



LA GRANGE, TEXAS

NÁŠ ČESKÝ ŽIVOT

"OUR CZECH LIFE"

(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

SPRING 2018

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 1

TCHCC TOCA Recipients Waymond and Jean Blaha Davis



Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center proudly honored Waymond and Jean Blaha Davis at the 2018 TOCA Awards ceremony. Waymond and Jean are tireless volunteers who are present on a weekly basis helping greet visitors, perform docent duties as well as any other tasks asked of them. Waymond spends many hours in helping maintain the grounds of our ever-growing facility. Pictured left to right: TOCA President Kevin Kana, Jean Blaha Davis, Waymond Davis, and TCHCC President Retta Chandler.

Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture and heritage of Texans of Czech ethnicity.

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 Hrcir, 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

Twitter @TexasCzechHCC
and Instagram @czech.texas.lagrange
We are currently taking 2018 memberships
and donations online.

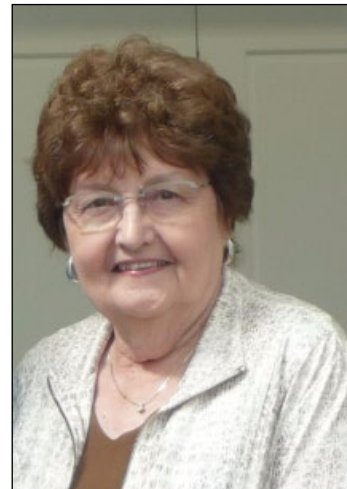


FLAG SPONSORSHIP is available. Sponsorship can be made in Memory of or in Honor of an individual or group. \$250.00. Contact TCHCC for details.

President's Letter 2018

The first few months were filled with activities and it seems that things will not be any different for the rest of the year. Included in this newsletter are exciting and interesting events scheduled for the rest of the year. We hope that you will be able to join us for all of them.

Some events recently were joyful such as the many visitors from around the US and Europe who have stopped in to tour the ever-expanding facilities of TCHCC. At the TOCA Awards dinner TCHCC recognized Waymond and Jean Davis for their outstanding volunteerism. Waymond and Jean have been long-time dedicated volunteers that help in the preservation of Czech heritage. After successful careers and interesting special interests, they were able to continue to pursue those interests and also to spend time at TCHCC. They began to volunteer when we had open grounds with no buildings. During those days, Waymond loaded his tractor and brought it to La Grange to be used to clear the grounds. They both helped us design the landscape planting. They continue to come each week to help where help is needed and also contribute to annual events. We are grateful to them for their enduring service and numerous contributions.



*TCHCC President
Retta Slavik Chandler*

Some events brought sadness. We lost members who helped in many ways to make a difference in achieving our success and who inspired us to continue our work.

To most people, Sanford Quest Schmid was a very active member of the area communities. He was born on November 20, 1919 in the Schoeneau area of Austin County to parents Rudolph and Annie Dockal Schmid and was the grandson of John and Emilie Witte Schmid and John and Emilie Mertz Dockal. Sanford wore many hats as a store proprietor, a chicken raising operation, beekeeper, a State Representative in 1958-59 under Governor Price Daniels, a member of CCC at Buchanan Dam near Austin. The salary he earned there became the funds for his investments. He served the community as a philanthropist providing financial assistance gifts for college tuitions, Second Chance Emporium, the Area Livestock Shows, Arts of Rural Texas, The Blinn College Foundation, The Sanford Schmid Amphitheater at TCHCC, and many other worthy causes.

To TCHCC, we came to know him and his wife Mannie Fritsch Schmid as the most welcoming, warm individuals anyone could know. Sanford and Mannie attended most of the events that we held and always had time to visit. We will also miss his frequent visits to the gift shop where he provided honey for sale to our customers. Sanford died on February 16, 2018. Sanford, Rest in Peace.

Within the same week, Doris Sykora Koliba passed away on February 14, 2018. I knew Doris when she lived in the Dallas area and before she moved to Cuero. She was an officer and active member of the Dallas Czech Club and KJZT, where she dedicated her time to preserving Czech heritage. She helped to compile and publish the popular Czech cook book, "Generation to Generation". She brought this enthusiasm with her when she married Ben Koliba. They were major contributors to the building fund of TCHCC where The Koliba Lobby is named in their honor. We will miss them all, but remember them as our dear friends.

Retta Slavik Chandler

Jimmy Holub, Sanford Schmid wearing his contagious smile, and Bob Heinsohn.



Doris Sykora Koliba and Barbara Brauner.



TCHCC VISITORS (right)
Dallas and Fort Worth Model A Clubs
recently gathered at TCHCC providing a
perfect photo op.



Below: A print shop is the latest building to be added to TCHCC's Texas Czech Village. The progress of this project will be reported on in the next newsletter.



Above: OOPS. In the last newsletter we placed Verka and Mirek Faldyn in Frenstat, Czech Republic. They live in Roznov, Czech Republic and are TCHCC's Tour Guides. Pictured above is Verka, daughter Veruska, Mirek, and Mirek's mother in Buchlovice.

