

TOURIST SHELTERS IN ROŻNOWSKIE FOOTHILLS BEFORE 1939

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Abstract:

This article was written with the intention of assessing the activity of the Polish Tatra Society for the development of accommodation and catering facilities in the Rożnowskie foothills area during the interwar years.

Evidence for the purpose of the article was found in the records of the Mountain Tourism archive in Cracow, where we can access, among others, the protocols on the activities of PTT and PTT Tarnow branch. References to the provision of accommodation are also found in magazines appearing before 1939, ie: "Turysta w Polsce", "Wierchy" and "Ziemia". Relevant information was also found in *Ski information calendar for the 1937-1938 season (Informacyjny kalendarz narciarski na sezon 1937-1938)*, Cracow 1937, as well as in the thematic monograph by W. Krygowski *History of Polish Tatra Society, (Dzieje Polskiego Towarzystwa Tatrzańskiego)*, Warsaw – Cracow 1988. The detailed documentation of the sources is shown in the footnotes.

INTRODUCTION

Rożnowskie foothills extend from the western part of the Low Beskid Mountains to the North. From the West it is limited by the Dunajec valley and from the East by the Biała valley. The northern and southern borders are conventionally defined in the North by the railway line Cracow-Tarnow and in the South by the railway line Grybów-Nowy Sacz. Rożnowski foothills (according to the data of the Department of Physical Geography at the Jagiellonian University¹) is divided into 8 micro regions: *Czchowskie foothills and Iwkowska valley to the West of the Dunajec valley, Lower Łososina valley, Znamierowickie foothills, Dunajec cascade, Dunajec valley, Korzenna foothills (north of Grybów), Rożnowski plateau, Siemiechowskie reduction and Wał bifurcation...* The width of the northern border is just 6 km, and between Czchów on the Dunajec and Gromnik on the Biała the foothills extend up to 20 km. Rożnowskie foothills is limited by Ciężkowickie foothills from the East, from the South East by Beskid Niski and Sądecka basin, from the West by Beskid Wyspowy and Wiśnicki foothills, and from the North by the Tarnowski plateau. In terms of the relief Rożnowskie foothills in their northern part include the following massifs: Wał (523 m²) and Lubinka (412 m). A long range Mogiła (478 m) - Styr (460 m) – Sucha Góra (396 m above sea level) and the massifs Jamna (530 m), Rosulec (516 m) Bukowiec (503 m) and the Żebracka (502 m) are in the middle. Kobylnica (579 m) and Dabrowska Góra (583 m) - the highest mountain in Rożnowski foothills are in the southern part.

¹ Jerzy Kondracki (Physical geographer, Professor at the University of Warsaw).

² The height of the peaks are indicated according to the findings in the interwar years, so they may differ from current calculations



Map of Rożnowski foothills 1937 with marked tourist trails, C - red, N - blue, WIG stock.

Physiographic wealth, historical monuments, as well as the peculiarities of the flora and fauna for years aroused interest in Rożnowskie foothills among tourists. In this one of the territorially smallest geographical areas in Poland before 1939 tourist activities were conducted by the Tarnow PTT branch³. As a result of the activity of Tarnow activists, among others, two tourist stations were set up in the area and numerous hiking trails were pitched. They are:

- Siemiechów - Wał (523 m asl) - Rychwałd - Pleśna;
- Gromnik - Wał (523 m asl) - Lubinka (412 m asl) - Szczepanów;
- Łowczów - Wał Rychwałdzki;
- Czchów - Mogiła (478 m asl) - Styr (460 m asl) – Sucha Góra (396 m asl) - Plichta - Gromnik;
- Zakliczyn – Sucha Góra (396 m above sea-level);
- Olszowa - Styr (460 m asl);
- Jastrzębia - Sucha Góra (396 m asl) – Brzozowa - Siemiechów;
- Jastrzębie - Jamna (530 m asl)
- Bukowiec - Jamna (530 m asl)
- Bobowa - Bukowiec - Jamna (530 m asl)
- Bartkowa - Ostryż (447 m asl) - Jamna (530 m asl) - Rosulec (516 m asl) - Jastrzębia
- Olszowa - Jamna (530 m asl)
- Bobowa - Bukowiec (503 m asl) - Jamna (530 m asl)
- Bukowiec (503 m asl) - Jamna (530 m asl)
- Gródek – Żebracka (502 m asl) - Bukowiec - Brusnik - Kańska Dolna - Ciężkowice⁴.

