

Carpatho-Rus'

Karpatska Rus'



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

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About two years ago, we printed a short summary of one of our reader's, Greg Leck, trip to Lemkovina. He has now submitted the full story of his experience and it is very interesting. This is the 5th installment. Continued from Issue #3.

In the Wake of Action Vistula: A Search for Lemko Heritage

Tuesday, 2 June 1992

We walked back to the *rynek*, where we checked bookstores for the elusive Beskid Niski map (no luck), briefly looked at glass (Krosno is a big glass manufacturing center), reconfirmed our return airline tickets, and changed money. We bought rolls, cheese, soda and chips and caught the 11:10 bus to Rymanow Zdroje. (*Zdroje* means spring, and most places with that word in their name are spa towns. Rymanow Zdroje was no exception. A 1950s resort hotel dominated the village and many Polish tourists were in evidence.)



*****Krosno; medieval renaissance architecture. Arcaded houses line the *Rynek******

After some wandering about in search of the "red" marked tourist trail, we set off. After 20 minutes, the trail forked, with no indication of which one was the tourist trail. We forged ahead, made numerous wrong turns which led us along trails that ended abruptly in dead ends, and returned two exasperating hours later to the first fork. After asking some girls who were painting in oils, we started out again, despite being sore, hot and tired. Again, no markers were present, and after climbing to the summit of the mountain and unable to see Wisloczek, our goal, we turned back after 90 minutes. On the way back down, we ran into some forest workers, one who carried an ax and was missing a finger. They indicated that, yes, Wisloczek was in the direction we had gone, but we were now too tired to climb the mountain again and time was growing short. One hour later, we were back at Rymanow Zdroje for the bus to Krosno. We passed horse drawn plows, wagons, haystacks, and people laboring in the fields, mowing and raking hay by hand.

We returned to the Restaurant Fiesta for dinner, where we had chicken, soup, pierogies, halubki, and pork, with drinks, for under US \$10. Since we were foreigners, had returned for a second meal, ordered many items, and consulted our guidebook, I think we made the impression we were scouting for the next edition, and the waitress took great pains to fall all over us with attention. We also witnessed the expulsion of a drunk from the premises. A cab ride back to the Hotel Krosno-Nafta ended the evening.

Or so we thought. At 2 AM, loud music began to emanate through the air conditioning ducts. Ten minutes later, we heard a phone ringing and very loud talking, which continued for ten minutes, at which point banging on the walls by other guests silenced it for good.

Wednesday, 3 June 1992

Up at 7:20, we had breakfast in the hotel

dining room -- 48,000 zl. for a rather paltry meal, especially when compared to the feast of the previous night. Our interpreter, Jacek, and driver, Wyczek, were waiting for us soon afterwards.

We drove first to Wisloczek, making a wrong turn before arriving at the village. It was much smaller than in my grandfather's time, consisting of only a dozen modern three story houses now common in Poland, and a large co-op farm at the western end. My family, Lech, had lived in the village, in the same house, at least since 1784, when records began for the area, and probably for hundreds of years earlier. *Lemkowie*, Carpatho-Russians, Carpatho-Rusyns, Rusnaks or Ruthenians, they were known by many names. Several theories on their origins exist, but they were probably sheep herding nomads from the area of southeastern Europe who migrated and settled in the area in the fourteenth century. Legend states this occurred during the reign of Kazimierz the

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An interesting in-depth analysis of the climatic events that began in 1985 in the former Soviet Union up to the present day. This is the Twentieth installment of the story from Moscow News.

The Crash and Rise of an Empire

A Colloquial Chronicle, Russia, 1985-. Part 20

"Drama in Reykjavik"

During his summer vacation near Yalta in the Crimea, Gorbachev did some heavy thinking on both domestic and foreign policies, which he later dubbed "new thinking." Some of the new approaches were truly revolutionary.

One such revolutionary shift was from priority of class interests to what he, or his speech writers, called "common human values." Later the media took up the common human values refrain with great gusto, vastly expanding the original scope of that concept to include all human rights and much more. Originally, though, the idea was narrower and simpler: It wasn't worth risking nuclear annihilation of mankind for the sake of the ultimate triumph of the working class and the Party. It was, in fact, a reversal of Mao Tsetung's position: Let a few hundred million Chinese die in a nuclear holocaust -- there will be enough left alive to assert communist ideology the world over. Mao used to think things clearly to their logical conclusion, but that was a conclusion Gorbachev was unwilling to accept. Which is more, he was ready to state his position clearly, too, and to implement a policy to suit his ideas.

