ST. ZJEDNOCZONE St. Zjedn.

REJESTR DOTYCZY:

GIERAT Ewa, z d. Karpinska

s/c Zygmunta wdowa po Stanislawie /zm. 1977/ i Grażyny

z d. Jeżewskich

02.01.1922 w Warszawa

kraj: Polska

-+ 10.05.2014 w Bethlehem, Connecticut

kraj: USA

pochowany:

nr grobu:

Nr rejestracyjny /

Nota zamieszczona:
w tomie
czesci

Indeks

Działaczka Społ.

Harcerka

Copyright: 1970
B.O. Jeżewski

Źródła i bibliografia c.d.

znak rozpoznawczy

Uwagi:

In memoria Biuletyn Instytutu Józefa Piłsudskiego w Ameryce, Rok LXIX (69) lipiec 2013 – lipiec 2014

» Ewa Gierat (1922 - 2014)



Ewa Karpińska-Gierat zmarła 10 maja 2014 r. w Bethlehem. Urodziła się 2 stycznia 1922 r. w Warszawie, którą opuściła w 1940 roku. W 1944 r. ukończyła University of Glasgow w Szkocji, a w 1967 r. School of Social Work at Columbia University w Nowym Jorku.

Po przyjeździe w 1951 r. wraz z mężem Stanisławem Gieratem do Nowego Jorku, natychmiast włączyła się w organizację harcerstwa w USA, jako delegatka Głównej Kwatery Harcerek z Londynu. Rok później została wybrana Komendantką Chorągwi Harcerek Stany Zjednoczone. Jej dom w Bethlehem, CT stał się ośrodkiem polskiej działalności. Przez kilkadziesiąt lat był miejscem spotkań polskich weteranów, przyjaciół, organizacji wspierających *Solidarność* i oczywiście harcerzy, dla których Ewa Gierat poświęciła prawie całe swoje życie. Była znana Polakom rozsianym na wszystkich kontynentach. Brała czynny udział w pracach organizacji takich jak: Stowarzyszenie Polskich Kombatantów i Kongresu Polonii Amerykanskiej w Connecticut. Wydawała harcerski kwartalnik *Znicz* oraz *Wiadomości Harcerskie*. Jest także autorką książek: *Powojenna historia harcerstwa polskiego w Stanach Zjednoczonych* oraz *Korzenie i owoce*.

Na emeryturze zajmowała się usprawnieniem komunikacji pomiędzy harcerzami oraz zachowaniem historii i archiwów ruchu harcerskiego. W 2000 otrzymała Złoty Krzyż Zasługi za zasługi dla ZHP.

Ewa Gierat była długoletnim członkiem Instytutu Piłsudskiego w Ameryce. Przekazała do Instytutu i do Stowarzyszenia Polskich Kombatantów cenne archiwum swojego męża Stanisława Gierata.

Nota:



Przypisy:

Źródła i bibliografia:

znak rozpoznawczy

* Fotografia

420

* The Sunday Republican Magazine, Waterbury Connecticut, December 2, 1979, Section 6"

* Biuletyn Instytutu Józefa Piłsudskiego w Ameryce, Rok LXIX (69), Lipiec 2013 - Lipiec 2014

Gierat, Ewa
Papers, 1943-1995

DESCRIPTION 36 boxes (30.5 linear ft.)

Ewa Gierat, b. Karpinska - author, editor, social worker, active in Polish scouting, Polish American Congress, North American Study Center for Polish Affairs, Polonia of the Free World. Author of short stories, essays, a history of Polish scouting in the US. Born in Poland in 1922, MA from University of Glasgow in 1944, came to US in 1951, Columbia University School of Social Work, 1967.

Stanislaw Gierat (1902-1977) - young peasants' movement activist in the pre-WWII Poland, advisor to Gen. W. Anders during WWII, founder and leader of Polish Veterans in Exile (SPK), active in Polish American politics.

CONTENT Personal papers of Ewa Gierat; some of Stanislaw Gierat's papers.
Collection of letters Ewa Gierat exchanged with over 300 people, mostly after-WWII Polish immigrants. Some letters are included in scrapbooks called Kulig (1955-66) and Ksiegi Domkowe (1966-95). Letters by Polish writers, editors, scholars (among Others Danuta Mostwin, Melchior Wankowicz, Anna Morawska, Jerzy Giedroyc, Jacek Wozniakowski, J¢zef Wittlin, Florian Smieja). Also extensive family correspondence: Zygmunt Karpinski in Poland, Grazyna Dygat and sister Wanda Mycielska in Brazil and Great Britain. Diaries, notes, manuscripts and bibliography of Ewa Gierat's writings. Documents, correspondence, newsclippings concerning Polish scouting in exile. Materials on Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Regina Laudis benedictine abbey and the town of Bethlehem, Conn. Stanislaw Gierat's papers include correspondence with his friend Jan Kazimierski in London (1943-1977). Also documents and correspondence pertaining to Polish Veterans in Exile (SPK), North American Study Center for Polish Affairs (its origins), Polish American Congress, Polonia of the Free World, London Polish political parties. Several documents from 1940s regarding political opinions of Gen. Wladyslaw Anders, fundraising for KOR, position papers, 88 pamphlets. Gierats' legal documents and photographs

LANGUAGE Chiefly in Polish, some English and French
FINDING AIDS Inventory, folder level control. Indexes to correspondence available upon request.

