

Family thought lost in wartime located

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see. Coban called Kulka and offered to pay her plane fare to Eastern Europe.

In September, a friend's brother who still lived four miles from her home village, now called Lukownya, visited the United States. He promised to try and find out what had happened to Kulka's family upon his return. She thought he might be able to contact her cousins.

"All of a sudden, I get a letter from my sister," she said.

It was addressed in the care of her friend. Arriving home from work one recent evening, Kulka received a phone call telling her to come and pick up her letter. "I didn't know whether to put my coat back on or what."

suddenly realized she was so shocked and amazed she wasn't even aware of stopping at traffic lights.
AFTER RECEIVING two letters from her sisters, the memories slowly seep back. They've long been unused, unspoken, much like the Ukrainian spoken in her childhood.
"Last week, I was trying so hard to go back 46 years," she said.
In her memories, they remain children—Justinia going to school; blue-eyed Anastasia with hair so blonde it's almost white. It is tiny Eugenia, only 4 when Kulka left home, who dominates those memories.

Within the last month, Kulka learned that Eugenia died at 18 in 1954. "I feel like crying every time I think of her. I kind of wonder why she died so young. Whatever happened to her?"
"She's the only one I remember

when she was little. She was the baby of the family. All of us adored her."
SLOWLY, HER questions are being answered: Her family moved to Odessa in 1949. Her mother died in 1988. Matthew, the brother whom Kulka assumed had perished during the war, is married with two children. Justinia has one daughter and Anastasia has two sons.

Until now, the last letter she received from her family, written by Justinia in 1942, told of her father's death. Later, at the war's end, when she learned about the devastation of her native village, she began to wonder how the remaining family members survived all those years.

"There were my three little sisters and my mother was older. How could have they survived?" Kulka said.
"They could have been wandering

the same about her. As the war moved to its conclusion, fighting increased in Nazi strongholds. Kulka once spent two weeks hiding in cellars from the continuous shooting.
As she was about to be taken by the Germans, Kulka lost most of the photos she had of her family. Only one remains in her possession, a picture of her brother. "I must have kept it in my purse," she said.

KULKA was eventually sent to work in a prisoner of war hospital in Austria. In 1945, she married an Austrian concentration camp survivor, Zygmund Sear. He died two months later, leaving Kulka pregnant and alone.

She searched for her family through the Red Cross and special newspaper and radio ads aimed at reuniting people after the war. "I never heard anything," she said.

Returning to her village quickly became out of the question. "At first, everyone wanted to go home, of course. But slowly we came to learn that things weren't good at home."

She stayed in Austria, working in a hospital.
A priest Sear knew in the camp helped her get in touch with Catholic relief agencies and she managed to be able to choose from three people willing to sponsor her immigration to the United States.

IN 1950, she and her daughter, Stephanie, came to the Detroit area. Kulka worked at St. Francis Hospital, Detroit. Three years later, she remarried. Eventually, she had three more children.

But during that time, she continued to hope she'd at least learn what happened to her family. She wrote

letters to them that were unanswered and unreturned.

In 1950, she wrote to her old home, addressing the letter "to whom I may concern" and asking for any information about her family. That letter also went unanswered and unreturned.

Eight years ago, her youngest daughter, Debbie Egbert, 27 of Union Lake began to search for her mother's family through the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

"I gave up quite a few years ago. Even when Debbie started looking I didn't think she'd find anybody."

During Thanksgiving dinner at Egbert's home, Kulka took photos of her children and grandchildren to send to her newly found family. "Someone," she said, "your roots are still there."

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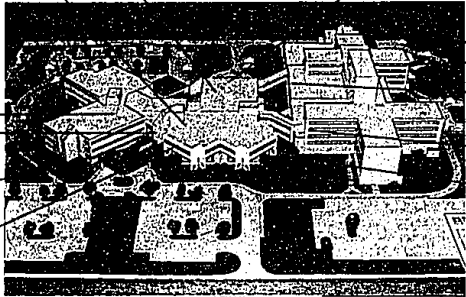
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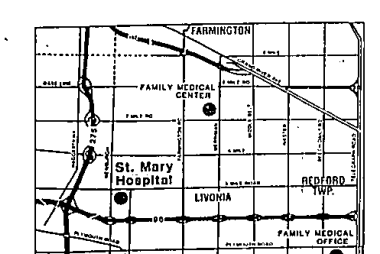
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Model Shows Existing Building (right) and New Construction (left)

The physicians listed below are currently on the medical staff at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia, Michigan.

Specialty	Physician Name	Location	Phone
ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY	Alfred M. Maza, M.D.	Farmington	478-6300
	Charles H. D. Moore, M.D.	Southfield	551-6622
	V. William Paris, M.D.	Farmington Hills	462-5222
	Paul D. Richards, M.D.	Livonia	478-5320
	Allen Sloan, M.D.	Farmington	478-5320
	Robert L. Stroh, M.D.	Farmington	478-5320
ANESTHESIOLOGY	Robert L. Stroh, M.D.	Farmington	478-5320
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COLON/RECTAL SURGERY	James R. Dowdy, M.D.	Southfield & Livonia	552-9111
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