



# REFRIGERATION REVIEW

## **Travels Through the Ukraine and Moldova**

In 2002, I had the good fortune of doing a series of lectures in the Ukraine and Moldova on refrigeration and refrigerated facilities, for whom the intended audience was potential refrigerated warehouse operators and owners, and technical people that were involved in the design of refrigeration systems and refrigerated facilities. Originally, I was going to make the trip with Ray Biggars who then was head of Atlas Cold Storage, but Ray got sidelined by an injury with a hockey team he was playing with and couldn't make the trip. I solicited the help of Sam Bowden, who was head of Arkansas Refrigerated Services at that time, for whom we had built refrigerated facilities and freezing systems in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

As a result of our trip, Sam ended up marrying an assistant of one of the professors touring with us – Anna was her name – and she ended up coming to the United States when Sam returned to Moldova and asked her to marry him. As far as I know they lived happily until Sam passed away a few years later. I have always wondered what happened to Anna.

I traditionally keep a daily log (diary) which is written fairly cryptically, and I abbreviate names for the long Russian names, which hopefully you will find interesting. I left out one escapade that Sam and I experienced at a night club-converted warehouse where most anything could happen unexpectedly – dancing and all the music (i.e., disco) in smoke-laden rooms, which, in private I will tell you later what we missed because we left early. But, here is my experience, hopefully you will find some parts interesting.

**9/15/02** Up at 8:30, breakfast in hotel ate light. Anna and Prof Sound, Mr. Mayor met us at hotel. We walked the city, the buildings were great, Port, etc. Did a big circle; most of what we saw ~ 100 years old statues, office building, engineer's house. Odessa has 3 institutes, Pasteur studied here, back to hotel then off to Blvd.; had lunch at McDonalds – very busy. Saw an outside market, bought three little things- back to hotel. Picked up by Anna and Sasha, off to see Dr Head; Dr Sound outside building waiting for us. Up to office, Mr. Fish and son were waiting with Dr Head. He (Head) explained their goals with HACCP, etc., then Mr. Fish discussed his desire to have partners and help in construction. Good meeting walked back to hotel thru park; Anna left us in Park; had outside beer then hotel beer in room and off the old hotel watched tables, with beer then next door to music and good food, walked back to hotel.

**9/16/02** Breakfast at hotel, Anna picked us up, went Dr Head office and had lengthy discussion about possible funding of translating publication and research on Fruits and vegetables especially review. We told him our involvement was technical support and that we would be glad to pass this on to WFLO. Discussed their place in the world trade market. I gave Dr. Head a copy of my book signed and later in the meeting he gave Sam and me each a signed book. As the meeting broke up, we were told we could see the Port Facility at noon in lieu of 2:00 PM. Dr Sound, Boris, Anna, Mr. Mayor went to Port. After forever to clear security, we were in, and met up with Mr. Mgr., and Mr. Refrigeration. Toured the new fifth floor which was not on and is for cooler. Then to Mr Mgr office for talk and questions then he asked if we would like to see the machine room and compressor and condenser cooled with sea water, etc. Then back to Institute to try projector out. It would not sync with my computer and I could not remember the right keys. We took it to hotel with us and called Walter and got it in sync then worked past midnight reviewing slides and setting up Sam a PowerPoint 20-minute show. To sleep.

**9/17/02** Sam was up and at it as usual, down to breakfast, Waitress brought us two orders of scrambled, I am not doing any better. Ate the eggs anyway. Anna right on time, to meeting room, setting up, it was obvious a CO<sub>2</sub> lady had been added to the program, that was OK. Sam and I were only on for 20 minutes that day anyway. Head of school made some remarks, Boris sat by me to translate and Anna was translating for Sam. Lady CO<sub>2</sub> talked and Dr *Mirco* gave a talk, Sam did his 20 min PowerPoint we put together the night before and it went very well. Showed his operation. And I did a brief overview of what tomorrow's talk would be about. I had told Boris I would like to attend his class at 1:00PM so after some red Boris soup, He asked Max a third(?) year student to bring me in. The whole 80+ stood up (They must do that for the teacher) Boris told them to sit down. So much the same, gas law constant, etc,

