

# Along the Galician Grapevine

Winter 1998

An informal annual newsletter to some 600 dispersed descendants of the 1880's emigrations from the Austrian crownland of Galicia (or Kleinpolen in the German) to North America. Its purpose is to foster the communication, preservation and knowledge of our collective past for present and future generations.

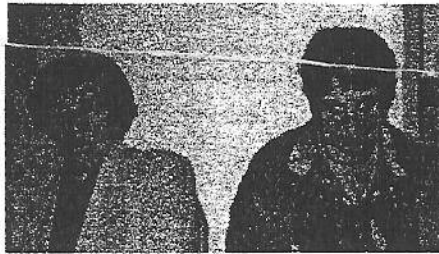
## From Freeman, (SD), To Krakau – Linking With Life and Death

by Dennis Epp M.D. (ki 6.123721-Vol. 6, p. 41)

On August 29th of last year we met Anna Linscheid and Christina Kintzi Ewy at the Piast Hotel in Krakau, Poland. This preceded our visit to the Galician ancestral village in present day Ukraine.

Anna Linscheid is a single woman of about 63 years of age who is a professor of physics at the University of Krakau. She was a very proficient English speaker who did most of the talking for the two women and who was younger of the two.

In 1939 when she was four years old the Russians invaded Poland from the East and she, along with her mother and grandfather and a train load of other Poles, were sent by cattle cars on a two week rail journey to Siberia, eventually being disembarked near the Russian-Mongolian border to work in a forced labor camp. Her father had been a Polish Reserve army officer and in resisting the Russians was captured and shot to death along with 20,000 other Polish prisoners of war in a mass execution. She lived in Siberia for four years and in 1943 she and her mother and other surviving Poles were moved west to Ukraine for three more years



Christina (Kintzi) Ewy & Anna Linscheid

of exile. Her grandfather died of starvation the first year as did 40% of the exiles. Most of the children and old people died during the first three months since they came with no food, supplies or other materials to survive in Siberia. Shortly after their arrival they were helped by Kazak people of the area who shared some of their meager food supplies with them and without this help few would have survived.

Christina Kintzi Ewy was older than Anna (she didn't give her age and we didn't ask). She had been the wife of Dr. Ewy who taught agricultural science at the University. They didn't seem to know why he wasn't sent to Siberia with the others and only could speculate why he was able to stay in Krakau during the war. The thing that struck me immediately was that Christina Kintzi Ewy was almost a spitting image of my Aunt Leontine Kintzi, who was my mother's sister. The facial resemblance and body stance were striking.

Anna Linscheid was a niece of Dr. Ewy. After the war she came back to Krakau and was able to get an education. When looking for a teaching position, she was sent to the office of Dr. Ewy who was chairman of personnel recruiting. She did not know him at all and was unaware of their relationship. He apparently knew she was his niece but didn't let on that he knew until the interview was over. She eventually got the job upon the recommendation of Dr. Ewy and they later became very close friends. Anna is now a practicing Catholic, having been raised that way during the years in Siberia

and Ukraine and this continued following their return to Poland after the war. Religious life and beliefs apparently were able to survive with very little leadership during the period of Communist domination while in exile.

Anna stated that one rule is always adhered to in her home. There must always be bread in the house. She said this a compulsive reaction she still has from the seven years of deprivation she experienced in exile in Siberia and Ukraine during and after the war. There is never a moment when she doesn't have bread present in the house. She continues to teach physics at the University and Christina is a retired pensioner who appeared to be carrying her years well in a Poland that is rapidly entering into a free market economy and shedding some of the austerity of the cold-war era.

These women were very reluctant to speak of the 1939 to 1946 period and a lot of questions were not answered for fear of bringing back remembrances that they didn't want to emotionally experience again one more time. They wanted to speak about the recent past, the present and the future only. We tried to respect this desire for privacy in regard to very horrifying past experiences that these two had experienced. They wanted to know about us and wanted us to take greetings to any of their relatives in North America. If any of you are relatives of them, I therefore bring greetings to you from them.

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**Glen Linscheid, Editor**

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To Readers: GG endeavors to present a few interesting slices of life, past and present, plus relevant statistical data. Elements which have formed, and continue to form our collective heritage bequeathed us by our Galician forbears must be recalled to each succeeding generation. To this effort, in part, is this newsletter dedicated. Many thanks to contributors of copy and funding. Your input is appreciated.

★ Editor's Note: Last 20 June '98, some 130 Galician descendants assembled at the Darfur (MN) Town Hall for a time of "Gathering and Sharing", a program based on the travels and experiences of presenters who recently trod 'Old Country' soil, and willingly shared their tales with a larger audience at this event. Dr. Dennis and Dorothy Epp (Freeman, SD) encountered amazing Galician descendant connections as told in this cover story with gracious reprint permission given by these travelers. Their address is: P.O. Box 698, Freeman, SD 57029.