



Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc.

LA GRANGE, TEXAS

NÁŠ ČESKÝ ŽIVOT

"OUR CZECH LIFE"

(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

FALL 2020

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 3

ELEVENTH ANNUAL GALA HONORED ELLINGER COMBO, LARRY SODEK, D.J., AND HAROLD STRAND ORCHESTRA



Top Left to Right: Spencer Schneider, Larry Sodek and Bennie Trlicek - members of the Ellinger Combo

Right: The Harold Strand Orchestra. Pictured are Donna Strand Fuege, Harold Strand and Gordon Strand.

The Annual Gala was held on December 5, 2020 in the Pavilion Hall in La Grange, Texas. The evening included a catered dinner, presentations of the honorees, a silent auction and a raffle drawing.

This year's honorees were the Ellinger Combo, Larry Sodek, D. J. and the Harold Strand Orchestra.



Náš Český Život "Our Czech Life"

TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

250 W. Fairgrounds Road/P. O. Box 6

La Grange, Texas 78945-0006

(979) 968-9399 Toll Free (888) 785-4500

FAX (979) 968-9249

Web Page: www.czechtexas.org

E-mail: info@czechtexas.org

TCHCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Retta Slavik Chandler, Chairman

J. G. Hrnčíř

Barbara Stratton Hruby

William H. Schovajsa

Walter Stoeber

Clarice Marik Snokhous

Dennis Vanek

Brian Vanicek

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Richard G. Cernosek

Elo Goerig

Daniel Marek

William Melnar

OFFICERS

President Retta Slavik Chandler

Vice President William H. Schovajsa

Secretary Barbara Stratton Hruby

Treasurer J. G. Hrnčíř

STAFF

Mark Hermes, Manager

Cathleen Noska, Membership/Memorials

Georgia Vyvial, Food Services

Lorenda Polasek, Gift Shop

Newsletter Policy: The purpose of Náš Český Život is to disseminate news of the development and activities of the center, as well as to publish material on the history, culture, and accomplishments of Texas Czechs. Náš Český Život does not involve itself in matters of a political nature.

Newsletter Address: All articles, photographs, advertising and correspondence should be directed to Retta Chandler or Janis Hrnčíř, co-editors, P. O. Box 6, La Grange, Texas 78945 (979) 968-9399.

Articles: Anyone may submit articles, which will be accepted for inclusion as space permits and subject to review and editing as necessary. All articles must be typewritten. The publication is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material not submitted with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Ads: Contact the co-editors regarding advertising. Advertising Rates: We will accept limited advertising-only standard business card size (3 1/2" X 2") - \$20.00 per issue; Send camera-ready business cards to co-editors.

The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc. does not endorse or guarantee the products or services that are advertised in this publication.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. is to provide a central facility for the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture and heritage of individuals of Czech ethnicity who can trace their ancestry to the Czechs who immigrated from the present day Czech Republic or former Austria-Hungary (including Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Silesia), to honor those immigrants, and to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes.

The goals of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. are:

To educate the public about the past and present contributions and status of persons of Czech descent

To encourage the study and preservation of the Czech language, fine arts, music and dance

To provide for the preservation and exhibition of artifacts that are historically significant to the Czech people of Texas

To provide a library and archives for the collection and preservation of books, newspapers, periodicals, family histories, research material, photographs and all printed data of historical significance to the Czech people of Texas

To provide adequate space for gatherings, meetings and educational activities for the benefit of the Czech people of Texas

To encourage and promote a cultural exchange program between the Czech people of Texas and the citizens of the Czech Republic

To provide the public with updated information regarding Czech-related activities and historical sites in Texas, the United States and abroad.

You are invited to continue receiving the newsletter Náš Český Život and an annual calendar by sending in your ANNUAL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP. This journal will only be sent to members. Support your Center — JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.

FOLLOW US ON

Facebook: [Texas-Czech-Heritage-and-Cultural-Center](https://www.facebook.com/Texas-Czech-Heritage-and-Cultural-Center),

Twitter @TexasCzechHCC

and Instagram @czech.texas.lagrange

We are currently taking 2021 memberships and donations online.



**FLAG SPONSORSHIP
AVAILABLE**

President's Letter

January 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

Many thanks to all of you for your support this past year when we had to cancel many scheduled events, meetings, and tours due to Covid-19. We appreciate your generous contributions that made it possible for us to stay open for those who came to the gift shop or researched family histories. We stayed open to the public from Tuesday through Friday from 10 AM -4 PM and Saturday from 10AM -3 PM.

Contributions for the Archival Storage Building have reached Phase I so we have accepted the bid for construction and will start very soon. We are looking forward to the completion of the Archival Storage Building when we can safely store the numerous artifacts that have been donated. Also, additional contributions for the General Store and Frank's Place & the Blacksmith Shop are steadily increasing. Thank you for your continued support.

Our visitor count was down, but small family groups took advantage of the Czech Village for a leisurely tour of the buildings. With some modifications to observe safety guidelines, the October Festival and the TCHCC Gala to honor musicians were held as scheduled. The festival was scaled back to only one day; it was held outside. Including the fireworks, it was live streamed for the public.

Since vaccinations have started, we are booking a few events for the rest of the year with expectations that the worst of the pandemic is past us. However, we will adhere to safety guidelines as they are recommended.

We look forward to seeing you at our coming events. Thank you again for your generosity.



*TCHCC President
Retta Slavik Chandler*

With Best Wishes,
Retta Slavik Chandler

Texas Polka News

POLKA ★ COUNTRY ★ WESTERN SWING ★ CAJUN



Subscribe Today!

Monthly, full-color publication offers band/musician features, music event, calendar, festival/church picnic coverage, Texas music history & more!

Learn more at TexasPolkaNews.com.

Mail this form and \$25 to Texas Polka News, P.O. Box 6, La Grange, TX 78945
or subscribe online at TexasPolkaNews.com

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Ph _____ Email _____

New Renewal Gift Address change (please include old address)

A product of the Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center

Marguerite R. Hagens
August 14, 1923/October 15, 2020

We are saddened to report that our friend Mickey Bucek Rice Hagens, passed away on October 15, 2020. We all remember her as a happy person who loved her family and friends. Where Mickey was present, there was laughter and joy. She was extremely proud of and was a tireless supporter of her Czech heritage. She made many donations to TCHCC and the family of her grandparents, Joseph and Sophie Loika Schwartz, were major contributors to the Nase Domov Museum at TCHCC.

“Mickey” was born on August 14, 1923 to parents Roy Bucek and Oillie Schwartz. Funeral services were held on Sunday, October 24, 2020 on 10:30 am from the Swiss Alp Evangelical Lutheran Church in Swiss Alp, Texas. She is interred in the Schulenburg City Cemetery, Schulenburg, Fayette County, Texas. Survivors include: daughters Joan (Mrs. Allen) Dodson of Weatherford; Connie Ames (Mrs. Woody) Halpin of Houston; sister - Joyce Mardis of Lake Jackson; 3 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands Harry Rice and George Hagens, 2 sisters and 3 brothers.

Pictured right are George and Mickey Hagens. Mickey is modeling her kroje made by renown Houston seamstress Frances Olexa.



Hattie and John Drozd dancing in their traditional Wallachian Kroje.

March 12, 1929/January 1, 2021

Hattie Peter Drozd of New Taiton, passed away January 1, 2021, at the age of 91. She was born on March 12, 1929 in Hillje to Dorothea Hoffman and Peter. After graduating from El Campo High School, Hattie worked for Dr. John Halamicek. She and John F. Drozd, Jr. married April 21, 1953. Over their 59 years of marriage, they had six children and were co-owners of Floral Gardens. Hattie balanced raising a busy family and managing the greenhouse in Taiton. She took on the managing role of Floral Gardens when her husband John was elected as Wharton County Commissioner. Later, the two of them operated the floral business together until their retirement.

