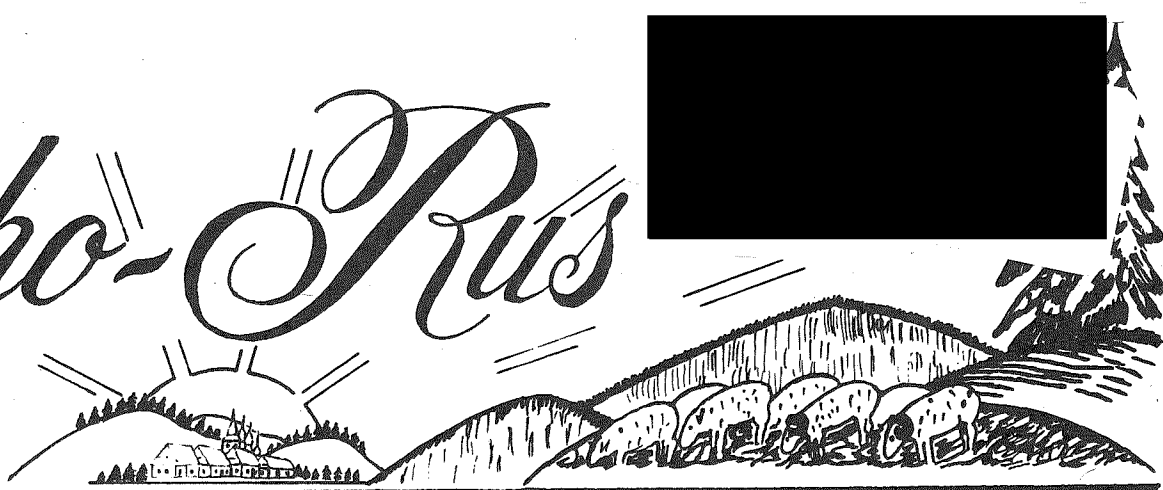


Carpatho-Rus

Karpatska Rus



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

NO. 22 CARPATHO-RUS, YONKERS, N.Y. OCTOBER 24, 1997 VOL. LXX

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 Fortieth installment of the story from Moscow News.

The Crash and Rise of an Empire

A Colloquial Chronicle, Russia, 1985-. Part 40

Clapping Down, Clapping Up

"Applause," "Stormy applause," "Stormy unending applause. Everybody stands up"--these parenthetic editorial remarks in bold type used to dot any report in Soviet papers on the proceedings of various Party gatherings. The applause was a form of kow-towing, a physical, acoustical expression of the emotional bond that was supposed to exist between the "presidium," the top bosses up there on the platform, and their underlings in the auditorium, of (hypocritical) adulation of the latter for the former and the condescending permission to be so adulated from the former to the latter. It was, in fact, a throwback to Stalin's times, when the stormy applause for the beaming, bloody Cockroach, as he was known for his famous mustache, could last for fifteen or twenty minutes or more, with people carefully watching each other's adoring expressions and diligence in clapping their palms to a pulp, and God help any clapper careless enough to sit down a fraction of a second earlier than the neighbors.

If the papers had been honest or bold enough, they would have had to invent a new parenthetic remark, "Stunned silence," for their reports about Gorbachev's opening speech at the 19th Party conference on June 28, 1988. He spoke for an hour and a half before the audience woke up to endorse with ritual, mechanical applause Gorbachev's thanks to the people "performing their international duty in Afghanistan."

The four-hour speech was vintage Gorbachev, a curious mixture of revolutionary projects for political reform and of tired waffle about the unshakable, between the various peoples and nationalities of the Soviet Union; waffle about the people's socialist choice (probably the most infuriating of the lies), the Party's unchallenged leadership in Soviet society and the need to safeguard against undemocratic uses of glasnost and democracy, against the conservatives' pet aversion, *vsedozvolennost* or all-permissiveness (which, translated back into plain language, meant simply stepping out of line), and so on. It was to the waffle that his nomenklatura audience reacted with grateful applause, while the stunned silence was reserved for Gorbachev's sweeping political reforms.

