Tourism and recreation in the county of Kremenets as presented in “Życie Krzemienieckie” [Life of Kremenets] journal (1932-1939)

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Summary

The aim of this paper is to present tourism and recreation in the county of Kremenets on the pages of “Życie Krzemienieckie” [Life of Kremenets] journal. “Życie Krzemienieckie” was issued in Kremenets in the years 1932-1939 and was published monthly. In some periods, “Życie Krzemienieckie” came out as a biweekly. It was a journal which was to provide information on social, cultural, and economic life, as well as tourist and recreational activity, mostly of the Kremenets county community. As far as preparations for drawing up the study are concerned, the following procedures were used: analysis of historical sources, synthesis, induction, deduction and the comparative method.

The years 1932-1939 saw the development of tourism and recreation in the county of Kremenets. It was noticeable in the progression of infrastructure for tourism and recreation, e.g. in Kremenets, the Community and Tourism House was built. Some facilities were established for active tourism in the county of Kremenets. In addition to infrastructure, an important element in tourism activity was personnel training. Activity in the field of tourism and recreation was pursued by social organisations including the following: Polish Sightseeing Association (branch in Kremenets), the County Committee for Physical Education and Military Training in Kremenets, the County Committee of Rural Youth in Kremenets, the Volhynian District Skiing Association, Union of Social Organisations and Association of Women’s Civic Work. In the field of tourism, an important role was played by Kremenets Secondary School. In Kremenets, a department of the “Orbis” Travel Agency operated. In the county of Kremenets, mainly sightseeing, school as well as active tourism was practised, and excursion traffic in its broad sense was notable.

Keywords: “Życie Krzemienieckie” journal, tourism, recreation, years 1932-1939.

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to present tourism and recreation in the county of Kremenets on the pages of “Życie Krzemienieckie” [Life of Kremenets] journal. “Życie Krzemienieckie” journal was issued in Kremenets in the years 1932-1939 and was published monthly. During some periods, it came out as a biweekly. It was a journal which was to provide information on social, cultural, and economic life, as well as tourist and recreational activity, mostly of the Kremenets county community. The county of Kremenets was located in the Volhynian province. Its area was 2,700 km² and the population was 243,000 (according to the census from 1931)³. The county was mainly (80.7%) inhabited by the Ukrainian population (196,200). The second nationality in terms of the population number was Poles (10.6%; 25,800 inhabitants). The remaining part comprised the Jewish population and other small nationality groups. As far as the present state of research is concerned, there are no publications devoted to tourist and recreational activity in the county of Kremenets during the interwar period. The most important informative work regards the development of tourism in the Volhynian province (Drozdek-Małolepsza, Małolepszy, Bakota, 2017). However, this study does not include “Życie Krzemienieckie” journal as a source.

Methods and research problems

As far as preparation for conducting the study are concerned, the following procedures have been used: analysis of historical sources, synthesis, induction, deduction and the comparative method. The following research questions have been put forward:

1. Did the period of the 1930s experience the development of tourism and recreation in the county of Kremenets?
2. What factors influenced tourist and recreational activities in the county of Kremenets?
3. What institutions, organisations and societies dealt with tourist and recreational activities in the county of Kremenets?

³ https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Powiat_krzemieniecki [accessed on 31 May, 2019]
Results and discussion

On the initiative of the Provincial Tourism Centre in Lutsk in 1933, tourist information offices were organised at the County Department in Kremeneț and in commune seats². The purpose of the centres was to “facilitate visitors to orientate themselves (on the territory), learn about important matters of interest to visitors, make them stay in the area owing to information regarding lodgings, eating houses and means of transport”³. Tourist information offices were to be built throughout Volyn.

