



**SPECIAL
INTEREST**

**KUZNIA
ROOTS**

Leo Kuznia

Discover Kuznias And Kuznias

[Summer, 1971]

Last July, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kuznia, Jr. were spending a Sunday afternoon in Winnipeg and decided to call the only Kuznia listed in the Winnipeg telephone directory -- Leo Kuznia. The result of that call was a visit to their home in East Kildonan and an afternoon both Kuznia families will never forget. Leo and his wife, Gerda, had come to Winnipeg in 1953 from Europe. World War II had left Leo's family scattered in various countries in Europe, but only Leo had crossed to Canada. In those 18 years, he had never met another Kuznia. He said everywhere he had gone in Canada, he had not found the name, but his family in Europe had said there were supposed to be some in the States. He couldn't believe that only a little south of the border there could be so many.

Last Sunday, Leo, Gerda, and their four-year-old daughter, Diana, were weekend guests at the Mike Kuznia, Jr. home in Florian. They had been invited to the Philip Kuznia - Sarah Blazek wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kuznia, Jr. and Gina and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Kuznia and Diana attended the wedding and reception at Greenbush and visited at the Jerrie Blazek farm at Greenbush and also visited Mrs. Mike Kuznia's mother and grandmother at the Norbert Dostal home at Badger. They also attended the wedding dance in the evening. They found it hard to believe how many Kuznias they met.

Sunday afternoon was spent showing them the local area and Old Mill State Park before they left back for Winnipeg. They wish to say to all the Kuznias they met how happy they were to meet them.

Family Tree of LEO KUZNIA Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS Franz and Franzika Wiczorek
PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS _____ and Konstantine Kuznia

MOTHER Helena Julianna Wiczorek
FATHER Joseph Kuznia

CHILDREN

- 1) Alais (Aloyes) Kuznia
- 2) Theo Kuznia
- 3) Mathilda Kuznia
- 4) Erna Kuznia
- 5) Martha Kuznia
- 6) Wilhelm Kuznia
- 7) Leo Kuznia to Gerda Pallentien

THEIR CHILDREN:

- a) Bridget Kuznia
- b) Diane Kuznia

The oldest brother, Aloyes, was killed three months after the war had ended. The second brother, Theo, changed his last name after the war, and the rest of his family now go by that name. The name is spelled more German, which made it easier to get work. A son of Aloyes Kuznia, T.H.W. Kuznia, lives in London, England. Wilhelm Kuznia lives in Zweibrucken, West Germany.

After Joseph Kuznia's wife, Helena, died, he remarried. To that second union, seven more children were born. They are living in West Germany, Poland, and Sweden.



Joseph Kuznia -- 1955
Father of Leo Kuznia, Winnipeg, Manitoba



Joseph and Helena [Wiczorek] Kuznia Family -- 1924
[Standing L-R] Mathilda, Martha, Alais [Aloyes] Theo, Wilhelm
[Seated] Erna, Joseph, Helena holding Leo [the one who
now lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada]

LEO KUZNIA SON OF JOSEPH AND HELENA KUZNIA OF SILESIA, POLAND

In the old country where I lived before, in Poland, the province was called Silesia. In Polish, the name was Slask.

My father and mother came from Ratibor Kosel on the River Odra (in German, Oder). The land, before the first and second world wars, belonged to the Germans. After the war, however, it was given to Poland. It was a contract from Jalta.

My father's name was Joseph Kuznia. He was born March 19, 1877, in Birken Krs Kosel, Silesia. My mother's name was Helena Julianna Kuznia. Her maiden name was Wiczorek. She was born February 12, 1878, in Plania Krs Ratibor, Silesia. She died October 9, 1933. Her parents were Franzika (my grandmother) and Franz (my grandfather) Wiczorek.

Our Book Artist: Charlene Kuznia

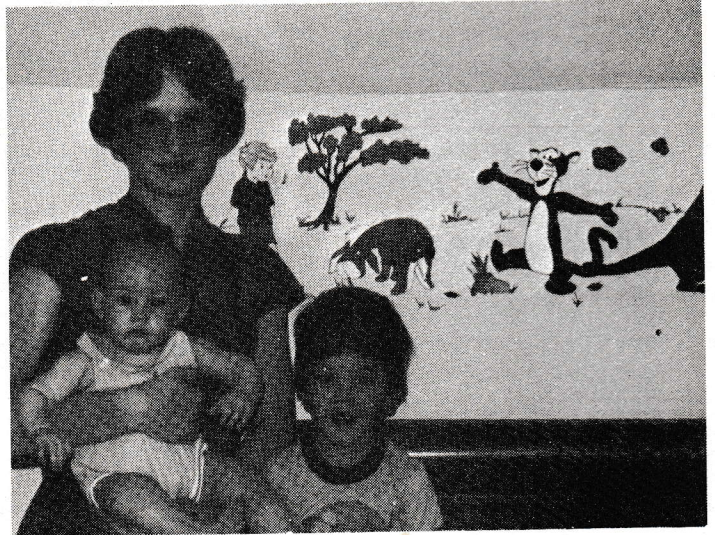
From the Kuznia side of my family, my grandparents died very young, when my father was just a child. Because of this, I do not even know my Grandpa Kuznia's first name. Grandma Kuznia's name was Konstantine Kuznia. My father worked for the railroad for 45 years.

I, Leo Kuznia, was born July 9, 1922, in Mechnice (also spelled Moosdorf in German and Muchenitz). Mechnice is in the province of Opole, Poland. My occupation is painter and artist. I was in the army for four years and spent two and a half years as a prisoner of war. One year was spent in an American prison, where I painted a picture for an American Major in exchange for food. I was also in a French prison for a year and a half. I stayed for two and a half years after the war and worked for a wine farmer. In 1950, I went back to West Germany. In 1951, I met my future wife, Gerda Pallentien, and married her in 1952. In June of 1953, we came to Canada on a boat called "Anna Salam".

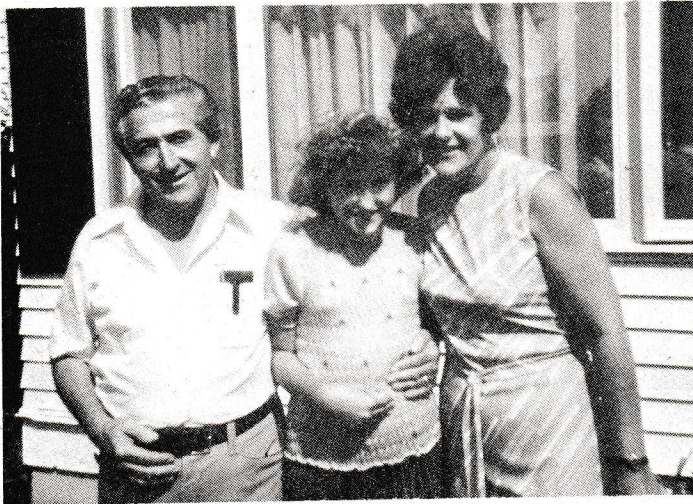
I last worked as a painter for the Canadian National Railroad until I was forced into retirement after major heart surgery. Gerda works for Hudson Bay Company. Since retirement, I have completed many paintings. In all, I have painted about 400 pictures.

