

Part of the make up of Bohemians is the ability to put work aside long enough to have a good time when the occasion invites. From the Middle Ages onward, villagers would walk miles to the festivities taking place. Donned in bright outfits, folklore came to life with gaiety and dancing. Specialty foods and beer made up the menu. This part of Bohemia came with the immigrants.

One of the social events established for the betterment of the local Bohemians was the Z.C.B.J. This Western Fraternal organization offered life insurance as well as Sunday afternoon social gatherings. Members united their skills and abilities and together constructed the Little Heart Hall (also the Big Heart Hall). The combination of musical talent plus now a hall totaled up to dances. How I remember them!

Living in Bismarck meant getting ready early for the lively hours yet to come. Finally over that infamous country road (that reminded me of unraveled crochet work) I too felt the need for unwinding. No problem. As soon as we entered the hall and youngsters began converging on the scene, someone on the dance committee would sprinkle powdery stuff on the floor. That act of ingenuity was twofold - first it was our signal to expel our surplus energy running disoriented 50-yard dashes, and secondly - we prepared the floor just right for the adults to begin dancing.

By then the band began warming up on the stage at the far end of the hall where the American flag stood at attention. The four Stastny boys Ed, Tom, Mike, and John, with Jim and Joe Cermak formed the Bohemian Band, and were particularly good. For hours on end they would pump out spurts of Bohemian soul with polkas, two-step, and Sousa marches, entertaining young and old alike. Those who didn't come to dance made themselves useful holding down the benches to keep vibrations from inching them out into the path of the dancers.

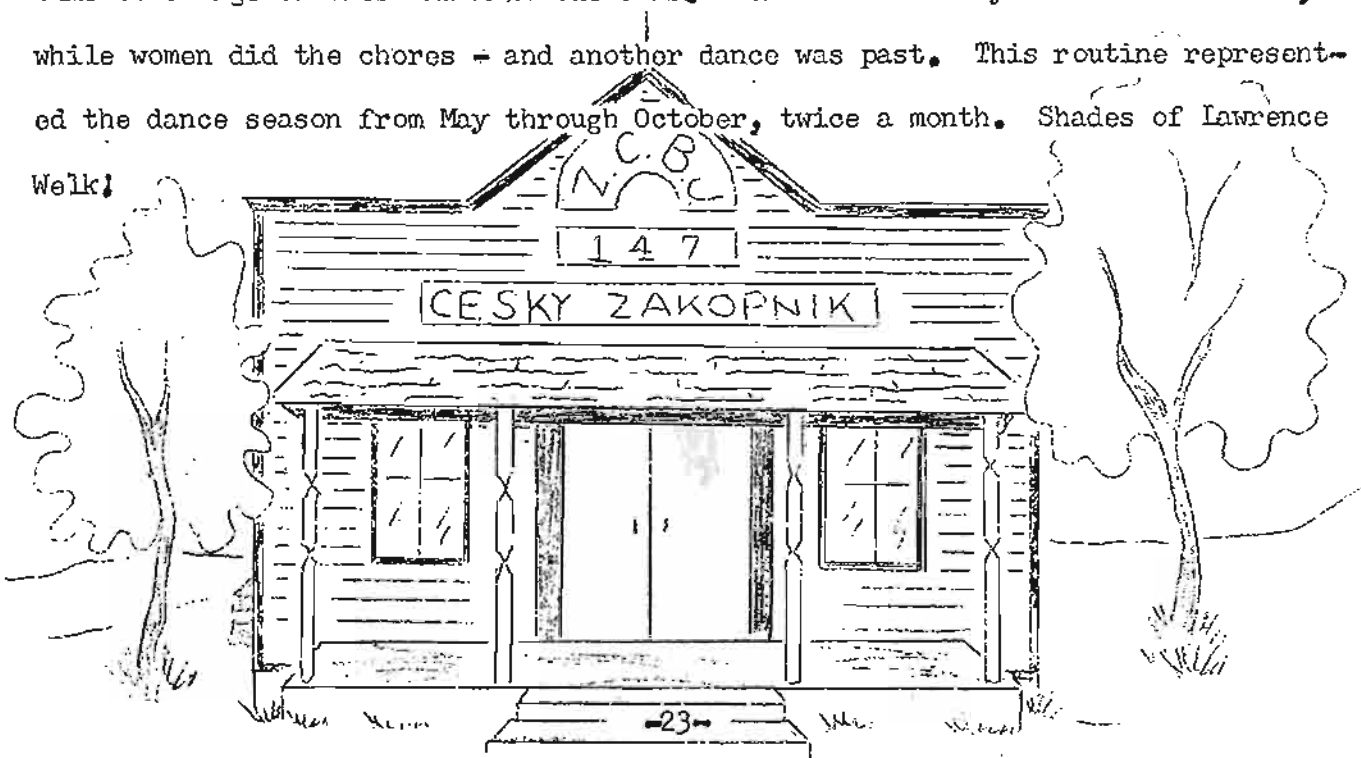
At the opposite end of the hall near the entrance was a counter where refreshments could be purchased. A selection of candy bars, gum, pop and beer on ice were stationed behind the counter where ladies on the committee were busy preparing sandwiches, kolaches, and assorted snacks for midnight intermission.