Gorbachev was, in fact, speaking over the heads of his audience to the entire nation glued to their TV sets, gloating over the Party bosses' discomfiture and keenly observing their reactions to the proposed reforms. The TV event was, in fact, a further phase in the development of superb, thrill-like political theater of the Gorbachev and post-Gorbachev era, a sneak preview of the breath-taking drama enacted in 1989-1993 in real life but,

Continued on Page 2, Column 1

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

Upcoming Events

Kermesh November 22, 1997, Buffet and Dance.
New Year's Eve Dance January 10, 1998

Call (914) 969-3954 for further details

Lemko Resort Update

On Thursday, October 30 a public auction was held on the grounds of Lemko Resort commencing at 1:00PM administered by the U.S. appointed trustee, Eric Kurtzman. The sad proceedings took about 5 minutes. With only 3 bidders present, the auctioneer tried in vain to obtain higher bids. The bidding started at \$600,000. and 3 steps later concluded at \$750,000. without any further bidding. We were informed two days later that an award decision was not made and that a serious offer in excess of the \$750,000. would be entertained by the Trustee. As of the deadline of this issue, we have no further information.

Attempts have been made recently by board members of Lemko Assoc. to raise cash commitments from interested investors to tender an offer to the Trustee for this valuable property but so far without success. If any readers have interest or advice on this matter kindly contact the Editor.

Lemko Artist--Ivan Rusenko

Ivan Rusenko belongs to that group of talented students of the Russka Bursa [high school] in Nowy Sancz that, upon completing their courses were unable to continue their education because of poverty. Rusenko, while at the school, was one of the best students. Because of the lack of funds he was forced to discontinue his studies and take the job of a village teacher in order to earn a living.

Ivan Rusenko was born in 1892 in the village of Krasna, Krosno County, Lemkovina, of poor but very hard-working parents. It was a long time before they were able to acquire a small plot of land upon which a modest cottage could be built.

Even as a child, Ivan showed great interest and ability to learn and he especially displayed a natural talent for drawing and painting. In kindergarten he enjoyed copying words written by his much older sister. Rusenko attended the village school for six years, and, because of his excellent work, his parents sent him to a higher school in Krosno. In 1905 he was admitted to the Russka Bursa in Nowy Sancz. In those days the Bursa in Nowy Sancz was the best school administered in Lemkovina and children of poor parents received room and board for a small payment, and sometimes without payment if the parents could not afford to do so. The Russian language was not

offered at the local school [gymnasium], but at the Bursa they had their own instructors who taught the students Russian language and history.

In 1908 another Russka Bursa opened in Gorlice and soon thereafter, more students attended there than the Bursa at Nowy Sancz.

Ivan Rusenko stood above all the students in the Bursa because of his talent for drawing. Although he was never given any formal training by



A glazer "Blanar".

— By Ivan Rusenko

art teachers, the likenesses he quickly drew of students and teachers were lifelike. In addition, he was able to capture on paper characteristic features of each individual including his faults, physical attributes and character; thus he was outstanding especially as a caricaturist. His fame quickly grew and spread through the entire region and he became known as a gifted artist. This talent came to him easily--a few strokes of the pencil--and there was a remarkable likeness. This talent, however, in addition to fame, also brought, at times, unpleasantness. He would draw professors at school who would sometimes not appreciate their comical caricatures and Ivan would have difficulties.

Ivan Rusenko finished the 'gymnasium' in 1912, and in the following year was called up for military service in the Austrian Army and sent to Sarajevo, Bosnia [at that time part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire]. He was there when World War I began, and served as an officer at first on the Serbian front and then was transferred to the Italian front. Army life did not interest him but he survived the war and returned home to, what was now, the country of Poland.

Unable to pursue studies in the University after the war, Ivan Rusenko looked for work and finally obtained a job as a village teacher. The Polish authorities did not place him in a Russian village to teach, instead they sent him to a Polish village, Lutcha, where he worked from 1924 to 1945. There he married another teacher. In 1946, he, his wife and family emigrated to the Soviet Union, West Ukraine, Ternopol Oblast, where he

Continued on Page 3, Column 1

Continued from Page 1, Column 1
for the vast majority, mostly on the silver screen -- a drama that has since degenerated, alas, into hair-pulling scenes in the Duma. Back in June 1988, however, the air tingled with expectation, hope and the frisson of heading for the unknown.