On the territory of the Volhynian province, branches of the “Orbis” Travel Agency conducted their activity. One of such branches was established in Kremeneț in 1935⁴. An important role in the development of tourism in Kremeneț was played by the Union of Social Organisations (USO). USO supported investments in the construction of tourist infrastructure. One of the most developments was beginning construction of the Community and Tourism House in Kremeneț in 1933⁵. The building was designed by architect Gürtler, was designed by and Tourism House in Kremeneț 52,000 złoty. The selected construction site was a former Tivoli garden opposite the sports field of the County Committee for Physical Education and Military Training (CCPEMT). The amount of 19,207.75 złoty was allocated to the construction of the Community and Tourism House from the funds of the USO⁶. On the initiative of the organisations comprising the USO, earthworks were performed through community action, the cost of which was estimated at the sum of 1500 złoty. In addition, members of the USO contributed 185.50 złoty in cash. The investment was completed in November 1934. On 25 November, 1934 the Community and Tourism House was consecrated and opened at the ceremony attended by, among others, the head of the Volhynian province Henryk Józewski with his wife, the starost of Dubno - Bonkowicz-Sittauer and the starost of Rivne - Kański⁷. The Community and Tourism House had a large room on the ground floor (day room), a meeting room, offices of the USO the Association of Women’s Civic Work (AWCW), a location for a coffee shop, club room and reading room; and on the first floor: 4 shared rooms, 4 guest rooms, a darkroom, dressing room, storeroom for skis; in the cellar there were showers, changing rooms and a caretaker’s flat⁸.

Sports organisations planned ski trips through, among others, the use of tourist and ski hostels located in the Community and Tourism House. During the 1934/1935 season, the following ski trips were scheduled: the CCPEMT in Kremeneț was to organise a trip to Zołoby; the USO was to organise a trip to Kulików, on 19-20 February, 1935; the Police Sports Club (PSC) was to organise a trip to Baszkowice, Uhorsk and Stozek, on 23-24 February, 1935⁹.

In addition, on the initiative of USO, refurbishment works of a room in the castle ruins on the “Mountain of Queen Bona” in Kremeneț were performed. The cost of the works amounted to 604.83 złoty. Apart from the USO, the latter project was implemented with the participation of other organisations – the Air and Anti-Gas Defence League (AADL) and the Association of Fire Brigades.

On 7 July, 1935, a General Convention of USO Delegates was held in Kremeneț¹⁰. The delegates made a decision to undertake work primarily focused on the promotion of tourism in the 1935/1936 reporting year: “to improve and develop the Community and Tourism House; strengthen the relationship with “Orbis”, PSA [Polish Sightseeing Association] and other tourist organisations on the territory of Poland; to distribute own and external publications connected with the promotion of Kremeneț and to educate the society about its attractions; to disseminate tourism promotion through any other ways, as provided for in the statutes of the USO; to popularise tourism among the society as broadly as possible; to pay close attention by the Sports and Tourist Section to issues related to tourism and tourists’ needs; to undertake an effective initiative towards organising appropriate transport on the territory of the county, especially on tourist trails”¹¹. The actions of USO, next to cultural, educational and sports issues, included tourist-related matters. Operating as part of the Tourist and Sports Section, the Tourist Committee dealt with training professional Kremeneț guides to meet the growing demand in this area, “which school youth (of the Secondary School in Kremeneț – authors’ note) cannot meet”¹². During the meeting of the Tourist Committee on 29 March, 1936, the regulations of the committee were adopted¹³. The management board of the Tourist Committee was composed of: Mackiewicz, Młodzianka and Rzeppa. The committee members adopted a resolution on establishing contacts with the League for Support of Tourism, a division of the Polish Sightseeing Association (PSA) in Ternopil and Warsaw; further cooperation with the “Orbis” Travel Agency. Moreover, during the course of work, the committee intended to assess the condition of hostels in the county of Kremeneț; arrange new hostels on Sokola Góra Mountain (where the Volhynian Gliding School of AADL was located) and in Bereze; organize a team of professional guides among the local youth; organize and conduct a guiding course under F. Mączka’s direc-

