongly that, as Lemkos of the second and third generation in the United States, we should continue our traditions. We invite you to join us, to join Lemko Association, subscribe to *Karpatska Rus'* and help us to make the Lemko Association, Lemko Park and *Karpatska Rus'* as strong as they were 20, 30, 40 years ago."

Mr. Kirpan, who recently assumed the presidency of Lemko Park, recalled that 1994 is the 35th anniversary of the establishment of Lemko Park, and spoke about his vision of the Park's future. He would like to see Lemko Park again become a place where all Lemkos could feel free at any time to come and enjoy one another's company in a familiar Lemko cultural setting. The Park, Kirpan said, belongs to Lemkos, their children and grandchildren.

The Lemko Festival is sponsored annually by the Lemko Association on the grounds of Lemko Park in Monroe, New York. Kirpan wished to thank the people whose hard work and sacrifice of time made it possible to mount (what would turn out to be) a very successful festival, about 500 people attended. George and Maryanne Vislocki, John and Nancy Porada assisted on behalf of the Lemko Association. Lemko Park volunteers - including its Board of Directors and other concerned shareholders - worked on physical arrangements and the provision of food.

The Park's buildings and property are presently undergoing renovation both inside and out. Festival participants were heard to comment

with approval on the numerous changes.

The first visible change to greet arriving guests was the gateway to Lemko Park. It has been repainted and re-signed to reflect the fact that the Park is back in the hands of the Lemko people. The main guesthouse is being refurbished and repainted. The floors have been sanded, the bar area refurbished and new chairs have been provided. The rooms in the towerhouse, towerhouse annex, the villa and other buildings are also being refurbished. These renovations should provide more rooms to enable our Lemko people to come and rent space to live full time or for a short period of rest and relaxation.

Another major project will be to renovate the "barn" behind the towerhouse. In the past the barn has been the scene of many parties and dances. The Lemko Park Board of Directors looks forward to it once again hosting such affairs.

Toward the end of the opening ceremony, a representative of the Ukraina Society took the stage. She extended greetings and best regards to the festival participants on behalf of Lemkos and Lemko cultural organizations in Ukraine. She introduced artists from the *Ukrainian Dnipro Dancers* and noted the importance of community events, such as today's Lemko Festival, in preserving Lemko culture within a Ukrainian cultural context. Few in the audience responded enthusiastically to this last remark, although the introduced artists were welcomed with warm applause.

### The Vychodna Dolina Singers

Following the conclusion of the opening festivities, the popular *Vychodna Dolina Singers* took to the festival stage. This 10 year old singing group was formed out of the 250-strong congregation of the St. Nicholas Orthodox Greek Catholic Church in New York City. It consists of women from the towns of Jarabina, Kamienka, and Litmanova in the Lemko region of Slovakia. They perform extensively in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, three states which are home to many Carpatho-Rusyns.

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at you like this." To demonstrate, Janusz put a disapproving expression on his face. "Here, it's natural that everyone should speak English."

Why is that - why is it natural?

"In Poland we were a minority and Poles don't like minorities. They want everyone to be the same - to be Polish," answered Dorota. "So we have to struggle very hard to preserve our heritage. Over here [in the United States] everybody is free to do what they want...it just seems like they don't want to care about their heritage."

Many participants stayed late and, as the sky began to grow dark, all agreed that this year's Lemko Festival was one of the most successful ones in recent years.

Susyn Yvonne Mihalasky

**PASSAIC LODGES 5-16 OF LEMKO ASSOC.**

**EVENT CALENDAR FOR 1994**

Sunday, October 16-FALL BANQUET-1:00 PM  
Donation \$15.00

**Birthday Meetings**

Sunday, September 11, 1994 1:00 PM  
Sunday, December 4 " 1:00 PM

All functions to be held at the Lodge, corner of Ann Street and Lanza Avenue, Garfield, New Jersey.

