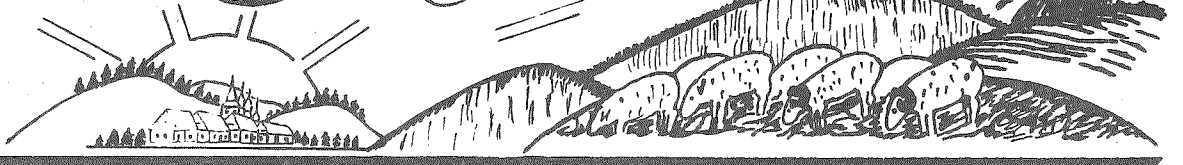


# Carpatho-Rus'

## Karpatska Rus'



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

NO. 17, CARPATHO-RUS, YONKERS, N.Y., AUGUST 18, 1995 VOL. LXVIII

Continued from Issue #16, 8/4/95

The following human interest story was recently printed in our newspaper in the Lemko cyrillic dialect. We received several praiseworthy comments that the story should be translated and printed in the English section. It concerns a woman who lived in a small village in Lemkovina during the two world wars.

### "I Lived Through Two Wars"

We were sent to different villages. Ustyans and Hanchovians went to one village. The village was deserted, the former residents left one week before, and the houses were very cold. The stoves and floors were frozen. There were neither chairs nor benches in the barren house, just the bare walls and stove. We went out to find some firewood, but all we could find was thatch, and so, we used thatch to try and warm the house. At night we could not sleep because of the extreme cold. This cold sapped the strength of my mother, she became very ill and died within one week.

People threshed wheat, so we had enough bread to eat. There also was enough food for the pigs, and each family kept at least one pig. However, we had no milk. The cows were probably taken by the former residents and we had left behind our herds in Lemkovina.

Spring arrived slowly. Officials asked us how we wanted to cultivate the fields, on separate sections for each family or together in a communal arrangement. We were informed, and understood, that if we chose to work separately they would not supply everyone with a tractor and horse. But when we agreed to work collectively in a kolhocz (collective farm), trucks, horses, pigs, cows and tractors promptly arrived in the village.

Seman Peika was made chairman of our collective farm. Our people are hardworking and don't like to be idle. The collective farm consisted of us Lemki except for two Polish men. Work was very hard and we labored long hours in order to earn extra allotments called "trudodens" (workdays). On rainy days we could stay at home and sleep longer hours and no one pushed or prodded us to work hard.

Summer passed and autumn arrived. When the grain was threshed, each family took his share home according to his total number of trudodens (workdays). In some families all the members worked in the kolhocz. They earned a large number of trudodens. One trudoden represents one 8 hour work shift per person. Our family managed to earn two trudodens a day. During harvest time, in hot weather, we earned four trudodens per day.

I do not remember how much we were paid for eight hours of work. I received 400 kilograms of grain, 300 kilograms of wheat, 50

Continued on Page 2

### An Appeal for Lemko Resort

To pay back property taxes due on the Resort, a corporation, First Carpathian Group, LLC, has been formed to raise funds. When about \$250,000. is raised, these funds, and the investors contributing them, would be given collateral by a 1st Mortgage on the property. The repayment terms of the loan by Lemko Resort to the 1st mortgage holder, (First Carpathian Group, LLC), will be a lump sum or balloon at the end of 5 years, with interest payable every 6 months to the mortgage holder, at rate of 10% per year. The property is worth substantially more than the funds required to pay the taxes. With cash flow improving since the new Board took charge, the interest

payments should present no problem.

The Resort includes about 110 acres. The 5 year period gives the Board of Directors time to market a portion of the acreage, retaining the buildings and surrounding land for resort use. The Board is confident that the terms of the Mortgage will be met.

Those persons who are interested in investing in this program to save Lemko Resort can call 914-783-1633 for further information. The taxes must be paid by September 12, 1995 to avoid foreclosure.

Lemko Resort Board of Directors

## Celebrating 27 Years of Lemko Festival Tradition



ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1995

AT LEMKO RESORT, ROUTE 208, MONROE, N.Y.

