

Carpatho-Rus'

Karpatska Rus'



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

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Thank You

From all of us at Lemko Assoc. and Karpatska Rus we sincerely thank **Father Lickvar and his volunteers at St. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Jersey City** for the fine memorial service and after service lunch provided on August 2 in memory of the victims of Talerhof.

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 sixty first installment of the story from Moscow News.

The Crash of an Empire

A Colloquial Chronicle, Russia, 1985-1991, Part 61

Peasant Czar in the Making

There was one element in the election campaign of 1989 that had previously been lacking in the confrontation between the Party apparat and the liberal forces clamoring for more openness and freedom, less Stalinism/Brezhnevism. The people who were still shy of calling themselves the opposition now had a leader in the making, a focus toward whom they gravitated despite lack of any formal, institutionalized recognition. That leader was, needless to say, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, who was making a political comeback the likes of which the U.S.S.R. had not known in all the years of its existence.

The gravitation was subterranean but nevertheless absolutely real. You might scour in vain the papers of that period for any sign of Yeltsin's leadership, but it was still a hard fact of the people's consciousness at the time.

Come to think of it, the phenomenon of Yeltsin's return to prominence was not all that inexplicable. There were at least two simple, basic reasons for it: (a) he was the only nationally known figure—that is, inevitably in those times, someone from the top ruling echelon—to have risen openly against the doings of partocracy; and (b) what he was saying, or was reputed to be saying, was absolutely in tune with what the masses felt about the condition of the country and their own plight.

It must be stressed that the former of these factors was the more important one. There were quite a few people who were saying much brighter things than Yeltsin, they had been saying them long before he even began thinking about ways of saving the country, and they were saying these things much more lucidly and convincingly, but they simply did not have the stature to make their views known to the populace, nor the aura and magic of great power, albeit in the past, to make the masses listen avidly to what was being said. It was thus not only, and not so much, the "text" that counted (the listeners had the same "text" written clearly in their hearts and minds by their own life experiences) but rather the individual behind the text and the particular mountain on which that individual stood.

Another hard fact was that Yeltsin now stood in opposition not to the Ligachev-led hard-liners on the Politburo and in the whole of the apparat but to Gorbachev himself and thus the whole political establishment. He was perfectly

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THE HISTORY OF LEMKOVINA

Part 55

23. The International Political Situation Before the Second World War

When the first World War (1914-1918) ended, the so-called Versailles Treaty, signed in 1919, did not eliminate all the misunderstandings and antagonisms that had provided the basis of the conflict in 1914. Germany suffered great losses by virtue of losing the war. Italy and Japan, despite having participated in the war on the side of the victorious Allies, did not get enough of the spoils to satisfy their needs and aspirations. A struggle began for new markets and for the disputed territories that still had plenty of sore spots left. These three powers formed an alliance that came to be called the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis. Agreeing on mutual assistance among themselves, they began a series of aggressive acts. After gaining possession of Manchuria in 1931, Japan began encroaching on Chinese territory. Italy seized Abyssinia in 1935-1936. In 1934, Germany instituted compulsory military service, which had been prohibited by the Versailles Treaty, formed an "Anschluss" with Austria in March 1938, occupied the Sudetenland in September of the same year, took over the Klaipeda area in the following Spring, and finally advanced territorial claims against Poland.

The Western Powers—England, France, and America — did nothing to counteract these aggressive moves of the Axis partners. Such

indulgence merely encouraged the Axis powers to undertake increasingly more adventuristic steps that threatened the freedom and peace of the world.

The high point of this policy of appeasement was the Munich Pact of 1938, by which the governments of England and France acquiesced in Hitler's plan to annex the Sudetenland. The main reason behind this attitude of the Western Powers was to maneuver Germany and its allies into a war with the Soviet Union, which they regarded as a dangerous competitor on world markets. Furthermore, they feared the Soviet's cooperation with revolutionary workers' movements, which became a very great danger for capitalism during the great economic crisis of 1929-1933.