SECOND BOOK COMING SOON.

Cathleen Noska and Terry Brooks are teaming up on a second book about Texas farm animals! What began as a desire to create children's books has become a fun way of entertaining the older crowd as well. Both children and adults love the imaginative, fun-on-the-farm stories written by Cathleen as well as the slightly whimsical yet true-to-life illustrations done by Terry.

The first book featured farm animals on a drought-stricken Texas farm. The new book entitled "Mila Recalls the Easter Story" features a mother hen and her chick as well as other farm animals. For an interesting story pleasing to all generations, be sure to get a copy available at the TCHCC Gift Shop soon.

The American Czech Theatre Presents
"The Stand-In" (Záskok) By Ladislav Smoljak and Zdeněk Svěrák
Sanford Schmid Amphitheater Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, La Grange
Saturday, May 19, 2018 ---7-9 PM and Sokol-Dallas Sunday, May 20, 2018

For Advance tickets: The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, info@czechtexas.org or www.czechtexas.org

\$12.00/\$15.00 at the door

About the Play

Záskok, written by Ladislav Smoljak and Zdeněk Svěrák, premiered in the Czech Republic in March 1994. It is a comedy set in 1910 about a small troupe of actors who find themselves short of company members. To allow the show to go on, they call in the famous Czech actor Karel Infeld Prachensky to perform one of the parts. However, the show becomes disastrous when the famous actor forgets his lines, causing chaos to ensue. The beginning of the play sets up the belief that Jara Cimrman, a fictional Czech personality, wrote the play being watched.

Jara Cimrman was invented by Svěrák and Smoljak and has become an integral part of Czech pop-culture, often compared to the Monty Python in Great Britain. Cimrman was voted as the "Greatest Czech" in 2005 and has been depicted as everything from an inventor, mathematician, playwright, adventurer, to philosopher. The first English translation of *Záskok* was created by The Cimrman English Theatre, a company of English speaking actors based in Prague. With the help of Brian Stewart, the company successfully created "The Stand-In".

"The original translation came from Brian Stewart being introduced to Cimrman through his girlfriend at the time. She provided him with a translation and he rejiggled it so that it became much more relevant to English-speaking audiences and were met with a bit of resistance at first from the establishment about putting it on. Once they saw it, they were swept away and it's been great. It has been fantastic to be part of that whole mythology of Cimrman." - Peter Hosking, Actor in the Cimrman English Theatre.

The Stand-In premiered in the United States in April 2017 in New York, Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. The first two performances were at the Bohemian National Hall in New York City on April 19th and 22nd, 2017.

The American Czech Theatre
presents
ZÁSKOK
(The Stand-In)
A CZECH COMEDY IN ENGLISH
FEATURING
JARA CIMRMAN
VOTED THE CZECH REPUBLIC'S
"GREATEST CZECH OF ALL TIME"
IN 2005
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:
SARAH WILHELM
DIRECTOR:
SARAH REYNOLDS

WRITTEN BY
Ladislav Smoljak
AND
OSCAR WINNER
Zdeněk Svěrák

MAY 18, 7 P.M.
THE BELTONIAN THEATRE
219 E. CENTRAL AVE., BELTON, TEXAS
BY THE CZECH HERITAGE MUSEUM

MAY 19, 7 P.M.
SANFORD SCHMID AMPHITHEATER
250 WEST FAIRGROUNDS ROAD, LA GRANGE, TEXAS
BY TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTER

MAY 20, 1 P.M.
SOKOL DALLAS
7448 GREENVILLE AVE., DALLAS, TEXAS
BY AMERICAN SOKOL

INFO@TACTHEATRE.ORG

Rehearsals underway in New York City for the Texas tour of the Czech play “The Stand-In”

The American Czech Theatre will present “The Stand-In,” a comedy by Ladislav Smoljak and Zdenek Sverak, for three performances in Texas in May. Executive Producer: Sarah Wilhelm. Associate Producer: Conner Skinner. Artistic Director: Sarah Reynolds.

May 18, 7 p.m. The Beltonian Theatre, 219 E. Central Ave., Belton, Texas

May 19, 7 p.m. Sanford Schmid Amphitheater, 250 West Fairgrounds Road, La Grange, Texas

May 20, 1 p.m. Sokol Dallas, 7448 Greenville Ave., Dallas, Texas

Contact: Sarah Wilhelm, info@tactheatre.org or Susan Chandler, 817-919-9095.

Three Czech-Texas organizations have joined to bring the beloved Czech fictional character, Jara Cimrman, to Texas in May. Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange, the Czech Heritage Museum & Genealogy Center in Temple and Sokol Dallas are sponsoring three performances of “The Stand-In,” a comedy by Ladislav Smoljak and Zdenek Sverak, presented by The American Czech Theatre. The executive producer is Sarah Wilhelm and it is directed by Sarah Reynolds.