It was one thing to declare a principle, though, and quite another, to convince the world that you were sincere. Brezhnev, and Khrushchev before him, had used up so many fine words that something drastic had to be done to restore their value, to make the world sit up and believe them again. That was exactly what Gorbachev did at the October 1986 Soviet -- U.S. summit in Reykjavik: He achieved a breakthrough in ideological and public relations terms, if not in specific agreements on nuclear disarmament, as originally planned.

The way Gorbachev describes it, the summit did not get off to a good start. In response to Gorbachev's serious plea, during their first private meeting, for a breakthrough on disarmament, Reagan kept reading prepared statements off his famous filing cards without saying anything that was not said at the stalled Geneva talks on the issue. Gorbachev's attempts to make this a more animated discussion failed: The other guy was just not responding. To make matters worse, Reagan dropped some of his cards on the floor, then sat there shuffling them, but there was nothing on them to respond to Gorbachev's verbal assault. This was not surprising, as the whole summit was just an episode in Reagan's campaign in that election year: All he wanted was to pick up a few more votes back home for his peace-making efforts on the international scene, without really conceding anything or doing anything that might hurt certain powerful vested interests in the U.S.

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Great. For hundreds of years they lived there and in hundreds of similar villages in the Beskid Niski, an area of the Carpathian mountains. Armies came and went, and highwaymen, bandits, and robber barons called the region home. They were almost without exception, Greek Orthodox but after the signing, by some of their bishops, of the Treaty of Brest in 1596 they recognized the authority of the Pope in Rome and became Greek Catholic or Uniates. They celebrated mass in their own language instead of Latin and allowed their priests to marry. Exploited by the landowning Polish nobles, they also suffered greatly from the Austro-Hungarian government during the First World War, when many were interned in concentration camps because of suspected Russophile tendencies. Polish enmity and atrocities were alleged before and after the second war, and the Nazis conquered the region in 1940. During all this time, they eked out a subsistence existence, living in timber homes with thatched roofs, and beginning in the 1880s, emigrating in tremendous numbers to Germany and beyond to the New World in search of economic betterment. After the second war, UPA partisans precipitated the infamous Action Vistula, and the entire population was deported.

The village was now populated exclusively by settlers who were Pentecost from the Cieszyn area of Silesia. They had lived there, as Poles, when it was part of Czechoslovakia in 1938, after Poland had claimed that area from Czechoslovakia. (This occurred at the time Hitler claimed the Sudetenland for Germany from the Czechs.) In 1945, Czechoslovakia regained the Cieszyn territory and persecuted these people for their religious beliefs. They emigrated to Wisloczek in 1968, as part of a repopulating scheme for the former Lemko lands which had been depopulated during the Vistula Action. They knew nothing of the village's history, previous inhabitants or buildings, or traditions. The account which follows was related to me by Mr. Jan Zalisz, who was the accountant for the co-op farm. He told me that a Mikolaj Demczuk from Warsaw had visited 15 years previously, and a woman lawyer and a man came on two separate occasions from Ukraine, all seeking information on Wisloczek, their ancestral village. A Mrs. Hocko from the USA also had visited. Unfortunately, only an address for the Ukrainian lawyer was available.

There were 128 houses built on the hill of the western edge of the village. The current road in new, originally only a path which crossed back and forth over the stream was present. Apart from the ruins of the old cemetery, only foundations of the old houses, a 12 meter deep well, and one root cellar are all that remain of the old village. All current buildings are new.

In 1947, the population, who were Lemkos were told to gather their possessions into small hand carts and proceed to the rail station at Zarszyn. This was part of Action Vistula, and some inhabitants had been linked to the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). At the station, the group waited for several days. A small group left to return to Wisloczek. There, they found all their remaining possessions had been stolen by Poles in the neighboring villages. In despair and anger, the Lemkos burned all their houses to the ground. The population was then deported to Ukraine. (Action Vistula consisted of several large scale population movements. Some Lemkos were sent to the northern Baltic provinces of Poland and many were resettled in the former east German provinces and former German city of Breslau, which became part of Poland after the Second World War. Breslau is now known as Wroclaw.)

Greg Leck
To be continued

NOTICE

Cleveland Branches 6 - 1 of Lemko Assoc. will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, March 16, 1997 beginning at 2 PM at:

Denise Romanowich, Rec'y. Sec'y.
3718 Germaine Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Important discussions will be held, including the election of officers. We request that all members attend.

Michael Haszyc, Pres.