The ruling circles in Italy and Germany, as well as in some other countries, learned that the best way to quiet their restive masses was to establish fascist regimes that exercised power by means of terror and military-police dictatorships. In Japan, the existing autocratic and militarized power structure had for ages suppressed all signs of any revolutionary action. Fascism considered its principal enemy to be communism, which it strove with all its might to eradicate.

In 1936, the fascist nations concluded a so-called "Anticommunist Pact" aimed at the Soviet Union. On the pretext of fighting communism, they often dealt harshly with all progressive organizations, even cultural ones that had nothing to do with communism. In time, however, the governments of England and France became aware of the results of the Munich Accord

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Celebrating 30 Years of Lemko (Carpatho-Russian) Festival Tradition

On Sunday, September 13, 1998
AT ROVA RESORT, ROUTE 571, CASSVILLE, NJ
CONCERT BEGINS AT 1:00 PM FEATURING

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 aware of the fact and compared himself on one occasion to Leon Trotsky, the last Politburo member to have spoken out against the general secretary (none other than Stalin) before him, way back in the 1920s. Given Russians' inclination to personalize any political conflict, to go by personalities rather than ideas or platforms, the importance of this aspect cannot be emphasized enough.

Gorbachev's slide from popularity had started long before the election campaign. He had long become the scapegoat on whom the people vented their anger over non-fulfilment of their exaggerated hopes, and over Gorbachev team's frequent appalling blunders in the management of the economy.

With the re-emergence of Yeltsin on the political scene the Gorbachev figure was further reevaluated in the people's minds. He was more and more firmly associated with the nomenklatura—a judgement that was only too well-deserved, his overriding impulse obviously being to "restructure" the nomenklatura in such a way as to create a firmer platform for his own throne at the pinnacle of the new structure.

Important as personalities are in Russian politics, it would perhaps be historiosophically more acceptable to say that in this, as in all other historical developments, personalities were mere labels for political forces and shifts in those forces. The falling away of Gorbachev from the people's graces and the rise of Yeltsin's star may also be looked upon as mere symptoms of the tectonic shifts within the continent platform named the U.S.S.R. which was then, unbeknownst to the masses that made it up, inexorably beginning to crack up. The masses, or their thinking part, were fed up with the existing order and wanted, consciously or otherwise, to be led away from it. There was thus a need for an alternative national leader, a sort of "peasant czar" who would head the movement to overthrow the reigning one. The cast of the play then enacted on the Russian political stage comprised a certain role, and Yeltsin simply fitted it better than anyone else; all the other candidates, or would be candidates for the part, were light-years behind him in this respect, however superior some of them might think themselves to be.

An important factor in Yeltsin's swelling popularity was the year and a half of apparent political non-being between his departure from the top leadership and the 1989 campaign. It was, in fact, not a time of non-existence but rather a gestation or incubation period, with rumors, xeroxed transcripts of Yeltsin's rare public appearances with his trademark question-and-answer sessions lasting hours, and even texts attributed to him, which he well might have written but hadn't—all freely circulating around the country. These texts, oral and printed, carried a much greater weight with the public, largely owing to the forbidden fruit effect, than tons of official propaganda which the people had trained themselves over the previous decades to shut out by reflex.

By the time Yeltsin again appeared in the public eye at the end of this incubation period the people had mythologized him: he had already been shaped into a hero figure—and all he had to do now was conform to the expectations. In fact, Yeltsin could do no wrong now—anything that he did or did not do would be interpreted by the people in their own way, favorable to their hero.

Luckily for him, the budding czar was then totally in tune with the people's expectations. What he said was mere, crude common sense. He expressed the people's hope, or rather their intention, to make the new parliament a real seat of power, a tool for implementing the will of the people, not of the Central Committee, the Politburo and a legion of Party clerks. He criticized the absurd election law regulating the very elections in which he ran—a subject of immediate urgency to the people then being daily thwarted by the manipulating nomenklatura. Then, of course, there was his hobby-horse, protest against the privileges of the ruling class growing fat amid bourgeois luxury while the people led a hand-to-mouth existence.

