

Letter from President John F. Szuch

This letter will bring sad news to our members who had their family roots in the Cleveland area. Some time ago, Bishop Lennon of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese announced that a number of churches in the Greater Cleveland area would either be closing or merging. Unfortunately, the Polish Parishes in the inner city took the biggest hit! Closing will be: St. Casimir, St. Barbara, St. Hyacinth, St. Hedwig, and Sacred Heart. These churches are scheduled to close by June 30, 2010.

You can understand the logic of some of these inner city churches closing because of lack of parishioners, but lack of clergy to staff these churches is also a major factor. Those of us who are older can remember when most of these parishes had three or four priests assigned to them. Although our organization is not a religious one, being Polish in most cases meant being Catholic! The Polish Catholic churches were not only the religious center for us and our ancestors, but also the social center. They may close the doors on these churches and possibly tear them down, but they cannot take away the cherished memories we all have attending services at them. I know in my personal case, my parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa has been closed for a number of years now, but all I have to do is close my eyes and I can see myself and my grandparents attending Mass there in the 1940's and 1950's.

My suggestion to members is to try to visit as many of these churches as possible before they close and enjoy the legacy that our ancestors built for us! If you need to do any genealogical work at any of them, I would suggest you do it as soon as possible. Once the record books go to the Diocesan Archives it will probably be more difficult to obtain things such as marriage and baptism certificates.

Enjoy your summer (no meetings in July and August), and hope to see you in September. In the meantime, please remember to say a blanket prayer for those of our members who are going through some health issues.

Katyn

Friday, May 29 at 9:25 PM and Saturday, May 30 at 7:05 PM

This new film by Poland's greatest filmmaker, Andrzej Wajda, is the kind of electrifying large-scale historical drama that he does so well. *Katyn* unearths a long-buried WWII atrocity that was initially blamed on the Nazis (though Stalin was the real culprit) -- the systematic slaughter of 15,000 Polish military officers and intellectuals (including Wajda's father) in the Katyn Forest in 1940. In 2008, *Katyn* was an Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film. It is in Polish with English subtitles. Cinematheque is a film club housed in The Cleveland Institute of Art at 11141 East Blvd. in Cleveland, just down the street from Severance Hall. There is free parking behind the building. Admission is \$8.00

Dedication of Sculpture of Madame Marie Sklodowska Curie

Polish Cultural Garden, Sunday, June 7 at 3:00 p.m.

Speaker: Marie Siemionow, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Siemionow is the first U.S. physician to receive Institutional Review Board approval for facial transplantation surgery. Alliance of Poles "PIAST" Dancers will perform at a reception to follow at St. Casimir's Parish Hall, East 82nd and Pulaski. In case of rain, the program will be presented at St. Casimir's.

GOLCOWA – A Travelogue and Genealogy Guide

by Kenneth G. Kozimer

The idea of a trip to the ancestral village of Golcowa, Poland was first kicked around during a long overdue family visit in the summer of 2007. My cousin, Chuck Cwiakala, his wife, Teresa, and youngest daughter, Erica – Chicagoans all – were visiting us at our new permanent residence in RURAL (as in ‘rustic’) Sheridan, Montana. And because our home was not quite ready to accept overnight guests, we had booked them into a nearby Bed & Breakfast. During the days we would do the usual tourist things, but at night we would always adjourn to the rear deck of the Bed & Breakfast to reminisce and plot the future.

Maybe it was the cool mountain air or the high elevation or the vodka-and-orange-juice (I had been saving a bottle of Russian vodka obtained in 2001 during my international flying days at the duty-free shop at the Sheremetyevo Airport in Moscow) but the rough outline of a trip to Poland started to take shape. Both my cousin and I had traveled extensively during our respective careers. And while I had always avoided Poland because of the perceived language barrier, Chuck had visited the country twice and claimed to speak Polish semi-fluently. Additionally, he had accumulated contacts over the years that would make the trip a breeze.

From the time the Cwiakalas departed Montana until the summer of 2008, Chuck and I continued to refine our plans. We received some much-appreciated insight into our trip from Ralph Lysyk, Ed Mendyka and our uncle, Al Kozimor. And so it was that we met on July 5, 2008, at the Hotel Francuski-Kraków, centrally located two short blocks from the old town square.