“The Stand-In” features the fictional character Jara Cimrman and is one of a unique genre of Czech plays which began as a radio show in the 1960s. Sverak began making references to Cimrman while working at the government radio station. He placed Cimrman at a time in history when the Czechs were under Austria-Hungary, but used the character as a device to comment on current events.

Sverak won an Oscar for 1997 Best Foreign Language Film for *Kolya*. He wrote and starred in the film, which was directed by his son.

“Sverak’s *Kolya* was one of the first Czech films available here in Texas after communism,” said Retta Chandler, president of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange. “We are thrilled to participate in this Texas tour of “The Stand-In.”

Rehearsals are underway now in New York. “We auditioned in New York in February and these are all professional actors,” Wilhelm said. “The cast loves the script. It’s been really fun. We’ve made it a very physical show,” she said.

“My hope is that we can make Czech theater more universally known; that people will hear Czech words,” she said. “Many people know Vaclav Havel’s work, but there are a number of great contemporary Czech plays and they are brilliant pieces of art. I searched for Czech comedies. It’s not that there aren’t many comedies, it’s just that they are not translated. Many people think of Czech theater as dark. It’s not that it’s all dark, but that those works that were politically or historically significant are the ones that have been translated,” Wilhelm said.

“The cast is a diverse group, so this has been a good learning opportunity for them about Czech culture,” she said. “They are learning to speak and pronounce Czech. They can take what they learned into their own world, and open a conversation of cultural exchange.”

“The Czech heritage in Texas is very strong, but in my experience, outside of those groups, people are still calling it Czechoslovakia or asking where it is or not even knowing what Czech is,” she said.

Although the Cimrman plays have been performed for 50 years in Prague, the shows are still sell-outs, with hundreds of people queuing up for tickets when they go on sale.

Cimrman is so popular among Czechs, that they voted him “The Greatest Czech of All Time” in 2005. As a fictional character, he was disqualified, but 40,000 people signed petitions in protest, so a new category was created for him. Cimrman fans or “Cimrmanologists” often compare the character to Britain’s Monty Python, but Americans will more likely see a similarity with the Forest Gump character, with one exception. While Gump is successful at everything he attempt, Cimrman just misses the mark, usually by showing up five minutes late. But, Cimrman does contribute to much of history, showing up for breakthroughs around the world in science, the arts, economics, and politics, earning him the title, “The Master.”

“This genre of plays represents the Czech people and culture on many levels,” said Susan Chandler of the Czech Heritage Museum in Temple. “On one hand, there is the plight of the geographically small country always at risk of being overshadowed by its powerful neighbors. On the other, the indomitable spirit of the Czech people ever prevails. The Czech’s love and skillful use of the written word has endured since Cyril brought it in the 900s and, I think, has been key to the culture’s survival.”

For information, contact: Sarah Wilhelm, info@tactheatre.org or Susan Chandler, 817-919-9095.

Zdeněk Svěrák and Ladislav Smoljak





Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center

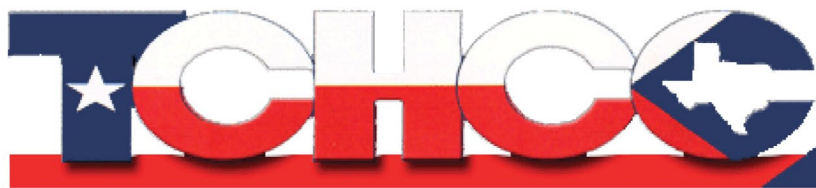
Eva Adam's Česká Kapela from the Czech Republic to Perform at TCHCC's annual Slavnost on May 20, 2018



Eva and Vasek are among the most popular professional music couples in the Czech Republic. They have been active in the domestic and international scene for nearly 30 years. Internationally, they have played in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and most of Europe. They are originally from the Moravian region and to this day have their firm -SURF music publishing house- based there. The firm is involved in audio-video, TV and graphics studio. During their highly successful music career, they have received many awards. Among the most prominent are awards in CD sales- 2 multiplatinum, 16 platinum, and 32 gold records. Eva and Vasek are talented multi-lingual singers as well. Performing in their native Czech language as well as German, English, Polish, Spanish, Italian and several others.

Eva studied opera and plays piano and Vasek plays an array of various instruments including the accordion. The group accompanying Eva and Vasek is composed of young talented musicians who are studying at the prestigious music school conservatory in Pardubice, Czech Republic. They represent not only the school but the whole Pardubice region. This school is one of three schools in the Czech Republic where young and gifted students become professional musicians. Each musician is an excellent soloist on his or her musical instrument.

For this international music project, only top musicians were selected. When studying classical music, they aim to preserve Czech national traditions and interpretations of Czech musical authors. Because of their love for this music, Eva and Vasek have chosen them as their accompanying band. Their name carries the repertoire which they perform not only in their home country, but also abroad.



TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND
CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS



Slavnost

"May Fest"

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018

~Tribute to Czech-Texas Immigrants of All Years~

Ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

Meal Served starting at 11:30 a.m.

