

Texaský Rolník

A detailed black and white illustration of a Texas farm scene. It features a large, round fruit (possibly a peach or apple) on the left, a central farm with a barn and a windmill, and a bundle of wheat stalks on the right. The scene is set against a background of rolling hills and a sky with clouds.

TEXAS FARMER

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CENTENNIAL
Edition

A stylized five-pointed star logo for RVOS Insurance, with the text 'RVOS INSURANCE' and 'Est. 1907' positioned around it.

RVOS INSURANCE
Est. 1907

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Vice President
VP at Large
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featured stories

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Throughout this issue we're featuring old advertisements and newspapers we've published in.

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Community, togetherness and language—how journalism and the arts shaped the history of Czechs in Texas.

by Andrew Phillips and Sharlet Sladecek

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It's always craft time for the Sass Girls

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Information

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Editor's

Letter

Contributions for many of the articles in the Rolník are from people that Andrew and I interview. We were on our way to do an interview for this issue. Before leaving the office I got on the Internet to get directions. These directions took us on a winding country road to get to our destination.

The sights were beautiful and the road was good until the directions led us to a gravel road which was meeting with another road. We couldn't see far enough ahead to tell where the road was going. The gravel road turned into mud and before we knew it we were in the middle of a corn field and stuck. I was really aggravated with myself because I grew up in the country and experienced the same thing first hand. I should have known better than to get in such a predicament. We had to walk out of that field. Andrew was laughing the whole time and I was mad at myself. Thank goodness

for cell phones and good neighbors. We had to call and let our interviewee know we were going to be late. We had to get someone to pull us out of the mud. A nearby farmer was kind enough to come to our aid and pull us out with his four-wheel drive truck. He truly practiced the RVOS motto 'Neighbor Helping Neighbor.'

Sharlet Sladecek

Sharlet Sladecek, Editor
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Privacy

Policy

RVOS Insurance Group, including RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance Company, Priority One Insurance Company, New Century Insurance and RVOS General Agency, Inc., understands that securing your privacy is extremely important. We maintain physical and electronic safeguards and enforce procedures to protect your non-public personal information. We do not sell, trade, lend, lease or share non-public personal information to affiliate or non-affiliated third parties, except as permitted by law. We collect data from insurance applications. We may collect claim history, credit history, driving records and medical records from a third party if necessary. Transactions will provide payment history, underwriting and claims information. We do share information between our group of companies including name, address and transaction experience. However, we do not share medical or health information among companies or with third parties except to process transactions or to provide services at your request. A full privacy policy is available on www.rvos.com/privacy-policy or upon request by calling (800) 792-3084. The contents of this publication are not intended to provide medical, financial or legal advice. RVOS recommends that you seek the advice of a competent professional for such services.

DOBŘÍ DEN AND GREETINGS TO ALL,

The 29th RVOS General Convention is now in the history books. The Delegates elected by you, our members, met to address By-Law amendments, ratify the Officers of the Company and to establish a time and location to hold district meetings. The changes that were adopted will be published in the September issue and all members will receive a copy of the new By-Laws with their new or renewal policies.

The spring season brought numerous weather events that caused significant damage by hail and wind to many communities in Texas. Even though some areas of Texas have suffered hail damage, the number of reported hail losses has almost doubled the historical claim totals. I wondered if the weather patterns had dramatically shifted to cause this increase in reported losses, or if something else was happening. My better judgment led me to believe it was something else.

It became a little clearer to me when a hailstorm hit my own home. By noon the next day, no less than twelve roofing contractors had knocked on my door, many of them offering to make the insurance company pay with no out of pocket expense to me for a free new roof. A FREE roof? How does that work? I know that I have a deductible and if my policy is actual cash value, some depreciation. Many of them also promoted themselves as 'insurance

claim specialists' and offered to deal with the insurance company on my behalf if I would just sign their contract. If they had known I was in the insurance business they certainly would not have conducted themselves in this illegal manner. I'm sure that reputable roofing contractors do not condone such illicit activity, but in the end it will not only drive up costs associated with building materials but also our insurance premiums.

Many of the claims being filed for hail damage are now ending up in litigation, where property owners are disputing the amounts paid by insurance companies. Plaintiff attorneys are making millions of dollars traveling from one weather event to the next and taking advantage of unsuspecting homeowners. These frivolous lawsuits ultimately end up creating docket congestion in the court systems. Because the expense of these lawsuits causes higher premiums for everyone and tightens underwriting practices, the only people benefitting from this abuse of the legal system are the plaintiff attorneys themselves.

