

# History of Kamenny Brod and its Faience Factory

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**Life and Death of a Jewish Shetel Filled with Life and Tragedy**

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**12/31/2000**

This story is history of the inhabitants of Kamenny Brod, Ukraine and its' the Kamenny Brod faience factory. The town residents were made up of Jews, Poles, Germans and Ukrainians. This history covers the period from the mid-1800's to year 2,000. Although the fiancé factory is the major theme; it is also the story of the 1919 pogrom and the 1941 holocaust that occurred in Kamenny Brod. This history is presented as a memorial to those that lived and died there and their descendants of Kamenny Brod. In the addendum is a newspaper article on the 80th anniversary written by the author wrote about the events of the1919 Pogrom.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank the author, Valentine Slovatshevsky, for this manuscript on the history of Kamenny Brod and his newspaper article. A kind and gentle person we met during our family tree quest.

His manuscript is the history of Kamenny Brod and its fiancé factory. It describes an eye witness account of one of two other major tragic events that occurred in Kamenny Brod. In 1941 German soldiers murdered the Jews of Kamenny Brod over a several day period. In the appendix is the English translation of the newspaper article Valentine wrote on the 80 anniversary of the pogrom. The article describes the pogrom in Kamenny Brod on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of tragedy in the history of the wooded settlement Kamenny Brod, in Baranovka area. There are many tragic pages but the pogrom on July, 9, 1919 has gone down in history as one of two most tragic experience of this small village, the other is the Holocaust starting in September 1941.

We want to acknowledge his widow, Anna Slovatshevskya, for allowing us to publish her husband's manuscript. We met Anna, after she was widowed, when we visited Kamenny Brod in 2009. Anna gave us her copy of the manuscript that was written in Ukrainian. We had it translated into English after first retyping the Ukrainian copy into MS-Word in Ukrainian, then into English using MS-Word. These copies were sent to Anna in 2009 as well as a MS-Word DVD. I returned Anna's original copy during the course of this year long project.

It should be noted that Valentine was not a Jew; he became a friend through correspondence over several years. His story is of the factory history and does not focus on Shetel life.

Special thanks are to the Sacramento, California Ukrainian Heritage Societies Ola Oliynyk who retyped the manuscript in MS-Word in Ukrainian. Then Ola found Ukrainian translators in the Ukraine, and coordinated all their translation efforts in MS-Word. Since there have been multiple people involved in this translation, it is far from perfect in grammar and translation of certain words or names. Formatting became a problem as various versions of MS-Word were used; no attempt was made to rationalize the discrepancies mentioned.

This publication is produce, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system to preserve a history of a small forest village with a tragic past. The manuscript is dedicated to the descendants of Kamenny Brod, Ukraine and those that lived and perished there.

Allan B. Dolgow 02/28/2010



## Contents

Acknowledgement .....	2
MEMORY DATES .....	7
The Kamenny Brod faience factory.....	13
Forest Swamps Became the Building Site .....	15
Of the Future Factory.....	15
The New Owners of the Factory .....	17
Signs of Decay.....	17
Fire .....	19
The Rise .....	20
For better fortune.....	21
Stormy summer of 1905.....	23
Before a Hard Ordeal.....	25
The Plant in Kamenny Brod: to be or not to be .....	26
Reconstruction.....	30
Kamenny Brod within the Polish District .....	31
Wave of Repressions .....	32
Life of other was passing as it used to.....	33
People's War .....	34
In the area close to the front.....	37
And again: the plant – to be or not to be?.....	38
Hoping for the better.....	39
Poltava landing.....	40
And once again: ‘the plant: to be or not to be’.....	41
To hope with no hope left .....	41
S. K. Minbashyrov. Restoration of the faience plant in Kamenny Brod .....	42
Recalling about front men.....	47
Two jubilees of the sixties .....	49
Reconstruction.....	51
Plant artist .....	53
Rationalizer and skilled man .....	54
They will stay in the memory for long .....	56
M. M. Rudnitskyy.....	56
N. S. Mayzlin .....	56
K. N. Shcherbakov.....	57
H. N. Stul .....	58
F. K. Pashkovskyy .....	58

S. A. Kuchynskyy.....	59
V. V. Shpakevych.....	60
H. P. Korshunova .....	60
I. A. Korniychuk.....	61
Faience plant workers had to deal .....	62
not only with reconstruction.....	62
Beginning .....	63
JUBILEE.....	65
Forest fairy-tale .....	66
It seemed that was going to last forever .....	68
One more five-year plan with F. U. Retman.....	69
Labour dynasties of faience plant workers .....	72
Out of ‘Poltava landing’.....	75
ONE more hope for the local resident .....	76
The first seven years with L. M. Mirutenko .....	77
The holiday of our street.....	79
The main criterion is not plates, but money!.....	81
The beginning of the nineties .....	82
Elections.....	83
Unsuccessful return .....	84
New Election .....	87
Second advent .....	87
Period of regular hardships .....	88
Translation of a Newspaper Article on the 80 year-anniversary of the 1919 Kamenny Brod Pogrom .....	90



## MEMORY DATES

The memorable dates of the history of Kamenny Brod and its faience factory

- The 19<sup>th</sup> century – during the 50’s: There are several houses on the bank of the river in the forest, which are the property of the tar makers and the owners of the water mill.
- 1866                      The faience factory of Countess L. Yablonovsky is being built in the middle of the former marsh near the water pools of the mill
- 1876                      The Kamenny Brod factory is rented by the Zusman family
- 1881                      The elder Zelman Zusman Senior dies. The factory is handed over to his youngest son, Isaac Zusman, who was completing his education in Vienna, Austria at the time took over the plant
- August 6, 1892              The factory and a substantial part of the village is destroyed in a fire
- July 1902                      An article describing the difficult labor conditions is published in the Communist newspaper, “Iskra”<sup>1</sup>
- November 21, 1903              First seven day economic strike at the Kamenny Brod faience factory by the workers
- May 1, 1905                      First attempt to make the “May Day” demonstration
- May 1, 1906                      May Day<sup>2</sup> demonstration. Workers gather in the forest, declare their economical and political demands, have summer strikes and set up the “forest kitchen”<sup>2</sup>
- February 1907                      A.F. Zusman arrives to Kamenny Brod. Workers give the owner their economic demands and announce a strike. The last strike of the faience factory workers takes place.
- October 8, 1909                      The factory inspection of the Volinsky Provence sets the rules and regulations of operation for the Zusman Faience Factory operations.
- 1913                      The Kamenny Brod Faience Factory becomes the property of the Volinsky department of the Agricultural Bank
- 1915                      Fire destroys all of the wooden structures in the factory
- 1918                      Based on the decision of the Volinsky Provence Revolutionary Committee, the factory workers establish the underground Novograd-Volinsky “Revkom”<sup>3</sup> with N.A. Kisselgoff (Naumov) as its leader.
- Autumn 1918                      A theater ran by the producer, Yablochnikov is established in the building that was formerly a synagogue.

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<sup>1</sup> Iskra (Russian: Искра) meaning spark, was a political newspaper of Russian socialists established as the official organ of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps a permanent or temporary picnic house

<sup>3</sup> Commonly used Russian acronym for: Revolutionary Committee

July 7, 1919 (Revolutionary Committee) <sup>4</sup>	The Sokolovtzy bandits destroy the Novograd-Volinsky Revkom
July 9, 1919 one day.	The Jewish pogrom in Kamenny Brod., 137 people killed, the attack lasts one day.
October 1919	S. Vasilevich is the first elected Chairman of the Village Soviets
July 1922 village	The Komsomol (Young Communists) Organization <sup>4</sup> is established in the village
Autumn 1924	The question of existence, “to be or not to be” is asked in reference to the Kamenny Brod factory. The workers do not allow the dismantlement of the factory. A delegation, with L.P Slovachevsky as its head arrives to Kharkiv to make an appeal to the government
1926	I.V. Mikheyev becomes the director of the factory and begins its reorganization and expansion. The building of the Cathedral “Kostyol” <sup>5</sup> construction is under way
1928	A new powerful steam boiler and a steam engine are installed
1933-1934	The new cobblestone road from Dovbish to Rogachev is laid across Kamenny Brod. Two cobblestone roads are built in Kamenny Brod
1935	The two-story Secondary School building opens
1936	The establishment of the Kamenny Brod Department of Forestry
May 1938	The first graduation from the local Secondary School
1939	The liquidation of the farmyards on the outskirts of the village. The majority of the farmers move to Kamenny Brod.
June 1941	Over 200 men are drafted from Kamenny Brod to join the frontline
July 1941	Kamenny Brod is occupied by the Germans
September-October 1941	Jewish families are brought to the quarries and are shot there <sup>6</sup>
September 1943	The village is liberated from the Germans by guerilla fighters
January 1, 1944	The Soviet Army comes to the region and restores Soviet territory
January-February 1944	Men from Kamenny Brod are drafted to the frontlines The people of Kamenny Brod prepare the grounds for building the airdrome near Tartak I.M Talko becomes the head of the factory and makes preparations to start it

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<sup>4</sup> The Union of Young Communists

<sup>5</sup> The name for a Polish Catholic church

<sup>6</sup> Another interpretation: the Jewish families of the Kamenny quarries were shot



May 1944	The workers of the Kamenny Brod send the first wagon of construction faience to Moscow, which allows the factory to officially begin operating
1945	Director O.O Chernin helps bring the factory's third revival <sup>7</sup>
June 1953	The first graduation of the Kamenny Brod Secondary School since the war
July 1954	The work at the quarries is restored
November 6, 1954	The opening of the new Recreation Club
December 1959	The production of the construction faience is discontinued
1960	The opening of the Tuberculosis Hospital, 30 vacancies
1961-1962	The Kamenny Brod Faience Factory wins first place in the competition of all porcelain and faience factories in the Ukraine
November 18, 1963 worker's graduation	The celebration of 60 years since the first Kamenny Brod faience
August 1964	The committee of porcelain and faience trade representatives of Ukraine gathers in Kamenny Brod to discuss the issue of perfecting the white color of the product
May 26, 1966 citizens killed in the battles of 1941-1945	Grand opening of the obelisk in memory of the Kamenny Brod citizens killed in the battles of 1941-1945 with their names carved on it
May 28, 1966 invention of the Kamenny Brod Faience	"The hand operated machine for producing multi-colored designs", an Factory employee, F.V. Polansky is registered in the USSR registry of inventions
November 10, 1970	Celebration of beginning the reconstruction of the faience factory Construction of the shop for the tunnel industry
April 5, 1972	The driver of the factory, V.V Shpakevitch, is decorated with "The order of the October Revolution"
June 11, 1972	The first "Trade Day" celebration of the Faience Factory workers
May 1973	The first Secondary School reunion, and the beginning of this tradition
October 6, 1973 "family" of faience makers	The first grand ceremony accepting young workers into the "family" of faience makers
February 13, 1974	The tunnel furnaces are started The grand celebration
December 26-30, 1974	100 year Anniversary of the Faience Factory Celebration

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<sup>7</sup> Another interpretation: The third return of Director O.O Chernin to Kamenny Brod

December 30, 1976	The Museum of History of the Faience Factory is opened
January 6, 1977	The Faience Factory received the Supreme Soviet of USSR award Several factory workers receive honorable titles and awards from the Supreme Soviet of the USSR
March 5, 1977	The new kindergarten “Lisova Kazka” is open; 280 spots available A grand celebration took place
February 27, 1978	Professors and students from the Kaunass U. Gryodis Conservatory of Lithuania visit The beginning of the long-term relationship
1984	The closing of the quarries
1986 with gas.	The buildings and the apartments of Kamenny Brod begin to be supplied Kirov Street was the first to receive gas supply
October 1987	The celebration on Uvilayny Street
June 1, 1989 and guests participate	The first amateur night at the Vaculevich family’s home. Local families
September 30, 1989	“Mria”, the girls club, celebrates its 20 year anniversary
October 8, 1989	The meeting with a large group of representatives of the Polish Embassy in Kiev takes place The beginning of Polish culture revival in Kamenny Brod
April 1990 1950’s	The Polish residents restore the monument that was destroyed in the late
Autumn 1990	The town’s first organized Catholic service
1990	The Health Resort for the faience workers was built
June 22, 1991 War	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration since the beginning of the Great Patriotic This was the first time that representatives from the Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church were present at the ceremony
June 1991 used to stand	A monument is erected in the place where a Russian Orthodox church
August 1991	Bishop Yan Pervinsky comes to sanctify “Kostyol” <sup>8</sup> in Kamenny Brod
September 1991 curriculum	The first time the Polish language is offered in the school’s
May-June 1992 Shumchinsky Swamp	An unbelievable event that lasted more than a week took place at the

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<sup>8</sup> The name for a Polish Catholic church

- July 1992 The first children's vacation trip to Poland
- February 1993 The Girls Club, "Mria" and the brass orchestra host a festive celebration to mark the end of harvesting season.  
The event took place at the Dibrov Park
- April 1993 The "Birch Tree" festival organized within the green outdoors of Kamenny Brod.  
A great number of people participate
- May 1993 The first time a female choir participates in the Polish Song Festival
- June 1993 The faience workers attempt a strike
- 1993 The Chief Artist of the faience factory, A.S. Mikeyeva received the title: Honored Artist of Ukraine
- January 1994 A conference of the faience factory employees concludes that the factory is in a poor state of business, and that the Director, L.M. Mirutenko and his cabinet are not sufficiently performing their duties.
- August 1994 The first election for the director of the factory. Later this election was deemed illegal.
- November 1994 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Faience Factory Club
- July 1995 A great gathering dedicated to the Jewry of Kamenny Brod takes place. The officials from Zhytomyr are present. The 500<sup>th</sup> issue of the newsstand-paper "The Club Activist" is published
- April 26, 1996 The grand opening of the Kamenny Brod Children's Resort. District representatives and republican authority are present
- December 1997 The presentation of the album titled "The factory and its people". The album is comprised of two volumes which contain photographs, documents and clippings from newspaper publications.
- May 1998 The Secondary School celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the first graduation in the year, 1938
- April 2000 More than of the shares of Kamenny Brod are sold for a low price to the company "Ridan".  
The beginning of a new era at the factory



## **THE KAMENNY BROD FAIENCE FACTORY**

Kamenny Brod is one of the six villages bearing the same name in the former Soviet Union, which was located in the forest along the River Nemylianka, the right tributary of the River Sluch, in a kind of a triangular formed by the already known villages of Dovbysh, Baranivka, and the town of Novohrad-Volynsky.

The village (or rather a town at that period of time) is of doubtful origin. Although there is a small entry in the book entitled "The History of Towns and Villages of Ukraine" which says that Kamenny Brod of Baranivka District (district) dates back to 1862, it does not provide any historical source and, therefore, contains unreliable information.

It is most likely that the village (nowadays a provincial town) appeared in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century owing to the tar extractors who started building their houses on the picturesque banks of a slow-moving little forest river.

Several possible explanations are put forward as to the origin of the name.

One of the them is based on the fact that the first settlers were Poles from Poland who had lived in a similar place with a remarkably similar forest river called the Kamenny Brod. The only reason the name was not taken was because the river was soon shown on the map under the name of "Nemylianka", since it flowed into the River Sluch close to the village of Nemylnia. The settlement, on the other hand, was called Kamenny Brod.

Another quite plausible explanation is that the river was running through the dense forest and swamps. Thus it was possible to cross the river safely in places where its banks and bottom were made from hard stones. As the ford was usually maximum several dozens meters broad, everyone needed to find their own Kamenny Brod to travel across the river.

No matter which assumption underlies the choice of the name for the forest settlement, "Kamenny Brod" (the Kamenny Brod) was adopted, kept, and satisfied the desires of all the people living there.

The commercial and historical development of the village was supported by the local faience factory. In addition, local inhabitants have always been proud of the countryside surrounded by the beauties of nature such as the forest and the river. They were proud of the village location close to several districts, the nearest of which, Novograd-Volynsky and Chervonoarmiysk, were only several hundred meters away.

As for the forest, the village was surrounded by its mighty broadbranched oaks, evergreen slender pines, and whitebarked birches, stretching for two and sometimes for dozens of kilometers.

From time immemorial it seemed as if the forest was protecting the villagers from the evils, giving them building materials, timber as well as everyday foods such as various berries, mushrooms, and herbs. On the whole, the scenic beauty of the pristine forest deserves special attention in the book.

A watermill was built in that peculiar outlying village at the time of tar extractors and forest workers, prior to the opening of the faience factory. It perhaps appeared on the banks of the forest river before the building of windmills, one of which stood till the 1950s near the village of Vladyn. Nowadays one can hardly believe that such a slow-moving and often shallow river could move heavy millstones. However, they were moved. Moreover, those millstones produced good flour because the owner of the mill with the help of inhabitants of surrounding villages had built two ponds by the riverside to store water for the mill, in case there was dry weather.

Later the ponds were used by the faience factory, the owner of which ordered to put oak logs to support the banks with wooden gutters, which directed water to the factory. There was a guard on duty near the ponds to protect them from water poultry. Women were prohibited to do the laundry or anything else there. Therefore, the ponds abounded with fish, since nobody went fishing there for years.

As for the river itself, it was full of living creatures. Its thicket was swarming with various birds and animals. Its banks were rich in motley grass and herbs.

Soon a lot of houses were built by the riverside. They formed such khutirs (isolated farms) as Zolotiok, Krasne etc. Those khutirs (isolated farms) were mainly inhabited by Polish and German families.

As for the future town of faience factory workers, it was at first inhabited by scattered settlements, starting from areas of high ground by the riverside, and then wedging in the forest. Later it was called Sobachivka and remained Sobachivka for over a hundred years.

The first street was perhaps the road leading from the above-mentioned watermill to the village of Nemylnia. The road would be linking the town with such khutirs as Batih, Finiak and the village of Chervona Dvirka. Further it would stretch across the Khretna landmark to the villages of Ostrozhka and Rohachev, and would serve pedestrian and horse traffic route till the construction of Dovbyn-Rohachiv Highway.

The street seemed to be the highest in the town, and maybe that was the reason why most of the Jews showed preference to settle down there. It was full of different stores. Eventually, a tavern, an audit and other establishments appeared in the street. That is, the street became a central one, although elms, birches and pines, which were standing separately, testified to its forest origin for a long period of time. In general, clumps of trees and bushes in the whole town provided evidence of its forest origin.

There are reminiscences of plenty of wild duck in a lot of different places, even near farms, as far back as the 1920-30s.

There was no massive house building in Kamenny Brod even after the factory had been set up. The faience factory workers were mainly inhabitants of the surrounding villages and khutirs. The town started large house construction after the arrival of Jewish families. However, the houses they were building were exclusively “barracks”, i.e. long houses for several families, some of which survived till the post-war period of the Second World War.

The 1920-30s was the period when the number of wooden and later stone houses was rising, especially after the liquidation of the surrounding khutirs and when most of the inhabitants of Batoh, Didky, Zolot’ko and Krasne moved to the town in 1938-39.

The inhabitants of the town, who were the factory workers, could hardly be called the proletariat. They remained peasants, who continued to work both plots of land near their houses and vast arable fields, no matter which nationally they were – Poles, Ukrainians or Jews. Without exception, everyone kept larger or smaller quantities of farm animals in their barns.

According to one of the archive documents dated 1891, dozens of Polish families who lived mostly in Dibrova, Zolot’ko and Kamenny Brod, took a 50 – year lease on the land (from 54 to 108 acres) from Princess Yablonovs’ka, the owner of all the surrounding lands. Most of the leaseholders were also connected with the faience factory. The document and the list of leaseholders will be referred to later.

A worker of the faience factory had been also a peasant for a long time. A significant part of inhabitants of the surrounding villages and khutirs who had horses (and they were the majority) were hired as seasonal workers on the factory. They were mainly collectors of timber and clay extracted from the quarries, which were located in Shaba, Nemyl’nia, near the forest khutir of Sostrobel’ and in Kamenny Brod itself.

There were days, especially late in autumn, when about a hundred of farm carts were temporarily hired. Strings of carts loaded by clay, kaolin and sand were moving towards the factory. Carts loaded by barrels and earthenware were moving in the opposite direction, mainly to the station in Polonne.

Eventually, while the factory was increasing the output and, consequently, increasing the number of workers, as a chain of different stores was opening in the town. There were at least 36 private so – called public houses at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The town still had to wait for educational establishments such as schools or classes, until the beginning of a new 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the synagogue, which was built in the 1890s, already had a school for Jewish children.

As for the cultural communication, the inhabitants communicate on the grounds of nationality and solely during the festivities.

Without doubt, there was also mass entertainment in summer. People gathered together in houses, at the edge of the forest or by the riverside. They had their own musicians and singers. Almost everyone was working hard, and there were hardly any wealthy people among them. A pair of horses, sometimes a pair of oxen, several cows and some small farm animals - that was the "wealth", which demanded repetitive back - breaking work, whereas only big festivities offered possibilities for personal relaxation and enjoyment. Since the biggest fairs were held in Polonne and Novograd - Volinsky, it was not an easy thing to sell something.

There were no local cemeteries in the town for a long length of time. Whereas the so-called Germans were buried in Finiak and Zolotiok cemeteries, Poles from the neighborhood had to bury their dead as far as Slobidka (at present it is Lebedivka of Novograd-Volinsky District).

The absence of Orthodox and Catholic cemeteries in the 19th century in such villages as Tartak, Dibrovka, Chervony Dvir, in such khutirs (very small villages) as Krasne, Didok, Stanislavivka, and Zolotiok and in Kamenny Brod provides indirect evidence of the fact that they were not ancient settlements, the origin of which went back to early times.

The development of the area to a certain extent became dependent on the activity of the faience factory in Kamenny Brod, though there had been small glass works in Tartak, Adamivka (near Dovbysh), and Dzikunka (at present Yavorivka of Novograd-Volinsky District) and the paper mill in Ostrozh. However, they were small-scale with small workforce and low output.

### **FOREST SWAMPS BECAME THE BUILDING SITE OF THE FUTURE FACTORY**

The faience factory in Kamenny Brod was not the first of its type in Ukraine. Moreover, the exact date of its construction is not known, and several possible options have been offered by the press and archive materials. The years 1873, 1874, 1875 and 1876 are mentioned as the years of building in various documents of the Kyiv historical archive. As for other sources, the Polish scholars believe that the factory existed as far back as 1869. Therefore, it is likely that the factory was built in the 1860s.

It is known that at that period of time there were ceramic factories in Baranivka, Dovbysh and Horodnytsia.

Nevertheless, they had not been producing china yet. According to historical sources, the first china producers in Ukraine were the factories in Korca (1874), Kyevo-Mezhyhirs'k (1798) and other small factories such as factories in Yemil'chyno, Romaniv, Bilotyn, Barashykh, Berdychiv, and Polonne and much later in Budy of Kharkiv oblast (region).

As for Russia, the China business was booming at that time, and there were a lot of china factories, most of which are forgotten and mentioned only in museums, archives and literature. Therefore, the factory in Kamenny Brod was far from being the only one in the country.

We are not certain we know for sure who built the factory. Till recently, it was considered to be constructed on the initiative of Princess Yablons'ka and Earl Tyshkevych. However, F.S. Pestrikova in her book entitled "The Ukrainian Artistic Chinaware (the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> c. – the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> c.)" claims that the factory in Kamenny Brod had been the property of Countess Strohanova since 1869(perhaps the same who owned the college in Moscow). Moreover, it was said that in 1874 the factory belonged to the Department (of appendage). Later, in 1887 – 1892, the factory is mentioned in the book as the producer of china and faience owned by F. Zusman. In 1913 the Volyn' department of the Peasant Land Bank owned the factory.

It should be noted that in 1875 the factory in Kamenny Brod had already been leased by the Zusman's. Furthermore, it was in 1875 that Dreysh, the merchant woman and the mother of the Zusman's, bought or maybe took a lease on twenty more desiatynas of land (i.e. 54 acres) to expand the factory. The signed contract written on the officially stamped paper is kept in the local history museum of the Kamenny Brod faience factory management decided to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the factory. The Polish book entitled "The Polish Chinaware" indicates that it was in 1876 that the factory was leased by Isaac Fishel Zel'menovych Zusman, who had been studying in Vienna University.

Let us return to the place and reasons of the faience factory construction. As it is already known, at that time the area was rich enough in small industrial enterprises. The Kamenny Brod factory itself had started from one kiln.

It is definitely true that the factory builders had an intuition since, eventually; the factory in the forest settlement became the largest in the country. Meanwhile, there were such key factors in the decision to build the factory on that site as the availability of kaolin and other types of clay; constant water supplied by the forest river and its big ponds; timber supplied by ancient Volyn' thick forest, and, finally, the workforce, since there were a lot of surrounding villages and khutirs with inhabitants already liberated from serfdom but had never had money for years. As for specialists, they were borrowed from the existing china factories.

As time went by it became evident that the building site for the factory had been chosen correctly. That was perhaps the first factory that had been built on the swamp. Moreover, water from the ponds had to flow by itself, and the fact that the swamp was not gently sloping and had steep sand banks was additional advantage. The first kilns had high bases, and the approaches to them were on oak timber piles, which were later used for other building purposes. On the whole, china factories produced a lot of waste, and the factory had where to dispose it without any transport. The disposal of waste was actually planned years in advance. That was proved in the 1950s when the factory management started the construction of stone buildings, and it was necessary to put the foundations on solid rock. They had to dig through 3-4 meters of waste plus a generous layer of peat. The remnants of the oak piles were found there as well.

Afterwards, when the first construction site swamp was covered, waste was dumped into another nearby swamp, which was closer to the river. There were tones of waste – broken china, boxes, and china baking equipment and many other things, a lot more than finished products.

The author of these lines was lucky enough to talk with those inhabitants of Kamenny Brod who had listened to the factory builders. The preparatory period was rather long. Firstly, they cut trees in the swamp. Then they uprooted the stumps to drive piles. Afterwards, they made timber gutters. Oak logs were put in the ponds to make water clean. Carts were used to bring special kiln brick for circular kilns with high chimneys.

Consequently, there was the necessity both for workforce and draught animals (mainly horses). Horse – drawn carts were rented from the khutirs, where almost every house had two or more horses.

The factory is said to have been constructed quickly, and the first production attempts were quite successful, though initially they tried to produce pharmaceutical products and insulators. However, there are no remnants even in the waste, whereas some china or semi – china products have survived intact and are exhibited in the local factory museum.

There is no factual data showing the output and workforce of the factory for the first twenty years of its existence. In 1880s, there were 149 permanent workers, apart from numerous seasonal workers. Sixty of them were molding products, twenty were painting them, eight were vitrifying products, and eight were paint grinding and doing other auxiliary jobs. There were eight workers servicing the steam engines, which was perhaps the first one used at such factories for raw material grinding. The raw materials (kaolin and clay) were extracted in the quarries of the village of Nemyl'nia and the landmark of Shaber. There they were soaked, graded, pretreated and then taken to the factory. A great number of workers took part in the process of extraction and pretreatment. In other words, as far back as the end of the 1870s – the beginning of the 1880s there were much more factory workers in Kamenny Brod than at any other factory in Baranivka, Dovbysh, Polonne and Horodnytsia. Afterwards, under the leadership of A. Zusman, especially after the transition of the factory to the faience production, the factory in Kamenny Brod had become highly profitable and known in the area and beyond.



## **THE NEW OWNERS OF THE FACTORY**

The Zusman's became the new owners of the factory. Unfortunately, it is unknown how and where they came from to Kamenny Brod. Neither have we known anything about their arrival to the forest village nor about the ultimate fate of the whole family and I.F. Zusman, as the main leaseholder, in particular.

Initially, Dreislia Zusman, the mother of I.F. Zusman, is said to have been the main leaseholder of the factory since it is her signature on the contract concerning the extension of the factory territory dated 1877 with Itsko Faychengolf, Petro Teodorovych Ivanits'ky and Stepan Fedorovych Kozakov acting as witnesses.

I.F. Zusman, who became the future owner of the factory, was studying abroad. Later, when he became the factory owner, no other members of the family had ever been mentioned in documents. Rumor has it that he was successfully married to the owner of several cloth mills.

F. Zusman was mentioned as the owner of the faience factory in Bilotyn. However, when the factory was later transferred to Kamenny Brod, the owner was M. Shapiro, and there were no documents revealing where F. Zusman had disappeared. As for the double name of the factory owner in Kamenny Brod, it is possible to make a hypothesis that a middle name, Fishel', was perhaps given to him in honor of his dead brother, who maybe had leased the factory in Bilotyn. Thus can be explained the transference of the Bilotyn factory remnants after it had been destroyed in a fire in 1889 and later in 1892.

Concerning I.F. Zusman, there were rumors that he later perished in the Warsaw ghetto in 1943 at an advanced age. It is also known that he did not live in Kamenny Brod, Polonne or Horodnytsia, where he was leasing the local china factories, but visited them from time to time, hardly ever to be exact. In fact, he lived both in Vienna and L'viv.

The author failed to find any information concerning I.F. Zusman in the archives of certain towns of Ukraine. Unfortunately, neither could he pay for the search for the information by one of the Red Cross bureaus.

A special photo album is claimed to have been in the factory office, which contained photos of I.F. Zusman, especially during his stay in Kamenny Brod, as well as the information regarding him and the factory office workers. The album is said to have been seen immediately after the Second World War. Then it vanished without trace. Maybe it is in safe hands of an archive or a museum waiting for a researcher.

That is the available information relating to the Zusman's, the family who owned the faience factory for many years, left traces in the development of the faience factory in Volyn' and in the history as well as memories of many generations of the forest village inhabitants of Kamenny Brod.

The story would not have been full if the bulletin dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Great Socialist Revolution and published by the chemical trust had not been mentioned. It focused on several china factories, directing special attention to the faience factory in Kamenny Brod. It can be explained by the fact that the bulletin was written by S. Lityns'ky, the former manager of Zusman's factory in Kamenny Brod, who in the 1920s started his work in the chemical trust.

Moreover, one more Zusman, Zelman Zusman, maybe the father of I.F. Zusman, was mentioned in the bulletin, and it was indicated that he had been at the head of the factory for four years, from 1874 to 1878. When he died in 1931, his old workers were rather doubtful about the young Felix (not Isaac) Zusman, who displayed an arrogant attitude towards the specialists in Kamenny Brod. Perhaps the author of the bulletin made the mistake about the names.

## **SIGNS OF DECAY**

Taking reminiscences published in the above – mentioned "Bulletin" into consideration as well as publications on the factory history by the Jewish newspaper entitled "Der Emes" in 1924, and a lack of other items of information, it can be said that the arrival of young Zusman at the factory was highly controversial. As for the first factory manager, according to the publications, it was Isaac Faigengolts who headed the china factory construction in the forest village. He, with the

help of the ceramist Rubin, had been also responsible for the china and faience production for about 25 years. The ceramist Rubin was more interested in china production than in faience, finally succeeded in his attempts to produce high quality china products. First faience products were usually black or green color at that time. Even if they possessed certain whiteness, they contained a fundamental defect called "iris", i.e. there were glaze crack defects, which had not been remedied yet. The defects were the only reason why the factory in Kamenny Brod initially preferred the production of china and semi – china, the quality of which was improving, and in the 1880s the factory became profitable with the output of thirty thousand rubles per year. Eventually, the demand for ceramics had increased greatly, and the factory in Kamenny Brod was the only one in the area, which was able to increase its output considerably whereas the cost of products had increased three times.

At that time the Zusman's took out a new 20-year lease on the Horodnytsia china factory from its owner, Bosse. Then the young Zusman employed a new ceramist, Hurvits, who in fact was not an experienced specialist, who had some problems with the production. Isaac Faigengolts was not entirely happy about the situation. Moreover, Hurvits was also trying to get rid of the old Rubin and launch his own products into full production. It was a period of great change since Faigengolts and Rubin still had many loyal followers who were not willing to support the new administration of the twenty-year-old I.F. Zusman. The latter (Zusman) perhaps is feeling that something had gone wrong with his creation in Kamenny Brod, brought German china and glaze formulas, which were successful. As for Rubin, though he was an experienced ceramist, he was fired from his job.

The new – fledged ceramist Hurvits had been successful only at the start. Then the kilns began to produce deformed products, which were far from white. For a long period of time, there had not been a single china kiln making qualitative products. I.F. Zusman, who was living in L'viv at that time, started to get increasingly worried. He decided to sign the contract of employment with an experienced German ceramist, Peters, whose advertisement he had found in one of the magazines. When the German expert arrived, he was warmly welcomed by the Kamenny Brod factory workers as the rescuer of their china manufacturing.

Unfortunately, he was found out to be another Peters, young and inexperienced, who started a lengthy reconstruction process of the kilns. However, his first attempts to bake china in the newly reconstructed kiln were unsuccessful. Moreover, the baking time was lengthened about one and a half times, whereas the ceramics mass quality suffered. The formula changes did not help-- every item (plates, saucers, kettles) was badly deformed during the baking process and thrown away together with sages. The factory had not been producing any high quality china for nearly half a year.

Consequently, I.F. Zusman was eager to terminate Peters' contract of employment, and he sent a telegram to the factory informing about his intentions. As Peters disagreed on this point, he appealed to the governor. The commission from Zhitomir suggested that the factory should pay Peters two-month compensation before firing him. The factory was facing economic catastrophe, and it looked as if nothing could avert it. When Hurvits' attempts to restore the production failed, I. F. Zusman arrived in Kamenny Brod. He decided to find a way out of the situation himself. It was then that Zusman found Sh. Lityns'ky, the paint producer who had always had his own point of view concerning the factory. Soon Sh. Lityns'ky was appointed the factory manager, and Zusman gave him all his technical and technological achievements.

Zusman's choice was excellent- Sh. Lityns'ky had been the manager of Kamenny Brod factory for 36 years, and it was he who transformed the factory into the best in the country, which would soon afterwards compete with the famous M.S. Kuznietsov factory.

From these small beginnings it gradually grew into the vast factory producing china and followed by faience. The experienced ceramist Novotny, who had been found by I.F. Zusman, under the leadership of a good manager, would start the production extension as well as mechanization. The factory baked up to twenty kilns a week producing up to 163,800 kg of finished products with the help of five hundred of permanent workers. In other words, the factory became independent.

## FIRE

Although the working conditions in the Kamenny Brod factory were far from ideal, payments to the workers were far from generous, and working hours were far from sensible reaching 14 hours a day, the people were happy with the way things went. They got weekly pay on Saturday, though not always in cash, and were able to live on it with their big families. It was rather difficult to raise children even having some land and farm animals. Actually, the factory in Kamenny Brod enabled people from the surrounding villages and khutirs to survive. As for the town itself, it was growing, building new streets, whimsical houses, and long "barracks" for several families.

In the 1870s, the center of the town was mainly inhabited by the newly arrived Jewish families, whereas the Polish families were building their houses on the outskirts of the town located near the forest or sometimes in the forest. They were rather poor but full of hopes to become richer working at the factory. Sometimes their hopes came true, especially for those who displayed or developed a high degree of skill in crafts such as painting or carpentry. Furthermore, there was a wide range of available job choices, and skilled workers were well-paid, though they were working hard, making fine china admired by both customers and connoisseurs of white clay and sand. Gradually, the factory skilled workers turned into real professional experts in china and faience. The chinaware from Kamenny Brod was well-known in Europe, which had had old china traditions, and could compete with different European china markets. It was also presented and marked on international exhibitions...