A daughter, Bridget, was born to us December 1, 1965, but died December 3, 1965. She is buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Winnipeg, Manitoba. On March 30, 1967, a second daughter, Diane, was born.

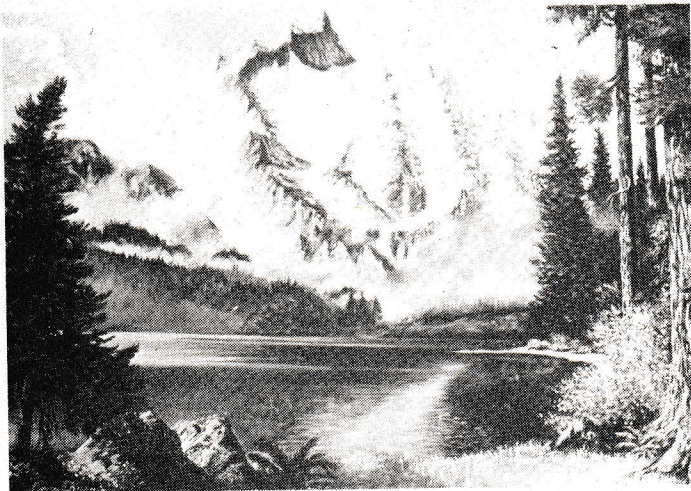
We reside at 666 Greene Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.



Charlene Kuznia with her daughter Jenessa and son Braden by a portion of a wall mural of Winnie the Pooh and friends that she painted on their bedroom wall.



Leo, Diane, and Gerda Kuznia of Winnipeg, Manitoba -- 1979



One of many paintings painted by Leo Kuznia

Note: Leo Kuznia painted the painting of Poland's Black Madonna that adorned the altar area for the Mass of Thanksgiving which was held at the Florian ball park during the Kuznia Reunion.

Members of the Kuznia Reunion Book Committee would like to pay a special tribute to our artist, Charlene (Mrs. Valerian Kuznia, Jr.), who donated so much time and talent to beautify our book. She designed all of the title pages for each family, the cover of the book, and the dedication page. We know many painstaking hours were spent working on these pages. To adorn the border of each title page, symbols from within each history were used whenever possible. Some histories did not lend themselves to particular symbols, so general symbols of the era in which they lived were used to create their title page. We sincerely appreciate her hard work, which has added such special beauty to our book.

We asked Charlene to write a few words about her budding career as an artist:

"As a native of the Florian community, it seems that I have always had an interest in drawing. As a young girl, in grade school, I would doodle and draw on every piece of paper, notebook, or anything I was able to get my hands on. In high school, our art instructor introduced me to painting with acrylics. Eager to learn more, I have attended community night classes and workshops in drawing and tole painting with oils. Recently, I have begun attending workshops of canvas painting in oils. My husband is very enthusiastic with my interest in art and craft making. I have dreams, just as everyone has, to make it big some day -- so I keep working at it, practicing and enjoying every step of my hobby."

Florian Fruit Growers

Members of the "Florian Fruit Growers" all grew up in the Florian community, except Harry, whose home was near Sauk Centre, Minnesota.

The Florian Fruit Growers were officially organized under a set of bylaws in August of 1967 as an investment club. The eleven

persons shown in the picture were the original charter members, and all still reside in the Twin Cities area at the present time, April 1980.



Florian Fruit Growers

[Standing L-R] Roger Zack, Richard Borowicz, Vince Kuznia, Ray Gajeski, Rudy Borowicz, and Rudy Kuznia
 [Seated] Harry Vierkant, Tom Rominski, Gene Kuznia, John Gratzek, and Gene Zakrzewski

The first unofficial gathering was actually held in August of 1956 about 3½ miles up river from the present site of the Florian Park. There were numerous other gatherings of various sorts over the years up to the date of the formal organization as a club.

The members get together monthly at each other's homes for an official business meeting to discuss investment opportunities. Following the business meeting, there is always ample time for a game of cards, refreshments, a delicious lunch prepared by the host's wife, and, of course, no get-together would be complete without some reminiscing about old times, story telling, and a lot of laughter. In addition, it provides the members with "Florian roots" an opportunity to speak Polish, but someone always has to translate the story to the "tie breaker" from Sauk Centre.

There are many other activities held throughout the year, which include the wives, family members, friends, and other interested persons. Regular events include a picnic held each July at Turtle Lake in Shoreview, which has drawn people from Florian, Duluth, Chicago, and California. Plus, each September, there is a campout at the Rudy Kuznia farm north of Crown, Minnesota, and an annual Christmas party. Also, the group has attended smelting parties at the Roger Borowicz home, both in Duluth and Brooklyn Park.

The club has provided an opportunity not only for the members to stay in touch routinely, but also has helped strengthen family ties and friendships among the members' children.

Through the thirteen years of club existence to date, we have come to realize more deeply what a wonderful privilege it has been for most of us to have been reared in the Florian community and to have experienced a part of the wonderful heritage our forefathers established. We sincerely hope God grants us the strength and will to continue this heritage, to maintain these friendships, and that we can pass on to generations following us some of the goodness we received from our parents, grandparents, and everyone who established the original Florian community a century ago.

Kuznia Kolossal Four

In the summer of 1978, the golfing debut of the "Kuznia Kolossal Four" was made. It all began when four great players

named Kuznia from the Riverside Golf Club of Stephen decided to form a team that would take on other golf teams. The four Kuznias, Sandy, Gerri, Theresa, and Barb, became avid opponents; no challenge was too great.

On a late afternoon match, another team challenged them. Needless to say, the KK4 won the match. Being the good sports they said they were, they gave their winners' trophies to their opponents because they had nerve enough to play them. After all, there is not much you can do with a 39-cent trophy.

In 1979, they decided to have a "Polish Day" at their KK4 match. Their team was challenged by two teams. They celebrated the day by hanging up two Polish flags and a picture of the Kuznia Patron Saint of Golf with "friend". (Picture courtesy of K.C. Kuznia archives.) They treated all the ladies to Polish food, and during their lunch, they officially and legally adopted Donna Larson and renamed her Donna Mae Kuznia. Now they will be known as the KK4 + 1.

After lunch, the "French Kisses" and the "Shapely Swingers" challenged the KK4. It was a hard-fought match; they played four holes. It was sensational! One hit on the ball; one hit on the mosquito. When it was over, the KK4 went down in defeat by two points.

The KK4+ 1 are ready in 1980 to play any team. They are again planning on having a Polish Day. This year, they will hang up their Kuznia Coat-of-Arms in addition to their Polish flags. They are ready to meet any team, hoping to recapture their title.



Kuznia Kolossal Four Golf Team
 [L-R] Barb, Theresa, Gerri, and Sandy

Florian Lake and Park

In the spring of 1976, after more than a decade of serious planning and 17 years since watershed planning was initiated, the Overton Structure of the Tamarac Watershed project was complete and began to hold back the water of the Tamarac River, one mile southwest of Florian, to form a permanent 50-acre lake.

