

SHELTERS AND HOSTELS IN PODHALE BEFORE 1939

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Abstract:

The main article purpose is to underline the formation and activities of tourist shelters in Podhale in years 1874-1939. The main initiators of the shelters construction were members of organizations and associations of tourist and sport. This article is an analysis of available source materials, thank to which we managed to merge the data on the construction and operation of 14 shelters and tourist stations in the Highlands.

INTRODUCTION

Tourist hostels and shelters in the Podhale in Poland were being built starting from the first one in Zakopane in 1874. Their intention was to facilitate the exploration of tourist in the sub-Tatras area. The main initiators of the construction of shelters and hostels were activists of the tourism organizations, such as: AD, PTT, PTK, PTN, PZN, ZHP et al. After Poland regained independence in 1918, along with the development of the state, the central and local governments participated in the construction of shelters through partially subsidizing the costs. In the years 1874-1939 Podhale was offering about 14 shelters and tourist stations.

1. „Dworzec Tatrzański” TT in Zakopane (1874).

In Zakopane, the first accommodation used by the tourists was „Kasyno Towarzystwa w Zakopanem” which in 1874 rented a private building belonging to John Krzeptowski on Krupówki, where TT had its summer residence. The casino functioned as a library, reading room, assembly hall as well as concert and theater hall. The great success and interest in the events that took place in the casino motivated W. Elijah to submit an application for the construction of a new building for the TT.



Zakopane 1904. The new "Tatra Station" in Zakopane, postcard released in Krakow in 1904.

The initiator of the TT owned facility, which after the construction was named Dworzec Tatrzański, was Walery Eljasz, who on December 2, 1874 at the extraordinary General

Meeting of the Tatra Society in Krakow made a motion calling for the purchase of land to build a house for the Tatra Society (TT). The Station was to take over the role of casinos from J. Krzeptowski. The construction began in 1880 on the land purchased by TT on Krupówki. The designer of the building was Karol Zaremba. The construction supervised by Gustav Finger was completed in 1881. The wooden building was officially opened on July 30, 1882. In the years 1892-1894 the building was expanded to 28 rooms and 2 meeting rooms. The new facility included the TT office, reading room and library, hotel rooms, ballroom which held a number of events, such as lectures, concerts, theatrical performances and parties. Tatra Station became a major cultural center of Zakopane. There performed, among others, Mieczysław Karłowicz, Helena Modjeska, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Henryk Sienkiewicz and other personalities of contemporary bohemians.



1906. Zakopane, Krupówki str., in the left top corner "Tatra Station", at the bottom, highland carts waiting for passengers (Fig. Tatra Museum)

<http://www.jacekptak.nazwa.pl/dawno.temu.w.zakopanem.html>, (access, 09.18.2014).

On January 26, 1900 during the "folk ball " for the hotel service in Zakopane the building burnt down (the fire was caused by the explosion of an oil lamp). The entire TT library and a map of Tatra Mountains made in relief were destroyed, among others. After the incident there was held a long discussion in TT whether the building should be rebuilt. Some members of the TT paid attention to the slim budget of the Society, which shall be allocated primarily on investments in the Tatra mountains. In 1900 the TT activists resolved to build a new brick building functioning until today¹.

It was not until 1902 when TT decided to rebuild the Tatra Station. The opening of a new brick building was July 1, 1903. (Designed by Wandalin Beringer, who made it in Zakopane style). This building was the first brick building in Zakopane style.

In the years 1914-1939, in the Tatra Station operated a restaurant with a veranda (it was demolished during World War II). In Zakopane this place became a favorite meeting point for artists and mountaineers. In the conference room of the Station were held general meetings, among others, of TT, PTT and TOPR (since the first meeting in 1909)². "Tatra Station" was located in Zakopane in Krupówki str., at an altitude of 837 m above the sea level. In 1937 it had 100 beds, including 60 on beds and 40 on straw mattresses³.

¹ *Narodziny wielkiego taternictwa, żeglujemy tratwą po Morskim Oku*, „Sportowiec”, 1952 nr 6, p. 10.

² Maciej Pinkwart: *Zakopiańskim szlakiem Walerego i Stanisława Eljaszów*, Warszawa-Kraków 1988, pp. 67–69; J. Nyka: *Tatry Polskie. Przewodnik*, Lachorzew 2009, p. 61; W. Krygowski: *Dzieje Polskiego Towarzystwa Tatrzańskiego*, Warszawa-Kraków 1988, *passim*.

