

In Memory

With sadness we report the July 28, 2009 death of Arthur George Bilsey of Lantern Printery, the printer of our newsletter. He was a member of Polish Legion of American Veterans, Pulaski post 30. His obituary appeared in the *Plain Dealer* on July 29, page B4 or is available online at <http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/>.

THE PLAIN DEALER CHARITY FOOTBALL GAME OF 1942 by Cindy Spikowski

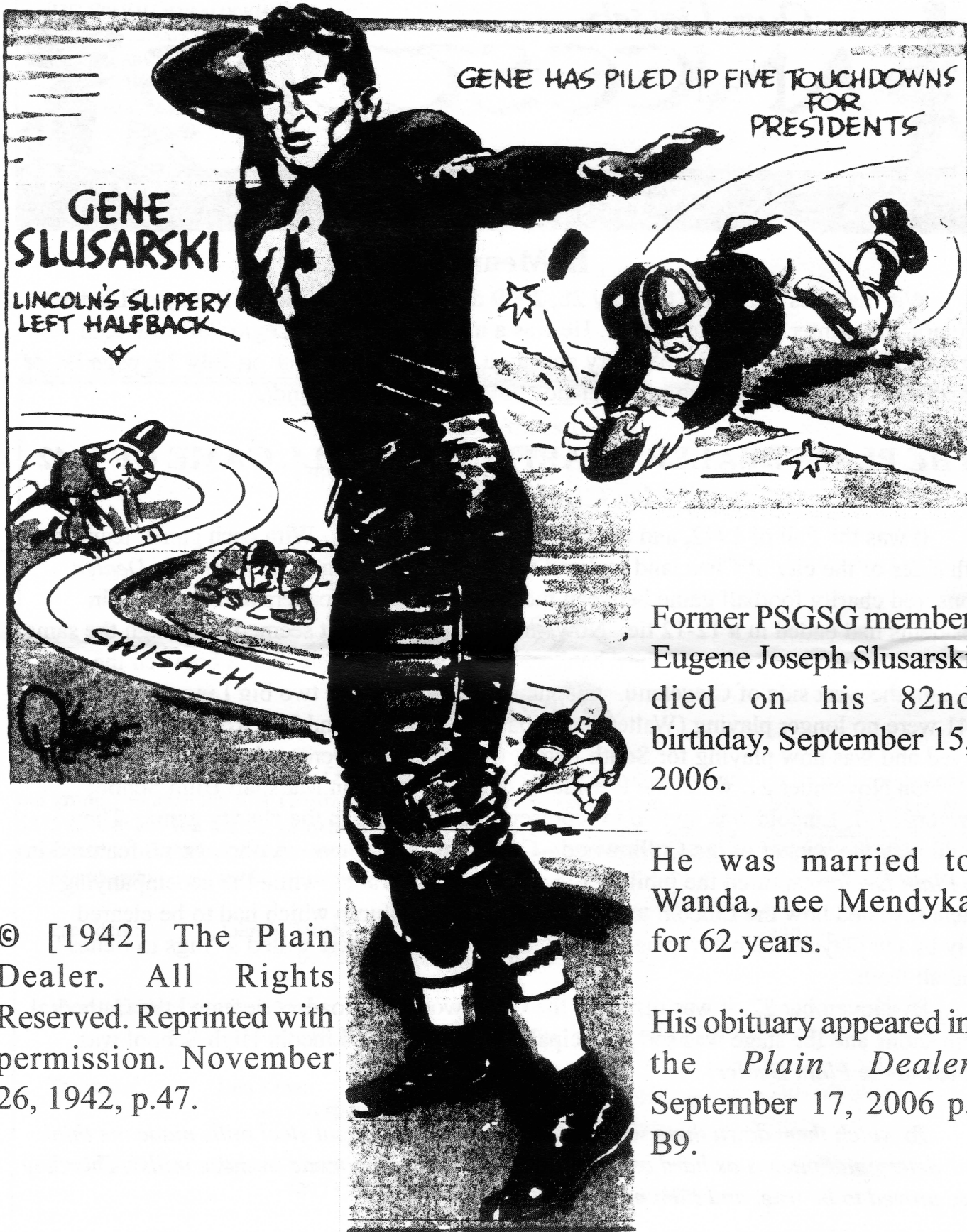
It was the Fall of 1942, and the excitement was building. With each game, teams on both sides of the city of Cleveland realized what was happening. The big *Plain Dealer* sponsored charity football game between the Collinwood Railroaders and the Lincoln Presidents had ended in a 12-12 tie. Now, in the Fall of 1942, it seemed as though the same two teams would be heading to the Thanksgiving weekend classic match between the east side and the west side of Cleveland. In spite of the fact that the two big Lincoln stars of 1941 were no longer playing (Walter Poremba had graduated and Len Romankowski had moved and was now playing for South High), the Presidents were undefeated.