The rises and falls of the factory in Kamenny Brod occurred with regularity. They were often rather significant. Looking through the newspapers of the 1880-90s, one could often find warning notices telling about fires, the fires in Kamenny Brod in particular. Most of them were notes about fires, which destroyed separate buildings. It was inevitable since nearly all the buildings were made of wood, had straw roofs and often caught fire.

However, the fire that broke out on 6 August 1892 was especially fierce and such huge fire had never been seen nor could huge fire had never been imagined in Kamenny Brod. It started on a windy festival Sunday day when nearly all people left the town for Rohachev and went to the local market. Fire quickly spread though the building standing close to the factory, and then story winds fanned it and spread over the factory buildings. A disastrous fire swept through the whole town destroying everything on its way. Moreover, there were no people to fight the fire. Soon, the town becomes a raging inferno, and it was so badly damaged by fire that the tragic news traveled fast all over the country.

Soon afterwards a special correspondent of the regional newspaper "Volyn", KHZ. Kalamazoo, came to Kamenny Brod and wrote an article about the fire dated 12 August 1892. The article gives us a vivid picture of the fire in the town more than a hundred years ago. I consider it necessary to give the full article here:

" Baranivka, Novograd-Volyn' ueydz (district), 6 August (1892): At a distance of seventeen kilometers from our town, there was a fire in the village of Kamenny Brod destroys in its consequences. It started in a shed standing in the middle of the village, which consisted mainly of shabby Jewish houses. Strong winds fanned the fire, and in an hour or two the whole center was ablaze. All the attempts to extinguish the faience were vain. The central parts of the village adjoining streets were turned to ashes. The flames destroyed all the village possessions acquired with blood and sweat. All in all, 28 buildings were burned, including a farm house and the china factory of Zusman, a hereditary citizen, containing seventeen separate stone and wood buildings, which had been providing the village inhabitants with work and money to make a living. Zusman sustained heavy losses amounting to 500, 000 rubles, whereas the factory was said to be insured for 125, 000 rubles. The village that had actually ceased to exist presents a weird picture of devastation. Thus several dozens of Jewish families have been left homeless and starving as well as Christian families have been deprived of their bread. The horrific picture of devastation is producing the unforgettable impression.

After such a disaster, Zusman decided against rebuilding the factory, perhaps he did not have enough money as he had obtained only 75,000 rubles of insurance. His attempt to get more

money had not been successful. Although it was proved that the fire had started in the town and spread to the factory later, the factory was not adequately insured for the fire caused damage, and the cost of the damage was estimated to be several times greater than the insurance.

Initially, Zusman refused to rebuild the factory. Maybe it was a kind of a smart move or perhaps he really did not see any sense in its reconstruction. But what were supposed to do all those people, workers and clerks, whose fate was closely linked to the factory?

They were forced to appeal to the factory owner with the suggestion to rebuild the factory in credit, i.e. they agreed to reconstruct the factory without being paid immediately. Their wages had to be returned during a ten-year period. After careful considerations and considerable doubts, Zusman agreed.

According to the reminiscences of the factory manager, Sh. Lityns'ky, the reconstruction was accomplished in six months. First finished products were manufactured almost in a year. Since that time the factory in Kamenny Brod had been producing exclusively faience products.

## **THE RISE**

During the reconstruction period, the factory owner was doing his best to modernize the whole production process, taking all the previous drawbacks into account.

It was at that time that the Bilotyn faience factory equipment was bought, though there are some divergences in the literature concerning the date of its purchase. According to the documents, the factory in Bilotyn was still open in 1889. Consequently, its equipment was transported to Kamenny Brod after the fire. In addition to that, Zusman was in favor of buying some labor-saving devices for the mechanization of production processes, for the material development, for kaolin grinding, and product molding abroad, mainly in Germany. Steam engines were widely used at the factory after the restoration (which with the help of various transmissions drove molding machines lightening the workload of molders.) Ball mills for the material and slip preparation were also driven without horses, by means of steam gadgets.

The factory reconstruction was undertaken under the leadership of the manager, Sh. Lityns'ky. At that time he was an experienced specialist in the field who knew how to build factory shops making the most efficient use of ceramic processes. The cycle of manufacturing, processing and drying had already had a stage character with the usage of heat produced by bake ovens. Some stages of the processes were taking place simultaneously on three strollers. For example, there was a blank production shop on the first floor of one of the factory buildings. The elevator was used to take the material up on the second floor where there were 120 molding machines driven by steam engines. The third floor was occupied by the molding shop. The inhabitants of Kamenny Brod saw something like that in the factory in the prewar 1940. Everything was heated by the heat from the kilns. More than a hundred of painters were working in the painting shop, using paint sprayers etc.

Therefore, a lot of production processes had been gradually mechanized at the factory in Kamenny Brod. The working conditions in the factory had improved as well as the overall look of faience products, which had become more diverse in form and decoration. The factory in Kamenny Brod was becoming more and more noticeable on the commodity market. The factory output increased to 245,700 kg a month. The number of kilns and sager was also growing. Soon there were thirteen kilns in the factory... Such figure in terms of the amount of furnaces was not to be achieved even in the sixties of the twentieth century, before transfer to tunnel furnaces.

As far as the amount of output produced, its quality, painted decoration as well as the number of employees is concerned, faience factory in Kamenny Brod became the largest in the region already at the end of the nineteenth century, it differing greatly, particularly in mechanization of processes from the factories in Dovbysh, Baranivka and Horodnytsya. Its output became competitive as contrasted to that produced by other factories; even those of Western Europe, and it entered the international markets.

That is how on one of the pages of the *Book of Remembrance of Volyn province* for the year 1897 the situation at the factories of Ayzik Zusman was shown: 'As far as technical perfection is concerned, porcelain and faience production in Volyn province is by far not that primitive as glass production is, and Kamenny Brod plant of Ayzik Zusman in Novograd-Volynsky povit can even be acknowledged to be well-equipped and perfectly furnished from the technical

point of view, it also being the largest in terms of the scale of operations (388 t. rubles); it is followed by Horodnytsya plant owned by the same person (245 employees). The former one has got three steam engines, 85 powers each, while the latter uses water wheels. In general, Ayzik Zusman is a king of porcelain faience business in Volyn and constitutes a pleasant exception in that though being only a lessee of this plant he still has the wish to make the business as good as possible from the technical point of view, as well as the intention to improve everyday life of his employees'.

The fact that Kamenny Brod faience plant's output (let us not use here the word 'factory') over the second half of the nineties of the nineteenth century become popular due to their quality, decoration and variety of forms is proved by A. F. Zusman's participation in different international exhibitions where he gets high grades. In the exhibitions in Poltava (1895), Odessa (1897), Kyiv articles from Kamenny Brod get a large golden and two silver medals as well as favorable comments. It is in that period that Kamenny Brod faience was stated to much better than that of M. S. Kuznyetsov.

While at the beginning of the nineteenth century in the plants blank we could see the imprints of those golden and silver medals and favorable comments, two years later the plant's blank was already full of the imprints of those awards.

The plant has already got its permanent warehouses in Odessa, Kyiv, and Warsaw, where it was mainly sent, since one could not expect to sell it locally as due to its expensive nature consumers residing in the poor region of Polissya could not afford it.

But output of Kamenny Brod faience plant still deserved attention. There were real craftsmen working at the plant. Besides that, dyes as well as sometimes decal were mainly brought from Germany. Apart from that, at the plant there were craftsmen who were perfectly aware of the secrets, particularly, those of under glaze faience decoration – its advantage over porcelain. Not everybody could decorate faience under glaze preserving colors. Besides that, floral decoration bore the signs of local coloring.

On different dishes, plates, even small plates and vases we can find either stylized, or natural full range of colors of the flowers of poppy, lilies-of-the valley, chamomiles, different Polissya fruits, not the ones from overseas. The same concerns the imprints of animal world. Designs for different figurines, butter-dishes, powder-boxes, and similar items, as well as decorations were taken from local farm life. Thus, even now we have these painted hens, cows, ducks, and geese attracting our attention. And on large wall plates there are jays, storks, or native landscapes dear to the heart. Unfortunately, with time a lot was lost. Not everything has been preserved even in the museums as far as Kamenny Brod porcelain of the end of the nineteenth – the beginning of the twentieth century is concerned.

### **FOR BETTER FORTUNE**

No doubt, Zusman's plant in Kamenny Brod at the end of the nineteenth century was a powerful producer of faience with quite a large income. The number of employees was constantly on the rise, the same as amount of output, which was, besides, of high quality and attractive. However, this did not mean yet that the workers of the plant had a good life. Everything was much more complicated, and judging by the documents we have and which evidently show the uneasy fight of workers against oppressors, faience plant workers led a hard life. Their workday lasted for 15-16 hours. Each worker had to buy at his/her own expense tools starting with a sponge for washing semi finished products up to a forming bench. The worker's duties included illumination of the work place at his or her own expense. The wage was on average up to 4-5 krb per week. It was not that much for such long hours of hard work. Thus, it was quite clear that in the town the view dominated that the owner as well as his administration was very rich, while the workers had hard labor with a trivial salary.

In the shops of Zusman's plant the work of teenagers was widely used, and the plant inspector who often came there from Zhitomir and all the reports of whom have been preserved in the archives, indicated that per day of hard labor children were paid 7-8 kopecks which they could not live on.

Besides that, Zusman did not hurry up to return the promised reimbursement of salary for plant reconstruction, though it was high time to do that. Along with that the workers of the plant were treated in a rude way by the administration. For minor faults a fine was imposed on workers, and the very treatment was cruel. It all, for sure, made the workers ponder over the reasons for their complicated situation and look for at least some rescue. And such first attempt was made already at the end of the nineties of the nineteenth century when the workers: Jews, Orthodox, Poles, gathered together and decided to send a large delegation to Zhitomir with various complaints against their administration and owners of the plant. This event was preceded by a serious preparatory work. Meetings were held in which proposals as to what should be discussed at the meetings with administration in Zhitomir were put forward. The greatest hope was for the meeting with the factory-plant inspector of the province.

Quite a large delegation went to Zhitomir; some people went even with their families. It all was done openly with notification of the administration, in the hope that it was going to realize all the problems of its workers and try to meet their needs. The delegation went on foot.

It failed, however, to get from Kamenny Brod to Zhitomir. The administration managed to seemingly find a provocateur who, for a certain remuneration, managed to persuade the applicants not to go to Zhitomir because there gendarmes were waiting for them and going to arrest them all. The workers were forced to come back home with no achievements. Unfortunately, no information has been preserved in the archives on that kind of first revolt of faience plant workers. Almost the only then newspaper 'Volyn' does not inform about it. All we know got to us through the above-mentioned 'Bulletin and the memories of old people. But revolts of workers in Kamenny Brod did not stop at that point. That was rather the beginning, if there generally was any beginning, of a great fight which really started in the form of the November 1903 strike.

It was all at the far back of beyond, somewhere in the woods where, as it seemed, nothing conspiratory which was already available in Russia in large amounts, could get. But that was so only at first glance. The town was at that time a well-known one and it attracted attention not only of those who wanted to buy Zusman's faience. Attention of the-then propagandists as well as the first revolutionaries was drawn to quite a large number of workers within one plant.

Quite a lot of different illegal literature came to the plant, and it stimulated the workers in their pondering about their hard life. It should be considered that faience plant workers had at least four copies of the twenty-first issue of *Iskra* newspaper, in which there also was a short publication about the hard situation of faience plant labor and the first program of RS DRP, in which it was written step by step how workers had to act.

Kamenny Brod workers were entitled to use clandestine library which was kept in the apartment of the plant doctor David Torhovets. It was soon discovered, and one hundred twenty-two titles of books in August 1903 were seized, while the owner of the library was arrested. At the beginning of autumn that same year in Kamenny Brod meetings of workers started being secretly held on a more frequent basis mainly in the woods, and when frosty and bad weather came in, they started gathering in their houses. Jews were gathering in the house of Hryhoriy Honin, while Poles and Ukrainians conducted their meetings in the houses of the Lyaskovskyy and the Marchevskyy. They were preparing to serious ordeals. And these ordeals occurred on November 21, 1903. Economic demands were handed in to the administration of the plant, and the strike began.

That very day strike organizers went to all the shops and departments of the plant and demanded from the workers to stop doing their job and go out to the plant office. On the day the strike began plant administration as well as its director still could not give any answer. They sent a telegram to Zusman. The very sheet with the workers' demands accompanied by the letter of director Sh. Litynskyy was urgently delivered to Rohaciv to the police officer, and then, almost on the same day, everything was sent to Novograd-Volinsky, to the gendarmerie povit administration. There, as it can be seen in the documents, those demands were re-printed and sent to the province governor accompanied by the letter. It was due to such a red tape mechanism and its certain accuracy that we have all these documents preserved till the present times.

In Novograd-Volinsky, the same as in Zhitomir, the strike of Kamenny Brod faience plant workers came as a serious fright. Policemen, representatives of the prosecutor's office and court were urgently sent to Kamenny Brod. Factory-plant inspector also hurried up to meet the faience plant workers. An investigation was immediately instituted there to investigate the strike in

Kamenny Brod– it was conducted by captain Strekolovskyy. Representatives of the tsar service wanted to find the organizers of the workers' strike as well as to get to know the names of agitators, while Zusman hastily decided to at least somehow meet the requirements of his employees, because their requirements were not that groundless. The orders of customers of the plant output were somehow to be performed, without any losses. So, in a telegram Zusman advises the administration to partially meet the requirements of those on strike. Thus, salary was increased by fifteen percent on average. Workday was reduced to twelve hours. It was allowed to give out some tools for free as well as boiling water for the workers to have some dinner.

That was quite a success achieved on the part of those on strike. They were inspired by that, started working hoping to continue their struggle. The first strike lasted for seven days. However, the investigation was not stopped and it lasted for almost the whole following year 1904. Many of the strike organizers as well as the ones suspected were arrested. Some people were sentenced to one year of imprisonment. These people included plant doctor David Torhovets who had a clandestine library and in whose house the requirements of workers had been compiled before the strike.

As it was noted in press and in the memories of the contemporaries of that first strike of Kamenny Brod workers, the workers' power was tested and some efforts were preserved for further struggle. And that struggle in the form of frequent meetings, manifestations as well as new strikes would come evident already at the beginning of the year 1905, and that was not only the result of events in which large proletarian cities were so rich. It was rather that the intensity of faience plant workers strikes was caused by too complicated labor conditions, low salary for such so-called faience penal servitude.

Along with that, the number of permanent workers reached one thousand two hundred people, also a great number of so-called seasonal workers were involved in wood harvesting and the like, and that attracted the arrival of revolutionaries-agitators. They had a serious impact on the development of the events in the forest town.

## **STORMY SUMMER OF 1905**

It all started on February 12, 1905. It was on that day that the master of the plant, second-guild merchant as he was called then, Ayzik-Fishel Zusman came on a visit to faience producers from abroad, from his house. The faience plant workers decided to use the arrival of the plant owner in their own way. And though after the arrival of Zusman workers were treated 'free of charge' with a glass of beer, fine horilka, a piece of sausage and were given different treats, they still managed to show their ingratitude and organized a mass meeting submitting a whole range of requirements to the owner. Plant administration as well as Zusman himself got quite scared with such an action of the workers. Being afraid of further negative development of events, they urgently called the gendarmerie from Novograd-Volinsky to the village that came to the town right on the following day being accompanied by police officers. They left several protocols which were destined to stay in the archives and come to our days. It was shown in them that this bad reception of Zusman was of economic nature only, without any involvement of politics.

It must be the case that at that time through newspapers, proclamations rumors of bloody Sunday, of riots in some cities of Russia, had already reached the remote forest village; therefore Kamenny Brod workers had no hope for easy satisfaction of their requirements.

This idea was supported by the fact that near the plant for a short period of time, and on the initiative of the owner, the so-called 'hut' was erected, in which quite a large 'group' of gendarmes stayed, them having the task of constantly 'influencing' the events in Kamenny Brod.

Still in March faience plant workers, assisted by their committee members started preparation of manifestation dedicated to May 1. However, they failed to keep their intentions a secret. Gendarmes managed to get the data on the huts in which the meetings were held and make searches as well as to seize quite a number of newspapers and literature of 'anti-state nature'.

And still, in the Blyznyuky forest urochyshe (tract) 'according to data from abroad' there took place a meeting on the first of May, in which there participated over four hundred workers and residents of the village. From several tens of protocols which are now kept in Kyiv State Historical Archives, it is known that at the meeting workers agreed upon further struggle,

elected the committee to consist of the most active workers. In the forest meeting there took the floor not only agitators, but workers as well.

Out of the explanations of chiefs who were in charge of a hundred of workers who somehow got to know about the meeting it becomes evident that besides other workers the committee included Petro Marchevskyy, Mykola Lyaskovskyy, Semen Vasylevych (sometime later he became the first village head of Kamenny Brod village council), Chornomorets, Kuzminskyy.

However, as it can be seen in the archival documents, the tsar regime successfully reacted to the events in all the cities where workers were doing their fighting.

It did not leave the working village unattended. Investigation started, and arrests followed. Again, army captain and judge came to the village. Files were full of protocols. It was almost every day that messages containing the course of investigation arrived in Novograd-Volinsky. Alarmed workers followed the activity of gendarmes. There was no hope for the expected freedom. Therefore, in June, one evening about two hundred workers met near the plant office. About ten people got separated from the crowd and went to the shops, and soon the number of people near the office was double. The manager was called from the office and he was given the petition, in which the workers demanded to release all those arrested, who had something to do with the unrest dedicated to May 1. Otherwise the strike was going to be announced by the workers of all shops and warehouses. On the following day gendarmes got to know about the unrest of faience plant workers. Plant administration frightened by the new unrest of the workers was trying to achieve the release of arrested organizers of May 1 unrest, but not all of them...

On June 28 (Old Style) a manifestation was organized in the village once again. It was more and more often that chiefs who were in charge of a hundred of workers brought leaflets to the captain, the judge and the police officer. Thus, among faience plant workers the circumstances were becoming still tenser, relations between the workers and plant administration were getting more and more strained.

And one day in July there came a new unrest of workers. In one of the reports addressed to the head of Novograd-Volinsky gendarmerie administration the following can be found: 'Today at 5 p.m. during my stay in Kamenny Brod all the faience plant workers stopped working and came out to the crockery shop to require from those working there to close the shop and stop giving crockery from it. At that time I approached the crowd and suggested stopping the unrest and not forcing the others to leave their business, and I was told by the heads of the riot that police shall not interfere into their business, since the strike of workers was of purely economic nature'...

The strike started. The plant fully stopped production. Organizers of the faience plant worker's unrest arranged a kitchen in the forest, not far from the village, where the families with many children could have some meals. Pickets of workers were placed around the plant, and they did not allow access to it for the peasants from the neighboring villages and hamlets who had been persuaded to start working by the plant administration. It was often the case that those peasants on carts came to the meetings which were taking place in the forest almost every day and where those on strike were discussing the state of their business, compiling other petitions addressed to the plant owner Zusman. In them workers required release of arrested agitators, improvement of labor conditions, reduction of workday duration, salary rise.

In one of the reports dated July 21, 1905 addressed to the head of Volyn gendarmerie province administration the following can be found: '...reporting to your Excellency, I announce that though the workers told me that the strike was of purely economic nature, but, as plant administration told and as I personally witnessed watching the situation over the last three days, the strike was arranged on a revolutionary basis and will grow if proper steps to suppress the mutiny are not taken, since the majority of the workers are armed with revolvers'.

Certainly, what concerns the last message, it's a great exaggeration. The revolvers, and there were several of them, were used by 'guards' of the forest meetings who informed about the coming of undesirable 'participants' of meetings giving shots.

As far as further events of the summer of 1905 in Kamenny Brod are concerned, the plant owner Zusman announced a lockout for several weeks and the plant did not function. Meanwhile, the inquiry and even arrests continued in the village. Workers of other factories, even those of other provinces, started assisting Kamenny Brod faience plant workers. Money was collected to



help the strikers. The events gradually subsided with the coming of autumn to the village. Soon organizers of unrest who had been arrested earlier were released. Zusman was trying to meet the requirements of his employees. But the reduction of workday duration and the rise in salary were minor.

After the events of 1905 the workers did not lay down arms. They organized celebration of May 1 in the following 1906 not only with a meeting, but with a village manifestation involving many participants. Here is what army captain Strelkovskyy reported to the province governor on the occasion of inquiry into the unrest of May 1 of faience plant workers in 1906:

‘Kamenny Brod is greatly propagandized in political aspect, therefore workers of Zusman plant staying there keep organizing strikes, and violence is committed to those who do not want to participate in strikes, anti-governmental demonstrations of workers are held there, them being accompanied by the calls ‘Down with autocracy!’, wearing of red flags, revolver shooting and proclamation distribution...’

Out of the same inquiry documents the atmosphere of straight-out fighting becomes evident. Here is what village resident Stefan Rohovskyy, who happened to be in the forest by some accident, was saying to gendarmes: ‘and that, besides others, he saw Mykola Lyaskovskyy there. And Krech had told him that Ukrainian workers at the plant had chosen from among themselves Yukhym Marchevskyy to be the senior. And his brother Korniy Marchevskyy had told in the presence of my brother Felix Krech that he, Korniy Marchevskyy, would shoot me if I started telling anyone about the meetings in the forest’.

Maybe, with years the reader will see in the struggle of Kamenny Brod faience plant workers some extra revolutionary nature, thinking that there in the backwoods somebody provoked them to make such riots. But do not be in a hurry to make groundless assumptions. First of all, they were provoked to make them by hard life, illegality, humiliation. Since work at the plant was too hard. The duration of the workday was absolutely long. Just think: 14 hours and more! – and workers got some forty-five kopecks for long working hours. Little could be bought for that sum of money. The workers were forced to look for a way out of the situation. But how could it be found if nobody listened to you, nobody cared about your life. They were forced to do something. And they organized: meetings, manifestations, strikes. And that is laudable that then, among such illiterate people, there could be found people who headed that struggle. These were in the village primarily Mykola Lyaskovskyy, Yukhym Marshevskyy, Usher Shpilberg, etc. They risked a lot, but they could not live that way, when they were seen only as a tool on the way to somebody’s profit. Thus, they did everything to improve things for the better at least in some way. They allowed to make meetings in their houses, collected a lot of prohibited literature which taught to think over one’s fate, as well as called to fight.

The struggle was conducted even in such a forest village as Kamenny Brod, which would many years later be called a revolutionary center in Volyn. The strike of faience plant workers finished in spring 1907 with the last strike. A new head of the hospital N. A. Kyselhof actively participated in it, and some further events in Kamenny Brod are connected with him.

### **BEFORE A HARD ORDEAL**

The echo of the events connected with strikes of Kamenny Brod faience plant workers was felt in the village still for a long period of time and had serious consequences in the further life of the plant and the village. There came some period of the quiet. The village got new houses, Jewish shops. The demand for the output did not fall. New furnaces were being constructed, at the end of the decade there were thirteen of them, since the amount of output produced increased, and it was of good quality and wide range. And already at the beginning of the new decade the plant produced up to twelve million items a year. That was too serious a figure as of that period of time. In Ukraine there were no similar porcelain productions.

However, that period (1907-1918) was the poorest in terms of the data left on activity both in press, and in documents. Still, it must be considered that at the plant there was a certain legal procedure, which fact is proved by the elaborated ‘Regulations’, approved by the corresponding institutions, on the basis of which Zusman’s faience plant workers of started working. That came to be, in the author’s opinion, rather an important event in the life of the plant. From that moment

on every worker of the plant received these 'Regulations' in the form of a book in which extracts from general resolutions and labor laws of Russia were printed, like 'Regulations' of the Ministry of Finance of Russia and the Ministry of Interior on the duration of the workday and things like that. Four pages on how each worker at Zusman's plant in Kamenny Brod had to behave. No matter whether they could read what was written in the 'Regulations', faience plant workers now had them. Their full title was as follows: 'Regulations of the Internal Procedure at Porcelain-Faience Plant in Kamenny Brod leased by Ayzik-Fishel Zelmanovych Zusman. In them twelve items, most important from the point of view of compilers, are envisaged, and all their workers were to behave following them.

These items started with indication of the beginning and end of workday which from then on had to last 10 hours. Workday started at 7 a.m. and ended at 7.30 p.m. and had three breaks with free-of-charge boiling water for dinner. In other items the time of working at different plant operations was specified as well as the form of determining the workday of each employee was indicated.

These 'Regulations' fixed who and on what holiday was to be given a day off. The main holidays of Orthodox believers and Jews were indicated. Besides, before each holiday as well as Sunday, the workday was half an hour shorter, but for Christmas, on the Eve of which the workday lasted only till noon. Much attention is paid in the 'Regulations' to safety requirements to employees with different precautions and duties. No doubt, many years after that we can say that with approval of these 'Regulations' the plant made a certain steps towards civilization. The 'Regulations' were approved by the factory inspector of Volyn province V. Deyneko-Morentsov on October 8, 1909. It should also be added that in that book 'conditions of hiring' were set out in brief – the same as quite a few 'free' pages for records each Saturday of full wage of this or that worker were provided. One of these books has lived up till now and is kept in the plant museum. For a long period of time much data was contrasted to the year 1913. In that year at Zusman's faience plant in Kamenny Brod there functioned 13 furnaces, there were employed only by the list without any data on seasonal employees 840 workers and 30 officials. The plant used 205 puds (2.380 tons) of clay, produced 124,300 pounds of output for the sum of 528,000 krb in gold. Similar data was achieved in the second half of the sixties of the twentieth century.

At that time in the village there functioned a synagogue with the premises for more than 700 people, a Jewish third-category college with the teacher M. Soondelzon, a one-form village college – teacher Mykola Trokhymovych Kolesnyk, a hospital at Zusman's plant, a drugstore and a shop of drugs, as well as groceries – 16, a wine shop, three shops of hardware goods, three manufactured goods shops, a ready-made shop, an inn of Albrecht Hnat Yosypovych. At the same time among the Jewish population there continues to function 'Bikur chaylim' union, which with the help of its cash provides assistance to the poorest and particularly ill ones.

One should also use the data of the author of the book 'Ukrainian artistic chinaware' by F. S. Petrakova, who provides the data in her note on Kamenny Brod that starting with 1913 the plant was located in the division of peasant land bank. Though in other sources, it is said that still Zusman was the leasee of the plant even in 1914, when he came to Kamenny Brod once more.

Starting with the beginning of war the data on the plant in Kamenny Brod are finally lost. Probably, as one of the authors writing about Russian ceramics stated, when any troubles appeared, in particular, wars, production of chinaware and faience were the first to stop production activity.

It is known that faience plant got into a serious trouble in winter 1916 when there was a great fire, from which it did not manage to recover till the end of the twenties, if not till the beginning of the sixties of the twentieth century.

### **THE PLANT IN KAMENNY BROD: TO BE OR NOT TO BE**

Starting with the beginning of World War I Kamenny Brod together with its plant had to live through a number of misfortunes. It was even before the fire that the plant already seemed to belong to nobody. A great number of workers were enlisted to go to the front. Others tried to leave the forest village. There were even people who were brave enough to leave for Poland, or even America.

The faience plant was losing the sales markets for its output. Raw materials were taken from the surrounding pits, because it ran out of Katerynoslav kaolin which had been supplied for enriching the local one. Crockery was of poor quality, it almost lost its whiteness. There were no more dyes to decorate it. The main supplier Saxony was from now on both far away and behind the front line. Besides, the fire made the conditions of crockery production very tough, it resulting in a very poor appearance. Crockery burnt out was divided among the workers of the plant and those who were sent to villages and hamlets with bags or carts or wagons to exchange it for at least some food. That was the situation for a very long period of time.

Faience plant workers hardened by a complicated fight of the beginning of the twentieth century hoped for the better as well as they were trying to somehow make it closer in time. A revolutionary committee was set up at the plant at the beginning of nineteen eighteen. A bit later in the \ same year, a Communist party center began to function, which according to the definition provided by the encyclopedia (URE-1963), was one of the first to be set up in Kamenny Brod.

Due to the circumstances in October that very 1918 out of the overwhelming majority of Kamenny Brod faience plant workers Novograd-Volinsky povit revolutionary committee started its underground functioning, it was headed by the medical attendant of the plant N. F. Kyselhof, called in the documents by the pseudonym Naumov. It was not that easy to organize and do a certain work in that period of time. The authorities were often changing and it was difficult to find out to whom and when the territory belonged and what troops were going to stay there. Uncertainty and frequent changes of the authorities contributed to the appearance of different small and large gangs.

As it is known from history, in Novograd-Volinsky quite a lot of attempts were made to set up revolutionary committees, but their fate was tragic. The revolutionary committee headed by Kyselhof-Naumov was not destined to bring the matter to some logical completion. At first there were more than ten people in the revolutionary committee, among them – N. A. Kyselhof, Y. A. Kulakovskyy, Yu. O. Sokolov, Latypov, Baranovskyy, Melnykov, Shuman, Shydlover. Out of some memories it is known that the first two meetings of the underground regional revolutionary committee took place in Kamenny Brod. Already close to winter time members of the revolutionary committee started holding their permanent meetings in Novograd-Volinsky. Yosyp Kulakovskyy became the liaison officer between the center of the region and Kamenny Brod; he was at the period of time wounded and had a leave for a year for treatment purposes. Soldier's uniform as well as accompanying documents enabled the front-line soldier to move freely. It was not easy since he ran some risk. It was with substantial grounds that the reasons for contacts of the underground revolutionary committee with Kamenny Brod faience plant workers were proved by the first secretary of Volyn province revolutionary committee M. Kruchynskyy.

It was here to Kamenny Brod, as it is confirmed in one of the letters, that Ozerov was sent to have contacts with Novograd-Volinsky regional revolutionary committee, having some special directives to activate the work of the regional revolutionary committee. Narration about the activity of Novograd-Volinsky regional revolutionary committee goes beyond this book, therefore we only have to say that the fate of its members was tragic.

It was when the revolutionary committee had already taken the rule over the town and the region, helping the coming Red Army in everything, that a numerous gang of Sokolovskyy came to the land trying to support the setting of the Soviet power around the country. It was it that destroyed in the summer of 1919 the revolutionary committee and made a massacre on July 9 in Kamenny Brod. It was only within several hours of that summer day that 137 Jews were killed in the forest village, them being not guilty of anything.

At first everything seemed to be quite prosaic, on the eve of the massacre several horsemen came from the forest (Zolotyok hamlet). Then along the streets of the village there went several carts with machine-guns. Then in the office of the plant there took place a meeting between the armed newcomers and some heads of the plant, the head of the revolutionary committee Adamovych and the head of the committee Andriy Kozakevych. It was on their initiative that the guard of the plant was disarmed before head. Over a short period of time Kamenny Brod residents who had to participate in the massacre were informed about that fact. They were joined by some people from the neighboring villages and hamlets. All in all, there volunteered about two hundred local thugs.

The next day, on July 9, a considerable part of Sokolovskyy's gang came to the village, possibly with the participation of Mariya Sokolovska herself, it was staying in several huts in Zolotyok which fact is confirmed by cemetery tablets. Already prepared people from Kamenny Brod joined the newcomers, and they helped to gather almost all the Jews in the center of the village. Then almost one hundred and fifty men and boys were separated from the others, and they were to be taken to Rohachev – the area center for some reason. But when they went some half a kilometer away there started this serious tragedy.

This serious massacre was characterized in different ways, as well as the reasons for all those things that happened. It was as though this was a revenge on Kamenny Brod Jews for the organization of Novograd-Volinsky revolutionary committee. There was a task set to find its head N. A. Kyselhof. He died on the second day after the massacre in the village. However, only a few people out of home-made murderers knew what kind of revolutionary committee it was, what the fault of the Jews was. A call was made and people took their pitchforks and scythes...

With time many of those rebels would be convicted, and some would be sentenced to death. But most of them were hiding and visited their relatives in the night time. In general, people, the village, the plant were seriously wounded and damaged not to recover for many years to come.

Till that time deceased Jews were buried in Rohachev in the Jewish cemetery, but since July 9, 1919 a cemetery was arranged in Kamenny Brod and it would remind Kamenny Brod residents of many things for many generations to come.

The village could not recover from the massacre for a long period of time. And it is natural that they could not put up with what had happened to people who had lived through a lot of things together and had even been trying to settle some uneasy vital issues. And suddenly something like that happens.

In the meantime, life had its own demands. There was still a civil war around, gangs were running here and there, however people in the village were trying to somehow direct their life into a routine. Attempts were made to run the election to the village council. Alive members of the revolutionary committee of the area mainly joined the Red Army units. In particular, A. Kulakovskyy becomes the head of the revolutionary committee and in one of the regiments of S. M. Budyonnyy. On his return after the civil war he heads the regional court in Rohachev. Then he works as an economist in Tokariv plant of electro technical chinaware. Still a bit later he is transferred to Dovbysh porcelain plant. At the end of the thirties he got employed in one of the positions at the chemical trust. He lived till the sixties.

The fate of many people got lost. Along with several members of the revolutionary committee the representative of the province revolutionary committee Ozerov saved the documents, but according to the memories of M. O. Kruchynskyy their traces have been left unknown.

Already in 1921 the plant was given the name of Naumov, with which it would stay till the beginning of war, and after the war this title was somehow 'lost'.

With strengthening of the Soviet power in the village an orphanage for children-orphans and semi orphans would be organized, and it would exist only for several years and would be transferred to Zhitomir. Very brief data for the year 1921 was left about that orphanage in Kamenny Brod in the archives. It was located in the wooden premises consisting of 3 rooms. There was a kitchen, a reading-room with electric illumination, a library of 250 books. There lived 48 children in it, of which there were 26 boys and 22 girls. In the same place there functioned 'Yuni spartakivtsi' organization.

At the same time Yan Ryzhov was sent to the village to hold the position of village head, while Yakovlev was appointed director of the plant. Along with that the so-called liknep (liquidation of illiteracy) was launched, 188 pupils were enrolled in it as taught by 4 teachers.

The theatre in which performances in Ukrainian, Russian, Polish and Jewish were staged started becoming very popular. The theatre was headed by a real actor from Saint-Petersburg, who was also a producer - Yablochnikov. Later the theatre located in the premises of the former synagogue became the pride of all residents of Kamenny Brod. Life in village was gradually becoming better, but the plant continued to be in trouble. Only three furnaces out of thirteen were functioning. There was shortage of dyes as well as Katerynoslav kaolin. For repairs separate

furnaces started to be demolished – there was no necessary brick. All in all, there worked at the plant with three furnaces only 125 workers and 18 officials. The quality of output production was extremely poor. For quite a long period of time no whiteness of the output could be achieved. The plant could not recover from the fire of the year 1916.