In much the same way as, back in 1917, the country had struck out with bloodshot eyes up the blind alley of totalitarian socialism, so now part of its top leadership, personified in the figure of Gorbachev, proposed to take it back into the mainstream of human civilization -- with many and varied reservations and foot-scraping apparently intended to bamboozle the entrenched power structures, which were quite comfortable as they were and viscerally rejected any changes, except for the most cosmetic ones.

Well, there was nothing cosmetic about Gorbachev's proposals. Separating Party and state, and particularly removing the Party from interference in the management of the economy, was probably the most important plank of his platform. Gorbachev cited his favorite example of a sub-sub-department at the Central Committee supervising the development of cryogenic technologies, whatever they might be. This was intended to show that the Party was simply irresponsibly meddling in economic management at the pettiest level instead of concentrating on its proper sphere--political guidance and education. Gorbachev was in fact playing up to the "director corps," using for his purposes their muted hostility towards the interfering ideological gasbags from the Party bureaucracy, driving a wedge between these apparatchiks and the technocrats led by Premier Ryzhkov, isolating the former and recruiting the latter as allies in implementing reform. The animosity between "ideologists" and "technocrats" had been smoldering for quite some time already, probably since the times of Kosygin's reforms back in the 1960s, and now Gorbachev was more or less openly taking advantage of it. As I have mentioned in a previous installment, the apparatchiks were keenly aware that the proposed "separation of functions" would make them mere members of a debating and educational society or club, drawing their sting -- the right to interfere irresponsibly in the day-to-day running of economic as well as all other affairs. No wonder they reacted rather vehemently, citing Lenin on the "leading and guiding role of the Party," but they were outnumbered and outmaneuvered by the technocrats tired of the dressing-downs they regularly suffered at the hands of failed engineers who had switched to Party careers and were now masters over their more competent, technocratic-minded former college pals.

There was a curious but highly characteristic blimp on this apparatchiks vs. technocrats alignment when Gorbachev lashed out, during later debate, against Academician Abalkin for his "economism" -- a mossy term from the history of the spreading of Marxism in turn-of-the-century Russia. Reproaching a prominent economist for his "economism" might raise nothing but guffaws in any enlightened audience but not among the cynical-eyes delegates watching the sickening spectacle of Gorbachev hedging all his bets, sucking up to the technocrats one moment and to their apparatchik opponents the next, and leaving everybody guessing where his real sympathies lay. It is easy to see from his subsequent record that Gorbachev was a poor Marxist, after all, that in his heart of hearts he really believed in the omnipotence of the political establishment and its "guiding role," and of his own ability to make the country, using that establishment as a whip, leap through any loops, economic or otherwise, that he might care to set for it -- in which, if one may be permitted to gloat a bit, he proved dismally mistaken.

One may assume that it was this division of the audience into technocrats and apparatchiks that was the source of a striking departure from Party congress etiquette -- the totally new phenomenon for which a special term had to be invented, zakhlopyvaniye or "clapping down." A Moscow

Party committee secretary started waffling in the traditional, true Party style, only to be interrupted, to his bewilderment, by impatient, repeated applause -- apparently from the technocrats who wanted to get down to the serious business of discussing important stuff like more rights for themselves. On the other hand, they gave a warm welcome to one of their own, a gentleman called Kabaidze, an obvious "character" who drove his audience into ecstatic laughter and applause with his musings on the utter worthlessness of ministerial bureaucrats and his plan for making ministries dependent on the actual producers: "If not, he can fend for himself." This was unheard-of stuff, considering that all ministers were members of the Central Committee, and it was avidly lapped up both inside the Kremlin Palace of Congresses and by the country at large. No wonder his speech was "clapped up" rather than "clapped down." The second plank of Gorbachev's platform, also apparently aimed at removing part of political power from the Party's prehensile grasp, was parliamentary reform. The Soviet parliament -- the Supreme Soviet -- was indeed a heart-rending spectacle, with shock workers, clumsy miners, dairymaids, cotton pickers from the Central Asian republics in their picturesque kerchiefs, and other strong, silent types coming to Moscow for a couple of days to be treated to an excellent buffet, taken on a tour of closed Central Committee shops, and to diligently vote into laws anything that the Central Committee moles put before them. Some were even allowed to falteringly read speeches written for them by the same old moles. In short, it was Lenin's idea of a "cook running state affairs" put into inglorious practice.