On November 21, when the Presidents defeated the John Marshall High School Lawyers 31-7, Lincoln was invited to represent the west side in the charity game. They would play the winner of the Collinwood - Cathedral Latin game. A photograph featured in the *Plain Dealer* captured the jubilant Lincoln team celebrating while the accompanying article revealed how the Lincoln team practiced in a city dump which had to be cleared daily by the players themselves before each practice. They were called a "rags to riches" football team.

By November 22, it was official - the Collinwood Railroaders defeated the Cathedral Latin Lions and the stage was set! Principal Earl J. Bryan of Lincoln High School was quoted in the *Plain Dealer*:

To watch them down there within the shadow of our great steel mills made me think their determination was as hard as the steel which was being made in those mills. This they have proved to be true, and I am proud of every one of them.

Principal Bryan was referring to Bill Ebel, Elroy Greve, Ted Babicz, Lawrence Piorkowski, Bill Hallal, Stan Zylowski, Don Bania, Dick Dudjinski and Eddie Coyne. He was also



Former PSGSG member Eugene Joseph Slusarski died on his 82nd birthday, September 15, 2006.

He was married to Wanda, nee Mendyka for 62 years.

His obituary appeared in the *Plain Dealer* September 17, 2006 p. B9.

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referring to players whose first names were not recorded in newspaper articles, with the following last names: Seymanski, Messuri, Danelishen, Simich, Kozianski, Bunevich, Rodis, Kowalczyk, Hilo and of course Gene (Eugene) Slusarski. Was it any wonder that the players would often call the plays in Polish? On November 26, there was a special article on Gene Slusarski "Lincoln's Slippery Halfback", complete with a sketch of number 23. Gene was Lincoln's 2nd highest scorer, an 18 year old senior who weighed 159 lbs. Gene was also a quarter-miler and a high-jumper for the track team.

The daily articles kept the excitement building. The *Plain Dealer* even included a political cartoon on the editorial page which reminded readers to be sure to purchase tickets for the game, which would be held on Saturday, November 28, 1942 in Cleveland Stadium, kick-off at 2:15 PM. The tickets varied in price depending on whether purchased from a student or at various locations (Bonds, May Co. or Taylor & Sons). Advance sale tickets were of course cheaper than those sold on game day, and reserve sections were more expensive. The proceeds would benefit two worthwhile causes. The first was an Injury Fund for high school athletes injured in athletics during the school year. The second cause was the Give-A-Christmas Fund for the needy of the area, especially needy families of servicemen. In 1941, the Charity Game had raised \$9,896 and 46,686 had attended.

On November 27, the day before the game, Lincoln football coach Glenn Fraser was interviewed by the *Plain Dealer*:

I've taught them that to be good sports and clean players is of much more importance than mere victories.

The tone of the game was set. The weather forecast: "snow flurries will end by noon, temperatures will rise above the 28 degrees of the previous day."

On Saturday, November 28, 1942, 28,077 attended the game at Cleveland Stadium. Before kick-off the crowd enjoyed the drum majors' competition as well as the 29 bands that played for 40 minutes. The upper decks were decorated with banners from all the area high schools. Fans cheered along with the 140 cheerleaders, representing all Cleveland high schools. The Lincoln High cheerleaders were Jenny Franks, Mary Hoshko, Helen Mallchok, Betty Novak and Ted Oleski. The game ended in a "rout" 26 - 0, and Gene Slusarski scored 13 of those points. It would be the first Charity Game victory for the west side.