\$10.00 per person - Includes Meal & ALL Events

Music By

**THE TRAVELERS
ORCHESTRA**

12:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

**EVA ADAM'S
CESKA KAPELA**

from the Czech Republic

3:30 PM TO 6:30 PM

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Czech Village 🎵 Museum Tours

Pastry Shop 🎵 Classic Car Show

Door Prizes 🎵 Gift Shop

Raffle Drawing 🎵 Country Store

FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE ALL DAY



MAIN STREET & VISITORS BUREAU

TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

250 WEST FAIRGROUNDS ROAD ♦ LA GRANGE, TEXAS 78945

888-785-4500 ♦ INFO@CZECHTEXAS.ORG ♦ WWW.CZECHTEXAS.ORG

TOCA Awards Appreciation Reception and Dinner

The Texans of Czech Ancestry held their annual awards dinner at TCHCC on Saturday, March 24, 2018 in Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center's Hanslik Hall. A Wine and Cheese Reception was held in the Kolyba Lobby from 4-5 PM (sponsored by SPJST) with the Awards and Dinner beginning at 5 PM. RVOS paid the rental fee and KJZT sponsored Musician Henry Machicek. Members of the Awards Dinner Committee took care of all the details. The committee consisted of Kevin Kana, Arlene and Alan Cloyd, Vlasta Vitek, Eileen Rosipal, Georgia Vyvial, Johnnie and Lorenda Polasek, Mark Hermes and Retta Chandler.



Awards were presented to the following individuals who have helped their respective organizations. Top L-R: Texas Czech Genealogical Society Recipient **Rev. John Gantt** and RVOS-Farm Mutual Insurance Recipient **Bob Liska**. Bottom L-R: Texans of Czech Ancestry Recipient **Marvin Marek** and KJZT - Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas Recipient **Grace Vinklarek**.



Top L-R: Czech Educational Foundation of Texas Recipient **Brian Vanicek** and Czech Heritage Society of Texas Recipient **Myrna and T. J. Slansky**. Center L-R: CHS Travis-Williamson County Recipient **Kay Bouska** and CHS Fort Bend County Recipient **Bernice Ann Ubernovsky Frendensprung**. Bottom L-R: SPJST Recipient **Jerry Milan** (receiving in his absence was **Mary Steinmann**) and KJT Catholic Union of Texas Recipient **Martha Viktorin**.

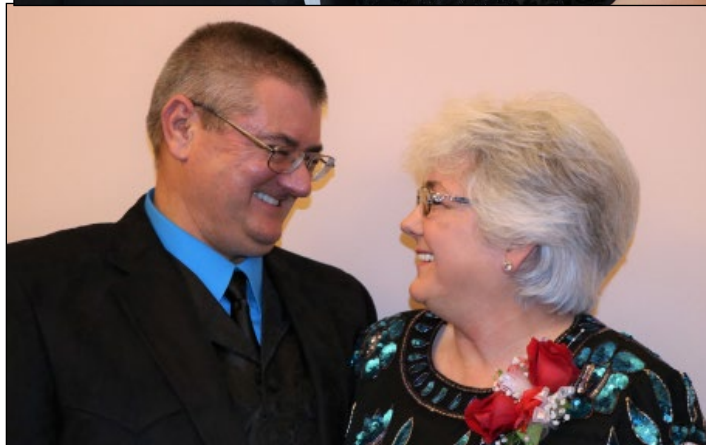


Recipients and their guests enjoyed a wine and cheese reception in the Koliba Lobby while being serenaded by Henry and Susan Machicek. Center left: 2018 TOCA Officers are: Treasurer Daniel Mares, Secretary Vlasta Vitek, VP Thomas Stavinoha and President Kevin Kana. Below: RVOS representatives presented a \$5,000 donation to TCHCC. L-R: RVOS Retired Claims Adjuster Charles Chandler, RVOS Director Wayne Wilson, TCHCC President Retta Chandler, TCHCC Board Member Joe Bartosh, RVOS Director Thomas Stavinoha, RVOS Representative and TCHCC Board Member Dennis Vanek, RVOS Representative Bob Liska, RVOS Representative Brad Stavinoha, RVOS Officer Sadie Liska, and TCHCC Board Member and Honorary Czech Consul Brian Vanicek.

2018 VALENTINE DINNER AND CONCERT



2018 VALENTINE SWEETHEARTS





Valentine Photos Courtesy of Gary McKee.

2019 TCHCC CALENDAR

Do you have a favorite family recipe that has lived on from generation to generation? Is this a secret recipe or are you willing to share it with the world?

The 2019 TCHCC Calendar will feature family recipes that include the recipe and a photo of the Czech Chef who created and perpetuated it.



