

To: <helga@rotravel.com>
Subject: Change of Arrival Date
Date: Sat, 21 Jul 2001 09:32:14 +0400

Dear Villa Helga,

This is Joseph Izen, writing from my friends' house in the Ukraine. Now that I am in the Ukraine, I have checked train schedules at the train station. I learned that my American travel agent misinformed me that I could take a daytime train to Bucharest from here. He was mistaken, and we will need to travel all night, so the date of our arrival will be July 27, NOT July 26. We will be arriving at the north station around 7:30 on July 27. Our flight back to the US is unchanged, and we will leave on July 30. I would appreciate it if you could confirm to this email - rik@dn.km.ua that you received this message.

I cannot check my usual email (joe@utdallas.edu) from here. When I was in Budapest, I wrote asking your advice about what to do if we arrive too late to change money. By the time I left on the next day, I had not received your answer. Could I trouble you to send your advice again? We see that it is only 3 or 4 kilometers from the train station to Villa Helga. In the worst case, we can walk, but obviously we would prefer to take the bus if there is a way to change money so that we can pay for the bus.

Thanks much!

Best regards,
Joe Izen

Plano, Texas, Sunday, 3/13/05
(writing about Saturday, 7/21/01)

As I merge photos from our trip with my narrative, I realize that I neglected to describe our first stop at the holocaust memorial at the Dunavitz mine before continuing to Nova Ushitsa. The Jewish community of Dunavitz, with financial help from the Gelmans who were the Royzners' first visitors, were in the process of completing a memorial to their shtetl's victims. Ilya was responsible for the memorial's upkeep, and he recently had had the road up to the memorial paved. He asked us to show pictures of the road to the Gelmans. On the day we visited, Ilya brought a newly made plaque acknowledging the Gelmans' financial help to the memorial. Ilya proudly showed us the Magen David which he fabricated himself from sheet metal taken from the hood of a scrapped car.



Dunavitz Holocaust Memorial.



The Royznerns with a recently finished plaque acknowledging Martin Gelman.



In front of the Dunavitz Holocaust Memorial.



The newly paved road to the Dunavitz memorial.

Anna, Ilya, and Tatiana described to us the horrific fate of the Jews of Dunavitz at the hands of the SS. The Jews were herded into a mine entrance outside of town, and then the entrance was sealed. The gentiles reported that the hills screamed for days afterward. The memorial was constructed at the mine's entrance.

The contrast between the retelling of the murders, and the mundane details of the memorial's construction while the kids were amusing themselves by catching frogs was striking. Life goes on.



The view from the Dunavitz mine.



Jack and three amphibious friends.