In summer 1922 Komsomol (Young Communists) center was formed there. It was headed by the povit representative Lev Golarbiturer sent there. In that year he was elected to the village council. Thus, in the village a youth organization started functioning, which undertook responsibility for all the work with youth. Apart from the theatre, a club started functioning. Plant and village guarding groups were set up. There arose the need for fighting against fires in the village. With this in view 25 fire brigades were formed. However, youth started leaving the plant and the village. Chief Editor of the wall paper *Chervonyy fayansovyk* (*Communist [Red faience plant worker]*) Serhiy Diamant left to have some studies. He was going to study journalism and to dedicate his whole life to it. Organizer of the Komsomol (Young Communists) center Lev Goldarbiruter left to master the profession of military pilot and was to perish in one of the air fights near Kharkiv in 1943. For a long period of time he was a party organizer in the air unit in which the would-be cosmonaut Popovych was having his service. Others were also leaving – some of them to study, some of them to continue working in Kyiv, Moscow and other places.

Kamenny Brod faience plant approached its hard times close to 1924. That was the year, as it was to become known soon, that was going to become a turning point in its further existence. In the summer, when it seemed to many people that faience plant in the forest village had no future and it could not recover after its period of hardships, it was decided to close it and take available equipment to the neighboring porcelain plants.

People recall that transport from Tokarivka (the present-day Pershotravensk, Baranivka district) arrived to take that ‘hardware’, and some trucks came even from as far as Donets Basin. There was a fuss made in the village about that fact, since it was not that easy to be left without any hope for the future, as well as to give away the plant to which many families and people had dedicated their lives. And how many different reconstructions had had to be lived through! How much fight for the better life of workers! So one person in the village, whose name is known to us – Brodskyy, volunteered to organize people to guard the plant. Such guarding of the plant lasted for two weeks, and nothing was taken away from it.

At the same time workers formed a small delegation, and Ludwig Petrovych Slovachevskyy who turned out to be one of those reputable people in the village was entrusted with the task of heading the delegation. This delegation was sent to Kharkiv to settle the fate of Kamenny Brod faience plant with the government of Ukraine. The delegation was absent for a week, then it returned with the necessary results. The plant remained there, and forty thousand krb and a wagon of wood were allotted to its reconstruction.

In its turn Zhitomir province revolutionary committee sent Ivan Vasylyovych Mikheyev who had already proved to be a good production organizer to Kamenny Brod to strengthen the management of the plant. As it is seen in the documents, at first I. V. Mikheyev was employed as deputy head of the plant. Shkalyuk used to be a technical director at that time, while Bakhta was a chief accountant.

Something was being repaired at the plant (end of 1924, beginning of 1925). Production of faience of better quality was being established, and dishware started to be sent to the North Caucasus, the Don, the Kuban, Odessa, Kyiv and Volyn, however, it did not have the necessary quality which the plant had been proud of. Thus, heads of the plant had meetings and submitted a report almost to all the possible institutions and to the very Presidium of the Higher Board of People’s Economy, in which the state of affairs was analyzed for the plant, which was sponsored from the local budget and was leased on a temporary basis to the Trust of Porcelain-Faience-Glass which was not particularly caring for its development, did not invest the necessary amount of money into the reconstruction of the main buildings affected by the fire.

We do not have any documentary testimony what the reaction to that report was like. But the period of the plant’s revival started. It was planned to carry out a number of works aimed at company reconstruction. To put it in brief, it was for the second time that in the forest village the fate of the plant was being settled. And that was the accomplishment of the small staff of workers, which was getting noticeably larger.

On the basis of decision of Baranivka district executive committee of Volyn region dated March 27, 1926, sent to 'head of Kamenny Brod plant Yakovlev, a copy – to Mikheyev, in accordance with the resolution agreed upon by the Trust of Porcelain-Faience Industry Mikheyev is appointed head of Kamenny Brod plant'.

## **RECONSTRUCTION**

The plant started being reconstructed with the change of its managers, still several years prior to the first five-year period, and that was not without state assistance. New premises were being erected. And the greatest attention was paid to the building of the construction for the steam-engine. The building materials were mainly obtained with the plant's own effort in the local rock quarry. Besides, rock was taken not only as a foundation, but it was also used for wall construction. The plant received a powerful steam-boiler which was assembled mainly using own resources and already in 1928 it functioned, rotating the flywheel of the steam-engine as well as heating almost all the plant shops.

Local peat started being used; it was extracted in the surrounding bogs, which were sufficient for everybody. Narrow-gauge railroads were laid to one of them. By the way, narrow-gauge railroads were the child of the plant director I. V. Mikheyev. It was laid to Chornytsya (Novograd-Volinsky II). It was in Chornytsya (the present Barvinivka, Novograd-Volinsky district) that a kind of terminal base was organized. There were no cars. The dishes to load carriages were delivered by horses. Horses also took away different loads, which were supplied to the plant. This kind of commodity exchange was not easy to be carried out by horses. And it was decided to lay the narrow-gauge railroad from the plant to the station. The distance was a bit more than ten kilometers. No rails were found for that. But people found a way out. Instead of rails oak rails were fixed to the railway sleepers, and on them there were fixed metal strips, which were brought.

Certainly, that was not a railway, but rather a masterpiece produced by local craftsmen and their director. Carriages were running along those 'rails' with the engines, or horses, and sometimes that was just done manually. Assistance, as people used to say, was noticeable and clearly seen. This narrow-gauge railway served almost till the beginning of war. Reconstruction came as no easy task, but the number of articles was constantly becoming higher, and their quality was being improved. Dishes, bowls, dishes for children, even vases and sculptures were produced. Mainly still forms and matrixes of the so-called Zusman period were used. Along with that the number of functioning furnaces was on the rise. Two more started operating. But the figure "13", when there were 13 furnaces for burning articles and staggers in Zusman period, was already unachievable.

I. V. Mikheyev worked as director in Kamenny Brod till February 15, 1929. Then he was sent to Moscow to the courses of 'red directors' of chemical and porcelain-glass industry of the USSR. I. V. Mikheyev came back to the village only in 1933 and kept heading the plant till 1936.

Ivan Vasylyovych together with his small staff had to live through hard times. These were the years of evolution and reconstruction of the company. Together with everybody he had to live through creation as well as canceling of the so-called Polish district, but this is already another story.

I. V. Mikheyev originated from Kaluga province. There he got education, from their life brought it to Volyn, to Zhitomir. He had to do different works starting with heading car workshops to heading narrow-gauge railroad. In hard times I. V. Mikheyev was sent to different places. He settled things in mill economies, controlled all the province transport, and everywhere he managed to cope with the commissions and duties set. Perhaps, that caused his sending to Kamenny Brod faience plant, which was about to stop its activity. Thus, one has to consider that arrival of I. V. Mikheyev to the plant made it possible for the plant to continue its existence.

Then a new director was sent to Kamenny Brod. That was O. O. Chernin, the son of a smith, born in Donets Basin. Oleksandr Oleksandrovych (Chernin) will hold this position in Kamenny Brod Faience Plant three times in the future.

It was a bit more than a year later that I. M. Shkolnikov became the director, and he was the head of the company who had to live through the period of greatest repressions. Then in 1940

O. O. Chernin came back to Kamenny Brod to hold the position, and he was to head it till the beginning of war.

### KAMENNY BROD WITHIN THE POLISH DISTRICT

Documents as well as literature of the period of so-called small Polish Republic relating to the forest village and its faience plant have not left any particular traces. Even the-then newspapers which came out in Polish did not pay any attention to the village. No single publication could be found on Kamenny Brod in several files of the district newspaper *Radyanska Markhlevshchyna* (*Soviet district newspaper*). There was only a short note in which it was said that Kamenny Brod was made deprived of 'kurkul' Levkovych, without the indication of name and initials.

Already in our epoch, when a short book *Uprisal and Fall on the Polish National Area in Ukraine in the 20's-30's* came out, where the author almost does not recall our village, I asked Henrikh Stronskyy – the author of that book, what had caused such lack of respect for the village, and got the following answer: 'What was to be written there if that was a Jewish town'. That is right, but in that very book figures on the ratio of nationalities in the area were indicated, and it was somehow mentioned that 476 Jews resided in those inhabited localities (1.1%). Why then? Only in Kamenny Brod there resided more than one thousand of them. One should think that in Markhlevsk the figure was even higher, and there were still villages and urban villages. But let it be the sin of those who prepared the data.

But we are interested in what was going on in the period of that 'Polish Republic' in the village, and how people lived in it.

For sure, availability of the national area did not provoke any serious changes in the life of the village. There functioned the plant which was simultaneously being restored. Residential houses were being erected; people went to school which was located in several houses. There also functioned a theatre as well as a club with a reading house.

The first years of the Polish national area to some extent gave some hopes of life improvement not only to Poles. More attention was paid to the plant; the number of employees was growing. Nobody was scared by the fact that the Polish language started dominating here. In school pupils studied Polish, Jewish, and Ukrainian and Russian were obligatory.

Highway Markhlevsk-Rohaciv started to be laid, and Kamenny Brod residents welcomed this event. It was a bit later that in the largest village bog opposite the club and the plant office, where there used to be several tens of birches, where mallards were hatched out, the foundation for a two-storied secondary school was laid.

The famine of nineteen thirty-three was a serious tragedy not so much here as in the surrounding villages, particularly in Tartak. The death rate in the village seemed not to be high as the result of the famine. But, as old people used to recall later, the plant, quarry and the road Markhlevsk-Rohaciv saved people, because it was there that nutrition, provision of food rations and bread was established. And in 1934 there even was a wedding.

People used to tell that to a certain extent the forest and the surrounding hamlets also saved people because they managed to make some stores 'for a rainy day', which was already clearly seen.

Certainly, creation of the Polish national area presupposed certain changes for residents and workers of faience plant. It was absolutely close to the territory of Poland. And both in hamlets, particularly Krasne, Didok, Zolotyok and Stanislavivka, to say nothing of Tartak and Dermanka, there resided a great majority of Poles. Indeed, in Kamenny Brod itself there resided more Jews so far.

It was often that the representatives of the government came there, to say nothing of various exhibitions and concerts which were mainly in Polish. A Roman Catholic Church was set up in the village. It was because Poles were tired of going to Slobidka, or staying in a narrow small chapel to which Roman Catholic priests were coming. But already in the church people noticed that something was wrong... The construction was erected, but it was recommended not to lay the floor for several years. Later they demolished the church and made a large club in Markhlevsk on the basis of it.

Though Poland was close to the place, but nobody could go and see his/her relatives there. On the contrary, the frontier had its strict laws. Suddenly one day to the villages of the area there started coming members of some board who were going to prepare Polish families for changing the place of residence. Here it was – the “Polish Republic”.

Starting with October 1935 by the Resolution of the Central Executive Committee of the Ukrainian SSR Markhlevsk district was acknowledged to be a weak one in terms of economy and it was disembodied and ‘divided’ among three other districts. Kamenny Brod was to be included to Baranivka district together with Tartak and Dermanka.

On October 5, the same year, though secretly, a new Resolution already of the Board of People’s Commissioners of the Ukrainian SSR ‘On Resettlement from the Former Markhlevsk District’ to the eastern districts of Ukraine of 300 farms of families of Polish nationality appeared. It was not difficult to realize that it was a measure of ‘state importance’ and that it had a great impact on thousands of innocent people many of whom could not get back to their native land even for decades later. However, that figure of resettlements was far from the real figure of those ‘farms’ which were resettled, besides that now in Baranivka, Novograd-Volinsky and a newly-created Chervonoarmiysk district, it got much higher since August 1936. Mainly, Polish and German families were resettled. These were in our locality Dermanka, Tartak, Kamenny Brod, the hamlets of Zolotyok, Krasne, Didok, Stanislavivka. Young and senior people were taken from these places with minor possessions to Kolodyanka, where freight carriages were formed and from which people were taken to the eastern districts of Donets Basin and Kharkiv region, or to the lands of Kazakhstan.

That was the climax of that Polish national district. Only the school in which Polish was studied till war still reminded of it for several years to come. Forms with Polish language of studies were in the ground floor, while those with Jewish were located on the first floor.

### **WAVE OF REPRESESIONS**

Several waves of resettlement of Poles and Germans from the territory of the former Markhlevsk district were still not over, when a new hand-made trouble appeared in the villages and urban villages. There came a new wave of getting rid of ‘people’s enemies’. Now they took not ‘lords’, not families, but those who were indicated by neighbors, activists, party members or ‘well-wishers’, who suspected a certain citizen of smuggling, counter-revolutionary propaganda, diversionary and espionage activity. Representatives of all of these categories were found...

People were sent to Zhitomir and already on August 5, 1937, for sure, absolutely secretly the secretary of Kyiv OK of the CP (b) U Kudryavtsev was told by the secretary of N-Volinsky regional CP (b) Formanyuk in the note that lately 1300 people had been found and repressed, including Polish counter-elements – 300, Germans – 50, Ukrainians – 100. The radius was that of a gunshot, as if they were talking about woods.

What concerns Kamenny Brod, here mainly those ‘elements’ were taken which were connected with production, trade, work in collective farms, and over seven hundred workers were repressed, out of which almost nobody came back. That was a very serious loss for families and all relatives. People were dying for nothing, and in addition that happened even without any court judgment.

Years were to pass, and they were rehabilitated. Even some families, which, of course, took some pains, received certain amounts of compensations. But lost fates were never to be given back, certain intentions of those people were left unfulfilled, and they could have done something in their lives: build a house, plant and grow a garden, bring up their children or even enjoy the beauty of the forest, landscapes of Zolotyok, walk along the banks of Nemylyanka and many other things. These were the wounds of tens of families, which were never to recover, and the wounds continued bleeding. That was because it was all unjust and cynical.

It was in the period of repressions that I. N. Shkolnikov was a director there. He overtook the responsibility for the plant, being seemingly directed by the CK of the Communist Party of Ukraine (as he himself used to recall) in 1936, from O. O. Chernin who was sent to have some other job.



At that time the plant continued to be being rebuilt as well as increasing the amounts of its output. However, it was not easy to head the production at that time, when the wave of resettlement of Polish families was not over yet, many of whom worked at the plant – and here repressions started.

There were cases when after night arrests in the morning of the following day somebody came to the director with the lists of those repressed to clarify whether they were necessary for the plant. If yes, the director was forced to give some ‘substitution’ for those released.

As director I. N. Shkolnikov used to recall, he did not supplement those lists since he did not want to have a sin for that.

He was dismissed from the position of the director, as he recalled, because of his failure in the organization of Stakhaniv intense labor movement in the plant. Since that movement had some peculiarities in the plant, not everybody was fond of that fact.

The business of I. N. Shkolnikov was passed over again to O. O. Chernin, who came back to Kamenny Brod in 1939.

The former director of Kamenny Brod faience plant I. N. Shkolnikov still lived a long life, in the eighties letters from Rostov region, the RSFSR arrived from him.

### **LIFE OF OTHER WAS PASSING AS IT USED TO**

The thirties are the years of the rise and fall of the Polish national district which did not manage to become the center of Polish revival either in the village, or in the region. That was also a terrible year of famine which not everybody managed to survive in, it was also the year of building of a new two-storied school for ten years of studies, and graduation of the first school-leavers of that school in which children from the neighboring villages and hamlets studied. These were the years of repressions which crossed out tens of human fates. These years marked the beginning of Stalin movement in the plant, into which almost all the workers of the faience plant starting being involved.

The thirties are the years of construction of the first brick buildings, the plant’s hostel. They marked appearance of the street in the village which was long after the war still to be called a ‘new construction by people.

That was the decade at the end of which all hamlets were to be liquidated, at the expense of which Dermanka, Tartak, Zhovte and, certainly, Kamenny Brod were enlarged. And only in Didok there still was one hut of almost the largest family of Omelchuk and the hut of old man Volokh was to stay there till the end of the forties. And in Batih the hut of old woman Shymchykha was even to live through the war. Liquidation of hamlets was done for seemingly progressive reasons, but such enlargements did not help prevent the tragedies and life disappointments of people. Everything was done contrary to the will of people, under pressure and force.

Certain testimony about those times was left in different notes of Mykhaylo Onufriyovych Bondarenko who came to the village at the end of the twenties and who was a craftsman of the painting shop, an active writer of notes to newspapers. He originated from Kirovohrad region (Yelyzavethrad), served in Zhytomyr. He got acquainted with a girl from Kamenny Brod, got married and stayed all his life long in Polissya. He wrote to tens of newspapers, but not everything has been preserved. But even by what is available in the museum of Kamenny Brod faience plant one can partially judge about a certain aspect of life in the forest town. Thus, from one of the notes we get to know that a movie “Chapayev” was shown in the village, and people came from the neighboring villages and hamlets to watch it in carts. On that day children who came to watch the movie were given food free of charge right near the club.

From some other published material of workers’ correspondent from Kamenny Brod M. Bondarenko the changes in the village over the last year came to be known. A large forming shop was built at the plant, as well as material elaboration shop, garage for trucks. Fifteen cars were purchased ‘to service the plant’. A building for engineering staff was put up, and construction of a hostel was almost completed, etc., electricity and radio were connected to the houses of faience plant workers. Studies for adults in the evening time were continued.

There were quite a few notes in district and regional newspapers which the workers' correspondent wrote about Stakhaniv movement in the workers' village which was supported practically by all the workers of the plant. And tens of workers from all the shops started doing their daily norms by 140-150 percent.

The correspondent M. O. Bondarenko continued being a public correspondent after the war as well. His notes and even serious reports appeared on the pages of the district newspaper, regional *Radianska Zhytomyrshchyna*, republican *Robitnycha hazeta (labor newspaper)*, where he was among the active reporters on the topics of nature protection, as well as in other newspapers and even magazines.

M. O. Bondarenko participated in the war, but before the mobilization, staying on the territory under occupation, he wrote a diary of the events of the period which were taking place in the village of faience plant workers. Those brief notes tell us today about the terrible days of the period of occupation, executions of Jewish residents, etc. M. Bondarenko remained a correspondent till his last days. He died in Kamenny Brod in 1979, leaving hundreds of published notes on Kamenny Brod and its plant, the memory of a real hunter, one of those few who were trying to meet the needs of nature, and not with the intention of destroying anybody.

In the thirties in the village there was a period of some decay of the workers' theatre, a well-known Yablochnikov left Kamenny Brod as far back as in the twenties; as well as the rise of the choir, string orchestra and wind orchestra which were functioning at that theatre.

They say that Kamenny Brod musicians were famous and known far beyond the village. The choir went many times to have concerts in Kyiv, in the regional center. During the performance of the wind orchestra also in Kyiv it was given a set of wind instruments by Postyshev himself. Unfortunately, out of all the photos we have got only the photo of a string orchestra, and even it contains, as people say, not all its musicians.

The events of the end of the thirties also include the attempt to put forward as a candidate for the degree of the Hero of Socialist Labor a technical editor, veteran of the plant Shkalyuk. He was born in Kamenny Brod in 1879. He proved to be a specialist in ceramics as far back as in Zusman period. In that period he came to be known as an unsurpassable connoisseur of faience mass, its preparation for article formation. People used to say that using his fingers or lips he could find what kind of plate, bowl or vase could be made of this or that mass prepared for formation. He got that knowledge on his own and using the experience of the shop craftsmen, connoisseurs of faience business.

Being a technical director or chief engineer in the Soviet times, Shkalyuk applied a careful, reasonable, knowledgeable approach to his business. All the mechanization of production procedures, installation of boilers as well as steam-engines was supervised by him. He did not receive the title of hero, as people said, allegedly due to absence of the necessary education to hold such positions. He died in Kamenny Brod in 1939. His daughters resided in Minsk for a long period of time.

## PEOPLE'S WAR

The first day of war, which was absolutely unexpected, but to which everybody seemed to be ready is treated in memoirs and documentaries in a different way. That day, June 22, influenced every family, every house with tragic things, crossing out all the plans, dreams. It seemed too many people on that day that it was a provocation, but the next day was going to change everything. However, quite a different time started to be counted.

Kamenny Brod residents recalled that Sunday fifty years later in different ways. However, here authentic documents and memoirs of witnesses helped, them being recorded in notebooks as far back as in the forties. Out of all the events on the eve of that terrible day in the village somehow only the party dedicated to the fourth graduation ceremony of the tenth-formers of the local secondary school was an outstanding event. Out of twenty graduates nobody remained alive. People recall that there was an interesting party at the school with music and songs. Then the announcement on the radio about the outbreak of WWII, and then everything changed immediately in the village. That Sunday at the plant a large group of members of the Communist Party and Komsomol (Young Communists) was given out guns and several shells each. One day later it

became known that many Jews – mainly relatives and even acquaintances started coming to Rohachev from the Western regions. Still one day later five German planes appeared above the village, they turned and went in the direction of Bronytsya from which side hard explosions were heard, and then smoke came. Probably, plant chimneys served as a reference point for Nazi pilots who were coming to bomb the airdrome in Bronytsya.

The beginning of war in Kamenny Brod came to be felt right with the first departure of mobilized soldiers. They arrived from the neighboring villages and from the village to the premises of the village council where heads of the plants, village council were already waiting for them. They recall that there were plenty of people. Trucks were filled with mobilized soldiers with whom relatives and neighbors were parting in tears. And at that moment planes appeared above the village. It was unclear whose planes they were: Soviet or German, but the order was 'Hide!' Trucks with mobilized soldiers were departing at that moment. It should be added that out of the first mobilized soldiers practically nobody came back. All in all, over three hundred residents of Kamenny Brod in the first days and in the days after village liberation went to the front. Over one hundred and fifty of them did not come back.

In the village the trouble of war was felt already on the fifth day of the war. It was on the twenty-seventh of June, as archival documents confirm, that there was an air fight on unequal terms in which our bomber was shaken down. It fell next to the village in the pine-tree planting. Many people came to the place of disaster from Kamenny Brod, Zhovte and Chervonodvirka. Close to the burnt plane a hill of a tomb of the shooter-radio operator appeared, and through all the years of war it was cared for by shepherds and, it should be indicated – with gratitude and love. Only many decades later that first fight above the village was recalled in detail. The surname of the shooter-radio operator was traced, that was a youth from Donets Basin Volodymyr Fedorovych Zherdyev, and his remnants were re-buried to the communal grave in the center of the village.

On those days the village lived in a serious worry. Evacuation of the plant's property and people, particularly Jews, was under way. These works were entrusted to F. K. Pashkovskyy; the majority of the heads of the plants were mobilized. Director O. O. Chernin was withdrawn from Kamenny Brod almost on the first day of war.

It was not easy to dismantle the equipment and to send it. There was shortage of trucks. Not everybody managed to get to Kyiv. The majority of people did not come back from Kurne. There were fights for Novograd-Volinsky, and from the side of Zhytomyr the message came that all the roads were closed.

We get to know about what was happening in the village from a famous newspaper reporter M. O. Bondarenko. He put down on paper everything he knew and kept these notes around his house in his hiding places. Only after the war Mykhaylo Onufriyovych wrote in his diary all the records made during the war. It has come to our days, and everything is written there in detail not by days, but even by hours. It is impossible to read those records without anxiety even many decades after the events. The records tell about executions, and there were too many of them for such a village. It becomes known that in Kamenny Brod a unit of policemen was quickly formed. On August 1, servants of the new authorities started collecting property from the buildings of the former Jewish families, on August 3 the first registration of all the Jews was made, on August 4 the meeting of Jews was called, and at it members of the Party and Komsomol (Young Communists) were 'selected' to be sent to Dovbysh where all of them were shot. On August 14 - 15 German soldiers came to the village, and with the help of policemen they went to all the Jewish houses, and their hired people stayed near the houses. Those who were found in their houses got hit with rifle butts. On August 18 almost a battalion of Germans came to the village. Only men-Jews were gathered together. There were about two hundred men who were taken right away towards the rock quarry. On that very day they were all shot. People recall that nobody could stand these machine-gun burst of fire. Everybody went to the forest not to hear what was going on. Many Jews, even men who were hiding, could not stand that and committed suicide. Policemen were looking for many of them, since they knew these people personally.

The most terrible day in the village was August 23. 'On August 23, - can be found in the notebook of the workers' correspondent, - all Jewish women and girls were collected by the policemen in school for a meeting. Later they were all taken out and sent to the quarries. All of them, over 130 women and girls as well as many children were shot. On August 24 a small group

of women and girls was also collected. On that day the news impressed the village: in the quarries where shooting was going on one of the girls hit the head of a fascist machine gunner with a stone and threw herself into the quarry'.

According to the notes of M. O. Bondarenko, mass executions were stopped in the village only on the second of October. However, occasional executions took place almost every day. The victims included citizens of the Jewish nationality, Soviet soldiers and officers who were found by the police. A real bacchanalia was happening in the village, it was a head hunt. Those who were caught and doomed were taken along the streets, shot in the outskirts, and directly in the center of the village close to the bath house, or close to the highway, not far from Dermanka.

There was hunting for Jewish children who were hiding in their neighbor's houses, with their acquaintances. Those who were found were taken to pits and shot. Sometimes these pits with wounded people blazed up.

Many years later it was difficult to realize why it was all happening that way, why everybody was so defenseless. There were occasional cases when out of hundreds some Orthodox and Catholic families still managed to save the lives of some Jews.

In the first days of the war one more tragedy happened close to Kamenny Brod, close to the so-called Turovtsev bog. There among strong oak-trees within one day four cars filled with children, women, and men out of Jews taken from Rohachev were shot. There, as it is known, were not only local residents, but many others as well.

In the meantime, at the end of the summer new masters started putting into order work at the plant. It was not easy since the plant lacked many things; a lot had been stolen, taken away, crushed, and destroyed.

There came some masters from Germany who had in the twenties been involved in launching production. In brief, some production processes were launched, and the plant with the participation of a small number of workers and officials started producing some building faience. It is impossible to find out where the output of the plant went. The plant was functioning; there were some talks that it produced capacities for mines which could not be traced by mine-detectors. However, there is no official confirmation to it.

In the period of occupation the plant was supervised by the local German Yankee who had kept a pub in the village prior to the war. After the war no repressive measures were applied to him, he had certain accomplishments in the eyes of Soviet authorities and he had not compromised himself with his actions. As far as many others are concerned, a great number of policemen were shot back in 1943 in Yavne forest by partisans. Some of them were sentenced to serious terms of imprisonment right after the war.

Still at the end of 1941 in the village, and particularly in 1942 many people (up to 60 people) were sent on a compulsory basis to Germany to do different jobs. There were also people who went there on a voluntary basis, and who even sent some parcels, mainly with clothes, different things.

For a long period of time partisans 'were not interested' in the village and in the plant. Probably, there were some reasons for that. Out of Kamenny Brod residents there were few people who wanted to participate in partisan units. People from the surrounding villages became partisans, particularly from Tartak, Zhovte, and Finyak. People in the village knew that partisans were staying not far from the village; they even gathered some food and clothes for the partisans.

What concerns 'representation' of the occupation regime, its forces were made of a small garrison made of Hungarians and Uzbek people who were supporting Germans. They were staying in the school premises. The plant was fully guarded by local policemen.

Plant workers got their salary mainly in food. In the village, to a certain extent, life was coming into order. For almost a year primary school was functioning, in which Polish dominated. Young people organized dancing parties (vechornytsi) in their houses. Mainly religious holidays were celebrated. The ceremonies of baptizing were celebrated. In the premises of the theatre there was a Catholic church which started functioning with 1945.

Several meters from the plant checkpoint something like a 'pillbox' with several embrasures was constructed in the direction towards the central street and the forest. But Germans did not use it. However, the situation was not quiet in the village. Over the years of occupation up to ten times Kamenny Brod residents had to leave the village for some period of time and to go to

the forest, to the river or to the bushes of the former Zolotyok hamlet. That happened each time when large amounts of Germans either from Dovbysh or from Novograd-Volinsky came to the village. The last such raid took place in September 1943. Then from Dovbysh there came a lorry with Germans and policemen. They managed to catch only several people in the village. Among them was a former *Aurora* (warship at the start of 1917 Revolution) participant G. Ye. Vislobokov. Other escaped to the forest. But even those few failed to be taken to Dovbysh. Partisans were informed about the visit of fascists to the village. The 'guests' got to know about that and they changed their route through Adamivka where there was a road from Kamenny Brod to Dovbysh, but there also were partisans waiting for them, so partisans met the lorry, released the prisoners and destroyed the car. That was the last arrival of Germans to the forest village. It should be considered that since then Kamenny Brod was liberated, and a commission or a committee of contacts with partisans started functioning in the village, it was headed by Y. M. Talko.

For Kamenny Brod residents' war was not yet over. It was at that period of time that school, hostel was burnt and engine room of the plant was blasted, and without it the company could not even be launched. Had this to be repaired? For sure, school, hostel and engine room of the plant were absolutely necessary to Kamenny Brod residents after such a war.

Several months before the coming of the Soviet troops were not easy for the village. Absence of authorities, any at all, caused many troubles. That is always the case. It was almost every night that there were robberies in the village. It was all put down to partisans, who were no longer available there as of the moment the union of partisans headed by M. I. Shukayev came to Yavne forests. And this union came somewhere at the beginning of November...

It was not easy for Kamenny Brod residents to resist those 'providers-partisans', who were helping to get rid of scarce pre-winter reserves. They often scared people with arms, if they could not find anything. But people managed to survive even at that time. On the first days of January 1944 the army came. Again people had to live through a wave of mobilization of almost all men to the front. Those people, though, who were necessary to launch the plant's work, were left. Over one hundred men were taken to the front. Out of them less than a half returned.

Now the question arose, who and how should start revival of the plant from which little was left, when there were no workers.

### IN THE AREA CLOSE TO THE FRONT

Already in January Kamenny Brod residents who had not got mobilization summons, started planning without any particular organization, how they should start plant launching. There was no choice. They had to look for something, to start doing something.

The former head of the materials elaboration department started leading the plant, and then it was managed by the head of Kamenny Brod collective farm Y. M. Talko. He did the organizational part of business. He managed to bring several locomotives there since some mechanization was necessary. Plant specialist in ceramics K. N. Shcherbakov managed to get raw materials, though they were not of high quality. Some constructions near furnaces were covered with planks and upgraded, though they were without premises. About a hundred of people volunteered to work at the plant. It was not easy to work there, some assistance to the front was necessary. Already on January 8 residents of the village started clearing all the roads from snow and repairing Bridges for military equipment to pass there. In the direction towards Tartak an area was being selected for a military aerodrome which started receiving planes at the end of winter.

Fighters of some military unit had their quarters in the village, and then they were joined by the servants of that aerodrome, and later – by plane staff which started living in the houses of poor Kamenny Brod residents.

At the end of winter the plant, having a bit more than one hundred of workers, produced its first output – bowls, plates. It looked like a beginning, but an after-front commission considered the plant not eligible for operation. And still faience plant workers managed to produce a carriage of real building faience till the middle of spring, it did not require being painted and it was sent directly to Moscow. In May new orders were supplied, along with the right for further plant operation in Kamenny Brod. At the beginning of June from Kyiv from *Ukrfarforfayans* trust an application came addressed to director Talko to postpone his mobilization to the front. The plant

continued working under the supervision of the 'pseudo director'. He was assisted in everything by the specialist in ceramics K. N. Shcherbakov, engineer S. A. Kuchynskyy, boiler-house worker T. Biletskyy, a lot of staff workers who were already not subject to mobilization.

Already beginning with summer there started returning workers and specialists who had left the plant and village at the beginning of war, rescuing their lives. Teenagers, women, girls came to the shops. They had their main jobs at the same time helping to put the plant in order to the extent to which it is possible.

Later, realizing that the plant was still gaining power, that it required some qualified specialist, Yosyp Mykolayovych Talko addressed the trust with the request to replace him at the position of the director. The person like that was sent, and already on December 1, 1944 the corresponding act was compiled in which a record of availability of plant equipment and precious things was compiled, and they were handed over to the supervision of Yu. K. Matyukhevych. That act was certified by the chief engineer of the plant K. N. Shcherbakov, chief accountant L. Yu. Slipak and the head of sales department Kirzhner.

Now, many years after all that, it is worth mentioning at least some data from that act: in the plant's cash-desk there were as of the date of handover 9,200 krb, in the account in the bank – 46,000 krb, saber kaolin – 1,450 tons, Kamenny Brod clay – 408 tons, chalk and gypsum rock – 2.5 tons, 1,000 cubic meters of woods, in the peat development area 'Chernytsya', 'Talky' – 5,690 tons, also trucks 'ZIS-5' 2 items, 'GAZ' 1 item, horses – 16, carts – 8 items, at the warehouse of "orsu" – 6 tons of potato.

As it can be seen from the further work of the plant, the new director was by far not the specialist who had long been awaited in Kamenny Brod. That was rather a person from the regional committee of the party, where he had worked before. Already in 1945 Kamenny Brod had, already for the third time, O. O. Chernin as its director, who had worked as a chief engineer in Baranivka faience plant after the war.

The front was going farther and farther from the native land. The closest to the village were fights in the area of Kykova, from which wounded people were brought to the village, since here in several houses there was a field hospital. Some wounded people could not be saved, and they were buried near the forest, not far from the houses of the Shumskyy and Raskivskyy. Later on their names were found out. Lieutenant Teslya, Private H. V. Kolnisenko, born in Poltava. No data could be found about the others, and there were four of them.

Already in the middle of 1944 only occasional men were mobilized to the front from the village, these were those who were eligible for that by age and those for whom the period of mobilization deferral expired.

What concerns the plant; it was gradually improving its operation. It had several trucks, got some woods, peat and loam, and things like that, and was expecting the return of the front men, while the workers were waiting for American cans as rations to be brought to them.

School was also being revived, but not in the former two-storied building and it was done with the help of some teachers who were still alive, mainly women.

The return of Jewish families who had managed to get away of the forest village was becoming more and more noticeable. Mainly all of them went to work at the plant. They lacked dwelling, most of the huts were destroyed in the period of occupation and sent to plant furnaces. In the village several huts of barrack size were preserved, and several families were staying in each of them. But the main thing was that war was far behind. Still the plant had to live through hard times.

### **AND AGAIN: THE PLANT – TO BE OR NOT TO BE?**

Gradually the plant felt the shortage of materials for repairs of which it got none, as well as of supply of raw materials and fuel more and more. Quarries of recovery of the so-called saber kaolin which had been developed long ago were falling and could not be developed. The surrounding forests already could not give such an amount of woods to be burnt as they used to. If something was done with peat storage, there were very serious problems with coal supply. The plant lacked specialists in ceramics. Conditions of labor were extremely complicated. Not all the shop workers had safe roofs above their heads. It all was unfavorable for the production of high-

quality faience articles. Besides, hard manual labor prevailed. After the end of the winning war situation at the plant did not start improving. One had to wait for the improvement of the situation in the country in order for the authorities to pay at least some attention to plants like that. There was a hope for the workers themselves, for their management. And they were doing all they could for the plant to operate, to produce plates, bowls and some articles of building faience.

### **HOPING FOR THE BETTER**

The front men were coming back, but not all of them. Out of Kamenny Brod residents over one hundred and forty ones did not come back. Starting with Volodymyr Berenda, who perished out of all Kamenny Brod residents back in August 1941 in one of the battles and up to Caesar Kuzminskyy who was the last to perish on May 10, 1945, the village, lost almost each tenth resident. These were great losses. Tens of children were left semi-orphans.

Life was life, it was not easy. Besides that, 1946 turned out to be with low crops due to dry weather and already starting with winter people felt a new trouble – famine was approaching. So, the spring and summer of 1947 for many people turned out to be even harder than those of the period of occupation. But people survived even through that.