The resultant lake prompted the formation of Marshall County's first park to be built around the lake. An area of about 40 acres surrounding the lake has been developed into a park which will include, when totally developed, boat dock, swimming facilities, camping area, and walking trails.

The dam cost \$430,000. Eighty-five percent was funded from federal sources and fifteen percent from local funds. The cost of the park facility is pegged at \$145,195, with fifty percent of this funded from federal sources and fifty percent from local funds, about 40 percent of which has been developed from state funds.

Twenty-five camp sites will be developed in the park with electrical hookups. Also, a bath house with running water. Many

deciduous and coniferous trees and seedlings have been planted in the park.

The lake will back up water about three-quarters of a mile to a mile from the Overton Structure normally and about half a mile beyond that for flood control needs.

The first manager of the park was William Kuznia. Ralph Kuznia is the present manager.



The future Florian Park as work began in 1973



Tamarac River bed as work began -- 1973



Same view as photo above -- 1980 -- Florian Park



Same view as photo above -- 1980
Albert and Hedwig homestead in the distance [Hilary Kuznia farm]

William Wright

WILLIAM WRIGHT THE NAMESAKE OF WRIGHT TOWNSHIP

West of the Joan and Edward Rogus home, less than a quarter of a mile, across the river on the south bank of the Tamarac River is the unmarked grave of William Wright. Wright came to Marshall County about the year 1879 and built a small cabin on the bank of the Tamarac River on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 18, now known as Wright Township. His only companion was a large dog which shared his cabin with him. He had constructed a rude cot of poles, and to this

he kept his dog tied at night.

Sometime in 1881, Mr. Wright died. The dog, either from hunger or realizing that something was wrong, gnawed the pole to which his leash was fastened, then gnawed his way out of the door and went to the home of a neighbor some distance away. The neighbor realized something was wrong and set out for the cabin and found the lifeless body of Mr. Wright. A coffin was made, and he was buried in the cabin. There was no floor in the cabin, and the ground was frozen so hard that it was difficult digging. Consequently, the depth reached was barely sufficient to permit the coffin to be covered.

Calvary Scene Memorial



The Calvary Scene located in the Assumption Church Cemetery in Florian was donated by Michael and Bridget Kuznia and their children: Albert, Stephen, Philomae, Melany, Ira, Emil, Rosalia, Veronica, and Michael, Jr.

The statues and cross were constructed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, by a friend of Stephen Meush, who was the architect of the Florian Assumption Church. It was erected in June of 1954.

Wilebski Shrine

News article from the St. Paul Dispatch
Tuesday, November 24, 1959

Two-Year Transformation Job Rock Garden Now Shrine

By Neil Crane -- Staff Writer

About two years ago, a South St. Paul man decided to dismantle a large rock garden in his yard.

But Thomas J. Wilebski, 900 Fifth Avenue South, was hesitant in starting the job because he couldn't think of what to do with the hundreds of rocks that had accumulated in the garden

over the years.

"I didn't know what to do with them until a year ago last summer when my wife and I took an auto trip to West Bend, Iowa, and visited the Grotto of Redemption shrine," Wilebski said.

The massive and ornate shrine, made of concrete and rocks, which took the late Fr. P.M. Dobberstein 43 years to construct, so impressed Wilebski that "I started planning the future of my rock garden right away."

The result of his inspiration now stands in place of the garden -- a monument 12 feet wide, 16 feet long, and 12 feet high in the center, complete with a cornerstone which reads: Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Wilebski, 74, a retired carman for the Rock Island Railroad, put the finishing touches on the shrine recently. A priest blessed the monument last week.

It took Wilebski eight months of work to complete the shrine, doing it all himself. He began it in September 1958, stopped work during the winter, and started again last June.

The shrine is made entirely of stones, rocks, and sea shells

imbedded in concrete. It contains three coves, one a manger scene, another dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and the third and largest is dominated by a 34-inch statue of Christ. The statue is 70 years old.

The cove containing the statue of Christ is large enough for a man to stand inside. All the coves are illuminated, and along the front base of the shrine are two rows of colored lights, encased in large sea shells.

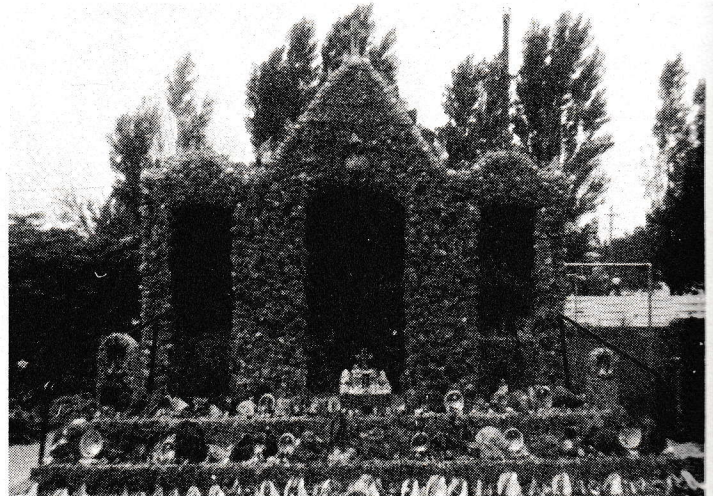
"All the rocks didn't come from the garden, though," Wilebski said. "Some of them came from Europe and were sent by a grandson in the army there. Some rocks we got in Duluth and from around here. The sea shells came from California."

Wilebski said he has no idea how many rocks went into the monument.

"I couldn't even begin to guess. It seems like there were a million of them."

The shrine contains more than 50 statues. The Virgin Mary statue is 22 inches high and 100 years old. Over each cove is a cross made of concrete by Wilebski.

"It was a lot of fun building the shrine," Wilebski said. "But I sure am glad it's finished."



Twins

DESCENDANTS OF ALBERT AND HEDWIG
SETS OF TWINS

Bert and Michael Kuznia -- 1887
Teresa and Regina Kuznia -- 1913
Lawrence and Walter Kasprovicz -- 1938
Leopold and Lambert Kuznia -- 1940
Luke and Lawrence Gerszewski -- 1951

Anthony and Thomas Gryskiewicz -- 1954
 Renee and Randy Borowicz -- 1958
 Joseph and John Ziemer -- 1961
 Diane and Daniel Gruhot -- 1962
 Kent and Kevin Kuznia -- 1962
 Joseph and John Pietruszewski -- 1963
 Bonnie and Barbara Borowicz -- 1964
 Kevin and Keith Gruhot -- 1965
 Shaun and Shannon Kozel -- 1966
 Sean and Stacy Moltzan -- 1972
 Paul and Philip Kazmierczak -- 1979
 Matthew and Melissa Kozel -- 1980

Wanda Kuznia Family Reunion

[Summer 1978]

Memorial Day weekend found 121 members of the Wanda Kuznia family enjoying a reunion. The event began Saturday night when many of the family met for an enjoyable evening at the Meadowbrook Ballroom at Middle River.