³ *Informacyjny Kalendarz Narciarski na sezon 1937–1938*, Kraków 1938, p. 71.



The interwar years of the twentieth century. "Tatra Station," in Zakopane (Fig. Archive "Tatra Station").



Zakopane years 1920-1928, *fasiagi* waiting for passengers, postcard, interwar period.

2. Hotel and Restaurant "Morskie Oko" in Zakopane (1897).

"Morskie Oko" is one of the oldest hotels in Zakopane. It was built of wood in 1897 by Władysław Dzikiewicz on Krupówki.



Zakopane 1904. Holiday meeting of the City Council of Zakopane on the veranda of the hotel "Morskie Oko", stock fotopolska.eu.

When it burned down in 1899 during the great fire on Krupówki, it was rebuilt in stone in 1901. It was one of the first 3 brick houses in the center of Zakopane.



Hotel and Restaurant "Morskie Oko" in Zakopane (postcard 20s XX)



Zakopane 1935. Highlander sled waiting for passengers outside the hotel "Morskie Oko", photo from the collection MT.



Zakopane 1939., entrance to the "Morskie Oko" hotel. Postcard published on the occasion of FIS World Cup held in Zakopane. (FIS logo in the lower right corner), fot. collections MT.

3. The first tavern and shelter by A. Stoch and Mary and John Piasecki on Gubałówka (1901-1939)

Around 1901 on Gubałówka near the Chałubiński Cross in the summer months operated a first small tavern, where you could buy milk, bread and beer and other products of first necessity. After regaining independence in the second half of the 20s, in the building owned by Andrzej Stoch, the so called Old Hostel was launched. Since 1930 the shelter was leased by Maria and Jan Piasecki. The building was continuously repaired in the mid 30s, XXth century. The building had 4 bedrooms. The Piasecki hostel functioned until 1939, while the owners worked in the restaurant built along with the funicular to Gubałówka.

4. The Ski and Tourist TKN station in a tourist hostel of Związek Pracy Obywatelskiej Kobiet in Zakopane at Ogródowa 477 str.

The Ski and Tourist TKN stadion was located In the hostel owned by Związek Pracy Obywatelskiej Kobiet In Zakopane at Ogródowa 477 str. The building was located at a height of 837 m above the sea level. The station had 40 beds⁴.

5. Tourist House PTK named after Rev Joseph Stolarczyk in Zakopane (1920).

Tourist House in Zakopane was established in a wooden building of the Tatra Museum after the purchase by the activists of the Polish Tourist Association. The building burnt down under mysterious circumstances on 16 December 1920.

The Board of Zakopane PTK branch decided to rebuild it in the same year. Franciszek Ksawery Prauss⁵ supervised both the purchase of the wooden building and the construction of a new one. Through the token building blocks distributed in schools and other activities he gathered the funds and already on 1 June 1921 the new Tourist House was opened. To commemorate the contribution to the development of tourism in Zakopane by its pastor Rev. Jozef Stolarczyk⁶ the building was given his name at the opening⁷.

A more detailed history of the object is contained in the section on the activities of PTK shelters in Poland.

A number of organizations and associations, until the outbreak of the First World War, maintained their shelters and stations in Zakopane, such as: ACT from Lviv, SN AZS Krakow and TT. After regaining the independence in the interwar period the vacant beds were given to all tourists in the following hostels: Związek Pracy Obywatelskiej Kobiet, Związek Polskich

⁴Ibidem.

⁵ F. K. Prauss - PPS activist, the first Education Minister of the Second Republic (1918-1919), senator of the Second Republic (1922-1925), member of the board of the Tatra Museum, Zakopane Branch, Vice President of PTT.

⁶ The priest Jozef Stolarczyk (1816-1893), the first pastor of Zakopane (1848-1893). He was one of the precursors of both tourism and mountaineering in the Highlands. With his pastoral and social-environmental activities for Zakopane and Podhale enjoyed great authority among the locals. His friends were, among others, Tytus Chałubiński, and among the local highlander guides, among others, Wojciech Roj, Szymon Tatar and Jędrzej Wala. He was one of the precursors of mountain tourism explorers, he climbed many peaks of the High, Belianske and West Tatras. His participation in the expeditions he described in the publication entitled "A trip to peak Gerlach". Among his other publications distinguished by its ethnographic character is the monograph entitled "Chronicle of Zakopane Parish" (1848-1890), which presents important information from the life of Zakopane, Tatra Mountains and Podhale registered within the 45 years of his mission. In addition to the name given to Dom Wycieczkowy in Zakopane, one of the streets was called Rev Joseph Stolarczyk and in the Tatra Mountains there is the Stolarczyk Pass.

