



LA GRANGE, TEXAS

NÁŠ ČESKÝ ŽIVOT

“OUR CZECH LIFE”

(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

SUMMER 2015

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 2

SLAVNOST 2015

TCHCC'S Annual May Festival (Slavnost) and Immigrant Recognition Ceremony took place on May 17, 2015 all around the grounds. Due to inclement weather, the music and annual Maypole dancing took place in the Pavilion. Visitors were able to visit the houses between showers and the library and museum were popular spots. Food and beverages were enjoyed. Music was provided by Fritz Hodde and the Fabulous 6 Band.



Top left: Bill and Ben Schovajsa,
Center: Georgia Funderburk,
Cathleen Noska and Betty Dan-
ner helped with the door prizes.
Top right: Fritz Hodde and the
Fabulous 6 Band entertained.
Below right: a view of the dance
hall decorated for Slavnost.
The Maypole was set up in the
middle of the hall and volunteers
danced around the Maypole.
This tradition is part of every
Slavnost.



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

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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 Hrcncir, 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.**

2015 Mayfest Raffle Winners

1. *Elaine Hicks, Mansfield*
2. *Betty Hyatt, Seguin*
3. *Albert Smaistrla, East Bernard*
4. *Eugene Brenek, Temple*
5. *Eugene Brenek, Temple*
6. *Joe Rychlik, Caldwell*
7. *Tom Stavinoha, Needville*
8. *Kenneth Stock, Shiner*
9. *Justin Cantrell, Stuart, Florida*
10. *Ronald Merecka, Houston*
11. *Rita Janak, Shiner*
12. *Virginia Huffer, La Grange*
13. *Bill Schovajsa, La Grange*
14. *Carmen Cernosek, Austin*
15. *Henry Holubec, College Station*
16. *Kerrie Reed, Hutto*
17. *Lorene Nitschke, Fayetteville*

Hourly Drawing Winners: *John Heinrich (Katy), Mary Baca (La Grange), Jerry Fabrygel (Needville), Gene Pauler (Schulenburg), Bernice Pauler (Schulenburg), Julie Matus (Spring)*



- ★ Biergarten
- ★ Train Rides
- ★ Music
- ★ Village Tours
- ★ Demonstrations
- ★ Antique Tractor & Car Show
- ★ Arts & Crafts

Heritage Festival & Muziky

October 16th and 17th

250 West Fairgrounds Road, La Grange, Texas

Friday, Oct. 16th

Octoberfest on the Deck
4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Chicken & Dumplings will be Served!!

Music 6:00 - 9:30 PM with



The
Dujka
Brothers

Visit The Czech Village



Saturday, Oct. 17th

10:00 AM



Dedication of the Sawmill
in the Czech Village

Antique Tractor & Car Shows, Museums
and Czech Gift Shop Arts & Crafts,
Children's Activities & Tarok Tournament

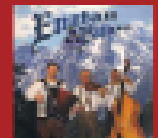
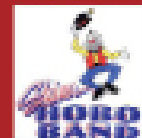
~ Heritage Demonstrations ~

Textiles, Blacksmithing, Corn Shelling
& Grinding, Wood Cutting, Antique Washing
Machine, Hay Baling, Noodle Demo,
Wine Making and MORE!!



~ Biergarten Entertainment ~

Shiner Beer Stage
11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Shiner Hobo Band and
The Enzian Buam Band



~ Amphitheater ~

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Muziky, Muziky



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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are looking forward to three important events that will round out this year. You do not want to miss the Czech Heritage Festival on October 16th and 17th. Check the flyer in this issue.

On December 5, we invite you to the Christmas Open House and to the 2015 Gala honoring Czech Bands or individuals who have made a significant contribution to promoting Czech Music. The restored buildings will all be open and decorated for Christmas. In the evening our main fundraiser, the 2015 TCHCC Gala will be held in the Pavilion with a catered meal, live band, dancing and a silent auction. This year, Alfred Vrazel and the Leo Majek Orchestra will be recognized and honored.

The 2016 TCHCC Czech Republic Tour will be from July 14 to July 27. An abbreviated itinerary and cost is included in this newsletter on page 18.

This year has been one with many projects in progress. As I report to you of the progress of the last three months, I am happy to write that we have been very busy with adding entrance steps, railing and a dance floor to the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater, completion of the equipment storage building, restoration of the Zapalac Saw Mill and the addition of small bridge that leads to the Czech Village from the main building. There was also additional work in mowing due to all of the rain this spring.

Thank you to Molly and Richard Cernosek for their donation to build the equipment storage building. Thank you to LCRA, Sanford Schmid, and the City of LaGrange for making it possible to enhance the amphitheater.

Thank you to the Texas Women's League for their grant to build a small bridge to make it easier for visitors to walk from the main building to the Czech Village. In addition to walking over the bridge, it will also be possible to drive a cart across it. Thank you to all the volunteers, Waymond Davis, JG Hrcncir, Doc Darilek, and Walt Wallicek, who helped with these projects and to Mark Hermes for coordinating those efforts.

The 2015 Czech Republic Tour of Bohemia & Moravia included visits to Plzen, Marianske Lazne, Chodovar, Ceske Budejovice, Cesky Krumlov, Kromeriz, Roznov, Lichnov, Frenstat, a glass factory, a doll factory, a blue print factory, and several days in Prague. We had time to visit the home villages of our ancestors and to visit with Dr. Josef Simicek in his Museum in Lichnov. which were highlights of our trip.

The 2016 Czech Republic Tour has been scheduled and you are invited to join us for some culture, tradition, history, fun, food and genealogy in the former Czechoslovakia. See page 16 of this newsletter for details.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming events.

Retta Chandler, TCHCC President



TCHCC Czech Republic Tour Members stopped off at the Museum in Lichnov which is dedicated to the Czech immigrants to America which has been in existence for over twenty years. L-R: Peggy Mensik, Retta Chandler, Dr. Josef Simicek, Patsy Robertson, Jean Blaha Davis, Irene Polansky Szwarc, Saylor Robinson and Sarah Mensik Robinson.