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² “Życie Krzemienieckie”, 1933, No. 8, p. 349.
³ Ibidem, transl. by Aleksandra Hetmańczyk.
⁴ “Życie Krzemienieckie”, 1935, No. 12, p. 528. Its seat was in Kremeneț on 81 Szeroka Str.
⁵ “Życie Krzemienieckie”, 1934, No. 3, pp. 75-77.
⁶ Ibidem, p. 77.
⁸ Ibidem, p. 378.
¹² Ibidem, p. 373.
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The organisation of sightseeing trips complemented physical activity of youth from the Volhynian Association of Rural Youth (VARY). The trips were organised for students of agricultural schools. The trips were aimed not only at sightseeing elements, but also those related to economy and education. On 12 to 19 April, 1935, the students of the Agricultural School in Kremenets, where they became acquainted with the history of the town, including the history of this educational establishment. One of the trip participants prepared some material which was a report from the trip, published in “Polska Zbrojna” [Armed Poland] journal, where he wrote the following: “I spent a whole extraordinarily nice day in Krements, and on our way back, some plans for new long-distance trips were discussed with enthusiasm, with the question of costs and sacrifices for this purpose appearing to be unimportant. (...) This is because it is undoubtedly true that in order to love one’s homeland sincerely and deeply, one has to become acquainted with it first!”

Kremenets was a destination of school trips. The secondary school in Kremenets offered accommodation in its own trip hostel. The trip participants were showed around by the guides of the Dr. W. Besser Sightseeing Club of the Youth from Kremenets secondary school. Kremenets was visited by school groups from the Volhynian province as well as from across Poland. In May 1932, Kremenets was visited by school groups from the following educational institutions: the King John III Sobieski Lower Secondary School in Złoczów, Teacher Training School in Lutsk, Public School in Matwiejowice, Forestry Commission, 7-form Public School in Stary Oleksiniec, 7-form Female Public School in Dubno and Public School in Wiśniowiec. In the next month – June, excursion traffic (school tourism) was practised to an even greater extent. Kremenets was visited by 23 groups and 630 people. Kremenets secondary school hostel was occupied by 365 people. Among the trips, as many as 15 were organised by public schools, mainly from the Volhynian province; 6 trips from secondary schools (from Brody, Kovel, Ostroh, Trok, Warsaw and Zgierz; trips for public schools teachers from the commune of Werba and the Rural Youth Club (RJC) from Szułków (Rivne country). The increase in the number of trips was due to, among others, concessionary fares of travel by train (75%) for group school trips.

In the article on the excursion traffic published in the June edition of “Życie Krzemienieckie” journal from

14 Ibidem.
15 “Życie Krzemienieckie”, 1933, No. 11, p. 436.
18 “Życie Krzemienieckie”, 1935, No. 6, p. 304.
1932, some conclusions were made as for the increase in the number of children, youth and teachers, in terms of tourist trips to Kremenets, including the extension of hostel premises to accommodate up to 60 - 80 visitors; equipping the hostel with beds, mattresses and some bedding; marking out hiking trails in the area; issuing a tourist plan of Kremenets and the surrounding area in 1:15000 scale; training greater number of people, guides to Kremenets, from among school youth; establishment, at the Kremenets Branch of the Sightseeing Association, of the Tourist Committee which would actively address the tourist issues of Kremenets and its vicinity25. It should be emphasized that these demands were plausible, although not all of them could be implemented in the short period of time. It is worth noting that during the summer holiday season, there were considerably more trips visiting Kremenets from outside the Volhynian province. This also applies to camps for children and youth - both in- and out-of-school youth. In the same year - 1932, during the summer period, there were trips and camps in Kremenets, such as a scouting camp of the Lublin Regiment from Kuleszyn (31 people), a scouting pack from Brześć upon the Bug (14), graduates of a lower secondary school and seminary from Warsaw (3), a camp of scout leaders of the Volhynian Regiment from Malinów (8), a sightseeing section in Drohobycz (32), starting from the 1929/1930 reporting year, organised summer camps annually26. In July and August 1932, a summer camp was to be organised for 140 children of poor families26. Recreation for children was to be organised on the premises of the National School of Various Crafts in Białokrynica. The organisation of summer camps was aided by the Provincial and County Committees for Unemployment, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the community of Kremenets26.