⁷ M. Pinkwart: *Kronika dawnego Zakopanego z lat 1848-1890. Wstęp*, Warszawa-Kraków 1986, *passim*; Z. Radwańska-Paryska, W. H. Paryski: *Wielka encyklopedia tatrzańska*, Poronin 2004, *passim*; B. Kumor: *Początki parafii św. Klemensa w Zakopanem na tle rozwoju sieci parafialnej na Podhalu*, (1847); In Annex – Autobiografia ks. Józefa Stolarczyka (1816-1893) submitted to print by Father Bolesław Kumor, [in:] *150 lat organizacji parafialnej w Zakopanem 1847-1997*, [in:] M. Rokosz (ed.): *Materiały z sympozjum Zakopane 24-25 października 1997*, Kraków 1998, p. 29-30.

Nauczycieli Szkół Powszechnych in villa „Mołodów”, Towarzystwo Pomocy Naukowych in the dormitory on Krupówki, Śląska Wojewódzka Komisja Turystyki in the guest house "Cieszynianka" and others.



Tourist House named after Rev Joseph Stolarczyk, stock FotoPolska, Ref. 192,263, <http://fotopolska.eu/321593,foto.html?o=u20160>.



New Tourist House named after Rev Joseph Stolarczyk in Zakopane, interwar period.

6. Bed & Breakfast "Lomnica" by Victoria and Joseph Bigos in Bukowina Tatrzańska (1924).
In the area of Bukowina Tatrzańska in the years 1924-1930 was launched a guesthouse "Lomnica" run by Victoria and Joseph Bigos.

7. Family hostel "Bigosówka" on Wyzna Głodówka (1929).

In 1929 in the area of Wyzna Głodówka a wooden shelter made in Zakopane style was built with the private funds of Victoria and Joseph Bigos.

The hotel had 12 sleep places on beds, including 3 double rooms and 2 triples. This hostel must have had a good reputation, since its book of guests was signed by Jozef Pilsudski - Polish Marshal, Ignacy Moscicki - President of the Republic with his wife, Colonel Władysław Ziętkiewicz, Kazimierz Opaliński and many other prominent figures of the Second Republic.



Hostel owned by Victoria and Joseph Bigos, commonly called "Bigosówka", on Glade Głodówka.

8. Youth scout hostel - "Głodówka" (1934).

In the years 1933-1934 on the Glade Głodówka⁸ on the southern slope of Cyrła with the efforts of the Society of Friends of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, designed by Charles Stryjeński, at an altitude of 1000 m above the sea level was built a shelter for artists - House of Artists. The opening ceremony was attended by the President of the Second Polish Republic - Ignacy Mościcki, the building was named after its originator and owner of the plot Eng. Karol Stryjeński⁹. In 1935 the building was sold to the Polish Scouting Association (ZHP).

According to the *Information Calendar for the season 1937-1938*, the shelter had 90 sleep places, including 30 on beds and 60 on straw mattresses. The shelter could be reached from the railway station in Poronin or by car communication. Preference and discount in the shelter was granted to the members of PTT, PZN and ZHP¹⁰.

On February 28, 1938 as a result of fire, probably from the chimney shafts, the building burnt down. In its place ZHP in 1938-1939 built the still existing hostel designed by J. Żakowski. The building was to serve as a training area, and also because of the ski routes nearby it was to play the role of a sports facility.



1938. The hostel ZHP on Głodówka, photo Kowalczyk-Bukowina, stock NAC, Ref. 1-S-3735.

⁸ The name of the glade is in the documents from 1676 and is derived from a resident of the area named Głód.

⁹ Karol Stryjeński, kpt. WP, eng., architect, designer of ski jump ramps and other facilities, including the ski jump ramp in Zakopane on Krokiew, given for use in 1924 (till 1939 the ramp was named K. Stryjeński); author of the adjustment and modernization of Zakopane urban planning, S. Zaborniak: *Skoki narciarskie w Polsce (1907-1939)*, Rzeszów 2013, *passim*.

¹⁰ *Informacyjny Kalendarz Narciarski...*, p. 70.