The combination of uncontrolled litigation and roofing contractors acting as 'insurance claim experts' appears to be responsible for the dramatic increase in hail claims paid out in the past few years.

Without legislative relief imposing



President's Letter

consequences for filing fraudulent claims and lawsuit abuse, insurers will have no choice but to eventually restrict coverages just as was done following the fictitious 'mold crises' in 2002. In many cases our landfills are receiving a discarded barrage of perfectly good roofing materials. All of this is unfortunate for those insureds who abide by their insurance policy provisions.

**REGARDS TO YOU AND MÍT
KRÁSNÝ DEN,**

Wiley Shockley, President
info@rvos.com

PIECES OF OUR PAST PUBLISHED IN 1911, OBZOR

R. V. O. S.
Oznaky vyprodávám
ny, vělice snižené ceny
dí ve stály \$1.00 a nyní
je vyprodávám za 60 ct.
kus pokud jich zásoba stačí.

S. P. J. S. T.
pozlacenné stojí 60c kus
a zlaté \$1.00. Čistě zla-
té pro sestry stojí \$2.50

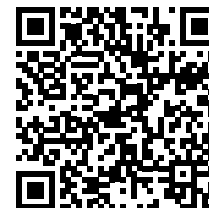
A. V. Schwab
BEEVILLE, TEXAS

+ Fraud Reward

If you know someone who commits insurance fraud, speak up! Stopping fraudulent activity helps keep premiums down. If you know someone who commits arson or theft of property insured by RVOS, let us know. If that person is convicted, you could receive a reward up to \$500.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone by downloading a scanner from the app store or going to <http://www.rvos.com/rolnik> and clicking on the subscribe button. Your subscription automatically enrolls you in the digital version of the Rolník, which is sent to your email.

Get the Rolník
by email!



LODGE NEWS



LODGE 51 ⤴

Lodge 51 members gathered at the annual party of RVOS Lodge 51 on March 8 in Ennis, Texas. Members enjoyed a meal catered by Bubba's Barbeque. Czech music was provided by David Slovak and Laddie Gajdica. Door prizes were given out. Pictured Top (L-R): David Slovak and Laddie Gajdica. Pictured Middle (L-R): Secretary Betty Macalik and President John Mensik. Pictured Bottom (L-R): Fire department representatives Charles Orman, Tommy Marusak, Emil Martinek, David Spaniel, Doug Spaniel and Van Fowler, Vice President At-Large Richard Hykel, District 6 Director Rhonda Steelman and agent Johnnie Krajca.

LODGE 55 »

Lodge 55 held their annual social April 6 at DeCosta Hall. A donation was made to the Lone Tree Volunteer Fire Department. Pictured (L-R): District 4 Director Dennis Vanek, President Beatrice Neisser, Lone Tree VFD Representatives Richard Garcia and Cory Tucker, Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Kabela and Vice President Gay Revel.



LODGE 127 «

Lodge 127 donated to Project Graduation at the Jourdanton, Pleasanton and Poteet schools. The lodge also donated to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Pictured Top (L-R): President Bobby Tymrak, Jourdanton Rep. Regina House, Pleasanton Rep. Brenda Rowinsky, agent Janice Favor, Vice President John R. Muckleroy and Secretary Bettie House. Pictured Bottom (L-R): Agent Cheryl Henry, President Bobby Tymrak, Atascosa County Relay for Life Committee Chair Amber Zellweger, Secretary Bettie House and Vice President John R. Muckleroy.

LODGE 142 »

On March 15, 2014, Lodge 142 held their annual dinner and dance at the Catholic Czech Club in Dallas, Texas. On March 23, 2014, the lodge celebrated an Easter Mass, dinner and dance at the club. Over 150 members were in attendance. At the Mass members sang both English and Czech hymns. There was a choir and Czech band present for the Mass celebration. Pictured Top (L-R): Agent Paul Athas, Vice President Charles Chandler, District 6 Director Rhonda Steelman, Secretary Sadie Liska, agent Thomas Athas and President Laddie Gajdica. Pictured Middle: RVOS members attending the Lodge 142 Easter Mass celebration. Pictured Below: A band plays traditional Czech music for the Easter Mass celebration.