RESTRICTIONS Some family correspondence is restricted until after Mrs. Gierat's death

ACCESSION NO. CPAA 86-10

CPAA Home

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Preserving tradition

THE SUNDAY REPUBLICAN
Magazine
Waterbury, Connecticut
December 2, 1979
Section 6

On the inside:

Family album 2
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Hy Gardner 8
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Memory teaser 10
Verse 10



A TRANSITION IN TRANSIT was illustrated by this picture taken nearly 50 years ago in Woodbury. The crew of men at left tore up trolley tracks while former trolley riders traveled by bus or in their own autos.

Yesterday's headlines

From the files of The Republican
From Dec. 2 through 8

10 years ago

Colonial Bank and Trust Co., announced that it had purchased the recently completed six-story commercial building at 1 Jefferson Square for about $1,300,000.

Democrats collected and spent $22,463 to win the city election according to a report filed with the town clerk by John Cavanaugh, campaign treasurer.

Michael Infante, Monroe, offered to sell to the borough of Naugatuck a 44-acre tract on Pond Hill for $5,000 an acre. He offered to sell at $4,500 an acre if the borough would purchase his entire 80-acre holding. The borough was considering the land as a sanitary landfill site.

State efforts to settle a contract dispute between the Board of Education and the Waterbury Teachers' Association, ended in failure and both sides were ordered to select arbitrators for further negotiations.

20 years ago

Capt. James R. Magner, acting deputy superintendent of police, was promoted to deputy superintendent by the police board. He succeeded Fred S. Hickey who retired.

Plymouth voters, at a special town meeting, established a special activities fund to be raised by voluntary contributions and donated to the Board of Education to augment its meager budget. The Board of Education announced that it wouldn't accept any money raised in that manner.

John C. (Chick) Kelley, director of The American sports pages for 30 years, announced his retirement. He was succeeded by William P. (Hank) O'Donnell, sports editor of The American.

Woodbury's Board of Selectmen appointed a seven-member contingent to serve on the joint committee on flood control and soil conservation on the Pomperaug River watershed.

30 years ago

At least two were injured in numerous accidents that were caused by slippery driving conditions caused by the first major snowfall of the season.

William Fernendez, Jr., vice-president of the Greater Naugatuck CIO council, was named field representative of CIO District 2. He replaced P.J. Gallucci.

An evaluation conducted by the State Department of Education branded Woodbury's high school building as the worst in the state and recommended that it be demolished.

Christmas Seal returns amounting to $7,883 were received by the Waterbury Tuberculosis League. About $9,000 more remained to be collected if the league goal was to be reached.

50 years ago

The Waterbury Charter Commission proposed that the town clerk be paid a flat $5,000 annual salary rather than allowing the clerk to take fees in lieu of an established salary. It was estimated that fees might amount to about $18,000 a year.

Two bootleggers, found guilty of operating an illegal still on Commercial Street, were fined $600 each and sentenced to a month in jail.

A barrel of fuel oil exploded injuring three firemen who were battling a blaze in the cellar of a house at 19 Bishop Street.

New England Music Co., 77 Grand Street, advertised an Aeolian player piano in perfect condition for $179, including free music rolls, piano bench and delivery.

COVER: Mrs. Ewa Gierat, Flanders Road, Bethlehem, with Polish Christmas cards printed in Waterbury. Profits from the sale of the cards is used to help finance activities of the Polish Girl Scouts and to provide scholarships. — Tom Kabelka photo

From Poland to Bethlehem

Girl Scouting and traditions of Christmas

By SANDO BOLOGNA
Photos by Tom Kabelka

DISTINCTIVE Christmas cards are being produced by Polish Girl Scouts and mailed all over the world from Bethlehem — Connecticut's Christmas Town.

Unique feature of the cards is the oblation wafer on a blade of grass, an old Polish custom being promoted in America by Mrs. Ewa Gierat from "Domek," her polish-styled home on Flanders Road, Bethlehem. She explains that, as part of the Christmas commemoration, the Polish family breaks the wafer and members exchange good wishes when the first star appears in the sky on Dec. 24. The wafer, symbolic of Christmas love, is mailed to absent family members and to friends. Hay is placed on the table in memory of the Bethlehem manger.



