

Vladimir Slopak In The Pioneer Camp



This is me in the pioneer camp for the children of cultural workers. I am in the 2nd row, the 6th on the left. The photo was made in Odessa in 1946. We were photographed at the end of our summer vacations.

The pioneer camp was located in the resort area in Odessa. I spent my summer vacations in this pioneer camp three times. My mother received a voucher for me to go there for several years in a row. We had good meals there and went swimming. We played a lot and I had many friends. All of us there were fond of sports - football, hiking and Ping-Pong.

I studied in a Russian secondary school. I have very warm memories of this period. There were quite a few Jewish children in my class. We were all friends. We spoke Russian, but we often used Yiddish words. There was no anti-Semitism at school at that time. Perhaps, it was so because most of the teachers were Jews. Boris Lvovich, our maths teacher, was a very kind and considerate man. He was a very good teacher. Our teacher of Russian literature taught us to love Russian classic literature and read Russian classics. Our teacher of history was also a Jew. He was a very decent man. My favorite subject was Ukrainian. My mother worked at the Ukrainian theater and I often went to their performances. I was good at Ukrainian, as well as geography, history and literature.