

**ORGANIZATION OF COLONY SUMMER AND WINTER FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS IN ACTIVITY OF NATIONAL STRUCTURES OF THE SECOND POLISH REPUBLIC IN 1919-1939 YEARS**

Stanisław ZABORNIAK<sup>1</sup>, Łukasz SZMYD<sup>2</sup>

*1. Faculty of Physical Education, University of Rzeszow, Rzeszow, Poland*

*2. Institute of the physical culture of the National training college for them Pigoń St. in Krosno, Poland*

---

**Keywords:** the Second Polish Republic, tourism, recreation, secondary school children, colonies.

---

In Poland in 1919-1939 years Ministries dealt with the organization of the action of holiday children and teenagers: of Religious Faith and the Public Enlightenment and the public health, the Work and the social welfare and organizations that is the Connection of the Civil Work of Women, Military Family, Police Family, consisting of Country Housewives, the Company "Care", the Federation of Connections of Defenders of the Homeland and other organisations and associations about the regional reach.

Organisers of the action of holiday children and teenagers received funding for the immediate organization of colony from the Department of Social Security. Protected families could send their children to the summer camp organised by insuring institutions. In the field a Committee of the Help dealt with the control and the coordination of organised rest of children and teenagers of children and teenagers<sup>1</sup>.

Organization of the colony and holiday summer play centres in the period of the summer holidays and winter in Poland in the interwar period supported governmental bodies number of social organizations in it among others YMCA, ZHP, KSMM and KSMŻ and other.

In organising rest of children and teenagers on summer colonies a help was a main MWRiOP assumption for large families and the ones which were missing to stand for sending one's children. In assumptions the ministry aspired to it, *...in order to every municipal child, and especially city from the number of the ones which cannot at the family's expense go for the village, was able to make it with the help of the institution and school or after school organizations...<sup>2</sup>*.

---

<sup>1</sup> Circular No. 26 / 37 of Minister of the social welfare from 5 June 1937 No. Opus 22 / 6-7 in the matter of colony and of summer play centre summer in 1937, D. Urz. Min. Soc. opus No. 11, pos. 175; Circular No. 31 / 38 of Minister of the social welfare from 24 May 1938 Of No. Opus 22-12 / 2-8 on the summer action for children and teenagers, D. Urz. Min. Soc. opus No. 10, pos. 148.

<sup>2</sup> Announcement from 7 April 1932 No. IWF-1574 / of 32 colonies on organising and summer summer play centres, D. Urz. Min. Wyz. Rel. and Axis. Pub. No. 5, pos. 107.



Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe, sygn. 1-N-2925

1919-1939 Is flying, class tutors and participants in summer colonies for boys from Silesia organised by the Association of the Defence of Western Borderlands, NAC ref. 1 - N-2925.



Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe, sygn. 1-N-2874

1929 Summer Koeln for children in Boryslawiu, NAC ref. 1 - N-2874.



Handover Archiwum Culture: sign. 1-11-2910

1929 Medical check-ups of children of Cracow tram drivers going for summer settlements to Rabka, NAC ref., 1 - N-2910.



1934 Children from Opole Silesia in Katowice, with plates No. of groups, (NAC sets).



Children from Opole Silesia with plates of numbers of the group waiting for the holiday departure to Poland, (NAC sets).

With important tied recommendation with the organization of class trips included in the MWRiOP circular from 19 May 1933 (IWF-1856 / 33) adapting the schedule of trips to guidelines included in school programmes was to: of sex, many, of the medical condition and the degree of the physical development of trippers. The whole of the requirement concerning fulfilling by school organisers of colony, of the summer play centre and trips were entered into in the row of legislative records, in it of the most important requirements concerning meeting the conditions of the pedagogic and medical care in order to prevent epidemics on colonies<sup>3</sup>.

Apart from general requirements for objects, in which the summer camp was organised distinct requirements and MWRiOP instructions instructed, which other essential for the safety of children and teenagers were applicable in a province on the area, of which colonies, summer play centres and class trips were organised<sup>4</sup>. A summer camp organised for Polish children had a special political clout living pose border of the Second Polish Republic among others in Silesia Opole. Their meaning was connected with getting to know the tradition and the Polish culture.

