# Zurowski's 100 Children

# Story dedicated to the dancers of Polish Youth Circle & P.C.U.Y

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Leliwa - Zurowski' family coat of arms

Written by: Andrzej Kopczynski, February 2014. Edited by: Adam Kopczynski.

### Introduction

This essay is dedicated to dancers, but addressed to the English speaking generation of Canadians of Polish origin, who may not speak Polish, and do not have access to Polish records. It pays the tribute to an extraordinary Polish-Canadian, who created the Circle of Youth. This was possible thanks to his talent, dedication, trust and help of many parents and leaders of the Polish community.

Many names of the supporting committee were posted in the Programs, but we have to remember that many unlisted parents were very dedicated to the Youth Circle. All of them made countless sacrifices, and dedicated many hours.

In the Summer of 1994 I met Mrs. Żurowski, the widow of Engineer Roman Żurowski, in her condo at 1455 Duchess in West Vancouver. I got from her some photos, bulletins, Programs of events, and one press article.

The meeting took few hours, and was a base from which I wrote about Roman Żurowski, his dedication to Polish Community, his work, and his success.

Years after I did the research, I got additional records from his life.

The full name of her husband was Roman Kazimir Żurowski. He was born on December 7<sup>th</sup> 1913, from a Polish family in the former Polish territories, in Lwów - Lemberg, at that time part of Austrian Empire.

His father Franciszek (Franz) Żurowski was an entepreneur, and did some renovations, before he bought a small manor house where they lived.

ZUROWSKI, Franz	]
ZUROWSKI, Roman	Birth: 7 December 1913 in Lemberg 166488
LISIKI, Helene	Reference: 194934

During Habsburg's Empire times, Lwów – Lemberg became one of the most important Polish, Ukrainian and Jewish cultural centres. In Lwow, according to the Austrian census of 1910, which listed religion and language, 51% of the city's population were Roman Catholics, 28% Jews, and 19% belonged to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Linguistically, 86% of the city's population used the Polish language and 11% preferred the Ukrainian language.

At that time Lwów (currently Lviv) was a home to number of Polish language, art, and culture institutions, such as:

Ossolineum, with the second largest collection of Polish books in the world,

the Polish Academy of Arts,

the National Museum (since 1908),

Historical Museum of the City of Lwów (since 1891),

Polish Historical Society,

Lwów University, with Polish as official language since 1882,

Lwów Scientific Society,

Lwów Art Gallery, Polish Theatre, Polish Archdiocese.

In 1918 Poland regained independence after 123 years of occupations – partitions by Russia, Prussia & Austria.

Due to the Polish-Ukrainian War 1918-1919, then the Polish – Soviet war in 1920, and the fall of Austrian Empire, the former Polish territories were finally reunited with the Motherland, and at that time Roman Żurowski was 7 years old.

He attended a junior high-school (Gymnasium #8) then Lyceum in Lwów. Herein is a part of the list of students from the original Gymnasium records.

VIII Gimnazium we Lwowie rok 1920-21

Lista uczniów opracowana na podstawie publikacji "Sprawozdanie Dyrekcji państwowego

VIII Gimnazjum realnego im Jędrzeja Śniadeckiego we Lwowie za rok szkolny 1920-21"

Nazwisko imię - - uczeń klasy:

Wierżbicki Wiktor - - klasa VII

Więckowski Marjan (wszystkie przedmioty). - - klasa VII

Wilczański Stefan - - klasa II A.

Winnicki Adam - - klasa II B.

Winnicki Zygmunt - - klasa II B.

Wiśniewski Jan (pr.) - - klasa III B.

Wokrój Leon (j. niem.) - - klasa VII

Wolff Marjan - - klasa III A.

Wolff Stanisław - - klasa III A.

Wolski Marjan - - klasa IV

Wondrausch Adam - - klasa VI

Workiewicz Władysław - - klasa III B.

Woźniak Bronisław - - klasa VI

Wronka Mieczysław - - klasa IV

Wronowski Jan (10. V. 3921 wystąpił). - - klasa V

Zacharjasiewicz Stanisław - - klasa II B.