It took older kids than me to stay awake long enough to partake of the refueling session.

As my eyes grew too tired to stay open, I began searching the crowd for mother or dad. One night especially comes to mind. Dad was outside with a group of men getting a breath of air, so I headed behind the crowd of tall legs before me. By the time I got to the porch, he was already engaged in conversation with the boys. The moon, veiled by a lacy overlay of silhouetted leaves from trees made a poor yard light. My tired eyes focused on dad, so I ran with outstretched arms - directly to the wrong daddy. Uncle Frank looked an awful lot like Dad in the dark.

The baby sitter for weary offspring was a nest of feather beds brought by thoughtful moms and spread out behind the stage. We laid down and felt the pulsations of the music being driven through our bodies. This effect was the original non-surgical pacemaker.

Intermission out of the way now, it was time for the musicians to end their break. This non-union brass band would play as long as the dancers wished...as late as 3 or 4 in the morning. Parents began scooping up sleeping beauties while the dance committee swept up the rest of the litter. It was time for these folks who momentarily disregarded work to head for home - arriving there just in time to change clothes and milk the cows. Men went directly out in the fields, while women did the chores - and another dance was past. This routine represented the dance season from May through October, twice a month. Shades of Lawrence Welk!



THE STASTNY FAMILY

Inscription on back of original photo reads:

"This picture was taken August 30, 1915 at the Anthony Kottsick home at the side of the house."

Back row - left to right:

Ed                      Mike                      Tom                      John

Front row:

Mollie                      Elizabeth                      James                      Minnie  
(Amelia)                      mother                      dad

By this date the Stastny's had been married 42 years.

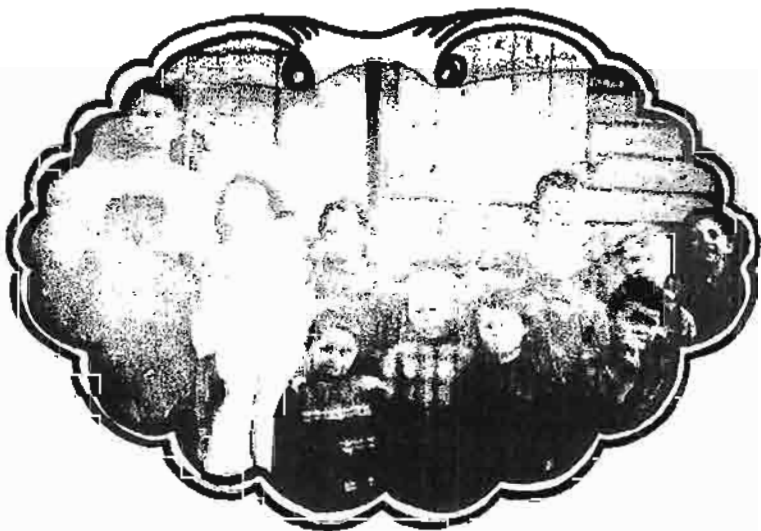
The bouquet could signify an anniversary.

How does this measure up as a school picture?

Tony and Mollie Kottsick  
My beloved grandparents  
Date of photo unknown

The dark-haired girl in the front row wearing the plaid jumper was my mother Lillian Kottsick Toman.

Taken about 1912.



From the Registers of the State Archives in Plzeň

In the Rome-Catholic register of Radnice town for the years 1834-1842 with entries for Radnice town and Svata Barbora (St. Barbara) - there is an entry on page 308, 18 April, 1842 - village of Svata Barbora, born and christened - house #13 Frantisek - male, Catholic - married parents: father Matej Koz, cottager from Sv. Barbora, Radnice town, son of Vaclav Koz married in Volducy county, Zbirov, and mother Katerina maiden name Jozefova.