Hungry faience plant workers were constantly overcoming difficulties... Crockery had primitive decoration, plates and even large-size bowls. Those who had the possibility, left with several tens of crockery items, as they used to say then, heading for the ‘west’, and there they were exchanged mainly for wheat. Several pounds of barley brought gave food to the whole family for a period of one month. In the huts small mills were operating day and night. That was a fight for survival. Some people had cows in the yard, and there were more people like that, and then berries could be found later on – life was becoming more hopeful.

There was a lot of work to be done everywhere. Forestry was in operation, though the salary was given there twice a year. There were collective farms, and though people were almost not paid for their work there, but they managed to survive. Silpo functioned in the village. At the baker’s bread was baked, and there was always shortage of it. Though the dining-room was poor, but it still functioned at the plant’s ‘orsu’. In the village there was a snack-bar with permanent waiter Andriy Shevchenko and its sausage makers Syktus Falkovskyy and Anton Nikelburskyy.

After the monetary reform as of the end of 1947 life was becoming noticeably better, people were becoming merrier. The theatre had finally become a club. The Catholic Church left its premises, Catholics were gathering for church services in their chapel located in the periphery of the village, in its western part. Orthodox believers had a more complicated situation. They did not have any premises at all; therefore the most ardent believers had to get to Baranivka or to Staryy Maydan, where the church was still functioning. Soon there were fewer and fewer volunteers.

Only great religious holidays like Christmas, Easter and Trinity were celebrated properly, with due preparation and family-neighbor unions. In the summer period the village was becoming a real paradise. Every Saturday and Sunday and on religious holidays it was full of songs, and near some huts there were even dances. The yard near the hut closest to the forest in which four families lived and in which there lived a spouse of musicians – Adolph and Lydia Vasylevych, became a kind of a club. Young and senior people gathered there. Some people came to have a dance and to have some fun, others – to look at all that, and to recall many things.

Bad weather and the winter period motivated people to look for spacious houses willing to receive some young people to have some fun. These were the houses of the Vasylevych, Novakovskyy, Slovachevskyy, Danishevskyy and many others. There were also some musicians in the village. These were the same Vasylevych, Vitsentiy Herlinskyy and his sons, Anatoliy Kuchynskyy, and practically the only violin player Syanko Fishchuk. Some younger musicians were still growing up.

School was being revived, and it could be noticed more and more. At first the reference point here was seven-form education, since war mainly caused appearance of grown-up uneducated people. The school lacked classrooms, a certain basis as well as teachers. When A. S. Kleyman, M. M. Bartasevych got back to the village, there was again an opportunity to start secondary school restoration. Already at the beginning of the fifties everything was ready to teach senior forms, and, correspondingly, revive secondary school in the village. Thus, people from

Nemylna, Dzikunka, Vladyn and even Ostorozhok, not to tell anything of the villages of Dermanka, Zhovte, Tartak, Chervona Dvirka and hamlet Shaber came to Kamenny Brod secondary school. The distance from those villages to Secondary School in Kamenny Brod was not short for many children, but they (children from those villages) covered this distance twice a day in any weather condition and season of the year.

### **POLTAVA LANDING**

In the background of the whole life in the village, though it was not noticeable to everybody, the situation in the faience plant was far from being prospective and joyful. It produced dishware, it was dispatched, and there was demand for it. But time required modern approach to its production. The plant lacked means of transportation; some mechanisms, as well as premises, were very poor. In a particularly complicated situation were materials elaboration department and sager shop. Foundry shop workers were also staying in a very small bulkhead in the forming shop, the situation could not be worse. Furnace shop workers also did not have their premises, particularly for second burning of articles. Besides, manual labor prevailed everywhere, it was particularly hard for furnace shop workers, and not everybody could stand those loads, and operation of furnaces was often taking place at 100-degree temperature, when the clothes got inflamed.

The work of loaders of the so-called 'drums', sager shop workers and transportation department workers aimed at transportation of planks from the forming shop to the first burning furnaces. The same can be said about the freight handlers of the yard shop who handled up to 60 tons of loam, woods, peat and many other things per shift each. Faience plant workers had problems with irregular salary payment. These problems could last for months. Right after the war some parcels came to the plant (cans, matches, flour, etc.), but it soon stopped. The so-called department of supplies for workers was poor enough. It was not enough bread in the shop for everybody. In a special bread locker bread was given to people after the end of the workday at the plant. Even many decades later one can imagine what was happening around that bread outlet at that time

The plant did not have any prospects, which could be seen, but in some far-away rooms scholars already elaborated the case that there 'prospects' of the development of porcelain and faience industry of the country, but nobody still felt it at the plant and it lived its hard life, requiring support and assistance in everything. The most important thing the plant needed was reconstruction of premises and building of new shops. The lack of specialists was felt, staff workers were almost unavailable. In some plant services, the same as shops, divisions, and occasional people worked as foremen, many of them being unknowledgeable in the sphere of ceramics. There was only one specialist in ceramics with education and good experience at the plant – Konstantyn Nechyporovych Shcherbakov. He was the main support of everything. Moreover, he was invited to provide assistance to almost all porcelain plants of Ukraine. What concerns other spheres of production; they felt a serious need for specialists. And only at the end of the forties and at the beginning of the fifties in the forest village there appeared a large unit of younger specialists of faience business. These were some of the first after-war graduates of Myrhorod Technical School of Ceramics of Poltava region.

And at the end of the forties a certain group of specialists in ceramics landed in Kamenny Brod, it coming from Poltava region. Among these were Mariya Pryshchenko, Nadia Bezlyudko, Tetyana Proskura, Mariya Yaremenko, Kateryna Lavro, Olha Kovalenko, and Olha Hryhorenko. And there were still some boys with them – Fedir Suprunenko, Ivan Danylevskyy, Semen Stupalko, Ivan Dyachenko and others.

Some people, like, let us say, Ulyana Orobets, came with the whole of her family – with her parents, sister and son. It was not that easy to start living at the place where there had been war not long ago. They went to different houses and found some rooms, joining the common means, and sometimes they had to share what they had. But the main thing was job. And that was the situation with everybody, without any exception. And it was not only due to the fact that they came at the ministry's direction, but also because there were few young specialists in ceramics at the plant. Later on graduates of Myrhorod Technical School became foremen of shops, headed



them, organized production.

Not everybody, though, had to live in the forest village and choose the profession of faience plant worker for all his life. There were people to whom Kamenny Brod as well as its plant was very dear. They got families, apartments, even worked there till retirement. These were Fedir Mykhaylovych Suprunenko, Ivan Semenovych Danilevskyy, Mariya Borysivna Pryshchenko, the spouse Ivan Mykhaylovych and Nina Oleksiyivna Dyachenko, Tetyana Savivna Proskur and others. They became heads of production, led activities of the plant and village and their public organizations, they became members of staff, and they were natives there in everything, and remained to be native all their further life long. With the arrival of young specialists life in the village got more active. Already at that time the activity of the club was being revived, though its premises required heating and repairing. In it, though without any real producer, rehearsals of the drama group started, with the help of real amateurs and enthusiastic S. I. Kirzhner, and there followed first nights of 'Day sertsyu volyu – zavede v nevolyu', 'Za druhym frontom', 'Matynaymychka' and others. The success of amateur actors was at its highest.

The repairs was more and more noticeable at school, and at the end of the forties people were already preparing to celebrate house warming with some classes. The staff of teachers was also quite seriously supplemented. Before the first after-war graduation the teacher of German language B. H. Hrushko; the teacher of chemistry and biology Ye. M. Zahoruyko; mathematics L. M. Farber; physics O. Ye. Shpyta; Russian language and literature R. A. Sehal; Ukrainian language and literature S. T. Bodnar; and D. Ya. Hornostayets and other teachers came here. M. M. Bartasevych mainly headed the School reconstruction.

### **AND ONCE AGAIN: 'THE PLANT: TO BE OR NOT TO BE' TO HOPE WITH NO HOPE LEFT**

And here are several volumes of 'Prospects' of the development of porcelain faience industry published, with different tables, maps, full of calculations, which were sent to all those who had to settle the issue of further running of this industry. The whole plant allotted tens of pages to this joint work of the best specialists of institutes, laboratories and administrations of different ministries. And in all those conclusions the future of each porcelain plant could be seen. Only Kamenny Brod faience plant was to undergo (for already the second time) its final decay and vanish. On one of the pages of those several volumes only one paragraph was dedicated to Kamenny Brod plant with the following conclusion: '...and what concerns Kamenny Brod faience plant, it is no use to reconstruct it'. Here are all the prospects, as people say, nothing better can be invented... Such opinion, such vision of the company was equal to a death penalty. And that was not in vain, since for eight years after the war almost nothing had been built, repaired at the plant with certain costs. Plant shops with its workers survived in those half-dark premises.

Director of the plant O. O. Chernin was often ill; doctors were sometimes brought to the village by plane to save him. Grave condition of the head's health had a certain impact on the work of the company.

The attitude of the State government regards to the plant was not easy to understand for the workers, and residents of Kamenny Brod. Many of these people had already defended the plant from closure in the 20s, and others survived the WWII period. Now they could not understand why the issue of closure was raised again.

There were different rumors at that time. Among them there were rumors that premises of the plant were going to be given for preparing glass packaging made of vine. There were also other assumptions. For sure these facts did not make faience plant workers who had been earning their living at this plant for many generations already, who had advocated its fate, had supported it and had reconstructed it several times very happy about it all.

And here is a new problem. If in the neighboring plants in Dovbysh, Baranivka, as they say, there were new prospective plans of reconstruction of companies and even their reconstruction with switching over to liquid fuel, Kamenny Brod faience plant was suspended in the state of indefiniteness.

It was not easy for the staff as well as for the newcomers – young specialists as well as for

the director himself to live in such a condition.

For more than ten years Oleksandr Oleksandrovych Chernin had been working as director of Kamenny Brod faience plant. Each time out of his three comings to the plant he had to manage the plant in difficult periods. The first one was right after the strike and in the period of mass resettlement of Polish families, which fact had a very serious impact on the plant's operation. The second one was when repressions were still on, and after the war started and it was not easy either to just watch it all or to leave the plant in a hurry. The third one was the period of an after-war plant, with destructions, without the necessary premises, and with constant waiting for further final fate of the plant, for the reconstruction of which no money was allotted. The issue of closure of faience plant in Kamenny Brod was already being raised, but the plant still kept operating. Judging by the memoirs known to the author, Kamenny Brod residents always recalled and keep recalling their former director with whom they used to work, with whom they used to share complicated periods as with their head, with respect.

Gradually, when in the plant museum there appeared the portrait of the former director of Kamenny Brod faience plant O. O. Chernin, it was often the case that some visitor could be seen next to it – they were for sure recalling their head and the period of joint work. He was known not only to plant workers, but also to the whole village, for sure, where his family was living, where his children went to school together with other children.

One day in the middle of spring 1953 Kamenny Brod was impressed with the news. O. O. Chernin who was ill was leaving the plant and was moving to Kharkiv, and a new director was to be sent to the plant. There came a director with quite a unique family name – Minbashyrov. It was with the coming of this person that a new leaf in the history of the plant was turned over as well as new life with quite nice prospects started.

### **S. K. MINBASHYROV. RESTORATION OF THE FAIENCE PLANT IN KAMENNY BROD**

In the work of Kamenny Brod faience plant throughout all its history there were quite a few pages on which very serious moments were reflected. From time to time the plant had to start everything from scratch, after it lived through a critical limit. That was the situation at the beginning of the fifties when, as it seemed, it almost had to switch over to weaving of rod baskets.

Then a real miracle happened which came to Kamenny Brod together with the new director, S. K. Minbashyrov. It was not that a specialist in ceramics came to the forest village, it was rather vice versa. Sava Konstyantynovych Minbashyrov came to Kamenny Brod as a good organizer, a master, who was honest, just and requiring person in relation both to his subordinates and to himself. Right, he was strict. Nobody could be a close friend of his, and nobody could try to become a good friend to the director, though there were a lot of such people in the village. He could not bear things like that as well as primitivism...

His work record was a complicated one. Starting with the age of fourteen he had been working. In spite of all the problems and poverty, he was persistently trying to get secondary education. Together with his parents, Greek by nationality, he lived in the Caucasus. Later he entered Leningrad Mining Institute to study there and to get the profession of engineer. In 1931 he entered the KPSU. He had to work in different branches as well as to head one of Transbaikalia deposits.

The new director realized that only by putting things into order among the staff, setting stricter control over activity of plant services it was possible to restore a company like that. Besides that, one should build something... and all the shops and services of the plant were in need of new premises. Some premises which had survived through the war of Zusman period already could not correspond to their designation. Poor condition of the premises made the work of faience plant workers hard, most of production operations were done in the open air.

Sava Konstyantynovych saw that in the after-war country where everything was so radically reminding about the recent severe war nobody could deal with plants like a faience one in

Kamenny Brod, but still he made up his mind to fight for its revival. He went on numerous not quite unpleasant trips to administrations, trusts, to different ministries. He had to support his ideas about the expediency of plant reconstruction almost with rows. And he achieved what he wanted.

The first item to be built was furnace shop. The works were being done by one of Zhytomyr construction and mounting administrations. But the works were not done the way they should, as the plant director understood that. Time was passing, and the construction was very slow. Sava Konstyantynovych, who was used to doing any business in a business-like way, finally could not stand that and one perfect day he fired the builders and sent them away from the object. There were court proceedings, but even court felt that a real manager had come to the plant.

It was decided to rely on own efforts. During a short period of time the building department of the plant became the most numerous out of all. There were a lot of intentions. In the same furnace shop a new, fifth furnace started being erected. It was planned to construct premises for gypsum foundry.

The first independent (by own cost) construction of the builders of the faience plant was a meeting center. Yes, the meeting center (club). Decades later witnesses of those events had discussions as to why the club was chosen. Really, why? Was there any urgent need to build a club in the village in the background of such problems with dwelling and such mass destructions? There were still the premises in which a synagogue once used to be, then – the theatre, then – a Catholic Church, then – a club. Such quite large premises were a bit dangerous for spectators. Therefore they were destroyed right away, and the club was moved to several rooms of the hostel. Besides, the matter was that such a far-reaching head as S. K. Minbashyrov already felt the irreversibility of plant reconstruction, and he put spiritual needs of workers on the same level as production ones. And the club had to settle the problem.

A cultural establishment of the plant was erected using foundations and some walls of the hostel burnt during the war. This process of construction lasted a bit more than a year. And already in October in the period of holidays of 1954 a new club was opened. And that was the club with numbered chairs, a spacious foyer, and a reading hall. All the premises were well furnished, had mats and things like that. The authorities hurried up to the village to see all that. That was because not everybody was brave enough to do things like that.

The first head of that institution was a former front man Sigmund Yosypovych Marchevskyy who worked in the painting shop and was in charge of the library on a voluntary basis.

There were the so-called "vkhidshchyny", or opening which was a holiday for the whole village, with a great concert, with the participation of all those who had talents for acting.

The club was properly built in terms of quality. It stood without any changes for almost fifty years. Everything here was done properly, was of high quality, the unit of builders could erect any plant premises. These buildings were planned; they were laid down and put into order. Soon housewarming parties were held for workers of gypsum foundry, forming shop, furnace shop workers. Still a bit later a spacious, light shop was put up for painters, who parted from their huts, as well as for sager shops, mass stores. Reconstruction of these premises was also done properly, in a business-like way, for many years to come. Attempts were made to improve the dwelling fund of the plant a bit. Two so-called 'Finnish' houses were acquired and erected. Those premises were reconstructed in which before the war there used to be a hostel and several families lived in them. Still a bit later plant builders started building a residential two-storied building for twenty apartments, which was opposite the club and already in 1958 they were put into commission.

All these constructions were done not only at the expense of certain funds, which were allotted to that, but also by efforts of a large group of builders the plant possessed at that time, with already set up designers' bureau which was later on headed by an experienced builder, front man, participant of large buildings Ivan Andriyovych Korniychuk. In general, the period had quite a large and nice unique group of builders. No less famous experienced specialist with higher education Hryhoriy Naumovych Stul headed the shop. The shop consisted of a large number of brigades of experienced layers, joiners, fitters, concreters, plasterers. In fact, they could not boast of any mechanisms. For several years they had to do with just 'Pioneer' and concrete mixer and mortar mill.

There were cases when, hiring people into the building shop, representatives of the

personnel department asked whether the would-be builder had rubber boots to better mix concrete solution (with legs). Along with that manual labor was used in the shop. Spade and stretcher were almost the main tools of plant builders for fifty years. However, even in such conditions the builders of those times managed to restore the plant, leaving a good memory about them. Their names deserve to be recalled even almost half a century later. These are layers Mykola Vasylevych, Vasyl Dryha, Volodymyr Byelskyy, Fedir Storozhuk, Ivan Storozhuk, Yosyp Tymchyshyn, Volodymyr Panchuk, Felix Muzhanovskyy, Oksentiy Omelchuk, joiners Ivan Karlinsky and his son Kazymyr, Stepan Kopach, Hryhoriy Panchuk, Stanislav Dronhovskyy, carpenters Ivan Bruy, Ivan Danishevskyy, Hnat Poplavskyy, Krupskyy, Oleksandr Terletskyy, Oleksandr Kuzminskyy, Mykola Ihnatyuk, Stanislav Svintsitskyy, fitters-concreters Petro Danylyshyn, Fedir Vozhomenyuk, Frantsishek Kovalskyy, Mariya Karvat, the person in charge of concrete- and solution-production devices Viktor Kupriyuchuk. There also were some good producers with other building specialties. The head of the shop H. S. Stul was in charge of the work of the building staff, and the senior foreman of the shop H. Berdyanskyy assisted him in everything.

In the background of a kind of plant reconstruction, large-scale building, already starting with the first years of his stay in the position of director S. K. Minbasyrov with the help of specialist in ceramics K. N. Shcherbakov properly mastered the necessary basics of faience plant production and maintained the work the way for the plan of the year 1954 to be performed 106.4 percent. The appearance of faience articles was greatly improved.

Installation of 'Mavag' boiler and dynamo-machine which started producing a great amount of power enabling connection of workers' apartments and huts of the residents of the village was an extraordinary event at the plant. It was not that easy to install all that imported machinery. Soldiers with equipment, cranes were involved in the performance of the task. At first boilers were assembled, and then the premises for the new boiler house were erected.

The building shop erected a tower for water-cooling and its further supply to the boiler. Though the building was a complicated one for the builders to erect, but they performed their tasks successfully.

Step by step the shops got mechanized. Already at the end of the fifties the workers started installation of a 300-meter cradle transport which joined several shops. When it was launched, the work of the so-called guard of carriers of planks from the forming shop to the furnace shop to the first-burning furnaces became no longer necessary.

A bit later imported (German) drying cabinets of formed flat articles started being supplied to the plant. That enabled to completely forget about shelf drying of semi-finished produced. Later it became possible to stop producing expensive-expensive construction faience on which a lot of raw materials were spent, besides that a woman could not lift a washbasin or a toilet bowl placed into a sager box.

So, production at the plant was already established, it was supervised by knowledgeable specialists, but it was more difficult to furnish the shops with new upgraded equipment, new devices. Specialists in this sphere of production were almost not sent here as well as engineers. The chief engineer was K. N. Shcherbakov who was very suspicious of any new implementation, and he could dare introduce a new one only if he was convinced of its necessity. But everything was done in a reasonable and proper way. The chief engineer was elaborating the transporter, and after that the plant foreman under the supervision of technicians S. I. Kirzhner and S. A. Kuchynskyy, Alfons Biletskyy, Stanislav Kuchynskyy, Vasyl Lyktus, Dmytro Khomik and others launched the wonder of technology at which almost everybody wanted to have a look.

Changes at the plant became more noticeable. Correspondents from newspapers headed there, there appeared publications about reconstruction of the faience plant. Though, as it should be noted, S. K. Minbasyrov did not like this sort of 'promotion'. However, the achievements of faience plant workers were pleasant news for everybody. Permanent plan fulfillment, production of output of the first grade made the plant more stable, capable of constant construction, upgrading. Gradually life became easier. Pensions were back, some awards were given to workers. There were no solemn procedures as the ones which had once been held dedicated to the anniversaries of October revolution, May holidays and birthdays of V. I. Lenin, as well as on the occasion of other political events in the country, at which faience plant workers were not awarded. Thus, at the end

of the fifties awarding of the ordinary formation worker Stanislava Mykhaylivna Krychkovska with an Order of Ref Flag came as an important event. That was the highest award for the work in the life of the whole plant. Thus, due to this occasion a meeting was held at the company.

When production of construction items (such as bathroom and kitchen sinks, bathtubs) was stopped, the plant radically increased production of dishware (like plates, cups, and mugs, etc. and it reached 7-8 million items per year. One of the most important things at the plant was fighting for improvement of the appearances of the output, its whiteness and variety of assortment.

Gradually the plant stopped producing large bowls, the demand for it was lowered, something more attractive was necessary. More attention was paid to sets, new bowls, salad bowls, people were intending to produce dinner sets, which were forgotten since the period of Zusman.

The new approach was required by time as well as due to development and upgrading of output in other porcelain plants with which the faience plant was competing. And it almost did not lag behind. Moreover, already on the basis of the results of some quarters of 1961-1962 it was the winner and was awarded a Transfer Flag and first premiums. That was the former 'unprospective' plant.

Moreover, in those first years the plant managed to put the use of raw materials and burning into order and the whiteness of the dishware produced by Kamenny Brod faience plant became noticeable. In the club of the plant a meeting of the representatives of all porcelain plants was held on the issue of experience sharing in the production of such white output as the one produced by Kamenny Brod faience plant workers. A special poster was issued, but, unfortunately, it has not been preserved till now. The business was not bad in terms of construction and output production. It was all possible in nice production atmosphere created by the staff which was constantly on the rise and was supplemented with young people. They were capable of settling any tasks. Many years later it was noted that S. K. Minbashyrov managed to get achievements as well as revive the plant, because he had in his team people like his deputy D. S. Rozenshain, chief accountant O. Yu. Slipak, chief engineer, and then head of the laboratory K. N. Shcherbakov, chief technician S. I. Kirzhner, heads of departments H. S. Stul, F. M. Suprunenko. A. V. Kovalskyy, B. M. Marder, S. R. Bunditskyy, R. K. Kuzminskyy, S. A. Kuchynskyy, T. M. Proskura, and heads of divisions I. P. Kozlyuk, V. M. Mordas, H. P. Korshunova, N. O. Dyachenko, I. M. Hurevych, A. I. Ilchenko as well as foreman N. S. Mayzlish, U. A. Orobets, Ye. P. Fediy, A. H. Vyshkovets, P. A. Romanenko, O. T. Dyachenko and others.

One should not forget about kind of movements which were uniting staff, enabling to give some impetus in plan performance as well as a motivation of discipline in production, the ones like Stakhanovism movement prior to the war and afterwards – fight for the title of shock worker (udarnik) and communist labor staff. The plant used it properly, and it brought positive consequences. One should recall here the first brigades of the communist labor of the painting shop which were headed by Mariya Melnyk and Tamara Pinchuk. The staff of brigades headed by these people acted as a sample in terms of attitude to labor, participation in the public life of the plant. Not only were they competing with the brigades of the plant shops, but they also went beyond the village, concluding agreements of competition with brigades like that of Baranivka and Dovbysh porcelain plants.

Competitions for the title of "outstanding worker" and "communist labor brigade" were of practical nature and played only a positive role in the performance of production tasks, improvement of articles quality and improvement of labor conditions. Summarizing of the results of these competitions, which were done on a regular basis, was not only a formality, but brought efficiency results.

Achievement of the results of output production at the level of up to 47 and more percent of first grade, as well as retaining of 7-8 percent of waste, speaks volumes. The competitions mentioned played a significant role in achievement of such results as well as permanent search of innovations in settling of the tasks and annual and five-year plans, and common seven-year plan, with which faience plant workers coped in a perfect way.

The plant got better and richer not only in terms of new buildings. Without a direction 'from above the top' the so-called voluntary Saturday work (subbotnik) was organized at the plant. It was through this work that the so-called heaps of waste which had been collected during the war and in the after-war period was liquidated. Around the plant several gardens, tens of acacias were

planted. There appeared quite a large patch of strawberries. Several tens of vine bushes were planted. Apart from horses the plant had a cow, whose milk and the berries, the fruits of the plant gardens were supplied to the kindergarten or to the plant shops.

There was not a single day that the plant director S. K. Minbashyrov did not come to the shops and meet the workers. His habit was every morning, long before the beginning of the shift, to start visiting the plant stable, and to finish it with several minutes of rest in the Meeting Building (club). Yes, in the Meeting Building (club). It was at that time that the cleaning of the premises of the club as well as its heating was next to being completed by the cleaner P. D. Pavlyuk. So he came to the club, saying hello, stayed in the hall till the beginning of workday. What was he thinking about there?

Sava Konstyantynovych liked to visit club events, but he did not want to be paid some special attention during those visits... He did not stay long at them, only in the cinema. In general there were quite a few curious cases connected with club attendance as well as his lifestyle in the village.

He never stayed in the café or in the open air at somebody's expense. It was out of the question that a certain sum was to be contributed... He was also very hospitable.

A case can be recalled when he came to the club to the youth party in which his wife won a serious prize, but he objected to her getting the prize saying that club activists would need the prize more. For a long period of time one case was recalled at the plant which could hardly be perceived by anybody: he wished to drive a car and an accident took place. The next day an order was issued, in which the director said that the costs of car repairing were to be paid by the person guilty of the accident – the plant director S. K. Minbashyrov. Even the sum was indicated in the order – 79 krb

One of the last buildings of S. K. Minbashyrov was, probably, the premise of the office which was erected as a hostel and with which a lot of episodes were connected. He left the study of that office in 1965, saying to his secretary that he left an application on his table. He did not want any solemn procedure of saying good-bye. Later he worked as director in Polyany (Shabatov), in Malyna and in Khmelnytsky region. But his contribution in Kamenny Brod faience plant development was still the greatest one, and he left the memory for many generations to come.

He spent the last years of his life in Myrhorod, from which he sent letters to some people, and once or twice he also came to Kamenny Brod. There he died in 1979.

Many years afterwards majority of faience plant workers would recall their director as well as be sorry for his untimely leaving the plant. But to a certain extent he was forced to leave. The plant was operating in a good regime. It achieved a ten-million limit of output production, the demand for which for not bad. Only time required starting new reconstruction. And it was already planned in erection of a new tunnel building, for which documents were already being prepared and even preliminary division of the foundation for which was already made. He realized, as nobody else did, what was going to happen. Therefore he decided that somebody else, somebody younger, had to deal with it.

It was not soon that the reconstruction, required by time and new approach to porcelain production, was to be started at the plant.

What concerns other aspects of Kamenny Brod residents' life, they involved operation of the plant as well. School reconstruction was over, and already in 1953 10<sup>th</sup> formers started leaving school. The number of pupils got up to six hundred. The teaching staff got stabilized with the coming of a new school headmaster I. V. Talko. In fact, as everywhere, transfer to eleven-year studies which lasted for only three years was not a success. At the same time teachers quitted school – these were the spouse of Mayzlish and Farber. I. Yu. Kanner became deputy headmaster, and he was to stay in the position the longest. One year his graduates would prepare and stage *Lisova pisnya* by Lesya Ukrayinka which was going to become rather a serious event of the year 1963, as well as the last performance of the club of Kamenny Brod faience plant. One more event happened in the same 1963. The plant was celebrating the first jubilee of one of the events of the past. It was in November that there was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first strike. This event was preceded by a serious preparation with the first specially produced invitations, display of output, report, welcoming of pioneers and a large concert. Solemn procedures were held in two rounds, and over six hundred people could participate in them.

Along with that one of the pages of the glorious past of Kamenny Brod faience plant workers was recalled. Because everything had been forgotten before that and had never been taken from the past, though in the village there lived a lot of witnesses of such distant events. The plant was rich in them, of which fact the reader got convinced, when getting acquainted with the first pages of the book.

Still a year later in the village the first solemn marriage registration was celebrated, for which almost the whole village gathered and the club could receive only some part of those who wanted to see it all. That was practically the largest and the last spectacular event in which S. K. Minbashyrov took part, and he provided positive comments of such an intention of club activists.

In those years the initiative was taken by head of the building shop Hryhoriy Naumovych Stul to celebrate May holidays and the anniversaries of the Great October Revolution in the form of demonstrations with slogans, flags and different decorations of groups of people, and Kamenny Brod residents liked this very much, they always gladly went to these demonstrations. Moreover, these demonstrations and holiday meetings which were preceded by solemn performances on their eve, declaration of orders with issue of premiums and large concerts, improved the mood of people, their wish to communicate, it to a certain extent making them friends, causing benevolence and respect. The overwhelming majority of people celebrated those holidays.

Those also were the years of establishing of public organizations. Party, Komsomol (Young Communists) and particularly trade union activity was becoming more and more noticeable and efficient in the life of the whole staff. N. S. Mayzlish, I. M. Hurevych, S. R. Budnitsky, and P. A. Romanenko introduced a certain share of labor into this activity. F. M. Suprenenko, S. M. Levkovych, H. S. Bertman.

If at the end of the fifties and at the beginning of the sixties for some reasons the work of groups of amateur art activities got less active, soon the organization of reviews and festivals of the shop staff contributed to the formation of general plant groups which did well in the district stages. Wind orchestra was constantly functioning, starting, probably, with the end of the forties and particularly under the supervision of the experienced Dovbysh musician F. I. Drahomyretsky. Holidays, solemn procedures, demonstrations and frequent, so-called, mayivkas in the forest were taking place only with the accompaniment of the wind orchestra.

At the beginning of the sixties construction of additional premises of school assembly hall and gymnasium was organized, almost following amateur methods. That was an important event for the local secondary school.

At the same period there took place some intensification of the work in the local forest which became known due to some achievements in forestation of new areas and caring for them not only beyond the district, but also even beyond the region. *Lesnaya promyshlennost* dedicated a whole page to achievements of forest rationalizers and foresters. Foresters were given some serious awards; some of them participated in the All-Union Exhibition of the USSR. A tractor driver, resident of Dermanka, K. Ya. Oleksyuk was awarded Lenin order.

Works in the local granite quarry got mechanized; it gave up to a thousand cubic meters of building rock per month. The demand for it was very high. For Kamenny Brod builders as well as plant builders those quarries were like a gift.

In such background the era of heading of Sava Konstyantynovych Minbashyrov was over, he left the plant in April 1965, having dedicated almost thirteen years to the faience plant.

In April that very year the plant started to be headed by a local resident who had been working in the supplies unit since January 1944. That was D. F. Volskyy.

## **RECALLING ABOUT FRONT MEN**

Before 1965 the Victory Day was only recalled and almost unnoticeably commemorated, but when its twentieth anniversary in the country was approaching, quite a serious preparatory campaign was held. Kamenny Brod and its plant did not stay aside this event. Since everything had to be done for the first time, the way the Victory Day became a holiday itself. Thus, almost all the front men a lot of whom were still alive were recalled.

Finally, it was decided to recall those who had not come back from the fronts of the Great Patriotic War, of the number of which the village did not know yet. The names of perished

Kamenny Brod residents were fixed on the obelisk and placed in the village. That was done on the initiative of school teacher M. M. Bartasevych. Such obelisk was laid already on the day of solemnities held on the occasion of the Victory Day. What concerns other events, they were being held for two days. At first a soiree took place in the club, from the hall of which half of stools were taken out in order for it to have more people. And over seven hundred people were invited to the soiree. There were reports, greetings, and a small concert in which almost all the war veterans of the village participated. The second day started near the mass grave in the center near the school where there was a tribune and a stand for the presidium. A new plant director D. F. Volskyy was in it. A column with wreaths and flowers was made out of the representatives of all groups of the village as well as plant shops, and that was done for the first time. Certainly, it was all worked upon in a perfect way, and such memory of war, of its participants, as well as speeches made people cry sincerely. In the village there were mothers, who had lost their sons, there were widows who had lost their husbands, there were semi-orphans who had never seen their parents.

Finally, front men in smart clothing, with military awards, came out to the streets of the village. On that very day the solemn celebrations finished near the club. There was no delegation to the forest where there also were some burial places, due to the fact that there was one person among them out of those who could not stand a serious wound and had shot himself. Later they managed to overcome the barrier and already each next Victory Day there were carrying flowers to those who had lost life because of war as well. Also then, in dedication to the twentieth anniversary of the Victory Day the first general picture of Kamenny Brod front men was made. Not everybody was present in it, though, but perfectly everybody was never already to be collected together, to make a picture, though there were still tens of different meetings, holidays, trips and travels ahead. Time was going to introduce its amendments every time.

Solemn celebrations of the first jubilee of the Victory Day were finished in the tea house with a solemn dinner with horilka out of the plant's funds. There were some problems as well. Some drunken front men started proving who had been fighting better than the others. So no more solemn dinners ever took place, up till the period of poverty of these very front men who were grateful for a good dinner on any occasion.

What concerns the first Victory Day jubilee; it gave the country, the very front men, all public organizations as well as all the people a new wave of patriotic upbringing, search, celebrations of different jubilees of the Great Patriotic War, as well as better attitude to the very war veterans, up till the very collapse of the USSR. And that was, so to speak, the way of living for the whole people, particularly young people, because festivals, meetings, different trips as well as sports contests supported patriotic upbringing. Kamenny Brod was always pointed out in these works for whole decades. And quite a few albums, newspaper publications, and thousands of photos can confirm this.

The performances were taking place with the participation of war veterans. Their heroes were Cavaliers of several Orders of Glory Yosyp Ostrynskyy, Viktor Prochkovskyy, Stepan Tymoshchuk, holders of other orders Khayim Diamant, Naum Mazlish, participants of Leningrad defense Hryhoriy Bertman, those of Stalingrad defense – Yosyp Benhlovskyy, Moscow – Petro Puchkov, as well as other front-line soldiers Hnat Korniychuk, Ivan Korniychuk, Sigmund Marchevskyy, Volodymyr Shpakevych, Sigmund Domanevych, Florian Pashkovskyy, Mykhaylo Bondarenko, Tymofiy Talko, Mykola Honcharuk, Nina Koblova, Khayim Zunik, Petro Reshetov, Onufriy Volynskyy, and many, many others.

A bit more than a year later, on May 26, 1966 out of the funds of Kamenny Brod residents, opposite the club an elaborate monument Zhytomyr with the surnames of 126 Kamenny Brod residents was set up, who had not come back from the fronts of the Great Patriotic War, having sacrificed their lives to protect their Motherland. There was a meeting; there were flowers and a great many tears. For the first time the names of people who had perished, who did not come back from that damned war were 'pronounced in public'. For several days people came to that obelisk and read through the surnames several times.

Later that place was put into order, birches were planted around it. Most of solemnities dedicated to commemoration of the Victory Day as well as the anniversary of the beginning of war were started and held near the obelisk of perished Kamenny Brod residents.

As far as commemorations of further anniversaries and jubilees of the Victory Day are



concerned, they were enriched with new achievements, diversified with torch manifestations, memory fires, reports of youth for front-line soldiers, ignition of a large torch, local salutes along with traditional flower-laying to mass graves and the obelisk.

At the end of the sixties and up till the nineties youth marches, them being accompanied by the participants of partisan movement in Zhytomyr region, were started from the plant club to the former forest fortress of Yavne forest, as well as trips to the forests of Slovechne, Brest fortress, Belarus Khatyna, Kyiv region, Zakarpattya region. War participants were constantly taking part in such trips.