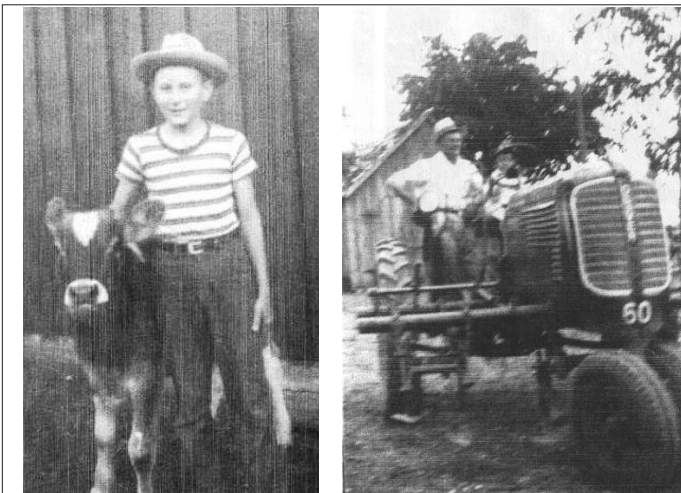
L-R: Other sites visited included a tour of the Memorial dedicated to the Americans at the end of WWII in Pilzen. Jiri Unruh and his daughter Nela and wife Vladka welcomed the tour group to Vila Hedvika in Roznov. Miroslav Faldyn, Sr. presented Retta Chandler a hand-painted Moravian plate.



CZECH CONVERSATIONAL CLASS STUDENTS

L-R: Mary Paul, Robert Petrosky, Dr. Rebecca Hegar, Mary Jane Hermann, Mary Vasek, JG and Janis Hrcir, Larry Hilscher, Retta Chandler and Patrick Janacek.

The classes are informal as we endeavour to keep our conversational Czech alive. Feel free to join us on the second Sunday afternoon of each month. Call TCHCC for details.



The 2015 Calendar featured children. Ted Vitek's picture missed making it into the calendar. So, here he is in two childhood photos.

In the first photo Ted is pictured with his calf in 1950.

In the second, he is receiving driving instructions from his father, Louis. The tractor is their Oliver tractor. The photo was taken in 1946.

The photos were submitted by his wife, Sarah Vitek.

TCHCC Immigrant Recognition Ceremony 2015

The TCHCC Museum was the site of the Immigrant Recognition Ceremony that recognized the descendants of Czech and Slovak immigrants to Texas between the years 1910-1915 and those whose ancestors came in earlier years.
TCHCC Vice President Bill Schovajsa and 2015 Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen Allison Sexton presented the certificates.



Left: Jonathan Noska holding Kloey Grace Noska, Cathleen & Kenneth Noska, Madeline & John D. Kovar: Four Generations of the Descendants of Anna, Adolph, Marie and Veronika Bohacek & Petr Kovar Family were present. Right: Dorothy Slavik Hracha and Family: Descendants of John and Anna Pekarova Urban.



Left: Eugene Pauler and Bernice Kobza Pauler: Descendants of Frank Bilek and Augustin & Thekla Schuster Pauler (Eugene) Konstantin & Apolena Lichnovsky Chovanec & Josef and Margreta Shalicky Kobza (Bernice). Right: Frankie Kubicek: Descendant of Frantisek & Anna Kubicek, Albert & Rosalie Bina Dlouhy with children, John and Katrina Kaplan Hajek and daughter, Frantisek & Marie Hajek Wotipka Branecky.



Left: Julie Ann Herzik Matus: Descendant of Martin & Theresia Herzig and children Franz and Josef and Michel & Anna Dybala. and child Vincent Right: Leon and Louise Pavlicek Jurena: Descendants of John Jurena, Annie Jalufka Jurena, Josef and Theresie Pisch Bolom (Leon) Karel and Karolina Ondrusek Pavlicek (Louise).



Left: Liz Mokaren and Louise Provazek Morrow: Descendants of Frank Joseph and Rosalie Provazek.
 Right: Alice Svehlak Kubacak: Descendant of Josef, Terezie Svehlak and children August, Sr. and Frantiska.



Left: Wesley Matus: Descendant of Bozena Grossman and John Matus. Right: Bernice Hessler Marek: Descendants of Annie Magdalen Steffek Hessler Family.



Left: Cerny, Kunkel, LeBlanc, Horak and Jones Family Members: Descendants of Josef and Josefa Stasny Pultr family.
 Right: Susan Machart and her father, Tony Stary: Descendants of Mary Ann Steffek Stary Family.



(Seated) Jeanette Pustka and brother Phillip Steffek (standing) Michelle and Amanda Steffek, daughters of Phillip Steffek: Descendants of Anton Steffek Family.



Seated L-R: Lance & Denise Barton, Thomas Hermes, Wyatt and Emil Hermes, Kathy Hermes Haas. Standing L-R: Jaycee Orsak, Mark and Lara Hermes, Wanda Orsak: Descendants of Janie Georgie Steffek Hermes Family.



Members of the Ignac and Johana Zabensky Stefek Family were present to view their plaque on the Immigrants' Wall. Ignac and Johana Zabensky Stefek with children Ignac, Mariana and Jan came to Texas on the Koln in 1871 from Frenstat to Ezzell, first settled in Vienna. Pictured are descendants: Seated L-R: Jeanette Pustka, Bernice Marek, Emil Hermes and Anton (Tony) Stary. Standing L-R: Wyatt Hermes, Jaycie Orsak, Wanda Orsak, Susan Machart, Kathy Haas, Thomas Hermes, Mark Hermes, Lara Hermes, Michelle Steffek, Phillip Steffek, Amanda Steffek, Denise Barton, Lance Barton.

A photo opportunity outside in front of the Immigrants' Wall was not possible because of the glorious rain received.