CONCERT BEGINS AT 1:00 PM FEATURING

Glinka Junior & Senior Dance Ensembles

Glinka Folk Singing Group

Balalaika Russe with Melick, Nova, Alexandrovich & Wolownik

Misha and Natasha

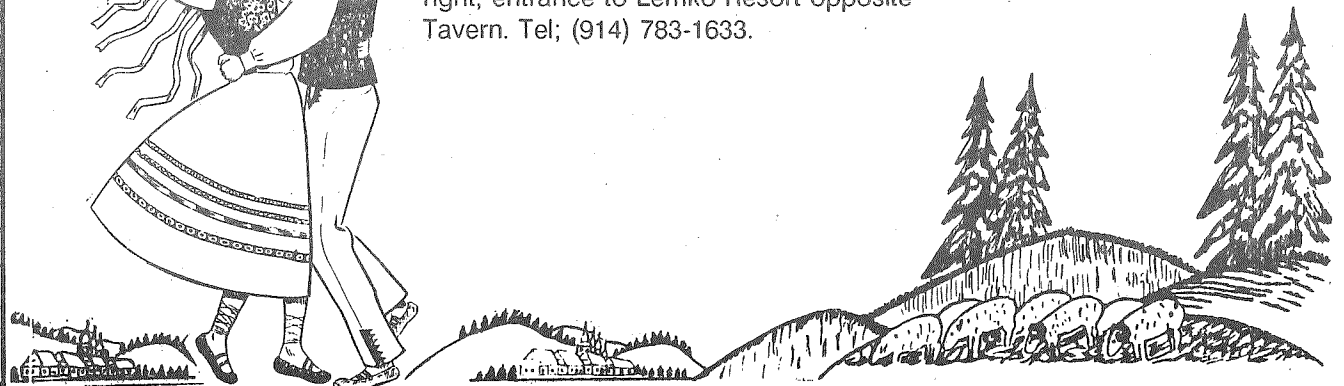
Ethnic  
Food

Al Parks and his  
fine orchestra

Folk Art  
Exhibits



To Lemko Resort: N.Y. Thruway to Exit 16. After tolls, on Rt. 17 to exit 130, Route 208, Monroe, bear right to 208, head north one mile, golf range on left, Glen Tavern on right, entrance to Lemko Resort opposite Tavern. Tel: (914) 783-1633.



Continued from Page 1

kilograms of oats, 250 kilograms of potatoes and some money. I had accumulated 333 trudodens during the growing season. This covered the period from early Spring after the snow melt, until the late Fall, when the snow began to fall. During the winter we did not work.

Winter in Ukraine was not as pleasant as winter in Lemkovina because we had to burn thatch since wood was not available. Cooking required two persons; one kept feeding thatch to the stove almost continuously, while the other actually did the cooking. Bread was baked with thatch in the stove. To make six loaves of bread, we had to burn about 2 bales of thatch, it was very inconvenient and troublesome to use.

In our village there were only about 100 coniferous trees, the rest of the land was in fields and wet lands. The nearest forest was about eight kilometers away. The nearest villages were Mikuljantzi and Veselivka, however, without a church, but with a school where meetings and dances were held.

The soil was excellent and black, but like our soil in Lemkovina, it needed manure for fertilizer. There were few pastures and wet lands were used for pastures. Dividing the pastures for each family's herd was done by drawing lots. The wheat was cut, collectively, with large mowers. There weren't enough people to work the fields, and with the wet lands, the grain very often was wet and the workers had difficulty coping with this grain.

We were often visited by a Russian who we called "soviet". He worked in Mikuljantzi, but came frequently to see how we were doing. He was a very nice person and liked to joke. If there was something that he did not like, he would draw a *caricature on paper, hang it on the wall for everyone to see and laugh*. Lazy workers were the target of his jokes and criticism.

One of us Hanchovians was a night guard at the horse stable. He was asked to watch horses at night and not fall asleep. "soviet" warned him that if he fell asleep, bandits could kill him and steal the horses. "soviet" decided to check on him one night and found him fast asleep. He drew a caricature of him and posted it on the wall for all to see. At one time people complained to "soviet" about a young man from Ustja, who did not work, pretending to be sick. "soviet" visited him one day and found him in good health. He drew his caricature showing the young man in bed surrounded by flies, trying to blow them away. Under the picture he wrote, "It is good to lie in bed but I wish someone would fan the flies away from me, they keep me awake".