New Book Coming This Fall:

“Veterans’ Voices and Home Front Memories”

If you’re a fan of history and heritage, you’ll want to read *World War II Veterans’ Voices and Home Front Memories*, written by award-winning local author Elaine Thomas. This new 275-page book tells the stories of 63 veterans and civilians, all of whom have ties to Fayette County. Mark your calendar for Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018, 1:30-4:30, when the Fayette County Museum and Archives will host a book signing for Elaine and the featured veterans and civilians at the historic Casino Hall in La Grange. Please come out and say hello!

For more information, contact Elaine at callacomm@hotmail.com or call 979-263-5031.

Origin of the Polka

Sokol Bulletin, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

In a letter from Eduard and Nina Ingris of South Lake Tahoe, they note that in a recent broadcast it was mistakenly stated that the Polka is of Polish origin, and that the Beer Barrel Polka is also Polish. Their explanation follows:

“The origin of the Polka goes back to 1830 to the town of Kostelec, Bohemia, where a young girl, named Anička Chadimova, while taking care of her master’s children, teaching them to sing and dance, invented her own dance in 2 / 4 time. Soon the village heard about this, including the village teacher Josef Neruda. He was the first to write the tune down in music and called the dance ‘Půlka’ which means ‘half’ (of 4/4 time). Soon the Půlka got to be called POLKA, the same as today.

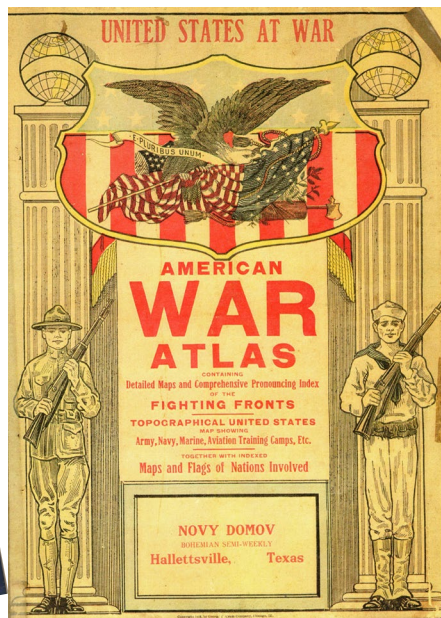
“The POLKA soon conquered all Europe and later was brought to America by the immigrants. It survived many other dances and is much danced today, 146 years after its invention. The polka tempo is much used by Czech composers, but is not found in the works of classical Polish composers or those of other nationalities.

“*Websters New World Dictionary of the American Language* says: POLKA - Czech ‘půlka* - fast dance for couples, developed in Bohemia in the early 19th century.

“*Funk and Wagnalls Standard Reference Encyclopaedia*: POLKA - a species of dance of Bohemian origin, invented in 1830 and introduced into England in 1843. The music is in two-quarter time and has the rhythmical peculiarity of being accented on the third quarter of the measure.

“The Beer Barrel Polka comes from a Czech love song by Jaromír Vejvoda, of Zbraslav, Czechoslovakia named ‘Škoda Lásky.’ It was brought to England by Czechoslovak airmen, and with translated lyrics became General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s favorite melody. He had the author come to England to thank him personally for the morale building effect of the song.

“As often is the case, Anička Chadimova did not benefit in any way. After an unhappy marriage, she died as a pauper. The teacher, Josef Neruda’s life was also unhappy, and during the night of April 8, 1876 was murdered in his home. The murderer was never found.”



WORLD WAR I AND THE BIRTH OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

EXHIBIT: MARCH 12, 2018—NOVEMBER 26, 2018

GUIDED EDUCATION TOURS PROVIDED FOR GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE
AND FOR HIGH SCHOOL GROUPS

- JUNE 22** **7 PM CZECHO-SLOVAK LEGIONS AND WWI**
 JOAN MCGUIRE MOHR, SPEAKER AND AUTHOR OF
 THE CZECH AND SLOVAK LEGION IN SIBERIA, 1917-1922.
 RECEPTION, BOOK SIGNING IN HANSLIK HALL
- OCTOBER 28** **1 PM BIRTHDAY PARTY—CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF**
 CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY—HANSLIK
HALL
- NOVEMBER 3** **2 PM AWARDS CEREMONY—RECOGNITION OF DESCENDANTS OF**
 WWI SOLDIERS (ANY ETHNICITY)
 3 PM RECEPTION—HANSLIK HALL
- NOVEMBER 26** **4 PM EXHIBIT CLOSES**

MONETARY EXHIBIT DONATIONS: WILLIAM AND MARY JANE KOCUREK
 JANIS BLANTON HRNCIR IN MEMORY OF HER GRANDFATHER JOSEF LESAK
 RETTA SLAVIK CHANDLER IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER FRANK SLAVIK

AT 2 PM ON NOVEMBER 3, 2018, TCHCC WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE DESCENDANTS OF ANY WWI SOLDIER REGARDLESS OF ETHNICITY. IF YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, IS A DESCENDANT, PLEASE CONTACT TCHCC FOR AN APPLICATION FORM.