1911-1915 IMMIGRANT RECOGNITION

1911 Immigrants

Jan F., Marie Brezovak Rafaj and daughters Anna and Marie arrived on the *Hannover II* from Pržno, Vsetin to Granger, Williamson County. **Descendant: James A. Gerick.**

Bozena (Bessie) Grossman arrived on the Koln from Verovice to Baylor County. John Matus arrived on the *Cassel* from Bratejov to Foard County & Baylor County. **Descendant: Wesley J. Matus.**

June 9, 1913 Immigrants

Josef, Terezie Svehlak and children August, Sr. and Frantiska arrived on the *Chemnitz* from Vlachovice to Granger, Williamson County. **Descendant Alice Svehlak Kubacak.**

Karel Gajdica, Sr. arrived on the *Chemnitz* from Vitkovice to McLennan County. **Descendant: Laddie Gajdica.**

July 7, 1913 Immigrants

Anna Vicha Gajdica arrived on the *Cassel* from Zabreh, Moravia to McLennan County. **Descendant Laddie Gajdica**

1914 Immigrants

Frank Joseph Provasek & sister Rosalie arrived on the *Wittekind* from Velke Karlovice to Colorado County, Eagle Lake. **Descendants: Bill Morgan, Teresa Morgan-Simmons, Liz Morrow-Mokaren, Mary Louise Provasek Morrow.**

1854 - Frantisek and Anna Kubenka Kubicek from Dolni Hermanice to Colorado County.

1854 - John and Katrina Kaplan Hajek and daughter Marie Anna from Zbudov, Bohemia to Austin County/

January 3, 1856 - Frantisek and Marie (Hajek Wotipka) Branecky from Lisna, Moravia to Colorado County

May 25, 1906 Albert & Rosalie Bina Dlouhy and children Anna and Elizabeth from Krc, Bohemia arrived on the *Chemnitz* to Gonzales County. **Descendants: Frankie Kubicek and the Dlouhy Family.**

October 30, 1856 Konstantin and Apolena Lichnovsky Chovanec arrived on the *Anna Elize* from Trojanovice to Fayette County.

November 6, 1877 Josef and Margreta Shalicky Kobza from Hermanice to Fayette County. **Descendant: Bernice Kobza Pauler.**

1867 - Franz Bilek arrived on the *Weser* from Olešna, Moravia to Fayette County.

April 28, 1871 - Augustin & Thekla Schustek Pauler on the *Koln* from Hermanice u Oder to Fayette County. **Descendant: Eugene Pauler.**

1869 - Michel and Anna Dybala, with child Vincent on the *New York* to Dubina, Fayette County.

1878 Martin, Theresia Herzig and children Franz and Josef on the *Hannover* from Jindrichov to Dubina, Fayette County.

1892 Josef and Ana Korenek and children Anezka, Josef, Jan, Anton on the *Hermann* from Novy Hrozenkov to Dubina, Fayette County. **Descendant: Julie Ann Herzig Matus.**

October 11, 1871 - Ignác and Johana Zabensky Štefek and children Ignác, Marianne and Jan arrived on the *Koln* from Frenstat house #655 to Vienna and Ezzell, Lavaca County. **Descendants: Annie Magdalen Steffek Hessler Family, Janie Georgia Steffek Hermes Family, Mary Ann Steffek Stary Family, Anton Steffek Family, Frances Bessie Steffek Jurena Family, Johnnie Joe Steffek Family.**

1872 - John and Anna Pekarova Urban from Novy Hrozenkov to Washington County. **Descendant: Dorothy Slavik Hracha.**

1872 Karel and Karolina Ondrusek Pavlicek from Moravia to Live Oak, Ellinger, Fayette County. **Descendant Louise Pavlicek Jurena.**

1873 Josef and Theresie Pisch Bolom from Prachovice, Bohemia to Lavaca County.
1873 Annie Jalufka Jurena arrived on the *Frankfurt* from Celadna to Lavaca County.
1881 John Jurena Nurenberg Mnisi house#12 to Lavaca County. **Descendant: Leon Jurena.**

1875 Cecelia Javorek from Vitkovice to Fayette County
1881 Charles Hajovsky from Zabuna, Moravia to Fayette County
1881 Antonia Steffek from Trojanovice to Fayette County
1889 Frank Pfertner arrived on the *Wesen* from Neudorf, Lanskroun to Fayette County
1890 Josepha Langhammer Pfertner arrived on the *Wesen* from Neudorf, Lanskroun to Fayette County. **Descendants: Andrew and Patrick Pfertner.**

1893 - Veronika Bohacek Kovar, mother Ann Trojkia Bohacek, brother Adolph, sister Marie on the *Ems* from Vysoka, Slovakia to Wharton County
1910 Petr Kovar arrived on the *Chemnitz* from Novy Hrozenkov to Wharton County. **Descendants: Kenneth and Cathleen Noska and Family, Madeline & John D. Kovar. Four Generations of the Descendants of Anna, Adolph, Marie and Veronika Bohacek & Petr Kovar Family were present.**

1904 Josef & Josefa Stasny Pultr arrived on the *Breslau* from Roudnice nad Laben, Hradec Kralove to Waller: **Descendants Jannette Pultr Cerny, Benjamin Cerny, Jennifer Cerny Kunkel, Melissa Cerny LeBlanc, Debbra Rosenbaum Jones, Evan Kunkel, Lovalee Horak.**

1904 Marie Pultr Lingnau arrived on the *Breslau* from Roudnice nad Laben, Hradec Kralove to Waller. **Descendants: Doris Lingnou Grant, Erwin Lingnou.**

1904 Libuse Pultr Horak arrived on the *Breslau* from Roudnice nad Laben, Hradec Kralove to Waller. **Descendant: Lovalee Horak, Sheila Horak Elster.**