Hattie was active with the KJZT, organizing a large junior group of of Ceska Beseda dancers and singers who performed all over Texas, including the 1968 World’s Fair in San Antonio. She was dedicated to her affiliation with the Catholic Daughters and the Taiton Altar Society. In her retirement years, Hattie was a devoted member of the Czech Heritage Society where she and John were honored with the State Society’s Heritage Award for their contributions to Texas Czech Culture. She was honored again by the society individually for her contributions. Hattie’s passion for sharing the Czech heritage was passed on to her children and grandchildren, who frequently requested her lessons on making strudels, perniky, klobasniky, and kolache.

Hattie is survived by her children, Karen Wright and husband Craig of Rosenberg, Lenice Blair and husband Peter of Southlake, John A. Drozd and wife Jeri of Midland, Carl Drozd and wife Elizabeth of Richmond and Janet Foltyn and husband Jason of Houston; grandchildren ,Stephanie Williams and husband Kevin, Jennifer Scholes and husband Matthew, Lauren Wright, Wayne Blair, Kristen Guerrero, Hunter Drozd, Cora Drozd, and Jared, Jonathon, and Jack Foltyn; and great-grandchildren, Luke and Logan Williams, Cadence, Ethan, and Catherine Scholes and Aaron and Eli Guerrero.

Hattie was preceded in death by her parents; her spouse, John Drozd; son, Wayne Drozd; sister, Alma Waligura, and brothers, Victor and Leon Peter.

Funeral Mass was held Friday, Jan.8, 2021 at St. John Catholic Church with Rev. Gabriel Oduro Tawiah officiating. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Memorial Park. Pallbearers are Peter Blair, Jason Foltyn, Matthew Scholes, Charles Waligura, Kevin Williams and Craig Wright.

HERITAGE FEST 2020

THE ANNUAL HERITAGE FEST WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 17 ON THE GROUNDS OF TCHCC. The day included outdoor demonstrations, exhibits and food booths. The Dujka Brothers performed on the deck in the evening and the day culminated with the H-E-B sponsored Fireworks Display. The activities were adjusted for social distancing and the Fest was altered to a one-day event.





HERITAGE FEST 2020





Photos by Gary McKee

Music on the Deck was provided by The Dujka Brothers.



THANK YOU H-E-B FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP OF THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY

11th Annual TCHCC Gala

The Gala was held in the Pavilion Hall on the Fayette County Fairgrounds on December 5, 2020. This year's honorees were the Ellinger Combo, Larry Sodek, DJ, and Harold Strand Orchestra. The evening included an open bar, catered meal, a silent auction, and presentations to the honorees which included musical salutes to their musical talents.

In addition, (pictured right) Harold Strand donated his Americanized Vest to TCHCC that was hand made by Helen Trojacek.



GALA RAFFLE WINNERS: #1 \$1500 Certificate: Dolly Hellinger - Flatonia. #2 \$1000 Certificate: Janice Marek - Sugar Land. #3 \$500 Certificate: Bishop John Yanta, Emeritus - San Antonio. #4 Certified Czech Garnet Jewelry Item: Margie Janda - La Grange. #5 Certified Czech Crystal Item: Nancy Farek - Flatonia.



The Ellinger Combo – Here We Come!

By Gary McKee

Ellinger, Texas is a small community in eastern Fayette County near the railroad where early Czech settlers got off the train to start a new life in Central Texas. Among other things Czech it is the hometown of the Ellinger Combo. The name implies the sound of a jazz group playing in a cocktail lounge, but the band is far from that. To define the group, here is an abridged version of the liner notes from the Ellinger Combo's very first album *From Ellinger With Love* which was produced and recorded at the Ray Doggett Sound Studio in 1968.

“This fine band with the unusual name, but the smooth dance music, has won many fans with their unique style of playing.”

“Although the Ellinger Combo [EC] is small in number, it is large in musical ability and spirit. This is due to the six very talented musicians who combine to perform all types of music; from snappy polkas and waltzes, to mellow modern music, to a bouncy bossa nova.”

“The leader of the EC is Henry Adamek, from Ellinger, [who] plays saxophone, and is the band's manager and chauffeur. Danny [Denny] Marek is the newest member of the band. Danny is a triple threat, he plays trumpet, saxophone, and does many English and German vocals. The flash from Fayetteville is Larry Sodek. Larry plays trumpet and bass guitar and has won much acclaim for his Czech vocals. Ludwig Krause, known to many as the “big L” hails from Giddings with a unique style of playing the accordion is the product of a lifelong interest in that instrument. Bennie Trlicek, from Ellinger, puts the drive in the rhythm section as he plays bass guitar, rhythm guitar, and lead guitar [along] with many of the western vocals. Filling out the rhythm section and arranging some songs, is the big drummer, Dale Meyer, who hails from Columbus.”

The Ellinger Combo was the brainchild of Henry Adamek and Ralph Wavra, both mechanics at a car dealership in Columbus. It was kind of a “hey, we both like music, let's start up a band” beginning. They began assembling the band, practicing at a private residence with Ignatz Zaskoda, an old time musician, guiding them through their rehearsals. The EC was quite literally a new band meaning none of them had ever played as a full-time member of a previous band. Their very first performance was at the Ellinger Picnic.

When Denny, who was several years older, and joined the band a week after Larry, laid his eyes on Larry, he thought “that guy is as skinny as a broomstick, he couldn't hold enough air to blow that trumpet”. Larry quickly proved him wrong and they have been best of friends since then. Denny, from Industry, is a quiet spoken man who expressed himself through his work with the saxophone, trumpet, and Czech vocals. Zaskoda, an old-time musician, guided them through their rehearsals. The EC was quite literally a new band meaning none of them had ever played as a full-time member of a previous band. Their very first performance was at the Ellinger Picnic. Overall, for a first-time public performance AND in front of their friends and family (no pressure there), things worked out well. They realized they had what it takes and began accepting bookings in the area. Unfortunately, Ralph had to drop out due to health reasons. One of their early dances was a double dance in 1967 at East Bernard's Riverside Hall alongside the Joe Patek Orchestra. After two years finding their groove the Combo headed to Ray Doggett's recording studios to cut their first record, *From Ellinger With Love*. This was very exciting, particularly for Larry as he was still in high school. Once in the studio under Doggett's direction things were not quite the same as practicing at home or playing a wedding. Doggett ran a tight ship, and the musicians had to get used to being stopped while playing a song and to start over, but they got used to it and went in the studio three more times.

The wide range of styles on their first LP reflects EC testing the musical tastes of their audience. A sure winner was the first cut: *In Heaven There is No Beer Polka* with vocal by Denny in both English and Czech. The twelve-song album has six songs that are polkas and waltzes, with a little country (*Ring of Fire*) and an old standard (*When My Blue Moon Turns to Gold Again*). The standout song is unique in that the EC is probably the only polka band who has recorded the Latin flavored song *Blame it on the Bossa Nova* (even *Brave Combo* hasn't covered it). At that time, it was a popular hit song.

The secret to the Combos success is that when they play a polka, they play a straight polka, and when they play a country song, it is pure country. No countryfried polka and no polkafried country, they played the real deal. Three guys have hung in there through several personnel changes over the years.

Larry Sodek, was fascinated by the trumpet in his early teens and joined the band in Fayetteville School. He never could learn to read sheet music, it just naturally came to him. The band director once caught him playing quite well, however the sheet music was upside down. Larry's abilities were noticed and he joined Lee Roy Matocha's orchestra. When the Combo was being formed, he was invited to try out. He passed the test. Over the years Larry's outgoing stage personality has secured both the EC and later The Central Texas Sounds many die-hard fans. Larry greets many friends and welcomes newcomers from the stage, both during and in between songs making them feel part of the show. Watching him perform, brings to mind stories of how Adolph Hofner used to work the crowd and a kind of Czech version of Bob Wills encouraging his musicians, not that they needed it.