he started the class on conversion tables (English/metric). He told me later that he kept on common ground with equation so I would know what he was talking about. At the end of the class I asked permission to take picture and give the class a short quiz. ( $-40C = ? F$ ) When we told them the answer, they all applauded. They will never forget. Off to find Sam and Anna who were in Dr. Head's office. After reviewing the technical talks for the afternoon, Sam and I decided to go prepare for the next day. Back to hotel. We (I, but Sam was willing to go with me) decided to see if we could find an Apple computer store so I could get the programs I wanted to leave them out of the Mac file so a PC could see them and I could give them to Anna for distribution. Well off we went down a few blocks, etc, per the desk folks. Well 20 blocks later after a very helpful German and a phone saleslady and Sam's sharp eyes we found a computer land but not Macs. We tried to get taxis back but too few, so we walked and walked after getting back as far as the Irish Pub we collapsed with beer and regrouped. And decided to get a taxi to find the mac place for which the computer guys had given us directions. The Irish pub called a cab and away we went after a beer or two and watching the girls go by. We found the streets on the map but no Apple store; as we were looking, we ran across Anna and Dr. Sound. She helped as best she could but no store. In the process we later think Sam lost his cell phone getting in and out of the taxi while he was paying driver. Back to Hotel, walked through park and to decide on dinner. Off to the boardwalk first a beer or two to drown our sorrow and reshuffle our priorities. Either on the first or second beer the light came on, why not email the excel programs to Max? Sitting on the boardwalk watching and listening, I called my office and had Walter e-mail Max and Valentina the programs. Of course, Sam would ask why I had not thought of that before the brick trek which got to my tennis foot a little. Did our little bit of liquid shopping back to hotel and then to a Ukraine restaurant we had talked about. After getting seated inside it was getting cool and dark outside, we had a perfect spot. About the time we got to the hotel Sam realized his phone was missing. Off to the rooms to turn them upside down and to the desk for their help, called Pub, etc; no luck, will check tomorrow. Retraced our path and was ready for night. Knew we missed the girls (Barbara & Janice).

**9/18/02** Big day. The Bowden Bonar road show, and we were ready. Sam called at about 8:00 AM and down to breakfast and it was that, for that is what happened to the eggs (maybe on the floor?). Remembered to leave our keys. Anna and Sasha picked us up at 9:45 AM (not 9:46 or 9:44 ). Well will the projector work? Into a different room, class where registration had been. Someone had cords (thank goodness for 220 volt or these cords would have fried), after having to take the projector into the other room (where we had to plug in), we found which cord was not working and we were up and running. I changed the order of subjects to be sure Lady Moscow stayed for the afternoon session. Started with **Compressor Types** then **Power Savings**, right on cue Lady Moscow asked about cryogenic

CO<sub>2</sub> and I told her it would in the afternoon. She needed what we had to say and later said so. Great questions and discussions, Dr. *Boris* was great, nice having a thermodynamic translator. Sam would pop up on cue, with more or less whatever the situation called for in the way of “this is how the real world operates.” A great blend of technical and operating war stories and information. Saw Max at lunch and he had received the four engineering programs my office had emailed to him the day before. He said he would send me some. Good discussions at break, about the drawings I had brought and put up on the walls. Some could speak English a little, but you hardly had to know the language in talking about the drawings. Off to the cafeteria for lunch. Boris soup only green Boris – very good. Only soup, got to work on a little weight. Afternoon rolled very well got past the dry parts (safety, environment, technical, etc.), but they even asked questions then and Sam popped up and down keeping them spell bound. Next to last **Cryogenics** and the slush machine with cascade ammonia and CO<sub>2</sub>. Thanks to EP they were spell bound, and many good questions. Then **Air Distribution** and **Facilities**, finishing **exactly** on time. Gave one of the drawings to General Refrig so he could make copies for ours. They had us a banquet set up in the cafeteria. So, we walked outside down there. They were already seated by the time I washed my hands. They had put all the tables together and set it up with the finery a cafeteria can offer, including three glasses for drink. With one of the only seats on the end left near Lady Moscow opposite end of Sam, Anna, and Boris. Gen Refrig set down between Lady Moscow at the side end which worked out well because he could speak some English. Let the toasts begin! Gen *Refrig* first with many to follow. I gave my “May the best...”, they loved it. Sam gave one and Lady Moscow giving two or three. Some with lots of gusto and standing. And the wine keeps flowing; when we ran out of red, we started on white. I gave one more to thank them for their hospitality and compare them to Florida, except to say they have more to work with (land, etc.), and took a chance on the thousands of beautiful women, which I learned later, if you don’t they can cut off your tie (friendly). Then drive to hotel and one nightcap and off to sand man.

