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 first installment of the story from Moscow News.

The Crash and Rise of an Empire

A Colloquial Chronicle, Russia, 1985 - Part 41

Dogfights Are Good For All But the Dogs

Much of the debate at the conference predictably centered round Gorbachev's controversial (putting it mildly) proposal for merging the posts of first Party secretary and chairman of regional, city, district or local Soviet. The arguments pro and contra had been exhausted in the run-up to the conference, and still Gorbachev had to take the floor twice to explain his position. The issue, however, defied all rational explanation, as it squarely came under the heading of shikumy vospory -- a rude expression for issues of skin saving.

Terminology aside, what the ruling secretaries in the Kremlint Hall and outside it wanted to know was this: Would they or wouldn't they remain little (or big) cats in their respective kingdoms, khnate, satrapies, whatever you might call them? Sure, replied Gorbachev, sure you will -- provided you subject yourself to the test of elections.

This reply dismayed the bosses unwilling to put themselves even to the trouble of rigging the elections: They'd had no experience of dealing with constituencies whatsoever. The very prospect of getting less than the standard Soviet quota of 99.9 percent of the vote in an uncontested election simply shatdered their world. The struggling of Party nabobs confronted with a basic concept of democracy and civilisation -- the idea of free and fair elections -- would have been comical, had they not represented a terrible menace to any hope of change. They were very powerful animals sensitive to the threat of being shorn of their powers, and therefore as dangerous as baited bears.

The only way of handling this danger was the stick and carrot approach, and it was fascinating to watch Gorbachev administer the treatment. In his by now familiar style he resorted to two-pronged argumentation, each of the "prongs" the opposite of the other and intended to appease or enflat the support of mutually exclusive forces. He said first that the Soviets without the support of the one and only political force in the country, the Party, would remain as powerless and indeed helpless as they were, whatever resolutions might be taken (something along these lines). That was an obvious boost for the secretaries' self-confidence. In the same breath, though, and without a change in facial expression, he added that those of them who failed the election test "would have to draw the proper conclusions" -- Party cant menacing formula for dismissal. As dismissal for some meant promotion for others, Gorbachev could be confident of beating down the "opposition of the incumbents" most of whom had held their positions for so long that they'd become powerful public irritants. However, the incumbents vs hopefuls conflict, just as the previously described technocrats vs ideologues rift, were merely the Continued on Page 2, Column 1

Continued from Issue #20, September 26, 1997

THE HISTORY OF LEMKOVINA
Part 35

Galicja and Lemkowina under the Habsburg's Tyranny and Oppression (Sect. 25 cont'd)

The nationality statistics show vividly the debasement of the Russian population in the governmental and socio-political spheres. Poles occupied the top spots in industry, administration was the free province of such white Rusyns as had no agriculture. Also debased was the Russian worker, who-worked as an unskilled laborer, usually at a day rate, while the cadres of skilled workers were recruited exclusively from among the Poles. The landlord, who was the Russian peasant's contact, was a Pole and because of this the nationality question was indissolubly linked with the agrarian question.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Polish colonization was extensively developed. Colonists were transferred from western Galicia to the east onto lands that were purely Rusyn. In 1902 alone, several hundred Polish peasants were moved from Mykulychyn Skly to Strzy District. The primary objective of the Polish landlords in this colonization was to set the Polish peasant against the Russian peasant, to foster hostility between them and to strengthen their own village mastery.

The Russian populace was also no less debased in political and cultural affairs. Of 145 delegates to the Lwow Sejm scarcely 16 were Rusyns, among 72 warrants to the Vienna Parliament there were 10 Russian candidates while all the rest were Poles. In the entire region the official language, alongside German, was Polish. Only at the district and village levels might a little Russian be heard. In 1900, there were 5,449 Polish teachers in the schools, and only 2,284 Rusyns. There was not a single Russian teacher's seminary in the entire region. The Russian language, was Polish. at least 2,284 Rusyns, among 72 warrants to the L'wow, Region, and outside it wanted...
down-right schizoid, on the most basic and vital issues, and a good psychiatrist could have confidently predicted the inevitable collapse of the organism with this sort of chaos in the upper story.