In Remembrance

Frank Klinkovsky
Past President Lodge 5

Joe D. Symank
Agent Lodge 30

Stella Yanowski
Secretary Lodge 71

Ann Southerland
Agent Lodge 133

Ernest Presek
Past Agent & Vice President Lodge 146

LODGE MEETINGS

WEIMAR LODGE 64 ANNUAL MEETING

DATE Sunday, October 19, 2014
TIME 11 a.m.
PLACE St. Michael Family Center, 508 N Center St, Weimar, TX

HOLLAND LODGE 83 ANNUAL MEETING

DATE Sunday, September 14, 2014
TIME 2 p.m.
PLACE Holland SPJST Hall

WACO LODGE 109 FAMILY DAY

DATE Sunday, July 13, 2014
TIME 1 p.m.
PLACE Geneva Hall, 740 S Connally Dr, Elm Mott, TX

GALVESTON LODGE 146 MEETING

DATE Sunday, October 19, 2014
TIME 12 p.m.
PLACE Knights of Columbus Hall, 501 Delaney Road, LaMarque, TX

FREESTONE LODGE 191 MEETING

DATE Monday, October 13, 2014
TIME 10 a.m.
PLACE Rollo Insurance Office, 324 W US Hwy 84, Fairfield, TX

MONTGOMERY LODGE 197 ANNUAL MEETING

DATE Saturday, October 18, 2014
TIME 1 p.m.
PLACE Vernon's Kountry Katfish, 5901 W Davis, Conroe, TX
RSVP By Oct. 11 to Joyce Cain, (936) 856-0222

SERVICE PINS



10

Ben Won was recognized April 5 for 10 years of service with RVOS. Ben started his career with RVOS as a Systems Analyst in 2004. He currently serves as the Application Support and QA Manager. Ben attended Goshen College in Goshen, Ind., and graduated with a bachelor degree in computer science. Ben and his wife Kim live in Belton, Texas, and have two children in middle school. Ben is active in children's ministries at Temple Bible Church. In his free time he enjoys doing scouting activities with his son, reading, traveling and spending time with his family. We thank Ben for his service to RVOS.



15

Samantha Nowaski was recognized April 28 for 15 years of service with RVOS. Samantha started her career with RVOS in the Imaging Department. She has served as the Imaging Supervisor, Communications Supervisor and currently serves as the Communications Manager. Samantha and her husband Richard live in Temple, Texas, with their two daughters—Amber and Megan. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading and being outdoors. We congratulate Samantha and wish her many more years of service with RVOS.



15

Peggy Pacha was recognized May 12 for 15 years of service with RVOS. Peggy serves as a Programmer/Production Analyst in the IT Department. She attended Temple College and received a degree in computer science in 1978 and an Associate in Arts in 1998. She began her career with RVOS in 1978 and worked 20 years before taking a leave of absence and returning to school. In 1999 she graduated from Baylor University in Waco with a Bachelor of Science in education. In 2004 she earned her Master of Science degree in information systems from Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton. Peggy is a native of Bartlett, Texas. We congratulate Peggy and wish her many more years of service with RVOS.



TOCA AWARD *PRESERVING OUR CULTURE* ⤴

On March 29 the Texans of Czech Ancestry (TOCA) held their appreciation ceremony at the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center (TCHCC) in La Grange. At this event the RVOS TOCA nominee, Rudy Rejcek, was awarded a certificate for his contribution to preserving the Czech culture. RVOS also made a donation to TCHCC for the preservation of the Czech culture. Pictured Left (L-R): Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic for Texas Raymond Snokhous,

TCHCC President Retta Chandler, District 6 Director Rhonda Steelman, Secretary James Smith, District 4 Director and TCHCC Treasurer Dennis Vanek, District 3 Director and TOCA Secretary Thomas Stavinoha, Lodge 146 President Michael Reznicek, Lodge 146 agent and Vice President W.K. Leonard, Melba Reznicek, Secretary Rosalie Leonard, Lodge 151 agent Janie Rejcek and President Rudy Rejcek. Pictured Middle

(L-R): TCHCC President Retta Chandler, Treasurer Dennis Vanek, District 6 Director Rhonda Steelman, District 7 Director Wayne Wilson, RVOS TOCA nominee Rudy Rejcek, TOCA President Arlene Cloyd, District 3 Director and TOCA Secretary Thomas Stavinoha and Secretary James Smith. Pictured Right (L-R): TCHCC President Retta Chandler, Martha Marek and Past RVOS District 3 Director Daniel J. Marek receiving the Czernin Palace Memorial Award from the Czech Ambassador Raymond Snokhous.