## **TWO JUBILEES OF THE SIXTIES**

Two jubilees which were then widely celebrated in all the spheres of life had a certain impact on the life of Kamenny Brod residents and their faience plant as well as in the then-country. Here the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth are meant. Gradually these events are as though crossed out of our history, but one can hide the truth. They left a certain trace, everybody felt it. And not only because some changes were expected to be brought about by them. That was not their main value. But there were certain points which Kamenny Brod faience plant workers were trying to achieve in their work.

It was in these years that the plant achieved the highest number of faience articles production – it was the highest with availability of thirteen furnaces of the period of Zusman epoch – about twenty million items. Along with that in the period there was a fight for improvement of the quality of articles, increase in their range as well as the first attempts to produce table sets. The first achievements of the artist Asya Serhiyivna Mikeyeva were already felt. In 1969 she was to make a name for herself with the first personal exhibition in Zhytomyr which would have a wide resonance.

Still at the plant fight for communist attitude to labor was becoming popular, and it was successful and significantly influenced fulfillment of production plans in all the indices.

At the same period workers' dynasties started being on the rise. This movement contributes to the memory of both labor veterans and the genealogical tree of these families, as well as their contribution into the development of the plant. Thus, the family of Kuchynskyy was recalled, and out of the members of this family up to twenty representatives had been working at the plant, so to say from times immemorial, starting with grandfather Petro who had deforested the forest for the plant construction in the far sixties of the nineteenth century, grandfather Adolph and his sons and great grandsons. The overall work record amounted to four hundred years devoted to the plant.

Then the labor families of Korniychuks, Kuzminskyys, Vasylevychs, Hniteskyys, Berendas, Shaydas, Pashkovskyys and others followed. Their taking out of certain 'oblivion' gave a new impetus in the upbringing of youth, all the workers of the plant. From now on many members of the labor families were mentioned at plant soirees, topical performances and during the procedures of seeing people off to well-deserved pension or initiation into workers.

A large span of time was taken by preparation to the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great October Revolution. To this event the whole life of the plant starting with the socialist competition with acceptance of exceptionally serious obligations up till inclusion of the plant into the fighting for the title of the group of communist attitude to labor which was approved by the whole staff and the concert of the invited artists from Zhytomyr right in one of the green areas of the plant which were still maintained at that period of time was devoted.

Along with that development of amateur art activity was paid great attention to. Almost all the shops prepared their concert programs, and the very competition of these collectives lasted for several days with a great final concert, the best of which were invited to the district, and then – to the regional stage of the festival.

It should be noted that to the final concert of Kamenny Brod amateur artists there came representatives of the district committee of the party, head of the regional professional council S. D. Korotchenko, head of the regional committee of the trade union of light and textile industry, representatives of the departments of culture of trade unions of the region and the district.

The very jubilee was commemorated by the report of faience plant workers about the

achievements in the socialist competition and successes in the pre-scheduled performance of state plans for five years. The best production workers were given diplomas, awards, premiums. On this occasion there took place a great solemn meeting with presenting of flags, awarding of the best workers. On the second day there took place a demonstration decorated with the model of the revolution ship, on which local *Aurora* sailor Hryhoriy Yehorovych Vislobokov was staying in his sailor uniform. He was from Orlov region by origin, where in one of the villages his childhood and young years had passed.

Still prior to the beginning of World War I he was called to service in the Navy. There he got to *Aurora*, where revolution caught him as a sailor. Then he was a soldier in the civil war. Later he worked at the construction of mining pits of Donets Basin. Still further on Hryhoriy Vislobokov recovered coal at one of the mining pits of Sakhalin, where he got acquainted with the girl from Polissya. At the beginning of the thirties they moved with their family to the native village of his wife – Kamenny Brod. Vyslobokov worked at the furnace shop of the faience plant.

People recalled only at the end of the 50s that he (H. Ye. Vuslobokov) was a sailor of the revolution ship “Aurora” in 1917. He was even sent a sailor uniform from Leningrad. In the period of preparation to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great October Revolution almost all the press started speaking about Kamenny Brod. Twice he stayed as a guest in his ship. He had a long life, though far from being the one he could have led. He did not use his fortune, though he was a famous and popular person, but the wish to have a drink prevailed in him. He died in the sixty-sixth year of his life as the person always willing to drink a glass of horilka.

What concerns solemnities dedicated to October jubilee, they finished in a meeting with many people near the school and different awards for the plant workers. Already a year later Komsomol (Young Communists) members were celebrating their jubilee. It was considered that Komsomol (Young Communists) of faience plant workers had its traditions and was considered to be one of the best in the area. Its role in the village was singled out in many aspects, but the greatest role was played by it in production. In the days of celebrations of Lenin Komsomol (Young Communists) the secretary of the plant organization was Valentyn Kuzminskyy.

After October jubilees and Komsomol (Young Communists) jubilees there started dynamic preparation to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Volodymyr Illich Lenin’s birth. High socialist obligations, voluntary Saturday works (subbotniks), Lenin readings as well as making of special albums for brigades, shops, topical performances, cultural competitions and review of the shops’ amateur arts – it was all directed at and dedicated to the jubilee. Besides, it was known ahead of time that there were going to be quite a few jubilee commemorations among which there were medals for the best production workers. Thus, monthly and quarterly results of the competitions were of business and specific nature.

The role of the best production workers, labor veterans, labor dynasties, was getting more and more important. Proper attention was given to labor innovation, rationalization. Renewal of the range of goods produced by the plant became noticeable. New sets by the plant artist S. S. Mikeyeva started being produced – *Stolovyy* and *Varenychnyy*, China table sets and plates for berries, for pancakes, as well as large oval and round plates started being produced, there was a great demand for them right from the start. Painters Florian Pashkovskyy, Nina Stepanova, Mariya Yakymovych, Felix Polyanskyy, model master Oleksandr Kotyluk gave their proposals in the variety of forms including proposals for their decoration.

The role of production brigades got higher. Brigades of mass stores of Pavlo Karvat became the leading ones, as well as those of formers Reni Livushevska, Lima Shayda, Nelya Atsman, furnace foreman Vatslav Vasylevych, Stanislav Levkovych, Halyna Huzovska, painters Nina Stepanova, Mariya Skrytska, Halyna Bondar, Yevheniya Bilokur, those of burning shops – Yadviga Drongovska, of building shop – Stepan Kopach, of mechanical shop – Micheslav Kuchynskyy, electrician Oleksandr Talko, sager shop – Volodymyr Korostynskyy, as well as other shops and units. They all were a sample of attitude towards labor as well as participation in the public affairs of the plant, participation in the groups of amateur art. Production plans were fulfilled in these groups as well as in many others by no less than 110-130 percent.

What concerns the very events dedicated to the one hundredth anniversary of V. I. Lenin’s birth, they started at the end of 1969 and with topical performances and festivals of artistic art. This time faience plant workers could prepare several groups almost in any shop. The workers of

painting shop were most serious about their contribution in terms of the attitude to singing.

That was the period of revival of the wind orchestra and its serious achievements in the background of regional orchestras. His head, the resident of Virlya, a famous organizer and musician Anatolii Romanovych Kravchuk famous in the area as well as instructor of the department of culture of the regional professional council V. V. Korol, who was giving Kamenny Brod musicians significant assistance as well as was preparing them to the main regional holidays and contests, holidays of spiritual music should specifically be pointed out.

Volodymyr Martynyuk was the head of all the other groups, choirs and soloists.

The main event to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth was taking place to a certain extent in a hurry, though in an overcrowded hall. Perhaps, that was because it was all taking place a week before the main date without any warning. There was a report, there were greetings on behalf of pioneers, there were distinctions as well as awarding with a jubilee medal for almost forty faience plant workers. Among the people awarded were Petro Biruk, Felya Poplavska, Yadviga Drongovska, Mariya Shelest, Stanislav Kuchynskyy, Ivan Kozlyuk, Yevdokiya Fediy, Samuyil Kirzhner, Oleksandr Kotyuk, Stanislava Nykytyuk, Olha Orlyk and others.

These were already the last solemnities held by the plant director D. F. Volskyy in the period of his being a director, though the plan seemed to be fulfilled to a proper extent. At the end of June faience plant workers fulfilled their five-year plan. Furnace shop, boiler-house as well as mechanic furnace *Leer* of the painting shop started being transferred to liquid fuel – residual fuel oil. There were no failures with supply of raw materials and auxiliary materials. Something was being constructed. However, the plant was waiting for some changes to come. Not everything was all right in the relations between the shops. For some reason the district committee was not satisfied with the plant's business.

Almost all the porcelain plants had stopped using furnaces of regular effect long ago. In brief, reconstruction of Kamenny Brod faience plant was necessary, but director D. F. Volskyy was afraid of starting it. No other way to increase production of output was possible. Tunnel furnaces of which people had long been talking about at the plant were necessary.

## RECONSTRUCTION

On July 10, 1970 in Kamenny Brod faience plant there took place a change of directors. A new director was F. U. Retman, the employee of the department of supplies of Baranivka porcelain plant named after V. I. Lenin.

People at the plant and in the village perceived the change of director in different ways, since much had to be changed. But life was making its amendments and they had to be taken into account as well as to be obeyed.

Gradually faience plant workers felt that the plant was about to make reconstruction without stopping the main production and with increase in the amount of output production with available capacities. Thus, a serious period in the life of services of plant, shops, and units was approaching, them getting ready for great construction since summer already.

But here came the pleasant day of laying the foundation. This occurred on November 10, 1970. And it started early in the morning close to a large foundation pit for the utility building of the future tunnel shop. Orchestra was playing. Girls dressed in traditional Ukrainian clothing were hurrying to the place of the event. On that day it was allowed to come to the plant without any permission to all Kamenny Brod residents, labor veterans. Here is what was written about the holiday of foundation laying in the district newspaper: 'there lies solemn silence. Secretary of the Party bureau of the plant A. H. Vyshkovets is approaching the microphone. He announces the beginning of solemn foundation laying. Director of the plant F. U. Retman speaks about labor and heroic heritage of generations of faience plant workers.

Also, plant veteran, one of the leading engineers-ceramists K. N. Shcherbakov delivers a speech in front of the audience. He has contributed to the third greatest production of the plant.

Those present also listened with great attention to the speech of the chief artist of the plant A. S. Mikeyeva, secretary of Komsomol (Young Communists) organization of the plant Y. Ts. Tetera, veteran of the plant H. S. Bertman.

After that faience plant workers take solemn oaths: within a year to work one month at the production, to take active part in all the voluntary Saturday and Sunday works. From now on construction of the building of tunnel furnaces becomes the second work place of faience plant workers.

Surnames of those who have the honor of raising the flag of foundation and laying the first stone are announced. The best production workers are approached by the girls dressed in traditional Ukrainian clothing and get embroidered Ukrainian towels tied on them. The melody of the Anthem of the Soviet Union is heard. Slowly, along the steep mast the flag goes up. It is raised by one of the best burners of faience articles A. P. Hnitesky and the brigadier of one of the best Komsomol (Young Communists) youth brigades Z. O. Baranivska.

The honor of being the first to carry the stone and leading the foundation laying lied with an experienced builder, carpenter S. I. Kopach, who had been working at the building shop of the plant for already twenty years. After him stones were carried by the engineer-builder I. A. Korniychuk, plant director F. U. Retman and others.

After the first stone tens of cubic meters of concrete were put into the trench, and there started construction of the first building'.

Then there started intense days of plant construction from which a great reconstruction was to start, this contributing to the increase in the faience output almost three times. Along with that fulfillment of plans of articles production with available capacity was being carried out in full. So to speak, the plant started living in two directions. It should be noted that plant workers were coping with everything successfully. Though it was not easy, but Kamenny Brod faience plant workers managed to overcome these difficulties as well.

Reconstruction in Kamenny Brod was constantly attracting attention of party and state bodies. Newspaper correspondents also did not stand aside the process. Here is what a district newspaper wrote about construction in the village a year later: 'Right after the checkpoint of Kamenny Brod faience plant construction panorama could be seen. In the former waste ground a building of the new tunnel shop was being built. Its launching and expansion of other shops would ensure increase in output of faience dishware at the plant 2.7 times, the way it was planned in the ninth five-year plan. Construction was carried out by the contracting organization – Zhytomyr mobile mechanized column No. 6 of *Ukrlegbud* trust of the Ministry of Light Industry of the Ukrainian SSR.

It was quite understandable that the staff of the plant had great hopes for a new tunnel shop of the plant. Therefore, administration and party organization did their best to accelerate the process of construction. The contractor was given transport, workers, and different mechanisms. With the plant's assistance in the past year the warehouse of raw materials was put into commission. Faience plant workers also worked a lot at the extension of the warehouse of finished commodity. Only the contractor was not in a hurry...' And further on the correspondent underlines the causes of failures in the plant construction, which was hanging on for over a year, and it was not going to be completed. Either there was no necessary grade of concrete, or the no necessary concrete structures could be brought for a long period of time. In all the indices the construction of the past year 1971 did not fulfill any monthly task. During the inspection some deviations from the project were traced. Administration of the building brigade was much criticized since it put timely construction completion at risk.

Still a bit later a special raid brigade of newspaper correspondents of two newspapers *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* and *Radyanska Zhytomyrshchyna* came to see the reconstruction in Kamenny Brod, and three months prior to the finish they criticized the work of the builders very much, as well as those bodies which had to promote successful construction completion. '...in order to achieve this, - it is indicated in a large publication of the raid brigade, - it was necessary, as builders say, 'to have a command of' 4 million krb; to construct the building of tunnel furnaces with the area of 6 thousand square meters, to assembly two furnaces in it 94 meters long each, to expand the mass storage shop, to construct purification constructions, vapor boiler-house and other objects.

These works were commissioned to be done by the Kyiv trust *Ukrlegbud* of the Ministry of Light Industry of the Ukrainian SSR. The Ministry of Light Industry of the Ukrainian SSR sent two mobile mechanized groups to the construction site – Zhytomyr MMC-6 and the Kyiv

Specialized MMC-7, as well as a number of subcontracting organizations, including the Specialized Administration No. 35 of the Ministry of Special and Assembly Construction Works of the Ukrainian SSR.

Two years passed since construction at Kamenny Brod faience plant was started. But during all that time there was not a single month when the builders did the planned scope of works. Average monthly variation in the plan was from 25 to 40 percent. Construction was being done in an absolutely bad way. Three months before the finish completeness of the construction was only 17.8 percent. Out of 4 million krb only 335 thousand karbovantsi (the currency of USSR) were utilized properly...’ – that’s what newspaper correspondents stated.

At the end of 1972 it was still a long time before the finish. And faience plant workers had to cover this distance first of all in terms of output production as well as in terms of active assistance to builders. The finish was not to be made even in 1973, in 1974. Many meetings of different bureaus, commissions were still to take place. A lot of instructions and forecasts as far as delays on the part of builders as well as violations in the construction of one or another object were concerned were to appear. However, faience plant workers lived not only in the hope of reconstruction, but also with other problems, in the solution of which there were hard days, but there also were holidays, commemoration of different events, since the person cannot live thinking about material things only.

### PLANT ARTIST

Asya Serhiyivna Mikeyeva came to Kamenny Brod faience plant not right after she graduated from Myrhorod Technical School of Ceramics. At first the graduate had a direction to Baranivka porcelain plant. It was there that her work path seemed to lie. But she was destined to have something different. And soon she was already at Kamenny Brod faience plant. That was in 1962. She was hired to the unit of artists where new ornaments to be put on faience articles were designed. The first attempts, first proposals as well as new directions in decoration of Kamenny Brod faience – and almost yesterday’s graduate of Myrhorod Technical School of Ceramics already came to be the chief artist of the plant.

It was not right away that the output of faience plant became more diverse, but there were artistic councils, there were different standards like “GOST”, and it took time to go through their analyses and conclusions. However, it was all overcome not without the participation of the plant artists. The chief artist is trying to change the appearance of the dishware.

Within a short period of time the plant was trying to get back something on what long decades had been spent, when there was no time to think about sets, wall decorations, etc. Now the chief artist offered to diversify the finished dishware introducing new samples of decoration of the same bowls, plates as well as different sets, and the plant could not catch up with all that.

And it was then that for the first time a personal exhibition of works of the plant artist from Kamenny Brod was organized.

Let us recall the way regional newspaper *Radyanska Zhytomyrshchyna* reacted to the event: ‘...This summer we managed to get to the personal exhibition of works of the artist organized in the salon of the regional department of the artistic fund of the Ukrainian SSR. From everything that was exhibited there – vases, wall dishes, table sets, - there came the spirit of forest. The set of dishes for pancakes called “*Poliskyy*,” (Polissia) and those for berries *Chornytysya*, (“Blackberry”) for potato “*KamyanoBrodskeyy*,” a series of plates for children “*Pohryby*” (“Gathering Mushrooms”) and “*Yizhachok*” (“Porcupine”)

The palette of the artist is poor, mainly only three colors – green, ochre, black. But they symbolize the basis, the very essence of our Polissya – forest granite, the land-feeder’...

Then there was a similar exhibition in Kyiv. Later faience articles of the artist from Kamenny Brod were selected for VDNKh in Moscow. Some years later the exhibitions of Asya Serhiyvina Mikeyeva were organized in Zhytomyr, in Kyiv. She was shown tens of times on the republican television, almost all the newspapers were writing about her achievements. Her articles produced at the plant were to become the achievement of tens of museums. Being still alive, she was already introduced to encyclopedic editions. Pages of special editions and journals were dedicated to her creative work.

But the plant artist did not just design new samples of decoration and painting of faience articles. During the years of her work at the plant she designed many new forms of Kamenny Brod porcelain – plates, jugs, vases, etc. Many of these articles were produced at the plant conveyor belts for years, reaching the output of millions of items. Her contribution into the enrichment of the variety of Kamenny Brod porcelain was invaluable. Many of the achievements of A. S. Mikeyeva were exhibited in the showcases of the plant museum. To show everything, and the achievements of the plant artist deserves it, a separate museum with tens of showcases and hundreds of exhibits is necessary.

Not everything of the things designed and supplied for the consideration of the artistic boards by the artist A. S. Mikeyeva started being produced. Many things remained in one copy. Other things were designed only for some specific occasion, possibly for these exhibitions which were dedicated to one or another event.

Thus, let us say, the artist designed a series of dishes with the topic *Lisova pisnya* by undying Lesya Ukrayinka, the photo imprints of which were introduced into many books. There were others, quite a lot, only one copy of which was made, and which went, so to speak, around the world.

But mainly Asya Serhiyivna as the plant artist worked for production, besides that, it was for almost forty years. How many samples were provided? It cannot be even counted.

Gradually the artist from Kamenny Brod became a member of the Union of Artists of Ukraine, and already in the nineties by the Decree of the President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk for many years of creative work as well as for painting of articles made of faience, chief artist of Kamenny Brod faience plant Asya Serhiyivna Mikeyeva was awarded the degree of ‘Merited artist of Ukraine’. But it was not only at the plant, but in the village that the plant artist was known as the master of faience business. Asya Serhiyivna was constantly in movement, she also participated in different events. At some period of time she was singing in the choir of the painting shop. For a long period of time she was member of the club and museum. She was never beyond the participation in public affairs; she helped in what she could. It can be recalled the way one of the soirees in the club of girls *Mriya* was being prepared. The girls were in despair on the eve of it. Finally they addressed Asya Serhiyivna for a piece of advice, and having listened to them she started helping them, and one evening was enough for the event to take place the next day and be a success. In general A. S. Mikeyeva was constantly helping the girls’ clubs to organize this or that event, and she participated in them, thus deserving to be elected honorary president of this union.

When in the middle of the seventies there arose the need for producing and painting up to ten pictures with the motives of folk tales and cartoons for a new kindergarten *Lisova kazka*, the plant artist got down to this uneasy business and submitted these pictures for the decoration of the walls of the best building of the village on time.

Certainly, as the artist, A. S. Mikeyeva was not the only one in the production of new forms and decorations of faience articles. This kind of flow of new samples was supplemented by painters Florian Pashkovskyy, Yosyp Volskyy, Mariya Yakhymovych, engraver Felix Polyanskyy, Olha Yalovets, artist Vasyl Hrytsak and others.

Now already the former plant artist has retired. But somehow this withdrawal from the plant life was unnoticed, had no necessary resonance, and had rather a taste of bitterness. Since not everybody was fortunate enough to do so much in life, to give so much to the plant as Asya Serhiyivna Mikeyeva managed to do. Certainly, that was not only the business of the change in the atmosphere at the production, availability of new approaches, since the plant with its past remains to be for those who have to cherish its future. And there can be no future without the past.

### **RATIONALIZER AND SKILLED MAN**

Labor path for the plant engraver Felix Valentynovych Polyanskyy started not from the faience plant. He had to try and do different works starting with his youth. But he had a great talent for tailoring. Not only could he properly repair model shoes, high shoes or ordinary slippers. He could also sew a lot of different shoes – both for men and women. For a long period of time he worked at the shoe repairing workshop in Kamenny Brod. But at the beginning of the sixties he moved to the painting shop of the faience plant. He produced rubber stamps there. There were

cases when he dealt with some visual propaganda, reproduced portraits of outstanding people. He had a natural talent for different improvements of this or that mechanism and different devices. For certain reasons the beginning rationalizer had to leave the plant 'on his non-own initiative', but that was not for a long period of time. A change of directors took place at the plant. And again he came to the painting shop. Now he clearly held the position of engraver. And almost starting with his first days of work he got down to production of color stamp for making a picture on flat articles. Then people could not see, as well as the author himself, that a real invention was being created.

And once again we are going to provide here a kind of extract from the publication of the regional newspaper *Radyanska Zhytomyrshchyna*: '...Talks with the craftsman of the painting area did not yield any results. Special reference literature did not help either, since at none of porcelain plant the methods of simultaneous application of several colors were used. In Kamenny Brod nobody believed that it was possible, but for Polyanskyy.

He worked at home, after work. Days were passing. And people at the plant already started forgetting about the intention of Felix Valentynovych. But once he himself reminded about his stamp, asking the unit master for several grams of ceramic dyes. The next day Polyanskyy came to work with a package. When he unwrapped the package, everybody saw something that looked like a toy for children. A wooden box filled with thin wires, springs, and a small drum with three ledges – that was the whole stamp.

Polyanskyy was surrounded in a close circle. But he took a glass and started carefully putting paint on it. There came out a kind of three-colored palette. Then Felix Valentynovych touched the glass with the box and put it on the plate. On the smooth faience surface a clear picture was evolved, then a second one, a third, and a fourth. Everybody wanted to see the plate. There was a color stamp! It had just to be improved, made a metal one.

The artists created several special pictures for it. Soon a great batch of plates was made. And the drawings there were better than the ones drawn by artists. And the main thing was that all the pictures were the same....'

Soon several such stamps were produced. And already a whole brigade of stamp-makers was putting drawings in five or more colors. And all that had to have a large circulation for any picture...

Some time was to pass, and Ukrainian Research Institute of Glass, Porcelain and Faience Industry published a special booklet on the stamp by F. V. Polyanskyy, in which the following information was indicated: '... At Kamenny Brod faience plant, as suggested by the rationalizer F.V. Polyanskyy, a new type of article decoration was introduced – a multicolored stamp. Unlike the practice of application of one-paint ordinary stamp, application of a multicolored stamp (by way of special mechanized device) enables to put multicolored drawings on the articles, them resembling painting making or silk-screen decal'.

And finally the documents were made and sent to the committee of inventions and discoveries of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. Sometime later a letter sealed with sealing wax came from Moscow to Kamenny Brod addressed to F. V. Polyanskyy, and in it there was a copyright certificate No. 184884 on the invention of 'Manual device for putting multicolored drawing'. Thus, Kamenny Brod faience plant had a real inventor.

In the meantime F. Polyanskyy continued his search. The amount of his rationalizing proposals achieved forty. At the same time he was working at the creation of the machine with the use of his device, but already a mechanic way with application of electric power engine. And he managed to achieve that. Such a device was produced in the early seventies. Kamenny Brod master received a new copyright certificate on the invention of the device for putting multicolored drawing on porcelain and faience articles.

During all the years of his work in his native painting shop engraver F. V. Polyanskyy was in constant search. He was often the winner among the rationalizers of plants of the same type. He was given premiums, diplomas and awards. When the time came to retire, plant workers organized on this occasion a great event for the whole staff with the participation of actors from Kyiv, activists of the girls' "Miry" club with a large korowai, a large premium, even valuable gifts, since it was not always possible to honor real inventors.

## **THEY WILL STAY IN THE MEMORY FOR LONG**

It so happened that during all the years of existence of Kamenny Brod as well as its faience plant out of all the workers, residents of the village some personalities were distinguished, and they became noticeable in the background of others not due to somebody's decisions, orders or other official documents.

Only by their living with others, their attitude to labor, public life as well as behavior in the family they earned respect of others, remained in the memory of people for many years to come. Such people were worth being introduced to the book of outstanding people of the village, books of respect not in terms of percentage.

Such people in Kamenny Brod, as the author managed to trace, included some people already mentioned on the previous pages of this book, many of them were former directors, as well as other plant workers: M. M. Rudnitskyy, N. A. Kyselhof, N. S. Mayzlish, H. S. Stul, F. K. Pashkovskyy, M. O. Bondarenko, L. P. Slovachevskyy, S. A. Kuchynskyy, F. U. Retman, I. A. Korniychuk, S. R. Budnitskyy, H. P. Korshunov, K. N. Sherbakov, K. N. Trokhliv, S. I. Kirzhner, as well as teachers and doctors I. V. Talko, O. Ye. Shpyta, R. A. Sehal, P. P. Podorozhnyia, M. M. Bartasevych, I. Yu. Kanner, M. M. Moroz, F. Turovskyy, and M. Herzvolf.

### **M. M. RUDNITSKY**

M. M. Rudnitskyy was one of intelligent, polite, and proper resident of the village, and a plant worker. He was also unsurpassable connoisseur of the past of the village as well as its legends. It was recalled that on each occasion everybody was trying to sit at the table close to this person who was a good narrator, and who could also listen to people.

Mykola Martynovych Rudnitskyy was born in 1885 in Kamenny Brod in a large Polish family. Six years later in the contract of lease of twenty dessiatinas of land for fifty years the following was going to be written: till 1950 the youngest of the Rudnitskyy family, Mykola, had to pay for the land in full. But this was not to happen.

He came to the plant in 1907. He performed different jobs, but most of the time he worked as a machine operator. In the years of the Soviet power establishment he was among the members of the evolutionary committee of the plant. In the sixties when he was invited to the soirees, topical events he was recalling that period.

M. M. Rudnitskyy worked at the plant till 1955. He lacked two years to his fiftieth jubilee. His last position was the saddler of the machine department. He was also distinguished for his hospitality. These were unforgettable evening gatherings to communicate at during the visits to Rudnitskyy's house. It was often the case that adults joined youth here. This communication enriched everybody and made everybody kinder while they met people who during all their lives, perhaps, had not pronounced a single bad word. With the death of M. M. Rudnitskyy, which happened in 1968, Kamenny Brod workers had a great loss, though it seemed that Mykola Martynovych Rudnitskyy was not that noticeable in the village.

### **N. S. MAYZLIN**

He originated from the family of an attorney in law who used to be famous in Volyn. He was born in 1903. He started his work record at Kamenny Brod faience plant in the furnace shop, back in the year 1924, which was a turning point for faience plant workers. He actively participated in all the directions of public matters. Along with that he studied in the evening school. He was many times involved in military re-training from which he got to the front already in 1941.

Ukraine, the Caucasus, then again Ukraine, and even with fights he came to the native land. However, he did not manage to get to the center of fascists' location: grave wounding and disability for the rest of his life.

After the war N. S. Mayzlin came back to Kamenny Brod, he was hired at the plant and got into the center of all of its public affairs. He was many times elected either secretary of the



party bureau, or head of the committee of the trade union. He worked as master of painting shop, and was highly respected by all the employees of the staff for diligence, benevolence and sympathy.

Workers of the plant, residents of the village knew Naum Samoylovych Mayzlin as a perfect reporter, political informer and well-read person. At all the solemn meetings of the period of the forties and the beginning of the sixties, and there were a lot of them, he was always the reporter. Each speech was always attentively listened to.

N. S. Mayzlin also was a chess-player. Tournaments as well as all the evening gatherings could not pass without his participation, and he came to them knocking with his stick, and always with a pleasant smile and necessarily with a topical funny story.

He lived the last years of his life in Novograd-Volinsky. His last meeting, as well as the speech at the plant club took place at the jubilee Komsomol (Young Communists) soiree in July 1982. The veteran died in 1989.

His son Leonid Naumovych Mayzlin worked as a teacher of history in Kamenny Brod School for a long period of time, and for some years he was the head there. At the beginning of the sixties he left for Zhytomyr, and then – for Germany. He visited his native village for the last time in 1996 to participate in the event dedicated to Kamenny Brod Jews.

### **K. N. SHCHERBAKOV**

He was born in the family of the soldier of two wars. He studied in Izyaslav Povit College, worked as a carpenter. Later he graduated from the Building Faculty at Kyiv Polytechnic Courses. In 1926 Shepetivka regional committee of the trade union of builders directed K. N. Shcherbakov to study to the Ukrainian Technological Institute of Ceramics and Glass. After graduation he became the engineer of Slavuta faience plant. At the end of the thirties he became the engineer of *Ukrfarforfayans* trust.

In the period of the war he got to Kamenny Brod. After liberation of Kamenny Brod from the oppressors K. N. Shcherbakov together with enthusiasts started to launch the plant's activity. Over a short period of time he made analysis of the raw materials which they managed to collect at the plant, he made the first attempts of application of glazing produced by it, and at the beginning of war half-destroyed plant in Kamenny Brod produced its first after war output. And though the plant was acknowledged to be not worth further operation, everything possible was done to restore it.

However, Konstyantyn Nykyforovych worked at the plant not for a long period of time. Later he was taken as the chief engineer to *Ukrfarforfayans (suddivision of ministry in charge of the factory)* trust. For months he did not stay at home. He went around Ukraine, helping to restore ceramics plants. At last he came back to Kamenny Brod and worked for ten years as chief engineer of the company. After-war restoration of the shops of the company was launched at it.

Later he started attending the plant laboratory. He made different experiments, approached the problems of improvement of faience quality in a scientific way. Soon the experience of K. Shcherbakov in production of boracium-strontium glazing became famous in Ukraine. It was applied almost at all porcelain faience plants. He was also invited to provide assistance at this or that enterprise. And he hurried to the place where people were waiting for him.

He did not hurry up to retire. However, this was not limited to the plant laboratory only. He could be seen at any time in the materials elaboration department, near the furnaces, in which faience was burnt. He was also constantly interested in construction, which was done at the plant at that time, in other plant business. He was constantly addressed by young specialists, extra-mural students.

The achievement of engineer-ceramist Shcherbakov also was that in that period of time Kamenny Brod faience plant produced 47, and sometimes even up to 50 percent of high-quality articles.

And Konstyantyn Nykyforovych was also fond of chess. He often hurried up to the club with his chessboard, and he liked to stay with amateurs of this old game like him for hours.

He was respected in the village as a diligent and polite person, as a knowledgeable specialist-ceramist, of which there were few. He lived for 85 years and died in 1982 in Rostov

region, leaving good memory about him in the Polissya village of Kamenny Brod.

### **H. N. STUL**

He remained in the memory of many Kamenny Brod residents as the head of the building shop of the period when the faience plant was in the period of its second youth. These were the fifties-the sixties. It seems to be a long period of time. However, the fate of Hryhoriy Naumovych linked him to the plant at the beginning of the twenties. Then he was known as an activist in public affairs, and an actor of amateur theatre. The fate of H. N. Stul was too complicated and, to a certain extent, even tragic. Still not having graduated from the Institute of Building, he was repressed before the war. He stayed there for a ten-year period and... In the fifties he was rehabilitated. That was because really punishment was senseless. But there was nothing to be done.

And again he was in Kamenny Brod where his parents, relatives were still residing, and he went to work to the building shop. That was a great rarity that the shop was headed by a specialist with higher education.

The building shop of Kamenny Brod faience plant was the largest out of all in terms of its staff, and it performed a lot of work. A large-scale construction of one of the oldest plants of the land was taking place. It so happened that the head of the department. H. N. Stul managed to hire real builders who were also educated in all the necessary specialties.

There was no need to look for layers, joiners, carpenters, concreters, fitters, as well as all the others. It must be mentioned that it was a proper construction. They managed to build spacious premises made of concrete, of complex structures of covers, as well as to manage building of faience-burning furnaces. It was under the supervision of H. N. Stul that plant builders constructed two premises of furnace, formation and foundry shops, then – the boiler-house, painting shop, materials elaboration department, over ten residential buildings. It was all done properly following all the regulations and requirements.

Hryhoriy Naumovych is kept in memory as an unsurpassable tribune. There was no one who could deliver a speech at the meetings and conferences of the plant as H. N. Stul did in the period of his work there.

Many years later it must be stressed that there was no such well read and erudite a person in the village as H. N. Stul was. He was a noticeable resident of the village. Knowledge, extensive reading, confidence of being right did not always contribute to respect. Hryhoriy Naumovych could value the past, preserve its achievements, and he was very diligent about keeping documents while he was working for a certain period of time in the design office of the plant.

H. N. Stul was a good kitchen gardener. Nobody grew up vegetables like that in the village. This builder, tribune, erudite died in 1975.

### **F. K. PASHKOVSKYY**

The biography of Florian Kashperovych Pashkovskyy makes a half-a-century history of Kamenny Brod faience plant. And it started back in the thirties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was then that a lad from a family with many children got hired at the plant quarry. That was not an easy job, and the earnings were not large. Quarry workers had the right to a free-of-charge dinner in the plant dining room, and that was better than the salary itself. Later he worked as a stableman, horse rider, and then he was transferred to the plant guard when war started.

It was in these hard days that F. K. Pashkovskyy got the order personally from the director O. O. Chernin to head the disassembly of the company's equipment and organize its removal to the rear. It was not easy to do the job. Several lorries could not ensure evacuation of the Jewish families. Most of those overloaded lorries got back without even reaching Zhytomyr – the roads were cut off by the attacking German troops.

F. K. Pashkovskyy participated in the war. Together with all the others he liberated the cities of Czechoslovakia and Germany. He had some military awards.

His work biography continued starting with plant reconstruction and putting the painting shop into order. He had to go and seek for assistance to the specialists in ceramics of other plants.

But most of the work had to be done by own efforts. Starting with his childhood he had a talent for drawing, and this settled the further fate of the worker-painter.

Many of us, former neighbors of Florian Kashperovych still do remember that monotonous knocking which could be heard on days off and in the evenings from his house. A hard toiler made simple ornaments on a steel sheet to produce a decal out of them using manual lathe for artistic decoration of faience articles. In the after-war years Florian Kashperovych was one of the head specialists in dishware decoration. A lot of valuable proposals, innovations, devices for output painting and new drawings belonged to him. He did not receive any awards for his work the way it was done several years later. The main thing for everybody was to leave trouble behind, to make work easier. That happened due to introduction of a new spacious, rich in light painting shop with mechanic furnaces for fixing above-glazing pictures and decals. In those premises up till his retirement Florian Kashperovych was considered to be the master of the shop. He was also a hunter, a beekeeper. He lived all his life long in peace and good relations with people.

