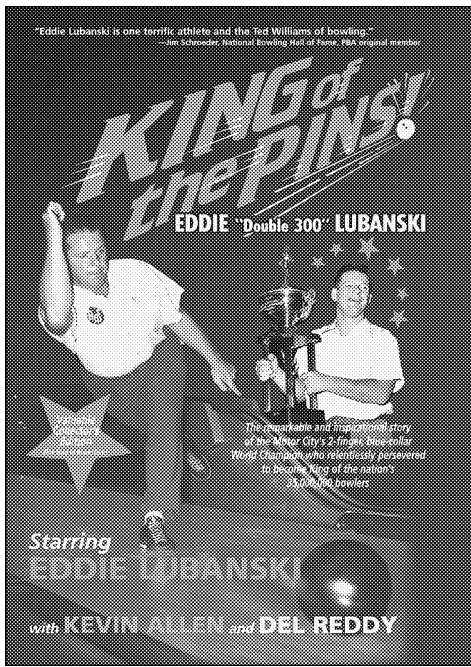


Eddie Lubański ✠**International Champion
He Remained Humble**As told by: *Raymond Rolak**He was the World Bowling
Ambassador**Eddie Loved Polonia*

DETROIT-- When I was a youngster, I was able to watch him on Saturday television with my father. They both had cigars. When I became Chairman of the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame (NPASHF), Eddie Lubański would help with any request. He was inducted into the NPASHF in 1978. He passed away recently and was 81. He was the strong fabric of old Detroit and he was an ambassador. He was an ambassador for Polonia and he was an ambassador for life.

I became closely acquainted with Eddie Lubański in 1992. He was much older and so very gracious when I told him the parallels between our fathers and baseball and bowling. Even more attentive was he, when I started to brag about Detroit and cigars. Eddie Lubański was an original **Motor City (Detroit) Ambassador**.

Humble and Attention to Detail

He told Mark Danielewicz and me about old time Detroit baseball. "I wanted to play baseball at Wayne State University but I started to make money bowling," he said.

Lubański was born in Detroit, a son of the depression but tough times did not detour him. Baseball was his first love, "I got to play for my dad in American Legion Baseball and in Federation ball. He was hard on me but I knew it was for my best. My cousin Leonard was a star with the Ternstedt American Legion Post-#166 team. He was the State of Michigan Most Valuable Player in 1954. He won the Kiki Cuyler Award.

That was Eddie Lubański, deflecting the attention to somebody else and what details that he remembered. Eddie was dominant on the baseball diamonds in his own right. "We loved it when we got to play on Diamond # 1 at Northwestern Field. That was the pinnacle. The infield was manicured like a pool table," he said. Lubański signed as a pitcher with the old St. Louis Browns and bounced around in the minors. "I got my perseverance from my father, Edward. The minors were depressing. I was playing in Wisconsin and decided that I had a better future in bowling. It wasn't a good life for Betty."

He started to talk about me. We wanted his stories, but he acted interested in us. "Ray, I heard you and Tom Paciorek speak about perseverance. That is the key. I told my own boys during their youth hockey, don't give up. You two played baseball at Wayne State, I followed that. Mark, I used to watch your brother Mike play football. I am Michigan State

*Eddie Lubański to page 16***Santo Subito***Dr. Grażyna Maria Gąsiorowska*

If one looks for an inspiration and uplifting of the soul "Santo Subito" (Saint Immediately) is definitely the right treat and the delight for the human spirit. It is one of the most wonderful, moving, and enriching concerts of the modern area. Its heavenly quality is undeniably worthy the special person it commemorates and honors, Pope John Paul II.

This brilliant cantobiography, composed and directed by Piotr Rubik, just made it recently to the Los Angeles area, and it was performed with all its gleam and glamour in Santa Monica for the Southern California audience. The auditorium was packed and the libretto written by Jacek Cygan, along with the superb music, grasped the hearts of all listeners. There was no end to the ovations and to the number of encores which were getting more and more creative with every showing.