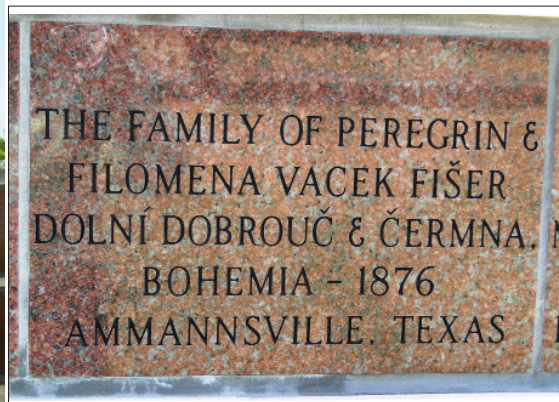
1904 Ladislav Pultr arrived on the *Breslau* from Roudnice nad laben, Hradec Kralove to Waller. Lada Pultr served his new country as a private in the US army during World War I. **Descendants: Jannette Pultr Cerny, Benjamin Cerny, Jennifer Cerny Kunkel, Melissa Cerny LeBlanc, Debbra Rosenbaum Jones, Evan Kunkel.**

November 19, 1906 Jan, Katerina Hanicak and children Jan and Annie arrived on the *Breslau* from Novy Hrozenkov to Newton County and Edna, Jackson County.

April 10, 1909 Frank Foyt arrived on the *Koln* from Horni Lidec, Moravia to Newton County and Edna, Jackson County. **Descendant Olga Foyt Slimp.**

James Corporry (far right) and his children: Rodney, Randy and Diane Corporry Goulden pose in front of the Immigrants' Wall Plaque that honors James Corporry's mother (Martha Fisher) and her family. *The Family of Peregrin and Filomena Vacek Fiser immigrated from Dolni Dobrouc and Cermna, Bohemia in 1876 and settled in Ammannsville, Fayette County, Texas.*

A special thanks goes out to cousin Carolyn Sumbera Heinsohn for her research into the Fiser/Fisher family.



Amphitheater Enhancement

LCRA and Sanford Schmidt provided a grant to enhance the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater. A dance floor was added and improvements were made to the entrance and walk to make it easy and safe to access.

Bottom Right: Rudy and Bea Patek are taking a test run on the new dance floor recently as Mark Hermes provides a little polka music. Rudy and Bea Patek and Mark Hermes invite you to the Heritage Fest on October 16 and 17 at TCHCC when the Joe Patek Orchestra's music will be recreated.



THANK YOU SAN ANTONIO CZECHS AND FRIENDS

The Fourteenth Annual Czech Gala in San Antonio was held on August 14, 2015, at a new location this year at the Knights of Columbus Crown Ridge Banquet Hall was a joyous celebration with a Czech traditional dinner and dancing. All in support of Czech heritage and culture. A variety of music by Chris Rybak pleased the crowd for dancing as well the sing-a-long to close the evening gathering. Proceeds from the event benefit a program or a project of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in LaGrange, Texas.

Jerry Janecka of San Antonio served as Master of Ceremonies. Hattie Poole welcomed all to San Antonio and the Gala. Bishop John Yanta offered the Invocation.

Following the dinner, Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center President Retta Chandler thanked the San Antonio Czechs for their generosity in support of the Texas Czech Center for the past fourteen years. She noted the beauty of the six new chandeliers added to the large chandelier in the Hanslik Banquet Hall; all made possible from proceeds from the San Antonio Gala for that project. A video of the story of the Czechs in Texas was also presented by President Chandler.

Committee members for the Gala include the following: Barbara Stratton Hruby, Jerry and Ann Janecka, Suzanne Janecka, Mary Ann Kocurek, Trish Blaha Martin, Hattie Foytik Poole, Robert Trampota and Alice Vida. Volunteers: Mary Leady Brown, Velma Collins, Steve and Laura Holson, Lauren Wagner, Ruth Lomeli, Jan McCulloch, Seema Shetgei, Michelle O'Grady, Travis and Susan Sinclair, Allison Wendt, Kelsey Wendt.

Pictured below left: John Novak and Retta Chandler. Right: Hattie Poole, Sr. Anna Marie Vrazel and Retta Chandler.

Center left: Allison, Trudie and Kelsey Wendt, Center: The next generation of singers of Czech and polka songs: Abigail Wendt, Christina Ryback and Emma Wendt. Right: Angela and Charles Kretzschar.

Below left: Suzanne Janecka and parents Ann and Jerry Janecka. Msgr. Emil J. Wesselsky and Bishop John Yanta. Right: Sisters Charlene Wedelick, Sharon Rohde, and Madeleine Zimmerer.





Left: Robert and Debbie Trampota visit with Joan and Brian Vanicek. Center: Laura Holson and Trudie Wendt. Right: A sing-a-long commenced by the end of the evening with Chris Rybak providing the music.



Left: Mr. and Mrs. Daryl and Mary Styblo. Center: Myrna and T. J. Slansky. Right: Laddie Zezula is surrounded by Evelyn and Chris Klauss.



Left: SA Gala Committee Members Trish Blaha Martin and Mary Ann Kocurek. Center: Susan and Travis Sinclair. Right: Alice Vida and Jerry Janecka.

DEKUJ

THANK YOU, SAN ANTONJO CZECHS!

**For 14 years of support to the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange.
Your many volunteer hours and financial support is greatly appreciated.**

TCHCC PROGRAM ON WWII EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Programs regarding World War II Events in Czechoslovakia were presented at the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center on Tuesday, July 7 beginning at 6:30 PM in the Hanslik Hall. The presentations were given in a multimedia format using Power Point and video clips. The featured topic was “The Repercussions of the Assassination of Reinhard Heidrich in WWII – Lidice” by Sarah Wilhelm, a 2015 graduate of Austin College in Sherman where she majored in theater and history, presented the program.

During WWII, Heidrich was a high-ranking German Nazi official, who Hitler called “man with the iron heart.” Heidrich masterminded the Holocaust when he chaired the 1942 Wannsee Conference, which finalized the plans for the extermination of all European Jews. He was chief of the secret police and was also Reich protecktor of Bohemia and Moravia, the highest ranking officer in then Czechoslovakia.