In the newspapers, which featured all the stories that contributed to the Charity Game excitement, one cannot help but notice the other daily stories. Places like "Tripoli," "Libya," "Turin," "Guadalcanal," as well as names like "MacArthur" and the ominous "gas rationing." A notation that Tony Pianowski, who would help officiate the Charity Game "leaves for army service on Monday." The United States was at war and many of those jubilant faces, pictured in the Lincoln locker room on November 21, would soon be overseas in service to their country. For a week, though, in November of 1942, they were still high school students celebrating a game that they would never forget.

We celebrate their youth and their accomplishment!

Is Circumstantial Evidence Enough in Genealogical Research?

by Trina Galauner

The other day I received an email from Poland from a gentleman who was translating for a friend. His friend's surname was Mr. TECHMANSKI and he had researched his Techmanski family back to the 18th century. It turns out his great grandfather had a brother named Antoni Techmanski that immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. He had started to research this brother to find his link to America.

Antoni Techmanski settled in Chicago, Illinois and soon after his two daughters, Magdalena and Anna came to him. Magdalena married a man named Alexander UINSKI in Chicago in 1905. And how does all this relate to Cleveland? Well, Mr. Techmanski contacted me because I also have an Alexander Uinski in my tree. However, the only thing I knew about him was that he was the eldest son of Andrzej Uinski and Anastazja Kesy and born in 1878.

Anastazja traveled to the U.S. with her eldest son, Alexander (14), and his siblings Maryanna (7), Jan (6), Rozalia (5), Bartolomej (4) and baby Franz (2 mos.) in 1892 on the Oldenburg. She came to join her husband, Andrzej, who had already arrived several months before. In the next few years she would give birth to Jennie and Sophie. However, Andrzej would not live long in the U.S. He dies in June of 1896 leaving Anastazja with 8 children. She did not stay widowed for long and married widower Martin Zgrabik the following year. This made for one big family!

But this is where I lost track of Alex. I had no marriage information for him. I had assumed maybe he died. By 1900, the census record for the new Zgrabik family included only the youngest children. Alex would be 22 years old and probably out on his own. So my research concentrated on those children I could find in Cleveland including Maryanna who married Frank Mrozinski, John who married Bertha Kapinski Ratajczak (and somewhere down the line changed his surname to his mother's maiden name KESY spelling it the Americanized way, KANSY), Bartolomej or Bert who died in Cleveland but appears to never have married, Frank who married Minnie Sledz, Jennie who married Joseph Wisniewski and Sophie who married Michael Nakel. Rosalia was not to be found in the 1900 census where she would only be 14 years old so I assumed she had died.

Until I was contacted by Mr. Techmanski in Poland, I hadn't much interest in Alex Uinski. But to learn that maybe he settled elsewhere intrigued me. Mr. Techmanski provided me with his Alexander's military records which showed that Alexander F. Uinski enlisted in the volunteer 5th U.S. Infantry Company I of the U.S. Army in 1898 during the Spanish American War at the age of 20. The more interesting information is that his place of enlistment was Cleveland, Ohio!

So the age fits and there is a Cleveland connection. I thought of the very logical possibility that my Alexander could have chosen to volunteer in the U.S. Army for very practical reasons, living quarters at home were tight with so many siblings and maybe there was tension with a new stepfather.

At this point I started searching census records for the entire United States looking for any variation of Alexander Uinski. The 1920 census did show Alexander Uinski living in Chicago. But I couldn't find any other Alexander Uinskis anywhere. As a matter of fact, it was difficult to find many Uinskis at all.

Next I thought I'd check the World War 1 Draft Registrations to see if he registered then. Well, I did find one Alexander Uinski, living in Cleveland on Ontario St. and employed as a laborer for Nav Sherwood Co. His birth year is given as 1878 and his nearest relative is listed as John Uinsky on Denison Ave. Okay, so this is my "Cleveland Alex" and John is his younger brother. But is he the "Chicago Alex"? One clue is the signature at the bottom of the registration, Alexander F. Uinsky, the same middle initial that the "Chicago Alex" has in his military records!