EPILEPSY FOUNDATION *STROLL FOR EPILEPSY* ⤵

RVOS Reinsurance Specialist Lori Crotty and her daughter Sarah participated in the 2014 Dallas/Fort Worth Stroll for Epilepsy at the Fort Worth Zoo on April 5. More than 2,400 adults and children participated in the stroll, raising more than \$240,000 for the Epilepsy Foundation of Texas-Dallas/Fort Worth's programs and services. The Epilepsy Foundation of Texas relies on the support of the community to provide services to Texans with seizure disorders. One out of every 26 people in the United States will develop epilepsy at some point in their life, making it more common than cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease combined. Sarah has had a seizure disorder for the last six years, since she turned 21, but is able to control her seizures with medication. Lori and Sarah participate in the Stroll for Epilepsy each year.

**QUALITY CARE NURSING HOME »
*SAUSAGE COOKOUT***

On May 13 Vice President At-Large Richard Hykel and District 1 Director Joe Liles treated the residents of the Quality Care Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Waco, Texas to a sausage lunch with all the trimmings. Many of the residents of the West Rest Haven Nursing Home were relocated to Waco after a fertilizer plant explosion last year destroyed the nursing home. Pictured (L-R): Vice President At-Large Richard Hykel, Quality Care Administrator Tommy Carter and District 1 Director Joe Liles.



**DISTRICT 7
*ALTERNATE DIRECTOR WINNER ANNOUNCED***

The following are the election results of the vacant District 7 positions:

District 7 Alternate Director
William R. (Bill) Orsak

District 7 Alternate By-Law Committee Member
Remains vacant

IS IT TIME TO ...

REEVALUATE YOUR COVERAGE



THE COST OF RAW MATERIALS AND LABOR TO REPAIR A DAMAGED HOME HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON YOUR INSURANCE PREMIUM. AS NOTED IN THE VISUAL ABOVE, BUILDING MATERIALS HAVE INCREASED IN THE LAST YEAR BY 2-12 PERCENT.

SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS AND DISASTERS HAVE LED TO INCREASED REPAIR COSTS ACROSS THE STATE OF TEXAS. DEMAND FOR MATERIALS AFTER A WEATHER EVENT OR DISASTER FURTHER INCREASES COSTS AND INDIRECTLY IMPACTS YOUR INSURANCE PREMIUM.

ARE YOU ADEQUATELY COVERED TO WEATHER A STORM? DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH INSURANCE TO COVER THE INCREASING COSTS OF BUILDING MATERIALS?

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO REEVALUATE YOUR INSURANCE. CONTACT AN AGENT TODAY TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE COVERED.

* Builder Magazine. The increase reported includes only the first six months of 2013. Prices are expected to continue rising.

** Wall Street Journal.

*** Landscape Management, 2013 Industry Pulse Report.

† U.S. Department of Labor, 2013 Producer Price Index. Data provided by Design Cost Data Magazine. Costs are expected to rise another 3-5% in 2014.

‡ Thomasnet News, Thomas Publishing.

† Engineering News-Record, McGraw Hill Financial.

WILL A *change* IN THE OCCUPANCY OF MY *property* CHANGE MY POLICY coverage? by Irene Sulak

While the actual coverage within the policy will not change, the occupancy of your property will affect how the coverage is applied at time of a loss.

Most issues of coverage arise when an occupied property is found to be unoccupied at the time of a loss. However, there may also be changes in how coverage is applied even if the owner moves out and a tenant moves in.

Property that is not occupied by the owner of the property is considered to have a different exposure to certain risks, and therefore a higher premium is charged for some coverages.

Some coverages may be limited or restricted when the property is occupied by a tenant or when it is unoccupied.

Depending on which RVOS policy you have, coverage for certain perils may be excluded depending on the occupancy and may only be available by endorsement.

All of the RVOS policies suspend or restrict coverage if occupied property becomes unoccupied.

The specific wording in a policy regarding a change in occupancy is found in the Conditions Section of the policy.

The policy states:

5. Conditions Suspending or Restricting Insurance.

(b) while a described building, whether intended for occupancy by owner or tenant, is not occupied beyond the period described in Part 10 Conditions (#17)

(c) following a change in ownership of the insured property.

17. Unoccupied Property.

If an occupied risk becomes unoccupied, insurance automatically terminates 90 days after the risk becomes unoccupied. The covered perils will remain in force during the 90-day grace period. If you wish to retain insurance, you must report the unoccupancy to the sales representative within the first 90 days and pay the increased rates required for unoccupied property.

If you have moved and your policy was previously classified as owner occupied, an endorsement must now be added to the policy to reflect the occupancy change and the correct rates applied due to the change in exposure.

It is very important to notify your agent of any change to the known occupancy of your property. As soon as you become aware that the occupancy of your property will change, call your agent to discuss the necessary steps to assure you will be properly protected in the event you should incur an unexpected loss.