### **S. A. KUCHYNSKY**

As compared to all the others, Stanislav Adolfovych Kuchynskyy worked at Kamenny Brod faience plant the longest. Over sixty years! Besides that, he originated from a family, which also, out of all the families of the village, worked for the largest number of years. About four hundred (!) years. His grandfather participated in preparation of the territory for the plant construction amid the forest bogs. Then he performed different jobs – in the forming shop, in the guard, where worked Adolph Petrovych, his father. Then his children also worked in all the shops: Anelya, Stanislav, Micheslav, Zigfrid, Volodymyr and Kazimir.

Stanislav Adolfovych was the most noticeable among all of them. He started his work career as a shepherd of plant horses and oxen, and then he worked for a certain period of time in the painting shop. Finally the young producer became the apprentice of the turner, and still later he started studying all the available plant mechanisms and learned everything relating to the boiler shop of the plant perfectly well. Already in the first years after the liberation of the land from fascists S. A. Kuchynskyy was among those who did everything for the plant to start working, though it was not easy. The power engine was broken up, the boiler did not operate. Without power one could not even think about production of faience output.

At some peat development places loco mobiles were still available. They were brought to the plant. Stanislav Adolfovych started their launching. And already at the end of winter of nineteen forty-four the plant received electric lighting, and power engines started their operation. In spring there appeared some output, the plant started working, and S. A. Kuchynskyy was appointed its head technician.

After this position he also headed mechanical shop, steam-power section of the plant. Many times he had to accept steam boilers, different generators that were frequently changing in the period of the forties - the fifties. He was often invited to the neighboring plants to accept steam boilers as well as loco mobiles.

During his last years he worked as a steam-boiler operator. When his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of work at the plant was approaching, on the initiative of the girls of *Mriya* club of the village for him as well as for all his family Kamenny Brod vechornytsi were held, in which a great number of village residents participated. A lot of hearty words were said in honor of the worker, representative of the largest labor dynasty of faience plant workers, a premium from the plant was given to him, a large concert was dedicated to him, everybody was treated with varenyky, and a wreath made of oak tree leaves was put on the hero of the occasion.

After those vechornytsi S. A. Kuchynskyy still hurried to the call of the plant siren for several years. Having retired, he was still interested in the plant business, took the plant's problems close to heart.

In October 2000 the veteran, representative of the largest working family died.

## V. V. SHPAKEYCH

Volodymyr Vasylyovych Shpakevych came to the plant when he was sixteen. A tall slender lad was taken to the garage to do different jobs. Though vehicle economy of faience plant workers at that time was not rich – just several ‘one and a half’ and ‘three-ton’ vehicles, but there was enough work to do. Along with repairing of cars and their preparation for operation the lad mastered the professions of driver which he needed soon when he was called up for service for a fixed period of time. There he happened to be when war broke out. As a driver, he participated in the first military operation in Kharkiv region. Military roads of the military driver went through the whole of Ukraine, several European countries; his war was over on the river of Elba.

After demobilization V. V. Shpakevych was accepted to Kamenny Brod faience plant again, to the transport shop, which was not very rich in means of transport in the post-war years. Mainly he had to repair those ‘one and a half’ as well as ‘studebakers’, but there also were some freights, some dishware was taken to the station according to the plan. When the first new ‘gazons’ started being supplied to the plant, one of them was re-furnished to make a ‘booth’, which was a kind of a ‘taxi’ at the plant. Volodymyr Vasylyovych Shpakevych worked at that ‘taxi’ for about thirty years.

In a month there were only several nights that he was not awoken. There were no drivers to substitute him – as the veteran recalled many years after – and he lived through a lot of things. The only thing was frustration as to why trouble mostly came to people in the nighttime.

V. V. Shpakevych drove not only his ‘taxi’. At his disposal there was a fire machine for a long period of time. Fires happened rarely at those times. Most of all people had to save people with ‘taxi’; several times per day and night the ‘booth’ was heading to Dovbysh, to Baranivka, to Novograd-Volynsky, and sometimes even to Zhytomyr. He also took with concerts the plant’s group of amateur art activities, or sportsmen either to spartakiada or to some village. V. V. Shpakevych did not have real days off, holidays as well as free evenings for several decades because he had to take moms of practically everybody who was born in the period of the fifties-seventies to hospital, and then they were brought home with a new citizen.

At first sight Volodymyr Vasylyovych always seemed to be a strict person, it was not always that he could put up with those trips, but out of hundreds of those ‘necessary’ ones he did not refuse a single time.

It can be recalled how they came back from the concerts in the neighboring area very late. They came to the club to leave the instruments taken and here was a phone call. It turned out that several artists were left in the village where the concert had been taking place. They asked to come back and pick them up. The driver’s anger was beyond recognition. However, some time later he calmed down, turned his ‘booth’ and went to pick up those poor artists, since in the morning they had to start working.

On April 30, 1971 the Fortieth Anniversary of the plant’s club was celebrated, and to this jubilee, among others, greeting to Volodymyr Vasylyovych Shpakevych were joined, since he spent several decades with the club (Meeting Building), with groups of amateur art activities. He did not have anything to do directly with output production, but his work was both noticeable, and felt, and he was highly respected and appreciated for that. A diligent worker, veteran of war and plant V. V. Shpakevych died in 2000.

## H. P. KORSHUNOVA

Hanna Petrivna Korshunova came to the forest village to the faience plant after graduation from the technical school of ceramics in 1939. There she got married, but her husband did not return from war – he perished.

After the war Hanna Petrivna was again at the faience plant. She worked as a master of the painting shop, and then she headed the technical control department. But most of all Hanna Petrivna stayed in the memory as an active participant of public affairs. For a long period of time the club was her second home. Back in the 40s, after WWII years she was a permanent performer of roles in all the productions that were staged. Among them – “*Za druhym frontom*” (*Behind the*

*Second Front*) by V. Sobko, *Beztalanna (Without Fate)* by Karpenko-Karyy, *Nazar Stodolya* by T. Shevchenko, *Shelmenko-Denshchik* by H. Kvitka-Osnovyanenko and others, in which the amateur actor played the leading female roles. Later on H. P. Korshunova participated almost in all the youth club events. She conducted performances, she headed the jury of different competitions, and she administrated different Ukrainian vechornytsi.

She did not stay aside the activity of the created club of girls *Mriya*. Starting with the first performances, different meetings – she was together with the girls as an advisor, a supervisor. When *Mriya* participants got down to holding the first Kamenny Brod vechornytsi, the house of Hanna Petrivna became the main place of their preparation. There they cooked the first varenyky in the amount up to a thousand items. There also were other performances which are kept in memory: *Ridna Maty Moya (Name of My Dear Mother) Z Choho Pochynayetsya Batkivshchyna (What your Fatherland Starts With)*, *Uklin zhintsi-trudivnytsi (Dediction to Women Workers)*, and many, many others, in which the role of the activist could be traced.

Taking into account the contribution of the mentor into the development of the girls' club *Mriya*, Korshunova was the first to be appointed honorary president of this union. Later within one decade there were to be about twenty of them.

H. P. Korshunova – a great worker, activist of club affairs, a benevolent neighbor, and a caring mother died in 1982. She is buried in one of Kyiv cemeteries.

## I. A. KORNIYCHUK

Ivan Andriyovych Korniychuk was a War veteran and one of the key participants of the restoration and reconstruction of Kamenny Brod faience plant. Ivan Andriyovych Korniychuk originated from Staryy Maydan. Back till the war he got education in the technical school of roads and construction in Zhytomyr. During the war he served in the artillery intelligent service. He was wounded. After a long treatment the yesterday's front-line soldier was sent to the large constructions of Ural, Siberia.

At the beginning of the fifties I. A. Korniychuk returned to his native area and was hired as a chief designer of Kamenny Brod faience plant. These were the years of the beginning of reconstruction of the faience plant, and such person was absolutely necessary at the plant.

For the first time at plant constructions concrete started being used, and no one had had to deal with it before. Besides, cast-in-site covers were envisaged, complicated structures of beams, pillars. There were cases when a specialist was invited from Kyiv, and he approved concreting of this or that cover. With the arrival of I. A. Korniychuk to the plant there was no longer such necessity, and with the assistance of their specialist plant builders could already prepare reinforcement structures, concrete pillars as well as do covers and all the other things like that. All plant constructions which were erected in the fifties and in the sixties contained no violations and deviations from the construction norms. The chief designer was always strictly keeping to this principle, and was controlling it all the time and did not put up with any amateur activity in anything. That was his principle also during the reconstruction of the plant. He did not sign a single act in case of availability of even the slightest violation.

There also was a break in the plant's work, though. That was when the designer worked for some time at the construction of Trypillya SDPS. Besides, he graduated from Kyiv Institute of Engineering and Construction, extra-mural studies.

He finished his work career at Kamenny Brod faience plant both as the chief designer and as an activist of public affairs, who was constantly addressed by people who were in charge of village management and its construction.

It was many times that Ivan Andriyovych could be seen at different club events and Kamenny Brod vechornytsi, where he played the violin within the trio of musicians – different Ukrainian melodies. He participated in trips, outings to the places of military glory, either along the roads of Kyiv region, Slovechany forests, or in Byelorussia.

## **FAIENCE PLANT WORKERS HAD TO DEAL NOT ONLY WITH RECONSTRUCTION**

Kamenny Brod faience plant reconstruction was not finished at the end of the year 1971 as it had been planned. And it could not be finished for a number of reasons. Almost one third of all the funds planned were used. The builders did not manage to do the work within the periods set in all the indices. The finish was not to be seen the next year as well. Plans for five years required additional amount of faience plant articles, though. What was planned for faience plant in Kamenny Brod using new furnaces was shifted to other plants. In the meantime it was being settled at the plant, how they had to produce at least some extra-plan output with the capacities which had had. And they managed to do it.

The plan of dishware production for the year 1972 was completed ahead of time, thirteen days prior to the deadline. Thus, on this occasion it was decided to hold a great topical event with reports of all shop staff groups. It was for that day that faience plant workers produced as from the beginning of the year 10.425.000 items of faience articles, and till the end of the year it was planned to produce 340.000 more items of output.

The club was overcrowded that evening. That symbolic article with the figure "10425000" was delivered from the plant as well as the fire from the furnace, from which the fires of the New Year tree, which was on the stage, were lit, also ahead of time. A large group of the best producers was given red strips of the winners of a socialist contest. Among them were the driver V. V. Shpakevych, furnace workers V. F. Vasylevych, P. M. Lebiha, painters F. K. Pashkovskyy, A. A. Ostrovska, boiler operator S. A. Kuchynskyy, sorter V. I. Biruk, worker of mass storage shop F. P. Pshelotska, and others. That overcrowded evening created a perfect mood for the successful start in the program fulfillment for the next year. Its prescheduled completion was also envisaged, as well as a possible contribution into the completion of reconstruction...

The next year for Kamenny Brod faience plant workers started with an intense work on fulfillment of production plans and participation in the plant reconstruction in all of its buildings. It also started in a mass preparation to the festival dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the USSR formation. Almost all the shops presented local talents for a kind of a review. That song marathon lasted in the plant's club for four days. The hall could not include all the volunteers who wanted to see the event for four days.

Then followed district and final concerts, from which a vocal women's band was invited to the regional stage, it got high grades, which were discussed even on the regional level. Kamenny Brod musicians were invited to the regional parade of wind orchestras. The following event at the plant and in the village that very year was the first holiday held on the occasion of the Day of the Light Industry Worker, which was held in the open air with the participation of a great number of plant workers and village residents. The summary of the work for the first five months of the year was made at it, as well as attention was paid to the course of works on plant reconstruction.

A great number of the plant workers were distinguished with gifts, premiums and diplomas. There was also a concert as well as plenty of merry and amusing games, contests. The first holiday forecasted holding of future similar events directly in the open air. And this tradition was followed till the end of the nineties. Such holidays were held with different outcomes, though, and in different scale, which fact should be mentioned below.

What concerns the period which lasted till the completion of reconstruction, it was the period when the tradition was launched to consecrate young production workers to the labor family of Kamenny Brod faience plant workers. Each year young boys and girls, not local residents, came to the shops of the plant. The plant was soon going to increase the number of employees and it was necessary to care for such replenishment in advance. Along with that turnover of personnel started to be felt, though it could not be properly accounted for yet. Young people did not hurry up to get fixed in the plant shops.

That first event with initiation was quite an emotional one, with promises, and with a great number of participants, though. Young producers were given special memories, souvenirs; they put their signatures on the address of the plant veterans' group to the youth on labor traditions of plant workers which is now kept in the museum.

Similar events were held at the plant up till the end of the eighties, and it should be noted that they played a certain role in the upbringing of young production workers, and they enjoyed popularity with all the faience plant workers and village residents. Only the authorities and heads of the corresponding services did not use them in their work and recalled about them on the day they were held.

That was the third year of the plant's reconstruction. It was already for the second time that the deadline was set, but it was seen as impossible to keep to for a number of reasons. Construction in Kamenny Brod drew attention of newspaper men. In August 1973 district newspaper *Komunistychnye slovo* under the call 'Launching object – in time!' dedicated a whole page to Kamenny Brod reconstruction with the addresses of the plant director F. U. Retman, party bureau secretary A. H. Vyshkovets and others. Each publication dwelt on the problems in the issues of the plant construction completion.

However, in September in *Komsomol (Young Communists)ska zirka* V. Bashynskyy placed a great essay on the artist from Kamenny Brod A. S. Mikeyeva.

The greatest event of that period was the beginning of the construction of a kindergarten, for over two hundred places. Its construction started with the involvement of almost all Kamenny Brod workers. And one day they came here in columns to the music of the wind orchestra. Before the launching of works in pit preparation for foundations and concrete laying there took place a mass rally to that foundation. Again the atmosphere was for 'people's' construction with involvement of the representatives of shops, all the organizations of the village and even pensioners.

In November it was obvious that in December 1973 they would not manage to produce output in the new tunnel shops, though whole brigades made of faience plant workers were working at the completion of construction and, particularly, the completion of tunnel furnaces.

Already at the end of December, on the eve of the New Year a certificate of reconstruction completion was signed, though it was not signed by all the members of the commission. It was still necessary to make a whole range of additional constructions as well as amendments into several hundreds of names. But the circumstances required what they did. The plan of the third year of the ninth five-year plan was not performed by the faience plant workers. Once again the holiday of house-warming was postponed.

## BEGINNING

Only on February 13, 1974 in the tunnel shop there was taking place a great house-warming party. With music, microphone and amplifier, with girls in Ukrainian clothing and bread on embroidered towels an event was started which had been awaited for and headed for during more than three years.

The best furnace shop workers V. F. Vasylevych, S. M. Levkovych and A. P. Hnivetskyk were tied with red strips with the inscription 'Launching-1974'. Prior to the beginning of solemn events yesterday's furnace shop workers, and now already tunnel shop workers delivered in a special torch a fire from the regular furnace for lighting the nozzles of the tunnel furnace.

Later the mass rally was started by the elder of the furnace shop M. B. Kuchynskyy. Further on, in the speeches there participated plant director F. U. Retman, representative of the district party committee B. S. Nikitchyn, and others.

At the end of the event a photograph was made to keep the event of reconstruction completion in memory both of the people in charge and the asset of already a new shop.

Thus, there came the period when all the opportunities were available to produce at faience plant twenty-seven million items of faience articles per year. But the figure was not quick to be achieved.

Almost during a whole year after their launching tunnel furnaces were operating, but the furnaces were still giving smoke, burning both the output, and sager, without which tunnel shop workers could not yet do since tunnel furnaces were loaded with sager. Shelves were still a long way to come and one had to get to that. And so far dishware from furnace shop for further processing and second burning with cars was supplied to the tunnel shop. Sewage disposal plant as

well as many other building and loading works were not yet completed.

More than anything it would not succeed in the output of first-rate pottery. Soon this syndrome would be related to growth difficulties. Formerly not a common thing at the plant, a high degree of labor turnover is added to any work deficiencies as well as to mastering of new powers at the plant. If for incomplete 1974 various workshops employed at the plant about 700 workers, then for the same period more than three hundred workers left the plant.

At the same time there appears a question of conveying workers from the near-by villages and even from Novograd-Volinsky. These were workers who yet had primitive concept of specialties on faience manufacturing. They were supposed to be taught this one day, but in that case they already had to work with machines at once. Especially this 'hastening' would be obvious in a forcing shop, the one with almost the highest labor turnover rate and the one where the quality of delft ware 'appeared'.

Absence of experience and low labor power hindered the plan fulfillment. People were employed, but there was constantly not enough time to teach them. Almost all shops had lack of specialists.

'Two tunnel furnaces', - a regional newspaper wrote in November, 1974 - 'had to fully supersede the furnace pottery burning, shorten the cycle from three days (in batch-type furnace) to 18 hours. The process of taking out ready products was improving. But still not everything meets the project requirements. Furnaces are designed for a sagerless cycle, but absence of the necessary fuel compelled again to resort to a difficult and expensive sager burning'.

There were failures with raw material delivery. There was no possibility to make the necessary reserves of supplies, and many other things also influenced fulfillment of the annual plan which left not to be fulfilled in the long run.

With the beginning of next year some ghastly acts were taken by those participating in holding of the celebration of light industry workers, which was full of violations traced by the corresponding authorities. And once again it received press coverage, in particular in *Radianska Zhytomyrshchyna* and *Robitnycha Hazeta*. Besides, publications on other themes about individual problems at the plant appeared in such newspapers as *Pravda* and *Komsomol (Young Communists)skaya Pravda*.

While public addresses of separate newspapers were limited to a wide discussion and apt decision-making, the case with presents to be handed in to the faience plant workers at the holiday led up to the investigation on the part of the investigation bodies and even dismissal of the head of the committee and his being taken to court. And it all was the result of the wish for organizing "sabantuy" (feast) in the open air at the public cost. There should, presumably, be mentioned the fact, that those were the very years of a wide range of feasts held on every occasion when the management visited the plant for any reasons. All that took place due to 'financial support' for some 'activist' and the leaders of trade union and party organization approved such attitude, though the ordinary workers were aware of the situation too, and were constantly discussing it, but they didn't hasten to end up with it. It proceeded even after that extraordinary situation with presents which were bought at one price, and claimed to have a different price in the report.

However, the subsequent years, 1974, 1975 were the building ones for the plant. The building of the so-called engineering building, the plant's canteen for 180 places, domestic industrial complex in the center of the village, water-tower, boiler house, as well as the peak of kindergarten construction process. There was constant lack of workers at the construction site. Among them were people from different shops, and they even began to invite people from the nearby factories.

Every day the 'growth difficulties' of this construction let themselves is known to all involved. The products output plan went along with painful labor efforts. The working process was already in three shifts and on days off... But still it was not an easy thing to achieve new figures in the plan's fulfillment. First and foremost, a period of time was really necessary. And in the meantime life became diversified for the reason that it also lasted outside the production, and not only in fighting for the plan.

A girls' *Mriya* club (Dream) organized and held a two-day meeting with a legendary tank crew member M.I. Lahunova. The meeting took place in the club and at the plant.



Young people were consecrated to become faience plant workers. Now the number of production workers became considerably larger due to young people from the near-by villages.

The preparation to the 30th Anniversary of the Great Victory went on, and more and more often the heroes of the past war were invited to Kamenny Brod. A lot of measures were taken to celebrate the international woman's year, though, only in the club premises.

May, 1975 was really rich in events. And the most remarkable ones were the 70th Anniversary of the first May-day meeting and the 30th Anniversary of the Victory Day. These holidays were really mass ones. But the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the plant was constantly postponed. According to the circumstances, the celebration could not be held in 1975 either: the annual products output plan as well as a five-year one for faience plant workers became problematic in terms of implementation in many indices.

The year for the faience plant workers was ending in a chain of measures relating to the fact that it became known that it was written about the hard life of faience plant workers in *Iskra* newspaper back in 1902, and the copies of the issue were delivered to the plant.

1976 was coming up. It was becoming a special one for the faience plant workers, not only it being the year of a regular party convention, but also the first year of a regular five-year period, and the year of the possible celebrating of the 100th Anniversary of Kamenny Brod faience plant. Besides, it was already the last date out of all, which could be used. These are the sources of Kamenny Brod faience plant construction, which are full of dates.

## JUBILEE

The beginning of the year 1976 was finally a successful one for employees. The plan, particularly as far as quantity was concerned, started being fulfilled right from the first months, though the output of the first-class goods was a bit under the norm.

The report faience plant workers compiled for the starting day of the fifth convention of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was made with considerable plan over-fulfillment for the first two months.

Nine thousand articles were produced above the planned norm of that period.

On the day of the beginning of the work of the regular meeting there took place a large topical performance of faience plant workers with reports, distinction of the best production employees as well as awarding them with medals 'Labor veteran' and badges 'Young guards of the five-year period'. At the soiree, the way it was all the other days, everything was direct towards successful plan fulfillment. All the other events were also held in the same style, like a regular light industry worker holiday with a diverse entertainment program, and many other things.

The second issue in the life of faience plant workers was completion of kindergarten construction. It was already erected, but facing works with different pictures were still to be carried out. Chief artist of the plant A. S. Mikeyeva spent almost the whole summer and autumn at this task. Much trouble was added by the furnishing of the kindergarten territory with different pavilions and grounds for entertainment.

There were occasional talks on the plant jubilee. In September a short note with the setting out of the content of some works which were to be started in the preparation of the plant jubilee celebration was supplied to the address of the party bureau. Finally, there appeared the first issues of newspapers with the calls for dignified commemoration of the plant centenary. Copies of major documents about the plant's past were sent from Kyiv State Archives. And the main thing was that several copies of the document where it was indicated that the plant had been built in Kamenny Brodin 1876 were also sent.

The preparation started gaining speed, though the year was already approaching its end. The intention was quite a substantial one. It was envisaged to allot a large sum of money both for the preparation and for holding of the celebration, as well as for awarding a large number of faience plant workers. A large commission for plant jubilee celebration was set up. A large range of events was planned to be held.

Preparation itself started after the October revolution holidays. It began with compilation of various papers, as well as application on jubilee celebration and awarding of some of its

workers with awards not lower than on the republican level. Regional and district committees were also participating in this. It was planned to make current repairs of the club and urgently change all the covers of the stages, windows and other similar things. Amateur groups were also getting prepared. In general, the preparation became the one of public excitement with a kind of distortion of common sense. It was planned, though, to conduct the whole solemn ceremony in three stages for the sake of embracing as many people as possible, because the club hall could take 250-300 participants, and the fourth final event was to take place with invitation of guests. Some scenarios were elaborated, but the commission seemed to have some other plans and intentions.

There were some talks about inviting the head of cultural department of the district V. Vovk to be the producer of those events, in spite of the fact that the club had its own specialists, who could cope with the whole scope of works, which fact was pointed out by a guest from the district. On getting acquainted with the situation, the guest politely refused to take the things offered. And he did the right thing – not always one can meet dubious wishes of managers. The club had its own orchestra, quite a good one, however somehow an orchestra from Baranivka was invited, though it played not in the best way possible. The proposal to invite former directors was not supported, though the addresses of four of them were known. It was decided not to give awards to former plant veterans, the list of which was also presented and for which forms of special honorary diplomas had been bought in advance, which later on after the indication of jubilee dates of the plant were used with a different designation. Moreover, only several veterans were invited to the last party, and nobody out of them was invited to the presidium, no one of them was awarded.

And there was a tricky situation with invitation for the former plant director S. K. Minbashyrov. It was a stupid one at that. Invitation to Myrhorod for the evening of December 30 was sent to him on... December 30. He received the invitation on January 4, 1977, of which fact he informed in the letter, on reading which he burst into tears. It happened, probably, for the first time in his life. A car should have been sent to people like what S. K. Minbashyrov was for Kamenny Brod. It is strange that in holding of all the events there was a chief conductor, plant director F. U. Retman, and where did members of the commission disappear?

The final evening had to be held twice. Awards from Kyiv were still to come. Nothing was known about them, and nobody dared call the Presidium of the Supreme Council, and all the more to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine. Thus, a conclusion was made that the plant was not going to get any awards, thus all the celebrations were to be over on December 30. On that day invited guests from the whole of faience plant as well as representatives of the district committee and regional committee, head administration from Kyiv arrived. Those who were put forward as candidates for the awards of the Presidium were given honorary diplomas of the regional committee of the party. Prior to the beginning of the evening a museum of the plant history was opened in the premises of the club.

And it was only on January 6 that a message came that the plant was awarded an Honorary Diploma of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Ukrainian SSR due to its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It became known that workers S. M. Levkovych and H. M. Korniychuk were awarded the titles of merited industry workers. Other plant workers, such as S. R. Budnitskyy, Ya. M. Dronhovska, H. F. Bodnar, K. F. Krychkovska and K. F. Soloshchuk were awarded honorary diplomas of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Ukrainian SSR. On the occasion of that event on January 7, 1977 there took a meeting on the plant territory, and solemn ceremonies dedicated to the award giving were held on January 13 with an overcrowded hall – the ceremony started half an hour before the time indicated in the announcement.

Thus, the first one hundredth anniversary of the plant was celebrated with... at least a ten-year delay.

Some time was to pass, and in the book *“Polish Porcelain”* its Polish authors to note without any irony that it was not a one hundredth anniversary of the plant that was celebrated in Kamenny Brod, but rather Zusman’s coming to it, because the plant had been founded as far back as in the sixties of the nineteenth century. Ironically, such things happen.

## FOREST FAIRY-TALE

There were talks about putting a kindergarten for 280 places into operation in the village, as well as at the plant, since the late 1976. They became more official at the final soiree dedicated to the plant jubilee. Even at it the representative of the Administration of Porcelain-Faience Industry of the Ministry handed in a large doll, giving a clear hint that it was on the occasion of completion of works about the kindergarten. Thus, January and February 1977 were full of doing completion works. The house-warming party was appointed for March 5 in the form of a great ritual event. A lot of people gathered at the opening ceremony of the best building in the village. The place of the main event was decorated with different slogans and a large tribune. Musicians came to the ceremony even ahead of time. Guests, and those were mainly plant builders and some of the plant managers, were welcomed by a group of girls with bread and salt, wearing traditional Ukrainian clothes. Then plant director F. U. Retman cut a symbolic strip. Head of the building department O. T. Dyachenko handed in to the head N. Romanchuk a symbolic key to the building put into commission. There were some speakers, and, certainly, almost on behalf of each shop and organization the village gifts were given for the kindergarten entitled *Lisova Kazka*. In the focus of attention there was a chief artist of the plant A. S. Mikeyeva who designed and made almost all the artistic decoration both of the building, and pavilions.

Finally children in Kamenny Brod got spacious premises with quite a large reserve of places which were not to be occupied in the nearest 20 or 30 years. The problem with places was settled for good, but there was to appear a new problem which was not foreseen at that period of time – maintenance of that institution for children.

In the course of some more years faience plant workers and, in particular, their managers were to be praised for the kindergarten in question, delegations were to be sent to get acquainted with that Kamenny Brod miracle. For sure, such kindergarten for such a village, as well as the plant was quite a rare phenomenon both in practice, and in life. That was a child of the plant director F. U. Retman, and he had the right to take pride in that. And Kamenny Brod residents will soon prove the opposite thing, in the indifference to such building, such institution for the youngest residents of the forest village.

Thus, the village and the plant were included into the all-state preparation to the regular jubilee – the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great October. First of all the meeting lied in fulfilling and over-fulfilling the tasks of the second year of the five-year plan, as well as holding of some subbotniks (voluntary Saturday work).

Along with that new forms of articles as well as their decorations were being elaborated and artistic laboratory headed by A. S. Mikeyeva and a number of other plant services were working at it. The demand for Kamenny Brod porcelain was high. It seemed that even that increase in the output almost three times was not to be noticed by anybody.

At the end of March a new second water-tower was assembled with special cranes. The plant had now better supply of water for technological purposes.

Out of some other events of that jubilee year, as the year was called, there took place a serious event-contest ‘Voting for the profession’, in which specialists of the plant participated. There took place the first meeting with "Shukayevtsi (name of partisan group usually named after its leader)" which launched almost a twenty-year-long contacts and a substantial collection of materials on the first Voronezh partisan union. The 250<sup>th</sup> issue of wall newspaper *Club Activist* was published.

Three-day-solemnities dedicated to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great October made a kind of summary of preparation of the whole labor staff.

## IT SEEMED THAT WAS GOING TO LAST FOREVER

*What a plant! Just have a look!  
 You will often see it in your dreams,  
 And it will wake you up at any early time  
 To work for your Motherland  
 My staff is my family.  
 A part of our nation...  
 Oh, how happy I am  
 To be the worker of our plant!*

These poetry lines from an unknown poem and by an unknown author became popular in the village almost starting with the first day as they were printed on invitations. And for over fifteen years they were to be available in all the other invitations, which started the soirees of the so-called production-plant issues. They were written in capital letters on one of the stands of the plant museum.

Starting with the second half of the seventies the plant was confidently fulfilling and over-fulfilling state plans, socialist commitments. For some time after the tunnel shop was launched, there were faults with plan fulfillment, personnel stability, but these problems were soon overcome. Regular bringing and taking of workers to work and home with two buses and the above-mentioned 'booth' allowed 'aliens' to stay there and even become experienced formers, sorters as well as acquire other professions. There were over two hundred workers on the 'wheels', them coming from Novograd-Volinsky, Kykov, Smoldyrev, Suyenets, Rohachev, Ostrozhok, Nemylnya and other villages for two, or sometimes even three shifts.

For those coming catering was arranged. Sometimes it was even free-of-charge. A plant dining-room worked to the full. In the shop there were rooms for dinner. In the tunnel shop in the eighties there was a room with a kind of booths where one could have some meals.

Much was done to modernize production procedures, new equipment was being bought. Efforts were taken by plant rationalizers F. V. Polyanskyy, P. S. Shayda, F. U. Retman and others. Hundreds of thousands of krb were annually saved due to plant craftsmen. They constantly took prize places in the contests held by the regional committee of the trade union, as well as by the Administration of the Ministry of Light and Textile Industry.

The year 1978 for Kamenny Brod faience plant was a serious one because at the beginning of August it was finally connected to the gas pipeline. On that day a special 'lightning' informed that the first-burning furnace was connected to gas. Also, people who had been actively working at the installation of gas pipeline were named: A. H. Tkachenko, V. A. Eysmont, A. Y. Pashkovskyy, Y. S. Levitskyy, V. M. Zavalnyuk, S. H. Martynyuk, Ya. T. Prochkovskyy, O. I. Dyachenko, Y. Ts. Tetera.

Furnace burners and boiler-house operators were urgently acquiring the new profession of natural gas use. A group of tunnel workers and their group of fitters was sent to overtake the experience of faience plant workers on package taking. As of the end of the year that method of loading trolleys for output burning was introduced at Kamenny Brod faience plant. The plant stopped using sager for good. All that news contributed to further fulfillment of planned tasks, and, first of all, facilitated to a certain extent the work of tunnel workers. Thus, the plant started slowly overcoming its lagging behind in faience output production.

In the summer of that very year one more important event took place. Four forms of articles got a quality mark at once. Artists of the art department Halyna Volska, Valentyna Korniychuk, Polina Turko, Halyna Kozak and Mariya Yakymovych got the right to decorate articles with a Quality Mark.

That very year the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of patriotic movement as the highest form of socialist competition and the fight for the titles of brigades and excellent workers (shock workers) of communist labor was commemorated. This movement at the plant was constantly monitored by both party bureau, and trade union committee. And the first brigades from the painting shop – those of Tamara Panchuk and Mariya Melnyk –served as a sample almost during the whole term of its existence. The quantity was constantly increasing. And similar brigades were

available almost in each shop, but they were to be the first till the end, and friendlier, with some experience. Topical soirees, shop parties as well as some events called to promote fulfillment of the tasks of the tenth five-year plan, active participation of workers in public affairs were dedicated to this anniversary.

The beginning of the next year became a moment of awarding of a large group of plant workers with 'Labor Veteran' medals. Even a special event was held, at which those awards were given to over twenty faience plant workers. These included Adolph Vasylevych, Ostap Korniychuk, Florian Pashkovskyy, Fedir Suprunenko, Micheslav Litkovskyy, Zygmond Vasylevych, Ulyana Orobets, and Vasyl Lyktus. Each of them had worked at the plant over thirty years.

In April 1979 a sad piece of news came from Myrhorod. In his seventy-second year of life there died one of the greatest directors of Kamenny Brod faience plant Sava Konstyantynovych Minbashyrov.

In the meantime life was going on at the plant with its workdays and settlement of different workers' problems in order to meet the plant tasks. Beyond the plant the life was fulfilled with different events; some of which were also connected with production: initiation of new workers, honoring the dynasties of faience plant workers, house-warming party in the new office.

The beginning of the year 1980 started primarily with a fight for fulfillment and over-fulfillment of the tasks of the completing year of the tenth five-year plan.

That very year in summer there took place a trip to Kaunas, to a music college, and thus a series of similar meetings in Kamenny Brod was initiated. Directly at the plant there took place a meeting with the writer Vasyl Kanivets. All the Labor Heroes of Velykyy Luh came to a meeting with a concert to Kamenny Brod. Later on a meeting with "Shukayevtsi (name of partisan group usually named after its leader)" – former partisans of Voronezh union – took place, it lasting for several days.

Finally, after a break, there took place Kupalo Feast. In autumn there took place a trip to Shepetivka of a group of workers. A bit later the family of Chernin as well as the photo of director O. O. Chernin was found.

In November formers managed to complete the five-year plan with the figure of 140 million formed articles.

The events of the end of the seventies also include the festival of amateur groups on the occasion of the 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary of unity of Russia and Ukraine, and later on took place a large review concert dedicated to the impending XXVIth meeting of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in which groups of Kamenny Brod actively participated.

Generally, the seventies ended with the results of not bad stability in the plant work, and different leisure of faience plant workers, in particular active work of the girls' club *Mriya* and tourist club *Rodney kray*, as well as sports organization of the plant. The choir of the painting shop participated in the regional review of shop amateur art and was among the best, it was even sponsored a trip to Kyiv. It seemed that such things were only developing and were to have a nice continuation. And here came the eighties. They still contained those nice elements, all that stable continuation practically in everything.

### **ONE MORE FIVE-YEAR PLAN WITH F. U. RETMAN**

The eighties started with an extended preparation to the XXVIth session of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It was done, in its turn, with commemoration of the year of successful work. Plans as well as socialist obligations of the first two months of the year 1981 were done along all the criteria. More than thirty thousand articles were made above the planned figure. This fact was emphasized at a great topical soiree on the day the session started.

The beginning of the eighties and their continuation were extremely rich in different details, jubilees, which were highly respected, and primarily in the preparation with labor achievements and active participation in public affairs. Thus, Saturday work, reviews of amateur

art, solemn seeing off to retirement, besides, symbolic seeing off, because only a few people were in a hurry to leave the plant, as well as many other things which were provided by the girls' club *Mriya* and club of patriotic upbringing *Ridnyy kray*, as well as sometimes the Komsomol (Young Communists) committee, were almost always accepted by the plant management in the form of a resolution on their holding.

