

DYM = "Industrial Smoker"

ARMS MUSEUM ETHNIC CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE

A REPORT ON THE DYM, NEWSLETTER OF THE POLISH ARTS CLUB OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO.

DATES: OCTOBER, 1940 through APRIL 24, 1948.

VOLUMNS: Vol. 1, #1 through vol. 8, #4.

GENERAL BACKGROUND:

In studying the Polish-American Community it is important to remember that the community is often referred to as "Polonia" or "American Polonia." The newsletters reviewed in this report are in the private collection of Florence Turowski. Other copies may be extant.

Although Poles settled in America as early as the Jamestown colony, and are most noted for their actions at Jamestown to obtain the vote and the rights of "Englishmen", the great numbers who form the backbone of late 20th Century Polonia came to America at the turn of the last century. Despite early scenarios concerning the immigrants which portrayed them as "ignorant, pliable, frightened souls in a state of shock", recent research has revealed that most immigrants to the United States were individuals of modest means, educated and literate, with a definite desire to move ahead in society. The very poor and the very rich were without motivation for the difficult work of building a new life in America. Those who came, came with a definite knowledge of "why they were leaving Europe and where they were headed." (This research is based upon census and arrival information. See Helen Zaniecki Lopata, and Victor Greene for further information.)

Prior to World War I the Polish-American Press generally referred to Poles in America as "We Poles". Following the War and the opportunity of returning to a free Poland, those who remained had clarified their identity. Throughout the 1920's, the term "Polish-Americans" came to replace concepts that saw Poles in America as forming a Poland in exile. A survey in 1925 conducted in Buffalo revealed that Polonia's recognition of Washington and Lincoln was 100%, while the recognition of the President of Poland was only limited to 52% of the community. Babe Ruth came in at about 81%. The 1920s were a time of prosperity for Polish-Americans. In Youngstown several churches were built and local newspapers commented on the amount of money to be found in local savings accounts. (In Chicago, 10,000 Polish-Americans owned businesses out of a population of 318,338. Business worth in Chicago was estimated in 1928 at \$29 million; Church and schools at \$25 million; and housing worth \$389 million, with 33,767 homeowners families. See Lubera, Poles in Chicago, p.15. Similar figures eventually should be available on the Polish-American community of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley.) In the 1930s Polonia's religious institutional growth peaked. The highest number of religious schools and students was achieved in the 1930s. Polish high schools were founded. And the Congregation of the Resurrection, Polonia's leading religious order, enjoyed its greatest number of entrants.

Centering more directly upon the Polish Arts Club of Youngstown we see its origins in a movement among professionals and educated Polish-Americans to chart a new course for America's Polonia. Previous to the 1920s and 30s most organizational work was accomplished through fraternal or religious structures. For reasons that are still open for research a new series of organizations grew in

the community characterized by: (1) emphasis on professional people; (2) a complete divorce from church influence; and (3) a break in affiliation with the fraternalists. (See Kantowicz, *Pol-Amer Politics in Chicago*, p.171.) Issues of the DYM newsletters lightly trace the early steps taken by these organizations to identify their goals and to establish contact with groups throughout the United States fostering the same cultural objectives. Youngstown's local Arts Club was among the first such organizations to be established. Interestingly enough the years of the DYM, 1940 to 1948, present a bridge to the Post World War II world for Polish-Americans in Youngstown. After 1945, large numbers dispersed into middle-class suburban neighborhoods. Although concentrations are still evident within the city and suburbs of the Mahoning Valley seldom does one ethnic group remain a majority clearly visible in a neighborhood.

A young historian has written that: "The monuments of love are principally literary: what bills of sale and tax records are to economic history, poems and letters are to the history of personal relations and attitudes toward them." The DYM newsletters are an exciting element in the story of the people of the Mahoning Valley. While they are important merely as a key to a cultural community's transition into the mainstream of the professions in America, they also give an informal picture of the letters, poems, stories, and even a bit of gossip that offers an insight into the "personal relations" and concerns of people excited about being a part of the history of the Mahoning Valley.