So I've gathered up a lot of circumstantial evidence that the two men are the same person, their birth years match, their middle initials match and they both have a connection to Cleveland. But is this enough to document this in my family tree? In some cases, we may never find the exact answers. The best I can hope for with Alex is that his death certificate in Wisconsin has the names of his parents. Until I know that for sure, I do feel relatively confident that "Chicago Alex" is "Cleveland Alex". Although, I prefer to call him "Cleveland Alex" since he did live here first.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR FAMILY STORY

by Trina Galauner

There are many ways to document your family history from writing it by hand in a spiral notebook to cutting and pasting photos and memorabilia in an archival, acid-free scrapbook with page protectors. Another way to save your family history and photos in a small, concise, easily copied format is through creating a storybook at www.shutterfly.com.

Shutterfly was set up as a website for individuals to upload and print their family photos. The website keeps all your uploaded photos in files indefinitely and is a great backup for all your digital images. There is no cost to upload and no limit to the number of photos you upload (although they reserve the right to change this policy at any time).

If you have old family photos or can borrow them from family members, they can be

easily scanned either with an in-home scanner or at a copy store such as Kinko's. Some local libraries may also have scanners for patron use. Another way to get photos into a digital format is by actually taking a photo of them. Today's digital cameras have many extra functions and can make nice duplicates of 8x10 black and white photos. Taking photos of more recent color images is not recommended. They are better if scanned.

You may also have old documents such as birth certificates, death certificates, naturalization records and passenger manifests. These can also be scanned or photographed with a digital camera. Other items might be Grandma's old music box or Grandpa's favorite wallet. Photographing these as well will add to the charm of your family book.

Once you've collected your old family memorabilia and converted them into digital image formats, you can upload all the images to Shutterfly. Once you have them at Shutterfly, you can create a storybook. Storybooks can be created in 8"x8" size and 12"x12" size with a hard or soft photo cover, leather cover or padded cover. They give you numerous choices in the layout of your pictures on each page with up to 16 images allowed on a page. Once you add the images you want to the photobook, you can individually place them where you want them and crop them to fit. Shutterfly allows you a choice of background theme and colors for your pages and also a choice of edge for each image. They even have the old-fashioned photo corners!

Not every page is just photos. They allow different layouts that allow you to add your own text. Some pages you may want to leave as all text if you have a long story to write. They even give you some font styles and sizes to choose from for the text.

Once you've completed your book, reviewed it for errors and saved it as a project, you can order the book from Shutterfly. The cost for them to print and bind the book starts from about \$30. You pay by the page, so if you can arrange your photos differently, you can save a little.

After you've received your own copy, you are also able to share your project with family members and friends by inviting them to view it online. They are able to view it online but are not able to print it or change it. They would need to order their own copy from Shutterfly. If you find an error in your book after you have printed one, you can correct the error and have a new one printed but obviously you pay for the cost of printing and binding again.

Using Shutterfly to create your family story is a great way to archive all the hard work you have done in researching your genealogical roots. And your family will thank you for doing it. It really is an original piece of art!

Dining Out: Polish Food in the Cleveland Area

by Ron Marec

Most of the ancestors of present day Polish Americans came to the United States during the great Chleb Immigration of 1870-1920. They came to America in search of a better life as did most of the other immigrant groups from Eastern Europe. Most of the Polish immigrants were of peasant stock and the food of American Polonia is essentially that of our Polish grandmothers and great grandmothers.

This peasant food included, but was not exclusive to Zupa Grzylowa (mushroom soup), Zupa Ogorkowa (Dill Pickle soup), Barszcz (Borscht), Flaki (Tripe soup), Kapusniak (Sauerkraut soup), Zurek (white borscht), Miseria (cucumbers in sour cream), Bigos (Hunter's Stew), Kotlety Schabowe (Breaded pork chops), Sledzie (Herring), Golabki (Stuffed cabbage), Zrazy (Rolled beef), Nalesniki (crepes), Kielbasa, Kiszka, Szynka (Ham), Kluski z Kapusta (noodles and cabbage), and Pierogi. Desserts included Paczki (Polish doughnuts), Kolacky and Babka (baba).

Not included in the typical foods of American Polonia is the cuisine of the Polish townspeople and the nobility.