The County Association of AWCW in Kremenets included a group of 149 children (74 girls and 75 boys) participating in Białokrynica summer camps in 193425. The cost of organising the summer camp amounted to 5089.67 zloty. In the same year (1934), the Association organised summer holiday play schemes for the first time in the building of the Public School (in Dubieniska street)35. The holiday play scheme included the participation of 158 children35. In the subsequent year (1935), the County Association of AWCW in Kremenets included about 400 children in the summer camp and holiday play scheme action35. The total cost of both undertakings amounted to, in the case of summer camps – 5374.08 zloty, whereas as regards the holiday play scheme 4097.67 zloty36.

Kremenets was still an attractive place for excursions. In the 1st half of 1933, the following groups came on trips to Kremenets: the T.Kościuszko Male Scouting Pack from Włoche near Warsaw (26 people), the Female Camp of the Settlers Association in Narutowicz (24), 6th Scouting Camp from Lutsk (39), the Agricultural School from Wiśniowiec (24), Public Lower Secondary School in Ostroh (63), Academy of Fine Arts from Warsaw (3), the T.Zan State Teacher Training School from Vilnus (4), female scouts from Lviv (20), School Troops of Women’s Military Training (WMT), Female Seminary of Immaculatine Sisters from Lviv (20), School Troops of Women’s Military Training School from Vilnus (4), female scouts from the Jagiello Public Lower Secondary School in Drohobyćz (27), the 21st Female Scouting Pack in Warsaw (33), the 49th Jadwiga Tejzierska Warsaw Scouting Pack in Warsaw (14), PSA in Warsaw (water section) – 6, School Inspectorate in Chodzież (39), the 14th Zólkiewski Poznań Scouting Pack in Poznań (8) and the 26th Emilia Szczaniecka Scouting Pack in Warsaw (18)26. It was scout that were many in number among the visitors to Kremenets.

Summer camps and play schemes for children were conducted by AWCW. The Annual General Meeting of the County Association of AWCW in Kremenets was held on 30 April, 1935 and 10 May, 1935. The following sat on the board: Halina Czarnocka (chairwoman), Janina Nowicka and Halina Krajewska (vice-chairwomen), Stanisława Ośkowa (secretary), Zofia Pawska (treasurer)27. Maria Łodzińska was appointed the head of the Department for Care of Mothers and Children. This department dealt with the organisation of summer camps and play schemes. The position of chairwoman of the Provincial Association of AWCW in Luck was taken by Julia Józewska. As of 19 June 1936, the District Association of AWCW in Kremenets had 170 female members, the department in Kremenets comprising 114 female members26.

The District Association of AWCW in Kremenets (with its branches in Katerburg, Kremenets, Pochayiv, Shumsk), from starting the 1929/1930 reporting year, organised summer camps annually26. In July and August 1932, a summer camp was to be organised for 140 children of poor families26. Recreation for children was to be organised on the premises of the National School of Various Crafts in Białokrynica. The organisation of summer camps was aided by the Provincial and County Committees for Unemployment, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the community of Kremenets26.

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25 "Życie Kremenietieleckie", 1932, No. 6, p. 32.
26 "Życie Kremenietieleckie", 1932, No. 8-9, p. 23.
27 "Życie Kremenietieleckie", 1933, No. 7, p. 308.
29 “Życie Kremenietieleckie”, 1935, No. 5, p. 262.
30 “Życie Kremenietieleckie”, 1932, No. 6, p. 24.
31 In 1931, he community of Kremenets supported the children of their camps with the sum of 228 zloty, and in 1930, with the sum of 529 zloty.
32 “Życie Kremenietieleckie”, 1935, No. 5, p. 261. The cost of the child’s daily board was 0.65 zloty and daily bed and board, 0.98 zloty.
34 The cost of a child’s daily board was 0.36 zloty and daily bed and board, 0.58 zloty. The total cost of the summer camp was 2,325 zloty.
In 1937, the County Association of AWCW in Kremenets had 3 branches (Kremenets, Pochayiv and Shumsk) and 162 female members (in Kremenets, the branch had 107 female members). The organisation continued to plan summer camps which covered 75 girls and 75 boys (in 1936). In order for the summer camps to take place, school facilities were made available by the School of Construction Crafts in Bialokrynica. On the initiative of the County Association of AWCW, in 1936, a holiday play scheme was implemented for a group of 100 children. The play scheme took part in Public School No. 1 in Kremenets. On the initiative of the County Association of AWCW in Kremenets, in cooperation with the representatives of the County Local Government, Municipal Board, the District Commandant for Physical Education and Military Training, the Jordan’s Garden was created in the reporting year (1936/1937). On the initiative of the organization, a female manager of Jordan’s Garden was trained during 2 special courses organised by the State Office of Physical Education and Military Training (SOPEMT). In terms of infrastructure, supplies and equipment were ordered from the Agricultural School in Wiśniowiec.