A general index of topics and individuals prominently noted in the DYM newsletters is being prepared for December.

Submitted by : Joseph S. Rudjak, Jr.

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October 25, 1982

Deacon Joseph Rudiak
411 Lora Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio 44504

Dear Joseph:

I tried to get my sister to meet with you but she is too nervous and put a damper on it. However she has a Pmaietnik of St. Stanislaw 25th Anniversay.

There is a complete history of the formation of this parish. Then it tells of a second church, St. Casimir, which was formed in 1907. St. Stans was in 1902. You can see my father's name on the original collection committee. It is in Polish. If you and your parents can't read in Polish I can meet with you and translate it.

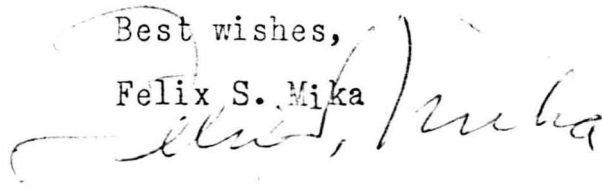
Thoe first committees include the original settlers in this valley. The Polish people met in the basement of St. Columba's church had their masses there and formed the plans for the new St. Stanislaus Church. You will note on the first committe were T. Zarzecki and F. Hoffman. The last one is Tom Romanick's father and Hoffman were both from the Brier Hill district.

Most of the poles at that time were from Galicia and lived on East Federal Street in Kurz's Alley or Galijda Flats. They then moved onto the south side. Some, including my dad, moved on the East Side. Those who came from the German occupation area moved into the Brier Hill District.

I am enclosing the family history which I gave at the Polish Arts meeting. I hope it will help. Am willing to meet again for furhter talks if you need me.

Best wishes,

Felix S. Mika



THEY CAME FROM POLAND

JOHN and ANNA MIKA

JOHN MIKA, was born December 27, 1870, in Raclawice, Poland, (then Austria-Hungary), son of Joseph Mika and Mary Guzik. His father was a "wójt" in his village. This title means that he was the head of the village for administration purposes and the chief constable. John Mika was one of seven children and when he neared the age of 19 he was obliged to enter the armed services of the Austria-Hungarian Army. As many other Poles of that age, to avoid service in this "foreign army" he was smuggled out of Poland and emigrated to America. He arrived in the United States of America on May 25, 1889.

John Mika first settled in Buffalo, New York. He worked in a sugar factory for one year. When this factory burned down he moved to Youngstown, Ohio. As best can be determined he arrived in Youngstown about 1891. He worked at Republic Steel Corporation, Brown-Boswell Works for 45 years, retiring in 1937 without one cent of pension. He died August 9, 1940, at age 70. In checking old Youngstown City Directories, the oldest volume available at the Law Library in the Court House is the 1896 volume. It lists him and his wife, Anna, as laborer, residence, rear 414 E. Federal Street. He received his United States Citizenship in 1903. The certificate shows a Minors Citizenship Paper. This means he was a minor at the time of his entrance into this country. The Court House records of citizenship shows his date of entry as May 25, 1889.

After arriving in Youngstown he wrote to Anna Tybor who was from the same village in Poland. At that time she was in Amsterdam, New York, living with her sister, a Mrs. Bogdan. They both worked in textiles. Anna Tybor was born in Raclawice, Poland, daughter of Philip Tybor and Maryanna Stachura, one of 13 children. Her father later came to this country and died at age 84 in Amsterdam, New York.

John Mika and Anna Tybor were married in Youngstown, Ohio at the old St. Columba's church. They had 12 children. The earliest born were baptized in St. Joseph's Church. John Mika was one of the original members of St. Stanislaus Church, and his daughter Julia,

was the first child to be baptized in the new St. Stanislaus Church on South Avenue.