Spencer Schneider, from the Giddings area, had been a serious country and western drummer for years, but decided to give it up and sell his drum set. On his day job, his co-worker who happened to be Ludwig, EC's accordionist, asked him if he wanted to audition as they were in the market for a drummer. The lure of playing music worked its way with the retired drummer and he said sure. There was only one problem, no drums, so borrowed his old drum set back from the guy who bought his drums. EC took off that weekend for a short gig at Lodge 88 in Houston to play with several other bands. This sounds all fine and dandy, except Spencer had never played any polka music in his life or even heard most of the song selections! Apparently, he did okay, for on the way back most of the band said he did fine and it was okay with them if he joined. Henry Adamek, the manager, said "Hold On, he only played for two hours, not the usual four hour gig, let's see if he can hold up for that long." Spencer passed the test and became a full-fledged Ellinger Combo musician and began his education in Czech, German, and polka music. He also bought back his drum set. The Combo always let the public know who they were as they purchased a 1968 yellow Dodge school bus to travel to gigs in. Local Fayetteville artist, Pat Johnson, painted Ellinger Combo in cursive along the sides of the bus, and across the front of the bus in big black letters: HERE WE COME, and across the back of the bus, THERE WE GO. Many a fan had their photo taken with the bus. The Ellinger Combo bus was on the road every weekend playing Central Texas from Cyclone Hall to Lodge 88, to New Braunfels' Eagle's Lodge and was a favorite in Elgin as well as home halls in Fayette County.

As with all bands, several other area musicians have been members of the Combo when Henry Adamek retired from playing and since he was the only one from Ellinger, the band renamed and restaffed itself as The Central Texas Sounds which continued playing the beautiful music until 2017.

LARRY SODEK

Larry Sodek, Polka DJ

By Gary McKee

When famed disc jockey, musician, and polka promoter Lee Roy Matocha passed away in 2003, it left a big polka hole within the Fayette County radio broadcast area. Within several weeks of Matocha's passing, Larry Sodek stepped up to plug the hole. Lee Roy had been doing a polka music show for over four decades and many radios got switched to La Grange's KVLG-AM when his show came on. Larry Sodek, a member of the Lee Roy Matocha Orchestra, a founding member of the Ellinger Combo, and leader of the Central Texas Sounds has been raised on the Czech language and music in Matocha's hometown, Fayetteville. Larry's extensive record and CD collection and later access to Matocha's music and equipment enabled his show, Polka Party, to follow the successful format of playing Czech and German records. His introduction in Czech and pronunciation of the song titles enforced the authenticity to the new listeners and warranted appreciation from those who still understood their native tongue. The Polka Party show is recorded in his home studio just prior to his thrice weekly broadcast. Larry's theme song is the Hill and Dale Polka and his personal favorite song to share with listeners is Beautiful America, both the Adolph Hofner and Vrazel Polka Band versions. Thanks to Larry Sodek that music that defined Fayette and surrounding areas is still bringing new fans to the polka world and satisfying old fans.

Harold Strand Orchestra

By Gary McKee

Harold Strand immigrated to Texas at the request of the federal government and never left. Harold, a Minnesota native, had joined the Air Force after high school and was quickly relocated to the sunny south of Waco, Texas in 1953. Growing up in a small Minnesota town, there were only Scandinavian and German/Czech families about. He, of Norwegian heritage, was amazed at the many different cultures that Texas held.

Harold's parents played music (violin & fiddle) at house parties in rural 1930s and 40s Minnesota. At the age of fourteen (1947), his father brought home a raggedy accordion for Harold to learn to make music on. In the 1950's, the accordion was the electric guitar of the time, accordions were heard on the pop charts and in every music style. So, after a few lessons in Austin, Minnesota and a lot of self-teaching, Harold and some high school buddies formed The Hungry Five. They began playing school dances and talent shows winning most of them. He, by then, had purchased a better accordion. The band peaked with a performance on a WCCO Radio radio talent that broadcast from Minneapolis, Minnesota. The radio show was sponsored by Gold Medal Flour and its powerful transmitters sent its signal over all the Midwest United States.

After graduation, Harold and his accordion joined the Air Force and was stationed in Waco, Texas. He began playing solo for tips in the Waco area beer joints and clubs. Harold remembers that there was no-one more generous than a drunk. His first real dance gig was in 1953 at the Ross SPJST, near West, where he met a lively mixture of Czech and German folks which made him feel at home. The manager, Ben Roy Kudelka, hired Harold and his accordion, Norman Sulak on tuba, and D.D. Taylor on drums with Norman Barnes guitar backing them up. Gaining experience, Harold joined Henry Matus' The West Melodians in late 1958, playing waltzes, polkas, and a variety of dance music. Getting closer to the polka world, he joined Urby and the Czechmates (led by Bernard Urbanovsky) who played the Waco area including Linden Hall in Elm Mott and the Reisel Fair.

By 1968, Harold had formed his own band, Harold Strand and the Little Fishermen. On bass was Rudolph Matus; Harry Zahirniak, drums; Charlie Nemecek blowing the trumpet, and on weekends Prentiss Jeffries on saxophone; and Dan Matus on banjo sat in. Their first gig was "Toby's Place" in West. Later in the year, Harold took the Fishermen into the studio and cut an album using Dan Matus on English vocals and Ray Orsag sang the Czech songs. After several successful years with Harold doing the musical arrangements and playing the Ennis-West-Dallas circuit, Harold dropped the Little Fishermen name as the band grew into a seven-piece orchestra, The Harold Strand Orchestra, who played Ernie Kucera style Czech.

In 1983, The Harold Strand Orchestra enlarged into a ten-piece orchestra that enabled Harold to play any venue from polka festivals such as Ennis and West (he's never missed one), to big band ballrooms in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio triangle. After retiring from the orchestra in 2000, Harold played piano with the Texas Dutchmen for over a decade.

Little known Texas fact: the area northwest of Waco has a Norwegian culture similar to the Czechs in Ennis. The Norse culture has a strong background of folk music with similar versions of polkas, waltzes, and schottisches. In 1988, Harold and his wife, Jackie, were chosen by the Norwegian Society of Texas to tour Norway, where he met many relatives. Possibly the most memorable meeting was with a female cousin who was a DJ at a radio station that plays American country and western music which is popular in Europe. Harold and she performed a duet of Jambalaya with Harold on accordion. When Harold was with the Texas Dutchmen, they cut a couple tracks with a Norwegian background style.

Harold and Jackie were blessed with two children, Donna and Gordon. Gordon grew up playing in his Dad's orchestra and was a music major in college. Gordon now performs with Alpenmusikanten, the popular Dallas/Fort Worth band that makes the German bier hall polka festival circuit.

IMMIGRATION VOYAGE

Excerpts from MuDr. Josef Simicek, *The Hope Has Its Name - Texas* (pages 17-23)

THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Each emigrant had to show that they had the money for traveling expenses for each member of the family along with valid travel and immigration passport. The time between the application was very short, mostly two or three days.

The Application for Emigration

The application for emigration was addressed to the District Authority (Hejmanství)... The applications were written mostly in the German language by an official writer due to the education level of the country people of that days, ... Only a small part of the applications were written by the applicant himself or by an official in Czech language which was an official language as German at that time.

The Birth and Christening Certificate

The birth and christening documents of all family members and parents' Marriage Certificate had to be enclosed to the Application for Emigration. In the 1850s and 1860s the birth certificates were written or preprinted in German language. The preprint was in Czech later.