*The terms of each policy vary by individual circumstance and type of policy. The contents of this article are not intended to be used as legal advice or as a replacement for your policy.

PICTURE OF PAST

OBZOR.

OBZOR. HALLSTOWN, TEXAS. PUBLISHED WEEKLY. VOL. 11. NO. 11. 1910. PUBLISHED BY FRANTICEK FABIAN, HALLSTOWN, TEXAS. PRINTED BY FRANTICEK FABIAN, HALLSTOWN, TEXAS. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPIES, 10 CENTS. ADVERTISING RATES, \$5.00 PER LINE PER WEEK. CIRCULATION, 1,000 COPIES PER WEEK.

Z úvodní zprávy

Naše úvodní zpráva... (The text continues with various news items and reports in Czech, including local events, community news, and possibly some editorial commentary. The text is dense and follows the typical layout of a newspaper page from that era.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 POPULATION

NAME	SEX	RACE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	RESIDENCE	PROPERTY	VALUE	RENT	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	AGE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR	EYES	COMPLEXION	SCARS	MARKS	REMARKS
FRANTICEK FABIAN	Male	Czech	High School	Editor	Hallstown, Texas	Owned	\$10,000	\$500	Owned	Married	45	5'8"	160	Brown	Blue	Fair	None	None	Editor of Obzor
FRANTICEK FABIAN	Female	Czech	High School	Editor's Wife	Hallstown, Texas	Owned	\$10,000	\$500	Owned	Married	42	5'6"	140	Brown	Blue	Fair	None	None	Editor's Wife
FRANTICEK FABIAN	Male	Czech	High School	Editor's Son	Hallstown, Texas	Owned	\$10,000	\$500	Owned	Single	18	5'10"	150	Brown	Blue	Fair	None	None	Editor's Son
FRANTICEK FABIAN	Female	Czech	High School	Editor's Daughter	Hallstown, Texas	Owned	\$10,000	\$500	Owned	Single	15	5'4"	120	Brown	Blue	Fair	None	None	Editor's Daughter
FRANTICEK FABIAN	Male	Czech	High School	Editor's Brother	Hallstown, Texas	Owned	\$10,000	\$500	Owned	Single	40	5'7"	155	Brown	Blue	Fair	None	None	Editor's Brother
FRANTICEK FABIAN	Female	Czech	High School	Editor's Sister	Hallstown, Texas	Owned	\$10,000	\$500	Owned	Single	38	5'5"	145	Brown	Blue	Fair	None	None	Editor's Sister

From 1904 to 1912 the RVOS convention delegates selected the Obzor Haspodarsky as the printer and editor for all RVOS news. The editor's name was Franticek Fabian, but he simply went by F. Fabian.

While RVOS has never printed the Rolnik on presses owned by the company, they had selected the Obzor as the printer for their company news.

The Rolnik became a 'supplement' to the Obzor, which means it was printed weekly in Fabian's paper under a different heading.

Companies like RVOS and SPJST

used to publish in weekly Czech newspapers like the Obzor.

In 1912 SPJST started their first stand-alone paper called the Vestnik. Shortly after that RVOS started printing a stand-alone newspaper called the Texasky Rolnik.

Pictured (left) is a 1910 issue of the Obzor featuring RVOS lodge news. Also pictured (right) is a 1910 census record listing Fabian and his family. Fabian was described as a moderate and free thinking man. In this census he listed 'weekly newspaper' editor as his occupation in Fayette County.



Press plates like these were used in the printing industry for centuries before the invention of the modern offset press. Typesetters would melt the metal used for the plate and form it into a mold. The Rolnik would have been printed in a similar fashion in the early twentieth century. A machine called a linotype was used to set the plate.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

BY ANDREW PHILLIPS AND SHARLET SLADECEK



The Texasky Rolník—which today is referred to as only the Rolník—shares a vibrant and dynamic past with other Czech language newspapers.

Janis Hrnčíř comes from Czech descent and married into a family deeply tied to Moravian and Czech heritage in Texas. “Everything we did after I met my husband revolved around Czech heritage, particularly Texas Czech heritage,” she said.

Today Hrnčíř volunteers her time for the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center (TCHCC) in the genealogy library.

Hrnčíř said that when immigrants from Moravian and Czech descent came to Texas they could only read Czech.

“That’s all the Czechs had to communicate with around here was the printed word,” Hrnčíř said.

Czech language newspapers provided important community news about employment, family matters and events.