WORLD WAR I AND THE BIRTH OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

EXHIBIT: March 12, 2018—November 26, 2018

Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center Museum - 250 W. Fairgrounds Road, La Grange, Texas

www.czechtexas.org/Email—info@czechtexas.org

PROUDLY PRESENTS GUEST SPEAKER

JOAN MCGUIRE MOHR, PHD

June 22, 2018

7-8:30 pm

Hanslik Hall, TCHCC

**Presentation, Reception,
and Book Signing**

Books are available for purchase in the Gift Shop

RSVP info@czechtexas.org

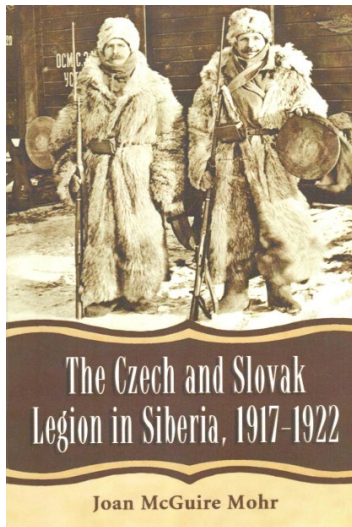
\$5.00 admission



AUTHOR OF: *The Czech and Slovak Legion In Siberia, 1917-1922*

About the Book: “During World War I, a specialized Russian battalion comprised of ethnic Czechs and Czech and Slovak prisoners of war—the Legion—became a pawn in an international game of power and deceit. The Legion’s detour through Siberia became the greatest human interest story of the war, chronicled weekly in the *New York Times* and *New York Herald*... This volume offers the seminal account of this hidden yet epic journey, shedding light on a fascinating but forgotten facet of WWI.”

Their adventures were also covered in Texas newspapers including the *Novy Domov*.



About the Author: Joan McGuire Mohr is a United States historian and writer in military history, historical fiction, and biography. An expert in US Immigration History, she discovered information on the Czech and Slovak Legion and their trek through Siberia which prompted the research that led to the writing of *The Czech and Slovak Legion In Siberia, 1917-1922*. The book was published by McFarland & Company in 2012.

Mohr has served as a contributing historian at the Czech and Slovak National Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and lectured at the Museum of Applied Arts in Budapest, Hungary. She also leads lecture tours into Hungary and Transylvania. She has studied at the Charles University in Prague and the Comenius University in Bratislava.

Living among Slavic immigrants in Denver, Joan became interested in their history and currently lives in San Diego. She graduated from Colorado University, then University of San Diego, and received a doctorate at Pittsburgh University.

VISITORS: Top Left: Henry and Nancy Holubec brought Henry's cousin Jiri and Katarina Holubec from the Czech Republic to tour the Center. Top Right: Attendants of the Quilt Show visit every year during the Quilt Show at the Fairgrounds and visit the Center and enjoy a TCHCC home-made lunch. Center- Bottom: Bill and Betty Melnar toured the Center with a group from Wesleyan Independent Living in Georgetown, Texas.



LIDICE 1942

C. M. Truman

www.historylearningsite.co.uk 18 May 2015-12 April 2018

In June 1942, Lidice, a village in Czechoslovakia, ceased to exist. Lidice had been implicated in the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi controller of Bohemia and Moravia, and Hitler's order was given to "teach the Czechs a final lesson of subservience and humility". On May 27th, 1942, Heydrich was attacked by British-trained freedom fighters - one born in the current Czech Republic and the other, Jozef Gabčík, born in Slovakia. A grenade attack on his car left him fatally wounded and he died on June 4th. Hitler had always had a high opinion of Heydrich. Some believe that Hitler was grooming Heydrich to succeed him and the Fuehrer said that "he has a heart of iron". Energetic and efficient, Heydrich brought a reign of terror to Czechoslovakia and his death enraged Hitler. "Hitler was frantic with rage and, characteristically, what he called for was not justice but vengeance. He ordered the instant execution of 30,000 Czechs as a reprisal." Richard Livingstone.

The man appointed to take over from Heydrich, Karl Frank, pointed out that the loss of 30,000 would have a severe impact on the Czech labor force. Hitler took this on board and changed the figure to the arrest of 10,000. On the night of May 27th, Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS, ordered Frank to shoot 100 "intellectuals" that night. Over the next few days, 3,188 Czechs were arrested of whom 1,357 were executed, while 657 died in police custody. However, none of this satisfied Hitler, though he had recognised the fact that 30,000 executions would have a negative impact on the labour force in Czechoslovakia.

On June 8th, a state funeral was held for Heydrich. On the next day, Frank received an order from Hitler which stated that a small community near an industrial centre was to be selected and wiped out as punishment. Therefore, there would be no impact on the Czech labour force, but Hitler would have gained his desired revenge.

But why was Lidice chosen? One of the men who assassinated Heydrich had links to Lidice (the assassins were all killed). Also the Gestapo had intercepted what they deemed to be a "suspicious" note that contained the name Lidice. In fact, it was another Lidice in Czechoslovakia - but this only came to light afterwards, once the arrangements had been made to wipe out Frank's chosen target - Lidice near Prague.