Further action of holiday play schemes and summer camps was carried out by the County Association of AWCW in Kremenets, in the period of July and August 1937. To provide children with recreation, the building of an orphanage in Dubienieńska street was used. The action of holiday play schemes (4-week duration) covered 33 girls and 51 boys; with 69 boys and 75 girls participating in the summer camps. Activities for the children were organised on a daily basis in the form of physical games and activities, gymnastics, treatments, talks and educational activities. The cost of holiday play schemes and summer camps amounted to 6576.56 złoty. Summarising this undertaking, the editors of “Życie Krzemienieckie” wrote: “Children were recruited mostly from the poorest environments - of labourers or the unemployed, there were also total orphans. For all of them, spending a month in these conditions so different from their all-year life, which undoubtedly meant supporting and developing their bodily health, but also getting away from worries at home, providing one month of a truly family childhood.” In order to finance the action of holiday play schemes and summer camps, the AWCW organised street collections. During a collection in 1938, 108.92 złoty was raised.

There were sports and recreation classes for the elderly. On 1-14 February, a sports and recreation camp was to be held in Kremenets for 40 labourers from Janowa Dolina, Klesna, Sarn, Rivne, Lutsk and Dubno. The camp was organised by the Sports and Tourist Sections of USO, and financed with the support of the Social Security Institution in Lutsk. The aim of the camp was to enable participants to spend their holiday with attention paid to sport, cultural and educational work. The sports programme included mainly skiing and tobogganing, and as far as cultural and educational work were concerned, day room activities such as choirs, talks, stage adaptations, artistic lectures and evenings were held.

Conclusion

“Życie Krzemienieckie” journal was issued in Kremenets in the years 1932-1939. It provided information on various areas of economic, social and cultural life, as well as tourist and recreational activity in the county of Kremenets. The years 1932-1939 saw the development of tourism and recreation in the county of Kremenets. It was noticeable in the progress of infrastructure for tourism and recreation, e.g. in Kremenets, the Community and Tourism House was built. Some facilities were established for active tourism in the county of Kremenets. In addition to infrastructure, an important element in tourism activity was personnel training. The growth of tourism and recreation was supported by social associations and organisations, including: the Polish Sightseeing Association (branch in Kremenets), the County Committee for Physical Education and Military Training in Kremenets, the County Committee of Rural Youth in Kremenets, the Volhynian District Skiing Association, Union of Social Organisations and Association of Women’s Civic Work. In the field of tourism, an important role was played by Kremenets Secondary School. In Kremenets, a department of the “Orbis” Travel Agency operated. In the county of Kremenets, mainly sightseeing, school as well as active tourism were practised, and excursion traffic in its broad sense was notable.

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38 Ibidem, p. 216.
40 Expenditure on levelling the ground and equipment amounted to 800.80 złoty. Financial aid for launching the Jordan’s Garden was provided by the following, among others: SOPEMT, Executive Board of AWCW and the County Department in Kremenets.
43 Ibidem, transl. by Aleksandra Hetmańczyk.
44 “Życie Krzemienieckie”, 1938 No. 12, p. 290.
45 “Życie Krzemienieckie”, 1938 No. 2, pp. 49-50.
46 Ibidem.
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