“The early newspapers were [Czech immigrant’s] social media or Facebook. That’s how they found out about the happenings around as well as get information about adapting to life in Texas and the United States,” Hrnčíř said.

Hrnčíř said Czech language newspapers contributed to the strength of the Czech identity in Texas. “They were able to hold on to it longer than most generations,” she said.

EDUCATION AND THE CZECH LANGUAGE

Many early Czech and Moravian immigrants found their voices through the Czech language in folk songs, journalism and education.

Dr. Clinton Machann, Czech historian and former president of the Czech Ex-Students Association of Texas (CESAT), hums a chorus from an old Czech folk song. His voice gradually crescendos until the melody of the song fills the entire first floor of his home in College Station, Texas.

“A na tej louce, a na palouce, a jak se ta trávívčka pveknve leskne,” he sings—which loosely means ‘when I had a girl, I went after her, when the moon was shining.’

It’s a traditional song called Green Meadow Waltz. “Those words of the folk songs will always stick in my head,” Machann said. “The language is pretty much gone, but the sense of identity is still there.”

This professor of English at Texas A&M University became interested in Czech culture studies when he was working on a doctorate degree at the University of Texas.

“This extraordinary opportunity opened up ... at a program that invited Czech Americans to come to Czechoslovakia to study during the summer,” he said.

He spent the next two summers touring the countryside and



taking classes in former Czechoslovakia.

Those trips were so inspiring for Machann that they turned into four books about Czech Americans and a semester abroad in the Czech Republic as a Fulbright exchange teacher.

Machann said journalism and Czech newspapers reached out to a community identity in the same way folk songs did.

“The two most important markers of Czech ethnicity in Texas are language and music,” Machann said. “News about people you know—family, religious and fraternal connections—reaches out to the community.”

CZECH JOURNALISM

In the first half of the twentieth century there were more than 30 Czech language newspapers published in Texas. There are as few as three of these publications in existence today.

Machann has been tracking a decline in Czech newspaper readership through his research as a Czech language and culture historian.

Machann said Czech companies used Czech publications for lodge reports, financial data and claims information. However, the companies also used journalism to forge senses of identity.

“There is no doubt that a Czech mutual aid organization is an agency that works toward the feeling of bonding,” Machann said. “They’re part of a community. It makes life meaningful to them.”

But that sense of community through Czech journalism was diminishing before and immediately after World War I.

“It’s not just that the culture changed, but the economy changed. The small family farm was no longer a basic unit for the great majority of these people,” Machann said.

Communism contributed in part to this decline. When Czechoslovakia was made part of the Eastern Block the idealism about the Czech state shifted in America.

Machann said other factors contributed to the rapid decline in enthusiasm about Czech culture—including a decline in tourism to Czechoslovakia after World War I.

By 1952, the majority of the *Ročník* was printed in English. Many Czech newspapers, if they were still printed, were printed in English.

“Every day there are fewer speakers because most of them are in retirement communities,” Machann said.

Today there are less than 15,000 Czech speakers in Texas.

“The decline in language is causal for the decline in Czech

newspapers. As long as you would have Czech speakers you would have more of a demand for newspapers,” Machann said.

Machann said the Czech language has taken a symbolic importance for Texas Czechs. People have contributed to Czech language programs because they want to perpetuate Czech journalism in Texas.

Hrncir agrees with Machann. “It was a knowledge and an education that [Czech newspapers] provided,” Hrncir said. “We are needing these papers to write the true story of the Czech Texan.”

A NOT SO FRIENDLY FEUD

The most well-known Czech newspaper editor in the early twentieth century was Augustin Haidusek. Haidusek was not only the editor of a newspaper called the *Svoboda*, but also a Fayette County judge, mayor of La Grange, Texas, and state representative.

“It’s not just that he had these titles, he was a powerful community leader,” Machann said.

In 1885 Haidusek entered a heated feud with rival editor Joseph Cada, who was publishing the *Slovan* in La Grange, Texas.

“There was a problem when the Texas Czech kids went to school,” Machann said. “They had a hard time coping with the educational system because they didn’t really know English well.”

Cada supported the promotion of Czech language in schools.



Top: Dr. Clinton Machann at his home in College Station.

Bottom: Joseph Vrabel (left) and employees of the Nasinec Publishing Company in Granger, Texas.



But Haidusek, in his role as Fayette County judge, had required that all schools be conducted in English.

“Haidusek’s position was that if you came to this country you had a moral obligation to follow the laws and fit in as a responsible citizen,” Machann said.

And so the Slovan published articles defending Cada, while the Svoboda published articles supporting Haidusek.