The Local Authority Certificate

This document was enclosed [with] to the application for issue of the travel or immigration passport [and given to] the District Authority. The Certificate confirmed the home right of the applicant in the village, his/her reputation and [that] he/she had no obligations or incumbencies to the fellow-citizens or the state. For example: it certified the person's age, marital status, house number and village, and reported on their honorable behavior.

The Travel and Emigration Passport

The District Authority made the travel or emigration passport after it had received all necessary documents. It was printed in German language and provided with a duty stamp of the prescribed value (15 krejcars). The surnames could be written in Czech, because of precision (mainly the more difficult Czech family names). There were written [the] names and data of the members of the family, who asked for emigration, on the back side of the passport. It means that one family was granted one passport.

The emigrant passport owner lost, due to granting an emigration passport, his/her Austrian State Citizenship and the home right in his/her native village. In the case of his/her return back home, he/she was treated as a foreign state citizen and could be taken to a Court. The travel passport was issued for 6 months up to 3 years. During this time the owner could return back with impunity.

The Letter of Safe Conduct

This letter was asked [of] the Czech and Moravian emigrants in spite of the fact that they had valid travel passport. This letter had to be shown to the border and port officials before boarding a ship. The main reason for this provision was to prevent young men from leaving before their compulsory military service.

In spite of this, many young emigrants managed to pass by that provision and embarked ships different ways, sometimes closely before leaving port.

It can be understood that Austrian Authorities prevented working power and financial means from setting out and tried to persuade or threaten the emigrants from their intentions. It can be proved from the František Marak from Tichá s application dated on January 4, 1855.

Bad crops in last years force us to leave our country and find out a country where we could earn our livings and for old years of ours and our children earn some money.

We hope that in America, which is not so densely populated as these countries, we will get more possibilities to earn our livings. We are rustics, we know all rustics works, and because land in America is cheaper and more fertile we believe that we will live easier there.

We were informed about the danger of this step that we want to leave our present, though meager, craft and want to seek an uncertain job in the new world. We were further advised that this step means abandonment of the possibility to return to Austria, rights of Austrian citizenship and right to regain the passport. It will be only a fault of our own if our future wish to return would be refused even for only a short family visit. And if we would try to enter Austria we would be banished. We were asked again whether we insist on our wish after this note. We replied:

We have understood the given conditions and in spite of these, and with pain, we do insist on our resolution to emigrate to America if the authorities allow it.

Franz and Rozalie Marak



Immigration Document of Anna Kozel
Donor: Albert and Rita Kozel

THE TRIP TO THE PORT

We can admire the travels of the first emigrants. They were equipped [with] only the most necessary clothes and personal things stored in a wooden case [trunk]. Their financial means were, in many cases, enough only for their fare, though they set out to their aim. They went on a wagon to the nearest railway station. It was Hranice or Bohumin on the railway Bohumin-Praha at first, Frenštát became the entrance station after the railway Ostrava-Kojetin had been finished.

The trip to a port (Bremen or Hamburg) lasted several days and the food supplies grew thinner. We can hardly imagine what were the supplies for the 8-10 member family.

Arriving to the port was not a victory at all. Departures of ships depended on travelers' interests—the ship sailed off when the deck was full. It meant days and weeks of suffering and waiting for enough number of passengers. The ship sailed off the port and had to come back because of stormy weather which prevented sailing. It happened quite often. It was not rare that the ship was frozen in the port after a sudden fall of temperature in winter months and it meant a further waiting.

The travelers' offices started to be established in large European cities and ports after the large wave of emigrants in [the] 1870s. Their agents cruised Europe and attracted customers to travel across the ocean. Shipbuilding companies built new ships, sails were replaced by engines and the time schedules became finally reliable. The passengers were located in berths in the under-dock (according to their property) and this way protected against bad weather. The time spent traveling on ships shortened substantially, hygiene conditions on ships improved.

ACROSS THE OCEAN

The first sails of the passengers across the ocean were more than dramatic. Ship owners realized soon that the transport of these "Pilgrims for the hope" was becoming a lucrative job. Every ship which was able to keep on the sea surface was used. Old cargo sailing ships were used very often, they were not equipped for passenger transport. There were up [to] 300 travelers on the deck 40-50 meters long and less than 10 meters wide. They had to suffer from disfavor of weather for long weeks. The time schedules were set by the humorous nature. The food was grudging (stinted) and after weeks long journey nearly unfit to eat or drink. The sea sickness influenced passengers too.

Let us read what František Špaček from Bordovice wrote about his journey to America in 1866 when he was 13:

A Josef Walla from Prostřední Bečva came to Europe from America in 1866.

It was soon after the Civil War in America which lasted over four years.

During that time nobody could travel from Europe to America and vice versa, came to Bordovice two times and told us about America. Finally, several families decided to travel to America with him. They sold their property and were ready to set out.

Among them were Josef Bača ("Fojtek"), Jan Bača, František Bača, František Ermis, Josef Křenek—all of them with their families, and single men: Jan Kašpárek, Ignác Bača, Vaclav Kašpárek, Josef Veselka, Ignác Kulak and František Špaček

I was thirteen. My father gave 80 gold to František Ermis for my fare and asked him to take care of me as a son of his own.

My father kept me a company to the Hranice railway station where we boarded a train and went through Olomouc, Prague, Leipzig to Bremen. Our ship set off a day earlier and we had to wait the whole week for an old cargo ship to be modified for passenger transport. Finally, we were put to under-deck and set out.

Nearly everybody got sick on the second or third day. He vomited where he stayed at that moment. It lasted for several days.

A storm came after about 20 days and waves played with our ship as with a shell. Some people prayed, some lamented—you could not hear your own word in the underdeck. I laid down and put my head into blankets—let it be what it may.

Cockroaches were unpleasant for the whole journey. When the light went on they flew among people like sparrows. When the sea sickness went off, we went to lunch. Finally, I had appetite to eat something. A soup with rice was served, it was spotted. I said to myself: it could be dried plums? [plums] I bit [in] to one and found out that those were not plums but cockroaches. The meat we were given was impossible to eat due to salt and bad smell. Water was not enough and smelled bad too.

After nine weeks sail[ing] we anchored about 7 miles away of Galveston. We had stayed there for the whole week than [then] a small steamship came for us. Finally, we landed on the solid soil. What a feeling! It was easy to walk...

THE NEW HOME

The passengers changed to river steamboat in Galveston and went along the Buffalo Bayou to Houston. They bought the most necessary things and stores of food and set out on their way to inland. Let us tell Augustin Hajdušek from Mníši his story. He arrived with his parents to Texas in 1856.

We changed to a steam ship in Galveston and went on Buffalo Bayou to Houston that we reached in the morning on "All Saints" [Day], Early in the morning the following day we set out on our journey on wagons pulled by five pairs of oxen[s]. We reached Cat Spring, district Austin, after 6 days. We spent a night in a wood[s]. A native, I think, his name was Matuš-tik, came to us and censured Texas so much that several families decided to go back to Galveston and go to Iowa, where Mr. Holub from our village lived. A Czech— Hirsch, who lived in Cat Spring, came later, and persuaded us to stay in Texas, because we would come to Iowa in the biggest cold which is so severe as in our old country. We stayed in Cat Spring about two years and during this time my father, Josef Petr, Josef Kalich and František Marak set out to explore the situation. When they came back they could not praise Fayette District enough. They said the country was nice, the land fertile and that they ordered a piece of land.

Two wagons came together with them and we went to La Grange then.

We reached the aim at the end of November 1856 and unloaded us under "live oaks", those are evergreen oaks on the Holub's land. It was afternoon, a north wind was blowing and ice balls were falling. We get strongly wet and had no other shelter except oaks. There were no settlers in several miles surroundings. Crying and lamenting broke out that we would die. A big fire was made and a poor supper prepared. It was cold and rainy during the night and it was impossible to sleep. The sky cleared up the following day and everybody who had hands started to work. We built a "house", in which we lived the whole following six months, till the evening.