Director F. U. Retman himself, and it should be noted, supported beyond-plant life of faience plant workers, and he was almost a permanent participant of it. Particularly in the recent years of his holding of the position of director the events to the so-called production topics were organized. Here is only some list: these were labor holidays held each summer with gifts and concerts, almost annual December events dedicated to pre-scheduled completion of annual programs with lighting of the lights of the Christmas tree, initiation into workers, occupational events.

These were also the years of jubilees of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the beginning of movement of staff and excellent workers (shock workers) of Communist Labor, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Stakhanov movement which were also commemorated with so-called new names. Though there were no longer any Stakhaniv movement representatives, but excellent workers and members of brigades of Communist labor of whom there were quite a lot in each shop were considered to be equal to them.

Tunnel shop worker V. F. Vasylyevych, head of the trade union committee O. T. Dyachenko, head of mechanic shop A. V. Kovalskyy, and worker of fire burning shop, Ya. M. Dronhovska, decorator of the forming shop, activist of those years N. M. Dronhovska, joiner S. I. Kopach were also to retire, and some solemn ceremonies were conducted in their honor.

The jubilees (anniversaries for) of a turner, war veteran, retired Major K. Yu. Diamant, tractor driver, car repairer, war veteran, O. H. Korniyuchuk, joiner A. H. Tkachenko, painter O. N. Turovets, painter N. I. Stepanova were celebrated. These were already the representatives of post-war labor guard of the plant, its reputation.

The furnaces of the former furnace shop started being disassembled, and whenever it was only possible their chimneys were taken by tractors and ropes, as it happened, for example, with furnace No. 8. Soon the premises of the furnace shop were given for the driers of the forming shop. Or a certain branch of a forming center was formed there. Since one had to give up to 26-27 million articles per year.

The station in Chornytsya could not provide for the flow of freights and dispatch of output. A construction of a new base close to the entry to Novograd-Volinsky (close to the mining pit) was launched with cranes, warehouses and other constructions. There was already some civilization and some progress. There was a new campaign dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the USSR. A Day of Open Letter took place in its honor at the plant, and newspaper correspondents of *Radyanyska Zhytomyrshchyna* (newspaper), district committee members and plant activists participated in it. Then the newspaper dedicated a whole page to the event entitled 'Points of laying the forces' under the hand of V. Hrabovskyy, O. Kavun and L. Natykach.

The first repairs of tunnel furnaces with stopping of the whole plant's work were successfully conducted already with its own efforts. At that time it was quite a serious event, since the duration of those furnaces' functioning depended on the quality of repairs.

Commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Comsomol organization of the plant was also quite an important event. A meeting of all the available secretaries of Komsomol (Young Communists) organization was dedicated to the event, and there were over ten of them gathered there. A certain conference of the Comsomol activists of the plant was conducted. Then there took place a long topical event with the guests from Novograd-Volinsky, Baranivka. N. S. Mayzlish attended the event. That was his last meeting with Kamenny Brod residents, as well as the last speech delivered by him to them. Plant director F. U. Retman took an active part in the event. It all took place in August 1982.

Commemoration of the jubilee of the USSR formation was held with solemn events, conferences. The best groups participated in the final district concert.

What concerns the next year, it was full of production problems, directed at fulfillment of the tasks of the third year of the eleventh five-year plan with regular summarizing of the results of contests, both every month, and for every quarter. Premiums, diplomas were awarded. Saturday

workdays were arranged, assistance to collective farmers was constantly organized – besides, it was starting with May and almost till October. The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the movement for communist attitude to labor as well as labor holiday was celebrated.

At the end of the year a great event was held to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the first strike, with quite a substantial program. At that event once again a large group of youth was initiated consecrated into faience plant workers. A bit later amateur art activity soiree dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the Great Victory started with a great concert.

The year was also rich in some other events. In particular, on the initiative of the girls' club *Mriya* a district contest 'Let's show it, girls!' in Pershotravensk was held, there was an event dedicated to letters from military units, where boys from Kamenny Brod were having their service, humor performance dedicated to April 1, meetings with Yevhen Beresnyak and Volodymyr Talashko (for the second time).

Time was passing by very quickly. Some people were coming to the plant, only starting their work career, others were leaving – they were close to the finish. Again 'Labor veteran' medals were given to a number of faience plant workers. This took place in summer 1984. Over twenty veterans were distinguished. Vyacheslav Mordas, Ivan Kozlyuk, Mykhaylo Suprunenko, Nina Dyachenko, Samuyil Kirzhner, Fedir Retman and others now got on the list.

As the final year of the five-year plan was approaching, there started a series of retirement ceremonies which was launched by the school teacher, honorary president of *Mriya* R.A.Sehal. Then there ceremonies were dedicated to F.U. Retman, I. P. Kozlyuk, S. I. Kirzhner. That was a kind of new 'reduction' of the plant staff, which in future was to yield bad results. Unfortunately, the newcomers did not pay any attention to that and did not think who the diverse staff was to group around, as it was more and more noticeably becoming like that. And the time was coming of which quite a famous H. S. Bertman had once been warning and of which he had been afraid, saying that there are problems when one is short for something, not when something is difficult to manage and to do. And when there will be no one to have some meals with – that could already be a problem.

The situation at the plant was alright. Director of the plant F. U. Retman was taking a very active part in all the events. He was with the war veterans at the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the Victory, he also stayed in the forest with the sanitation brigade which took the first place in the district, he was giving presents on the occasion of the labor holiday, as well as on the occasion of the events dedicated to the 50th anniversary of Stakhaniv movement. But these were already the last events at which he was present as the plant's director.

Fedir Ulyanovych Retman originated from our area. He was born in 1925. At the beginning of war he was in Chelabinsk. There he became the student of FZU; he was studying to become a turner. Later he was conscripted to service and served for seven years in the airline unit. After the end of the service he came back to Baranivka where he started working as the instructor of the district party committee. He finished an evening ten-year school and then – a vocational school of finance. That helped him to become the inspector of the district department of finance. A bit later he got to the supplies department of Baranivka porcelain plant and graduated from extramural studies department of Kyiv Institute of People's Economy. Fifteen years later he got the title of director at Kamenny Brod faience plant and, in fact, started its reconstruction. Many things were built in the plant and in the village during the reconstruction. Over the period of his work as director of the faience plant he was awarded several diplomas and 'Honor Badge' signs. In the year when F. U. Retman left the plant, the company consisted of 11 shops and 14 units, in which there worked 1,247 faience plant workers of 80 professions. On a daily basis the plant was producing (judging by the warehouse) 94.700 items of articles of 29 types. Over the eleventh five-year period (his last one) the plant produced and supplied to the consumers 138.532.000 items of articles. These were almost annually 27-28 million items.

Having left the plant, primarily due to the state of health, he continued to live and care for its business, participated in some events. In his last speech at the labor holiday already in the nineties he asked the faience plant workers to be more careful about privatization and keep the plant under any circumstances, as well as its traditions, to be loyal to its past. Unfortunately, people did not follow the veteran's advice in all the aspects.

At the plant laboratory for a considerable period of time there worked the director's wife

N. Retman. His son Oleksandr also held different positions there, but, unfortunately, he left the plant and did not support it, as well as did not continue work following his father's traditions...

The eleventh director of Kamenny Brod faience plant Fedir Ulyanovych Retman died in 1993. He is buried in Baranivka.

### LABOUR DYNASTIES OF FAIENCE PLANT WORKERS

They were recalled due to commemoration of the plant jubilee. Though some mentions of them before that event occasionally were available in press, but that was at some topical soirees. And more officially labor dynasties of Kamenny Brod faience plant workers started to be discussed at those first four soirees dedicated to a centenary of the plant. At that time they were already a bit more scarce, and some of them already started disappearing. And that was all due to the fact that the majority of children, particularly, school leavers, were leaving the village in search of better life.

In available labor families there were fewer and fewer workers of the twenties and even thirties. The representatives of post-war years had mainly left. There were practically no more representatives of the dynasties of the pre-war period. The Kuzminskyy, Rudnitskyy, Hnitetskyy, Biletskyy, Slovachevskyy were not conspicuous as dynasties, the number of the Vasylevych, Dronhovskyy, Muzhanovskyy and others was going down and down.

Let us say, at the beginning of the fifties in furnace shop only the Berenda family was called by numbers and there were almost five of them, already in the seventies the family was much smaller. It all started in the thirties, when Fedir Andriyovych – the eldest of Berenda – came to the furnace shop to do different jobs. After the war his sons Dmytro and Anatoliy came to the same shop. A bit later Oksentiy joined them. Their mother Anastasiya came to work to the shop as well. In the fifties the family got united with the Kotyuk family. Then the children of Anatoliy and Oksentiy came to work to the plant. It seemed that the worker's family was never to stop. But time introduced its amendments.

The most full-fledged and the leading one remained to be the family of Adolf Petrovych Kuchynskyy both in terms of the number of representatives working at the plant, and in terms of the years of work, and in terms of inheritance. There worked and keep working even great grandchildren, which fact was mentioned before in the talk about one of them – Stanislav Adolfovych.

The dynasty was followed by the Korniychuk family, of which in the 70's-80's there worked at the plant over ten people headed by the father Ostap Hnatovych. These were sons Yosyp, Anatoliy, Valentyn, daughter Polina, daughters-in-law, son-in-law and already grandchildren. It was over two hundred of years of work. Ostap Hnatovych himself worked at the plant for more than half a century.

At the beginning of the 80's the Shayda family came to be noticeable at the plant, of which there worked Petro Yefremovych and Lina Lukyanivna and daughters Lyudmyla, Tetyana, Svitlana, sons Oleksiy and Serhiy, as well as sons-in-law Yosyp, Yuriy and daughter-in-law Olena. Before that practically all of them used to participate in public affairs. Lyudmyla and Svitlana once headed the girls' club *Mriya*, sang in ensembles.

In the plant's amateur art activity there were a lot of declamators, but Lyudmyla Shayda was the best one to recite drama works in the most artistic way. A famous Zhytomyr poet Valentyn Hrabovskyy devoted a poem to the laborer of the Shayda family:

A bow to you, an artist!

*(Dedicated to the workers of Kamenny Brod faience plant- Lyudmyla Shayda)*

*The pater's wheel keeps turning,  
The girl dips the paint brush carefully,  
In a moment she will decorate a plate  
With a line and blue flowers.*



*What a harmony and expertise,  
And the flowers (marigolds) match her face well,  
And her smile, and melodious language,  
And her blue eyes expectancy.*

*I salute you, the painter!  
Tell me, who is your father and mother.  
Thanks to them that your grew up such,  
That you make a better world.*

*The plate that you painted on the window sill  
I lift carefully in my hands, like delicate spring flowers.  
If your face was painted on this plate,  
The plate would really be priceless!*

A bit later this family was to replenish. Mainly grandchildren of Petro and Lima Shayda chose their labor career passing the parents' plant by.

Though not all the members of quite a large family of a joiner and trade union activist Stepan Kopach went to the plant right after school, but in the village the family was known as a highly respected one. Just have a look at the picture, here are all the Kopach. That was as far back as at the beginning of the 80ies. About ten of them were closely connected to the plant. Besides, the family was interwoven with the Korniychuk family which enabled to perceive it as one of the largest labor families in the village.

The head of the family came to work to the plant after the war. He worked all the years as the joiner – real master of his business. He was elected many times member of the trade union committee of the plant, headed the unit committee, was on the Honor Board, as well as in the plant's Book of Honor. His wife, Olha Kalistrativna, also worked at the plant for a long period of time. Then there came their daughter Valentyna and son-in-law Valentyn Korniychuk, and they were later on followed by their children.

A lot of representatives of the Ostrynskyy family used to work and continue to work there – Yosyp Stanislavovych and Oleksandra Andriyivna. The former front-line soldier, the Cavalier of two Orders of Soldier's Glory worked all his after-war life as a burner of faience articles in the painting shop. His wife worked at the packing department. Later on their elder daughter Olena, then Nila, son Valentyn came to work at the plant. Even now there work their sons-in-law, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Quite a noticeable at its times at the plant was the Pavlyuk family. Its eldest representative Ivan Petrovych worked as a tractor driver at the plant. In the painting shop there worked their daughter Olha, in some shops – daughter Tanya, Maya, Alla and son Hryhoriy. Another son – Petro – headed for a certain period of time the club's wind orchestra. Then sons-in-law, grandchildren started working at the plant. There also worked some relatives of the mother Yevheniya Karolivna. By the way, it was due to them that in the 90's in the village, in its periphery, close to the pine-tree forest there was going to rise an orthodox church, but this story will be continued further in the book. Later on, unfortunately, this family also started losing its representatives among the number of those working at the plant.

All in all, already in the 1990's almost all the labor dynasties of faience plant workers started losing their earned reputation. There were quite a lot of reasons for that: the loss of production demand and financial difficulties, stoppages at work, as well as retirement of the eldest members of the families, from the plant, their deaths, and also unwillingness of children and grandchildren to stay in native places instead of going in search of something more attractive in terms of economic benefits.

In the 80's the plant started not only losing its labor dynasties, but the representatives of a kind of working guard also stopped working at the plant, leaving both good memory of them and quite a large labor contribution to the development of Kamenny Brod porcelain.

Almost right after our territory was made free of fascists, when there still were our attacking troops in the neighborhood, and close to Tartak an area for aerodrome was being prepared, the first producers came to the plant – Adelya Ostrovska, Alfreda Nidzelska, Ivan Kozlyuk, Vyacheslav Mordas, Frantsishka Biletska, Vira Verbytska. Still some time later Helena Holub, Frantsishka Pshevlotska, Roman Kuchynskyy, Samuyil Kirzhner, Oleksandr Kotyuk, Zigmont Domanevych, Kazimir Pashkovskyy came to different shops and services as well as many others who stayed with their plant and all the owners of its company both in the period of reconstruction and in fulfilling all the plans of output production.

Later on their names were included into the plant's Book of Honor, and in their employment records in the section 'encouragement' even insets were made, there was lack of place for introduction of the data on acknowledgements, premiums, gifts, etc. All of them were awarded 'Labor Veteran' medals, and some of them were given even more serious awards.

Beyond all this was hard work of people with which everybody was trying to make his or her contribution into the improvement of the life of all plant workers, to make its production advanced with successful fulfillment of tasks assigned, with the best and most modern labor conditions, as well as diverse range of porcelain.

It was not always that they managed to make proper achievements, but they preserved the plant, they restored it after the war. Thus, owing to people like the head of the planning department Ivan Prokopovych Kozlyuk, who was devoted to the plant and his business, all its problems were settled in a very economic way. He was a kind of a conductor in settlement and achievement of the necessary amount of output produced in a broad range and of high quality. He controlled the situation of loading output to consumers as nobody else did. At the end of the month he stayed in the shops for some days, which was never done by anybody else. The presence of I. P. Kozlyuk at the plant was always felt by all the services. He had all the data on the plant's work, and he always recommended having the argumentation for what and where should be sent, for the figures of this or that month to be achieved in time, without having debts in the form of advance for the next month.

With such a production conductor – a polite, intelligent and honest one, it was easier to work both for all his directors, and all his subordinates. He did not receive any orders, but he was included into the plant's Book of Honor. He was a pensioner only for one year and a half. His death was premature.

A noticeable worker at the plant was head of personnel department Vyacheslav Yosypovych Mordas. He started his career as loader, and then switched to the position of a painter. Back in the year 1954 he was introduced into the plant's Book of Honor. From the painting shop he was sent to the personnel department in which he managed to make some order in the registration of the plant's workers. When he came to hold this responsible position finally there were no longer any faults in keeping of documents of hiring and dismissal from work as well as retirement registration. Along with that V. Y. Mordas held a number of public positions. He was most well-known in the shops as an experienced, well-read and knowledgeable political informer, to whose speeches workers always hurried to come. He was already a retired plant's veteran, but he was still interested in the plant's business, he worried for all the problems of which were recently so many at the once advanced company.

The former resident of the village Samuyil Isakovych Kirzhner left very interesting memories of himself. He was known mainly as the chief plant's mechanic, in spite of the fact that he was employed at the local secondary school. He also worked as the former of the forming shop, then the head of the mechanic shop, then in the design shop of the plant.

Already after the war he finished the evening school. Then he studied at the technical school. At the position of chief mechanic he was restructuring and then reconstructing the plant dear to him. For a considerable period of time he was a political informer, who was always listened to by faience plant workers with great pleasure.

The people of more elderly age remembered S. I. Kirzhner as a real artist of the amateur drama circle, in which he was also a producer. He was a real humorist, without whom no concert could pass in the club in the period of the 50-60's.

Samuyil Isakovych was always very attentive to any business, he always assessed the situation in a grounded way, and he also participated in public affairs. At the plant he was among

those skilled people who implemented a lot of rationalization proposals.

In 1996 he left the village for America together with his family.

To a certain extent at some time the master of foundry of the plant Oleksandr Oleksandrovych Kotyuk could be characterized as the head of the labor dynasty. Together with his wife Yadviha Yosypivna he brought up six children, they had seventeen grandchildren and over ten great grandchildren. But not all of them came to work at the plant.

O. O. Kotyuk himself came to the company in the first post-war years as an electrician. Later he was transferred to the forming shop to the foundry, he had a talent for molding, imparting some form to clay, and then copying the originals on its basis – the so-called matrixes, by which a serial life of the things created, was launched.

As an experienced specialist of the production of matrixes of the most complicated forms of articles O. O. Kotyuk was often invited to different cognate companies. The Ministry of Light Industry often directed him to porcelain plants.

The Kamenny Brod master taught a lot of students the business of gypsum molding. He was also a good painter, he could repair a motorcycle. For his life he managed to build five houses and plant gardens close to them.

He was a very thoughtful and considerate master. Out of the whole Kotyuk family members only two dedicated their work life to the plant. That was the daughter Sofiya Oleksandrivna Berenda, who worked at the painting shop for over thirty years and over ten – as the plant's cashier. His son Valentyn Oleksandrovych also continued to work at the plant.

In 1992 O. O. Kotyuk died. He was buried in Kamenny Brod.

### OUT OF 'POLTAVA LANDING'

Certainly, it is just impossible to write about everybody from the above-mentioned so-called 'Poltava landing'. Since each of them has made a certain labor contribution to the plant. However, two of them, I mean here F. M. Suprunenko and I. S. Danilevskyy, deserve at least several paragraphs to be written about them. It so happened in their lives that apart from the main job they had to be among the performers of a number of public affairs, different assignments.

After arrival from Poltava region I. S. Danilevskyy was commissioned to be a senior master in furnace burning. The work was responsible, the quality of almost sixty thousand articles depended on that burning each time. At the time peat, coal, sometimes wood acted as the fuel. Tens of tons of different fuel were used to burn one furnace. The furnaces had some primitive premises, without any windows. The main tool for those burners was spades, carts, pokers and pockings. Simultaneously 8-9 burners were burning, and fuel had to be constantly given to them. There were almost no breaks. Then he occupied the positions of master, chief heating engineer, senior master, and head of forming shop and also served in the production and technical division.

He stopped his service in the late 90's as tunnel furnace burning operator.

I. S. Danilevskyy was well-known and noticeable at the faience plant as a worker, as a member of amateur art activity, as a former sportsman and a trade union activist.

That was actually the way the fate of another 'Poltava man' Fedir Mykhaylovych Suprunenko who came with that 'Poltava landing' was developing. He started his work career with the painting shop, though. He worked as master of that shop, and its head. But, probably, he showed himself the most in the period when he headed the materials elaboration department. Since stability of Kamenny Brod faience plant was determined by the stable rhythm of the whole shop's work, the quality of slurry and mass production. Then F. M. Suprunenko was lucky enough to have nice staff, and along with it, as they used to say, to be at the head of the socialist competition, even taking the best places, though it was not that easy (to take the first places).

It should be noted that Fedir Mykhaylovych was respected in the shops and departments, where he worked, and by the plant employees. He was often elected to the trade union; there were times when he headed that trade union body.

At the period of arrival of 'Poltava landing party' to the forest village there was started the labor activity of R. S. Proskura (Shvayko). Almost all her working life at the plant was connected with furnace, and later one – with tunnel shop. She remained in the memory of the plant workers in

quite a unique way. Still Tetyana Savelivna was a proper production organizer in the periods of all the directors' rule, and there were many of them, she managed to stay there and to advocate her ideas, with the availability of the necessary active members who could support its master, or head, the role of whom T. S. Proskura was constantly performing.

Directors and chief engineers of production always took into account the opinion of the skillful head of the department. Such was the reputation of the woman-head, though not every man managed to have such a reputation at the plant.

The touches on some portraits of producers well-known at the plant are not over at this point. We will have some separate narration on them at the end. Now it's high time we started narrating about the period of O. A. Polyanskyy's directorship.

### **ONE MORE HOPE FOR THE LOCAL RESIDENT**

The workers at the Kamenny Brod hoped that the time would come when the graduates of the local school would head companies and organizations themselves in their Kamenny Brod. Already the graduates of the local school included doctors, forestry officers, different kind of engineers, and even teachers. They even held some high positions. But Kamenny Brod was mainly restricted to outsiders, who were sent to perform the duties of a school principal, or forestry officer, or director of faience plant.

The first native plant director was D. F. Volskyy stayed for quite a long period of time – five years. But the first one was not a very proper one. People started laying their hopes on the next one. They waited – and here he was. That was a graduate of the local secondary school O. A. Polyanskyy, who originated almost from Kamenny Brod family. In fact, he started as a tailor, but he worked in that profession for a very short period of time. Then he was an ash pit worker servicing boilers, then there came army, and plant once again. Finally he entered Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. And at last he came to work at the plant. Different services – and soon he reached the position of the chief engineer of the plant. Besides, that was happening in the uneasy period of production reconstruction. Then there was mastering of what was reconstructed. However, the plant managed to survive in the period.

Gradually it was time to retire for F. U. Retman, and the disease showed itself. He had to resign from the leading position. That happened in June 1985. Who should replace him, who should be sent to Kamenny Brod this time? And what for? There is a local person. And that was the way how the chief engineer of the day became the director. Now nobody was going to say that somebody was sent. To manage means to manage! Moreover, that the reconstruction was over. But that was what was happening at first glance. There were enough problems. Since on a daily basis 80-90 thousand items of proper quality were to be produced and the assortment had to be constantly renewed. It was not that easy to do it all keeping to the rhythm and on a stable basis with constant bringing in of up to two hundred workers. There also was some staff turnover, quite a serious one. One had to think about the residential fund, shops had to be updated as well. One has to care both for raw materials, and for auxiliary materials. In brief, it was necessary to have a proper and reliable team.

There was a team, the way the active group prepared by the predecessor was labeled. It was to be conquered. There seemed to be a team, but these were not people having one common idea and intention to work for the sake of the welfare of the plant, of the village. These were rather people willing to gather with a certain pretext, but not with a view of improving production. And these were, certainly, not the people to rely on. They could let you down any time, without even asking for an excuse. One had to be on alert with them. Not everything was alright at the plant as well, in the management, moreover, in the district committee.

So, how did that year with several months of the plant being managed by 'local' people pass? That half-year of the final eleventh five-year period witnessed achievement of practically all the indices. This fact is proved by newspaper publications which dwell upon the steps taken already almost at the end of the year and the five-year period. A lot of workers were awarded for achievements in their work. Then, already at the beginning of the work of the XXVIIth session of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union faience plant workers reported about the labor

achievements made in the competition of ‘twenty-seven hard work brigades’ at a topical meeting. Then director O. A. Polyanskyy reported to all those present that the obligations undertaken by the plant workers had successfully been fulfilled and over-fulfilled. Once again the shops-winners as well as the best production workers were awarded.

Still a bit later there took place a field meeting of the artistic board of the Ministry of Light Industry of the USSR at the plant which approved twenty samples to be put into production as well as gave its high appreciation of the amount of the types of output which were being produced at that time.

A month later ‘Open Letter Day’ was held at the plant with the participation of district administration, and in the course of it the following was indicated: ‘In the context of decisions of the XXVIIth session of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union production structure at the plant is being improved. The staff settles a number of economic problems, fighting for more creative initiative, intensify business activity, discipline. In brief, re-construction is taking place in all the spheres of life of the staff’.

Less than a month later there took place, as usual, a crowded labor holiday dedicated to the Day of the Light Industry’s Workers, at which labor rhythm of the company was also confirmed.

But some more months elapsed – and on September 23, 1986 a ‘new director of the plant L. M. Mirutenko’ was introduced in the presence of O. A. Polyanskyy at a meeting hastily gathered... Certainly, something had been showing in this direction. Where was the team, all those seemingly devoted people? There was no team, there was a company, and it required not protection, not support, but search of the ways for keeping its position, for being protected, and for not losing things acquired long-long ago. And here it was that adaptation to the new situation started, and people managed to adapt themselves to it.

In such cases people fifty years of age can rarely get adapted to a new situation. In November that very year O. A. Polyanskyy left the plant and the village. He would come back already in 1995, and that would be a very unsuccessful return.

### **THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS WITH L. M. MIRUTENKO**

Certainly, such changes in the management were perceived at the plant in different ways. There were some approvals of that; there were also people who did not believe in the positive nature of such changes, those who knew the new head by the places of his previous work. The record was not quite a large one but it was almost absolutely opposite to the specificity of faience production. Before that he used to work at Horodnytsya forestry, being in charge of the mechanisms of the plant. Then he headed Dovbysh agricultural equipment department and worked in some other places. He got to Kamenny Brod with the support of the district committee of the party.

Well, replacement of directors was nothing new for Kamenny Brod plant workers. That was already the eighth director after the war. A new one – so let it be a new one! And, besides, as it can be acknowledged many years after that, a lot of people were satisfied by his novelties. There started construction of a new hostel, though not in the place where it was worth doing. Then construction of a four-storied building was launched, but again in the wrong location. Besides, it had no balconies, no opportunity of having any flowerbed or a shed.

A lot of people also liked some novelties in the plant’s life. Particularly, unfounded declarations and threats addressed to ‘those from the office’, which were never brought into life made, but people liked the game.

It was then that a kind of search of the ways was started not to increase output in terms of its quantity, and to improve quality and decoration, but to improve the assortment of vases and make them more expensive, because seemingly the demand for them was increasing. But that was only seemingly.

The demand was increasing, but the number of debtors also started increasing soon. And that was quite a large figure. It was counted by hundreds...

The plant did not undertake any financial obligations as to construction. Moreover, the money was spent on everything but for upgrading of mechanisms and different lathes in the shops.

The construction of additional premises for the forming shop was not completed. There were some talks about the porcelain shop, some people even got some bonuses, and the money was spent on elaborations and purchases

Some temporary tents were appearing across the whole territory of the plant. Time was going to show, though, that it was all temporary and over-primitive. But the impression was that there was a certain host there. One street was even paved with asphalt! That was already exceeding of all the expectations! Probably, all that had to be perceived in a more calm way, the same as the Brodge across Nemylyanka, and a large pool which finally ruined the river and the very village center.

Kamenny Brod faience plant workers failed to use this new building to the full – as the plant's medical prevention premises for which so much money had been spent that the plant could have done one more re-construction for that amount. They were not lucky enough, the medical prevention premises were used as a sanatorium, and faience plant workers received only something like: 'thank you very much'. Well, the sanatorium turned out to be a useful thing indeed. But was there any benefit from it for the plant which soon faced its last days, when the founders of that sanatorium stayed without salary and without work. But that was to happen later.

And in the meantime the plant was celebrating holidays, receiving dubious delegations, collecting money for development, and it started erecting a five-storied city-type building, though it was designed for village workers. Besides, that construction was carried out in different possible ways, including 'transfer' of the whole building shop to Zhytomyr organization. Right, right, that building was not registered even ten years later in a proper way. What can we tell about it now that the plant in terms of finance is rich, but still it can do things like that and evade any penalty for that.

The things in the surface were, so to say, prospering. The plant's yard was planted with expensive bushes of roses. Soon the fountain started gushing forth. Publications appeared in press that at the faience plant in Kamenny Brod people were caring for women and planting a bush of roses in honor of each of them. Journalists dedicated to the faience plant not just some occasional publications, but separate columns. And few people knew that all that was done for a certain amount of the plant's money. These facts were mentioned in press, but there was nobody to pay attention to that. And many rich people at the plant, particularly, leaders of the party and trade union organization did not want to deal with the problem, since they could already see the dead end which the staff was unavoidably approaching.

In the meantime output production was going down. Out of 28 millions a year the plant could only reach the figure of 22-23 millions. Still a bit later it could not even reach the figure of twenty. But there still was some money. One could still take the director by car, maintain contacts with different organizations, make visits and invite different guests, give souvenirs, arrange proper receptions. The budget of the plant could still bear it. Only faience plant workers did not notice that all.

These holidays and receptions were so great that they will remain in the memory of many generations. They resembled the ones held by Zusman one hundred year before that. The money paid was not Zusman's money the way this money was not Mirutenko's money. Rather it was everything vice versa. And here again, unfortunately, it was not assessed properly, the way it was not assessed in case with Zusman during his life. It is not always that history teaches us lessons. And that would be accentuated with the second coming of the same L. M. Mirutenko to the plant, of which we will talk on the next pages of the book.

But still seven years constitute quite a long span of time, when the plant was functioning under the supervision of the director Leontiy Mykolayovych Mirutenko. It seems that years later, with availability of these pages, a great number of newspaper publications, which were positive about the management, as well as critical ones with polemic analysis, will still find their researches, and, without any doubt, there will be some 'for' and 'against'. Since that was quite a specific person, assessed by different people in different ways. And whether truth is going to be found is doubtless...

Seven years under supervision of Mirutenko... Quite a lot of time. And they (those years) will not just fallout from the plant's history, no matter whether it has any continuation or none. That was the time when even petitioners were not able to do anything.

In the meantime, life is life. It left its imprint then as well. That was the period of reconstruction, and many facts were accounted for by that. Many objects were written off at Kamenny Brod faience plant both symbolically, and in terms of material resources. The warehouses were then overcrowded with certain equipment, up to honey from the plant's beehive – one more child of L. M. Mirutenko. There also was a greenhouse, though even that was not profitable at all. Maybe, that was due to the fact that there were too many people willing to use everything what was grown up there, including honey. And many people did it, and they did it via barter exchange. There were miscellaneous things at the plant then – starting with cans with mayonnaise and green pea up to TV sets and tractors. And it was all not properly registered. Those who had access to everything praised it all for years, as well as they praised the creators of those chaoses.

That was a nice period for some people. And nobody cared that some order was necessary for the plant to function, when people exchanged sugar, different metals, construction materials, when builders got the possibility of getting everything earned by people at half-price. Things bought for the plant were passing by and going to a person who seemingly had to do something for the plant. Welded metal garages were sent from the plant for thirty-six krb only, though metal for the amount of about eight hundred krb had been used to make it. And neither controllers, nor trade union representatives raised any issues. It is unknown who got two houses with stoves, beds and fridges in Saki, in the Crimea, where faience plant workers could have some rest.

But crockery was being produced. It was of lower quality than it should have been. New sets were designed, but these were mainly sets of vases and dubious kettles. The sum of thirty krb was given for a kettle, while a plate did not cost even one. But still Kamenny Brod faience over those years had become more diverse, there were even booklets and letterheads with the following works: *Kamenny Brod porcelain plant*, or even *faience-porcelain*. And some people thought it had to be that way.

As far as the chronicles of the events of the late 80's are concerned, they were the following. At the end of the year 1986 newspaper *Komsomol (Young Communists)ska zirka* dedicated a whole page to our village once again. In January the plant's artistic board had its meeting and resolved to prefer large articles. Preparation to the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution was launched, but not on such a big scale already, with commitments and reports. The so-called headquarters of the working day started functioning at the plant. A series of soirees-contests 'I would gladly become a faience plant worker' continued. There again took place in Kamenny Brod a day of letters from military units and a championship in volleyball of the district. Again in May Kamenny Brod sanitary activists group took the first place in the district competition. Then for the second time they decided to repair the tunnel furnaces. In the club the 50th anniversary of the poet Valentyn Hrabovskyy was celebrated. There took place a regular trip of youth to Kaunas. In October the village celebrated the first holiday of a street – Yuvileyna Street.

## THE HOLIDAY OF OUR STREET

For a long period of time that was a small road which had a small load, it had a pit across it and was covered among the willow-trees. It separated the main part of the town from its suburbs with the folk name Sobachivka. In the 60's there were some huts with straw roofs built before the war there. In close vicinity construction of an eight-apartment two-storied building was being completed. Close to it a four-apartment building was already settled, and a foundation for a sixteen-apartment building was being laid. All those were the new constructions of the faience plant.

And only some time later along the new street there started to appear separate houses of the village residents. In the 70's the plant builders constructed some more residential buildings for faience plant workers.

As of the day of the holiday Yuvileyna was one of the best streets of the village of Kamenny Brod. It goes from the center up to ever-green slim pine-trees, white-bark birches and wide-branch solid oaks, as if intertwining with the gardens of separate houses of hereditary faience plant workers.

At present in this street there are already over forty modern good houses, and some two-storied ones, in which there reside over seventy families. A considerable part of apartments and some houses were already gasified, gasification of the village started.

A great preparatory work of a specially set up commission proceeded the street's holiday. On the very day of the holiday field shops started functioning in the street, there played wind orchestra, folk art groups. Not only residents of Yuvileyna Street came to the place where the holiday was being held, there also came many residents of Kamenny Brod who resided in other streets. Many estates of the residents of this street were called 'The yard of exemplary order', among these were the yards of the plant veterans Adolf Vasylevych, Kostyantyn Miroshnychenko and Oleksandr Kotyuk.

At the same holiday songs were presented along with gifts to some residents of the street. The most memorable event was the performance of the musicians of that street Lidiya and Adolf Vasylevych at the concert. We will still recall them on some pages of this book. Since the estate of the family was at its times a real club, at the 'performances' of which a lot of boys and girls from not only Sobachivka were brought up.

The holiday of the street had a real resonance in the village and even in the district. It was decided to make it a tradition to hold such holidays in other streets of the village each year. Still such a nice intention was never to be brought into life.

A week before that date solemn ceremonies dedicated to the 70th anniversary (the last jubilee) of the Great October Socialist Revolution were held in the village on November 7, there was a demonstration with people going from the plant and school to the place of the meeting near the club. At the end of the year a meeting of a group of Kamenny Brod residents and *Mriya* activists in Velykyy Luh was held.

What concerns that jubilee year, its 'Kamenny Brod' figures are as follows: there resided 2,493 people. That year 55 children were born. 40 persons died. 26 new families were formed, which is the smallest figure over the past ten years. 144 residents came to the village, but 168 people left it. In the village there functioned 901 radios and 117 telephones. Over one day 3,029 copies of newspapers were brought to the village. Out of all of them the number of district newspapers was the largest – 653 items and of *Silski visti* there came 445 copies. On average 200-260 letters were written in the village. In that period 595 pupils studied at school, and they were taught by 30 teachers. 34 school-leavers finished the 10<sup>th</sup> form. 47 children came to study in the first grade.