Chuck and Erica had flown nonstop from Chicago to Kraków on LOT, while I had traveled for free on a more tedious route, i.e. Bozeman to Salt Lake City, to Cincinnati, to Paris, to Warsaw. After an overnight rest in Warsaw, I met up with another more distant cousin, John Gach, who had arrived from Detroit. John had arranged a ride with another cousin of his who provided the auto transportation from Warsaw to Kraków – a 3-hour trip by car or IC train. When we reached Kraków, John went his separate way, but we agreed to meet in Golcowa on Sunday, July 6.

The genealogy portion of our two-week tour of Poland began after a great breakfast buffet of Polish offerings at our hotel. Waiting outside at the appointed hour was our transportation for the week – a comfortable Mercedes sedan driven by Kraków native, Jacek Galzinski. Not only did Jacek drive us everywhere, he helped with “local logistics” and filled in the language gaps as Chuck refined his Polish skills. As the week progressed, it became apparent that a car and driver were a necessity and not a luxury. The trip by car from Kraków to Golcowa is 3+ hours; the distance is approximately 200 Km (120 miles), but the 2-lane highway is busy with commercial truck traffic from the Ukraine. The rumor is that rental car companies are not comfortable renting vehicles that will get that close to the old U.S.S.R, as they tend to ‘disappear’. The other option is rail service eastbound out of Kraków to Rzeszów, and then local bus service. But once you arrive at the bus terminus, you still need a car; otherwise, you’re a backpacker in a foreign land.

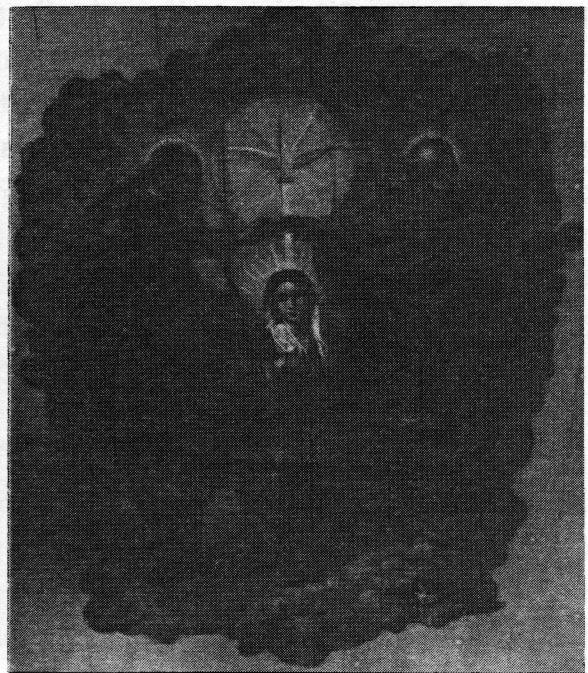
When we arrived in Golcowa, we went immediately to the old Catholic church, St.

Barbara (Sw. Barbary). To our double disappointment, the church exterior was covered with scaffolding and was in the process of a complete top-to-bottom renovation. Although it looked historically authentic, the newness took some accepting. Most troubling was the absence of my distant cousin, John Gach, and the priest, Father Mieczyslaw Szela. Chuck had phoned Father Szela twice from Chicago to set up our visit. We knew he'd be busy with his Sunday duties, but thought we'd be able to meet with him in the afternoon.



Having traveled thousands of miles by air, and hours by car to a missed meeting, we did what any self-respecting American would do – we ate lunch at a restaurant we'd passed about 10 km. from the village. Afterward, we returned to the old church where we met up with John Gach. John had a similar story: he'd arrived in the village before us, had not located the priest and had retreated to another luncheon spot. We took some time to explore the interior of the church. There was history here; the frescos, windows and altar were not what one would expect from a small village church in rural Poland. They were ornate and well cared for. It was a trip back in time.

With John now part of the group, we contemplated our next move. Without the priest we were dead in the water as he had possession of the church records dating back to 1448. In an attempt to kill time most efficiently, we





decided to tour the village cemetery, which was visible from the old church.

The cemetery is 100 yards wide and extends from the roadway up a hillside for 50-100 yards. About mid-slope is a building used for funeral viewings. While Chuck and Jacek remained with the car on the berm, John, Erica and I commenced an examination of the plots

and markers. The names read like a “Who’s Who” of Clevelanders. Names like Augustyn, Bak, Bober, Cwiakala, Duplaga, Gosztyla, Klimek, Kobialka, Kozimor, Kudla, Mendyka, Obloj, Wiecek and Wolanin were everywhere.