In spite of organizational efforts financial possibilities didn't allow for taking up the shares of the entire number of young people recreational. Admittedly in 1931 from budget of the fund of games and games involving physical movement 1 m of zlotys was allocated for the organization of summer rest of children and teenagers, and it was as soon as covered c 1 / 10 costs which the Polish people assigned for rest of children and teenagers. The allocation of

<sup>3</sup> Circular No. 22 / 35 of Minister of the social welfare from 11 April 1935 No. Zn. 3 c/ 18-5 in matter of preventive orders concerning leaving children on colonies, D. Urz. Min. Soc. opus No. 7, the V department, pos. 3; Circular No. 34 / 35 of Minister of the social welfare from 31 May 1935 No. Zn. 3 c/ of 38-5 No. Opus 22 / 1-5 on the health care and education above colonies and summer play centres, D. Urz. Min. Soc. opus No. 9, the V department, pos. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Cracow Provincial daily newspaper, No. 14, pos. 147.

funds for settlements took place by allocating the overall budget by the Council for of colony Summer by the Labor Department and social welfare, for which the delegate was a member, MWRiOP to individual provinces.



1934 r. Przed dworcem w Katowicach, powrót dzieci z kolonii letniej, (zbiory NAC).



Haroldora Arthrum Cyfrowe, 1996, 1-11-2899-1

1930

Cracow young people in the bus before the trip to settlements. Visible accompanying persons, NAC ref. 1 - N-2899-1.



*Haroldson Arthurum Cyfrowe. tygn. 1-11-2921*

1935 Children from surroundings Pińska with travel through Warsaw in transit to summer settlements into surroundings of Częstochowa, in railroad cars during the stopover, NAC ref. 1 - N-2921.



Summer play centre of Cracow children organised in the Jordana Park, (NAC sets).



1938 yr, morning gymnastics of participants in the summer play centre organised in the Jordana Park in Cracow, (NAC sets).

A Provincial Commission distributed funds granted to every province for Koloni of Summer applications on the base made for subsidies to the settlement which contained the detailed plan financial<sup>5</sup>. Collected earlier applications the provincial Commission for forwarded to colony to the colony council Summer, and the one drew the ground plan up of colony for the entire state which was consulted among others from co-financing colonies with labour fund.

Organizational pointers concerning organising of colony summer were available to persons and the institution in instructional publications published by the Association of Polish Colony Societies Summer and of Institutions organising the Summer camp, were it among others: *Textbook for organizers of colony summer for children* (Warsaw 1930) and *Instruction for of colony summer* (Poznań 1931)<sup>6</sup>.

According to reports of the WRiOP Ministry in the summer 1926 yr took part in colonies and summer play centres for nearly 45 thousand disciples of universal schools and 5 thousand pupils of secondary school secondary schools, teaching seminars and vocational schools. The ministry quoted the numerical share of schools which it organised summer colonies in 1927 which results, from that from 950 secondary school secondary schools and seminars of teaching person in charges of educating only 146 organised the summer summer camp<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> *Announcement from 7 April 1932 No. IWF - 1574 / 32 on organising colonies and summer play centres summer.*

<sup>6</sup> There.

<sup>7</sup> *Circular of minister Faith Religious and of Public enlightening from 28 April 1927 to The education office and the Circle School, of management and of managements of schools and to the whole of teachers on the cooperation in organising of colony summer school.*

In 1935 237.3 thousand of children and teenagers was provided with summer camp rest. Amongst the exchanged number of children constituted 82.3 thousand from families of the unemployed, in 1937 yr number of participants of colony grew up to 418.5 thousand including 106.7 thousand unemployed persons were led out of families<sup>8</sup>.

In years of the Second Polish Republic educational authorities noticed the need to organize rest of children and teenagers, admittedly organization of colony summer and winter she included only a reverence of secondary school children, and this activity is becoming part of traditions of activity education in Poland.

---

<sup>8</sup> *A small statistical yearbook*, Warsaw 1939, p. 291, tbl. 10.