Zaleski Jan - - klasa II A.

Zarębicki Aleksander - - klasa V

Zbydniowski Marjusz - - klasa I B.

Zdanowicz Roman. - - klasa VIII

Zduńczyk Włodzimierz - - klasa VII

Zieliński Aleksander - - klasa II A.

Ziemiński Stefan. - - klasa VI

Zwoliński Tadeusz, (wyst. 26. II. 1921.). - - klasa I B.

Żabski Lesław - - klasa III A.

Żeleski Franciszek. - - klasa III B.

Żeleski Stanisław (j. ła .) - - klasa V

Żukowski Jerzy - - klasa V

Żurowski Roman. - - klasa III A.

Żurowski Stanisław - - klasa II A.

After high-school Żurowski practiced in his uncle's small construction office for some time. In 1935 he went to study at Warsaw University – Building Department. He finished 4 years. He married his wife Friderika Schmalenberg on December 25, 1938 in Lwow. Friderika also finished Polish high-school in Lwow.

She was born near Lwow in Winniki village on May 23, 1917, from a Polish family. In that time Lwów was the second largest, after Warsaw, Polish cultural and academic centre in Poland.



Gymnasium & Lyceum number 8 in Lwów, named after King Casimir the Great.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>1939 Germany invaded Poland. Roman Zurowksi was 25 years old. He lost his Polish Homeland, and Poland was also attacked by Soviet Russia on September 17, 1939.

This was the 4<sup>th</sup> Partition of Poland and beginning of extermination of Polish people in Lwow voivodeship. The polpulation of Poland after the war dropped down from 43 to 23 million, and Poland lost 52% of it's territory.

## Vancouver, A New Home

The Żurowskis came to Vancouver in 1951, from DP Camp in Germany, and settled in Vancouver. Roman got a job at City Hall as an engineer architect. In January 1953 the membership of Polish Friendship "Zgoda" Society rose to 322 persons.

Mr. Żurowski became a member of "Zgoda" in February 1954.

As of March 1955 he was a member of the Board of Directors. Here is the list of the Board: President Engineer Hermanowicz, Vice President M. Kopecki, Secretary K. Reklinski, Treasurer Malek, Directors: J. Dynia, J. Grebski, W. Wos, A. Galysa, L. Walach, W. Skulska, J. Kostrzewa, M. Latek, Bober, architect R. Zurowski.

Mr. Żurowski was elected on December 18, 1955 as the President of the Polish Friendship "Zgoda" Society, and he was reelected in 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 64, and 65.

He drew the plans, got permits, and with the help of many volunteers build the Polish Community Center at 4015 Fraser Street in Vancouver.



From the left: Jakub Kaliski, Roman Żurowski, Stanislaw Jaworski – ceremony of laying the foundation brick for Polish Community Center.



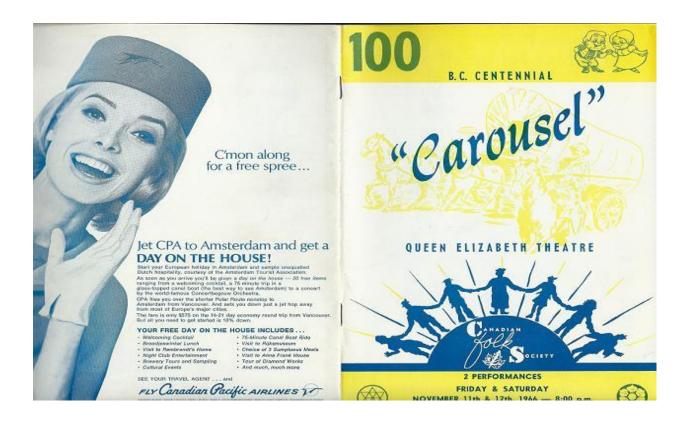
In 1996 the Memory Plug was dedicated to him and past presidents of Zgoda. From the left Stanislaw Pozniak, Stanislaw Jaworski, Janusz Wijata, Elizabeth Kozlowski, Andrzej Kopczynski

He was the editor of the bulletin "Polak w BC" – printed periodically 4 times per year. He was the architect for the Polish Community Center, as well as the fundraiser, and building inspector of the Polish Community Center at 4015 Fraser Street in Vancouver.