NOTICE

Adamiak Lodges 1-6 & 80 of Lemko Assoc. will hold their annual meeting on Sunday March 2, 1997 beginning at 1 PM sharp. Place: Lemko Resort, Monroe, NY. Drinks at 1 PM; dinner at 1:15 PM; followed by the business meeting. In the event of snow or ice the meeting will be held on March 9.

A donation will be accepted for the dinner; proceeds to be shared 50-50 between our Adamiak Branch and Lemko Resort. If you will attend, please RSVP (914-496-7450). If unable to attend, please mail your dues; \$6. per person, \$20. subscription to KR + voluntary Press Fund contribution to: Larry Buranich Garrahan, 13 Thompson Drive - KR, Washingtonville, NY 10992.

NOTICE

The annual meeting of Lemko Assoc. Elizabeth Branches 35-7-38 will be held on Sunday, February 23, 1997 beginning at 1 PM at:

P.A.L. Youth Center
400 Maple Avenue
Linden, NJ

We request that all members attend this meeting since important matters will be up for discussion.

Branch Committee

NOTICE

Passaic Branch 5--16; Lemko Assoc.

1997 Schedule of Events

April 13	Spring Banquet, 2 PM	\$15.
July 20	Annual Picnic, 1 PM	\$15.
October 19	Fall Banquet, 2 PM	\$15.

Birthday Meetings

March 2	2 PM
June 8	2 PM
September 14	2 PM
December 7	2 PM

All functions are held at the Masonic Hall, corner of Ann Street and Lanza Avenue, Garfield NJ

Letters to the Editor

Христос Раждається! (Christ is born)

Enclosed is a check for \$40., \$20. to renew my subscription and \$20. for the Press Fund.

My paper comes in regularly. I will be 90 years old this year. Born in Philadelphia, I grew up in Oliphant, PA. until I was 12, and then we moved to Woodbine, NJ, and I still live here. I went to Russian school and am very happy my parents sent me because I have not forgotten to read and write in the Russian alphabet. I always said that I was a 100 percent Lemko, and I still am. When we were children we had more than one fist fight over what we were. We are Lemkos like Дидо и Прадидо (Grandfather and Great-grandfather.)

Alice Yarrish

Ms. Yarrish, thank you for your support. We look forward to celebrating your 100th birthday in the future. Ed.

Dear Editor,

In reference to the biography of St. Alexis (Toth) of Wilkes-Barre recently submitted by Mr. Laurence Krupnak, I must bring a factual discrepancy to the attention of the readership. That discrepancy is regarding the actual birthplace of the priest Alexis Toth.

A biography of Toth, published in 1902 while he was still alive, cites his birthdate as 1854 and birthplace as the Rusyn village of Ol'savica, Spis County (see "XXV-letnij jubilej sluzenija v svjascennom sane Mitrofnago Protoiereja A.G. Tovta," *Amerikanskij Pravoslavnyj Vestnik*, 1902). The contemporary Rusyn historian, Dr. Andrij Slepeckyj, cites Toth's birthplace as the Rusyn village of Kobylnice, Sarys County (see A. Slepeckyj, "Mytropolyt Aleksij Tovt - otec' Amerykans'koj Rusi," *Rusyn* (Presov, Slovakia), no. 3, 1992, p. 23). The *Encyclopedia of Ukraine* cites Toth's birthplace as Gelnica, Slovakia (see *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, s.v. "Tovt, Aleksej"). Gelnica is neither a Rusyn village nor the location of a Greek Catholic parish in 1854. The closest Greek Catholic parishes would be Kojsov, Helcmanovce, or Slovinky, all in Spis County. However, the aforementioned biography in *Amerikanskij Pravoslavnyj Vestnik* cites Toth's primary school education in Gelnica.

Oddly, the official Orthodox Church in America biography of Saint Alexis gives his birthplace only vaguely as "Austria-Hungary." It is doubtful that one of that church's saints of actual Russian origin would have to be content with such vague facts regarding his or her birthplace.

The only way to verify the correct place of his birth would be to examine the metrical records of each town's local Greek Catholic parish and find the reference to his baptism in 1854.

Whichever of these sources is accurate, it is clear that Alexis Toth was not born in "Eperjes", i.e., the city of Presov, Slovakia.

Unfortunately, Mr. Krupnak, citing no references nor evidence of his claims, seems to be trafficking in the very "untruths which, if repeated long enough, become 'fact' he so readily accuses of others.