Hiking was facilitated, among others, by the availability of tourist stations located in towns Lubinka and Rożnów in the Rożnowskie foothills belonging to the Tourist Department of Tarnow PTT.

³ B. Małachowski: *Siedemdziesiąt pięć lat pracy*, „Wierchy”, 1948 p. 81; Acts of the Central Archive of Mountain Tourism (here CATG), sygn. 14.18.3. *Minutes of the meeting of the PTT Board including the resolution defining the territory of the Tarnow PTT Branch activity.*

⁴ A. Matuszczyk: *Pogórze Karpackie*, Kraków 1995, *passim*.

Tourist station of the Tarnow PTT branch in the estate of Stanislaw Harlender in Lubinka near Łowczówka-Pleśna (1935).

Tourist station of the Tarnowski PTT branch in Lubinka⁵ near Łowczówka-Pleśna was located in the estate of Stanislaw Harlender at an altitude of 480 m above the sea level near the Wał elevation (516 m above sea-level) in the Rożnowskie foothills. The station had 7 beds, and one place on a pallet. It was reached from the railway station in Pleśna⁶.

The initiators of the foundation of the tourist station in Lubinka near Łowczówka-Pleśna were the activists of the Ski section of Tarnow PTT which counted 25 members. The Tarnow branch was marked by considerable activity. In addition to the launch of this station in 1935, in the same year they pitched new hiking trails, among others, on Spisz, which led to Malorówki through Kunia Góra-Krzyżowa, Góra - Kacwin - Niedzica to the Czorsztyń bridge on Dunajec (9 km) and in the Ciężkowice foothills from Kąsna - Siekierczyn - Diabelski Kamień near Bukowiec (16 km) and renewed 63 km of trails in Pieniny, Gorce and Spisz⁷.

Tourist station of Tarnow PTT branch in the court of Countess J. Stadnicka in Rożnów (1936).

Tourist station of Tarnow PTT branch in Rożnów was opened on 29 May 1936 r. It was located in the court of Countess J. Stadnicka at an altitude of 373 m above the sea level. The station had 9 sleep places, including 8 on beds and 1 on a pallet⁸. Tarnow PTT branch had been preparing to open this station since 1934. The intentions of founding the station were expressed in the report of the Ski section of Tarnow PTT branch which in 1934 was directed by the president Tadeusz Wysocki, deputy Stanislaw Laberschek, treasurer Janusz Patek, secretary Henry Fink and board member Zdzislaw Przybynowski.



Stadnickis' palace in Rożnów, where Tourist station of Tarnow PTT branch functioned in the interwar years (fot. Interwar period).

At the end of 1935 the management of the Tarnow PTT branch with the PTT President Walery Goetel participated in the site visit in Rożnów⁹ in order to determine the location and the possibility of building a shelter.

⁵ Lubinka (412 m asl) - the most forested massif of the Rożnowskie foothills neighboring Wał (523 m asl). On the southern slopes of Lubinka lies the village Lubinka. The name of the village and the mountains is sometimes referred to the place especially favourable for hunting. A local road from Zakliczyn through Janowice to Tarnow runs along the slopes of Lubinka.

⁶ *Karpacki Zjazd Turystyczny*, „Turysta w Polsce”, 1936 nr 7, p. 2; *Informacyjny kalendarz narciarski na sezon 1937–38*, Kraków 1937, p. 73; M. Orłowicz: *Pogórze Rożnowskie*, „Ziemia”, 1938 nr 3, pp. 53–55.

⁷ *Sprawozdanie z działalności Polskiego Towarzystwa Tatrzańskiego w Krakowie za okres od 1.IV.1935 do 31.III.1936*, Kraków 1936, p. 46 and 71.

⁸ *Informacyjny kalendarz narciarski na sezon 1937–38...*, dz. cyt.