## Youth Circle Story

According to records Zurowski initiated the Polish Youth & Children dance group in 1962, but it officially began in 1964. Over the years they participated in many historical Canadian events, such as the Canada Centennial, Youthorama, Millennium and many times at Kitsilano Showboat Festival. Thanks to some help from Edward Gacek who came to Canada in May, 1963, I know that the Dance Circle had 8 adult dancers in 1963, and the group grew quickly.

The main list of performers in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in 1967 contains almost 100 names. And the whole group was close to 130 children and youths.



Some Centennial Festivals where Żurowski- Kazun – Dybinski had a great team of dancers, musicians and singers and achieved great success.



YOUTH GROUP OF POLISH FRIENDSHIP "ZGODA" SOCIETY Vancouver, B.C.

## PERFORMERS

#### OLDER GROUP:

Bozenna Awsiukiewicz, Janina Borowska, Natalia Cholyk, Krystyna Jaworska, Teresa Jaworska, Elzbieta Kieruczenko, Wanda Kolanko, Teresa Labelle, Elzbieta Loptanowska, Elaine Lush, Virginia Mielczarek, Anna Milczanowska, Patricia Read, Irena Wasilewska, Kazimierz Borowski, Henryk Balaban, Albin Dukowski, Edward Gacek, Jozef Gajda, Rejmond Grzybowicz, Ken Koscielski, Zygmunt Marsz, Wieslaw Reklinski, Henryk Szefer, Zhigniew Tadeuszow, Filip Złomanczyk, Jan Złomanczyk.

#### YOUNGER GROUP:

Alicja Bakotowska, Alicja Bargowska, Sandra Baxter, Georgina Buchanan, Aleksandra Cholyk, Alicja Cholyk, Krystyna Cholyk, Mary Debest, Krystyna Gabrych, Krystyna Gajda, Barbara Jaworska, Jadwiga Karbowiak, Ely Kors, Irena Kubot, Carinne McCann, Teresa Milazanowska, Maria Nowak, Bonnie Petula, Krystyna Reklinska, Krystyna Smolinska, Rosanne Seraphim, Vicky Seraphim, Grazyna Szakun, Krystyna Szefer, Danuta Tadeuszow, Helen Trojanowski, Ewa Twarog, Marion Van Ghans, Teresa Zielinska, Stefan Balaban, Piotr Borowski, Robert Cholyk, Robert Gabrych, Tomasz Gajda, Leszek Kolanka, Stefan Kolanko, Chris Kamensek, Tony Kamensek, Andrzej Kubot, Andrzej Oranit, Edward Osterman, Leslie Osterman, Kristine Paczek, Dennis Petula, Gregory Petula, Tony Petula, Joe Seraphim, Stefan Siencel, Jarek Szakun, Andrzej Twarog, Leszek Twarog, Czesław Wota, Mark Zielinski.

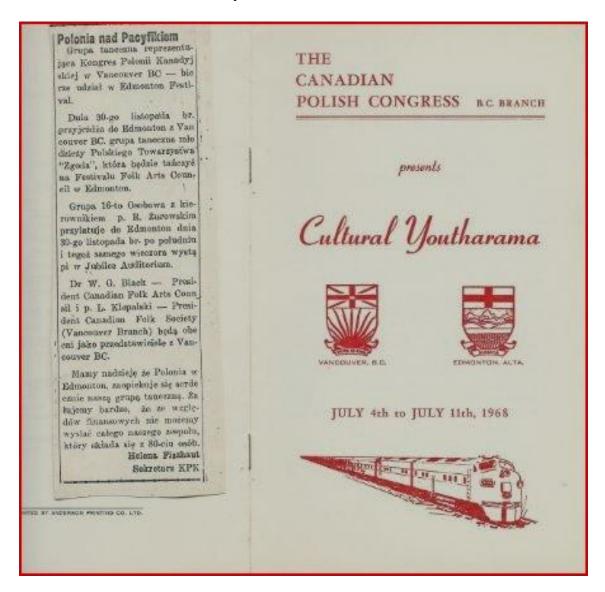
#### ST. CASIMIR'S BAND

Members: Krystyna Czechowska, Richard Balaban, John Gaida, Edward Gontes, George Kamensek, Bernice Kazun, Stanley Kazun, Teresa Kazun, Edward Kazun, Bernadeite Nezil, Richard Patraszewski, Richard Skoczylas, Christopher Urbanowski, Edmund Wikiorowicz, Edward Tokarczyk.