On all these counts he beat Gorbachev hands down. Yeltsin's revulsion against privileges, his standing in line at a local hospital and riding on buses (though mostly accompanied by television crews), the modesty of his home establishment, had become the talk of the town, while Raisa Gorbacheva's showing-off of her incredibly expensive clothes was seen as a constant irritant, a sort of red rag waved in the face of the egalitarian-minded public.

The situation on the purely political issues was even worse for Gorbachev. After all, wasn't it Gorbachev who devised or endorsed the scandalous rules by which the elections were run? Wasn't he himself setting the worst sort of example, refusing to run for parliament in the only properly democratic way and sliding in place entirely uncontested instead, thus giving a graphic, practical demonstration of the depth of his attachment to democratic procedure?

By contrast, Yeltsin chose the hardest way to a seat in parliament. Although he was nominated in dozens of constituencies, including his home town of Sverlovsk (now Yekaterinburg), he chose to run in Moscow, the country's biggest and most important district. He would be assured a seat in his home town without lifting a finger, but led by his now famous political instinct, he chose to run in the far from safe Moscow constituency for reasons that only later became clear: this path alone would justify his claim to the status of a leader on a national scale.

After 18 months of virtual political non-being, Yeltsin used every opportunity offered by the election campaign—rare appearances on TV and in the press and much more frequent, sometimes twice a day, speeches at district election meetings, before the workforce of major plants and factories and at huge rallies filling whole stadiums—to air his few but effective ideas.

The rallies were particularly important, although Yeltsin later expressed a rather guarded attitude toward them, as these were hardly occasions for rational debate or reasonable persuasion. Indeed, there was a touch of hysteria about those events which marked the beginning of the Yeltsin idolatry. A crowd of devotees now followed their hero from rally to rally, which heard for the first time the powerful chant "Yel-TSIN! Yel-TSIN!" that was to rock the political scene for years to come. (For greater efficacy, the crowds even shifted the stress in Yeltsin's name from the first syllable to the second—Russian is a predominantly iambic language).

Yeltsin fought a vigorous, some said frenetic campaign, sometimes swaying even hostile audiences, but there was an even more powerful factor working in his favor, and that was a vicious campaign of vilification against him mounted by the Party apparat and spearheaded by none other than Gorbachev himself. Gorbachev fell so low as to instigate a sort of inquiry into Yeltsin's "anti-Party statements," after a certain Central Committee member, a "proletarian-at-court," lashed into Yeltsin at a Central Committee plenary session.

There were also other despicable moves by the apparat, like the suspicious car crashes or near crashes, three in a row, and the secret letter instructing all Party members on how to counteract Yeltsin's growing influence (which MN had the great privilege to publicize and denounce at the time). All this was so silly that some people asked Yeltsin in all seriousness if he hadn't some secret supporters in the Party apparat who initiated these persecutions in the full knowledge that they would have an immediate and powerful reverse effect, given the Russian people's instinctive, well-attested sympathy for the humiliated and insulted.

Unfortunately for the apparat, it was not a case of secret support but of crass stupidity, complacency and incompetence. Yeltsin himself later commented on the phenomenon with a mixture of bitterness and despair. Here was the country's entire ruling class, the "elite," with the most powerful propaganda machine in the world dead set to stop one single individual—bungling the job miserably. And these were the people who were expected to perform a task on a world-historical scale, transforming a huge country's entire economic and political system! One could

only feel sorry—if not for the "elite" then for the country.

Sergei ROY, Moscow News

CARPATHO--RUS

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IN APPRECIATION

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

Notice

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

Notice

Passaic Branch 5-16; Lemko Assoc.

1998 Schedule of Events

October 18	Fall Banquet, 2 PM	\$15.
September 20	2 PM	
December 6	2 PM	

AUDIO & 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.