**9/19/02** Up at 8:30, down to breakfast, could not believe I beat Sam down. Went back to desk and called him to make sure he was there. Actually, got my two eggs over easy. Had time after we finished to call a taxi and go to closest beach. Got the girl at the desk to write instructions for cabby so he would know what to do. Good reader and driver, got to the beach, Sam got to smell salt air of the Black Sea, took pictures and back to hotel before Anna’s pick up. Street in front of hotel had been closed because of the Ukraine/Romanian President visit, so when Sasha got there we and the bellman had to carry bags down to the next block where the car was parked. (Street was spanking clean including the two beers bottles that had fallen out two days before.) Off to the institute, met up with Dr. *Sound* and Anna, then into meeting, which was a formulative meeting of the Ukraine refrigerated industry. Mr. *Mayor* was one of

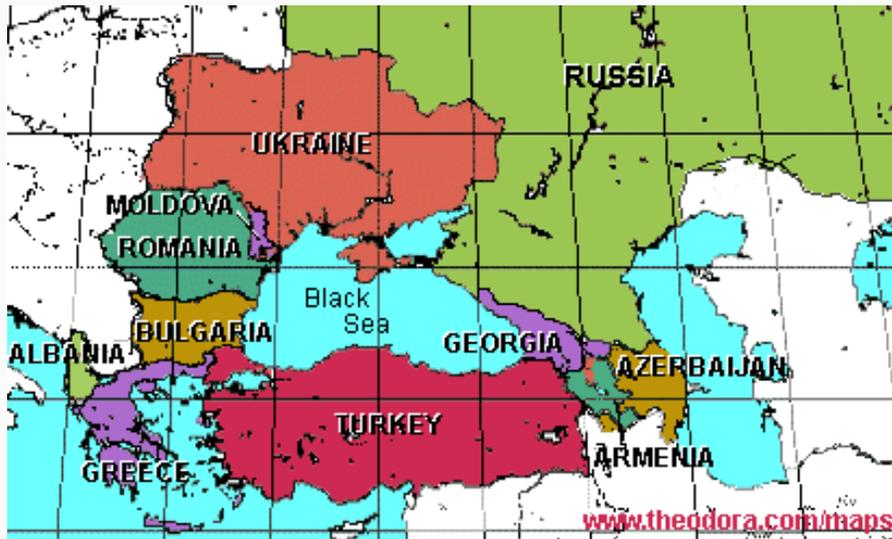
two conducting the meeting in the nice classroom atmosphere of the room we had been in the day before. Before we left the meeting Sam and I were asked to say a few words. I told them this must have been how it sounded when the Declaration of Independence of the US of A was being written, got laughs and applause. Then off to the cafeteria for coffee and tea while Dr *Sound* finished up a few things. Then off to the Ford Explorer and jockeying for the middle seat. I lost with Sam's knee verses my foot. Sandwich time for me in the middle of the back. I couldn't talk Anna into letting Sam ride in front (joke). Of course, we wanted Dr. *Sound* in the front. (He must work for Anna's father – joke). Then off to the races. The landscape looked beautiful even at 140 km/hr. Sam and I finally found our seat belts. One pit stop for a hole in the floor (no wonder they are so athletic and slim) little conversation, too much wind noise, one good round of re-living last nights "party", with the inflected "Let us be" toast by Dr *Sound*. When my office called, I flexed too quickly and those tennis muscles started to pull. I was bound and determined not to stop even if I had to put my leg up front between the seats, 30 min later I got it worked out. Anna kept wanting to know if we wanted to stop and eat, I assured her we wanted to get to Delta for Sam, or I would be in the "dog-house" (for wanting to go by the meeting). I kept getting out the crackers, and dried fruit. Sasha poured it on. Slowed quickly for several check point Charlies but was lucky or just good (the latter I am convinced). We got to Kiev and then the go-cart race began as we would anticipate the light and drive down the wrong side of the street to make left turns, Sasha knew every back street in Kiev, thank goodness, Anna had their office call to tell them we were coming. We got there with 2 minutes to spare - Sam got his upgrade and we got confirmed together for the long segment and I got some addresses for post cards per wondrous cell, which I was able to mail. Then off to the hotel and goodnight to Anna. To room to finish a few more post cards then beer with Sam in bar. Peanuts and two about did it, got an English "chap" as he was leaving to advise place to eat since we had only one night. Concord it was, now how to find it. Between bar maid and map, I went total opposite direction. Sam was a good sport about it and didn't kid me too much, however we got a good glimpse of the city and the "under ground" city, including a picture of Lenin's statue and some of the well done "main street", putting our main streets on a scale of 2 to their 9. Walked all the way back to what we (I) thought was the right place, after looking around and asking 5 no talk'em English, a cabby told us which building and three doors later thru the metal detector and up the elevator to the eighth floor. The same mystic, non-descript outside and Hollywood and beautiful everything, including more of those tall beautiful 4" high heel slim ladies inside. The meal was out of this world, Sam's sugar glazed tuna and my fried pork something to behold (best dinner I have ever had, except Barbara's and my mom's). We were tired and Sam's knee hurt a little, walked back any way and straight to bed with another of those soft top sheets.