There were some skirmishes like that. Melnikov, first secretary of the Komi regional Party committee, called for a clean-up of Party leadership, for holding to account leaders personally responsible for the policies that led to "stagnation." Gorbatchev angrily dared him to name at least a few of those personalities — which the man obligingly did (mentioning Politburo members Solomentsev and Gronyko, Pravda editor Alasanyev, foreign policy adviser Academician Arbitov, and others), to the consternation of some and delight of others. Like a great deal else about Gorbatchev’s behavior, his motives in the episode are open to doubt: He may have honestly been trying to intimidate Melnikov, squashing any attempt to open a witch-hunt in which members of the sacrosanct top leadership might suffer, or he may have been diabolically egging on the big-mouth Comedian to start exactly such an open season on people whom Gorbatchev wanted removed for his own reasons. In any event, whether Gorbatchev intended it or not, the principle of near-Papal Infallibility of Politburo members was pretty thin by the sackings and setbacks of the preceding couple of years, now lying in pulpy shreds.

Another high point of dissunity involved the writer Grigory Baklanov. His attack against the forces opposing glasnost and perestroika was rebutted by representatives of those same forces in the auditorium with rounds of derisive applause, so that Gorbatchev had to intervene twice, reminding the clappers that Baklanov was a war veteran, and instructing the audience in the ABCs of democracy and tolerance. True, far from wetting in the face of hostility, war hero Baklanov gave as good as he got, further bating the hecklers with the story of the standard test for Royal Air Force cadets: “If you do your passenger happens to be the Queen of England and she falls out of the cockpit in flight?” to which the correct answer appears to be, “Level out the plane and continue the flight.” The parable was all too transparent to the assembled cœurs— and to the much larger audiences whose whoops of delight must have resounded throughout the land.

The nomenklatura reserved its heaviest fire against glasnost. The media’s intolerable vagaries were a constant burden of their speeches, and probably the most colorful episode in the proceedings occurred when Comrade Patakov, secretary of the Altai regional Party committee, lashed out against Ogonoyev’s imputation that there were bribe-takers among the conference delegates. “There must be some limit to their imbecility!” he cried in obvious fury. Ogonoyev’s editor Vitaly Korotich, apparently feeling a bit like an early Christian about to be breakfasted on by a pride of lions, went up on the platform, modestly handed Gorbatchev a sealed envelope with a list of four names, all delegates of the conference, and asked for the magazine’s allegations to be looked into by the proper agencies. If they proved false, he was ready to try for calumny, if not, someone else would have to try for corruption. It was another moment of pure drama and suspense that shook the theater— loving country to the core in the event. Korotich wasn’t tried for calumny — but did the Altai gentleman (and the milionnete) apologize? Let me just say he behaved like a true Communist.

But the drama reached a feverish pitch, in full keeping with the laws of histronicus, on the final day, when the conflict culminated in a battle of giants of mythological proportions — the clash between Yeltsin on the one hand and the nomenklatura pack led by Ligachev on the other.

Sergei ROY—Moscow News

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip Code:
Press Fund:
Donation:
Send To:

CARPATHO—RUS

CARPATHO-RUS
Carpatho-Russian newspaper, published bi-weekly by the Lekmo Assoc. of the United States and Canada.

Subscription Rate: One Year...$20.

Edited By: Editor, pro-tom., A. Herenchak USPS No. 291 460

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

CARPATHO-RUS

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 Dimitri Galik.

Notice

Passaic Branch 5–16; Lekmo Assoc.

1997 Schedule of Events

December 7 2 PM

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

Press Fund Contributions

Larry Buranich Garrahon $96.
Samuel Urdu 20.
Stephen Domic 10.
Total $128.

