

# A Wild Boar Hunt in Poznan, Poland

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The Physical Education department of The University of Poznan held a centennial celebration in memory of Dr. Eugeniusz Piasecki, Dean of The Institute and a prime founder of Polish physical education and sports. The University physical Education staff under the direction of Dr. Eugene Wachovsky arranged for participation in a wild boar hunt in conjunction with the celebration. The government of Poland granted a section of land in the Bialobloty-Jarocin State Forest for the faculty to construct a hunting lodge. On Sunday, November 11, 1973, Dr. Wachovsky and the writer departed Poznan at 530 A.M.

Greetings were made to all the faculty hunters, followed by a Polish breakfast at a nearby 300 year old forester's house. This consisted of homemade bread, kielbasa, cruschiki, babka, and hot tea.

Two trucks arrived for the expedition as well as a number of teenage Polish students from Jarocin. They would serve as game beaters carrying homemade grenade cans containing pebbles to arouse the animals. Each would receive 80 zlotys for a day's service. The trucks were loaded (beyond capacity) and the group proceeded several kilometers over dirt roads. At the next point unloading took place and the hunt leader in a formal fashion gave extensive procedural details as well as an individual card with fastening cord to each participant. This card is reproduced:

16	HUNT SEQUENCES											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15												
16	3	16	8	7	12	5	11	1	13	4	15	6
17	17	13	6	9	15	7	14	18	12	8	10	16
18	6	17	5	18	8	2	15	11	7	16	3	14
19	18	3	12	10	15	17	6	19	8	14	4	2
20	12	9	14	3	18	8	20	6	1	13	17	19

The author carried card #16 and on it were enumerated the successive positions for the twelve planned hunts. Special attention was given to both lateral and height elevations of fields of fire so that the beaters would not be endangered.

The hunt director then broke open his shotgun barrel and through it sounded the "bugle" call to start the first hunt. Stations were assumed after first observing wild boar and deer tracks. The sounds of the beaters' rattles echoed and the hunt began. At the conclusion of each hunt the party assembled with beaters at the trucks for analysis and discussion. The hunts succeeded in turn throughout the day. Game taken included a number of rabbits referred to as "coney"—much larger than the American rabbit. One remarkably large red fox was also photographed.

By late afternoon the hunt was concluded, the beaters happily left with their pay. The successful hunters smiled and the unsuccessful one explained their individual problems with the weapons or the game's wariness. This was a successful and happy occasion for the fellowship developed within the Physical Education faculty. A universal reward was that each hunter brought back in a small sack large Polish mushrooms growing profusely in the forests.