Richard D. Custer

Dear Editor and Mr. Custer,

Richard, thank you for the references which give three different birthplaces for Saint Alexis (Tovt/Toth). I also examined those references when I composed a biography of Father Toth for a film that I produced about his canonization at St. Tikhon's Monastery. [This film is available in VHS and S-VHS video formats from the Lemko Association.]

Kobylnice is about 20 miles northeast of Eperjes; Ol'savica and Gelnica are about 20 miles southwest. So what do we do. I did not want to bog my text with a paragraph of academic-style citations. I recalled the mid-point which is the principal town of the area (i.e., Eperjes) and wrote "St. Alexis was born in Eperjes." I should have stated that he was born "near Eperjes." Thank you for alerting me of this error. [Being imprecise about birthplaces is a bad personal habit. I often tell people that I was born in Central City, Pennsylvania. But, I was actually born 10 miles to the north in a hospital located in Windber. Like the OCA in writing that St. Alexis was born in Austria-Hungary, I should say that I was born in the United States to not cause confusion. Maybe St. Alexis was born in Eperjes. Only his parents know the exact location of birth.]

Scholars of Saint Alexis have obviously not done their homework. As you pointed out, someone needs to examine the metricals to determine his recorded birthplace. But, the metricals are not, as you stated, the only secondary provider of this information. Alternative secondary sources are his arrival record, which is available from the National Archives of the United States in Washington, D.C., or his naturalization papers if St. Alexis became a citizen.

Sincerely,
Laurence Krupnak

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Seeing that he wasn't getting anywhere, Gorbachev suggested that Schulz and Shevardnadze join them, and recapitulated his position: The Soviet Union was proposing a 50 percent cut in its intercontinental ballistic missiles -- its principal strategic weapons, -- a move which would have to be paralleled by a similar cut in nuclear submarines and strategic bombers, where the United States had an edge on the Soviet Union; a drastic all-round reduction in medium-range missiles; and a verification procedure that would include any specific forms that either side might think of, without qualification (verification procedures had always been a stumbling block at such negotiations due to the paranoia and spy mania prevalent among the Russian military and the political leadership).

According to Gorbachev, Reagan looked entirely confused. He would obviously have liked to go down in history as the man who brought peace on earth and goodwill among men, but was mortally afraid of being duped and stepping into a carefully laid trap. Much to Gorbachev's relief, support for going for a breakthrough came from George Schulz, and there followed a couple of days of frenetic activity as the American side kept interrupting the proceedings to talk various issues over among themselves and consult with Washington. Since the initiatives came from the Soviet side, it was better prepared, and kept piling up the pressure. At one time, Reagan found himself in the awkward position of trying to go back on his own word, as Gorbachev accepted Reagan's own previous call for a "zero option" - eliminating all medium-range missiles in Europe. The Soviet side also agreed to ignore the nuclear potential of France and Britain, something that it had previously refused to do but now conceded in an effort to get out of the stalemate. Psychologically, Gorbachev had Reagan at a great disadvantage over the zero option issue, and the General Secretary wasn't a man to miss capitalizing on a thing like that, so Reagan had no chance. He accepted Gorbachev's proposal after the wily General Secretary additionally agreed that the U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. would keep 100 medium-range missiles each, the Soviet Union in the Asiatic part of its vast territory, the United States on its own soil.

The other two proposals were ultimately agreed on. There would be a 50 percent cut in strategic weapons over the next five years, and verification of the arms agreements would be conducted without any restrictions.

In return for all these concessions, Gorbachev was asking for one thing only: That the United States give up deploying weapons in space under its Strategic Defense Initiative, also known as the Star Wars program. It could go on doing research in that area, anything but the actual irreversible deployment. And here it turned out, rather tragically, that Reagan was not prepared to give that particular project up. Too many powerful forces had a stake in it, and apprehension had too loudly been expressed before the summit that the local yokel Reagan might come back from Reykjavik having "sold the farm" to the city slicker Gorbachev. The whole edifice of the painstakingly worked out agreements collapsed, and the two leaders parted, "barely able to look at each other," as correspondents noted at the time.

In the final analysis, Reagan in fact did "sell the farm" -- in PR terms. On this level, the outcome of the drama-packed two days was a clear victory for the Russian. He proved his sincerity to the public at large, especially during an impromptu press conference after the collapse of the summit, where his performance was as brilliant as it was sincere. He described to his spellbound audience of several hundred journalists just how tantalizingly close the world had been to setting off on a road to ridding itself of nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear suicide, and how it all had collapsed over the wretched SDI. Still, he declared that the summit was a great victory on the long path to a peaceful world -- which earned him a standing ovation. The emotional occasion laid the foundation of the whole Gorbachev mythology which still persists in the West.