It was unquestionably a sight to see and an event to experience. This was not an ordinary spectacle, but the celebration and the reflection on the extraordinary life of Karol Wojtyła, and then John Paul II. It was made very clear that even though physically gone, He would live in human minds and hearts forever. He was a pilgrim and the Pope of love, peace, and reconciliation, as the songs accurately emphasized. He was known for having a special gift of connecting not only nations, but also religions.

Many knew that he would be exceptional when an announcement was made "Habemus Papam!" (We have a Pope!), but he without a doubt exceeded everyone's expectations. On December 19th, 2009, John Paul II was proclaimed "Venerable" (heroic in virtue) by his papal successor Pope Benedict XVI. Thus, if anybody could talk about internal goodness, positive energy, and spiritual insight, it was exactly what Karol Wojtyła's life expressed and represented. This particular aspect was masterfully portrayed in "Santo Subito" – an awesome and emotionally moving story.

Furthermore, an abundant presence of young people as solo performers, members of the choir, as well as of the orchestra, did not seem coincidental. It appeared that the intention was to highlight the contemporary aspect of the story, and the fact that the young generation has been able to touch and see all those places where the Pope walked and worked. They have been very much a part of the history in the making. Through the songs they told about the road Karol Wojtyła traveled and experienced. They took the viewers many places from Wadowice to Rome. They portrayed how young Karol Wojtyła saw the world through the "windows of Cracow", and what he could observe from the windows in the basement at Tyniecka Street, and then at Franciszkańska Street. This last set of windows turned out to be the ultimate one for the rest of His life – the life of purpose and service to humanity after he had entered the "door of Rome".

"Santo Subito" resonated with an incredible amount of joy and love, because this has been the way people have viewed John Paul II and all His work. Many even think that he was a miracle, and that he was capable of miraculous deeds. Thus, the last song "Santo" focused on the Pope's holiness and sacredness.

"Santo Subito" performance was definitely not an event to be missed, especially that the artists were very generous and took their time to meet and greet the audience after the concert, as well as autograph the CDs which were selling at the speed of light. The line was long, but it provided the attendees with an additional advantage, which was to make new friends, have plenty of conversations, and take lots of pictures. □

**Reflections on Kielce
and Communism: The
Obstacle of the Kielce
Pogrom to Polish-Jewish
Reconciliation**By: *Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski***Putting to Rest World War
II's Spirit of Hatred
Part 6****Disbelief, Pain, Shame**

In Poland, the news of the details of murders in Kielce caused first disbelief, then pain and shame that a Polish mob could be capable of such horrible atrocities and brutal killing frenzy no matter whether the crimes were provoked by the Soviets or not. Throughout Poland meetings were held condemning the pogrom of Kielce as a horrible atrocity. Stanisław Mikołajczyk, the leader of the opposition Polish Peasants' Party, immediately condemned the pogrom. However, reports of his condemnation in the media were censored. The demand for a parliamentary investigation of the pogrom was rejected by the communist government. The Soviet-led government promised the formation of an investigative commission composed of all political parties. It never materialized.

Since one of the aims of the Soviets was to cause an exodus of Jews from Poland, the Soviet authorities took actions to make the exit from Poland as easy as possible. A few days after the funeral of the victims of violence staged by the Soviets in Kielce, Soviet General Gvidon Chervinsky, the chief of border guards, called his Jewish assistant, Michał Rudawski, and ordered him to establish two more "illegal" crossing points for Jews on the Czechoslovakian border. (Kąkolewski, op. cit., p. 191.) These crossing points were supposedly illegal, but in reality they were purposely established by the Soviets and allowed free egress for Jews but not for anyone else. The new crossings were added to those existing already in Szczeciń (Jewish code name Khyzar, or bristle in Hebrew, because Szczeciń in Polish means a bristle market) and in Kłodzko (Jewish code name Dorom). The southern crossings were to serve Jewish emigrants going through Austria to Palestine and the northern crossing at Szczeciń served those Jews who traveled to West German displaced persons' camps and from there south through Austria or Italy to Palestine. As stated before, about two-thirds of the Jewish emigrants preferred to go to the United States, France, or other western country. As a result of Jewish emigration, by the end of 1946, there were 100,000 Jews left in Poland of the quarter of a million that were there at the beginning of the year. At the same time, over 200,000 Polish Jews were in West Germany and Austria waiting for further migration. The Anglo-American Commission promised admission of 100,000 Jews to Palestine. In the West German D.P. camps, Jewish socialists advocated returning to Poland while Zionists insisted on immigration to Palestine. (Pogonowski, Jews in Poland, p. 349.)