The second ZHP shelter on Głodówka completed in July 1939, due to the outbreak of World War II its opening planned for September 1, 1939 did not take place.

9. Hostel of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education in Jurgów (1935)

In Jurgów, in 1934, building of a shelter designed for school children was launched on the initiative of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education (MWRiOP). The building was located on a hill on the banks of the river Białka. The ceremonial opening of the facility took place in January 1935. The building had 7 rooms which could host 60 people on beds, additional 40 places were offered on straw mattresses, in addition, the building had the following spaces: a common room, isolation room for the sick, kitchen, washstand and toilets, rooms for teachers and support staff and storage rooms.



Jurgow 1935. "Dom Ludowy" (MWRiOP), where since 1937 functioned a hostel for students.

Supervision of the shelter held the manager of the local primary school J.Silanowa. The location of the shelter and its facilities won it great fame, and the number of visitors exceeded the reputable shelters in Zakopane. In 1936, 393 tourists visited the shelter in Jurgów.

10. Ski and Tourist station TKN at J. Lasak inn on Gubałówka (1936).

Approximately in 1933, J. Lasak started a small inn called the New Shelter. In 1936, TKN launched a ski and tourist station in J.Lasak's building. The station was located at a height of 1123 m above the sea level. It could accommodate 6 people on beds¹¹.

11. Hostel and restaurant built in 1938 on Gubałówka by the League for the Promotion of Tourism with the FIS investment.

Interesting in terms of tourism was the building belonging to the League for the Promotion of Tourism, which was built together with the cableway to Gubałówka. The main purpose of the building was to provide restaurant service, and the wooden superstructure

¹¹ Ibidem.

housed beds for the management and personnel of the restaurant. The building did not have rooms for tourists. It was to be a catering premise for the participants and guests of the FIS World Cup, which took place in Zakopane at the beginning of 1939.



1938. Tourists resting in front of the Gubałówka shelter, stock NAC, Ref. 1-S-3736.



1938. Shelter Gubałówka, <http://www.zakopane.pl/turystyka/historia-turystyki>.



The interior of the restaurant in Gubałówka shelter, stock NAC, Ref. 1-S-3737.

12. Ski and Tourist TKN station in the R. Reptowska's facility in Białka.

On the initiative of the Society for the Propagation of Skiing, a ski and tourist station was started in the R. Reptowska's facility in Białka. The station located at an altitude of 695 m above the sea level could provide 8 beds and more sleep places on straw mattresses. The village can be reached from the railway stations in Nowy Targ and Szaflary¹².

13. Ski hostel of Zakopane PTT branch in "Dom Ludowy" in Bukowina (1937).

One of the initiators of the construction of "Dom Ludowy" in Bukowina after Poland regained its independence was Franciszek Cwiczewicz, and its supervisor was Jan Gałdyn. The building was opened thanks to the activity of the Committee for the Construction of the People's House in Bukovina, who gathered the funds, among others, by issuing the cards - special building blocks by which sales in the years 1924-1927 approx. 20 thousand zł were obtained. The initiative received support from the local community of highlanders who were members of the Society of Friends of Bukovina. In 1934 construction supervision was taken over by the Society of People's Schools, chaired by a school inspector W. Koszyk. In 1937, in the rooms of "Dom Ludowy" the PTT Zakopane branch opened a hostel.

14. Ski and Tourist station of Krakow Branch of the Tatra Skiers Society at Kobakowa's in Bukowina Tatrzańska.

Ski and Tourist station of the Krakow TTN Department in Bukowina Tatrzańska was located in the Kobakowa's building. The shelter could be reached from the railway station in Poronin. The station could accommodate 25 people on the beds.

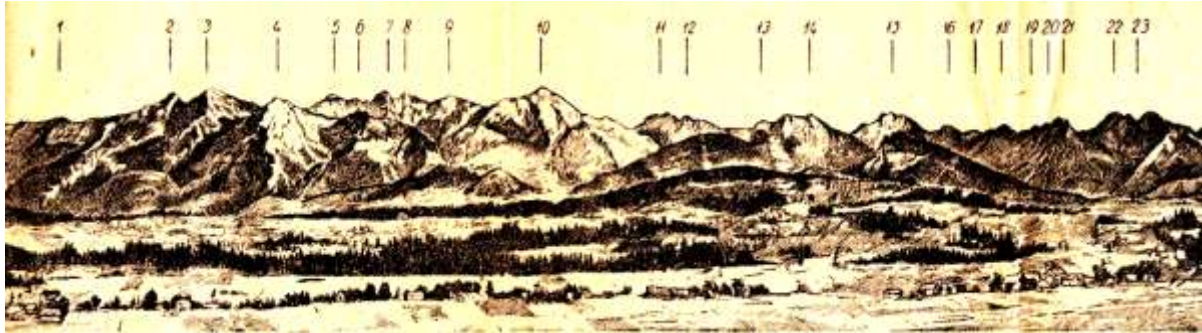


Map of Bukowina Tatrzańska and the surrounding area with marked roads, highways and trails, B. Brzezińska: Bukowina Tatrzańska, Warsaw 1954, on the back cover.