This dwelling was very primitive. Father found two branch trees near to each other. He cut long perches which were put on the earth with one end and on the trees with the other. Logs were laid on the perches and fastened with wild vine fibers. Women were cutting grass, which was several feet high, and made "došek" (a bunch of grass) that I transported on a horse to the building. The roof was made from these "došeks" and no water came through even in the strongest water falls. The others made the shanties. We helped each other — there were no quarrels among us.

After the shacks had been built we started clearing and ploughing land, then making folds. Before the time for sowing came, everybody had several acres of land ready. We sowed maize about a feet in a distance between seeds and let three to four stalks stay hoping in bigger crops. We also let the cotton grow very densely. When the maize started to blossom an American, John Prude, came to us and thinned out several rows of maize. We did not like it, we thought he spoilt[ed] it for us. He was talking and showing us what we did not understand. The maize he thinned out was of a good crops but "ours" gave nearly nothing.

The first year was really very bad. Nearly everybody was ill by ague and fever. I was not ill and because I knew English a little I went for a doctor and interpreted for him. I gave the medicine to the ill people and brought them fresh water in order not to suffer from the thirst. We all had springs to draw water.

The second year began even worse than the first one. We had nothing to eat and no money to buy anything because the money we brought from Europe had already been spent. But we had learned to farm. We younger could communicate in English. Americans came to us from long distances to see immigrants, they treated us kindly and generously and taught us how to do different things. The crops were good the second year and we soon forgot the hardship we went through at our beginnings...

The beginnings in the new home were not easy. The language barrier, lack of financial means and necessary tools made the situation difficult. There was not lack of free scope and persistence which helped to overcome these first failures and brought their fruit (success). Solidarity, mutual help and faith played a great role there. And the feeling of full freedom and liberty strengthened all.

Let us quote Augustin Hajdušek once more again:

"When after four years new emigrants came to us, some of them were surprised by our dwellings we lived in. Ondřej Galia a schoolmate of my father's was among them. After having seen our "house" he said: Dear friends, I had a better pigsty for pigs than your building is." But my Father answered: It is true, but I like better living in this shanty as an American citizen than to live in a palace as subject of the Austrian government."

DONATIONS**AUGUST 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2020****GRANTS**

Amy & John Gurley
 City of La Grange Tourism Grant
 Bill Bishop & Julia Ardery/Comm.
 Foundation of Louisville

Bronze Benefactor

RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance Company
 Sanford Schmid Trust - Amphitheater

Heritage Friend

Katherine Horak Smith

Founder

Henry & Carolyn Holub
 Gail Macalik

Patron

Bill Bishop & Julia Ardery
 Charles and Pat Kriska
 RVOS Lodge 153
 Weikel's Store & Bakery

Donor

Dick W. & Joy Bily
 Polka Lovers Klub-Chapter 1
 RVOS Lodge #55
 Bishop John W. Yanta, Emeritus

Steward

DCP Midstream

Special Friend

Gary Meek
 Daniel and Norma Mares
 Paula Smith

Friend

Carl & Rose Strieder Forbrich
 RVOS Lodge #90
 WFLA - #401 Dallas

MONTHLY RECURRING DONATIONS

Kay Chapman
 Barbara Stratton Hruby

DONATIONS

Mark & Ashley Hermes- Mark's
 Birthday Fundraiser
 Daniel & Norma Mares
 Gary Meek
 Mike & Trish Pechal
 Paula Smith
 Helen Vodička

MUSEUM EXHIBIT DONATIONS

Janette Hruška Couch
 Kenneth & Theresa Stavinoha Demel
 Charline B. Gajdos
 Joseph L. Peters

Robert & Diane Podhrasky
 Robert & Darlene Stryk

ARCHIVAL STORAGE BUILDING

Laura J. Beard - *In Memory of Marguerite Hagens*

Retta Slavik Chandler

Jeremy Clifton

Frank & Marie Dulak

Fayette Savings Bank, SSB

JG & Janis Hrneir

Vaclav J. Jasek

David & Diane Liska

Michael & Deborah Logue

Joseph L. Peters

Susan Wolter

2021 CALENDAR ADS

American SOKOL Southern District

Terry Svreck Brooks

Cistern Country Store

Daniel & Rose Černoč

James Corpornon

Hon. Czech Consul Brian Vaniček

KJZT Family Life

Schulenburg Historical Museum

Clarice Marik Snokhous- CCFT

Stanzel Family Foundation, Inc. &

Aircraft Museum

GALA 2020 DONATIONS:**Gala Underwriter**

Clarice Marik Snokhaus

Gala Donors

Sherie Alldredge

Dick W. & Joy E. Bily

John & Stani Bodenbender

Molly Cernosek

Ted & Sylvia Clair

Hattie Drozd

Bob & Carolyn Heinsohn

Joe J. Hluchanek

Vaclav J. Jasek

Nancy Hrneir Johnson

Pat & Charles Kriska

William & Betty Melnar

Paul Mikula

Adolph & Rose Marie Novy

Dennis & Brenda Polak

Matt & Kathy Quinlan

Brent & Patricia Redding

Round Top State Bank

RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance Co.

Bill & Debby Schovajsa

SPJST Lodge #97

Emil & Elaine Thomas

Mary E. Vasek

Alfred & Bernice Vrazel

Walter & Lucy Walicek

Ervan & Jeanette Zouzalik

HERITAGE FEST

Gifts-in-Kind

Fayette Fire and Safety

Mica Rental, Inc.

James and Pavla Van Bibber

HERITAGE FEST SPONSORS

Colorado Valley Communications, Inc.

James Corpornon

Farmers Insurance

Fayette Electric Cooperative, Inc.

H-E-B Grocery Co.- Fireworks Sponsor

H & H Automotive Supply

La Grange Ford Lincoln

Prosperity Bank

SPJST - Temple

Sutherlands Lumber

RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance Co.

HERITAGE FEST DONATIONS

Nancy Hoelscher

Kenneth Mlcak

Molly Brown

Molly Cernosek

South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters

Mary E. Vasek

Anton Vrazel

GENERAL OPERATIONAL FUND

John P. Bezdek

Wilbert Cernosek

Ludmila "Lida" Cope

Mark A. Darilek

Janet DeCaboooter

Hattie Drozd

Carl & Rose Strieder Forbrich

James A. Gerick

Phillip & Debra Konarik

Diane Burge McRae

Joyce (Jemelka) Madden - *In Memory of Dan*

& Lillie Jemelka

Virginia Marr

Doris Emily Matocha - *In Memory of Lee Roy*

Matocha

Mike & Trish Pechal

Carrol J. & Doris A. Peters

Mr. & Mrs. Frankie Peter

Joseph L. Peters

John C. Roberts, Jr.