In light of this mythology, it seems dull and boring to point out that, apart from moral considerations, Gorbachev's "new thinking" must have been powerfully affected by the sheer impossibility of the Soviet economy carrying the burden of an SDI-like Soviet program. That was the reason he was making dark threats about "asymmetrical responses," by which he must have meant sending nuclear submarines, undetectable from outer space, to U.S. borders. These noises signified merely that the country simply could not hope to win in the next, cosmic spiral of the arms race, especially not at a time when the economy was staggering under the dual strain of Chernobyl and Afghanistan, not to mention the treasury's difficulties over oil and vodka.

In the Soviet Union, most people realized that an arms race in space would mean even greater shortages of the essentials and a greater risk of nuclear war due to human error; Russians had no illusions at all about the propensity of their scientists, technicians and particularly the military, to trust to luck where extreme caution would be more desirable. As fate would have it, there had been another demonstration of that propensity that summer, coming close on the heels of Chernobyl: In August, the Admiral Nakhimov, a passenger ship cruising the Black Sea, collided with another vessel off Novorossiysk in clear weather on calm seas and sank with a loss of more than 800 lives.

After Reykjavik, Gorbachev's authority and, indeed, popularity at home swelled. In the past, Russians had been accustomed to view what propaganda artists called the "fight for peace" with a great deal of cynicism, and here for the first time they saw with their eyes that something could be, and indeed was, done to protect them against wholesale destruction. This was keenly appreciated by a population which had lost millions upon millions in the war that was still fresh in the memory of most. The people's innate fear of war was for the first time in decades somewhat assuaged, and they were duly grateful.

Sergei ROY--Moscow News

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Anna Isztwan, In memory of George, wife and son, Walter	\$ 50.
Lemko Assoc. Branch 1-6+80	\$ 33.
Anna Madzy, In memory of husband, Theodore Madzy	20.
Mary Anderson	5.
Laurence Krupnak	5.
Total	\$113.

Winter 1/2 Price Sale

Karpatska Rus and John K. Adamiak Memorial Lodges 1, 6 & 80 are continuing our recipe Fund Raiser Program. In appreciation of the wonderful support we received from you during 1996, we are celebrating the beginning of the New Year with a 1/2 price sale!

We offer the following 3 recipes which compliment each other and together make for a robust winter dinner:

1. Deedo's pot roast of beef
2. Larry's Lacy potato pancakes
3. Sweet & sour red cabbage 'ala Yaskova

Each of these recipes contains some ingredient which makes them special and different from what you are used to.

All 3 recipes for only \$3. and please enclose your self-addressed and stamped envelope. Plus, Bonus!! act/order before the end of the month and receive the recipe for Lemony Calico Bean soup at no extra charge.

All proceeds benefit the Karpatska Rus Press Fund and Adamiak Lodges of Lemko Assoc.

Please send your order, \$3. and self addressed, stamped envelope to:

Larry Buranich-Garrahan
13 Thompson Drive - K.R.
Washingtonville, NY 10992

The Cooking Corner

Fowl with Rice and White Sauce
[Kuritzsa s Risom i Bielim Sousom]

1		stewing fowl
		Enough cold water to cover fowl
1	tbls	salt
3		carrots
1		onion
For Sauce;		
2	tbls	plain flour
1/2	cup	water
2	tbls	sour cream
		juice of 1/2 lemon
6	cups	boiled Rice

Put the fowl in cold water with the salt, carrots and onion, bring to boil, then simmer for 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Keep hot in the stock. Take 2 cups of this chicken stock and put into a separate saucepan and bring to a boil. Mix together the flour and 1/2 cup of water, pour it into the stock, stirring all the time, and add the sour cream. Bring just up to a boil. Add lemon juice. Arrange the hot boiled rice on a dish and set the pieces of fowl round it. The sauce is served separately or poured over all. 6 servings.

[Boiled Rice]

1	cup	long grain rice
8	cups	boiling water
1	tbls	salt
2	cups	boiling water

Drop rice into boiling water, add salt and boil rapidly, uncovered, for 15-20 minutes. Drain water off in colander, then pour 2 cups boiling water over rice to remove the loose starch and separate the grains. Put rice back into saucepan and stand on low heat for 3 minutes to dry out moisture. The grains should be separate. This makes 4 cups of boiled rice.

IN APPRECIATION

We extend our thanks for help in producing this week's issue of Carpatho-Rus to Svetlana Ledenieva and Greg Leck.