Mrs. Gierat, a dedicated leader in World Polonia and in Polish Scouting for many years, originated the production of a wafer-on-hay Christmas card in 1973 with proceeds of the sales for the Polish Scout Educational Fund. In five years, the fund has earned $8,000. Scholarships of $500 or $1,000 have been awarded to college students — Polish Scouts from Hartford, New Britain, New York, and California.

The cards are published in Henry Kawecki's Print Shop on East Farm Street, Waterbury. This season's card features a photograph of smiling Pope John Paul II and a prayer for his work of lifting humanity toward God. Designs in previous cards, still available, consisted of typical Polish motifs and greetings in several languages, including Lithuanian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Czech and others.

This year, a 1980 Calendar of Young World Polonia is also being published by the Polish Scout Educational Fund. It contains data of Christian, Jewish, and Moslem holidays, historical dates, addresses of Polish clubs, bookstores, publishers, organizations throughout the world. A calendar and three cards sell for $5; two dozen assorted cards, $10.

Mrs. Gierat, an attractive woman with thick graying hair, speaks softly and earnestly of her devotion to World Polonia and to Scouting, an activity that is deeply appreciated by Poles, especially those who



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Mrs. Gierat, an attractive woman with thick graying hair, speaks softly and earnestly of her devotion to World Polonia and to Scouting, an activity that is deeply appreciated by Poles, especially those who were displaced during World War II.

She cherishes fond memories of being a Girl Scout in her native Warsaw and of continuing in Scout activities when her family moved to France, then to England and Scotland, and eventually to the United States.

Polish Scouting has meant much to her. She served as chief of Polish Girl Scouting in Great Britain and in the United States.

Shortly after she and her husband, Stanislaw, arrived in the

MRS. EWA GIERAT inserts for mailing in her Bethlehem home the 1980 Calendar of Young World Polonia with Christian, Jewish and Moslem data. Proceeds from calendar sales are for the Polish Scout Educational Fund.

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EXAMPLES of Christmas cards with the oblation wafer and wisp of hay, below. A version of the Nativity scene is shown on the card above.

United States in 1951, Mrs. Gierat met, in Bantam, her former Scout troop leader in Warsaw, Mrs. Irene Malewicz of Avalon Farms. With Mrs. Malewicz's four daughters and three other girls, a small campsite was set up in Bantam.

"This was the beginning of the Atlantic District of the Polish Boy and Girl Scout Association for New England, New York and New Jersey," says Mrs. Gierat.

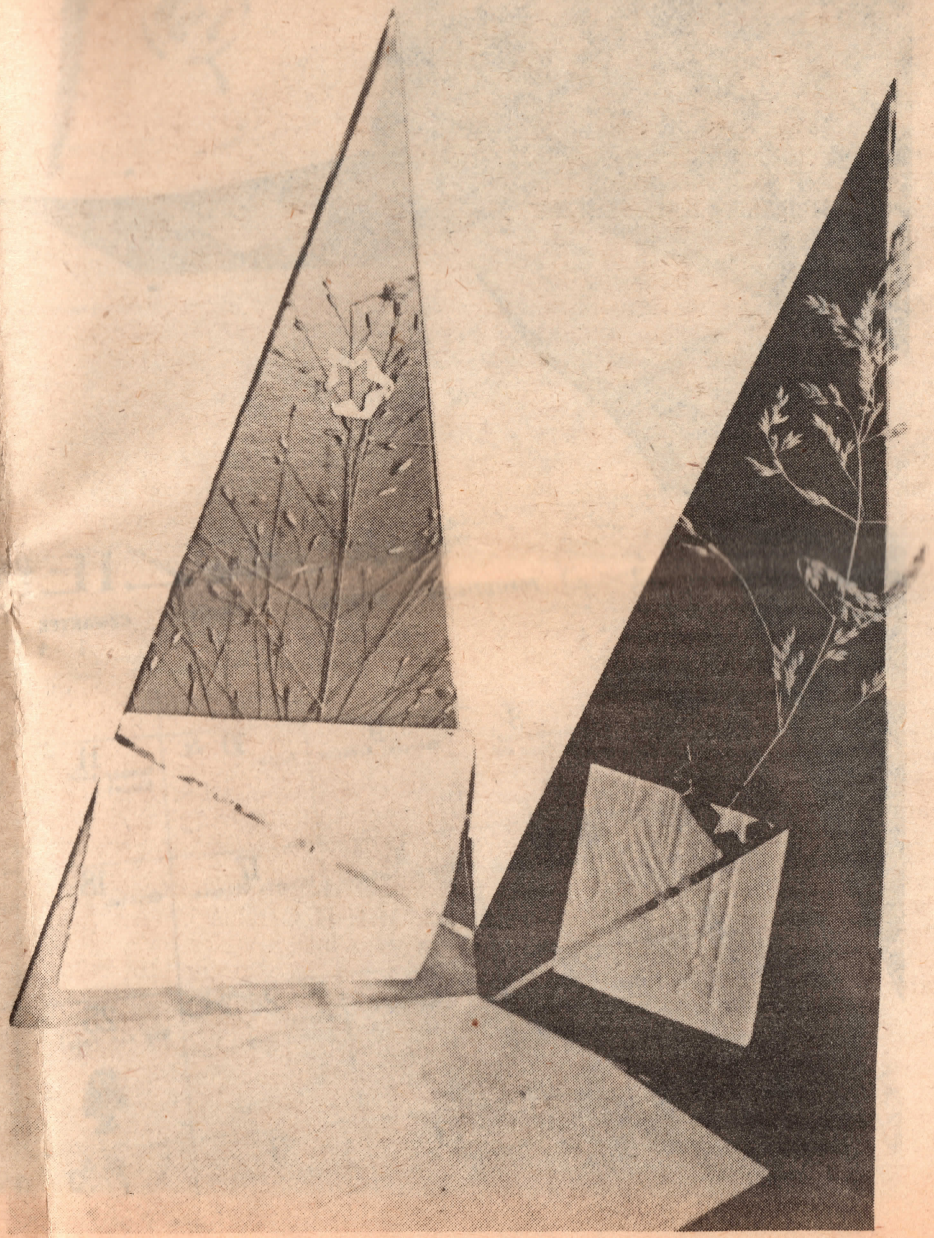
She notes that Polish Scouting is strongest in Chicago, and Detroit. There are units in Los Angeles, and San Francisco. In Poland, the Scout