Polish Restaurants in the Cleveland Area

Babushka's Kitchen 330-468-0402

9199 Olde Eight Rd., Northfield Center, 44067

www.babushkafoods.com

T-Th. 11:00-7:00 p.m. Fri.: 11:30-8:00 p.m. Sat. 1:00-7:00 p.m. Closed Sun. and Mon.

Serves basic Polonian food such as stuffed cabbage, miseria, cabbage and noodles, kielbasas and Kraut, pierogi, roast pork, pancakes, kolacki, and a daily soup selection.

The Little Polish Diner 440-842-8212

5772 Ridge Rd., Parma, OH 44129

T.-Th. 11:00-7:00 p.m., Fri. 11:00-8:00 p.m., Sat.. 11:00 to 6:00 p.m. Closed Sun. and Mon.

Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup, a daily soup special, Smoked Kielbasa and Kraut, Miseria, Pierogi, Stuffed Cabbage, Breaded Pork Chops, Cabbage and noodles, daily specials.

Peter's Market 216-341-5910

4617 Turney Rd.

Garfield Hts., OH 44125

Deli hours: M-W. 8:30-6:00 p.m.. Th. 8:30-6:00 p.m.. Fri. 8:00-6:30 p.m.. Sat. 8:00-6:00 p.m.. Closed Sun.

On Friday 11:00-7:00 p.m. There is a carry out market called Sophie's Café that serves a number of Polish American meals on a carry out basis. Payment by cash or check.

Deli has a variety of Polish sausages and meats including some of the best Kiszka in the area. Sophie's foods included various pierogis, spaetzels, Polish candies and canned goods.

Polish American Cultural Center 216-8183-2828

6501 Lansing Ave., Cleveland, OH 44105

www.polishcenterofcleveland.org

Sunday. 11:00-1:30 p.m. A Polish luncheon is served during months of Sept thru May. Cost \$10.00 cash
Three teams of Polish cooks rotate Sunday meals. There is no menu. It is like eating at a friend's house. You eat what is presented. Meals consist of a soup that is excellent, a highlight of the meal. There is also a meat dish, usually a potato or noodles and a vegetable. There is also a salad and a dessert and beverages.

The center also sponsors numerous cultural events throughout the year and is the home of a Polish museum next door.

Cultural events usually have a large table of various Polish appetizers. These are delicious and also prepared by the Center's cooks. All of the servers are volunteers, which explains how the meal costs can be held so low.

Seven Roses Deli and Restaurant 216-641-5789

6301 Fleet Ave., Cleveland, OH 44105

M-F., Breakfast 8:00-1:00 am.; open til 6:00 p.m., and until 8:00 p.m. on Friday. Open Sun., til 3:00 p.m.

Deli has a wide variety of Polish sausages and meats. Restaurant in the back of the Deli serves a number of hot meals included Kielbasa and kraut, Bigos, Pierogi, and Tina's Goulash made by owner Tina Tyl. Daily soups are available and may include cabbage, tripe, chicken barley. And when available a decent Czarnina. A good selection of Polish candies is also available.

Sokolowski's University Inn 216-771-9296

1201 University Rd.. Cleveland OH 44113

www.sokolowski.com

Lunch M-F. 11:00-3:00 p.m., Fri. Dinner 5:00-9:00 p.m., Sat., Dinner 4:00-9:00 p.m. Payment by Check, cash, MC or VS

Cleveland premier Polish American Restaurant open for 85 years and located in the historic Tremont district. Sokolowski's is well-known on TV Channel 25 often contributing to food programs and willing to share the recipes of the family. The food is served cafeteria style and during the lunch hour not only are neighborhood folk present but also businessmen, politicians, judges and news media personnel. The Sokolowskis do catering and private parties. The restaurant is not only known in northeast Ohio but throughout much of the northeast United States.

The food served has an emphasis on Polonia such as smoked Kielbasa, sautéed pierogi, stuffed cabbage and stuffed peppers. Customer favorites include mushroom soup and Salisbury steak. Friday dinners feature a number of seafood dishes including steamed mussels, and beer battered Lake Erie Perch. There is a full-service bar that features a number of imported beers. The restaurant is also renown for its fresh baked fruit pies.