Some of the oldest markers are tall black metal crosses with name plaques, and the oldest have long since shed those plaques. The next oldest monuments are sandstone monoliths, the engraved names clearly visible. And the most contemporary are the black-and-white marble burial vaults, complete with headstones, pictures, benches and candles – evidence of frequent and recent visitors. I wouldn’t say that the site was in disrepair, but a lawnmower could have seen some good use. We were later to learn that there are no burial records for the cemetery. The common practice was to bury the first occupant of the grave and erect a marker. After that the grave became a family plot with 2 more interments on top of the first.

The time passed quickly. It was late afternoon and we were ready to return to Kraków. But to do so meant passing the church and the farmhouse where the priest resided. As we approached the church, we noticed a car parked in front of the farmhouse. We parked the car and got out. As we walked toward the house, Father Szela came walking out of the garden. He had been attending a baptism most of the afternoon, but had been anticipating our arrival. From that point everything just got better and better.

Our entire group was introduced and invited in for “tea”. As we settled in around a huge table in the dining room, Father Szela disappeared into the kitchen. He quickly returned with a loaf of freshly baked bread, a bowl of homemade farm-style butter, a huge section of “farmer’s cheese”, assorted homemade cakes and pastries, and hot tea served in what I would call Russian tea glasses contained within stylized metallic jackets. While we ate the feast in front of us, the important introductions continued. Chuck’s Polish really came in handy. And where he sensed some weakness, Jacek was quick to jump in. I believe that we were able to



Charles Cwiakala, Fr. Mieczyslaw Szela, Jacek Galzinski

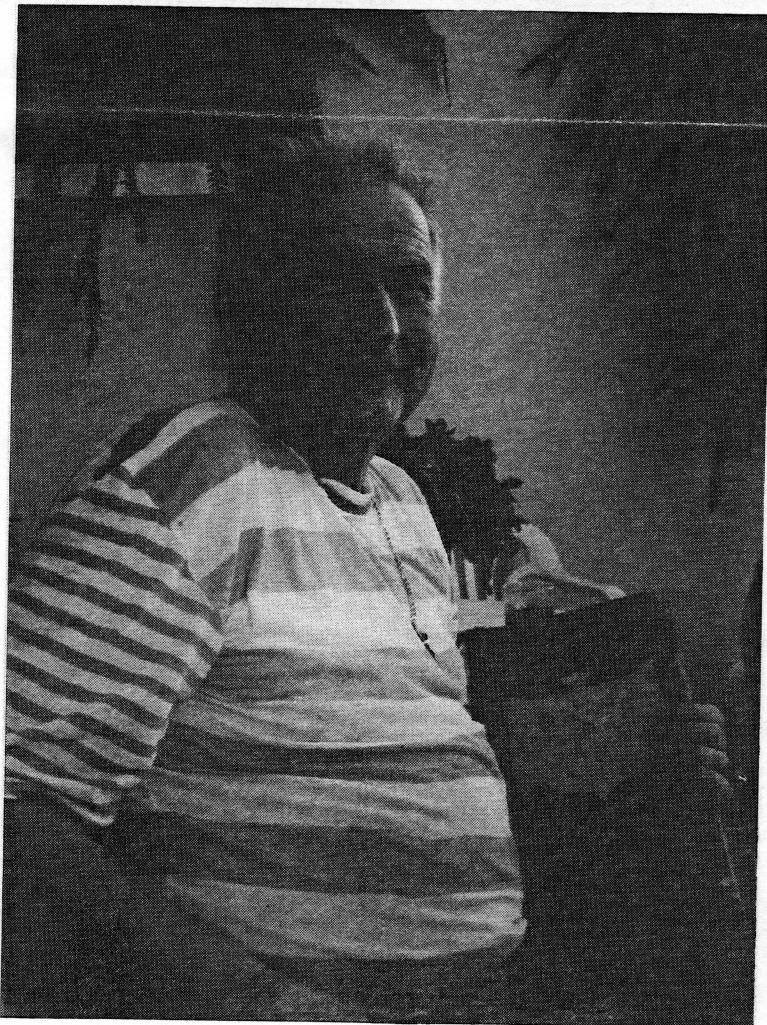
establish some permanent friendships over the next hours.

We had been talking and eating for a while when Father Szela left the room and returned with an old book that he carried around and handled like an old scrap book. The binding was deteriorated, and the pages were frayed, dog-eared and stained with fingerprints and hand oils. But the script was unmistakable

– the cover page was

dated 1448 – and contained the written history of the village of Golcowa. The last entry was dated 1765. There were other books. These books contained the annotated birth records from 1808-1907 and 1950-present. By annotated I mean that they listed the dates of birth and baptism, legitimacy, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother and godparents, as well as items deemed to be of interest to the recorder. The priest explained the reason for absence of one book to us. It seems the communists needed some sort of official record of the local population for administrative purposes. So they confiscated the 1908-1949 volume, and never returned it.