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Wherever Poles went after their nation's occupation Scout leaders worked to keep Scouting alive

movement with pre-war uniform and badge are popular. However, Scouting in Poland is not within the international Scout organization because Polish Scouts do not pledge themselves to God. They are directed by the Communist Party.

Says Mrs. Gierat: "We have personal but not organizational ties with them." Polish Scouts served in the underground during the Poles' titanic struggles against the Nazis and the Russians. Wherever the Poles went from their land, Scouting was kept alive by Scout leaders in their midst.

Mrs. Gierat remembers she was 10 years old when she joined the Girl Scouts. She graduated from high school in May, 1939, and on the following Sept. 1, Poland was invaded by the Nazis who devastated most of Warsaw. The Soviet invasion came on Sept. 17.

In January, 1940, Ewa fled to Paris where her father, a Bank of Poland executive, was associated with the Polish government-in-exile. Later, the family transferred to London where the Polish government was reestablished.

"I knew some English that I had studied in high school and I knew Latin," she recalls. She studied French at home.

"I kept in touch with Girl Scout members as they emigrated to Great Britain," she went on. Polish Scout leaders set up Boy and Girl Scout troops wherever they settled — France, Canada, United States, Australia, and Argentina.

While in Great Britain, she enrolled in the University of Glasgow because of the friendship of a Scottish Girl Scout she had met during



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While in Great Britain, she enrolled in the University of Glasgow because of the friendship of a Scottish Girl Scout she had met during an international Girl Scout camp in Scotland in 1937 for the coronation of George VI. Ewa was one of four Polish Girl Scouts who attended the jubilee camp in Scotland that year.

In 1958, Stanislaw and Ewa Gierat, then living in New York, "discovered" the Regina Laudis Benedictine Abbey in Bethlehem, a Hebrew word that means house of bread. "We fell in love with Bethlehem and we bought land in 1962 and built Domek in 1968, a log home modeled after those built in southern Poland," she said.

Maj. Stanislaw Gierat, a World War II veteran, had been involved with the Polish-American Congress and World Polonia. He died on Memorial Day, 1977. Mrs. Gierat has been a social worker with the Waterbury Catholic Family Services since moving to Bethlehem in 1968. She worked for McGraw Hill Publishers in New York for 14 years.

Mrs. Gierat corresponds with leaders in World Polonia, some of whom visit her "Domek" which has a large library of Polish works and mementoes. While working on the wafer cards and calendars, she feels a sense of satisfaction that Polish Scouting, an organization she joined at 10 years of age, more than 45 years ago, is still alive and performs a vital service for World Polonia.



POLISH CHRISTMAS card with oblation wafer on a blade of grass is examined by Mrs. Ewa Gierat in her Bethlehem home where she originated the production of the wafer-on-hay Christmas card in 1973. She wears the uniform of a Polish Girl Scout executive.