On Sunday at 12 o'clock noon, dinner was served outdoors at the Hilary Kuznia farm, which is the Kuznia home place. The main entree was a 150-pound barbecued pig, prepared especially for the occasion by John and Edwardine Szklarski. The day was spent reminiscing, visiting, and getting acquainted with the newest members of the family. Pictures were taken of Wanda with her 43 grandchildren (all of whom were present except 4), of Wanda with 38 of her 39 great grandchildren, and of all families of the eight children of Wanda and her late husband, Vincent.

Those present at the gathering were: Wanda Kuznia of Stephen; Mr. and Mrs. Valerian Kuznia of Argyle and their family; Mr. and Mrs. James Kuznia and family of Stephen, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kuznia and family of Argyle, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Blazek and family of Walhalla, North Dakota, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Kuznia and boys of Warren, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kuznia and Chad of Coon Rapids, Mr. and Mrs. Valerian Kuznia, Jr. and Braden of Argyle, Mr. and Mrs. Aime Dufault and Michel of Argyle, Mr. and Mrs. Dwaine Adolphson and Carl of Argyle;

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kujava, Sr. of Strandquist and their family; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kujava and family of Strandquist, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Kujava and Heidi of Strandquist, Mr. and Mrs. David Kujava and boys of Warren, Mr. and Mrs.

Thomas Kujava, Jr. of Greenbush, and Greg Kujava of Strandquist;

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Kuznia of Argyle and their family; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Kuznia and family of Lake Crystal, Mr. and Mrs. Wally Woehrle and boys of Minneapolis, Mrs. Lori Johnson and boys of St. Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Vaneps and Kimberly (not present) of Minneapolis, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Peterson and Carrie of Argyle, Ms. Adie Kuznia and son of Moorhead, Eddie Kuznia of Argyle, Jeanette Kuznia of Moorhead, and Tony Kuznia of Argyle.

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Dolney of Greenbush and their family; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Kuznia and family of Greenbush, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kittelson and family of Sauk Centre, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Kasproicz of Moorhead.

Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Kuznia of Strandquist and their family; Mr. and Mrs. Francis Kuznia and boys of Aurora, Mrs. Richard Kasproicz and girls of Drayton, North Dakota, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Kuznia of Aurora, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Renstrom of Drayton, North Dakota, Patty, Paulette, and Scott Kuznia of Strandquist.

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Gryskiewicz of Argyle and their family; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rybaski and family of Argyle, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Gryskiewicz of Wyoming, Donna Gryskiewicz of Argyle;

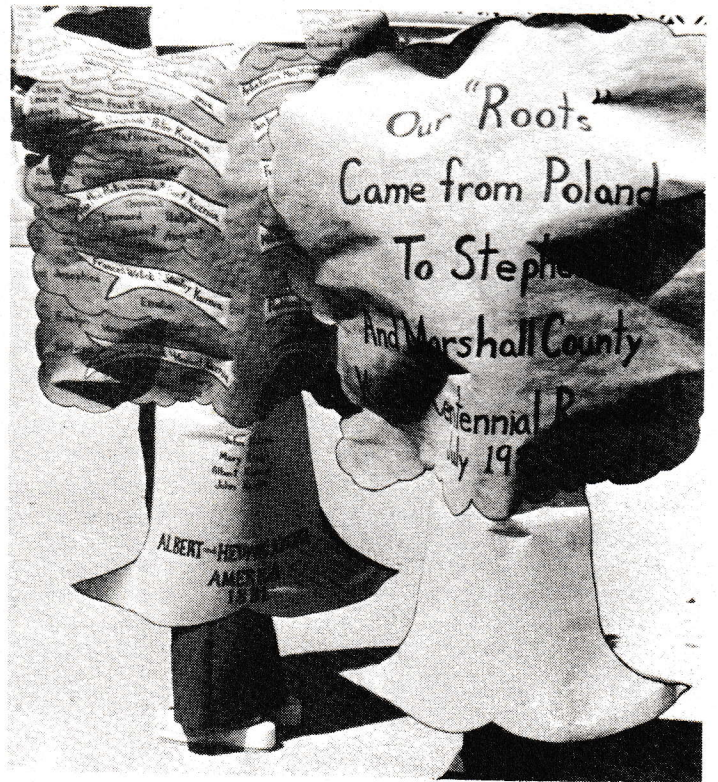
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Kuznia, Jr. of St. Paul and their family; Mr. and Mrs. Rick Matthews of New Brighton, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Kuznia of St. Paul (not present), Kenneth and Sheryl Kuznia of St. Paul;

Mr. and Mrs. Hilary Kuznia of Stephen and their family; Mary, Charlette, Vincent, and Vernon, and foster daughter, Anna Peake.



Wanda Kuznia and Grandchildren -- 1978

[Extreme back L-R] Greg, Tim, David, Ken, Sheryl, Mark, Tom, Philip, Gary, Jim, Fran, Gordon [hidden], Ted, Dale, Larry, Henry
 [Second Back] Janice, Josephine, Eddie, Valerie, Barb, Patti, Paulette, Marlys
 [Third Row] Donna, Bernadette, Vince, Scott, Grandma Wanda holding Vernon, Sandra, Rita
 [Front] Mary, Jeannie, Lori, Adeline, Char, Cindy, Joan
 [Not Pictured: Jeff, Roger, Judy, Tony, Maxine, and Dennis, who was born later in 1978]



Cindy, daughter of Mike and Lillian Kuznia, and Vince, son of Hilary and Julianna Kuznia, won the first prize of \$15 in the 1979 Kiddies Parade in Stephen, Minnesota, for their Kuznia family tree entry. The theme of the parade was "Stephen celebrates Marshall County's Centennial". Each tree had one side bearing the names of Albert and Hedwig, their children, and their grandchildren; the other side of the tree said "Our Roots Came From Poland to Stephen and Marshall County -- Kuznia Centennial Reunion 1881-1981."

Records

ASSUMPTION CHURCH RECORDS

[Note: Spellings are given as they appear in the records.]

