

At Hanka's table

With apologies to our first President, Pittsburgh Polonia crossed the Ohio River to Mt. Washington and just like George, came, saw, and conquered platefuls of fine Polish cuisine

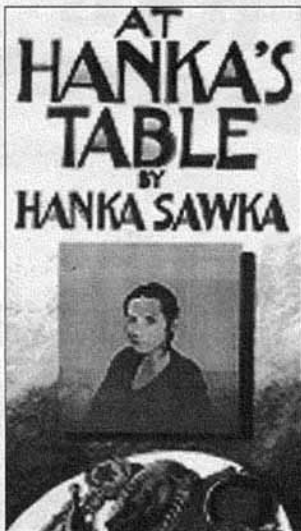
Nary a full serving dish was found near Pittsburgh Polonians that night, for the people there came to Pittsburgh's scenic showplace on said Mount to taste the recipes provided by Hanka Sawka.

Pani Sawka is the author of the book "At Hanka's Table." More than a cookbook, it tells of her and her family's exile from Poland in 1978 and their adaptation to American life. Pani Sawka's home became known as a place to gather and have fine food, as her reputation as a hostess and fine cook brought much acclaim since her arrival in America twenty-seven years ago. The book is a truly fine one, as it is illustrated by her husband, an artist, and of course includes the recipes that Poland is famous for.

This is not to say that Pittsburgh Polonia is not without her own talented kucharki; quite the contrary, as the gallant and able few who reproduced Pani Stawka's recipes gave traditional Polish cuisine much justice. Particularly good were the many good pork dishes. Admittedly, I am no food critic, but those were among the best things that I ever put in my mouth.

My only instinct was to pull up a chair with a plate to the buffet table and ask everyone else what they were having for dinner that night. However, knowing that many watchful ladies were there, I decided not to do this and to mind my manners.

It was a fun and wonderful evening. I myself never knew that an entire evening



Sawka's "At Hanka's Table" makes a great gift this holiday season

could be planned around food, for in my experience, it usually coincided with a football game or a social event. This night, the food was the social event, and it was obvious to see why... -