What records were there proved very useful. I quickly found my own grandfather, his three siblings, my great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather. Within a short time I was able to confirm my own research and add several names





to the family tree. But time was short and Father Szela was expected at the evening Mass. We left him for the evening, but promised to return the next day for a more leisurely visit and viewing of the ancestral records.

The next day was delayed again due to traffic on the highway. We arrived around 1:30 p.m. And while Chuck, Jacek and Erica visited with Father Szela, John and I continued our

Erica Cwiakala holding 15th century (1472) Church document

study of the written records. We learned that the records are complete for not only Golcowa, but also for neighboring Domaradz.

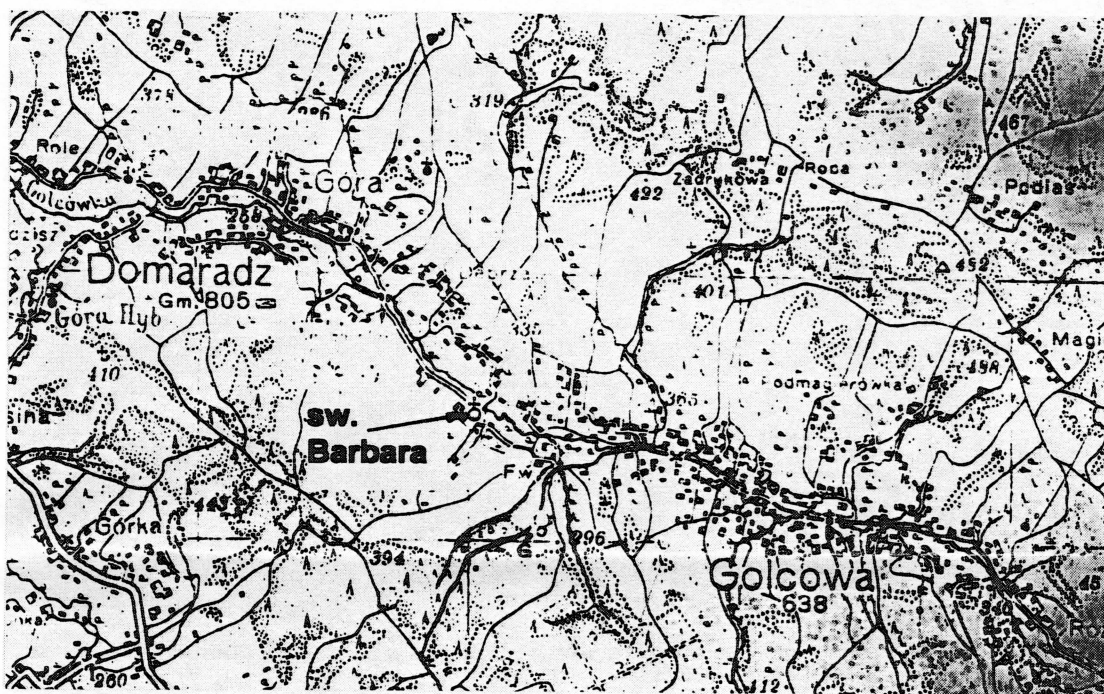
The records are all written in Latin. They are all very legible. The downside is that they are deteriorating and nothing is being done to preserve them. Although they've filmed historical documents in many, many villages and towns throughout Europe, the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Church has not filmed these volumes previously (the LDS maintains an extremely comprehensive genealogy library in Salt Lake City, the contents of which are available to all those having interest). And there is a rumor that the Catholic Church may or may not want such records released to the public in the future.

The foregoing makes Father Szela a rare find. A rural village priest, he attended a seminary in Przemyśl. He has tended the Golcowa parish for 15 years, having replaced the previous priest who had been in residence for 25 years. He administers the main church as well as the newer church in the "upper" village (Father Szela explained that the "commies" had erected that church overnight). He said he's there for the duration. Not only must he look after his parishioners, he must attend to the farm that is part of his residence. He has about a dozen each chickens, guinea hens, turkeys and ducks. He has a cow he must milk twice daily. He has an orchard. He has a large vegetable garden. He is a busy man.