- Baptism of Agnes Adamski -- 1896 -- daughter of Stanley Adamski of Kruswica, Posnan, Poland, and Agnes Fabich of Szadle, Posnan, Poland
- Vincent Przybylski married Maria Czlapinski
- Frank Borowicz born February 6, 1898, to Martin Borowicz and Agnes Nyka.
- Nicolaus Kazmierczak, a widower, the son of Francis and Julianna (Majchrzak) Kazmierczak, to Julianna Borowicz, the daughter of Martin Borowicz and Agnes Nyka, May 27, 1912.
- Born to Stanley Adamski and Agnes Fabich, a daughter, Agnes, December 24, 1896.
- Antonia (Antoszewski) Zakrzewski, wife of Frank Zakrzewski, died at age 81, August 16, 1931.
- Stanley Adamski husband of Agnes, died June 12, 1919.
- Stephania Kuznia died, age five months, June 6, 1918, daughter of Pauli and Mary Kuznia.
- Twins Richard and Edward born March 27, 1908, to Andrew Rogus and Rosalia Nowakowski.
- Francis Kasproicz born October 7, 1907, to Michael and Elizabeth.
- Twins Teresa Elisabeth and Regina Birgitta born August 22, 1913, to Peter Kuznia and Agnes Czlapinski.
- Alojzy Kuznia born June 20, 1908, to Peter Kuznia and Agnes Czlapinski; baptism sponsors - Adalbertus Kuznia and Maryanna Czlapinski.
- Francis Kuznia born October 22, 1909, to Peter Kuznia and Agnes Czlapinski; baptism sponsors - Antoinus Kuznia and Maryanna Kurzawa.
- Ignatius Zakrzewski, son of Francis and Antonia, born July 13, 1875; died Minneapolis, October 21, 1946.
- Agnes (Fabich) Adamski died at 86 years of age, March 19, 1943.
- Martin Pietruszewski Grochowiska Szlacheckie, Posnan, Poland, his wife Marie Szafranski came from Jablkowo, Posnan, Poland.
- Rosalia Nowakowski came from Wielobutow, Posnan, Poland.
- Marriage of Stanley Kuznia to Frances Walicki, November 14, 1897.
- Marriage of Mary Kurzawa, parents Francis Kurzawa and Frances Krzyzosiak from Kuzmin, Posen, Germany, to Michael Przybylski, parents Anthony Przybylski and Rosalis Kasproicz, from Szymborowa, P.O. Stralkowa, Kres Wreschew.
- Marriage of Anthony Zakrzewski to Clara Stanczyk, June 25, 1912.
- Anthony Zakrzewski died in 1913 at the age of 23.
- Zofia Kazmierczak born May 5, 1908, to Mary Ann Wojtysiak and Paul Szczepaniak.
- Valeria Gracek
- John Edward Kuznia born August 4, 1908, to Mary Ann Wojtysiak and Paul Kuznia.
- John Kuznia, son of Albert Kuznia and Hedwig Krzyzosiak, died March 24, 1897, buried March 27, 1897.

MARSHALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE RECORDS

[Note: Spellings are given as they appeared on the records.]

- Enicka Benka** -- born in German Poland, 1875; came to U.S. March 1881; landed in port of New York.
- Josef Zybortowicz** -- born in Germany - 1842; came to U.S. May 1892; landed in port of Baltimore.
- Stephen Tullbacki** -- born in Jablowko, Germany - December 19, 1873; left by way of Rotterdam, Holland; last resident - Inowraclau, Germany; came to U.S. August 1902; landed in the port of New York.
- Mike Kasproicz** -- born in Germany Poland - 1870; came to U.S. October 1892; landed in port of New York.
- Vicenty Kasproicz** -- born in Germany Poland - 1873; came to U.S. April 1891; landed in port of New York.
- Mikal Przybylski** -- born in Germany, 1866; came to U.S. July 1902 by port of St. Vincent.
- Andrew Rogus** -- born in Poland - 1869; came to U.S. July 1892; landed in port of New York.
- Joseph Stanczyk** -- born in Austria - 1881; came to U.S. June 1901; landed in port of Baltimore, Maryland.
- Adam Stusynski** -- born October 20, 1894, Radolina, Poland; left by way of Hamburg, Germany, on June 3, 1913; came to U.S. June 15, 1913; landed in port of Philadelphia.

John Bukowski -- born March 15, 1863, Sadvalla, Poland; sailed from Bremmen, Germany, October 1, 1883; came to Baltimore October 18, 1883; wife: Mary Bukowski, born January 10, 1879, Sadvalla, Poland.

Martin Przybylski -- born Grabozewo, Poland, November 11, 1894; last residence: Parusewa, Poland; left by way of Rotterdam, Holland - May 1, 1904; entered U.S. Port St. Vincent - June 1, 1904; wife: Josephine, born February 6, 1900; children: Peter - born June 14, 1918, and Raymond - born August 26, 1919.

Thomas Przybylski -- born Grabozewo, Poland, on October 10, 1900; last residence: Parusewa, Poland; left by way of Rotterdam, Holland, on May 15, 1904; entered U.S. - Noyes, Minnesota, June 1, 1904.

Stanistan Donarski -- born Poland, 1862; came to port of New York - 1883.

Mike Kujawa -- born Poland Austria - 1870; came to port New York May 1882.

Melchor Rybacki -- born Poland 1860; came to port of New York May 1890.

Joseph Benka -- born German Poland 1827; came to port New York March 1881.

Peter Chwialkowski -- born Poland Germany 1869; came to port of Baltimore, February 1886.

Joseph Gajeski -- born Posen, Poland, January 15, 1874; left by way of Hamburg; came to port of New York on May 20, 1882.

Victor Stusynski -- born Radolina, Poland Russia - March 6, 1892; left by way of Rotterdam; last residence: Penpocin; came to port New York July 27, 1911.

Vincent Stucynski (same person as above) -- last residence: Pienpiacin (note difference of spelling); wife: Mary.

Herman Kiesow -- born Germany 1860; came to U.S. port of New York - December 1885.

Thomas Kostrzewski -- born Germany 1859; came to port of Baltimore - February 1885.

John Stalock -- filed intention to become citizen on February 2, 1897.

Rozalia Kuznia -- born Graboszewo, Poland - September 4, 1881; last foreign residence: Grzybowo, Poland; left from Bermenhaven, Germany; came to Baltimore April 1889 -- Rozalia Kasproicz.

Alex Solarski -- born Aleksoidaowko, Russia on August 24, 1892; emigrated from Lebowa, Russia on the vessel named "Letavia"; last resident: Aleksoidrowko.

John Tragarz -- born Pilzno, Poland on May 10, 1887; emigrated from Bremen, Germany on vessel named "Kizer William"; last residence: Pilzno, Poland.

Wincenty Szklarski -- born Alivernia, Austira on March 5, 1868; left by way of Hamburg on vessel named "S.S. Baltic"; last residence: Wadowice (or Madowice), Poland; entered port of New York - April 8, 1914.

Antoni Szklarski -- born Kwaczale, Austria - February 28, 1897.

John Buchner -- born Beresski, Russia - August 5, 1885; last foreign residence: Beresfski, Russia; emigrated to U.S. from Lebau, Russia; entered U.S. November 13, 1911, on vessel "SS Lituania".

MARSHALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE DEATH RECORDS

[Note: Spellings are given as they appeared on the records.]

Katazina Miciek -- widow; born March 17, 1855; died May 19, 1935; cause of death: carcinoma of head of pancreas with obstruction of common bile duct; duration of illness: two months; birthplace: Poland; father: Mikalai Kzizosiak; mother: unknown.

Mike Kasproicz -- widower; born: September 29, 1870; died: April 22, 1940; farmer; miocarditis and bronchial asthma for six months; birthplace: Poland; father: Peter Kasproicz; mother's name unknown.

Thomas Joseph Tragarz -- born June 12, 1889; died September 1920; farmer; cause of death: shock due to multiple injuries of back, head, and chest by weight of farm drill; birthplace of Tom and his parents: Poland; father's name: John Tragarz; mother's name: Katie Tragarz.

Albert Kuznia -- born in unknown; died October 29 1914; cause of death: heart disease; married; parents: father - Joe Kuznia, mother - unknown; filed November 18, 1914 in Wright Township.