**9/20/02** Woke at 4:00 AM and packed what little was not already packed from the day before. Down to first floor to check out; counter lady with broken English tried to “induce” me to pay cash. Sent me to room across aisle to the American Express lady who could not get the card to work, and finally put in the numbers and processed the robbery (added charge for the credit payment). Sam’s bags were down so I knew he was coming, so I would get to watch him go thru the same calisthenics. That he did, pi\*\*ing and moaning about the charge. Out the door and there was Anna and Alex right on time. Long drive to Airport (30 min) which left one to wonder whether enough time was allowed. That anxiety soon disappeared after we pass thru check point Charlie and Anna had us thru security into the VIP waiting area with coffee and tea in hand, and the passport and paperwork being handled by others. Sam gave Alex one of his knives and a calculator. While in the middle of our last “business” discussion with Anna about “bio-chemistry” and relative merits of additives and sanitary wrapping for food products (even carcass meat), Barbara called to check on us and say hi. Sam thanked her again for the revised schedule and we had to break off to handle more paperwork. Thru customs and back to tell Anna goodbye, then to the van and the sun rise across the tarmac as we get chaperoned to the gate and the head of the line to board. I hope we were not supposed to tip the VIP people. On plane and settled in across aisle from each other. Sleep, eat, and read and watch little children in front and back. Amsterdam here we come (30 min late taking off). Got real milk shake in Amsterdam. Got to gate late, swapped seat so we were together since they had released our seat on the last leg. Put my tie in the wrong blazer, luckily the guy looked and asked where it came from in Atlanta. Thru security, Sam went other way; met him at his gate, one last bent elbow in Crown Room and bye. Babo met me in J-ville. Home.

It is well to note that, in my opinion, Moldova has the best cognac in the world, and we have a picture below of a winery we visited.



Hank Bonar at the port in Odessa.





Lunch with Sam Bowden.



Winery making the BEST cognac.



Breakfast at the hotel with Sam and Prof. Sound.



Port of Odessa, looking down the 200 Potemkin stairs.



Port of Odessa.



Sam in the refrigerated warehouse.



Exterior of the refrigerated warehouse.



Machinery room.



Classroom at the Institute.



Hank doing one of his lectures in Moldova.



Bathroom in Odessa with glass floors and walls.



Sam at the Black Sea.



Sam and Anna.



Grocery Store.



How they sell meat products in Eastern Europe.