The Program of the tour to Edmonton, with a newspaper release:

On November 30, 1968 the 16 person Polish Dance Group flew to Edmonton, where they performed in the Folk Art Councils Festival.

They danced at Jubilee Auditorium.



In 1966 the group performed at Queen Elizabeth Theatre, in the Polish Christianity Millennium celebration and there were 150 dancers. There was an orchestra under **Dr. Kazun's** leadership, and **Walter Dybinski** was a conductor of a 25 musicians band. Mr. Żurowski, with the Polish Youth Circle & later with P.C.U.Y. performed in cities such as Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Yukon, where the Polish group was on 2 weeks tour i 1973.



In 1969/70 The Polish community failed to keep the promises made in St.Casimir Church to stay united and protect the youth flag as the youth pride for next 50 years. Leaders were unable to compromise with each other, and the departure of Youth Dancers, following later by resignation of Karol Reklinski ended the time of great years of the Polish Youth Circle and the Polish Choir in the Polish Community Center.

Youth formed P.C.U.Y., and practised under the St. Patrick Catholic Church.

This essay is the tribute to the children and youth of Polish-Canadian community, because they have reasons to be extremely proud – they were the only ambassadors of good will and love to Polish heritage more pure then anyone else.

#### Here how Ed recalls the time of Zurowski:

Roman Zurowski always checked the lights, sound and stage a couple days before the performances, and sometimes measured the stage with a tape, to make sure every performance was as perfect as possible. The dance group performed on all major CPC BC Branch events, like Hotel Commodore, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Georgia Hotel, and they were also the pride of Canadian Polish Congress.

The dance group was his main concern. He was the heart and the soul of the youth.

### Here are some photos from that time









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Shows
                 Little Flower Academy
 1. Feb. 16/68
                  Mala Grupa, Oberek, Polka, Krakewiak, duet.
                  Pelish Hall (Valentinki)
 2. Feb. 18/68
                   Balet, Troyak, Fortepian, Polka, Opeczynski, Oberek 1&2 Kujawiak Krakowiak 1,2&4, Zywy Obraz.
 3. Feb. 24/68 Jewish Community Centre
 4. April 21/68 Kujawiak, Oberek Pelka, Krakewiak
                   Mala Grupa
 5. April 28/68 Pelish Hall 4th anniversery
                    The whole show
 6. May5/68
                    Pelish Hall
                   Pelenez, Geralski (twice)
 7. May 11/68 Commendere
                  Geralski, Krakewiak, Pelenez
Pelish Hall (Dzien Matki)
8. May 12/68
                   Opeczynski, Trejak, Kujawiak, Krakewiak Duet.
 9. June 21/68 Plaza Inn South side
Geralski, KrakewiakM, duet.
 10. June 21.68
                    Plaza Inn North side
                    S.A.A.
 11. July 1/68 Kitseline Shewbest
                    2-Hour Show
 12. July 7/68 Pelish Hall Edmenten
                   2-Hour Show
                    Lien's Senier Citizens Club, Edmenten
 13. July 8/68
Mazur, Kujawiak, Geralski, 14. July 9/68 Elk Island Park Edmonton
                   Mazur, Kujawiak, Geralski, Krakowiak, -1&2, Oberek-1&2.
                    S.A.A.
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#### List of events from 1968 - made by Zurowski

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February 16 – Little Flower Academy – 4 dances
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February 18 – Polish Hall – Valentines Day – 6 dances, ballet, piano music, Live picture,

February 24 – Jewish Community Centre – 4 dances

April 21 – St. Casimir School – small group

April 28 – Polish Hall - 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (of Youth Circle) – the whole show

May 5 - Polish Hall - 3 dances

May 11 – Commodore Ballroom – 3 dances

May 12 - Polish Hall - Mothers Day - 4 dances

June 21 – Plaza of Nations South – 3 dances

June 21 – Plaza of Nations North – S.A.A.