Of the project to “Germanize” Czechoslovakia, Heidrich said, “Deprive the people of their national consciousness; treat them as a tribe and not a nation; dilute their national pride; do not teach their history; imply they have a cultural void; emphasize their customs are primitive; and dismiss independence as a barbaric anomaly.”

It is a story of a daring assassination attempt and his subsequent death, which resulted in Hitler ordering one of the most brutal retaliations of the war. However, the story of Lidice demonstrates the indomitable strength of the human spirit. The retaliation against the Czech people led to the complete destruction of the village of Lidice and the execution and relocation of its people. A museum and a memorial area are now located at that site in the Czech Republic. For more information about the memorial visit the website, www.lidice-memorial.cz

A presentation followed on “The Air Battle of 1944” by Janis Hrcncir, Library and Genealogy volunteer at TCHCC. Along with the presentation a video of the ceremony in Slavcin held by the Czech citizens in appreciation of the airmen that were shot down over the hills of Moravia 70 years ago. The memorials are in seven villages that have memorials to the nearly 100 US airmen who died. Read more about this event by searching the internet for “Mission 263”.



KJZT Fraternal 100 Project Donation

Officers of the KJZT St. Frances of Rome #31, La Grange presented a check for \$100 to TCHCC. The Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas -- K.J.Z.T. adopted a statewide Fraternal 100 Project that annually recognizes Status Societies; and each year this project provides \$100.00 from the state Office to each of these Societies. In turn the Societies donate this money to a charity of their choice for the purpose of promoting fellowship. L-R: President Elizabeth Kallus, Secretary Marilyn Kothmann, TCHCC Manager Mark Hermes, Vice President Joy Kovar and Treasurer Barbara Eilert.



Right: Grandchildren of Jan and Lois Massingill of Weatherford, Texas take a break in front of the Janak Barn.

Below: The daughter of Hubert and Jennifer Klepac is very proud of her gift shop purchase.



Janis Hrcncir welcomed John Hillman of Baylor University and Alice Lunakova of Prague to TCHCC.



Mark Hermes, TCHCC Manager (left) and Lorenda Polasek, TCHCC Gift Shop Manager (right) welcomed CSA Fraternal Life Members Irma Farrell and Matthew Koski/COO, Secretary from CSA Office, Lombard, Illinois who were in town in search of the old Ellinger Public Cemetery which was originally a CSA Cemetery.



L-R: Rev. Payden Blerins of Arkansas, TCHCC Manager Mark Hermes and Rev. Edward Karasek.

Texas Orphan Train Gathering

Saturday October 31, 9 AM to 5PM

Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, La Grange, Texas

Few people today know much about the largest child migration in history and the children who found new homes here in Texas. Between 1854 and 1929, approximately 250,000 orphans and “surrendered” children from single-parent families were sent out to every state in the continental United States to find new homes. An estimated 5,000 of these children came to Texas. The movement ended with the last train sent to Sulphur Springs in October, 1929.

Because this subject is still little known in recorded American history, the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, in partnership with Humanities Texas and the Shield-Ayres Family Foundation are sponsoring a day-long event to invite descendants from the general area to share their stories, photos and memorabilia.

This symposium is not only for descendants, historians and genealogists, but all those interested in the children who were sent to Texas. This will be an opportunity for education, networking, and helping the Texas Czech Cultural Center document the Texas Orphan Train story for future generations. A handful of “Riders” are still alive across the country. Texas lost the nation’s oldest Rider, Mary Delaney Maresh from Caldwell who died in January of this year at the age of 105.

Today, it is hard to comprehend the living conditions, poverty and overcrowding in New York which led to the necessity for this system that predated foster care. Two organizations in New York were responsible for this “placing out” of a quarter of a million children: The Children’s Aid Society and The New York Foundling Hospital. Both received funding from private philanthropists and Railroad companies. The Foundling Hospital mainly sent out infants and toddlers specifically to Catholic homes that had requested them. As a result, the Czech and German communities in Texas received the largest number in the state. Often, the children were put on steamships in New York, sent to Galveston, and then put on trains for destinations in East, South and Central Texas. La Grange received many of these children. Other destinations in the area included Weimer, Schulenberg, Flatonia, Rosenberg, Sealy, El Campo, Bay City, Victoria, Edna, and Bremer. In North Texas, the Children’s Aid Society placed children in communities along the rail lines that ran from Texarkana through Greenville, Commerce, Denton, Decatur, Wichita Falls and Childress.

The day-long symposium will include a presentation of “Riders on the Orphan Train,” the multi-media educational outreach program for the National Orphan Train Complex Museum and Research Center in Concordia, KS. This program will be presented by author Alison Moore and musician/storyteller Phil Lancaster. Other presentations will include research by descendants Elaine Smith and Linda Fulmer.

TO REGISTER: CONTACT alisonmoorebooks@gmail.com

A lunch of chicken or vegetable soup and chicken salad sandwich and a kolač (including tea or coffee) will be provided for \$10.00. You may pay at the door . **Lunch RSVP to Janis Hrcir at Janis@hrncir.com.**

The National Orphan Train Museum is interested in documenting your family stories, which are an important part of our history. To schedule a video interview, please contact Alison Moore alisonmoorebooks@gmail.com

Please bring photos, records, any surviving mementos including New York Foundling Home [or Children’s Aid Society] correspondence from your family member to share with others.



SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

9-11- Scheduled video interviews with Alison Moore

11- 12:00 - Opening session, multimedia presentation by Alison Moore and Phil Lancaster, Outreach Presenters for the National Orphan Train Complex. This program was the keynote presentation at the National Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in San Antonio in 2014. (www.ridersontheorphantrain.org.)

12:00 - Lunch provided (\$10 at the door) or you are free to eat in an area restaurant or bring a lunch

1:00-1:45 - Presentation by Elaine Bartosh Smith, granddaughter of Lawrence Martin Bartosh who came to Weimer, Texas in 1906 at age 4. Elaine lives in Martinsville, Indiana where she teaches secondary school. She has done extensive research in New York at the Foundling Hospital archives and is available to assist other descendants in their family searches. Q&A follows.