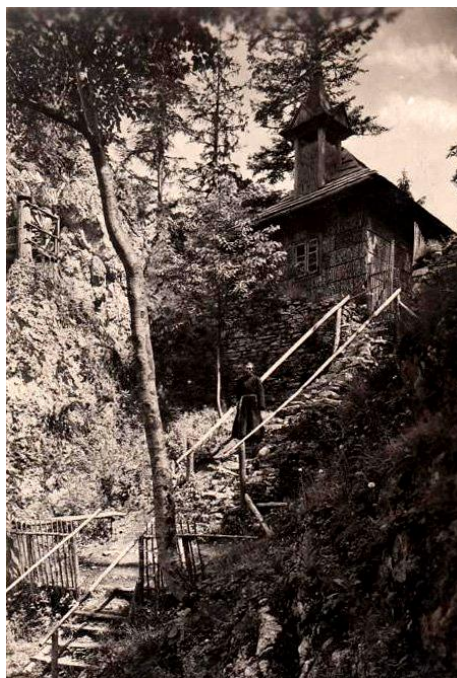
⁹ ACATG, sygn. 14.18.2, *Korespondencja*, Kraków 1935.

In 1937 during the board meeting of the Ski section of Tarnow PTT branch on April 21 it was decided to set up a special committee composed of Dyrdoń Antoni and Tadeusz Wysocki on the case of the protracted construction of the shelter in Rożnów¹⁰.

In 1937 a series of hiking trails running through Rożnów were pitched. Rev. Franciszek Pinda and W. Pogoda distinguished themselves in this activity. Among others, they pitched a new track on the route Ciężkowice - Rożnów (blue) with a length of 28 km; Rożnów - Gródek - Jelna (12 km), Rożnów - Just (10 km), Rożnów – Ostry Szczyt – Witkowice Górne (5 km) and others. Together with the PTT circle in Bochnia, the Tarnow branch took care of the network of 251 km of hiking trails¹¹. One could walk from the station of the Tarnow PTT branch in Rożnów along the trail set by high-voltage electric pylons down to Tourist and Skiing station in the building of S. Harlender in Lubinka¹².



Restored family palace of the Stadnicki family (post-war years).



Pieniny, hermitage on the ruins of the castle of St. Kinga (20th of the XXth century).

¹⁰ ACATG, sygn. 14.18.3, *Protokoły z posiedzenia Zarządu w 1937 r.*

¹¹ *Nowy punkt noclegowy w Rożnowie*, „Turysta w Polsce”, 1936 nr 7, p. 14; ACATG, Sygn. 14.18.3, *Protokoły z posiedzenia Zarządu; Sprawozdanie z działalności Polskiego Towarzystwa Tatrzańskiego w Krakowie za okres od 1.IV.1937 do 31.XII.1937*, Kraków 1937, p. 56 and 86; ACATG, sygn. 14.18.2 *Oddział PTT w Tarnowie, Korespondencja*; ACATG, sygn. 14.18.3, *Protokoły z posiedzenia Zarządu PTT.*

¹² *Nowy punkt noclegowy w Rożnowie*, dz. cyt.

On the said route tourists could visit the medieval church, castle ruins of Zawisza Czarny, a Renaissance bell foundry and a dam being built in Rożnow. The station facilitated skiing in winter and water tourism in summer¹³.

SUMMARY

At the end of 1939, in the Rożnowski foothills, the Tarnow PTT branch had its own accommodation facilities, among others, in Rożnów in the court of Countess J. Stadnicka in the annexe of the court with 6 beds and a shelter in Lubinka where 7 beds were reserved for the PTT members in the building of the farm tenant. The last General Meeting of the Tarnow PTT branch before the outbreak of World War II for the year 1938 was held on March 23, 1939¹⁴.

Unfortunately, no documents showing the activities of the Tarnow PTT branch after this time have been preserved.

¹³Ibidem.

¹⁴ *Nowy punkt noclegowy w Rożnowie*, dz. cyt.; W. Krygowski: *Dzieje Polskiego Towarzystwa Tatrzańskiego*, Warszawa – Kraków 1988, p. 114.