July 1 – Kitsilano Show Boat Festival – 2 hours show

July 7 - Edmonton - Polish Hall - 2 hours show

July 8 – Edmonton – Lion's Seniors Citizen Club – 7 dances

July 9 – Edmonton – Elk Island Park – S.A.A.

On the photo we see the **Flag of the Polish Youth Circle**, which was the pride of the young dancers, the pride of Mr. Zurowski, and assisted in many Polish Youth events.



Oath ceremony of the new Youth Flag.
This flag was sponsored by all Polish organizations in British Columbia
Polish Community Center, May 1969



Blessing the Youth Circle Flag in St. Casimir Church, by Father Golus. God Fathers of the Flag: ladies M. Borowska & J. Szefer, Dr. W. Kazun, J. Gajda, St. Nowak, M. Wota.



Nailing the names of the individual founders and all Polish organizations founders to the Youth Circle Flag's pole at Polish Community Center.

#### 5 ROCZNICA KOŁA MŁODZIEŻY Polskiego Towarzystwa Zgoda

Piątą rocznice Koło Młodzieży Polskiego Tow. Zgoda obchodziło uroczyście 18.5. br., tym bardziej, że zostało obdarzone sztandarem przez rodziców członków Koła, oraz przyjaciół wśród których nie zabrakło przedstawicieli z Richmond. Kościół św. Kazimierza był szczelnie wypełniony wiernymi, którzy pragnęli wziąć udział w tak ważnym wydarzeniu poświęcenia sztandaru, który winien być "synonimem zgody, przy-jaźni i jedności młodzieży". Przed rozpoczęciem nabożeństwa mło-dzież w barwnych strojach narodowych weszła do kościoła w zwar-tym szyku "dwójkami" z prezesem Romanem Żurowskim na czezajęła miejsca ławkach. Sztandar Polskiego Tow. Zgoda z pocztem sztandarowym stanał po prawej stronie, a sztandar Koła Młodzieży z rodzicami chrzestnymi: panie M. Borowska, J. Szefer i panowie dr. W. Kazun, J. Gajda, St. Nowak i M. Wota po lewej. Po poświęceniu sztandaru przez ks. prob. Wojciecha Go-lusa, sztandar K. M. stanął obok sztandaru Polskiego Tow. Zgoda, jak syn przy ojcu po maturze.

Mszę św. celebrował ks. pro-boszcz, który też wygłosił podniosłe kazanie, zwracając się do mło-dzieży, uwypuklił znaczenie hasła: "Służ dobrej sprawie", wyhaftowa-nego na białym tle sztandaru, a ręce trzymające płonący "znicz" przypominały hart ducha i charakteru młodzieży, biorącej udział w szlachetnym współzawodnictwie. Napis na dole "Koło Młodzieży Polskiego Towarzystwa Zgoda" stwierdzał pochodzenie i przyna-leżność K.M. Na głównej stronie sztandaru na czerwonym tle Biały Orzeł z symbolicznym Krzyżem Mi-lenium na wschodzącym słońcu, oznaczał katolicki charakter organizacji młodzieżowej.

Kaznodzieja nawoływał młodzież, żeby wiernie trwała przy wierze ne tradycje narodowe, nie mówiąc już o znajoweści o znajomości mowy polskiej która przekazali im rodzice. Pod-czas podniesienia oba sztandary jednocześnie złożyły hołd Chrystu sowi utajonemu w Przenajświęt-szym Sakramencie. Po zakończonej mszy św. zrobiono przed kościołem pamiątkowe zdjęcie.