Raymond E. & Judy Uherek

Dolores Guenther Vacek

Helen Vodicka

Susan Wolter

ENDOWMENT FUND

CHS - Ft. Bend County

Ron Frnka

Pat & Charles Kriska

Fr. Stephen Nesrsta

Joseph L. Peters

Perry & Sara Schwierzke

Susan Wolter

GIFTS-IN-KIND

John Dujka - Radio show

Danny Zapletal - Radio show

Alfred & Bernice Vrazel: Gala - Radio spots

Becky Weise: Texas Polka News publication

CZECH VILLAGE

Allen W. Bartosh

Wesley & Julie (Herzik) Matus

Joseph L. Peters

James & Marsha Steffek

Mary E Vasek

Susan Wolter

Craig & Karen Wright

FRANK'S PLACE/GENERAL STORE

Alvin & Marilyn Cernoch

In Memory of Richard G. Cernosek

Patricia Guinn

*In Honor of Wayne & Donna Janda's 25th
Wedding Anniversary*

Eugene & Grace Vinklarek

In Memory of Agnes Kana Niesner

Patricia Guinn

In Honor of Eugene Vinklarek's 85th Birthday

Wayne & Donna Janda

Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Jasek

BUSINESS MEMBERS:

KJZT Family Life

KJZT #20

KJZT #43

Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation

RVOS #22

RVOS # 159

Weikel's Store and Bakery

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Carmen Lena Cernosek from Molly Cernosek

Chris & Lisa Cernosek from Molly Cernosek

Wilbert Cernosek from Verlene Kuntschik

Kenneth Chandler from Retta Chandler

Susan Chandler from Retta Chandler

Don R. Fisher from Jo Ellen Coker

Alvin J. Havel from Dolores Guenther Vacek

Beno A. & Jane Hellinger from Titus and Diane
Ashour

Joyce Hermes from Mark & Ashley Hermes

Elsie Jasek from Kathie Otahal Craft

Hattie Humplik Kalich from Harvey & Sharon
Kalich

Ginger L. Marble from E. J. Biskup

Cynthia Ann Morris from Alfred & Bernice Vrazel

Edith Muzny from Steve & Margie Janda

Randy & Dinah Noska from Gladys Noska

Lorene Kovar Nitschke from Kenneth &
Cathleen Noska

Cynthia Novak from Liz Kallus

Jerry & Sherry Otahal from Bill & Marcella Teague

Andrew Pfertner from Patrick Pfertner

Denise Steffek Rodriguez from Laura Petter Pilgrim

Stacy Ryza from Liz Kallus

Linda Sulak from Mark & Ashley Hermes

Ann Zahn from Joe & Shirley Michka

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Gladys R. Almaguer

Sherie Alldredge

Paula Andrl

Patricia A. (Mlcak) Bagwell

Hurst S. Barbee

Anna Janecek Barrios

Allen W. Bartosh

Joyce Macha Bartoš

John P. Bezdek

Edward J. (E.J.) Biskup

Dianne Bliss

Margaret Ann Boedeker

Katherine M. Bourne

Barbara Brauner

Merlene S. Bravenec

Dorothy Bujnoch

Paul L. Burnside

Clyde Cantrell

Veronica Sue Valenta Camarillo

Evelyn Cepak

Randall W. Cernosek

Willie H. Cervenka

Phyllis Chavarria

Marilyn Prazak Chovanetz

Jo Ellen Fisher Coker

Marie J. Colby

Ludmila "Lida" Cope

Celine Novosad Cordary

James Corporron

Janette Hruska Couch

Kathie Otahal Craft

Linda Holub Crooks

Betty Danner

Mark A. Darilek

Janet DeCabooter

Marilyn DeMarco

Julia DeVaney

Cecil J. Dobecka, Jr.

Hattie Drozd

Dorothy Downing

John Dujka

Emily Dohnalik

Raymond A. Elleven

Janell Cernoch Ellison

Earl Donald Folk

Ron Frnka

Georgia W. Funderburk

Charline B. Gajdos

James A. Gerick

Rose Mary Havlik

Mark & Ashley Hermes

John Heinrich

Betty Hlavinka

Nancy Holubec

Clement J. Janak

Betty Janecek

Jerome J. Janecka

Robert E. Janik

Vaclav J. Jasek

Nancy Hrcir Johnson

Buford Jurica

Barbara Kalina

Julia Kalisek

Elizabeth Anne Kallus

Margaret M. Kallus

James Kaluza

Karen C. Kemper

Carolyn King

Carol Kitchen

Dolores Koenig

Leonard Korenek

Marguerite L. Kownslar

Mary Lou Krenck

Barbara Krafka

Mark J. Kubala

Frank Kubicek, Jr.

Verlene Kuntschik

Linda Kutach

Nyle Ruth Leshikar

Max Lidiak

Norma Kovar Littlefield

Joyce (Jemelka) Madden

Cecilia Marak

John J. Marek

Edwin C. Marik

Eugene Maroul

Virginia Marr

Doris Emily Matocha

Darrell R. Matula

John M. Matus

Dale Meek

Gary Meek

Ronald D. Merecka

Joe Michka

James D. Mikes

Jo Anne (Korenek) Milliken

Edith Molberg

Liz Mokaren

Johnelle Thoede Moudry

Fr. Stephen Nesrsta

Gladys Noska

Gladys Oakley

Celeste Urbish Orr

Elizabeth C. Patalik

Joseph L. Peters

Willie G. Petruy

Arnold J. Pechal

Patrick Pfertner

Laura Petter Pilgrim

Mary A. Powell

Joan Prihoda

Jeanette Pustka

Darlene Graf Quiring

Charlie H. Ripper

Michael Ripper

Joanne Fabian Robertson

Patsy Fuller Robertson

George Rhodes

Rose Marie Rohde

Dorothy M. Schovajsa

Bernice Schoenfeld

Louis W. Sedlar

Richard J. Skopik

Ferdinand M. Slavik

Merlene Slavik

Paula Smith

Norman E. Smoot

Robert Stall

Andy Stavinoha

Bradley Stavinoha

Marilyn Strmiska

Darlene Sugarek

Dr. Malcolm Sumbera
Katherine Frank Svrcek
Micah Sykora
Frank Svrcek
Micah Sykora
Irene Szwarc
Dorothy Kaluza Tichavsky
Errol Vanicek
Henrietta Veselka
Frances Vesely
Martha Viktorin
Helen Vodička
Alfred & Bernice Vrazel
Anton Vrazel
Libbie M. Vrla
Georgia Vyvial
Ron Vyvial
Delores Darilek Waller
Susan Wolter
Vera Matocha Wehring
James Wilson
Robert Wilson
Diane Pospisil Wright
Bishop John W. Yanta, Emeritus
Melanie Zavodny
FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS
Leon & Bettye Anhaizer
Titus & Diane Ashour
Thomas & Marguerite Baca
A. J. & Jennifer Batla
Mark J. & Mary Barton
Jaroslav & Blazena Belik
Dick W. & Joy E. Bily
Stacey Bohanon
Frank L. & Georgia Bohuslav
Gary & Melda H. Boyd
Ted & Ann Bratton
Sheryl Lebman Brown
Chris Capak
Marilyn & Alvin Cernoch
Jeremy Clifton
James & Agnes Darilek
Waymond & Jean Blaha Davis
Kenneth & Theresa Stavinoha Demel
Bill & Barbara Docekal
Frank & Marie Dulak
Kirby & Nancy Farek
Carl & Rose Strieder Forbrich
Michael E. & Diane Friscek
Joe & Doris Gurecky
Michael L & Annette Hluza
Case A. Hollub
Henry & Carolyn Holub
J. G. & Janis Hrcir
Wilson & Virginia Huffer
Gloria Hurta
Jacob Jaks
Steve & Margie Janda
Alvin & Nancy Janecek
Arthur J. & Cathy Janecka