A word about Czarnina. To numerous Poles the most delicious and glorious soul food of Polish cookery is CZARNINA, the famous duck's blood soup. Unfortunately, none of Cleveland's eateries serve this Wonder on a regular basis. Seven Roses Restaurant sometimes has a decent variety. Many of the Polish delis also have it available in their freezers, but something is lost in the freezing. The last Cleveland Restaurant to serve it on a regular basis was Ewa's. Unfortunately, Ewa's is now closed. If one desires this soup, especially in its tart Mazovian form, a person will have to make it themselves, or travel to Hamtramck or Troy, Michigan or Chicago, Illinois. Once in a while it may be found at some Polish Roman Catholic Church Festival in Cleveland.

Polish Bakeries by Ron Marec

Charles Peters Bakeshop **216-641-6887**

4608 Turney Rd., Garfield Hts., OH 44125

T. thru Th. 7:00-3:00 p.m. Fri., 7:00-4:00 p.m., Sat.. 7:30-2:00 p.m. Closed Sun. and Mon.

Paczki in flavors raspberry, prune, lemon, apple, apricot, plain, poppy seed, custard, marshmallow. Kuchens and Kolacky.

Gertrude's Bakery **216-641-7582**

6506 Gertrude Ave., Cleveland, OH 44105

Wed. thru Sun., 7:30-6:00 p.m. Closed Mon. and Tuesday. Will take check, cash

Bakery in existence for 77 years, but ownership has changed hands a couple of times in recent years. Turns out East European specialties like Polish sweet breads, paczki, strudel and kolaczki.

Kiedrowski Bakery **440-282-2700**

2267 Cooper-Foster Park Rd., Amherst, OH 44001

Tues.-Sat., 5:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Sun., 7:00-3:00 p.m. Closed Monday.

Many varieties of Paczki, Polish Snoogles a delicious treat, Kolaczki, patica, and Polish white bread - a Bakery specialty. Sponsor each year of the annual Paczki Ball. An area favorite bakery.

Stanley's Northfield Bakery **330-467-8655**

9395 Olde 8 Road, Northfield Center, OH 44067

www.stansbakery.com

Mon-Fri. 5:00 -5:00 p.m., Sat. 5:00-3:30 p.m.

Established in 1961. 19 varieties of Paczki. \$10.00 per dozen. All Paczki are powder sugared. All Paczki should be picked up the day you want to enjoy them. They have a short shelf-life. Payment by cash. Also available Casada Cake, Kuchens, Strudels, Kolacky, and pecan rolls.

Eighteen kinds of pierogi available. Voted BEST Pierogi in Cleveland by AOL Cityguide.com and Scene Magazine. The paczki from Stanley's are a personal favorite of the writer.

Concert at the Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus

See this beautiful, historic church, located at 3649 East 65th Street in Cleveland's Slavic Village.

Free will offering.

October 17, 2009, Saturday, 7:30 P.M.

CityMusic Cleveland

Conductor: David Alan Miller

Soloists: Pacifica Quartet

Program:

HATZIS Redemption [world premiere]

MOZART Serenade in D (Serenata Notturna), K239

MENDELSSOHN A Midsummer Night's Dream: Suite

The Catch by Cindy Spikowski

With the approach of the World Series and baseball on everyone's mind, it is fitting to remember a Cleveland baseball hero - Frankie Pytlak.

Although he was born in Buffalo, New York on July 30, 1908, he made his major league debut with the Cleveland Indians on April 22, 1932.

According to the 1910 United States Federal Census, Frank Pytlak's parents, Casmir and Anthonine, were both Polish. Casimir immigrated to the United States in 1882 and worked as a blacksmith for the railroad; Anthonine arrived in 1884. Frank was the youngest of eight children.

Frankie was a catcher, and was doing so on October 2, 1938 when Bob Feller set a modern major league record of eighteen strike-outs against the Detroit Tigers. Frankie's best year was 1937, when he played 125 games, batted .315 and stole sixteen bases. Frankie and fellow teammate, Hank Helf, however, made the front page of the *Cleveland Press* on August 20, 1938 when they caught baseballs tossed by third baseman Ken Keltner from the top of the 708 ft. high Terminal Tower. Frankie and Hank both wore steel helmets - the balls were estimated to be falling at speeds of 138 mph.

