



Titel: International old cars rally

Duration: 5'23''

Insert: reporter: Waldemar Wierzynski
camera : Krzysztof Wieckowski

Zygfryd Jacyno - participant of the rally, Poland

Jerzy Kossowski - International Caar Club – Polish branch

Zofia Stasiukiewicz-Turel - Association of Lovers of Old Automobiles and Technology *Moto-Retro* in Bialystok

Svend Hansen - participant of the rally, Denmark

Czeslaw Slowikowski - Association of Lovers of Old Automobiles and Technology *Moto-Retro* in Bialystok

Thomas Petersen - participant of the rally, Denmark

Text:

The nearly 200 kilometres from Warsaw to Bialystok in the east of Poland can be completed by most drivers within a little more than two hours. It takes more than six hours to participants of International Old Cars Rally *Via Baltica 2004*. However, in this case the point is not how fast you drive, but *what* you drive.

Zygfryd Jacyno

This is a 1951 American car, 8-valve, 160 horse-power, 5 litre engine – so it drives perfect. It takes a lot of petrol but it's comfortable.

Zygfryd Jacyno, is visiting Bialystok on the way, just like the others. It is the first stop on the route which is over 4.000 km long. The next ones are Kovno, Klaiped, Vilnius, Olita. The ultimate aim is Riga – but it's not the only aim.

Jerzy Kossowski

We arrange tourist rallies – so to say. At the same time they consolidate groups we meet on the way. Just like here – the Bialystok group, which helps us a lot with organising this leg of the rally.



This is the twelfth international old cars rally. Every few years Bialystok is on its way. Last time the route was passing through it was in 1995. Podlasie lovers of old cars hope that they won't have to wait for another nine years for the next such an event.

Zofia Stasiukiewicz-Turel

The Car Club is expanding, incorporating now members from all those Baltic States across the Eastern border. Bialystok is meant to become a kind of a centre for Eastern-Western contacts.

That's how the idea of a route from Warsaw to Riga sprouted. But it's not only the length of the route that's impressive. The list of participants is equally long. 40 teams have enrolled this year.

Jerzy Kossowski

We are usually an international group, at least during the large summer events. This year we're hosting participants from the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany and, obviously, Polish local teams.

Such events are a chance for old cars lovers to exchange their knowledge and experience. Until recently Svend Hansen from Denmark thought of Warszawa (Warsaw) just in terms of the Polish capital city. At the rally he learnt the other meaning of this word – Warszawa is an old make of a car.

Svend Hansen

It is a beautiful automobile. It's old but it's been superbly renovated. I'm quite surprised that it looks and drives so good.

Polish participants aren't that much impressed with Warszawa. They are more attracted by Western-European and American gems of automobile technology: Oldsmobile, Cadillac, Gensen, Jaguar, Land-Rover.

Although most of them are 40-60 years old, they are still in good condition. They've got reliable engines and something else – something that modern cars lack.



Czesław Slowikowski

These automobiles have their own soul. They attract the eye. People always turn around to take a second look.

In the 4-wheeled world these cars are vets. But also among the drivers there are veterans. Thomas Petersen from Denmark is one of them. For ten years now he's been enrolling to rallies organised by the Polish branch of the international Caar Club.

Thomas Petersen

The atmosphere is gorgeous here. People are very nice. I have a good time.

His Jaguar is not so fast any longer, but it hasn't lost any charm and class. XK 140 cabriolet is a true rarity. But here he has worthy contestants – like this Dodge. It's the eldest automobile at this rally. It was made in 1928. But time has left hardly any mark on it.

Such a 4-wheeled museum is remarkable. Presentation on the town streets was the last point on the agenda of the 12th International Old Cars Rally *Via Baltica 2004* in Białystok.