Luke Joe Kuznia -- born October 15, 1930; died June 29, 1931 from bronchial pneumonia; parents: Joseph Kuznia, born in Poland, mother - Katherine Adamski, born in Minnesota.

Raymond Peter Kuznia -- born December 13, 1925; died August 11, 1927, from broncal pneumonia; parents: father - Bert Kuznia, mother - Martha Pietruszewski.

Josephine Eleana Grembowski -- born January 4, 1899; died October 22, 1932 from broncho pneumonia; parents: father - Stanley Kuznia, born in Poland, mother - Frances Walicke, born in Illinois.

Ben Jacob Kuznia -- born July 16, 1933; died July 30, 1933; parents: Ben Kuznia, born in Minnesota, mother - Matilda Stalock.

Albert Kuznia -- born March 2, 1925; died March 2, 1925; premature birth; parents: father - Joseph Kuznia, born in Poland, mother - Kate Adamski, born in Minnesota.

Mary Kuznia -- died December 27, 1903, at 18 years of age; housewife; from blood

poison in childbirth; parents: father - Frank Wilepski, born in Poland, mother - don't know, born in Poland; lived in Hallock, Minnesota; buried in Township of Wright.

Helena Kuznia -- born March 20, 1905, Nelson Park Township; died April 8, 1905 from pneumonia; parents: father - Staneslaus Kuznia, born Germany, mother - Frances Waleska, born Germany.

Hattie Kuznia -- birth date unknown, year 1853; died June 14, 1925; age 72; housewife; cause of death: carcinoma of stomach, brain tumor for an unknown length of time; birthplace: Poland; parents: father - Nikatai Kzizosak, mother - Marry Kzizosak; attending - Dr. E. O. Nimlas; attending undertaker: Fr. Skopowski; registrar: R. A. Setterholm.

Stanley Kerznia -- birth: May 8, 1872; death: November 4, 1911; farmer; cause of death: chronic valvulitis and uephritis bronchial asthma for ten years exhaustion; father - Albert Kersnia, mother - Jadwiga Kzysoak; Dr. R. M. Gunderson; undertaker: J. H. Kroke.

Mrs. Mary Kuzna -- birth date unknown, 1887; death - March 18, 1919; age 32; housewife; cause of death: pulmonary tuberculouis for 1 year 18 days; father's birthplace: Poland; mother's: unknown; father's name: Wojtysak; mother's: unknown.

Stephania Kuznia -- birth: January 7, 1918; death: June 7, 1918; age five months; father and mother born in Poland; father - Paul Kuznia, mother - Mary Vitescha.

Irene Kasprovicz -- born July 1922; died March 16, 1924; parents born in Poland; father - Mike Kasvrowicz; mother - Eliz Kuznia.

Joseph Adamski -- born 1886; born Illinois; died April 1, 1930; age 44; farmer; birthplace father: Poland; birthplace of mother: unknown; father - Stanislaws Adamski; mother - unknown.

Frank Zakrzewski -- born December 1828; died May 30, 1910; born: Germany; parents: father - Frank Zakrzewski; mother - Ann ; born: Germany; died from Brights disease in Middle River Township; buried: Argyle.

Zofya Kazmierczak -- born May 5, 1908; died September 20, 1908; parents: father - Mikalay Kazmierczak, born in R. Poland, mother - Lucyia Iczefaniak born in Wisconsin; buried: Stanislaw cemetery.

Stanley Adamski -- born May 4, 1848; died June 12, 1919; from labor pneumonia; born Poland; parents: father - Sam Adamski, mother - Martha

Francy Kuznia -- born 1883, Poland; died March 27, 1905; age 22 years; married and lived in Nelson Park Township; parents: father - Joseph Walecki, born Poland, mother - Anna Kasprovicz, born Poland; died in childbirth.



The Snow of 1936

Nick Zakrzewski's truck hauling potatoes from Casmer Troska's

Will the "Real" Kuznia Please Stand Up!

Since all the planning for this Kuznia Reunion first started, efforts have been made to seek out Kuznia families not of our family line -- the direct descendants of Albert and Hedwig. We have written many different places, inquiring how we might possibly find out if other Kuznia families exist in the United States or Canada. Since many records are confidential, nobody could help us. Below is a reprint of a short article the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, paper reprinted for us. It drew no response.

Man's Search For His Roots

In 1981, a centennial reunion of the Albert and Hedwig Kuznia clan in America is planned. Albert and Hedwig brought with them six children, and seven more children were born to them in America. From those humble roots the family tree has grown to 1,725 names. But the descendants of Albert and Hedwig Kuznia want to find more relatives!

Since the reunion steering committee started plans for the centennial reunion in 1978, it has been seeking information from all sources available, trying to find out if Grandfather Albert Kuznia had a brother or sister who also came to America. All their efforts so far

have been in vain.

Many older family members seem to recall their dads telling of another brother of Grandpa's who came to the U.S. and settled along the East Coast -- they think in the Pennsylvania area.

A big centennial reunion celebration is being planned for the Fourth of July weekend in 1981. Why would anybody with 1,625 living relatives want to find more? That question is hard to answer. But it must be man's thirst to know more about who he is and where he came from.

Lillian and Mike S. Kuznia, Jr.
Strandquist, Minn.

We also tried the "Ask-It-Basket" of the Midland Cooperative paper and again drew no response. Probably of greatest interest as we take this book to be printed is a postcard Barb and Lawrence Kuznia received addressed to Kuznia Farms, Inc., inquiring if Kuznia was a family name or a business name. He signed the card "J. Kuznia, Lorain, Ohio". Is there a J. Kuznia in Lorain, Ohio? Maybe we will know by the time of the Reunion.

John A. Kuznia also tells of Canadian travelers who some years ago said there were Kuznias in Ontario that came there from Pennsylvania. Recently there were Canadians overnight at the Florian Park who thought they knew of other Kuznias in Manitoba. After contacting them, they were to let us know. They weren't heard from again.

Many times, other names look or sound the same. Kuzina is often mistaken for Kuznia. There are many Kuzmas around and also Kuzniars.

The Kuznia Reunion ... How It All Began

By Lillian Kuznia

In 1975 during the preparation for the nation's bicentennial, Marshall County decided to collect the histories of its early pioneer families. It was then that my husband, Mike, and I decided that his grandparents, Albert and Hedwig Kuznia, should definitely be a

part of the histories of that book. We started to contact some of the older grandchildren, probing for bits and pieces of information about the grandparents.

Mike's dad, Mike Sr., had just passed away the year before, and in the last few years before his death, I had gathered little bits of information from him and already recorded them in a small notebook. Some years earlier, 1969, at the Elizabeth Kuznia and Bob Belch wedding, I had found out that Elsie Kuznia had been working on a family tree for a number of years already. The search for information about Albert and Hedwig also led me to her door, begging to copy what family tree information she had. Since she came from the family of Frank and Rozalia, that was the portion she had most complete. Other families I was more familiar with from the Florian area. I had more recent information about. So, we did some trading of information. I have always been most grateful for all the work on the tree she had already accomplished, and when the gathering of the tree for the Kuznia Reunion really got underway, it certainly proved helpful.

