

Duluth Arrival Narrates Tale of Outwitting Cossack Raiders

Aged Woman Experiences First Thrill of Movie, Train, Phone.

Witnessing six changes of national government rule within six years, Mrs. Pese Garon, just arrived in Duluth from Sirvintai, Lithuania, yesterday told of an incident in 1916, when, despite her advanced age, she bravely outwitted two Cossack soldiers, who sought to rob her of her possessions.

Mrs. Garon is 71 years old, the mother of eight children, grandmother of 32, and great grandmother of one. Most of her kin are in the United States. She is making her home with her eldest son and Mrs. Julius Garon, 1611 Jefferson street.

Made of Iron.

"That I am alive today, I must be made of iron," was her naive explanation concluding her experiences in the little town of Sirvintai.

On the occasion of the Cossack raid in 1916, she said, two Russian soldiers entered the little store conducted by her husband, demanding money. They were given a sum, which they considered inadequate. Mr. Garon promised to obtain more and departed.

Tiring of waiting, the two invaders left. Two comrades then entered, demanding tobacco. Informed by the woman that there was none on the premises, they shouted out their intention and insisted on being furnished with "tsikerkes" (candies.)

Hands In Barrel.

Mrs. Garon directed them to a barrel under a counter which contained a large quantity of sticky preserves. Both Cossacks, believing they had come upon a horde of the much cherished sweets, plunged their hands in deeply. The sticky mass held them fast despite their struggles and cursing.

The woman quickly extinguished a small lamp, which furnished the quarters with light, left them in the darkness, and fled to friendly neighbors for safety. Directly, the advance of the Germans through the territory was taking place. By the time the aged couple returned, the Germans were in possession of the village, having driven the Cossacks out.

Six Years of Turmoil.

During the six years of turmoil in the town, Mrs. Garon and her husband witnessed governmental rule by Russians, Germans, Poles, Bolsheviks and Lithuanians. The Poles dominated the region twice, in this period she said. Mrs. Garon's husband died shortly before the arrival in Europe, last March 7 of his son, Julius, who had made the trip for the purpose of returning to Duluth with his aged parents.

On another occasion, Mrs. Garon recalled, a Bolshevik trooper pointed a gun at her head, threatening to shoot her for no apparent reason. "I do not know to this day, how I ever escaped," she said.

Despite her years of sufferings, Mrs. Garon retains the appearance of a woman of 50. Within the last sev-



MRS. PESE GARON.

eral weeks she experienced a number of new thrills in life, among which were her first train and automobile rides, viewing her first photograph, speaking over the phone for the first time and turning on an electric light.

"I am certain I shall like America," she said. "I know I love Duluth already."