Lidice was about 10 miles from Prague. The village was off any main road so the sighting of any German troops en masse was rare. With 100,000 German troops in Czechoslovakia, German troops had been seen in Lidice but only in small numbers. On June 4th, the day of Heydrich's death, German troops entered Lidice, the Gestapo questioned people and houses were ransacked. Then they suddenly left leaving the villagers confused as to why they had done this.

On June 9th, they returned in the evening. Most of the villagers had gone to bed. They were woken and made to gather in the village square. Women and children were put on one side and men and boys over 15 were put on the other side of the square. The men and boys were put in farm buildings while the women and children were locked into the local school.

After the villagers had been locked away, military police ransacked the homes once again and took anything of value. All farming tools were taken and cattle were herded up. Anything of the remotest value was taken.

At 05.00 the next day, the 198 women and 98 children were put onto lorries and driven away. They were transferred to Ravensbruck concentration camp. Those children who were considered suitable for 'Germanisation' were picked out and given to SS families. Those who were not considered suitable were scheduled to be sent to the camps. The men were brought out of the farm houses and lined up in front of mattresses laid against a wall - see the photograph above. The execution squad brought them out in batches of ten. 173 were shot. Those men who lived in Lidice but who were on shift work at the local factories when the arrests were made, were rounded up later - a further 19 were shot. Those men who were in Lidice at the time visiting relatives and friends, but who were not from Lidice, were also shot.

The village was then destroyed - literally wiped off of the map. Houses were destroyed, orchards dug up and the graveyard desecrated. Even pet dogs were shot. When this was done, pioneer troops were sent in to plough the land flat. Seemingly nothing was left of the village, not even the outline. The whole episode was filmed by the SS.

Of the women, only 143 are known to have somehow survived Ravensbruck, the Nazi concentration camp for women. Of the 98 children (who, owing to "transport difficulties", were separated from their mothers on June 12th), 17 are known to have survived by being selected for 'Germanisation'. They returned to Czechoslovakia after the war. Those children not considered suitable were gassed at Chemnitz on the orders of Adolf Eichmann.

LIDICE EXHIBIT

on loan from the Czech Embassy in
Washington, D. C.
at TCHCC Melnar Library
April to November 26, 2018



Lidice Church and corn-loft before destruction by the Nazis (1940) Photo: Petr Hodan Lidice 1942-1972



Lidice in the smoke and dust of houses.
Photo: Petr Hodan Lidice 1942-1972



Lidice Museum.
Photo: Petr Hodan Lidice 1942-1972



Lidice Museum reminders of the destruction.
Photo: Petr Hodan Lidice 1942-1972

Andrew Feustel and KRTEČEK into Space again.

The Czech cartoon character, Krteček (Little Mole), and U S Astronaut Andrew Feustel are back in space. On Wednesday, March 28, 2018, the two joined Russian Oleg Artemjev and US Richard Arnold on the Soyuz MS spacecraft. "The spacecraft will reach the International Space Station to serve on the Expedition 55" states Pavel Suchan of the Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Science. This will be the second trip for Krteček who first went into space with Feustel in 2011 on the Endeavour spaceship. Andrew Feustel has participated in two shuttle missions: one in 2009 and one in 2011. This is his third mission. This mission will require him to stay for the Expedition 56 which will last until August.

The mole that flew in 2011 was 20 centimeters tall and will not fit into the Soyuz rocket so a smaller stuffed animal and a copy of a painting by Petr Ginz called "Moon Landscape" will be carried on by Feustel. The painting was aboard the Columbia space shuttle when it exploded in 2003 and is being brought on board in memory of the Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon who died on board that shuttle. Source: Czech Radio 7, Radio Prague. All rights reserved. Copyright 1996, 2018 Radio Prague. Url: <http://www.radio.cz/en/article/541872>.

Prague Daily Monitor reported on April 10, 2018 that "NASA gave the ISS crew 20 minutes to make an interview with CT (Public Czech Television). On this occasion, Feustel put on a T-shirt with a logo marking 100 years of Czech-U.S. relations and the independent State of Czechs."

KRTEK was created by Zdenek Miler of Prague, Czech Republic. Zdenek created the wide-eyed animated mole over 50 years ago. Krtek is loved all over the world (in over 80 countries) for his cheerful, kind nature. He did, however, challenge bureaucrats and pushed for aid for those in need and spoke up against the destruction of the environment. Krtek had many adventures chronicled in children's books and films. His appeal was accomplished through a message to children in mostly nonverbal expressions.

The creator worked in a movie studio in 1954 when Czechoslovakia was under Communism. The government commissioned a cartoon directed at children explaining how trousers were made. He felt it was too boring and used animated creatures: a frog, spiders and crawfish to tell the story in the 13-minute film.

Zdenek Miller was born on February 21, 1921 in Kladno. Miler graduated from the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. He died on November 30, 2011 in Prague at the age of 90.