Item #2: Russian Balalaika and Polkas, Chardashes and Gypsy Eclectic:

This audio cassette tape contains Russian polka and balalaika selections, Slavic chardashes and gypsy melodies. Several folk songs provided here were originally recorded in 1910 on 78 RPM discs.

Item #3: East European Folk Festival;

Each year, the Lemko Association of the U.S. and Canada sponsors a festival of East European dancing and singing. This video offers highlights of the 25th festival which was held in 1993. It includes excerpts of an Orthodox Catholic prayer service and concert of Karpati-Rus., Ukrainian, Russian and Slovak folk songs and dancing.

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and the danger threatening the world from the fascist powers, and in March of 1939 promised to guarantee Poland's borders and to begin negotiations with the Soviet Union on military cooperation. They did not, however, take a single step to deter German aggression. It was not until Hitlerism had inflamed all of Europe that western politicians decided who was the greatest enemy of mankind and who threatened destruction of the culture and freedom of all peoples.

World War II began with Germany's imperialist attack on Poland. In early 1939, the Germans made territorial claims against Poland, demanding that the free city of Danzig be handed over to Germany and that a so-called "corridor" be created in Polish Pomerania. These demands could not be accepted, as the Hitlerites knew very well. These demands were only a pretext, while in the background was the age-old German desire to destroy Poland entirely, as a nation and as a people. Hitler often mentioned this in talking with his accomplices. For example, on May 23, 1939, Hitler said, "Danzig is not the matter in dispute. This is a matter of enlarging our living space (Lebensraum), of providing resources for living, of solving the Baltic problem". And again on August 22, just days before the attack on Poland, Hitler divulged his intentions in respect to Poland. "Extermination of the Poles", he said, "is our first and most vital duty. Even if war should break out in the west, destruction of Poland must be our primary objective. This decision must be carried out within the year. For propaganda purposes, I will give some excuse for the outbreak of war. It does not matter if this is believed or not. In starting and conducting a war, it is not truth that counts, but victory. Be merciless! Be brutal!"

Most of the Polish people were aware of the phobias and intentions of the Hitlerites toward them. The tragedy of Poland lay in the fact that its government did not understand, and didn't even want to know, the danger that threatened Poland from Hitler's insatiable fascism, which had absolutely no regard for international rights.

The shortsightedness of Poland's politicians and their total disregard of their responsibility for the fate of the nation are attested to by their actions, such as sending Polish troops to occupy the Olsztyn area of East Prussia at the same time that Hitler was decimating Czechoslovakia and giving Poland ultimatums that threatened its sovereignty. The government's neglect of the provinces that were threatened by Hitler's aggression enabled the Germans to conduct blitzkrieg operations in the early stages of the war and made it possible for them to take over the entire continent of Europe in short order. It was Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union in June of 1941 that awakened public opinion to the danger of the situation and united all the anti-fascist forces to fight this most dangerous enemy of humanity, the like of which history had not known heretofore.

The Hitlerite Occupation of Poland

Early on the morning of September 1, 1939, military warplanes with those ominous swastikas painted on their wings roared over Poland and bombs began sowing death and destruction. This was the beginning of World War II. The people could not yet believe that this was really war, because the newspapers, radio, and all of Polish propaganda had kept proclaiming right up to the last moment that, on the one hand, Hitler's threats were just extortion, and on the other, that "we are strong, united, and ready" and that England and France will immediately come to our aid. Meanwhile, a deluge of bombs fell on cities and villages, on mansions and cottages, on roads crowded with refugees, on communication lines, killing civilians and spreading conflagration. This was a new kind of war, one fought against an entire people.