Gorbachev wanted to change all that. He wanted a real working parliament (that is, working under him and his aides) to which the focus of power would be shifted to comply with prevailing civilized models. Such a parliament of about 450 members would function on a permanent or near-permanent basis. As hinted at previously, the added bonus of this plan to him personally was that, ensconced as Supreme Soviet head, Gorbachev would be beyond the power of any schemers within the Party to overthrow him.

There were calls in the run-up to the conference to install such a parliament immediately. Gorbachev, however, preferred to err on the side of caution in pushing his reforms through. Chary of stepping on too many conservative corns, he had to couch his reforms in the language of reverting to the "Leninist style and form of leadership" -- he felt sure that he could pull anything off provided it was hallowed by Lenin's name. He therefore accepted a suggestion from his friend from student years, Anatoly Lukyanoiv, to borrow the model for the future parliament from Lenin's times, on the principle that "the new is the well-forgotten old." The original Soviet "parliament" abolished by Stalin in 1936, was a two-tier affair: an irregularly convened congress of Soviets and a standing executive committee operating between the congresses. This was to be faithfully reproduced in the new system. There would be a Congress of 2,250 People's Deputies who would elect the actual working parliament of 450, with a presidium and a chairman. The latter would be the Soviet equivalent for president.

So far, so good. There was a hitch, though. It lay in the system of electing the people's deputies. Two thirds of them would be elected on a regular one-man-one-vote basis in the so-called territorial districts, while one third of the seats would be reserved for "public organizations" including, above all, the Communist Party but also all sorts of associations down to stamp collectors' unions, provided they were on an "All Union scale." Members of these unions and associations would have two, three and more votes, in clear violation of democratic principles but fully in keeping with the Orwellian slogan that "some animals are more equal than others."

The move was duly criticized by the more radical democratic circles as a sop to the hard-liners and a ploy to keep the Communist Party

(which dominated and controlled all "public organizations" without exception) firmly in control of the proposed parliament. The criticism was taken up by virtually all foreign observers of the Soviet scene. I believed then, as I still believe now, that in the outlying regions like Kazakhstan or Kirghizia, which represented a sizeable chunk of the electorate but tended to be forgotten by Moscow-centered intellectuals, "public organizations" were the only channel through which to obviate the local Party boss's ubiquitous control and get some of the democratically-minded or simply educated and intelligent delegates to the Congress.

Gorbachev may have had one set of reasons for choosing his tactics. For better or for worse, history had a different set of forces that came to shape the events.

Sergei ROY--Moscow News

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IN APPRECIATION

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

Notice

Passaic Branch 5--16; Lemko Assoc.

1997 Schedule of Events

Birthday Meetings

December 7 2 PM

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

Continued from Page 1, Column 3

Beginning with his time spent at the Novosandetsky Bursa, Ivan was a close friend of Dimitry Vislitsky (Vanyo Hunyanko), and this friendship continued for many years. D. Vislitsky finished 'gymnasium' ahead of Ivan and began publishing the newspaper "Lemko". Ivan was his closest and most faithful collaborator. The newspaper printed his drawings, caricatures, songs and short stories where he criticized the oppression of our people and those in power who kept them unenlightened. After World War I, D. Vislitsky left for Uzhorod and then on to the United States where he resumed publication of the newspaper and almanacs of "Lemko". Ivan Rusenko helped as before by sending his material to Dimitry in America. In the almanacs, "Lemko", years 1930-1931-1932-1933, many of Ivan's drawings, caricatures and articles were included. However, soon after, the Polish authorities visited Ivan and threatened him with the loss of his teaching position as well as jail if he did not stop sending his material to America. He was continually spied upon and finally was forced to stop the correspondence and submission of drawings to Dimitry Vislitsky.

To be Continued

Letters to the Editor

Esteemed Editor of "Karpatskaya Rus"

I remember very well our personal meeting at the conference in Washington some time ago. I want to share with you some of my thoughts about the newspaper "Karpatskaya Rus", to which I am a subscriber.