**IN APPRECIATION**

We extend our thanks for help in producing this week's issue of Carpatho-Rus to Svetlana Ledenieva, Bogdan Horbal, Larry Buranich Garrahan and Susyn Mihalasky.

**THE COOKING CORNER  
Beef Pot Roast**

- 4 lbs. beef
- 1/4 lbs salt pork
- 3 tbs butter
- 1 oz. white wine or whiskey
- 4 carrots
- 1 sliced onion
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 peppercorns, salt & Pepper to taste

Cut salt pork into small pieces. Make incisions in meat and stuff with salt pork. Brown meat in melted butter. Add other ingredients, cover tightly and simmer very slowly for 4 hours. Make gravy from meat sauce and serve with meat.

Larry Buranich-Garrahan

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

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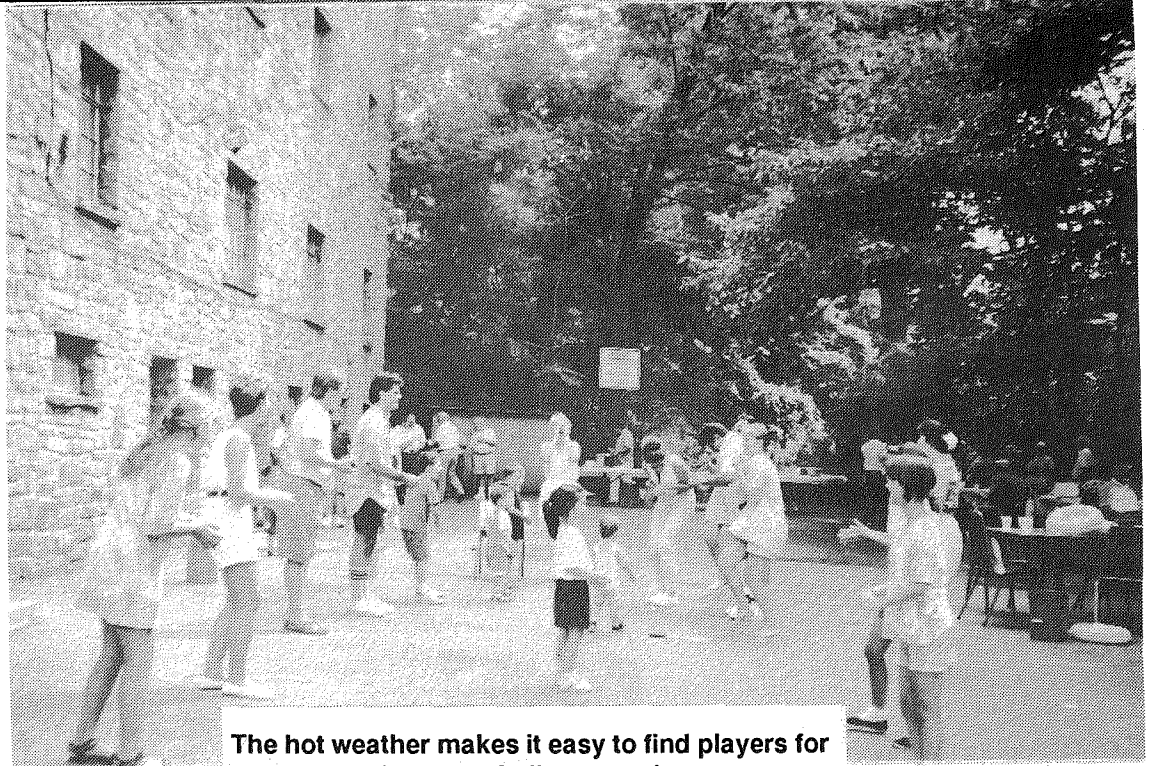
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556 Yonkers Avenue  
Yonkers, New York 10704



The hot weather makes it easy to find players for the water balloon toss!