Yet despite his schedule, he managed one more event for us on our second and last day. He personally prepared dinner for us, as he has no assistance in maintaining the parish home – and no ordinary dinner at that. He butchered one of his chickens, so we had roasted chicken accompanied by a wonderful traditional 'rozól z kury' (chicken soup with 'kluski'). We had cabbage rolls ('golombki'). We had freshly-dug Yukon Gold-type boiled potatoes, cucumbers

with sour cream and dill ('mizeria'), and a cabbage slaw. For dessert there were the fresh baked cakes and a hot fruit 'kompot' (a compote-type drink popular in Poland) or coffee. A perfect ending to a very rewarding visit.

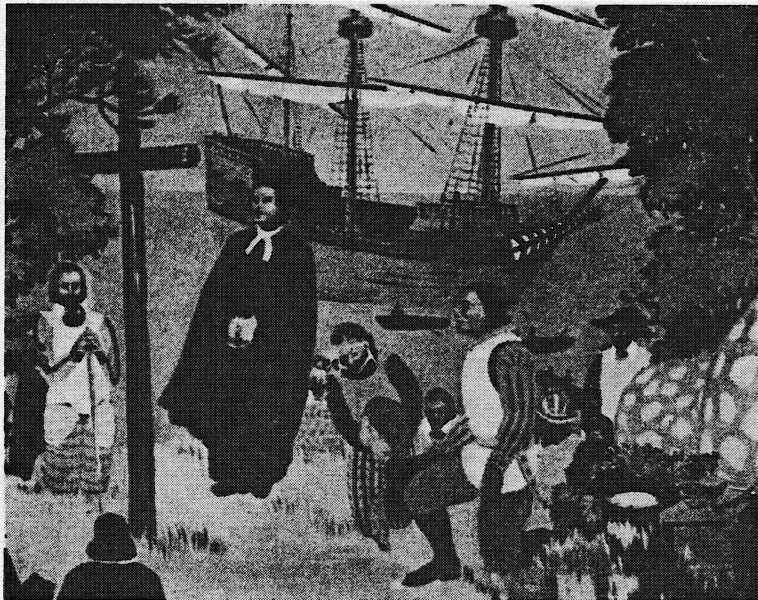
I don't know what we had collectively expected of our trip to Golcowa. Perhaps some thatched-roof barns and a setting out of the mid-twentieth century. Mostly a rural farming enclave. But we came away with a picture of a modern rural community trying to cope with all of the world's current difficulties – in short, not unlike what you'd find on the outskirts of metro Cleveland. The world is not so different after all.



Location of St. Barbara Church between Domaradz and Golcowa



Grandfather of Charles Cwiakala, Jan Cwiakala, who immigrated to USA in 1902 at age 20 and returned to Golcowa about 1910, shown at well in 1920's



Jamestown landing

A Polish-American Achievement

Biggest Mural Since WPA

By Helen Borsick



Artist Peter Paul Dubaniewicz with the completed mural.

22 THE PLAIN DEALER SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Polish glass-blower scene

MANY of the faces are familiar—Washington, Lincoln, Einstein, Toscanini. Some of the names are a little difficult to pronounce—Kosciusko, Taras Schevchenko, Casimir Zabriskie, Lajor Kosuth. In all there are 40-some figures in the mural that Cleveland artist Peter Paul Dubaniewicz has painted on a historic American theme.

In size and scope it is the largest of a number of murals in oils and other media done here in recent years, more perhaps than at any time since WPA, suggesting a revival of interest in the mural as an art form and as architectural decoration.

The Dubaniewicz mural measures 6x40 feet. It was commissioned by a financial institution — an increasingly important patron of the arts—and is in the lobby of the main office of Third Federal Savings and Loan Co. at 7007 Broadway S. E., a neighborhood of Polish and other nationality backgrounds.

Third Federal has dedicated the mural "to the pleasure of its public" and describes it as "depicting the landing of the first Poles in America and portraying the great men of many cultures who helped build one America."