I read with satisfaction every issue of the paper. I like the fact that clearly evident in the paper is the unity of its readers combined with the variety of styles and languages in which the articles are written.

I see the spirit of unity in that the content of the paper is full of love for our Russian Lemko people and our other Russian tribes, be they Boikos, Hutsuls, Highlanders, Lowlanders, or the more distant Ukrainians, Belorussians and, of course, the Russian people, both those living in Russia and those in nearby foreign lands.

I love that the paper you edit is not afraid to use the word RUS' and similar words, such as Russian, Russia, etc.

The paper contains articles written in the Lemko dialect, in Ukrainian, in Russian, in Carpatho-Russian, like our founders wrote in the past and in the early part of this century. So too, the articles written in English are distinguished by an effort to raise the national consciousness of our Lemkos as a branch of the Eastern Slavic peoples.

I sincerely wish you, personally, and your creative group, further success in the field of serving the rebirth of our Carpatho-Russian people.

Enclosed is my check for \$100., \$20. for my 1998 subscription to the paper, and \$80. for the K.R. Press Fund.

Your well-wisher,
Dr. Michael Zarechnak
Translated by: Dimitri Gallik

Press Fund Contributions

Dimitri M. Gallik	\$50.
Julie A. Bockhaus	10.
M/M John Fedash	10.
Ann Kozak	10.
Ann Demid	5.
Total	\$85.

The Cooking Corner**Home Made Bread
(2 loaves)**

1	package of yeast
2	tsp salt
1/4	cup lukewarm water
2	cups boiling water
2	tbs lard
1 1/2	cups dry milk

2	tbs	sugar
6 1/2	cups	sifted flour

Crumble yeast into lukewarm water and stir to dissolve. Measure lard, sugar and salt into mixing bowl. Pour boiling water over and let it cool until it is lukewarm. Sift dry milk and flour together. Stir 2 cups of dry mixture into liquid, mixing thoroughly. Add yeast mixture to dough and stir well. Add more flour to make a smooth dough that handles easily. Turn out on slightly floured board, cover with bowl, and let stand 10 minutes.

Knead dough until it is smooth and elastic, (about 10 minutes). Separate into two equal rounds, cover with bowls, and let stand another 10 minutes.

Shape into loaves and place in greased pans. Lightly grease tops, cover with clean cloth and let rise in warm place away from drafts until doubled, (about 1 1/2 hours).

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes. Remove from pans as soon as done. Baked loaves sound hollow when tapped with hand.

Notice

Anybody have old 78 RPM records with Lemko, Boiko and Hutsul music? Please contact Alex Herenchak, Editor.

FORLORN And FORSAKEN, But NEVER FORGOTTEN*Forlorn and forsaken, but never forgotten**There stand majestically great mountains-Karpaty.**The thousands of children born in those crests,**Ventured into the world like birds from their nests.**And those that remained to meet their fate,**Suffered vicious hardship caused by those that hate.**They endured mean war and cruel bereavement,**Lost most of the young people and all of their achievement.**Then they were resettled to faraway land --**Where the water is bad and the soil all sand,**And left to shift for themselves without means or friend.**Deprived of their land and of their homes,**They wait in despair, not knowing what comes.**But the great green mountains and the bubbling brooks,**The enchanting dreamy forests that we know from books,**Have their appeal to the people's hearts**To come back to Lemkovina, to enjoy nature's arts.**To come back to restore what was there before;**To build anew the villages that are there no more;**To come back and to suffer and shed bitter tears,**To clear the farms of overgrowth that grew in recent years;**To come back to their mountains to plow their lands.**And to leave the centuries--old enemy and his barren sands.**And the Lemkos are coming back, for there shall be no oblivion of the peaceful race**As long as there is heaven and God in His Grace.*

A. B.

AUDIO and VIDEO Tapes**Item #1 Karpati-Rus' Folk Songs;**

Eighteen folk songs from the Carpathian Mountains! Transcribed from 78 rpm discs recorded in 1910, this audio cassette tape presents wedding, christening and Christmas songs....the way our ancestors did them.

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