**Mid-Summer at Lemko Hall**

The weather was hot and steamy on Sunday, July 24, but that didn't stop those who attended LEMKO HALL'S ANNUAL PICNIC from thoroughly enjoying the day.

While old friends met and enjoyed steaming plates of pierogi and kielbasy, the kids had fun at a craft table and creating "pavement art". On such a hot day it was not hard to involve teenagers and adults as well as children in games that included lots of water balloons, water pistols and aiming wet sponges at moving (human) targets! At first the two targets, Paul Sulich and Stephen Kowalczyk, did need a bit of persuasion, but after they "cooled off" a bit, it was clear being on the receiving end had its benefits! In the meantime, a blanket spread with blocks and a miniature "fish pond" kept toddlers busy and cool.

But what would an event like this be without music! John Kalakuka and his accordion put the finishing touch on a lovely afternoon.

As with every event, things don't just happen by themselves. It's the people who give their time and energy -- both of which are in short supply for everyone these days. These people put their own enjoyment second to making the event itself a success. For this, a big thank you to:

- George Wislocki
- John and Lidia Ryzak
- Mark and Beth Ryzak
- Dymitr Felenczak
- John Felenczak
- John Washiczko
- All the ladies who made the pierogi
- All those who helped setup and clean up, (especially hauling the tables!)

Diane Piwinski

**CARPATHO--RUS**

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**NOTICE**

Due to the lack of hard currency, our subscription mailing list to Poland, Slovakia, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine is limited. Some Americans and Canadians pay for their relatives and friends in East Europe. As an inducement, to increase our readership in East Europe, we offer to send issues there at a special rate of \$8.00 per year, which only represents the cost of postage. If readers in the United States and Canada want to avail themselves of this opportunity, kindly send us the name and address of your relative or friend, with a check for \$8.00, and the newspaper will be sent.

**LEMKO WEDDING VIDEO**

A two hour video cassette of the film LEMKO WEDDING is still available for sale

Cost, including postage and handling, is \$45.00. To order kindly send your check or money order to **CARPATHO-RUS**, 556 Yonkers Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10704.

**In Memory of Marian Adamiak House,  
Daughter of Julia Adamiak**

It is hard to put in words. There is so little I can say and so little I can do. May it help to know my heart goes to the death of my daughter, Marian. She fought well and would not surrender until there was no chance of recovery. --- She was such an active and vibrant person. --- My heart goes out to family and friends who loved my dear Marian.

Thank you all. Your many kind expressions of sympathy will always be remembered.

Mother  
Julia Adamiak

**Carpatho-Russian Center  
556 Yonkers Ave., Yonkers, NY**

**Upcoming Events**

- Lecture September 18, 1994, 3:pm  
Topic: "Who are Lemkos"
  - Kermesh November 19, 1994, Buffet and Dance
  - New Year's Eve January 14, 1995, Dance
- Call (914) 969-3954 for further details.

**REQUEST OF OUR READERS**

Through our archives we have searched for old Lemko Calendars from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. Many of those old Calendars are missing. We would like to request, from our readers, any old Calendars that they may have and do not need. This would be of help to us in researching the history of our people. Thank you.  
Ed.

Continued from Page 1

The group's director and accordionist, Stephanie Salony, was born in the United States. What inspired them to form *Vychodna Dolina*?

"We wanted to uphold our heritage. Our parents and grandparents taught us to be proud of who we are. We wanted to see our youth involved, so that our heritage would not be lost. Some of the children and grandchildren of the original performers are now also performing. The youngest are 3 and 4 years old. Unfortunately, they are not here today."

What about their Church - what is the ethnic makeup of its congregation?

"Our grandparents founded the church. They needed a place to worship. We have a constant flow of immigrants coming through. I would say that 99% are Rusnaks from Slovakia."

If she could, what would Stephanie want to say to Carpatho-Rusyns in the Homeland?