1:45-2:30 - Presentation by Linda Fulmer, granddaughter of John Dunn Janda who came to La Grange, Texas in 1906 at the age of 2 ½ . Linda lives in Lindale, Texas and has been engaged in genealogical research including DNA testing to learn more about her grandfather's origins. Q&A follows.

2:30-3:00 - Coffee break with kolače

3:00- 5:00 - Sharing of stories by attendees, Q&A, research tips

5 PM - Dinner on your own

6:30 or 7 PM - optional evening sessions - sharing session or additional video interviews

2016 Czech Republic Tour 14 days, Thursday through Wednesday

Tour Price: \$3,840.00 all inclusive, double
 \$4,240.00 all inclusive, single

The price includes 12 overnight hotels, 12 breakfasts and dinner meals, 11 lunches, free selected drink at each meal, and all tours and excursions. **DEADLINE: JANUARY 20, 2016. CONTACT PATSY ROBERTSON AT probert420@aol.com.**

Day 1, Thursday, July 14. Depart Houston International Airport

Day 2, Friday, July 15. Arrive Prague. Visit Castle Ctěnice and Stara Boleslav.

Day 3, Saturday, July 16. Visit Přerov nad Labem (an open-air museum) and historic town Mělník.

Day 4, Sunday, July 17. Depart for Moravia, visit the Craft Centre and Organic Gardens at Botanicus in Ostrá. Then on to Polička, a UNESCO medieval fortification. Arrive in Rožnov.

Day 5, Monday, July 18. Tour Unipar Candle Manufacturer. Depart for Valašské Meziříčí, visit Kinský Chateau.

Day 6, Tuesday, July 19. Visit Frenštát Museum and Kopřivnice and visit the Tatra Museum. Tour Štramberk old town and the Štramberke uši bakery and brewery.

Day 7, Wednesday, July 20. Depart for Karolinka Crystal Glass Factory. Next to Karolinka Raťkov and its traditional cottages owned by the Orsag family, lunch at the Raťkov pub and then on to Velké Karlovice.

Day 8, Thursday, July 21. Spend the day in Opava touring its business district and cultural museums including the Silesian Museum.

Day 9, Friday, July 22. Tour Trojanovice and visit the Strnadel brothers and Jan Knebl Museum where you will meet Drahomir Strnadel. In the afternoon, visit Lichnov and Museum of Emigration to Texas and meet Dr. Josef Šimiček. The evening includes an excursion to Kunin Castle.

Day 10, Saturday, July 23. Excursions to the Wallachian Museum and the "Glass Workshop Saturday" "festival in the Mill Valley.

Day 11, Sunday, July 24. Church in Roznov, and after mass join the procession from the church to the wooden city of the Wallachian Open Air Museum for a celebration of the Feast of Saint Ann, patroness of Wallachia.

Day 12, Monday, July 25. Depart from Roznov, visit Hranice Square for shopping and Olešnice – the Blueprint Dancinger manufacturer. Depart for Prague.

Day 13, Tuesday, July 26. Tour Prague.

Day 14, Wednesday, July 27. Transfer to airport and depart Prague.

A TRANSPLANTED CHILD, By Linda Dunn Fulmer

My grandfather was a transplanted child. He was born John J Dunn on November 3, 1903 at Sloane Maternity Hospital in Manhattan to Daisy Wilson. On his birth record we have her address and her age, 26. Those few details are all we know about Daisy. His father was listed as John J Dunn, age 34, and an actor. Certain facts suggest that they were not married, and we have never found a record.

In December, one month later, baby John was surrendered to New York Foundling Home by Daisy. We can only guess the reasons. The next day he was baptized in their chapel by a priest from St. Vincent Ferrer Church, located in the next block. In his early months there, John was probably boarded out to one or more nursing mothers in the city.

In May 1906, my grandfather John was age 2 ½, and his life was about to change drastically. Far away in Texas, Fr. Szymanski had recruited families to take orphans from New York City. Leopold and Minna Janda of Bluff volunteered and asked for a blonde blue-eyed boy. My grandfather was selected for them.

Fifty-eight children were bound for Texas, and they left May 10 on a steamship for New Orleans. From there, they went by train to multiple destinations in central Texas. The NYFH agent, a nurse, and several Sisters accompanied them. In the psychology of the day, the children had been told that they had been away at school and were going back to their “real” parents.

Six days after John left New York, he was met at the La Grange station by Leopold and Minna, who only spoke “Bohemian”. Hopefully his foster siblings, Rose, Fred and Sophie helped with communication. He was given the gift of a family.

In a journey of six days, the Irish child John J Dunn was uprooted from an urban institutional life and transplanted to rural wide-open Texas. Possibly the only open space he had ever encountered before was on a children’s outing to Central Park.

John was not legally adopted, and most other Orphan Train children were not either. But many of the families considered the arrangement a form of adoption, and called it that.

So his roots were planted in Texas ground, and he became John J Janda. He grew up speaking English, German, and a Czech Moravian dialect he called Bohemian. He attended Bluff school, possibly taught in Moravian. He was confirmed, probably in Holy Rosary Church in Bluff/Hostyn, and took the sacrament. Even though he grew up the youngest in the family, it is certain that Leopold and Minna gave him his share of the household and farm chores.

He finished Bluff school at age 15 and wanted to attend high school in La Grange. Leopold expected him to stay and work on the farm, as his older son Fred had done. This led to conflict and an argument. In that discussion, or shortly after, John learned that he was from New York City and was born John J Dunn. Leopold gave him \$10, and he left home to go to Houston to work and live with his older married sister Rose Harris.