Also about this time, Kenneth C. Kuznia had approached me on the street in Stephen and said Sandy was interested in the family's histories, and would I share information I had? Sandy wrote the Peter Kuznia history for the Marshall County Book. I don't recall if we made any mention about a reunion to each other at this time.

Anyway, while doing the collecting of Albert and Hedwig's history, somehow or other, ideas for a reunion got tossed around -- always talking in terms of the 100 year anniversary of their coming to America. It was a grand dream, as dreams go; I never quite dared think it might come true!

Then, in 1978, Stephen celebrated their centennial, and we knew K.C. Kuznia had a lot to do with helping plan the celebration. In other words, "He had experience." And we needed an experienced person to organize our dream.

Knowing it was getting later into 1978 and 1981 wasn't "really" all that far away, at Allen Kuznia and Grace Woinarowicz's wedding on September 9, 1978, we put the idea to K.C. He was receptive and enthusiastic! He said the first planning meeting should be held before the year ended. It wasn't!

On February 6, 1979, K.C. Kuznia, Ray Kuznia, Mike and I met at our house. We were on our way! After looking at the family tree and first selecting thirty-five names, the selection was then whittled down to a steering committee of ten people: K.C. Kuznia, Raymond Kuznia, Lillian Kuznia, Ambrose Kuznia, Ronald Kuznia, Elsie Kuznia, Edmund Pietruszewski, Barbara Kuznia, George Kuznia, and Rudy Kuznia to represent the Minneapolis area. The first general meeting of the Kuznia Reunion Steering Committee was held at our home on February 25, 1979. Officers were elected:



Kuznia Reunion Steering Committee
 [Back L-R] Edmund Pietruszewski, George, Raymond, Rudy, Ron, and Kenneth C. Kuznia
 [Front] Barbara, Elsie, Lillian, and Ambrose Kuznia

Chairman - K. C. Kuznia; Vice Chairman - George Kuznia; Secretary - Barbara Kuznia; Treasurer - Ronald Kuznia.

The family tree had to be gathered, and at the same time a directory of addresses had to be compiled for the correspondence that would have to take place. Many family members contributed their time to this project.

Second order of business for the steering committee was a family crest. Barb Kuznia and I had sent to researchers of heraldry to have them research the Kuznia coat of arms, but we were disappointed with their designs and even more so with the explanations. After some modifications, a crest I had designed during the nation's bicentennial was accepted by the Reunion Steering Committee at the March 25, 1979, meeting at Elsie Kuznia's. The crest was then taken to the printer, and stationery was printed for the reunion.

At the very first meeting, February 25, it was motioned that each member of the steering committee should donate \$25 so that we would have some funds with which to begin work. But, it soon became obvious more money would be needed to finance such a celebration. During night feedings of our infant daughter, Maribeth, an idea came to me. Why not make a family tree quilt with all 1,725 names upon it and sell chances to family members to raise the funds we'd need? This idea was accepted at the April 22, 1979, meeting at the Lawrence Kuznia home.



Lillian Kuznia, as pictured in the Grand Forks Herald "Plains Speaking" section on April 28, 1980. This page of the Herald featured articles written by local readers. "It's More Than Just a Little Get-Together", written by Lillian, told of the preparation involved in planning the Kuznia Reunion.

A potluck picnic supper of the Kuznia Reunion Steering Committee and their families was held at the Florian Park on Sunday, July 22, 1979. A book committee was chosen, with Elsie Kuznia and I as co-chairmen. The members of the book committee were: Robert Borowicz, Theresa Nelson, Elizabeth Kasproicz,

Rosalia Stusynski, Hilary, Linda, Kathleen, and Gerri Kuznia. In the fall of 1979, it was felt work should get underway to collect the histories of the descendants of Albert and Hedwig. Probably inexperience in collecting data for a book and family members not believing deadlines were important were the biggest headaches for the members of the book committee. Much time was spent corresponding with family members, at the courthouse, and at the church parish house trying to compile interesting bits of information.



Book Committee

[L-R] Theresa Nelson, Gerri Kuznia, Lillian Kuznia, Linda Kuznia, Hilary Kuznia, Rosalia Stusynski, Bob Borowicz and Elsie Kuznia

[Not Pictured: Kathleen Kuznia, Elizabeth Kasprawicz]

The biggest regret of the book committee was when they found out that with the great volume of information they had collected, there was no way -- anywhere -- they could get a book that large printed for \$6.00. It was then decided to go into a hard-bound book to make it more sturdy.

As the plans for the celebration progressed, Steering Committee members were put in charge of various committees. George Kuznia was named Chairman of the Mass of Thanksgiving Committee, choosing Donald and Philip Kuznia, Bernadine Abel, Thomas Rogus, Raymond Borowicz, Ray and David Pietruszewski as committee members.



Mass of Thanksgiving Committee

[L-R] Philip Kuznia, Bernadine Abel, George Kuznia, Donald Kuznia, Ray Pietruszewski

[Not pictured: Tom Rogus, Raymond Borowicz, David Pietruszewski]

Arrangements for the Saturday, July 4, supper meal are being planned, with Barbara Kuznia as the chairman and Emil Kuznia, Isabelle Sten, and Leonard Plencner serving on the Food Committee.



Food Committee

[L-R] Barbara Kuznia, Emil Kuznia, Isabelle Sten

[Not pictured: Leonard Plencner]

The Entertainment Committee, chaired by Ron Kuznia, has hired the orchestra for the Saturday night dance, the "Billy Czerniak Orchestra". Serving on his committee are: Curt, Leonard, James V., Arnold, Conrad, and Allen Kuznia.

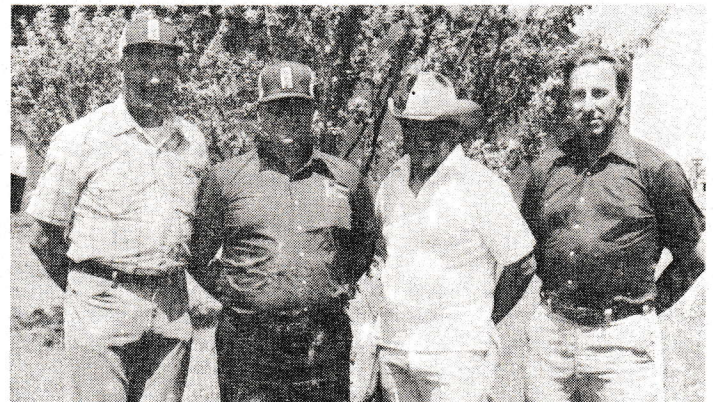


Entertainment Committee

[L-R] Arnold, Ron and Conrad Kuznia

[Not pictured: Curt, Leonard, James V. and Allen Kuznia]

The Program Committee, co-chaired by Steering Committee Members Ray, Kenneth C., and Rudy Kuznia, and joined by Roger Zack and Roger Borowicz, does some of their planning by joint telephone conversation. It is yet too early to know all the details of the program they will put together.