Dubaniewicz, who teaches painting at the Cleveland Institute of Art, was the logical person to execute the work. Cleveland-born of Polish parentage, he is known, among other distinctions, as

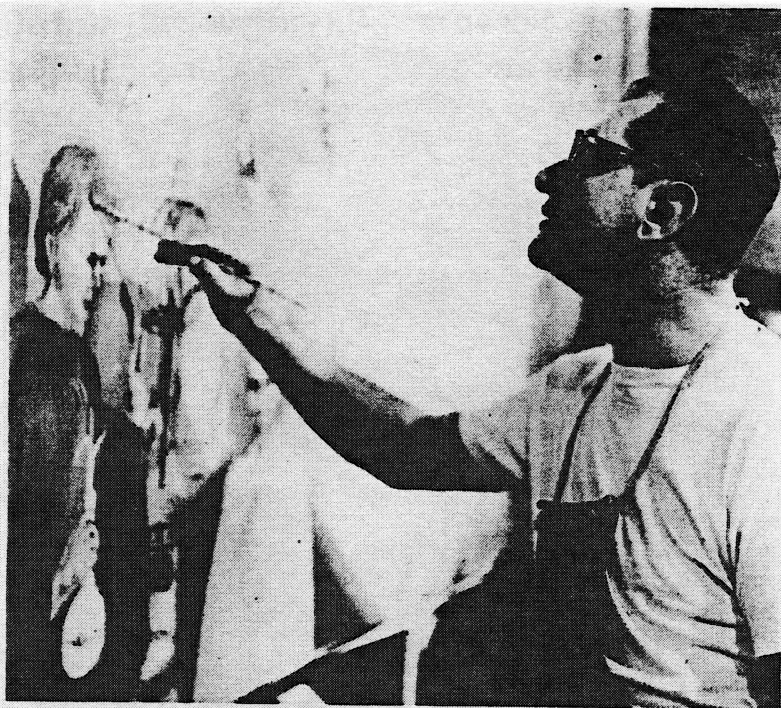
a painter and leader in Polish-American art.

His advisor in scholarly aspects of the task was Carl F. Wittke, recently retired dean of the Graduate School of Western Reserve University. Wittke is the author of "We Who Build America," textbook classic on the subject of the immigrant in U. S. history, which provided the basis for figures to be included in the mural.

BUT THE original idea of having a mural, a work of more than decorative significance, as part of the interior came from Ben S. Stefanski, founder and president of Third Federal, now in its 25th year. Inspired by the Jamestown (Va.) 350th anniversary celebration in 1957, which brought to his attention the many Poles among the early colonists, Stefanski worked the idea into plans for a mural to commemorate the silver jubilee of Third Federal.

The opening passage of the mural, reading from left to right, pictures the landing of the first Polish pilgrims in America. These men were to be the land's pioneer industrialists. The event is recorded as follows in a brochure issued for the dedication:

"In the first Polish group were Michael Lowicki, Zbigniew Stefanski, Jan Mata, Stanislaw Sadowski and Jan



Dubaniewicz paints the one woman included in the mural, Marie Curie.

Bognan. Upon their arrival these craftsmen constructed the first glass furnace in America. About two and a half months after its arrival on these shores, the ship returned to England loaded with the first products manufactured in America, namely: lumber, bottles, jars, dishes, beads, soap and soapshes, and barrels of the first American-made pitch and tar for British shipbuilding needs. These were the very early beginning of life in America and the commencement of a new culture."

The story continues chronologically, highlighting such scenes as business transactions with the Indians, the establishment of the first church, the founding of West Point, the Gettysburg Address. Arrival of the jet age is represented by the last entry on the far right of the canvas, the Missile Friendship 7. The last figure to be included is President John F. Kennedy, and this coin-

cidentially puts the Irish into the act.

Dubaniewicz devoted two years off and on to the research, design and execution of the work. In addition, crystallizing the subject idea, there were about half a dozen different working stages, from preliminary color studies and working scale drawings to 35 mm. slides which were projected on the wall to enable the patron to visualize the planned effect.