Mother: Barbora daughter of Prokop Sustek from Velvanov - district of Zbirov and mother Anna maiden name Turek.

In the register of marrieds of Rome-Catholic parish administration for Radnice town, for the years 1844-1871 in the column for Svata Barbora village, there is a literal entry on page 260, 7 July 1865:

Place and number of house:	Sv. Barbora, Radnice district #8 Rokycany County, Plzeň region
Marrying Priest:	P. Ant. Farka chaplain
Bridegroom:	KCO, Frantisek, miner, street #11 Sv. Barbora Son of Matej Koc, cottager and mother Barbora maiden name Siskova
Religion:	Catholic
Born:	16 April, 1842
State:	Single
Bride:	ZEMANOVA, Marie, daughter of Ignac Zeman cottager, Sv. Barbora - street number of house 8 and mother Katerina maiden name Selementova.
Religion:	Catholic
Born:	16 June 1844
State:	Single
Witnesses:	Emanuel Bures - Sexton from Radnice Josef Ungricki - Citizen of Radnice

In the Register of Newborns of Rome-Catholic parish administration Vejvanov village for 1795-1839 there is a literal entry on page 16:

Date:	7 December, 1802
Number of house:	2
Name:	Barbara Schistek
Religion:	Catholic
Sex:	Female
Parents:	Father Prokop Schistek, mother Anna Turek
Christian parents:	Kathryn Kop Bavarin - Johan Svegknovsky, cottager Jozef Soukup, miller
Priest:	Thomas Mikowetz

LINEAGE - ZEMAN

In the Register of Marrieds of Rome-Catholic parish administration, Radnice for the years 1822-1843 and the years 1872-1882 for the parish districts of Radnice and Ujezd in Sv. Krize in the column for villages Weisgrün and under Svata Barbora there is a literal entry on page 291:

Book of Marrieds 1837 for Weisgrün and under Svata Barbora 11 July 1837, entry signed Franciscus Mizar, chaplain:

Number of house: 12  
 Bridegroom: Ignac Zeman, citizen of Bugesyl village, district of Liblin - son of Jan Zeman cottager from Bugesyl and Magdalena maiden name Wild  
 Religion: Catholic  
 Old: 21 years  
 State: Single  
 Bride: Katerina, daughter of Vaclav Selement, miner from Svata Barbora Radnice county and Katerina maiden name Beycek from Sv. Barbora  
 Religion: Catholic  
 Old: 27 years  
 State: Single

In the register of Marrieds Rome-Catholic parish administration of Radnice for 1774-1820 there is a literal entry on page 45.

Married Register of Svata Barbora:

Date: 29 April 1800  
 Bridegroom: Wenzel (Vaclav) Semelent, citizen of Radnice town.  
 (NOTE - change of spelling)  
 Religion: Catholic  
 State: Single  
 Old: 19 years  
 Bride: Katarina Beitschkinn  
 Religion: Catholic  
 State: Single  
 Old: 20 years  
 Witnesses: Wenzel Semelent, Wenzel Beitschek  
 Priest: Franciscus Faber, chaplain

In the register for Newborns, Rome-Catholic parish administration Radnice town, for the years 1774-1820 there is a literal entry on page 3, Book for Newborns for Svata Barbora.

Christening Priest: P. Joannes Kubat, chaplain  
 Child: Wenceslaus (Vaclav)  
 Date: 2 December 1782  
 Parents: Father Vaclav Semelent, mother Dorothea maiden name Blechova, citizen of Radnice  
 Christ Parents: Wenceslaus Pesik, Joannes Selement citizen of Sv. Barbora  
 Religion: Catholic  
 Living: Svata Barbora #8

In the Register for Newborns Rome-Catholic parish administration of Radnice town, for the years 1774-1820 there is a literal entry on page 7. Book of Newborns for Svata Barbara:

Date: 5 December 1775  
Priest: P. Vincentius Rubritius, chaplain  
Children: twins - Catharina and Anna  
Parents: Begczek Joannes, father, mother Catharina citizen of Radnice  
Christ parents: Catharina Semelentin Martini citizen of St. Barbara  
Josephus Haka in Nemezovitz and Catharina Kozeluch  
Religion: Catholic  
Living: Svata Barbara #7

In the Register of Newborns Rome-Catholic parish administration of Radnice, for the years 1773-1787 there is a literal entry on page 87:

"I Wenceslaus Ruzicka priest have christened in the year 1756 in Wranovitz on the 8th of February: "

Daughter: Dorothea legitimate child of father Joannes Blecha and mother Susanna  
Christ parents: Barbara Vlkova  
Witnesses: Susanna Nowa, Adalbertus Tomez from the village of Wranovicz.