“Haidusek was not ashamed of being Texas Czech,” Machann said. “He was proud of it.”

However, Haidusek also thought that assimilation was necessary if Czech immigrants were going to flourish in Texas.

The bitter feud between these two rivals didn’t stop at the debate about education in schools; it was also fueled by competition for readership.

In 1886 Cada made an editorial error by publishing an article comparing Czech and American women. The article argued that American women were lazier and more irresponsible than Czech women.

“Haidusek had that article translated and made it available to the English press,” Machann said. “Cada basically got run out of town.”

Machann said that most of the community leaders during this time thought that assimilation was inevitable.

A MODEST START

The history of the Rolník began in 1901, when Haidusek became the first editor. Czech newspapers were the medium through which reports about RVOS were provided to members.

“Few of them could read English, but they were able to read Czech,” Hrcir said.

Delegates at RVOS conventions selected the editors and publishers of what was then the beginning of the Rolník.

The first newspaper RVOS published in was the Svoboda, but at the 1904 Convention delegates changed the publication to the Obzor. From 1904 to 1912 RVOS published exclusively in the Obzor.

Machann said that the editor of that publication, F. Fabian, was a ‘free thinker, but a moderate man.’ This means that he didn’t have a religious affiliation.

Czech newspapers would submit bids and compete to print RVOS material at every convention. The lowest price usually won the right to print and edit the Rolník.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A CZECH MUTUAL AID ORGANIZATION ... WORKS TOWARD THE FEELING OF BONDING. THEY'RE PART OF A COMMUNITY. IT MAKES LIFE MEANINGFUL TO THEM.

-DR. CLINTON MACHANN

THE NASINEC PUBLISHING COMPANY

Joseph Vrabel publishes the Nasinec newspaper out of a small print shop in his home near Alligator Road in Granger, Texas.

Most of the work for the Nasinec is done manually; he still binds the paper together with hot glue and a paper-cutter.

It used to be a much bigger operation before readership declined. Vrabel said he used to have two typesetting machines and an international worker from India.

“My daddy was like a bookworm. He would read every newspaper in the world he could get in Czech,” Vrabel said.

Vrabel learned about the Czech language from his father. In 1958 he started working for the Nasinec Publishing Company (NPC).

“They needed someone to learn the trade of printing the Czech language newspaper and to learn to operate the linotype machine,” Vrabel said.

Vrabel said he remembers typesetting the Rolník, which at the time was also being produced by the NPC. The 1921 convention delegates had selected the NPC as the editor and printing company for the Rolník.

“I started working and then I kept asking—give me a raise, give me a raise,” Vrabel said. When the editor didn’t give him a raise, Vrabel started looking for another job.

He worked for the Temple Daily Telegram, the Daily Texan and the Austin American Statesman before coming back to Nasinec.

In 1981 the owners of NPC sold the company to Vrabel.

VINTAGE TO MODERN PRINTERS

The Nasinec Publishing Company was a family affair. Before Vrabel bought NPC Joseph Maresh managed the company.

Maresh’s granddaughter Martha Knight said she remem-



Top: The RVOS charter, published in the *Obzor* in 1910.
Bottom: Martha Knight, who used to work for her family at the Nasinec Publishing Company.

bers visiting the print shop where Vrabel and her grandfather worked.

Knight said her father Lad Maresh operated the press machine. “It was a huge machine that had steps to get to the seat,” Knight said. “A roller took the blank newsprint and rolled it over the galley with the metal letters that were inked and came out the other end.”

Knight’s mother Otilie Maresh also helped at the print shop. “[She] worked part time as a receptionist, paper roller and also watched the small press when it was printing the tabloid-size papers,” she said.

Knight even used to help her family with the print jobs. “My job was to help mom roll the papers and tie or put it in the bag. I got a ‘whopping’ 25 cents for any day’s work.”

Some of the newspapers like the *Rolník* had hard deadlines that kept the workers at the print shop until the publication was finished. The work wasn’t easy, either.

“I remember one Christmas Eve we were the only three working to get an edition out before we could go to mother’s family Christmas,” Knight said. “I whined and whined that evening, but we finally finished.”

NPC continued to publish the *Rolník* until 1981, when the

publication was moved to Belton, Texas.

By the time Nasinec stopped publishing the *Rolník*, the editors were selected from among employees at RVOS.

Some of these editors included Glenn Hutka, Denise Murray, Tony Jeter, Mandy Sharp and Sharlet Sladeczek.

