

# No. 8 News From Poland 1936

Series IV

(For Bulletin Boards and Private Persons)

Issued 11 times a year by The National Council of the Polish YMCA. Paul Super, General Director. Konopnickiej 6, Warsaw. Poland

## Happy Days In The Polish YMCA Summer Camps for Boys

The Polish YMCA has just closed the most successful summer camp season in its 16 years of camping experience. A slight improvement in the economic conditions in the Polish cities led to the three camps being fuller than they have ever been, in fact full to overflowing, and as to the program, it was the best ever, including all the older popular camp features, several new ones, and a dash of spice brought by guests from Germany, both German boys and Polish boys living in Germany or Dantzig.

The three camps are so organized as to make camping possible for YMCA boys of every economic level. The Krakow YMCA promotes a camp in the Carpathian Mountains for the very poor boys who belong to the branch conducted by the Krakow Association for the poorest boys of that city; this camp was led this year by the YMCA veteran camper, Walter Sikorski, and was a happy success, 60 boys being in attendance for six weeks.

The Lodz YMCA conducted its beautiful 45 acre camp on the Pilica River in three periods; an opening period for working boys followed by two periods of a month each for school boys, the camp being full to its capacity of 100 boys at a time.

The National Camp at Mszana Dolna, "Camp Beskid", had an opening period of two weeks for 91 working boys followed by two periods of 4 weeks each for school boys, the periods enrolling respectively 123 boys and 16 leaders and 121 boys and 15 leaders. During the first period 11 "Hitler Jugend" and their leader spent a week in camp as part of their Polish tour. After the season for boys had closed a special camp was organized for 70 wrestlers from all parts of Poland who desired a special two weeks of open-air training before the beginning of their season.

A marble tablet was inserted in the border of the swimming pool naming the pool after Colonel Wladyslaw Kilinski, a friend in the Ministry of War who while director of the National Office of Physical Education, was instrumental in securing the \$2000 necessary for the building of this 25 meter open-air pool, a very popular feature of Camp Beskid.

Another interesting event during the second period for school boys was the visit of the distinguished Polish actor and literary man, Zygmunt Nowakowski, whose interest in the boys of the Polish YMCA has been an important feature in the development of YMCA work for boys in Krakow.

As part of their volunteer work, the working boys during their period replaced the council ring with a very much nicer one. Following the usual custom, the school boys took up a collection for the poorest family of the neighborhood and another collection to help build a cabin in the Estonian boys' camp as a present from the campers of the Polish YMCA.

## Miss Humphrey's New Book "Pilsudski"

Under the simple title „Pilsudski“ Miss Grace Humphrey has prepared a 300 page book on the late Marshal Pilsudski which in some ways is the most satisfactory book yet written about the Marshal. By picking out the outstanding events or phases of his life and giving them graphic treatment, Miss Humphrey has given one a remarkably clear, vivid and interesting picture of this man who played such a vital role in the 20th century history of Europe. Those who read the pages of this book will understand quite clearly why Poles regard him as the founder of their liberties and the builder of post-war Poland. The book is published by Scott and More. Those who want to understand eastern Europe will read it with profit and interest.

## General Rydz-Smigly in Paris Constructive Decisions

So much has been said in the world press about the visit of General Rydz-Smigly to Paris following the visit of General Gamelin to Warsaw that it is not necessary in the brief columns of this news letter to make extensive reference to these significant events, but among the important things that are happening in Europe today will have to be reckoned this exchange of visits of the heads of the Polish and of the French armies.

The object of General Rydz-Smigly's visit to Paris was to discuss certain technical and financial matters having to do with the alliance of these two countries and their cooperation in case of war. The direct, open and pleasant manners of General Rydz-Smigly, and his tact, coupled with his extraordinarily high authority, had much to do with the success of the Polish mission, his personality winning the hearts of the French, his strength and wisdom giving the discussions weight and validity. All the negotiations were conducted on the platform of the bi-lateral defensive policy of Poland and France.



Swimming Contests

## Lot For Gdynia YMCA

Negotiations extending over several months have now resulted in the approval of the Ministry of Treasury of the sale to the Polish YMCA by the Ministry of Interior of a piece of land in the heart of Gdynia, Poland's seaport city, upon which to erect a YMCA building for which funds will now be raised. The projected plant should cost approximately \$75,000. The lot measures about 120 ft. by 180 ft.

## Miscellany

My popular little pamphlet "Elements of Polish Culture as Seen by a Resident Foreigner" is now to be printed by the Baltic Institute

in its third edition. The success of this encouraged me to write a rather longer booklet, "Events and Personalities in Polish History that Interest Foreigners", which the Baltic Institute is now printing, with a number of very well chosen illustrations, an artist and a professor of history cooperating in the selection. In 45 brief chapters of about 500 words each this latter booklet gives one a bird's eye view of the who and what of Poland since its entry into recorded history in the 10th century.

We feel rather gratified by the fact that 7 high-grade young men are entering the work of the Polish YMCA this fall, six of them with higher education, the seventh entering Krakow University to be educated as a physical director.

## Wilno Wants A YMCA

In the middle of the summer 28 young men in Wilno sent a letter to the national headquarters of the Polish YMCA asking for the organization of a YMCA in their city. Two representatives of the National Council visited Wilno soon after receiving this letter and decided that by all means the request of these young men should be complied with. A committee of organization was immediately formed and at this writing over 100 members have added their names to the roll. Wilno is a city of 210,000 population, located in the north-east part of Poland. It is a beautiful city, dear to all Poles because of its intrinsic beauty and the part it has played in Polish history, and now doubly important in the estimation of Poles because there now lies buried the heart of Poland's great leader Marshal Pilsudski.



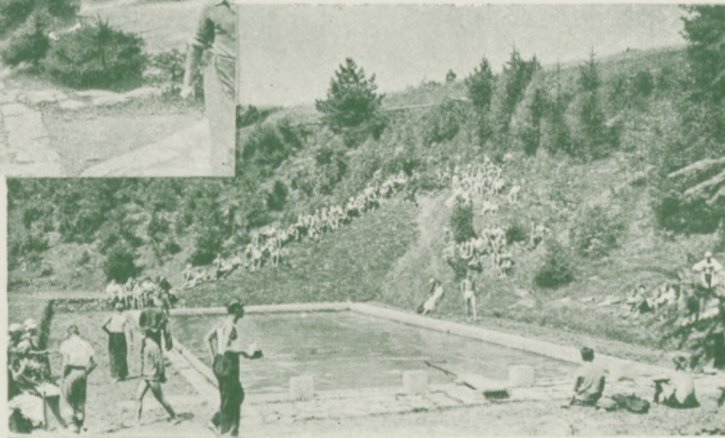
Guest House "Aloha" and The Lodge



Three of the 15 Cabins and the Council Ring



View of one side of the Camp



The Kilinski Swimming Pool, 25 meters long