"I would tell them not to think that we have lost our culture. There are a lot of people - young people - who know who they are and care about their heritage. We thank our grandparents for giving us our culture."

I tell Stephanie that people in the Homeland will be very happy to hear her remarks. Many in the Homeland assume that the American Rusyn community is very assimilated.

"I know that they think that way," laughs Stephanie. "English is increasingly being favored in our diocese. But our congregation said, 'Hey, listen, we still have older people in our congregation. We need to respect them.' We teach the kids more than just how to sing in our language, we teach them to understand the meaning of what they are singing. We are proud of who we are and we won't give it up."

Has Stephanie ever thought of taking *Vychodna Dolina* to perform over in the Homeland?

"I would love to, and I'm sure that all of the other ladies would also love to do so - but I'm not sure how to go about that. If we had a concrete invitation, I'm sure that we could plan ahead and begin collecting money for such a future trip."

The *Vychodna Dolina Singers* went on to sing a number of popular folk songs, including "Ked Sa VydaVala" and "Ej, Kandrati." Their performance was warmly received by the audience.

Among the audience were Peter, age 36 and Helen, age 28. They are Lemkos born in Poland and presently living in Connecticut. Peter was born in Wysowa; Helen in Brunary. Helen came to the United States in 1981 along with her whole family. Her husband came much earlier, when he was a child.

What observations do they have on the Lemko community in the United States? "Well, I think that it is lagging. I know that over there [Poland] they're down; it's the same over here."

Why is that?

"A lot of the old people have died out; some are just too old to come. The young people...well, when you are too young, you don't care about your heritage. That's the way I was.... When you're older, you want to know where you come from - especially when you have a family. That's why I came here." Peter smiled and looked down at his 4 month old son, also named Peter. They said that they spoke to their son only in Lemko.

Why didn't they go to the larger, more active Ukrainian social organizations? Why Lemko Park?

"Well, we're Lemkos," Helen said, "we

wanted to come to our own kind."

How does the future of the Lemko community in the United States appear to them?

"I think that the Lemkos can revive," said Peter. "It would help if entertainment were provided to the young people like Ukrainian organizations do. You know...like contemporary dance bands. It's important to keep to the old traditions, but contemporary events would appeal more to the young people."

The audience gathered around the stage now formed a small sea of people in hats and sunglasses, lounging on lawn chairs or blankets. Many of the older generation wore their Sunday best, while tee-shirts, shorts and baseball caps seemed to dominate the rest. Many groups of people clustered under the shady trees at the peripheries of the clearing. The older generations spoke Lemko, while the younger people favored English. Some people took photos and others just wandered among the seated people, exchanging greetings. A few people ran across friends or acquaintances they hadn't seen for 10-15 years.

#### The Ukrainian Dnipro Dancers

The next performers to take the stage were the *Ukrainian Dnipro Dancers*, formed 70 years ago in New York City. The group's repertoire contains both traditional as well as new dances choreographed by award-winning artists and taught to the dancers in New York City and Kiev. The beautifully costumed dancers presented 6 energetic performances, including the "Venzelya," a story of how the daughters of feuding families befriend one another, and the ever popular "Hopak."

Their performances were capped by the lovely solo performances of Olga Kaminska, soloist with the Kiev Operetta Theatre, Yaroslav Lemishka, soloist with the Ternopil Philharmonic, and Viktor Chumak, concert bayanist and Professor at Drohobich Music College.

As the beautiful voices of the soloists reached us across the treetops, I spoke with Svetlana and Synove. Svetlana, 31, is an ethnic Russian, who came to the festival with her friend Synove, who is from Norway. Synove is spending 3 years in the United States. She said that she was enjoying the cultural program. Was Synove planning to learn to speak Lemko? "No," she answered, and laughed.

Svetlana first began to meet Lemkos after coming to the United States. "I started to volunteer at the newspaper [*Karpatska Rus*] and I began to come to the festivals."

What draws Svetlana, as a non-Lemko, to the Lemko community?