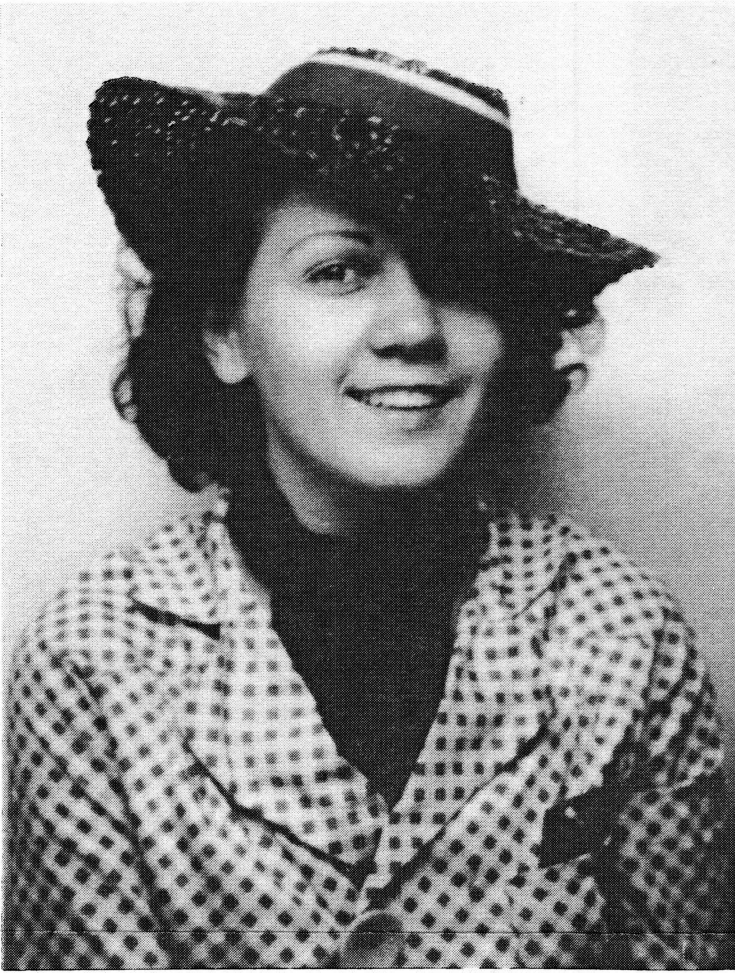
Final stages were the master drawing for the entire panorama application of the paint ground on the massive canvas, transfer of the drawing to the canvas in charcoal and application of the paint. Fini.

The shouting, all very congratulatory, took place Oct. 13, the silver jubilee celebration. An unused second floor expansion area has served as the studio to house the large canvas. Almost no one had seen it before.

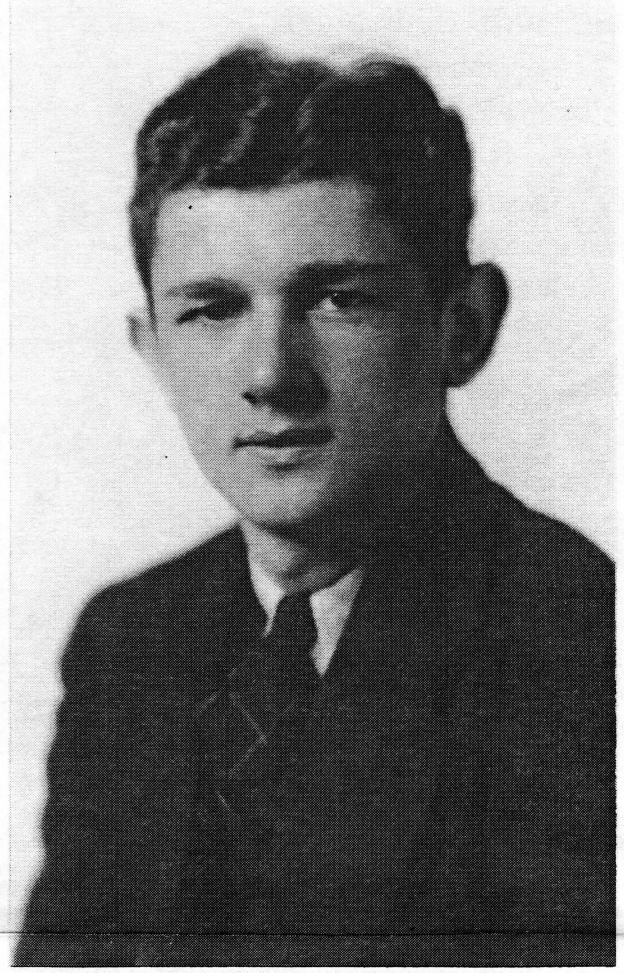
Our member Constance Murphy submitted this article about her uncle, Peter Paul Dubaniewicz, featured in the November 17, 1963 issue of the *Plain Dealer Sunday Magazine*. It describes the mural that was once at the Third Federal Savings & Loan at 7007 Broadway, commissioned by president Ben Stefanski. The mural is now in storage.

Another sample of the artist's work can be viewed at the Cleveland Public Library Eastman branch at 11602 Lorain Road. See pictures below.





Sophie Dubaniewicz, about 1930



**Peter Paul Dubaniewicz at age 16
Cleveland Press, May 27, 1930**

From The Cleveland Press Collection, used with permission of Cleveland State University Special Collections, original photograph by Clifford Norton, 9696 Euclid Ave.