When "soviet" saw us struggling with the grain harvest he sent us 100 soldiers to help on one particular busy day. They cut, raked and baled and came with their own kitchen. Our chairman, Peiko, ordered that two pigs be slaughtered to feed them as appreciation for their help, but they refused to accept the gift. They told us that it was our first year in Ukraine and we had little for ourselves.

For two months I milked cows with Maria Krenitski of Ustja. We had 19 cows in our collective farm. I was assigned 9 and she, 10. But she was bigger and stronger than I and often milked 12 cows while I could only do 7. As soon as the cows were milked, people came and took as much as they wanted. We were instructed by "soviet" to keep the cows and barn clean. We had to brush them every day and wash their tails with soap. This, we thoroughly accomplished when we knew that "soviet" was coming to inspect. In general, though, they were always clean. The floor in the stable was covered with straw up to the cow's knees. "soviet" liked our work and praised us. What he did not appreciate was our physical appearance, he claimed we were too thin! He told

us that typical milkers in Russia were nice and fat, like barrels, and he urged us to drink more milk. We also had 20 calves to feed, clean and take care of. We had another stable on the farm, but I don't know how many cows were taken care of in that building.

There were two pigstys on the farm where each pig had its own space with gates. Two workers and I cooked for them a kasha made of a mixture of potatoes together with milk and rice. This was poured in their troughs, after which the troughs were thoroughly cleaned and dried in the sun.

I had many problems with the pigs. They were always escaping. One time they escaped, and in chasing them, others escaped with their piglets when the door was open, all running to the grain field. I was so upset chasing these pigs that I told the boss that I would never feed them again even if they were starving. I did not go again to the pigs.

There was a serious problem with the mail. Our letters to Lemkovina were never delivered, and we did not know what was happening in our homes. Mail to the United States, although slow, taking weeks to arrive, did get through. At one time I received a copy of Karpatska Rus from a former neighbor who now lived in Yonkers. Everyone in the village came to my house to read it. In one of the articles a letter was printed from a mother in Poland to her son in America. She wrote to him about their preparations in Lemkovina for the coming Easter and the pashka they were baking.

A Hanchovian, Doshna Hritz, received a letter from his brother in Ripok. He wrote about his current troubles. He used to have a horse, but the Germans made him use his horse to transport wood to Gorlitz in the winter time. He wrote, "I sold the horse, because it would die from overwork with little to eat. I almost died."

Another spring arrived and we started planting. There was too much work since we had to plant many hectares of wheat and large herds had to be maintained. Every family kept a vegetable garden with cabbage, beets, potatoes, corn and beans. Each family now had one cow. The past autumn we were given the cow, pigs and young calves and we now all had enough milk and fat in addition to rice and potatoes.

In spite of these better conditions we were not happy because we could not forget our beautiful mountains in Lemkovina and our relatives there. Our women composed a song, "I wish I could once more see our Motherland". The Russians joked that there would come a time when we could fly in airplanes to see our mountains, but that time never arrived. In the summer (1941) the Germans attacked Russia. Our young men were recruited and drafted into the Army. From our village eight Hanchovians and an unknown number of Ustjans left for the war.

As the war moved closer to our village the bombardment was so intense that it seemed the ground would be turned upside down. Ten days later there was a battle close to us, but the ground fighting did not spread to our village. Only Russian soldiers passed through. However, in the air overhead there was intense fighting between Russian and German airplanes with many of the planes, from both sides, crashing to the ground. People stopped working in the fields and rushed home with many talking about evacuating the village. Clothes and down comforters were hidden under ground and people waited for further events. During the night people slept elsewhere rather than the village.

My Polish neighbor, my child, our dog and I stayed in the village while others fled. The dog was aggressive and watched over us. I thought that if anyone approached the house the dog would bark and attack, giving us the time necessary to run away. The short, summer night passed quickly, without incident, and it was quiet.