"I love it, the culture is very beautiful, the people - are, of course, my friends. Lemkos come from the same Rus' root as do Russians. We are all brothers."

Does Svetlana have any thoughts or advice for the American Lemko community? "The Lemko Association has to do more to interest the young people...maybe a club where they could come and learn their history, dances...."

"In the last few years, Lemko and Ukrainian organizations have lost contact with one another. It's because of these nationality conflicts. All of us come from the same root - we should be able to be friends."

What does Svetlana think about that nationality debate? Who are the Lemkos?

"Lemkos are just Lemkos. They need to look to their original Rus' heritage, not to the past 70 years."

#### The Gypsy Balalaika Ensemble

By early afternoon, the temperature had climbed to over 90 degrees, making an appropriate backdrop to the spirited music of the *Gypsy*

*Balalaika Ensemble*. The Ensemble, directed by Steve Wolownik, was founded in Philadelphia and consists of four musicians specializing in the balalaika and other Russian folk instruments. They performed well known melodies, including "Ochi Chorniye," and "Pod Moskovniye Vechera."

John and Lydia, Lemkos from New York state were standing by the entrance to Lemko Park's main guesthouse. On sale there were matching tee-shirts and caps, emblazoned with the words "Lemko Resort. Where Your Family is Our Tradition." What did they think of the cultural program?

"I liked *Vychodna Dolina*," said John. "They sang traditional Rusyn folk songs...a lot of songs that the old people would recognize. And the rest - what can I say? They are not Rusyns at all, they don't sing Rusyn songs... nothing that I recognize. Especially these opera singers: they don't move me, they don't mean anything to me."

"It's not our stuff," added Lydia. "It is Ukrainian and I don't like that. After all, Lemko Park is our place. You need something simple, happy and traditional. When Lemkos sing among themselves at home...what do they sing, what do they hear? Not opera! My ear doesn't pick up the words - the singing is so high-pitched. I can't understand. I just want a simple tune. Folk tunes. Our people are simple people; they didn't go to operas, they didn't go to colleges; they are not so educated. But I still come because I like Lemko Park."

Why, then, aren't there more Lemko or Carpatho-Rusyn performers at the festival?

"I don't know," answered John. "Maybe we can't get them...."

#### The AI Parks Orchestra

After the conclusion of the cultural program, the festival participants were treated to the music of the *AI Parks Orchestra*. The Orchestra and dance floor were located on a shady hilltop surrounded by picnic tables, a wooden gazebo and a barbecue pit.

The Orchestra played traditional melodies, as well as American dance standards. There was spirited dancing by people of all ages. A large number stood around the floor talking and enjoying grilled hot dogs and hamburgers.

Dorota, 24, Janusz, 28 and Helena were taking in the sights. What brings them to the Lemko festival?

"I came to help out."

"I came to be with my people!"

"It's my first time - I just wanted to see what the festival looks like."

Dorota was born in Krynica and Janusz in Gorlice. A majority of the young people at the festival appear to be Lemkos born in Poland rather than American-born Lemkos. This is disappointing, but not unexpected. It is disappointing because it means that relatively few American-born Lemkos have retained close contact with their heritage. It is not unexpected because in fact many ethnic communities in the United States replenish and revitalize themselves largely through new immigration. Ideally, this replenishment must occur frequently enough to allow a community to retain a certain cultural "momentum" and "critical mass" (size). Rusnaks from Slovakia have been more fortunate in this regard than have Lemkos.

Since they are in a position to compare: how do Dorota, Janusz and Helena view the Lemko communities in the United States and in Poland? How do they differ? How are they similar?

"It's a hard question," answered Dorota. "In Poland, nobody would speak Polish. I mean...we are all Lemkos. Here, as you can see, everybody speaks English." Janusz agreed: "In Poland, if you speak Polish at a Lemko festival, everyone will look

Continued on Page 2