John Mika was one of the organizers of Tow. Kr. Jan III Sobieskiego, Group No. 361 of Polish National Alliance, which was organized March 23, 1897. This group was later amalgamated with The Free Polish Krakusy Society, Group 827 P.N.A. He was also one of the original members of St. Stanislaus Kostka Society, Gr. No. 247 of Polish Roman Catholic Union. Mrs. Anna Mika was also an organizer of St. Stanislaus Church, and was member of Altar & Rosary Society, Our Sorrowful Mother Society, and Group 827 of Polish National Alliance. Mrs. Mika died on Feb 8, 1941, after 49 years in this country.

John and Anna Mika lived their entire married life on the East side of Youngstown. They had 12 children. They are briefed as follows:

1. Stanley Mika ^{Married Helen Osikiewicz} lifetime worker with Republic Steel. World War I veteran, injured in action. Had five children. At time of his death held the position of Asst. Superintendent of Electrical Division. His son John is now plant manager of Celonese Corp at Rome, Georgia. One of his daughters, Helen married Dr. Ben Yozwiak, who is Dean at Youngstown State University.
2. Walter Mika-died in infancy at age 3 ^{months}.
3. Stella Stepien-her husband, Frank Stepien, was a machinist. They had two children. Her son John now has the same position with Republic Steel as Stanley Mika had. She is now a widow and still with us.
4. Andrew Mika--married Gertrude Milanowski. They had five children. One of their children, Edward Mika, is a Police Office with Youngstown Police Dept. Andrew is now deceased.
5. Mary Holden--She married Francis Holden, a baseball player who starred with the world championship team of St. Stanislaus Church in 1933. They had two children, one of whom is Tom Holden, the news broadcaster with W K B N, TV station. Both parents are deceased.
6. Julia Blaski (Wroblewski). She married Tony Blaski, also a member of St. Stanislaus Church championship baseball team. They had four children. One of them, Edward Blaski, is a member of Youngstown Fire Department. Both parents are deceased.
7. Joseph Mika--Joseph married Ann Novotny, they had three children, one of whom is an English Teacher at Boardman High School, and another is a draftsman. Joseph worked most of his life as a wholesale meat salesman, retiring two years ago, and enjoying his easy life.
8. Felix S. Mika-Felix married Emily Augustyn, whom he met in the

in the first grade at St. Stanislaus Church School. Emily, whose parents were from an adjoining village in Poland, moved to Lorain, Ohio, in 1920 only to be wocedand brought back by Felix in 1930. They have one son who is an M.D. internist in Albany, New York. Felix hold an accounting degree from Youngstown State University as well a Juris Doctor degree. He passed the bar in 1935. During his 40 years of practice he was Law Director of City of Youngstown for 6 years, and Assistant Attorney General of Ohio for three years. Both parent active, but thinking of retirement.

9. Anna Andre-Ann married John Andre, a machinist. They had one child who died at an early age. Her husband died at age 62, just before retirement. She is a great dressmaker, but refuses to sew for anyone. She is taking life easy as an active widow.

10. Madeline Durkin- She married George Durkin, a machinist. Both still alive and very active. They have two sons, both graduates of Youngstown State University, and just starting in the business

11. John Mika--A confirmed bachelor. He worked for many years at Republic Steel as an electrician, retiring this year. Is thinking of taking up golf again to while away his leisure moments.

12. Edward Mika--Another confirmed bachelor. He worked for many years at Republic Steel Corp. as a foreman. After injury to his back he worked as an appraiser for the County Auditor, where he is still employed.

This transcript prepared by Felix S. Mika, from mememory and a sparsity of documents.

did age 84 - Ernest.

did in age 75 - Poland

Philip Zybor & Maryanna Stachura

1 Aniela } only child

2 Ludwina - Bogdan

3 Anna Mika

4 Wojtek

5 Jasiak Raclawice - Galicia

6 Kuba

7 Bronka

8 Michal

9 Andrzej

10 Zoska

11 Stefka - Babryhowski

12 Antek - Amsterdam

13 Staszek did dressmaking

Janek Mika & Maryanna Guzik

settled about age 45 - Wojtki combination mayor

1 Ludwina came to America and sheriff

2 Jan age 19 also went to salt

3 Aniela mines & sold salt.

4 Kasia

5 Wojtek lives in youngstown

6 Bartek

7 Zoska

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