The war passed us, moving eastward. A new order was quickly established in our village. The collective farm collapsed, and new supervisors arrived, Ukrainians, from a neighboring village. They were probably afraid that everything would decay. The grain and potatoes were divided among the villages who remained and the cows were confiscated by the Germans. The kolhoz had sheep but they were stolen by unknown persons. The chickens and ducks were taken home by people.

We began to farm separately. We were often visited by Ukrainian soldiers and there were many of them in the surrounding villages. We always fed them even though, at times, we did not have enough for ourselves. They often stopped at our house because we always had something to drink, and they enjoyed the company of my brother-in-law.

Translated by Larissa Ivanova  
To be continued

## The Cooking Corner

### Oat Cakes

Years ago oat cakes were cooked over a fire on a flat plate or griddle. They're great for a snack, or with apples and cheese for a light lunch.

2	cups	oatmeal
1	tbls	melted butter or bacon fat
1	tbls	bicarbonate of soda
1	tsp	salt
		boiling water

Put the oatmeal into a bowl, add the salt and the bicarbonate of soda. Pour in the butter or bacon fat and mix. Pour in enough hot water to make a soft dough and roll it into a lump.

Sprinkle more oatmeal onto a board and knead the dough on it, working it into a smooth ball. Roll the dough out to about a 1/8 inch thickness. Cut this into triangles, and bake it in a 350 degree oven until they're golden brown.

## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please start/renew my subscription to **CARPATHO-RUS**. Enclosed please find my check or money order for \$20./year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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556 Yonkers Avenue  
Yonkers, New York 10704

## IN APPRECIATION

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

### Letter from Rusin Assoc. member who visited the Homeland

I was very nervous about traveling again to an Eastern European country and then I heard at a Rusin Association meeting about others going on a tour to the Ukraine, Poland and Slovakia. At that meeting I heard encouragement which finally helped me to decide to go. Karen Benson's statement that a person, "can't get lost!" and another traveler said to keep telling yourself you are "Just looking" like you do when you're shopping. This helped me to relax and not push myself to do everything and do it perfect. Then last but not least at church the words "Let God be your guide--he's gone ahead and prepared everything," settled the question. I just had to go see my Grandmother's homeland.

Actually, little inconveniences like lost luggage for four days, illness and fellow Americans you didn't pick and had to put up with for two weeks were the worst things I had to put up with. Much of the tour was not exactly the way I would have planned it and to put up with very hot or windy weather--well it was a struggle some days but I'm glad I stuck it out because when we finally got close to the places where my grandparents were born, I was thrilled.

I choked up at the first sight of the Carpathian Mountains. The colors and pastoral scenes were just great and to see the faces of familiar looking people selling mushrooms beside the road just couldn't be matched traveling anywhere else. The morning I got on a bus and then walked on a road near to my grandmother's village I came to a church and cemetery up on a hill. I took pictures and talked to a man in a nearby house. The man said he knew someone whose last name was Mosely (Mosely or Masleij) which was my grandfather's last name. I brought home some dirt, rocks and wood chips from that road and I am *quite sure grandmother walked there once and I know she was smiling down on me.*

The man we met drove us to a little cabin where Szymond Masleij lived but we heard from a neighbor who called out to us that Szymond was in the hospital with "bad legs." The hospital was in Krynica. We returned to our hotel and by some strange coincidence our tour was taking an unplanned afternoon shopping trip to Krynica! I got to the hospital and stumbled into Szymond Masleij laying on a bed in the hallway of the second floor of the hospital. The doors stood open and there was no lobby or anyone around to ask the way but we found him and have the visit recorded on tape. One thing he made very clear was that he was not Ukrainian. That made me smile. I don't know for sure if we are related but he had the same round face that many of my relatives have labeled the "Mosely look." Some of my other relatives looked like him. It was interesting trying to communicate but it was hard because the accent John Super had maybe was unfamiliar to Szymond and also the fact that he was not well and maybe had to be medicated, so it was hard to understand what he was saying.