Program Committee

[L-R] Raymond Kuznia, Kenneth C. Kuznia, Roger Zack, and Rudy Kuznia

[Not pictured: Roger Borowicz]

The largest committee is the Service and Lodging Committee headed by Edmund Pietruszewski and Ambrose Kuznia. One of their very first jobs was to draw up a listing of area camping spots and motels. They did so well at that, they had several sub-committees under their watchful eye. The Registration Committee will be co-chaired by Ray and Loretta Borowicz, with help from Conrad and Ludvine Gryskiewicz, Rita and Ted Chwialkowski, Roger and Bernadette Pietruszewski, Florian, Nettie, Kenneth, and Alana Kuznia. On the Altar Committee, Frank Borowicz has been named chairman, with Ralph, Ambrose, and Greg Borowicz, Gene and Jeffrey Kuznia, and Gene Pietruszewski as his helpers.



Registration Committee

[L-R] Ted and Rita Chwialkowski, Ludvine and Conrad Gryskiewicz, Loretta and Ray Borowicz

[Not pictured: Roger and Bernadette Pietruszewski, Florian and Nettie Kuznia, Kenneth and Alana Kuznia]



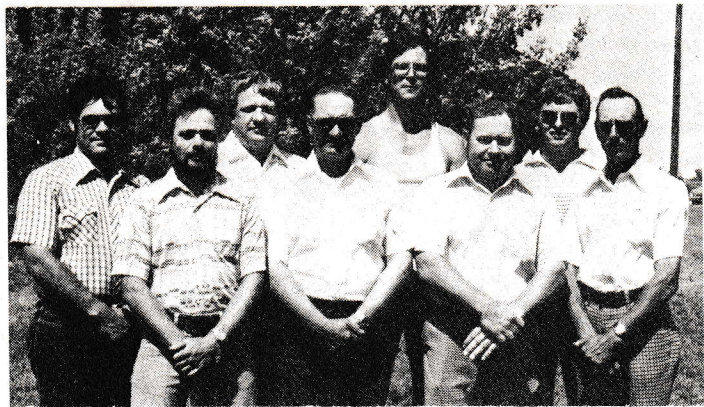
Altar Committee

[L-R] Jeffrey Kuznia, Gene Kuznia, Frank Borowicz, Gene Pietruszewski, Edmund Pietruszewski, Ambrose Borowicz, Ambrose Kuznia, Ralph Borowicz

[Not pictured: Greg Borowicz]

The committee in charge of parking is chaired by Ernest Kujawa, with help to be given by Rodney, Gayle, Todd, and Daniel Kuznia, Rudy Rogus, Hilary and Gary Pietruszewski, Mike Borowicz, and Tom Kasproicz, Jr.

Details for setting up for the Saturday supper and then clean up (let's call them the Maintenance Committee) will be chaired by James J. Kuznia. His helpers will be: Mark, Thomas, Gary, and David Kujawa, Edmund Jr., David, John E., Greg, Leopold, and Dale Kuznia, Peter and William Stusynski.



Maintenance and Parking Committee

[L-R] Jim Kuznia, Edmund Kuznia Jr., Dale Kuznia, Ambrose Kuznia, Greg Kuznia, Hilary Pietruszewski, Mike Borowicz, and Ernest Kujawa

[Not pictured: Rodney, Gayle, Todd, Daniel, David, John E. and Leopold Kuznia, Rudy Rogus, Gary Pietruszewski, Tom Kasproicz Jr., Mark, Thomas, Gary, and David Kujawa, Peter and William Stusynski]

On Sunday, June 22, 1980, the Kuznia Reunion Steering Committee and chairmen and members of the other committees met at 2 p.m. at the Florian Park. A business meeting was conducted, and then pictures of the various committees were taken. Some members were unable to attend, and other members -- because of previous commitments -- arrived too late to have their pictures taken with their groups. This was followed by a potluck picnic supper. This pre-Reunion warm-up was held to acquaint the Reunion workers with the plans so far and to begin to set the mood for the "real thing" next summer -- The Kuznia Reunion!

OFFERTORY GIFT BEARERS

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Saturday, July 4, 1981

- Frank -- Mrs. Hedwig Pietruszewski
- Stanley -- Mrs. John (Emilia) Grembowski
- Anton -- Mickoli Kazmierczak
- Paul -- Mrs. Edward (Joan) Rogus
- Joseph -- Peter J. Kuznia
- Elizabeth -- Mrs. Cecilia Borowicz
- Peter -- Chester Kuznia
- Bert -- Mrs. Kenneth (Theresa) Dufault
- Michael -- Ira Kuznia
- Benedict -- Clarence Kuznia
- Anna -- Thaddeus Wilebski
- Vincent -- Mrs. Thomas (Evelyn) Kujawa

CELEBRANTS FOR THE MASS:

Most Reverend Bishop Victor Balke
Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota

- Rev. Father Frank Kulhawik
- Rev. Father Joseph Menker, O.M.I.
- Rev. Father John Kleinwachter

Epilogue -- "Summing It Up"

Having been in on the planning of the Kuznia Reunion and working on the family book leaves a person feeling good. It gives a person a great pride in their family name and in the ancestors who have gone before us.

We are sure some of Grandma Hedwig's straightforwardness, strong will, and corrections weren't always appreciated by the grandchildren; but when we look back over her lifetime and dwell for a moment on the events of the life she and Albert lived together, you can't help but marvel!

Here was a woman who married young in a country where political and economic conditions were terrible, to say the least. She raised a portion of her family for a few years on her own while her husband was off in a strange country. She risked sea travel with little children on a vessel that was less than pleasant. She came to a new country where her native language, Polish, wasn't spoken. She gave birth to sixteen children in the span of twenty-three years and saw death take four of them. She had no running water, indoor bath facilities, automatic washing machine, ready-made bread, freezer, dishwasher, disposable diapers, automobile, microwave oven, frozen pizza, T.V. dinners, or vacations.

If we could trade a couple of days of our daily routine in 1981 with a couple of days of her routine in 1887, we would really understand her. A sod home probably still was her shelter. A baby one-year-old and another baby on the way -- twins, to be exact. Water to be brought from the Tamarac River, meals to be prepared on a crude stove, stacks of wash to be done by hand for nine people -- including a baby still in diapers. Is there any doubt why prayer was a constant companion? Without prayer, she could never have carried on.

In these days of inflation, we should probably look back at Albert and Hedwig as an example; tighten our belt, put up our chin, wear our shoes a little longer, pray our rosary a little more -- or a lot more. Maybe then the future generations of the descendants of Albert and Hedwig will look back at our example and admire our courage, fortitude and prayerfulness and be thankful they don't have to trade places with us for a day.

Much work has gone into collecting the family tree, and we have no idea if ever again anyone will make an attempt to gather the descendants of Albert and Hedwig together. One thing is certain: If they do, the task will be even greater than it was this time. So, we ask each family to send us updated information about your families each year at Christmas time. Tell us of any deaths, births, and spouses, and please use full dates. Thank you!

**Elsie Kuznia
Box 65
Stephen, MN 56757**

**Mrs. Mike S. Kuznia, Jr.
R.R. 2, Box 104
Strandquist, MN 56758**