W drzewce sztandaru został wbite "gwoździe" w późniejszej ce remonii ofiarowane przez wszystkie organizacje społeczne oraz poszczególne osoby, przedstawiające szeroki przekrój społeczny tutej-szej Polonii, która okazała swoją zwartość i rozsądek, stając obok młodzieży prawdziwie zjednoczona. Naturalnie, że są ludzie, którzy zwalczają wszystko, co nie jest ich pomysłem, starają się zniszczyć i zburzyć wszystko nie dając w zamian nic, tak jak to czynią obecnie, wprowadzając w błąd liczne

## Z życia Polonii nad Pacyfikiem

(brązowy); 19. pp. Kniaź, Nanaimo, ciele są dumni z młodego pokole-B.C.; 20. pp. Zwierak, Nanaimo, nia, które podtrzymuje tradycje i B.C.; 21. pp. Knezewski, Nanaimo, obyczaje ojców i praojców. Imię B.C.; 22. pp. Radzil, Nanaimo, B.C. Na wielką skalę zorganizowany lej Kanadzie, nie mówiąc już o Na wielką skalę zorganizowany łej Kanadzie, nie mówiąc już o ciągnęła czarny sztandar i głosiła obchód 5-lecia Koła Młodzieży od- Brytyjskiej Kolumbii i Albercie. hasła wywrotowe. "Cieszę się

mując sztandar złożył przysięgę i wręczył sztandar zarządowi Koła w którego skład wchodzą: Zygmunt Marsz, Anna Milczanowska, Natal-ka Cholyk i Irena Wasilewska.

Ks. prob. W. Golus w swoim przemówieniu przypomniał, że w roku ub. w Paryżu młodzież wyciągnęła czarny sztandar i głosiła



The article from the ceremony held on May 18, 1969. The membership of the Circle was 100 people. There were 250 costumes sewn by mothers and friends, including 14 Polish highlander costumes.

## At Christmas time a group visiting Polish homes and singing Polish Christmas carols surprised many and stirred up emotions.



Barbara Alivojvodic nee Jaworska recalls here the names of all present on the photo from left to right:

Back Row: Myself - Barbara Alivojvodic (Jaworska), Host Lady, Wanda Valouche (Matsalla), Bogdan Murawski, Host Man, Janina Marsz (Borowska), Mr. Zurowski, Mrs. Labelle

Middle Row: Mr. Reid (father of Patti), Brenda Matsalla, Lisa Matsalla (young girl between sisters), Agatha Gibbons (Matsalla), Virginia Mielczarek, Patti Reid, Terri Labelle

Front Row: Peter Marsz, Patti Semak???, Janek Eichel, Vince Eichel, Z. Tadeuszow

A recollection of that time from a member of Polish folk dance group, Janine Marsz:

Polish Friendship Zgoda Society - were it all started. For Mr. Zurowski the dance group were his children of choice. He devoted his life to the dance group. On a regular basis provided rides to children who had no form of transportation to the dance practice, in this 1966 red and white Barracuda.

From the best of our recollection he worked for the City of Vancouver in the Engineering Department as an engineer architect.



Another Barracuda from sixties

In the early years at Zgoda the dance group danced/performed to the music of **Stan Kazun's Band**. Eventually Mr. Z invested in a large tape recorder where he could tape his own music.

The dance group had many costumes sewn by parents. The parents also bought used white girls ice skates, removed the blades and spray painted them red to resemble the red Krakowskie boots back in Poland.

Mrs. Wyspianska taught Polish folk dancing at Zgoda, followed by Carol Coulsen.



Youth Circle Ballet dancing at Kitsilano Show Boat Festival



At St. Casimir Church and at Zgoda, always happy





The Youth Committee supported by Father Golus





Valentines dances at Zgoda, and bellow: at the top row the St. Casimir music band led by Stan Kazun In the middle, Roman Zurowski and Stan Jaworski





During the Christmas season the PCUY dressed up in Polish costumes and went caroling to any Polish family in Vancouver who enjoyed listening to the Kolędy (Polish carols). Silent night = Cicha Noc and Oj Maluski, maluski....







## Plaza of Nations, where Polish Youth Circle performed two times



The end of Part 1
Youth Circle Story