Upcoming Events

New Year’s Eve Dance January 10, 1998
Call 914-969-3964 for further details

Enclosed please find my check for $20/year payable to Lekmo Assoc.
The Cooking Corner

In many Orthodox homes, the meal for the eve of Christmas was more important than food on Christmas Day itself. There were leftovers from the 12-course evening meal and that was served on Christmas itself with some added meal. It was impossible to find any set menu for Christmas, but there were always the honey cookies. There were many recipes for this spicy treat. It is called either pryniki or medlanyki. They were formed in wooden molds or rolled out and cut in different shapes. They were baked starting early in December and stored in a tight container. They improved as they ripened. The molds were passed down in families and hung on the kitchen wall between use. Many can now be found in museums.

Pryaniki were often given as gifts to sweethearts and young girls were given a "secret" recipe with their dowry. They were also available at religious pilgrimages where small religious items would be applied to them with the glaze. These were brought home as gifts. There are many recipes for pryniki but this one makes a cookie much like the one we purchased at a rest stop on the road from St. Petersburg to Moscow many years ago.

Pryaniki (Honey Spice Cookies)

6 1/4 cups flour
2 cups sugar
1 cup honey
1/2 cup butter
2 tsp eggs
1 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp cream of tartar
1/2 tsp cloves
1/4 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp nutmeg

Melt one tablespoon sugar in a large heavy skillet and allow to caramelize. Carefully pour in 1/4 cup water. Allow to come to boil. Add rest of sugar. When sugar has dissolved, add honey and spices. Allow to come to boil. Let cool. Sift flour. Measure out one cup which will be used to flour the board. Add 4 remaining cups to the caramelized sugar, butter, eggs, flour, baking soda and cream of tartar. Knead very well, adding more flour, if necessary, to make an elastic dough. Refrigerate for at least 20 minutes. Roll out on floured board and make favorite cutouts. Stars, hearts and roosters are the traditional favorites. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. You may ice or glaze these if you wish.

Some cooks add a bit of cardamom or crushed star anise.

The Orthodox Herald

Paprika HendL/Paprikas

Csirke
Smothered Chicken a la Paprika

HendL is the Austrian version. Csirke is the Hungarian version. Smothered chicken a la Paprika comes from an "authentic Ukrainian Baba" cookbook. In America we simply call it chicken paprika. Your family will call it wonderful!

We made the HendL version Sunday night. I did the work with the chicken. Terry did the sauce. It was simply excellent; served with the new mashed sweet potato pierogi from Ms. T. and fresh asparagus. We will do the Hungarian version when Steven is home over Thanksgiving weekend.

We are pleased to offer all three recipes for your families enjoyment. To receive all 3 recipes please send a donation of $3. along with a self-addressed and stamped envelope to:

Larry Buranich-Garrahan
13 Thompson Drive - KR
Washingtonville, NY 10992

Dear Mary Kostyk,
Because you are such a cheerful and delightful person, we hope you have a cheerful and delightful birthday and a cheerful and delightful year ahead.

Sincerely, best wishes,
Terry & Larry

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 weddings, christenings 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.

Item #4: Canonization of Father Maksym Sendovich;
This video includes a biography of Saint Maksym, the first Orthodox Catholic saint of the Karpati-Rus. The major sites and events of his glorification which occurred in Gorlice, Poland in September, 1994 are uniquely recorded.

Item #5: Video Recording of the Akafist Male Chamber Choir of Moscow and the Slavic Male Chorus of Washington, D.C.
Recorded at St. Luke's Serbian Orthodox Church in McLean, Virginia on March 12, 1992, this video includes 17 classic liturgical songs and shows the interior and exterior of all slavic Orthodox Catholic churches in the Washington, D.C. area.

PRICES:
Item #1....$12.
Item #2....$12.
Item #3....$25.
Item #4....$20.
Item #5....$30.

All prices include shipping costs. Send check or money order for Lemko Association to:

Mary Barker
521 Piermont Avenue
Rivervale, NJ 07675