Bill & Mary Jane Kahanek
Harvey & Sharon Kalich
Jonathan & Peggy Kalich
Ted & Dorothy Kašpar
Edward & Angie Klečka
Christy Koelzer
Phillip & Debra Konarik
Leslie J. & Georgia Kovar
Jim D. & Marilyn Kothmann
Charles & Angelina Kretzschmar
Pat & Charles Kriska
Kenneth & Mary Ann Krivanek
Marjorie Kultgen
Andrew & Pamela Kutac
Patrick Kutac
Joseph J. & Lucy Lamer
Bob G. Liska Family
David & Diane Liska
Jim & Tracie Holub Pfeil
McDaniel & Co.
Diane Burge McRae
D. L. & Nancy Machu
James & Debra Macik
Nicholas J. & Shirley Macik
Daniel & Martha Marek
Dennis & Janice Marek
Daniel & Norma Mares
Greg Matocha
Wesley & Julie (Herzik) Matus
Leo & Linda Maxwell
Gavin Miculka
Sam D. Morris
Dr. Thomas & Donna Z. Mueller
Jim & Eileen (Vanek) Nelson
Kenneth & Cathleen Noska
Mike & Trish Pechal
Mr. & Mrs. Frankie Peter
Norman & Marian Peter
Jim & Tracie Holub Pfeil
Robert & Diane Podhrasky
Johnnie Joe & Lorenda Polasek
Bill & Edna Mae Psencik
Brent & Patricia Redding
Edmund & Elizabeth Trlica Rotter
David & Veronica Ryza
Wiley & Mary Shockley
Bill & Debby Schovajsa
Weldon & Delores Schulte
Clarence J. & Vicki Shumbera
Jerry & Jill Sijansky
B.W. & Sandra Sisa
Erwin & Bonnie Sladek
Theodore J. & Myrna Slansky
Katherine (Kathy) Horak Smith
Thomas & Donna Stavinoha
James & Marsha Steffek
Robert & Darlene Stryk
Lee & Carolyn Surface
David F. & Doris Sykora

Billy & Marcella Teague
Tom & Phyllis Teykl
Emil & Elaine Thomas
Raymond E. & Judy Uherek
Hon. Czech Consul Brian & Joan Vaniček
Gilbert & Vlasta Vitek
Ted & Sarah Vitek
Michael & Karen (Patalik) Vrana
Bill & Kathy (Miller) Voshalike
Alfred & Bernice Vrazel
Walter & Lucy Walicek
Charles & Jean Waligura
Craig & Karen Wright
Norman & Theresa Zetka
Jason & Stacey Zhanel
Zach & Natalie Zgabay
Jeanette & Ervan Zouzalik
BELFRY MEMORIALS
In Memory of Wendy Hrcir
In Memory of Marvin Tomas
CHS-Victoria Co.
In Memory of Della Mae Novak Metz
In Memory of Patricia Ahlhorn Parma
In Memory of Margaret Smaistrila
CHS-Ft. Bend Co.
MUSEUM ENTRY PAVING STONE
In Memory of Paul Heinrich
John Heinrich
PERPETUAL ROSE
Jeannie & Julius Dubcak, RVOS Director
Dist. 2
Julius & Jeannie Dubcak
MEMORIAL BRICK PAVER
In Memory of Leo & Mary Triska
Annette Triska
In Memory of Loretta Valenta
from her Bunco Friends:
Betty Cannon
Christel Gray
Johanna Peery
Henrietta (Minnie) Simpson
Danny & Lorene Sirianni
Evelyn Walford
In Memory of Ernest J. Vasek
Mary E. Vasek
In Memory of Kenneth Vernon Weller
Anna Marie Weller
MELNAR LIBRARY
Frank & Marie Dulak
James A. Gerick
Pat & Charles Kriska
Barbara Krafka
Marjorie Kultgen
Wesley & Julie (Herzik) Matus
Joseph L. Peters
Theodore J. & Myrna Slansky
Irene Szwarc - *In Memory of Pat Parma*
Errol Vanicek

LIVE OAK TREE PURCHASES

Carol Kitchens

In Memory of Richard G. Cernosek

Molly Cernosek

In Memory of Frank & Georgia Kruppa

Donald M. Kruppa

In Honor of Charles T. Chandler

Retta Chandler

Anna Chandler

Ben Chandler

Bridget Chandler

Susan Chandler

Kenneth & Lisa Chandler

Chris & Lauren Paunescu

Grace Anne Wilhelm

Marie Wilhelm

Sarah Wilhelm

HONORS***In Honor of Eugene Vinklarek on his 85th Birthday***

Jane Rohde

In Honor of Bertha Otahal Psencik on her 95th Birthday

Betty Danner

MEMORIALS***In Memory of Joseph Bartosh***

Mark & Ashley Hermes

Edwin C. Marik

Marvin J. & Judy Marek

In Memory of Leroy James Beck

Kathie Otahal Craft

Billy and Marcella Teague

In Memory of Frank & Margaret Spacek Bilek

Ron and Ann Vyvial

In Memory of Bill Bohlmann

Retta Slavik Chandler

J.G. & Janis Hrcncir

In Memory of Elizabeth H. Panus Brosch

Betty Danner

Billy and Marcella Teague

In Memory of Emily Cernoch

Jim D. & Marilyn Kothmann

Retta Slavik Chandler

In Memory of Richard G. Cernosek

Barbara Brauner

Mark & Ashley Hermes

Marvin & Judy Marek

In Memory of Annie Stryk Cerny

Tom & Phyllis Teykl

In Memory of Charles Chandler

Mr. & Mrs. Leon G. Zavodny, Jr.

Diane Klečka & Joe & Margaret Klecka

Vaclav J. Jasek

Joyce Hermes

Joe E. & Margaret Klečka

Daniel & Martha Marek

Helen E. Mikus

Robert & Diane Podhrasky

Vera Matocha Wehring

In Memory of Raymond Dusek

Ron and Ann Vyvial

In Memory of Lorine Fischer

Jim D. & Marilyn Kothmann

In Memory of Gladys Hoffmann Gavronovic

Ron and Ann Vyvial

In Memory of Anthony Grones

J. G. & Janis Hrcncir

In Memory of Marguerite Hagens

Jodie E. Bawcom

Molly Černošek

Retta Slavik Chandler

Marshall & Diana Huling

Jean Ann & Bob LeGrand

Joyce Mardis

Barbara J. Mikulik

In Memory of Gladney Harrell, Jr.

CHS-Lavaca Co.

In Memory Janet Vyvial Harvey

Ron and Ann Vyvial

In Memory of Victor Ray Havran

Theodore & Myrna Slansky

Georgia Vyvial

In Memory of Bernice Hengst

Jim D. & Marilyn Kothmann

In Memory of Dorothy Bilek Hoffmann

Ron and Ann Vyvial

In Memory of Kathleen Hrcncir

J. G. & Janis Hrcncir

In Memory of Lillian Appelt Hrcncir

James & Marsha Steffek

In Memory of Wendy Hrcncir

J. G. & Janis Hrcncir

In Memory of Patrick Janda

Wesley & Julie (Herzik) Matus

In Memory of Ed Keller

Kathie Otahal Craft

Betty Danner

Billy and Marcella Teague

In Memory of Sylvester John Kramr

Ron and Ann Vyvial

In Memory of R. Krejci

Vera Matocha Wehring

In Memory of Georgia Cykala Kubala

Ron and Ann Vyvial

In Memory of Eugene Labay

Marvin and Judy Marek

In Memory of Allan L. Lanik

J. G. & Janis Hrcncir

In Memory of James Leonard Losack

Ron and Ann Vyvial

In Memory of Mary A. Malcik

Ted & Dorothy Kašpar

In Memory of Rose Mayer

Jim D. & Marilyn Kothmann

Elizabeth Anne Kallus

In Memory of Willie Mikulec, Jr.