On September 7, Warsaw was evacuated, and on the following day it was encircled by

German armies. Thousands of men volunteered for military service; none were accepted, because there was a shortage of weapons, ammunition, uniforms, and transport. There was total chaos and disorganization from the very first day of the war. Soldiers wanted to fight the enemy, but at the border they were ordered to retreat without firing a shot. Government notables fled in fright, packing up their trunks and carrying of money and valuables, both personal and state. Instead of fighting with the soldiers at the front, generals, colonels, and majors fled in limousines packed with all kinds of valuables, trying to get to Zalishchiky in two weeks and then across the border to avoid the wrath of the people. The traitorous government fled the country and left the people to the mercies of Hitler's invaders. Fighting continued, however, with both soldiers and civilians carrying on. They fought bravely, but the enemy forces were immeasurably stronger. Warsaw surrendered on September 27, and a few days later all of Poland was in the hands of the Germans.

In conformity with long established plans, Hitler now set about complete extermination of the Polish people, both cultural and biological. He said that Germany has to take the path of age-old aggression, has to go up against Russia and its neighboring nations, must Germanize all those lands. In May 1941, Grayzer, who was sentenced to death by a Polish court after the war, said it thus: "Poles can work for us, but only as laborers", and to the Germans he said, "I emphatically require that you be brutal, be cruel and more cruel." Governor General Hans Frank, who was sentenced to death by the international Tribunal in Nuremberg, put it in these words: "The difference between the German master race and the Poles must be expressed with great clarity Poles will be given just enough education to make them realize the utter hopelessness of their national life."

The occupied area of Poland was divided into two parts. One part (Silesia, Great Poland, Pomerania, and parts of the Warsaw and Lodz provinces) was annexed directly to German. The rest went into a General Governorship, which was divided into four districts: Warsaw, Radom, Lublin and Cracow, with its capital in Cracow. The Governor General was Hans Frank, the same who at one time had been Hitler's defender in his trials.

Frank lived like a king in Wawel Castle.

In the first part of this divided country, the people lost their right to have an opinion. And property rights, land and industry, were taken over by German magnates. A system of confiscation and destruction was applied extensively. Some village families were resettled to the General Governorship, and young people were sent to work in Germany. The rest of the populace were left on their own lands as laborers, while their land was taken by the German colonizers. To keep everybody in submission, the occupiers resorted to a policy of unprecedented terror, oppression, and persecution. All schools were closed. Young people were forced to work in factories and on farmsteads. Priests were led off to concentration camps. University professors were arrested. A crematorium was built on the grounds of one university, for burning the bodies of those who died in the camps and prisons. Multitudes of people

were brutally resettled. During the severe winter of 1939-1940 many were forced out of their homes and cast to the whims of fate, together with their children and their sick, taking regimen called "Arbeitsamt", where working conditions were extremely harsh. They had to work 12 hours every day, with no compensation. Living conditions were miserly, not enough for even a meager living. Many concentration camps were established—in Radogosh, in Zhabikowa, in Chelm—where over 300,000 people died.

To be Continued

The Cooking Corner

Fried Pumpkin and Potatoes [Tikva s Kartoschkoj]

1 1/2	lb	pumpkin
1/2	tsp	salt
1/2	cup	flour
2	tbls	butter
1 1/2	Lbs	Small, new potatoes
		Salted water
1/2	cup	Sour cream
		dill

Peel, slice and flour pumpkin as for Baked Pumpkin with Eggs* [* This recipe was printed in KR #21, 10/11/96]. Fry it in butter and keep hot. Scrub and boil the potatoes in salted water for about 10 minutes or until cooked. Drain them and put into a serving dish. Arrange the pumpkin on top and pour the sour cream over. Sprinkle with dill and serve as a separate dish or as accompaniment to meat. 4 servings.

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Press Fund Contributions

Victoria Windish	\$100.
John Kostyk, Talerhof fund	50.

Celebrating the 60th Year

Carpatho-Russian American Center

Annual Picnic

On Sunday, August 30, 1998, beginning at 1:00 PM AT
LEMKO HALL, 556 YONKERS AVENUE, YONKERS, NY 10704

Come enjoy our delicious perogi, kolbasi, hamburgers,
hot dogs, with beer, wine and soda, all inclusive, for a
total price of \$12. per person, children under 12, free.

Music

Children's games