He was always interested in machinery. In Houston he worked in a rice mill. Ironically, at age 16 he had a job for Southern Pacific Railroad, the same line that originally brought him to Texas. He cleaned and oiled engines. Then he ended up working in the oil fields of Mexico. Along the way, he met my grandmother Mamie Grimes. In 1920 he was still using the name John J Janda. By 1926 when they married, he was John J Dunn. And we have been Dunns ever since.

After his children were born, he obtained his GED by studying at night. He always worked with machinery in manufacturing plants. In his later years, Hughes Tool Company sent him to Canada, Mexico, and Argentina to help establish plants. He and my grandmother were fluent in Spanish.

Minna died in 1921 and Leopold in 1931. My grandfather kept up with his three foster siblings and visited them. We will always remain grateful to the Jandas who took him in. They nurtured him, sheltered him in their faith, and gave him a strong work ethic and moral compass. John was known as a kind and generous man all of his adult life.

My grandfather had two sons, John Jr or Pete, and my father Warner. John called his sons “you bunch of honyocks”, and my father later said this to my two brothers Mark and John. Some still make sweet rice, one of John’s favorite dishes.

We are a clan of Dunns, instead of a clan of Jandas. We celebrate our Irish heritage, but we love being Texans, and we feel just a little bit Czech.

The Dunn Family in 1962.

Standing, L-R: Harold McCollum, John J Dunn Jr/Pete, Barbara Dunn, Warner Dunn. Seated L-R: Doris Dunn, Denise Dunn [Hall], Linda Dunn [Fulmer], Mamie Dunn, Susan McCollum [DeBose], Nancy Dunn McCollum, Timothy McCollum, John J Dunn Sr. Seated on floor: John Warner Dunn, Penny McCollum [Bowman], Mark Dunn



THE CZECH REPUBLIC AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES PETR GANDALOVIC AND HIS WIFE PAVLINA VISITED THE TCHCC.

Top left: The Ambassador addressed the visitors. He was happy to take pictures with visitors: Top right: Christina Brooks, Ambassador Petr and Pavlina Gandalovic, Joan Vanicek, Brenda Etzler, Texas Czech Consul Brian Vanicek, (front row) Annika Brooks and Delaney Etzler. Center left: Charles and Retta Chandler, Ambassador Petr and Pavlina Gandalovic and Rudy and Bea Patek. Center right: Doc Darilek with the Gandalovics. Below: The Ambassador and his wife viewed the Janak Barn and Vintage Czech houses and buildings on the grounds.



MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MARTAN JUREČKA VISIT IN TEXAS

The Minister of Agriculture, Martan Jurečka, visited the US on March 22-29, 2015. He was accompanied by Czech food industry entrepreneurs and representatives of the Federation of the Food and Drink Industries of the Czech Republic (FFDI). The delegation visited Washington, DC, Virginia, Arkansas, and Texas.

On their visit to Texas, the Czech delegation was honored in Waco at the Indigo Hotel on Friday, March 27, with a Reception that was hosted by Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovic and Honorary Czech Consul Brian Vanicek. Among the special guests were Honorary Czech Consul General Kenneth Zezulka and Dolly Zezulka and Honorary Czech Consul General Emeritus Raymond Snokhous and Clarice Snokhous. Czech Consul Zezulka serves the states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Czech Consul Snokhous recently retired after serving the state of Texas for the past twenty years. Brian Vanicek was appointed to serve in that position in November of 2014. In West on the following day, the large delegation had a full schedule. They viewed a working ranch, Slovacek Company in West and the Village Czech Bakery. Minister Jurečka was accompanied by his counterpart, Secretary of Agriculture, Sid Miller.

The visit also included a meeting with the Mayor of West. During that meeting, Minister Jurečka presented a donation to help build the new “Sokolovna”, a meeting place for SOKOL members that train youth in gymnastic exercises. Their meeting place was destroyed by the explosion of the Fertilizer Company in 2013.

Below: Minister Jurečka spoke to the gathering in Waco, Texas. Czech Consul General Emeritus and TCHCC Board Member Raymond Snokhous and his wife, Clarice. Clarice Snokhous and Susan Chandler take the opportunity for a photo. Honorary Czech Consul Brian Vanicek presented Kenneth Zezulka, the Honorary Czech Consul for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, a flag that flew over the Texas State Capital. Agricultural Minister Jurečka. Far right: Honorary Czech Consul Kenneth and Dolly Zezulka.



CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

May to July, 2015

Silver Benefactor

Texas Women's League

Bronze Benefactor

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City of La Grange/LCRA

Corporate Membership 2015

KJZT#6, St. Elizabeth Society

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Daniel & Jeanette Pustka

Jeanne Martinak Redmond

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Jimmie & Vickie Hosek

Jacob and Donna Jaks

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Dr. Thomas and Donna Z. Mueller

Bill and Marcella Teague

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Family Membership 2016

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Sawmill Reconstruction Project

South Texas Wheel Spinners and Crank Twisters

James Gerdes

Melvin Gerdes

Dr. Thomas and Donna Zapalac Mueller Family

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In Memory of Frank J. Mikula

Ellen F. Rainbolt

Joseph Turecky

Bennett and Kathleen Cepak

Mississippi Gaming Commission

Mary Ann Albrecht

Ray and Sharon Martini

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In Memory of Elmont Vyvial

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In Memory of Henry L. Vesely by Family and Friends

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MUSEUM ENDOWMENT

In Memory of Henry Vesely

Ted and Dorothy Kaspar

Terry & Shelley Kaspar

PAVING STONE BRICKS

In Memory of Liska Family

Patricia Pechal

Zaruba Family

Rose Supak

In Honor of Lucy Pierce Family & three daughters & three descendants

Deborah P. Smith

Sliva Family

Fred Vacek

In Memory of Henrietta Zavodny Slavik

RVOS #142, Dallas

PERPETUAL ROSE STONE

In Memory of Henrietta Zavodny Slavik

Charles and Retta Chandler

Karkoska Reunion

Cindy Schwertner

MUSEUM/ARCHIVES DONATION 2015

Items for the Janak Barn: 2 cotton scales with 2 weights, hand post hole digger, wire egg basket, single spring trap for varments, double spring trap for varments, 3 hand wood saws for lumber, hand tree limb saw, hand garden wheel plow, 2 steel 36" trace yokes, 2 steel 30" trace yokes, homemade iron pipe 36" trace yoke, homemade 30" spade, hand shovel, hand operated knife sharpener, pitch fork, hand rake, 30" chain links, hand shrub trimmer. **Donor: Lawrence and Bernice Kallus Estate**