Betty Danner

In Memory of Dakota Novak

Ron and Ann Vyvial

In Memory of Pat Ahlhorn Parma

Retta Slavik Chandler

Ted & Dorothy Kašpar

Marvin J. & Judy Marek

Edwin C. Marik

Marvin J. & Judy Marek

Kenneth & Cathleen Noska

Elizabeth C. Patalik

Rita J. Vanek Family

In Memory of Vlasta Pavlas

Retta Slavik Chandler

Mark & Ashley Hermes

South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters

In Memory of Bessie Repka

RVOS Lodge #115

In Memory of Edna Shimek

Rita J. Vanek Family

In Memory of Larry Teuton

Elizabeth Anne Kallus

In Memory of Timothy Tlucek

Irene & Gene Cerny

In Memory of Mary Triska

Rita J. Vanek Family

In Memory of Margaret Havel Smaistrila

Ron and Ann Vyvial

In Memory of Jane Kulcak Stavinoha

Kathie Otahal Craft

Betty Danner

Billy and Marcella Teague

In Memory of Patrick "Pete" Stavinoha

Jim D. & Marilyn Kothmann

Elizabeth Anne Kallus

In Memory of Loretta (Janda) Valenta

Jo Anne Cook

Gary E. Rainosek

In Memory of Florence Vinklarek

Betty Danner

LIBRARY & MUSEUM DONATIONS

Doris Adamcik – 12 Genealogy books, Early Czech Schools and Valassko Photo book
Lester Coalson – Victor and Lillian Janca Mozisek family history
Doc & Agnes Darilek – books, record player, music notebooks
Rita Dornak – 2 Czech prayerbooks
Everett & Frances Drawe – Stairs of Life Picture owned by Anna Mazoch Kana
Dalton Eggers – Czech Brethren prayerbook belonging to Josef Hegar
Mildred Elam – framed picture of church at Chuchelne, CZ
Janell Cernoch Ellison – UT Czech Club letters addressed to Olga Slimp
Kirby Farek – Henry Brosch Orchestra records on 45s converted to a flash drive
Camille Pavlicek-Fausner – newspaper clippings and articles re: Czech Texans
Carl Forbich – 2 framed certificates (baptism and communion) of Ludmila Migl, picture of Our Lady of Hostyn
Winnie Hinson – books and postcards In Memory of Milan Reban
Carolyn Heinsohn – ceramic and glass items
George and Gayle Jurica – 80-year-old baby high chair belonging to Henry and Lillie Jurica family
Diane Kallus – 2 pictures of Msgr. Joe Hybner, 1 with kroj, 1 with his vestment
Angela Kretzschmar – Family photos belonging to Sr. Bernadette Hajovsky, 19 TCHCC site pictures
Donna McRae – handcrafted ceramics, books
Molley Muldrow – Book on Wimbeldon in Czech
Dawn Orsak – volumes of Nas Dejiny, Vesele, Novosad/Czisch, Kutra/Vesely Family History
Denise Pauler – Pauler, Kobza, Pargac Family History Books
Larry Pesek – 5 Stars from Texas
Edward Popp – LPs
Erwin Sladek, Jr. - Books on Texas History
Carol Smith – Slovak Songbook
Tom Stavinoha – Bracelet and Tool Box belonging to Arnold Stavinoha
Harold Strand – Photo of band, Americanized kroj vest made by Helen Trojacek
Barry Vacek – 15-gallon crock lid, snuff jars, tablecloths, kitchen towel, flour sack pillow, books, cassette tapes
Alfred Vrazel – CD recording and letter
Vera Wehring – 4 glassware books, 2 Czech culture books, framed map
Alice Zezula – Texas made kroj, green hat, KJT badge, Nase Dejiny, Czech Texans booklet

2022 TCHCC CALENDAR: SKILLS NECESSARY FOR THE DAILY LIFE OF THE EARLY CZECH-TEXANS.

You may submit via email or by mail a non-returnable photograph of any members of your family that focus on skills such as cooking, sewing, farming, ranching, teaching/schooling, blacksmithing, ginning, managing a store, etc.

Mail the submission to TCHCC, P. O. Box 6, La Grange, Texas 78945 or email to Jhrncir@czechTEXAS.org.

DEADLINE: JULY 31, 2021

THANK YOU, FIRST RESPONDERS.

TCHCC was pleased to provide lunch for Fayette County area first responders in an effort to express our gratitude for helping us through the pandemic.



The La Grange Community was treated to a performance of *Blythe Spirit* by the Fayette Community Theatre in the Sanford Schmidt Amphitheater in November.



TCHCC Memorials can be made to your deceased loved ones or to honor a family member that is still active in promoting Czech culture and tradition.

IMMIGRANTS' WALL

A stone wall with engravings on plaques that include the name(s) of the immigrant(s), village of origin and date that he/she/they arrived in the United States. Plaques are available for \$2500. Contact us for details.

ENTRY PAVING STONES

A 12"x12" pink granite stone will be engraved with your choice of wording up to 40 letters for \$1000. These stones are in the entryway of the Czech Center. Contact us for details.

ROSE GARDEN MEMORIAL

For \$250 an 8" x 8" brick will be placed along the Rose Garden path that lines the entry sidewalk to the Czech Center. The brick will be inscribed with your choice of wording. Contact us for details.

MEMORIAL BRICK PAVERS

An 8" x 4" brick paver will be engraved with your choice of wording for \$100. The bricks will be placed in the sidewalk leading from the flagpoles to the steps that enter the Czech Center. Contact us for details.

BELL & BELFRY

For donations of \$50 or more, inscriptions are painted on the memorial sign. For donations under \$50, a record of the donation is made on a parchment list.

AMPHITHEATER SUPPORTERS

A designated amphitheater seat will be reserved with your name plate. Participant can reserve this seat whenever there is an event at the Amphitheater by calling ahead. Seats range: \$1,000, \$750 and \$500.

FLAG SPONSORS

Sponsorship can be made in Memory of or in Honor of an individual or group. \$250.00/newsletter.

<p style="text-align: center;">BECOME A FRIEND OF THE CENTER.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Donation amounts are recognized by levels:</p> <p>_____ Permanent Endowment Fund</p> <p>_____ Maintenance and Operations</p> <p>_____ Other: _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Membership from January 1—December 31</p> <p>\$2000 ___ Lifetime Membership NEW!</p> <p>\$500 ___ Corporate</p> <p>\$200 ___ Non-Profit Organization</p> <p>\$ 75 ___ Family</p> <p>\$ 50 ___ Individual</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ANNUAL SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP (yearly)</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Benefits: Preserving YOUR Heritage, Annual Calendar and Nas Cesky Zivot newsletters</p>
<p>200,000 ___ Five Star</p> <p>100,000 ___ Platinum Benefactor</p> <p>50,000 ___ Gold Benefactor</p> <p>25,000 ___ Silver Benefactor</p> <p>10,000 ___ Bronze Benefactor</p> <p>5,000 ___ Benefactor</p> <p>2,500 ___ President's Circle</p> <p>2,000 ___ Pioneer</p> <p>1,500 ___ Heritage Friend</p> <p>1,000 ___ Founder</p> <p>750 ___ Steward</p> <p>500 ___ Patron</p> <p>250 ___ Donor</p> <p>150 ___ Special Friend</p> <p>100 ___ Friend</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MEMORIALS can be made to honor someone living, on their birthday or anniversary etc., or the memory of a deceased friend or family member.</p> <p>FOR _____</p> <p>Send Acknowledgement to: _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City/State/Zip: _____</p> <p>Donor: Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City/State/Zip: _____ Phone _____</p> <p>Message: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAIL TO:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TCHCC, P.O. Box 6, LaGrange, TX 78945-0006</p>



250 W. FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
P. O. BOX 6
LA GRANGE, TEXAS 78945-0006

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
LA GRANGE TX
PERMIT NO. 94

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2021

- March 13** **Tree Dedications in the Czech Village**
Tree donations still being accepted: \$1500 & \$2000 Texas Live Oaks
- May 16** **Slavnost “May Fest” – Honoring the Czech Immigrants to Texas**
Honor Ceremony – 10:30 AM
Fried Chicken ▪ Concessions ▪ Raffle ▪ Country Store ▪ Classic Car Show ▪ And More...
Music by the *Czech Harvesters* of Ennis, Texas from 11:30 AM – 4 PM
- June 26** **TCHCC & CHS Family Day** – Details to follow
- Oct 15-16** **Annual Heritage Fest & Muziky**
Dujka Brothers ▪ Czech Melody Masters ▪ Ennis Czech Boys ▪ Shimek’s

WATCH FOR MORE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!