TCHCC patrons will remember Andrew Feustel and his wife Indira (who has Czech roots) when they attended the TCHCC Gala on December 8, 2012. Andrew, Krtecek, and Indira Feustel are pictured with 2012 CHS Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen Caitlin Orsak.



Krtek is sold in various sizes in the TCHCC Gift Shop.

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Billy & Marcella Teague

LIBRARY MUSEUM DONATIONS

Linda Castillo - six copies of two books she authored: *Střípky Ticha & Ztracené Děti*.

Joseph Bartosh - 2 books written by Eduard Micek; 2 boxes of books and pictures

Molly Cernosek - Antique Collier Magazine, 5 copies of Czech Surname books, five 2003 Calendars

Retta and Charles Chandler - Czech Song Book belonging to Jerry Elzner, 3 volumes of Give Glory hymnal

Arthur and Jeanette Kleim - SOKOL Songbook 1990

Carolyn Heinsohn - Antique or Vintage Items for Main Museum displays

2 cigar boxes, blue graniteware coffeepot, oil lamp, Hershey candy box, dried dates canister, Clabber Girl baking powder can, Cocoa tin, 2 small liquor bottles, small whiskey jug, Dr. Caldwell's laxative box, Hunt's Lightening Oil liniment, 2 salve tins, pickling spice and cloves containers, Maple flavoring bottle, Meyers Epsom Salts, 4 liniment bottles, 3 fabric bolts, wooden handkerchief box, assorted sewing notions, button box with sliding lid, anchovy box, cheese box, long display box, tin angel food cakepan, 2 blue graniteware coffee cups, shaving mug with 2 shaving brushes, small graniteware pot, small brass scale, handmade metal cone strainer, knife steel, pie crimper, wire whisk, cookie cutter, gold clothes brush, 2 small glass bottles with stopper lids, smoking pipe, culture brand smoking tobacco box, small green enamel teapot, Satina brand ironing aid box, rectangular butter mold, pair of brown 1950s girl shoes

Antique and Vintage Items for the Salas House

Pair of black 1950s girl shoes, spice tin, medium size brown medicine bottle with glass stopper.

Antique and Vintage Items for future use in the Store

Wooden apple box with Gravenstein label, pocket knife with wooden handle, Dr. Blume's Vanilla Extract box

New Items

Christmas swag décor for exterior Czech Music Museum door, Christmas swag décor for interior door at Salas house

Darrell Matula - Manual drill press on wood stand and steel hand jack

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Muras and family (Dorothy, Anna Marie, Rosalie & J. J.) - 30 pieces of Czech Crystal, handmade and painted wooden plates, Glass curio cabinet

Jerry Odstrcil (via Thadious Polasek) - Men's complete kroj, hat and purse

Mike & Allyne Ratliff - Picture of Hostyn Group

Jane Reynolds - 30 Czech books and tapes

Raymond and Judy Uherek - complete kroje, books and tapes

Mary Pavlas Webster - 6 boxes of books, pictures, tapes, records belonged to her father: Stanley Pavlas

Elizabeth White - Czech Catholic Home Memorial Book

Jo Ann Glazer - Moravian and Blatnice kroje, Group picture from Ennis Daily News, picture of Annie Hrcncir Zalkovsky

Pictured Right: Jo Ann Glazer and Sharon Manor.



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 & 20TH ANNIVERSARY STONES

A 12" x 12" 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 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 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.

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2018

- May 19 *The Stand-In*. A play by Zdeněk Svěrák and Ladislav Smoljak, Sanford Schmid Amphitheater 7-9 PM
- May 20 Slavnost "MayFest" and Tribute to the Immigrants Ceremony at 10:30 AM.
Meal served beginning at 11:30 AM
Music: The Travelers Orchestra 12:00-3:00 PM Eva Adam's Česká Kapela 3:30-6:30
Raffle, Country Store, May Pole Dance, Village Tours, Museum WWI Exhibit
- June 22 Guest Speaker: Joan McGuire Mohr, author of *The Czech and Slovak Legion in Siberia 1917-1922*.
Presentation and Book Signing 7-8:30 PM Hanslik Hall
- June 23 TCHCC/CHS Family Day
- July 16-29 Czech Republic Bohemian and Moravian Tour 2018 SOLD OUT
- October 19-20 Heritage Fest/Muziky
Friday: Octoberfest on the Deck: Music by the Dujka Brothers 6-9:30 PM
Our famous Chicken & Dumplings served beginning at 5:30 PM
Saturday: Music by Jerry Haisler & the Melody 5 and Enzian Buam 11:30-6 PM
Antique Farm Equipment & Car Show, Saw Mill, Kolače Eating Contest
Heritage Demonstrations & Booths, KJT State Tarock Tournament
Muziky, Muziky Performance at the Amphitheater - 7-9:30 PM
The Legacy of the Vrazels' Polka Band
Fireworks Finale 9:30 PM
- December 1 TCHCC Gala 6 PM, Pavilion Hall.