Frank Pytlak was traded to the Red Sox in 1941 and was later drafted into the United States Navy, serving until September 1, 1945. Frankie Pytlak died in Buffalo May 8, 1977.



"Pytlak got his hands up in front of his face and nabbed it neatly. He looked as he does catching a foul ball at League Park"

—Gibbons, Frank. "Pytlak and Helf Set High Catch Record." *The Cleveland Press*, August 20, 1938, page 1.

Photograph used with permission of Special Collections, Cleveland State University Library

Military Cemeteries Overseas by Ron Kraine

To obtain a free picture of a military grave and marker of a service man or woman buried overseas, contact:

Operations
American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA. 22201
Phone 703-696-6897

Flowers may also be placed on a grave for a fee.

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

September - Jim Jaworski

St. Adalbert Church and Polish Immigrants

October - Don Kozlowski, member

TBA

November - TBA

Veterans Day - Honoring members and their ancestors who served in the military

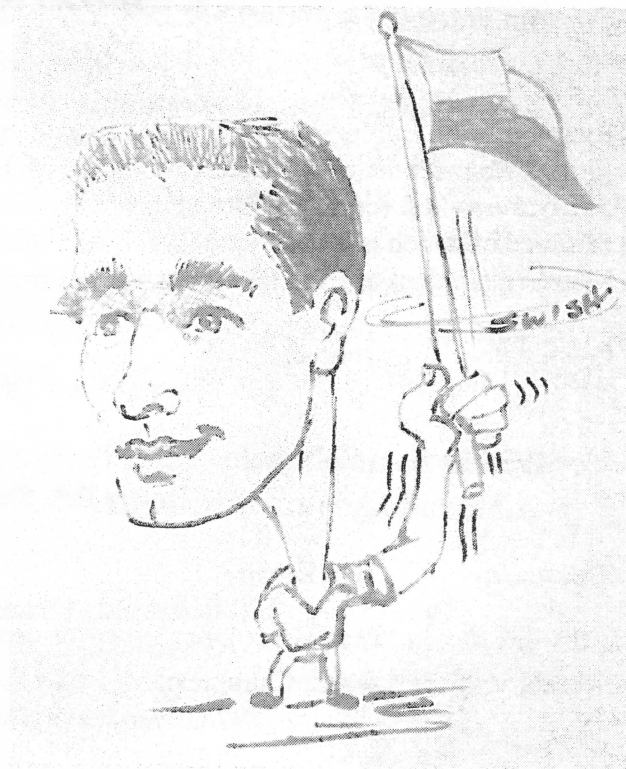
December - Christmas Party

Letter from President John F. Szuch

Our summer break is over and it has proven one thing to me, you can be 70 (in my case 71) or you can be 7 but in either case the summer months fly by! In any case, I hope you had an enjoyable one and welcome back. For those of us living in the Greater Cleveland area, it has been a really comfortable one temperature wise. Unfortunately for those members who live out of town, either towards the Atlantic or the Pacific, that has not been the case. Those out west have been subjected to very hot temperatures, and those out east have had a lot of rain.

Speaking of out of town members, I'd love to see you participate more in our organization. I realize attending meetings is out of the question for many of you, but this bulletin can be a tool to make you active. If you have an interesting family story about yourself or a relative, you can submit it to our editor. If you don't want to do an article, at least send us a letter about what is going on with your genealogical diggings. During the business part of each meeting, we have an open discussion with the members telling us about their recent genealogical successes and also their failures. In the latter instance, members sometimes are able to offer suggestions as to how to overcome the failures. Remember, we are one BIG Polish family and your successes and failures are ours!

As a personal favor, I would like ask each member to remember in their daily prayers their fellow members who are battling serious illness or who have passed away.



The above caricature of John F. Szuch was done in 1959 in New Orleans.

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
c/o ST. MARY'S PNC CHURCH
1901 WEXFORD AVE.
PARMA, OHIO 44134

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc>

FIRST CLASS MAIL

“OUR POLISH ANCESTORS”

is published by

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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.

President: John F. Szuch (330) 769-4603
105 Pleasant View Dr., Seville, Ohio 44273

Vice-President: Ron Marec (216) 752-5713
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