In the Register of Marrieds Rome-Catholic parish administration of Radnice for the years 1774-1820 there is a literal entry on page 42:

Date: 11 February 1780  
Christ Priest: P. Joannes Kubat, chaplain  
Marrieds: Groom, Vaclav Semelent, citizen from St. Barbora  
Bride, Dorothea daughter of Joannes Blecha from Wranovitz village - Number 16, Radnice county  
Religion: Catholic  
Living: Svata Barbara Number 9

(signed) With best regards

Doctr Josef Gorner

for Archives Administration

In the first half of this century, 'cottager' meant a man who owned nothing but his cottage and hands, and lived in a village. Sixty percent of the inhabitants lived this way before World War II, and they worked hard for landowners. This situation does not exist in Czechoslovakia anymore.

Explanation of Numbering System

Letter denotes the lineage - K for Kottsick

S for Stastny

J for Kahovec

Number following letter indicates the generation.

Number after the decimal point indicates order of descendants.

Example: K1 - first generation KOTTSICK  
K1.1 - first child born of first generation  
K2.1 - first child born of second generation  
K2.2 - second child born of second generation  
K3.1 - first child born of third generation  
Etc.

+/+  
KOTTSICK

Descendants of K1.I - FRANK b 18 Apr 1862 Radnice, Bohemia  
m Marie Zemanova 7 Jul 1865 - d 12 Sep 1915 Mandan, N.D.  
Children:

K2.1 - Josephine  
K2.2 - Anthony  
K2.3 - Anna Marie  
K2.4 - Frank Jr.  
K2.5 - Joseph  
K2.6 - John  
K2.7 - George

+/+  
Descendants of K2.I - JOSEPHINE b 25 Aug 1868 Radnice, Bohemia  
m Frank Suchy d 1 Jan 1946 Mandan, N.D.  
Children:

K3.1 - Annie m Gregory Schmidt  
K3.2 - Carrie m John Huncovsky  
K3.3 - Albina m Warren Williams  
K3.4 - James m Clementine Staudinger  
K3.5 - John m Lena Landes  
K3.6 - Joseph m Alice Klesalek  
K3.7 - Charles m Stella Schmidt  
K3.8 - Albert m Christine Hartz  
K3.9 - Frank Jr. m Katie Staudinger.

Descendants of K2.I - JOSEPHINE b 25 Aug 1868 Radnice, Bohemia  
m Frank Suchy d 1 Jan 1946 Mandan, N.D.  
Children:

K3.1 - Annie  
m Gregory Schmidt  
Children:

K4.1 - Helen  
m Pitzer  
K4.2 - Frank  
K4.3 - William  
K4.4 - Richard  
K4.5 - Evelyn  
m Graner  
K4.6 - Gregory Jr.

d 1957



K3.2 - Carrie  
m John Huncovsky  
Children:

d 1960

K4.7 - Charles  
K4.8 - William  
K4.9 - Alfred  
K4.10 - Viola  
m Gurn  
K4.11 - Donald

K3.3 - Albina  
m Warren Williams  
Children:

K4.12 - Esther  
m Albers  
K4.13 - Ruth  
m Nybakken  
K4.14 - Henry  
K4.15 - Gaylord

K3.4 - James  
m Clementine Staudinger  
Children:

d 1956

K4.16 - Marion  
K4.17 - Doreen  
m Brown  
K4.18 - Claudia  
m Adams  
K4.19 - Joan  
m Pavlish  
K4.20 - DeLores  
m Einsider  
K4.21 - Gloria  
m Headriok

K3.5 - John  
m Lena Landes  
Children:

K4.22 - Donna  
m Stolz  
K4.23 - Josephine  
m Tanis  
K4.24 - Dennis

K3.6 - Joseph  
m Alice Klesalek  
Children:

K4.25 - Jeanette  
m Dohn  
K4.26 - Jacqueline  
m Krause  
K4.27 - Darrell  
K4.28 - Connie

K3.7 - Charles  
m Stella Schmidt  
Children:

b 28 Jul 1910

K4.29 - Laurel  
m Sullivan  
K4.30 - LaVonne  
m Schleicher