Everything that happened September 12, 1994 was memorable and we laughed about the "funny" things that led us on our adventures. maybe we were guided along. I'll never forget how to get to Nowy Weis and Kryzowka and Krynica. Of course, I learned sadly that many of my grandparents people were forced to march to Ukraine in the 1950s in the cold and many never returned. Even today it is next to impossible for Rusins to get their homes back, go to their own churches or even get a job. They have it rough in the recovering economy of Poland.

I'm not in any hurry to go back but now I know my grandparents came from a beautiful place.

*Susan Mosely Hartwigsen  
from Trembita, March '95*

### AGENDA FOR THE 38TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF LEMKO ASSOC., TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9 AND 10, 1995 AT LEMKO RESORT.

- 1) Registration of delegates between 10 & 11 AM on September 9.
- 2) Opening of the Convention at 11:00 AM by the President, Alexander Herenchak.
- 3) Roll call of the delegates.
- 4) Election of Chairpersons and Recording Secretaries of the Convention. Appointments to the Resolution, By-Laws, Editorial, Grievance and Nominating Committees.
- 5) Reading of the minutes of the 37th Convention.
- 6) Reports of the Executive Board; President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer.
- 7) Delegate discussion of the Board reports.
- 8) Reports of the Editorial Board and the Controlling Committee.
- 9) Report of the District Organizer.
- 10) Reports, written, from Delegates of each Branch.
- 11) Reports from the following Committees: Lemko Relief, Lemko Resort, Carpatho-Russian American Center, Lemko Festival and Talerhof.
- 12) Delegate discussion of the various Committee reports.
- 13) Reports from the following Committees; Resolution, By-Laws, Editorial, Grievance and Nominating.
- 14) Election of the Executive Board and Central Committee.
- 15) Establishing the date of the next Convention.
- 16) Closing of the 38th Convention.

#### Reminder--38th Lemko Convention

September 9 and 10 at Lemko Resort

**NOTE TO ALL BRANCHES: Kindly select your Delegates to our 38th Convention and submit the names, as quickly as possible, to one of our Executive Board members or our office in Yonkers.**

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

#### EVENT CALENDAR FOR 1995

Sunday, October 15-FALL BANQUET-1:00 PM  
DONATION \$15.00

#### Birthdays Meetings

Sunday, October 22 1:00 PM

Sunday, December 3 1:00 PM

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

LEMKO WEDDING is still available for sale to our readers. This is the original film that was made almost 30 years ago, and it should be of interest to those readers who have not had the pleasure of viewing it.

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.

#### NOTICE

#### Now Available on Video

Professor Paul R. Magocsi explains:

#### WHO ARE THE LEMKOS?

This enlightening one-hour lecture will answer many common questions about our complex history. This tape is a "must" for anyone interested in learning more about their Lemko-American heritage. It makes a great gift for the grandchildren....and their children!

Professor Magocsi is a leading author on the subject matter and several of his books are also available through Lemko Hall. This video lecture was recorded during Professor Magocsi's visit to Lemko Hall in Yonkers, New York last September.

To order the video: Please send \$15. per tape

To: Carpatho-Russian American Center  
Video Offer  
556 Yonkers Avenue  
Yonkers, NY 10704

Books Available: "Our People" \$25.  
"Carpatho-Rusyn Americans" \$20.

To order the books kindly send your check with your name and address to the same address noted for the tapes.

**Item #1.** An audio cassette of 16 Lemko and two Ukrainian folk songs transcribed from classic 78 rpm records. They include many Lemko wedding, gypsy, Christening and Christmas songs by such artists as Stephen Skimba and Barna, Potochak & Co.

**Item #2.** An audio cassette of 10 Russian, Two Hungarian and 8 Slovak folk songs from classic 78 rpm records. They include Russian polkas, Slovak chardashes, Hungarian gypsy melodies.

Prices: Item #1 \$12.  
Item #2 \$12.

All prices include shipping costs. Kindly send your check or money order (made payable to Lemko Assoc.) to either of the following:

Alexander Herenchak  
P.O. Box 156  
Allentown, NJ 08501

Mary Barker  
521 Piermont Avenue, 520  
Rivervale, NJ 07675

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