A Polish documentary, *The Witnesses* [Świadcowie], illustrates the feelings of pain and shame inflicted on the Polish society by the Kielce Pogrom. Many realized that the Soviet provocation succeeded in damaging the good name of the Polish people by cynically staging the vicious pogrom and playing up the card of anti-Semitism. The Soviet occupation and policies conditioned a limited number of people in Kielce to respond to the provocation. Also, no one familiar with the Kielce Pogrom claimed that it was a spontaneous violence. (Kersten, op. cit., pp. 96, 130.) The Catholic Church clearly stated that the provocateurs and

*Pogonowski - Kielce to page 8***A True Polish Hero***My Friend Zdzisław*By: *Stanley L. Karp, Jr.***Part III**

On the fifteenth day of the Uprising Zdzisław was stationed at the crossing of Świętokrzyska and Czackiego Streets in central Warsaw with his fellow soldier, Gienek Lendzion, still armed only with rifles and grenades. On that day, August 15, 1944, Poland's Soldier's Day, they were guarding the barricade that had been put together as a checkpoint and as protection against German fire. They both were entranced and somewhat concerned by the firing of a German six barrel rocket projector, the nebelwerfer, in nearby Saski Park. This formidable weapon fired six 280 pound 30 cm shells in succession with a range of about 5000 yards. Because of their loud lowing sound as they fired, the soldiers nicknamed them "krowy" (cows) since they sounded much like cows. They watched in awe and deep dismay as shells struck the upper section of the Prudential building, the tallest in Warsaw. The flaming building, with the huge gap in its upper portion, came to serve as an iconic photograph of the uprising. And they were horrified when a rocket struck their company quarters. Moments later, one of the shells found its mark and made a direct hit on the barricade Zdzisław was manning. Although he had wedged into the gap between the barricade and the building in reaction to the whistling of the approaching shell, the phosphorous and flames of the explosion engulfed him and literally turned him into a flaming torch. Somehow he had the presence of mind to roll on the ground as the remains of his burnt uniform fell off him and to tear off his shirt. After quelling the flames, practically naked and in searing pain, he managed to stumble his way to the Czacki Street first aid station. He arrived with his body burned, the skin of one arm gelatinous, partially blind and swollen eyes framed by glasses twisted from the heat, part of an ear hanging loose, scorched head stripped of hair, and a burned face which displayed intense agony. This brought speedy attention to him by the medical personnel in order to keep him alive. Fortunately, they succeeded despite the primitive condition of the medical station: not enough cots, blood spilled on the floor, lack of medical supplies, undermanned and harried staff—Zdzisław's bandages were not changed for days. In due time, with the devoted and warm-hearted care of the young girl volunteers, who had little training but served as nurses and caregivers, Zdzisław overcame his agony and fully recuperated. Deservedly, the girls were referred to by the soldiers as "guardian angels". While in the first aid station, Zdzisław learned that the rocket attack cost his company the lives of 16 soldiers, including that of his platoon commander, code name 'Kocio'. After the war Kocio was buried in the Powazki military cemetery, next to his battalion commander, 'Harnas', where Zdzisław now, too, lies. A firsthand account of this event is set forth in the August 2004 issue of "News of Polonia" and is also included on the Witold Kieżun "Warsaw Uprising 1944" internet site (<http://www.warsawuprising.com/witness/jarkiewicz.htm>).

Lack of outside support notwithstanding, the Polish patriots fought valiantly for 63 days. All took part in the battle; the Armia Krajowa (AK), women and girls as nurses and canteen workers, girl scouts and boy scouts as couriers crawling through the sewer system—whatever needed to be done by whomever.

*My friend Zdzisław
To the
December issue*