Remembrances of Sophie Dubaniewicz Barto, age 91, of her brother Peter Paul Dubaniewicz, as related to Constance Barto Murphy

Sophie remembers her brother Peter, upon graduation from South High School, receiving a scholarship from a contest he won designing a children's book cover. Peter was to be enrolled in the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts with his tuition paid but with no provisions for rent, food or clothing; therefore, Elizabeth, his mother, decided that she had to do something to help her son, along with Sophie who was working at the Block Company, a men's tailoring firm in the 30's. Sophie, his sister, my mother, obtained a wonderful English-designed suit for Peter at a greatly reduced price and Elizabeth secured a job as a cleaning lady for the offices at the RKO building in downtown Cleveland. My mother said that Elizabeth (Bushia) left the house at 7 p.m. and didn't get home until 6 a.m., taking the street car to and from her job. She sent money to Peter who was skipping meals and working whenever he could to pay for his art supplies and keep himself going so he could complete his training and eventually win a scholarship from the Boston school to study in France. My uncle received more training in France but had to quickly return to the States as WWII broke out. He arrived, she believes, on the Queen Mary, which was one of the last ships to dock in the United States before the start of the war. Peter was drafted into the Navy and was sent to New York City, being assigned to the Camouflage Unit that worked on new and improved designs for Navy war ships and destroyers. After the war, he continued studies on the GI bill and received a position at the Cleveland School of Art, now the Cleveland Institute of Art, as a teacher, artist and muralist for many years.

In Memory

With sadness we report the February 28, 2009 death of Helena Bak, mother of Eugene Bak, PGSGC member and founder of the Polish American John Paul II Cultural Center.

Welcome--New Member--Witamy

Steven & Noelle Grzybowicz Rice

BEDNARDSKI, BODALSKI, DUSZYNSKI,
GRZYBOWICZ, KRUSZYNSKI, LIPKA,
ROMAN, SARNECKA, SARNECKI, SLIVKA,
UNGERMANN

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

June - Trina Galauner: *Creating a Family Story Book*

Berni O'Malley: *What My Grandfather Left Behind*

September - Jim Jaworski, tentative title: *St. Adalbert Church and Polish Immigrants*

Microfilm You May Have Missed!

The Genealogy Collection at the Fairview Park Branch Library owns thousands of microfilm and microfiche to aid you in your genealogy research. Visitors will find everything from a Poughkeepsie, New York City Directory to a History of the 83rd Regiment OVI to Virginia County Maps and The Japanese Final Accountability Roster Relocations Center Records. If you find your research stays closer to home, the following microforms are available for Cuyahoga County research:

- Auditor of State Tax Duplicates 1816-1838
- Clerk of Courts Alien Docket 1818-1859 and 1859-1901
- Clerk of Courts Common Pleas Journal volumes C-end 1823-1852
- Clerk of Courts Declarations of Intentions 1902-1906
- Common Pleas Court Naturalization Petitions 17 Oct 1888-Oct 1889
- Clerk of Courts Naturalization Petitions Jan 1902-Jan 1904
- Marriage License Index 1810-1998
- Marriage Records 1810-1949

Resources specific to Cleveland are:

- Cleveland City Directories
- Annals of the First Presbyterian church of Cleveland 1820-1895
- Annals of Cleveland Court Records Series 1837-1875
- A Chapter in the History of Cleveland
- Cleveland Congregationalists, 1895
- Cleveland Newspaper Digest/Annals of Cleveland 1818-1876
- Cleveland Necrology File
- Cross Index to Selected City Streets and Enumeration Districts, 1910
- Early History of the Cleveland Public Schools
- History of Dentistry in Cleveland, Ohio

These are just a few of the resources available to you at the Cuyahoga County Public Library. Visit the Genealogy Collection at the Fairview Park Branch and start on your road of discovery.

JONI MIHELICH
Subject Specialist - Genealogy
Cuyahoga County Public Library

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER
CLEVELAND
c/o ST. MARY'S PNC CHURCH
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PARMA, OHIO 44134

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OF GREATER CLEVELAND



Everyone who is interested in Genealogy, and more specifically Polish Genealogy, is welcome to join our group. We meet the first Tuesday of the month from September thru June at St. Mary's PNC Church; 5375 Broadview Rd. (corner of Broadview & Wexford); Parma, Ohio. Parking is available in the parish lot, the entrance of which is on Marietta Ave. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and usually end at 9:30-10:00 PM.

Membership dues are \$25.00 a year.

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