HISTORY STILL TO BE MADE

In 1986 Carolyn Heinsohn was reading the paper and came across an advertisement for a genealogy workshop near Houston.

She thought it would be interesting, so she signed up and attended the workshop.

“Before I could walk out the door a lady was twisting my arm and convinced me to sign up for the Czech Heritage Society,” Heinsohn said.

Starting in 1990 Heinsohn served as the editor of the Czech Heritage Society newspaper, where she worked until she became the president for the organization.

Heinsohn said that children must be taught the value of their heritage at a young age.

“You have to address the youth,” Heinsohn said. “As the older generation dies, if the younger ones aren’t taught or made to appreciate their heritage we fear it will become lost.”

As the editor of the Czech Heritage Society newspaper Heinsohn made sure to include stories about the history of Czechs in Texas and outstanding people who contributed to the culture.

Heinsohn said Czech language newspapers are one way for Czech communities to bring back pieces from the Texas Czech past.

“The different newspapers that [parents] read keep putting the message out there. It’s going to be the written word,” she said.

Hrcir said that there is more urgency now than ever before for Czech journalism. “The next generation is going to want to know about it, but they aren’t going to have the time to deal with it,” Hrcir said.

The tradition of the *Rolník* is a history in the making. Hrcir said that young people are still reading Czech newspapers today, but in a different way.

“They don’t read a newspaper. They go to the little snippets of news and get their summaries,” she said.

Hrcir said that Czechs are friendly, open and welcoming. “Maybe its warmth and welcoming that would be the word needed to describe these Czech newspapers,” she said.

Through warmth and welcoming Czech newspapers built a bridge between generations past and generations yet to come.

ROAD TRIP

crafts with kids

SPY

Finding ways to entertain children in the car makes the road trip go by a little faster. It may also keep your children from saying 'are we there yet' every ten minutes.

Making crafts for these trips brings out creativity in you and is also fun.

I've made a hidden object game (often called I-spy) where you hide objects in a bottle for your kids to find.

Write down items that you are putting in a bottle. Fill your bottle with rice, placing the objects inside the bottle as you fill.

Leave room at the top of the bottle so the items can move around. Once everything is in the bottle, glue the lid onto the top.

This is very easy to make and can be entertaining for hours. My son loves this craft and asked me to make another one with different items.



by Misti Nixon
mnixon@rvos.com

MAGNETIC CHALKBOARD

Entertaining children in the car makes time pass faster and keeps children from nagging their parents.

Crafts can be made less expensively than buying games, and you can use things you have at home to make them with.

I made a magnetic chalkboard with attachable letters.

ANTS ON A LOG

Cut some celery into three inch pieces (celery is a great source of vitamin A and calcium). Spread some peanut butter into the celery. Sprinkle yogurt-covered raisins over the peanut butter.

PINWHEELS

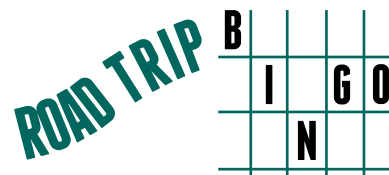
Spread mayonnaise and mustard onto flour tortillas. Layer four thin slices of lunch meat and cheese onto the tortilla. Spread another layer of mayonnaise and mustard on the top. Roll tortillas and cut into eight even slices.

I think having your kids help make food or crafts for a road trip is a great way to bond and to get your kids excited for a trip.

I made some fast, easy and fairly healthy snacks for our road trip.

Make sure you are prepared for anything on a long road trip. Take snacks, drinks, games and a positive attitude.

by Amber Culver
aculver@rvos.com



I don't have kids of my own, but I know from riding with our friend's children the need for a child's safety.

If they're entertained they have less time to hurt themselves or get into trouble.

I made car bingo because it was so easy. Take any size of paper and draw a five by five square grid.

Use your imagination to fill in the square with things you could see on your road trip.

Make sure to leave the middle open for a free space.

The first person to get five pictures in a row—horizontally, vertically or diagonally—wins.

This game keeps kids interacting with the environment outside the car. It also gets them to stop using electronic devices.

by Becky Wilson
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Spray chalkboard paint onto a metal cookie sheet, following instructions on the can. The cookie sheet looks like a chalkboard and can be written on with chalk.

Purchase a magnetic alphabet set. The magnetic numbers and letters will stick to the cookie sheet.

I made this for my granddaughter, but you could also use it at home.

You can keep your kids entertained on a long

road trip by singing family songs, using games and making stops at least every two hours.

Enjoy your children while they are little. They grow up so fast.

by Sharlet Sladeczek
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