The number of plant workers coming from the village was on average 1,250 people. Out of them 394 were hired and 328 were dismissed. 918 pensioners lived in the village, and they received over 700,000 krb over the year. During that year 24,819,000 items of output were produced and sent to the consumers, and that was the figure almost the largest out of all the years of the fall. Out of all the amount 52% of output was first-class output and that was also a new figure.



### THE MAIN CRITERION IS NOT PLATES, BUT MONEY!

As far as output production in its quantitative amounts is concerned, from January 1988 the plant started noticeably lagging behind, and it was never to recover its either planned, or project amount. Both the quality and the quantity of output now have a reliable cover: money. To be correct, from now on the plant states that it starts working for money only. But the money constantly depends on the amount of output produced. But in January, the planned figure being 1,938,000 articles, 1,834,000 items were produced. The planned figure of first-class output was almost two percent lower. And gradually, though slowly, but the wheel of those unfulfilled tasks was going to roll on and on. For a long period of time the plant was not going to feel that particular decline in money, but prime cost of articles would already constantly remind about itself. But who would care about that if the output was still in great demand, and money could be spent at one's own disposal. On the day when it turned out that the plant had no money to pay salary from was still far away, if ever it was going to come.

The company became even more noticeable after the session of the XIXth All-Union Party Conference. The results of the competitions between its shops were summarized under its slogan.

That very year a labor feast was held. There took place other performances and competitions, as well as Kupala feast in Horodnytsya. Closer to the autumn period there took place the meeting of Shukayevtsi (name of partisan group usually named after its leader) in Baranivka, Kamenny Brod and Yavne forest. A topical soiree with youth being initiated into faience plant workers was held with the participation of guests from Horodnytsya and their concert. The plan the figure of output production in which was already 20,920,000 articles was fulfilled. It was much less than in the year 1987, though. The five-story building was being constructed at high speed. The following two years in the village were the years of intensive talks about the construction of medical prevention premises. Finally, documents were arranged and they were attached to the territory in the western part of the village, money was allotted.

Then the village was captured by a whole series of vechornytsi in the most distant hut. Activity among Catholics was intensified when a large group of employees of the Polish Embassy from Kyiv came to the village, this point should be considered the beginning of renaissance of the Polish people here.

All in all that year was rich in different cultural events. Once again there took place Kupala feast in Pershotravensk and Horodnytsya with *Mriya* and a TV performance. A trip to Kaunas was organized (the last one), and there took place a great soiree dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the girls' club *Mriya*. The last Jew N. Shkolnyy left the plant on his own initiative. This fact is going to be mentioned somewhere on the following pages.

K. S. Dronhovskiy was elected head of the trade union committee for the second time, a new store in the plant's building in the village center was opened, a water reservoir started being created, and the mouth of the river Nemylyanka was destroyed. That was how the last Soviet pre-election campaign started.

The last year of the last five-year plant was launched in the same pre-election mess. Finally, L. M. Mirutenko got to the position of the head of the village council. Still a bit later, V. Ya. Slyusarenko became the head of the executive committee. People were like under the spell during such re-construction, and they did whatever they did, and did not see it was all heading for the end.

At the end of the year medical prevention premises were founded without any special solemn ceremonies, there took place a soiree dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the beginning of re-construction with the former director, but without the current one. F. M. Suprunenko was honored due to his 60th birthday. At that period D. Bertman and F. Pashkovskyy died.

Here a kind of a discussion focused on one publication about the achievements of the director of faience plant L. M. Mirutenko published in the district newspaper *Komunistychnye slovo* by its correspondent H. Hulanova must be mentioned. Everything in the publication was presented as seen through the rosy spectacles, but everything that had taken place before was presented as nothing special. The publications have been preserved and have become the acquisition of the

plant's museum.

Polish people started 'getting alive' in the village; in the yard the first liturgies were held. There came a would-be priest of the village Stanislav Firut.

As far as the results of the plant's work over the past year and under the five-year plan on the whole are concerned, a new approach dominated in them. Over the year the plant produced two million articles of output, and over the last five-year plan the figure was about 110 million articles. That was the largest number under the administration of director L. M. Mirutenko.

### THE BEGINNING OF THE NINETIES

For the village the beginning was going to become a starting point in many aspects. From the first days of January in the overcrowded hall of the club there started liturgies of Catholics twice a week. The temple started being built.

Preparation to the referendum which served the final collapse of the USSR began. In Kamenny Brod it was held in a well-organized way, and only 217 people voted against separation.

Out of the other events of that year one can point out the same level of demand for the plant's output, but the debt of paying for it was becoming more and more noticeable. The same number of vases, different volumetric forms of faience was designed.

A district competition of chess players took place in the village.

A cross was erected by orthodox Christians close to the place where once there had been a church, almost in the forest. It was also intended to build a church in the village.

In June, as never before, the 50th anniversary of the war beginning was commemorated with the participation of the priests of the Catholic and Orthodox beliefs.

In July a two-page article was published about the plant in *Radyanska Zhytomyrshzhyna* with payment of one and a half thousand krb

Vechornytsi were conducted in the most peripheral hut of S. A. Kuchynskyy on the occasion of his 60th year of working at the plant.

In September an attempt was made to sell the plant's territory with partial transfer of garage premises.

The next year started in a series of jubilees. These included the jubilee of joiner S. I. Konach, but only the jubilees of A. S. Mikeyeva and F. V. Polyanskyy were celebrated in a solemn way – with concerts, greeting and substantial gifts.

In spring there took place a checkup of *Komunar* collective farm by the field commission with a view to handing it over to the plant. The plant started functioning well in this respect itself as well. Nothing came of the idea with the collective farm; there was no one to address the problem in a proper way.

With some failures, but there still continued construction of the medical prevention premises. The foundation of a residential five-story building close to the medical prevention premises was laid. That was a good intention, but it was never to be implemented. The hope was lost to launch the porcelain shop. Smolyar's firm within the plant launched its autonomous slab shop.

Former director F. U. Retman participated in the celebrations of the day of light industry. That was his last speech to the faience plant workers in which he appealed to everybody calling to preserve the plant.

In summer an unsuccessful and primitive booklet on the plant's output was published, all the more entitled *Kamenny Brod Faience Porcelain Plant*. That very autumn in Zhytomyr there took place an exhibition-sale of porcelain. A. S. Mikeyeva was interviewed by journalists, and that was shown on TV as well.

There came the last New Year with L. M. Mirutenko. Debts of dishware customers were increasing and increasing. Debts of salary payment to faience plant workers were also increasing. New dishware was produced by artists and model designers of the foundry. Construction of the medical prevention premises and the building were taking place, though with some stoppages and interruptions...

And here finally came the first point in the faience plant workers' irritation, as they had a very fiery and emotional meeting with the plant management on the eve of the strike. Something

had to be done. In one of the regional newspapers there appeared a publication *Scandal in a noble family* on the state of things at the faience plant.

The last holiday was held by L. M. Mirutenko, in a very pompous way, with stores coming there, four groups of actors as well as with serious treatments.

At the end of December the plant's artist Vasyl Hrytsak showed quite serious achievements as far as his articles are concerned. Faience is getting more and more diverse. And the results of the plant work for 1993 was as follows: 22,868,000 articles were produced. That was almost six million less than in 1985 – before the appearance of L. M. Mirutenko at the plant.

The next year was the year when L. M. Mirutenko left the plant. It started with a conference lasting for several hours, which went as far as almost calling for the replacement of directors, but gave some period for settlement of the problem of abnormal condition with the plant's management, and not just improvement of the situation. Head of the staff board V. Ya. Slyusarenko let everything take its course, nobody ever got back to the decision of the conference, though it had quite a serious response, district authorities were also not satisfied with it. Something had to be done about it. The faience plant was in trouble.

Then it was not the time to think about plants like that. A pre-election campaign was taking place in Ukraine, it embraced the whole country. It was for the first time that in our locality our compatriot Vasyl Kostyrytsya was a candidate, but he failed. Only half of the village voted for him.

In August elections took place at the plant. A new director was being elected. There were such candidates as K. S. Dronhovskyy, N. F. Zharikova, and A. P. Chernyshov. N. F. Zharikova was elected, but soon, without any support on behalf of the district, O. A. Polyanskyy became director once again.

The first coming of L. M. Mirutenko gave not very good results, and the plant had to go out of the situation somehow, and there was such a chance, but the new director had to do something for the better, while what he did was actually for the worse.

## ELECTIONS

It often happens in life that one thing is planned, but in the course of achieving it things suddenly start going the other way round. Something similar happened at Kamenny Brod plant in August-September 1994.

Everybody seemed to expect from that electoral campaign the triumph of democracy. Nobody protested against the candidates put forward to the director's position. There were not many of these, the list made by the head of trade union committee with higher trade union education K. S. Dronhovskyy, the plant's employee with higher polytechnic education N. G. Zharikova and deputy director with higher trade education A. P. Chernyshov was not even extended. Electoral commission was also trustworthy and nobody had any suspicions as to it. The very election was taking place without any special rush. Everybody waited for some changes to take place, as well as for the improvement of the situation at the plant for the better. As one of the candidates for the director's post in the election was going to state several years later, the chance of improvement of the situation still existed and it had to be used for the sake of the general business and the plant's future. Over a half of plant workers and pensioners voted for N. G. Zharikova, and starting with September 1 she was to take the director's post. She did not hurry to occupy her room. There were events in which she had to participate as head of the company. There was a meeting in the district where the woman-director was welcomed by the district authorities and her acquaintances.

The next day there was a trip to Kyiv, to the administration office, where it all started, but not due to the will of the officials, to whom N. F. Zharikova was invited. Representatives of district executive committee participated in it. Those present were explained the illegal nature of the elections of the plant's director, therefore it was suggested that O. A. Polyanskyy had to return to the heads of the administration but because of a call from Baranivka, since there were a lot of calls from Kamenny Brod, the author of which insisted on acknowledging the elections to be

illegal. In brief, the new director got into an unclear situation in which an unfair game could be traced...

Two days later a rumor appeared that it all came from the regional property fund, which thought that those voters had participated in the election who had not yet become shareholders. The wheel of unfair game was taking scale, and let this all double game remain on the conscience of some employees of the plant and the district, let them feel some pains of conscience if they have any. In brief, the chaos with the director of Kamenny Brod faience plant was getting into a primitive detective story and was approaching its bad end.

It is not known who it was exactly, but somebody without any initiative of the newly elected head of the plant called the meeting at the company position.

And the idea was supported by the ovation of the people who had several days ago participated in the election and in its preparation. Once again no person with sound mind and logical thinking was found in the room. One day later a group 'for O. A. Polyansky' and N. F. Zharikova by herself went to the property fund. There illegal nature of the election as well as unwillingness to have N. F. Zharikova as director were found out finally, and the latter was sent to the regional prosecutor's office, where she was advised to arrange documents to the prosecutor's complaint. On leaving that place N. F. Zharikova probably passed a good decision: they needed O. A. Polyansky. Let it be that way!

But that was not the end of the game. N. F. Zharikova was asked to write an application that she had no claims. Certainly, the application was never written, though the unrealized head of the company was in disfavor and had to leave the plant for a certain period of time soon.

Having a look on the years lived through; it is difficult to point out the capability of N. F. Zharikova to change anything for the better. At that time there was a lot of work to be done at the plant, and primarily that included introduction of discipline and some basic order. Besides that, thefts of output and any things were becoming more and more popular.

Probably, she would manage to do something, since Nina Fedorivna was not a newcomer at the plant and knew it much better than others did; moreover, she was a knowledgeable technologist. But maybe the intention of a newly elected head to arrange a 'purge' among the employees who only attended the plant but did something different than their work soon after the election played a bad joke. One had to do something about the situation at the plant, with increasing debts and failures in labor remuneration.

Head of the administration was elected, and the administration had to settle, where 'for', and where 'against'. It was already then that the majority of those who wanted to do a certain job and have good salary as well as certain remunerations, but did not want to intervene into the process of real rescuing of the company from the approaching trouble could be seen.

It would have been difficult for N. G. Zharikova to cope with the problems by herself, while she had close supporters only in certain strata of the departments, which were not going to support those they had voted for.

Generally that was a confusion to which few people paid attention, while they agreed to let happen whatever was to be done. There were no leaders, these were rather 'adjusters', and one could expect different unexpected things from them as well as could hardly expect an intention to do anything, refuting the wish to improve the situation at the plant, particularly, the situation with order at the plant.

## **UNSUCCESSFUL RETURN**

Thus, O. A. Polyansky got back to the plant once again to the position of its director. In fact, so far that was without election, without any general expression of will. That was still to come, and in the meantime something had to be done quickly and urgently, the situation was bad, and there were no sources for filling in the gaps.

Finally disputes around the election got settled. The new 'old' director did not do any special transformations. And what for, if the team, that is the company, was selected by itself and from 'his own' people. It was strange only how they could get so well adjusted at any replacement of directors. As well as why O. A. Polyansky did not notice that, without analyzing and

criticizing it.

Back in 1994 all the shops were still functioning without any serious failures. Special practice of salary payment did not yet present a cause to worry. The same concerns supply of raw materials and other materials. Workers of gas and power industry did not remind of any problems. The bee-garden and the greenhouse were still functioning.

In November the fortieth jubilee of the club was celebrated with gifts and participation of guests from Zhytomyr.

The next year started without any particular worries. In relation to the anniversary of the Victory Day this was a jubilee year, but without any special uplift. Besides, at the beginning of spring, now in a legal way already, but pompously election of the head and his administration was conducted. Charter of Kamenny Brod faience plant was adopted at the general meeting; it contained a lot of inexpedient items, a lot of 'repetitions' and logical mistakes catching the eye.

People were going to forget about the Charter soon, and through a system of voting at the shops they prepared a different one, the content of which would be known to a few people.

In the meantime, a very bad output sale could be felt. Indeed, everybody had a wish to take it, but not everybody had money to pay for it. Along with that the discipline in payment for the output obtained was lost. There was actually nobody to control such situation or to require payment. In May-June the plant had its first standstill.

It seemed that the director, administration, trade union and everybody who cared about the plant's fate were going to start its rescue, the way Noah did his boat before the Flood.

Summer continued with continuation in the plant's stoppage and a large performance dedicated to Kamenny Brod Jews, of which we will talk in a separate unit of the book.

That very autumn activists-Jews, who had once been quite outstanding there, S. I. Kirzhner and S. R. Budnitsky with their families left Kamenny Brod and went to live permanently with their children. The former went to America, while the latter went to Israel. A bit later the families of Kanner were seen off, they also left for America and have been to Kamenny Brod already twice since that time.

What concerns the end of the year 1995, during that year 14,221,000 articles were produced – that was the lowest figure since the completion of re-construction. The figure was not going to increase soon.

Besides that, all the buildings once started were frozen: at the stadium, near the medical prevention premises, as well as porcelain shop. Strange things were happening to the medical prevention premises, since regional health department, that is the Ministry of Health, started its completion, and the faience plant actually had already nothing to do with it in terms of funding. But completion works there started in quite a scrupulous and responsible way. It was intended to open there already a sanatorium 'Kamenny Brod' to treat children from the area covered by Chernobyl disaster on the day of anniversary of Chernobyl tragedy. And that event was held in the village, some top guests came there on the day of the disaster's anniversary, though the first coming for treatment was to take place only in summer.

A new steam-boiler, of lower capacity, was launched at the plant only to supply heat to the shops and to dry semi-finished products of the forming shop. That very summer after a certain break there took place Kupala feast at the new water reservoir, and two months before that the resident of the village of Zhovte, the plant's worker, a permanent head of design office bureau Stanislav Albinovych Raskivsky who had been known as a decent person had retired. He started his work at the painting shop, and then he studied at OPI. Different services at the plant and the longest period in the design office. For a long period of time he had been a constant visitor of the club as well as an amateur chess-player.

That very year in autumn 'faience workshop' was launched at the plant as a 'subsidiary' with different directions of activity, it was not perceived by faience plant workers in a positive way even till its closure in 2000.

Due to slow sale of articles of which larger and larger quantities were accumulated in the plant's warehouses, as well as considerable increase in the plant's debts, in September and in October the plant was forced to have some standstills. However, over the year still 11,130,000 articles were produced.

The next year, unfortunately, did not bring faience plant workers any changes for the

better. Debts were already for millions. Salary was paid – but only a certain share to those who needed it badly. The baker's shop of 'Fayansserviz' gave some positive news, since one-two loafs were given out from it almost on a daily basis.

The plant was forced to stay in a standstill all the summer long, and then still November and December. At the beginning of summer, and then at the end of the year the plant conducted some conferences, but they did not become the place of constructive talks, with outlining of the ways of at least some passing-by improvements in the plant's business. It was all brought down to disputes between those present in the room and those who were on the stage. No leader could be seen on any side. Everybody seemed to be waiting for somebody to improve the situation or to start caring for the plant's fate and to arrange all this plant's mass into a certain order. This did not happen because there was no one to start doing that and to lead all those wretched people, tired of the situation in the country and chaos at the plant. District authorities were also unable to do anything about the situation, almost every day somebody was coming, but nobody could change anything for the better, and, maybe, did not strive for that too much.

In the meantime the events were developing in its own way. The village welcomed the arrival of the Kanner spouse from America and organized meetings.

The coming of children to the local sanatorium still remained to be a plan only, though everything was well arranged in terms of servicing, discipline, nutrition and treatment of patients.

The Kupala feast took place with a large program of events, including the 60th anniversary of the birthday of poet Valentyn Hrabovskyy and the presentation of the two of his books, in one of which a poem about Kamenny Brod was available.

In October the 60th anniversary of O. A. Polyanskyy's birth was celebrated, with wide representation of the public of the village and some people from other plants. It was all nice, decent, with nice wishes. But the situation at the plant was still bad, and O. A. Polyanskyy was still to hold the director's position for a month only.

Once again, not without the intervention of the representatives of district authorities O. A. Polyanskyy was finally asked to resign as the one who had 'already used all his personal resources...' New elections were to be conducted with secret voting, and that was to happen practically almost for the last time...

Still, why was it the case that even this time the local person did not manage to hold the director's position, as they say, in the belief that years had not passed in vain; there would be something to recall. He had enough – enough experience and knowledge, health did not let him down as well. There seemed to be available people to work with, in order to leave a good memory at the plant and among people. But here initiative and desire were necessary, and he lacked them. The team consisted rather of flatterers, and not of business people, these people wanted only to connive, and that made them a company which strived for reasonable actions, and not a fight for production. Thus, these frequent meetings were never principled one, as well as planned meetings; they had no continuation since people were not demanding either to themselves or to the head.

There were no real authorities among them, whose opinion they would care for, whose presence they would really be afraid of. And this company did not gather in a certain study. Nobody cared just to invite anybody who saw everything and knew what had to be done for the plant not to be in such a bad situation. Chief specialists did not work late hours to find solutions, to look for ways out. Everything was in the captivity of indifference, with the following principle: that will go somehow. And it was worthless pointing one's finger at the Supreme Council, at the government, at the circumstances.

Thus, already for the second time in that office people had to live through a sad scene on an October day, when all the same representatives of district administration who four years ago had 'supported' him to the position of the director now publicly demanded the application of dismissal. And that was done by heads of the meeting, the same figures... There was production left with over a thousand of workers, with their hopes, with certain systems, and a very unbalanced financial structure which nobody was trying to save and put into order at least somehow.

## NEW ELECTION

The year was approaching its end with the election campaign of the new head of the management board of the open joint stock company. Now the main candidate was a well-known specialist of faience production at the plant Ihor Kolyesnikov, who had higher education. He headed the shops, and the tunnel shop at the plant. In between he headed local association of production of blocks, concrete constructions. Then he was a chief engineer of Kamenny Brod faience plant. He had some ideas as to how to improve the situation at the plant and, primarily, how to get rid of increasing debts.

The plant workers mainly voted for I. A. Kolyesnikov, and he became the fourteenth director of the faience plant.

There was a lot of work to do. Those very 1998 faience plant workers managed to produce only 7,829,000 articles – one fourth of what the plant could produce. It would be impossible to cover all the debts, even in case of full sale of what had been produced. Debts were increasing; it was already obvious that there could be no full settlement for salary. Some money was found, though, to at least somehow repair something or buy fuel for the trips. The plant was not functioning almost all the autumn, and part of winter. It was in February that the new director I. A. Kolyesnikov and the chief engineer of the plant S. P. Malyk at their own risk went to Spain to get some experience and to visit their furnaces on faience burning as well as make final orders to them. Since before that there had already been different tests, even contracts had been concluded with those who would install those furnaces already at Kamenny Brod faience plant.

Time was passing by very quickly. There were no changes. The opinion was spreading in the district that the new director in Kamenny Brod would not manage to change the situation.

But already at the next meeting of plant workers in the club in April a well-known and unforgettable L. M. Mirutenko came to see the plant. And now not only his team, but the audience applauded loudly and invited him, and this was not for the first time. There was a wish to cry out: how many times this is possible, o, you, people!!!

## SECOND ADVENT

Once again the wheel started gaining power, leading the plant to a dead end now. The month of May started with something like the introduction of the new ‘old’ director (Mirutenko), with the wide show to the plant of how it should be run, and for sure, with TV camera and a nice strategy. In ‘Fayansserviz’ there still was something. That was enough also for war participants and also for the share from the soldiers’ kitchen brought from Novograd-Volinsky, as well as to have some gifts and some alcohol.

Then something similar was organized for those who had to leave the plant, which is for the working pensioners. However, not everybody left the plant at their own will.

Summer passed in an awful fighting, which was called reduction at one’s own will, division of the plant to the so-called directorate with its heads, services, accounting offices, and even seals. A lot was done, but there was not order in the plant’s functioning, and the situation with salary payment and debt coverage was not improved in any way.

A lot of things were happening at the plant at that time! One can judge here even by this division of the plant into two parts with the general director!

At the end of August it was felt that something was going to happen, and that the night of justice was to come for the plant. Leontiy Mykolayovych still did not complete building of his dwelling at the shore of a hand-made broad pool, but he was trying to improve output sale a bit. With this in view groups of so-called plant peddlers were organized, like ‘kravchuchka’ already popular in the whole CIS, either by the plant’s transport, or by their own means people went to the so-called rich villages to sell produced faience output.

It was seemingly not bad! People came back from their trade travel with some money. They gave it to the plant’s cash-desk. Those who managed to do it first of all registered their salary and gave the balance, if any, to the cash-desk. Only in such chaotic situations where some money appears different things happen. So it happened then, only there was nobody to care for that in a

proper way. Those trade travels were often non-profitable, caused losses, and sometimes even fines. One could only guess about them, though.

Once again, the members of those plant bodies who had been elected and not elected to the management board, councils and commissions, as well as trade union activists were only watching it all, and it was not a single time that they showed a wish to do something about it all... though they had the right, even the duty to do it. They hoped it would go some way, lead to some positive results.

And it led. Only again it was done with loss of time, large losses and debt accumulation.

At the end of December everything was finally settled. It became known to everybody that our king was a naked one. It turned out that L. M. Mirutenko highly respected by many people at the plant and in the village had not been elected head of the management board of the plant, did not have the right to sign any documents, all the more financial ones, he even did not have his employment record in the personnel department, and no contract had been concluded with him. Things do happen.

Seeing that he has lost, and he has nothing to tell people, at the last meeting of the plant's representative office the same December 1998 the poor man left the plant in public. The picture in the overcrowded study was split. The ways out were either to laugh altogether or to bow one's head being ashamed of oneself.

And the fact that there were people without any will, and, probably, common sense resulted from the last touches of management of the unforgettable L. M. Mirutenko.

On that very day he managed to take directly from the plant's territory only with his invalid signature a tractor, a digger, a thousand of brooms, a ton of sheet iron, and take it all to the collective farm of the village of Susly, Novograd-Volinsky district, where he seemed to have to be head of the collective farm or village.

And do you think my dear reader that the next day anybody from the plant went to the prosecutor's office? Nothing likes that- nobody went.

L. M. Mirutenko took his salary with the help of the court. That was his way. And, dear reader, judge for yourself: what the Kamenny Brod Faience Plant that was glorified in history, cherished by poets, and expressed in porcelain, had become now? It was not that easy to try and cope with what had been done over almost eight months. Something was put to the former places, something was smoothened, and people started waiting what was going to happen next. That was not a new situation. Over that year the plant managed to produce 7,829,000 articles. In fact, they were on sale till almost mid-1999. The plant had standstills in 1998 for almost four months. During four months people did not have any job, no salary to live on. They were saved by gardens and fields in Tartak, Finyak, close to Dibrovka, and the forest. Due to them people still had something to live on, as well as due to trips by those "kravchuchka" to Belarus.

That very year several events took place in the village. Starting with winter there stopped functioning *Lisova kazka* kindergarten – the beauty and pride of Kamenny Brod residents. The Polish consul came to the village from Kyiv. Kamenny Brod celebrated three school jubilees, which fact is going to be mentioned in some further chapters, and the fiftieth graduation from the local secondary school.

The next winter the kindergarten began its school year, but already under the jurisdiction of the village council.

In winter all the buildings were cut off from heating provided by the plant's boiler, including people whose apartments were at some time connected to it and who paid a symbolic fee. That was the fate of school, club, kindergarten, some stores and utility industrial complex.

## **PERIOD OF REGULAR HARDSHIPS**

No doubt, Kamenny Brod and faience plant were like prescribed to go through those hardships. The company and its people had had to survive in a lot of events. But all the previous ones were that there always were some leaders who took the responsibility on their shoulders, who organized people and managed to cope with the situation every time if not as winners, but with the possibility of going further.



And what happened after L. M. Mirutenko? Particularly nothing. V. V. Koshelyuk became a director for quite a long period of time – before that he had been holding two positions – that of chief mechanic and chief engineer of the plant.

All the year 1999 went as if people were waiting for something or somebody. The plant did not function for a considerable period of time. Over that period when one managed to launch tunnel furnaces the plant managed to produce only 3,365,000 articles. That was twice smaller than in the previous one and eight times less than the plant could produce in terms of faience output with its capacity and the number of people who were still working at the plant.

The amount of the plant's debt was not going down, but on the contrary it was on the rise. Already at the end of the year it was approaching the figure of ten million hryvnas. The plant was already considered bankrupt. Something was even sold to at least somehow cover some debts. However, the figure of debt was impossible to be covered.

The plant, as they say, was getting ruined, and nobody dared help it in any way, to give at least the last straw of hope. There were no more brave people in the village.

And then rumors about organization of the 'initiative group', headed by the worker of steam-power shop A. Krupskyy started spreading about the village. Soon this group showed itself and arranged the first so-called sessions.

Looking back, one can make a conclusion that these were not 'rescuers' and they would hardly manage to become rescuers even with some time. Therefore, that 'initiative group' required a lot starting with the intentions up to the processes of their fulfillment. Very often it is not enough just to have a desire. First of all, the group did not have a real, authoritative and reliable leader. All the meetings were of semi-noise nature.

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## TRANSLATION OF A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON THE 80 YEAR-ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1919 KAMENNY BROD POGROM

To the 80-anniversary of tragedy on Polesye to the ground nobody wanted to die - do not kill them. Nobody is guilty! - Rabbi Kamennobrodskoj of a synagogue has addressed to the enraged crowd of the armed gangsters. Gangsters did not listen to requests of the minister and brutally beat 137 Jews, sparing none, not even the rabbi. In the history of the wooded settlement Kamenny Brod, in Baranovsky area, there are many tragic pages. But the pogrom on July, 9, 1919 has gone down in history as the most tragic of all experience.

After their beginning as a settlement, there was a revival of the faience factory which formerly hardly made ends meet. A fire in the winter of 1916 destroyed almost all of the factory's wooden structures. Out of thirteen working kilns only in three burnt faience. The quality of production brought shame the workmen. People gloried previously in their skills to create beautiful utensils, but under those conditions, results were rather poor. Yes, how can one speak about quality when at times there were not even dyes - the basic component *packpacku*? But nevertheless the factory enabled workers to somehow feed their families. Daily, tens of carts with finished utensils were sent by workers of the factory to the villages in the district with the purpose of exchanging products.

And all lived in hope of better days. Somewhere war was raging, and in the settlement all felt [were affected by] the mobilization of the population on the front which was constantly carried out.

Protection of the faience enterprise, settlement, nearby villages and farms was organized by the factory revolutionary committee. Besides, at a factory about twenty prepared commands operated in the struggle against fires. Old residents recollect that they never rested; almost every night something burned. The settlement by passed the party neither separate rascals and thieves, nor predatory groups. And works to it was enough. Fortunately, all skirmishes with undesirable visitors had been without human victims. At times, it seemed that in Kamenny Brod, firm authority was established. People felt confidence in tomorrow. And nothing foretold a terrible trouble. Before July 9<sup>th</sup>, the first refugees from Novograd-Volinsky had appeared in the settlement. Among them - some district members from Rochachev: there affairs developed very badly. Having taken advantage of the easing of the city's defenses when significant numbers of soldiers were involved on the front, Sokolovsky's armed gang liquidated the Soviet authority in city. So the surrounding conditions were heated. The anxiety was also strengthened [by the fact] that on that evening, the secretary *ревкома* Adomovich gave the Order (*of the pogrom*): -By the evening to hand over all rifles in the revolutionary committee - the Order should be obeyed. The weapons were handed over, although people were perplexed concerning the command.

In the settlement on the morning of July 9<sup>th</sup>, the first armed horsemen appeared. Soon armed people rushed in from the woods to the factory. The barrack filled with armed men had flown. Local residents from among nearby villages and farms arrived to join.

Many from residents of Kamenny Brod, having felt something was wrong, had hustled away with simple domestic belongings to a wood. But far from [the woods being a safe haven] the armed horsemen of Sokolovsky's gang had driven about everywhere. They warned all to not leave the settlement, and under the threat of being shot, they were sent back.

At this time, all the Jews were driven into the area. Already at the office, men were separated and formed into groups. In a circle of the Jewish families, basically having many children, there were shouts and crying. Soon it turned into heart-breaking cries and continuous calls for help. To calm the men, women, children, and old men, one of organizers of a round-up started to calm the Jewish families present: Men would supposedly be sent into the center of the volost-Village Rogachev. The people calmed down. However, when all collected Jewish families had been separated from a group of more than one and a half hundred men, and women and children, and forced far away from this place, people again became agitated. They joined the number of unfamiliar armed people of local *muzhiks* and young men assisted the arrivals to protect selected men more. In due course,

it was became all the more difficult. Soon – an order was sounded: All were made to lie on the ground on their, hands – head and legs placed apart! In such a position, people lay on the ground under the scorching sun for some hours. They also did not guess that at this time in the factory office there was a "hot debate" concerning who should be released for the further needs of the factory. Many if not all from among the security guards already knew that all men on the ground would be killed. At last the office was left by chairman of the factory committee Andrey Kozakov and the representative of the gang of Bulls arrived. They read the released list of five workers' surnames.

The others were told to get up; having been surrounded from different directions, and led along the road to a wood, aside Рогачёва. But, as soon as they left for the woods, which were rather close to the settlement and factory, the condemned men stopped. In the ranks of gangsters began confusion. Already then, after years, it became known, that someone from the local helpers of gangsters has thought that to go far into the wood was risky – the doomed for death could escape.

Having understood неудачность a plan, the gangsters received a command to return all Jews home. As soon as they made their first steps, the awful command was sounded: - Shoot! Then, leading a last prayer, the rabbi, who had taken his place among the men - Stop: - he told the gangsters "Do not kill them. They're innocent and there is nobody who is guilty." But the bandits spared nobody. Not all the gangsters were armed with revolvers and rifles. They had scythes, pitchforks, other sharp objects. Then began something unimaginable, awful, and indescribable the Order was carried out. The place of execution was densely surrounded. To escape was almost impossible. On the doomed fell who with what. On many people who were attacked at once appeared. Bags with covered their eyes. That was not understood. Shooting and awful shouts for mercy and help were heard in the settlement. About their terrible fate of all males; fathers, sons and grandfathers - the Jews who had stayed at the office began to speculate. They wanted to hasten to the aid... Far from it! Irony??

Newly arrived strangers began to watch over them, it is not yet known from whence and with what purpose, has warned **бѣдо**: - Only will move from a place and we now all to factory pond and there we shall drown them like kittens! That the intention of those gangsters could be carried out, was visible on their persons and terribly ready weapons. All understood that in a wood something awful had happened. Some girls - еврейкам had managed to escape from a densely guarded ring. But to reach to a place of execution did not give the woman of orthodox and Catholic families: It was already impossible to help, but to be forsaken - yes! And in the wood, shooting and shouts gradually ceased. In a place of pools of blood where the awful murders had occurred, the unfortunate corpses lay, never having understood the reason that they were doomed. Really was the truth only that were born Jews? When the evil ones who were responsible for this mean black business had made sure that all were already dead, they began vandalizing and marauding as soon as possible. Gangsters rushed to turn out the pockets of the dead, to fumble through all the clothes in search of valuables. Once again having made sure that everyone lying on the ground was dead, they left the place of slaughter and returned back to the factory кантопе. Among them there was furtive conversation. One thing was certain: they must have already felt responsible for [murders] they had committed. It is necessary before people and conscience.

At the end, someone from murderers was. Intimidations, even precautionary shots did not stop the survivors - women, children, men, from rushing to the place of slaughter. From memoirs of old residents it is known, that shouts of people running to the wood reminds them of many voices. Heart-broken women, children who had escaped ran, and old men ran. It was many hundreds of people hastening streaming with shouts, sobbing and unclear exclamations, tearing into a wood. This terrible general uproar and crying a hundredfold amplified the terrible picture of murders. All rushed to the place of slaughter. From the memories of old residents it is known, that the cries of people running to a wood was satiated with images of murders. It seemed, as in the settlement, and in the wood all composure was gone: only laments and howls of mad people подымались filling the immediate space. Women, children, old men mourned over fathers, grandfathers, sons,

relatives. The Settlement was plunged into catalepsy. That crying and groaning did not stop either in the evening, or at night, or the next day when the burial of victims began. They were buried exactly where they were murdered - there was nobody to bring the dead men to the Jewish cemetery in Rochachev. This purpose and lack of opportunity explains their absence. Among those lying on blood stained ground, peasants found nine wounded men who had had the luck to survive; tie up and to hide. Danger did not pass. So it turned out. Hunting for male Jews proceeded for another day. Many, nevertheless, had the opportunity to flee. But by nightfall some people began to come back from a wood to the farthest huts, not suspecting that the armed gangsters already waited there for them. Has not carried that day to factory doctor Kiselgofu N.A. for whom so hunted arrived of Sokolovsky's gang. Seven witnesses told of seeing two dead, young daughters, tied to a horse and dragged through the streets of the settlement. The armed group of villains all beat плетями a lifeless body. By the evening all those killed had been buried. Many days.

So in Kamenny Brod one more cemetery was formed having been founded on the exact date of July, 9, 1919. For many days, the settlement was in a state of shock. It seemed that in it life had stopped or had turned into infernal tortures; that in one or another of many tens of Jewish huts the crying could be heard, proceeding many days.

The gang of Sokolovsky Organizers of bloody slaughter soon left the settlement. First to the next farm Zolotyok where they were based; they have begun to hustle from the settlement as those who helped the gangster's всяк felt the inevitability of punishment. And it shortly will come. In the meantime in Kamenny Brod people have organized children's home which shortly held more than forty deserted children lost their parents.

Valentine Slovachevsky Baranovsky area.

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