

Polish American Day at Great America

By: *Robert M. Jaddach*



Jan Odrobina

L. - Katy Enrique - Rep Six Flags, Robert Gorny, VP Polish Falcons, Anna Sokolowski, VP Polish Roman Catholic Union, Pawel Pietrasinski, acting Polish General Consul, Sharon Zago, VP Polish Women's Alliance, and Paul Odrobina VP Polish National Alliance.

Chicago, Illinois – The final outing of the season for the four Polish Fraternal Organizations was the Polish American Day at the Six Flags Great America Theme Park in Gurnee, Illinois on Saturday June 2, 2007. Park goers were greeted by the four Vice Presidents and the acting Polish General Consul Pawel Petrasieński.

The event was chaired by Mrs. Anna Sokolowski, Vice President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union. Assisting her were the Vice Presidents, Paul Odrobina of the Polish National Alliance, Sharon Zago of the Polish Women's Alliance and Robert Gorny of the Polish Falcons. This past year, the four Fraternal Organizations hosted a Polish American Night at Cellular Field (April 19th), a Fraternal Bowling Tournament (April 23rd) and the Fraternal Junior Bowling Tournament (April-May).

The weather cooperated with a beautiful day. The park opened at 10:00 a.m. It was a fun-filled day with families and friends taking in the attractions that Six Flags Great America has to offer including rides, roller coasters, Polish foods, shows and many other exciting things for one to do throughout the day.

At 7:00 p.m. at the Theatre Royale, located in the Orleans section of the park, a special performance was held featuring dance groups from the PNA and PRCUA. The groups performing included: Wesoly Lud and Polonia from the PRCUA and WICI, Lajkonik, and Polanie of the PNA. Those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the performance put on by these excellent dance groups.

It was another day of fun and fraternalism for everyone. ☐

Interesting Polish Facts

March 8, 1999 article
Time Magazine/Canadian Edition,

Polish mine detector

Last week Time Warner vice chairman apologized for joking that Polish soldiers clear mines with their feet. In fact, a Polish officer invented the first practical electronic mine detector during World War II. In the winter of 1941-42, the British War Office invited designs for a robust and reliable mine detector. The one they adopted was submitted anonymously by Lieut. Jozef Stanislaw Kozacki, a signals officer with the 1st Polish Army Corps stationed in Scotland following the German defeat of Poland in 1939. His invention was tested and developed and 500 Mine Detectors No. 2 (Polish) were rushed to the Western Desert in time for the advance on El Alamein. Their effect was to double the speed of British troops through the heavily mined sands from 100 to 200 meters an hour.

The same basic design continued in use for 50 years and last saw the action with British forces during the 1991 Gulf War. ☐

From: "*The History of Landmines*" by Mike Croll (MRC329@aol.com), first published in Great Britain in 1998 by Leo Cooper, an imprint of Pen & Sword Books Ltd., 47 Church Street, Barnsley S270 2AS, ISBN 0 85052 268 0:

Page 54: (discussing the 350,000 mines laid on the English beaches to deter an invasion)

"The mining of the beaches had several unexpected consequences. As the defence of Britain became more organized it became necessary to move or to re-lay minefields. The laying of the original fields was so poor that entirely new methods of clearance, laying and accurate recording had to be devised. The difficulties of locating buried mines in the shifting sands of the beach prompted the War Office to issue specifications for a mine detector during the winter of 1941/42. The design accepted was submitted by Lieutenant Józef Stanislaw

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Parliamentarians debate wording of right to life clause to Poland's Constitution

A meeting of the lower parliamentary house speaker Marek Jurek with heads of parliamentary clubs, regarding the proposed right to life amendment to the Polish Constitution is currently underway. The politicians are debating on the exact wording and placement of the protection of life clause.

Currently, two versions are most prominent. The presidential one would prevent the lowering of the current level of legal protection of life and would also guarantee state care for pregnant women. Poland's Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczyński has expressed hope that coalition parties will support this version.

The other proposition is by the Catholic national League of Polish Families minor coalition party, who suggest to add a clause saying that the state protects life "from conception to natural death". League of Polish Families, however, declare their readiness to debate on the other, presidential proposition too.

307 votes are needed to pass the amendment. The second reading is scheduled for tomorrow, and the issue will be voted on after the Easter break.

Meanwhile, in a special Mass to celebrate the Day of the Sanctity of Life, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, close aid of the late Polish Pope John Paul II, reiterated that in no case it is justified to think about killing a child, even when his or her life results from 'unworthy, shameful or irresponsible decisions.' ☐

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"KRAK" Art Group Exhibits in New York City

By: *Andrew Kolodziej*

Los Angeles based, Polish-American "KRAK" Art Group was invited to participate in a prestigious the *8th Chopin & Friends Festival" in New York City. The Festival encompassed domestic and foreign musical, dance, poetry and visual arts presentations.

The reception to the exhibition of paintings of KRAK took place on November 10th in the "Kurier- Plus Gallery" in Brooklyn N.Y. and incorporated 50 paintings of 15 group artists. A special exhibition catalog has been distributed.

It was an anniversary exhibition marking 25 years of the groups artistic activity in California. The curators of the exhibition were" a prolific New York artist, coordinator of "Emotionalist" group, Janusz Skowron and Andrew Ko'odziej from the "KRAK" group.

In spite of heavy rain, a few minutes after the doors opened, a throng of people started pouring into the gallery. When the gallery was full, extra guests had been waiting outside to get in. At that time, Council General of Consulate General of Poland in New York, Mr. Krzysztof Kasprzyk was utilizing his ability of crowd control and was persuading the guests that moving inside is in their best interest.

During the opening, the New York actors A. Podolak and G. Hieromski and L.A. poets A. Ko'odziej and J. Garcia were reciting the group's poetry in Polish and English. It was followed by presentation of a video of Eva. C. Swider called: "Parallel Universe".

Participating painters were; K. Czerska, J.Fodczuk, H. Iglkowska, A. Kolodziej, L. Konopelski, K. Czerpak-Wegliński, T. Misztal, W. Mitrowski, B. Paleta, A. Popek, M. Śledzińska, J. Sytnik, N. Witkowska and Witold "Vito" Wójcik.

Concurrently, there was an exhibition the group's graphics and drawings in the "Emart Gallery" in Ridgewood, New York suburb. Curator of this exhibition was Andrew Kenda, one of the most highly regarded curators and artists in the East Coast. This opening was also heavily attended by the guests.

In March, this year, KRAK's paintings have been moved to Washington, D.C. and now they are being shown in the "Amber Art Gallery", curated by a prominent XX Century art avant-garde expert, Dr. Monika Król.

A high quality of group's artwork shown in the East Coast had been emphasized not only by the reception guests and local artists but also by rave press reviews.

We would like to extend our special thanks to all our sponsors: POLAM Federal Credit Union, POLKA Restaurant, Modern Travel Service, KRÖL Vodka, Polish Center in Los Angeles, "Polish Consulate General" in New York City", the "8th Chopin & Friends Festival" and "Embassy of Poland" in Washington D.C. for their generous support and sponsorship.

At the end of this year an anniversary exhibition of KRAK paintings will be presented in a Los Angeles gallery. Announcements will be made. ☐

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