Meat saw, keyhole saw, handsaw, small handsaw, kerosene can, hay puller, line board hitch for harrows. **Donor: Carolyn Heinsohn**

Items for Tool Shed: First Deluxe tool stool, 12" round stool (roll around), 12" carpenter square, 24" carpenter square, 2 ramps for autos, coping saw, 20" aluminum level, PSI Tire Gauge, 10" hammer with 16 oz. wood handle, 6" funnel, 30" Bungie cord, 24" crowbar, 6" needle nose pliers, leather hole punch. **Donor: Lawrence and Bernice Kallus Estate**

Items for the Hospodar: Canning jar holder for canning at home, 1 6" round strainer for cooking pasta. **Donor: Lawrence and Bernice Kallus Estate**

Old beer, soda, medicine bottles, canning and jelly jars, pink sewing carousel with top containing old spools and thread, blue enamel stone coffee pot and metal coffee pot, flat round skillet, round metal grater, red metal kitchen spoons, green glass bowl with eggs and a crock bowl, metal washstand with white enamel wash bowl and white water pitcher, towel and soap holder, white enamel table with black trim on sides (40"x25"). **Donor: Lisa Hart-Yarbrough.**

Items for the Kitchen Display in Museum: vintage square quart jar with blackeye peas. **Donor: Carolyn Heinsohn**

Item for Salas House: Wide mouth funnel.
Donor: Carolyn Heinsohn

Kroje from the village of Kobyla. **Donor: Vladimir Sejkal**

Complete Kroje from the village of Damborice, Hodonin district, belonging to Cheryl Mokry. **Donated in memory of Joseph and Hermina Mokry by Roman and Donna Mokry** (pictured right)



FAMILY HISTORIES

3 Family Histories: Henry Guy Cook & Rubecka Buerszen, Frank Mazel & Anna Tschiedel, John and Frances Babicova Kaspar. **Donor: Olena Stavena**

Family History of the Shimek Family. Donor: Donna Janak
3 Family Portraits: (1) Rudolf Valenta (2) Antonina Lesak Valenta (3) Antonina Pavlicek Lesak. **Donor: Caroline Valenta Kizer & Sue Valenta Camarillo.**

2 Books on Frenstat and Beskydy. **Donor Marilyn Kallus Kothmann.**

LIBRARY NEWS: WE ARE NOW ONLINE.

You can go to our website and look at the "card catalog" of books we have - over 8,000 of them. The books and authors are listed by searching several ways. These books are either on the shelves or stored in archival boxes, but they are a part of our collection.

OR you can go to <http://pastperfect-online.com/> and look for our listing, which is alphabetical.

You are invited **TCHCC Christmas Open House**

December 5, 2015
10:00 AM - 2 PM

Refreshments will be served, the Gift Shop will feature Christmas gifts, the museum and library will be open for history and genealogy buffs.

The restored buildings and Czech Village houses will all be open and decorated for Christmas from 10 am to 2 pm.

Stay for the evening's fundraiser the
2015 TCHCC Gala

will be held in the Pavilion with a catered meal, live band, dancing and a silent auction. **Alfred Vrazel and the Leo Majek Orchestra** will be recognized and honored.

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

ROSE GARDEN MEMORIAL

For \$250 a 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

A 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 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.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE CENTER.

Donation amounts are recognized by levels:

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\$200,000 _____ Five Star
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 10,000 _____ Bronze Benefactor
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 2,000 _____ Pioneer
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 750 _____ Steward
 500 _____ Patron
 250 _____ Donor
 150 _____ Special Friend
 100 _____ Friend

**Membership from
 January 1—December 31)**

\$250 _____ Corporate
 \$100 _____ Non-Profit Organization
 \$ 50 _____ Family
 \$ 35 _____ Individual
 \$ _____ Other ANNUAL SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP (yearly)
 Benefits: Annual Calendar and Nas Cesky Zivot newsletters

MEMORIALS can be made to honor someone living, on their birthday or anniversary etc., or the memory of a deceased friend or family member.

FOR _____
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCTOBER 16-17** **Heritage Festival & Muziky, Muziky**
 Friday, October 16 4-10 PM Octoberfest on the Deck - Music by the Dujka Brothers
 Saturday, October 17 10 AM - 9:30 PM Dedication of the Sawmill, Heritage Demonstrations,
 Biergarten Entertainment: Shiner Hobo Band and The Enzian Buam Band
 MUZIKY MUZIKY “ 7 - 9:30 PM The Legend Series: Featuring the Joe Patek Orchestra
 Fireworks Finale 9:30 PM
- OCTOBER 31** **The Orphan Train Conference 10 AM - 5 PM**
- DECEMBER 5** **TCHCC Christmas Open House** (Visit the Museum, Library, Village Houses & Buildings
 10 AM - 2 PM
TCHCC GALA 6 - 10 PM 2015 Honorees: Alfred Vrazel and Leo Majek Orchestra

Business Manager Mark Hermes and President Retta Chandler were the guest speakers at a recent Rotary Club Meeting. The Rotary Club meets every Wednesday in the Hanslik Hall. Pictured with Hermes and Chandler is Rotary Club President Stacey Norris.



Dennis Schnell of Schnell Hauling prepared the initial dirt work for the new bridge that will be built over the ditch behind the Main Center that will lead visitors to the vintage homes. The bridge is being built with money from a grant given to Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center by the Texas Womens' League. We THANK the League for their continued support of our efforts to preserve our history & culture.