The whole massif of the Tatra Mountains can be seen from Bukowina Tatrzańska, it is one of the features that has been attracting tourists for years. These views show the photographs of the Tatra Mountains made from Bukowina in the interwar years¹³.

¹² *Informacyjny Kalendarz Narciarski...*, p. 69.

¹³ B. Brzezińska: *Bukowina Tatrzańska*, Warszawa 1954, p. 122.



View on the Tatry from Bukowina Tatrzańska: 1. Szalony Wierch (2062 m n.p.m.), 2. Płaczliwa Skała (2148 m n.p.m.), 3. Hawrań (2151 m n.p.m.), 4. Nowy (1999 m n.p.m.), 5. Kieżmarski (2556 m n.p.m.), 6. Widły (2517 m n.p.m.), 7. Łomnica (2634 m n.p.m.), 8. Dumny (2625 m n.p.m.), 9. Baranie Rogi (2536 m n.p.m.), 10. Lodowy (2630 m n.p.m.), 11. Jaworowy (2424 m n.p.m.), 12. Mały Jaworowy (2386 m n.p.m.), 13. Staroleśniański (2492 m n.p.m.), 14. Szer. Jaworzyńska (2221 m n.p.m.), 15. Gerlach (2663 m n.p.m.), 16. Batorywiecki (2458 m n.p.m.), 17. Kaczy (2395 m n.p.m.), 18. Kończysta (2540 m n.p.m.), 19. Żłobisty (2433 m n.p.m.), 20. Rumanowy (2428 m n.p.m.), 21. Ganek (2465 m n.p.m.), 22. Wysoka (2565 m n.p.m.), 23. Rysy (2503 m n.p.m.), B. Brzezińska: *Bukowina Tatrzańska*, Warszawa 1954, p. 122.



ctd. View on the Tatry from Bukowina Tatrzańska: 24. Mięguszowiecki (2338 m n.p.m.), 25. Mięguszowiecki (2377 m n.p.m.), 26. Mięguszowiecki (2405 m n.p.m.), 27. Wołoszyn (2304 m n.p.m.), 28. Kościasta (2198 m n.p.m.), 29. Granaty (2232 m n.p.m.), 30. Żółta Turnia (2088 m n.p.m.), 31. Świnica (2306 m n.p.m.), 32. Pośrednia Turnia (2129 m n.p.m.), 33. Skrajna Turnia (2099 m n.p.m.), 34. Kasprowy (1989 m n.p.m.), 35. Czuba (1874 m n.p.m.), 36. Goryczkowa (1874 m n.p.m.), 37. Kondracka Kopa (2004 m n.p.m.), 38. Małołączniak (2101 m n.p.m.) 39. Giewont (1900 m n.p.m.), B. Brzezińska: *Bukowina Tatrzańska*, Warszawa 1954, p. 122.

According to the *Ski calendar for the season 1937-1938* in Podhale, not counting the hotels located in Zakopane which could accommodate more than 1,000 clients, the sleep facilities were offered by 14 shelters and ski stations, of which by PTT - 2 hostels (240 sleep places, 40 on straw mattresses), TKN - 3 hostels (54 sleep places on beds, and on straw mattresses on request), Tatra Skiers Society - 2 (50 on beds), ZHP - 1 (100 on beds + rooms for supervisors), PTK - 1 (100 beds), private owners ran - 4 hostels (which provided about 32 beds and mattresses)¹⁴. Totally the shelters could accommodate about 632 people¹⁵, who would reach the places by their own transport, bus, rail and highland carts and sleighs¹⁶.

¹⁴ *Informacyjny kalendarz narciarski na sezon 1937-38...*, pp. 69-70.

¹⁵ Own calculations based on the information contained in the biograms of the hostels, shelters and skiing and hiking stations.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*.