

### **The Silver Lake Castle**

In this column, I would like to recall the history of a landmark that is familiar to all Silver Lake natives: 'The Castle' of Silver Lake, as recounted in an interview with the late Howard F. Chalupsky (1920-1999).

“ 'The Castle' was the home built by Wencil Chalupsky, who came to Silver Lake from New Prague, Minnesota and built a brewery on the north shore of Silver Lake. It was also before 1887 that Wencil and his cousin, Joseph, owned a saloon and grocery store in a large building on Main Street that housed the famed 'Chalupsky's Hall' upstairs [where the Municipal Liquor Store is presently located now].



**The original blueprints for 'The Castle' were dated 1905 and it was completed in 1907. Granite was brought in from Duluth and the Swedish-style fireplace in the receiving room is made from Italian marble tile (Source *Hutchinson Leader*, October 15, 1985).**

It is a 3 story brick house with four bedrooms located upstairs. The large tower contains the living room on the main floor, the master bedroom on the second floor, and on the third is the attic with a pointed ceiling. All three tower rooms have curved glass windows in them.

My grandfather's first house was a small two story with two rooms downstairs and two up. Attached to one side of the house was an ice house. He also had a barn. He owned land from the [Luca] rail line, down alongside 'The Castle' to what is now known as Frank Street, and then two blocks west. There was no street, it was all pasture. And the rail line was not built until 1915. He also owned a narrow strip from 'The Castle' south to Main Street [City Clerk's office and Auditorium parking lot]. After 'The Castle' was built, the first house was used as a chicken coop. That old house was torn down a few years ago. 'The Castle' remained in the Chalupsky family until 1981.



**Chalupsky's Store was formerly located where the Silver Lake Municipal Liquor store is now.**

Before prohibition my dad, Frank Chalupsky, had a liquor store where Stabler's Antique Store is on Lake Street. It was also our home and Margorie, Tom, and I were born there. The F.D. Slanga family lived next door.

Dad used my grandfather's ice house when he had the liquor store. After the ice had been cut from the lake and hauled by horses to the ice house, he would lay the blocks side by side and then put a 3 inch layer of saw dust on top, then more ice blocks and more saw dust. He would take ice to the liquor store as it was needed.

During prohibition my dad had a shed next door and sold farm machinery and cars. He then moved his

implement business and garage into the Vojta building on Main Street [the present site of the Auditorium].



**Photo of the Silver Lake Band, posing at the Vojta Building.**

The Vojta building was big, about as long and wide as the Auditorium. It also had a full basement which was used for storage. The building was used by many people. In the early 30's, JoAnn Jerabek gave dancing lessons to young girls. Her classes were inside behind the garage.

We lived in the country for a while and then in 1932 we built a new home on the southwest corner of my grandfather's land. [Presently Dodie Chalupsky's home]. This was the first house to be put up in what some call The Chalupsky Addition. Frank Bren cut all the wood pieces for the hardwood floors. Before laying them, he dried them in a kiln he had at the saw mill.

In 1932 Dad had the Liquor Store on Main Street [the old Chalupsky Building]. Next door was Albert Horejsi's Meat market. Albert cooked bologna on Friday, so he would bring in 5 or 6 rings and set them on the bar and everyone in there would get a small sample. It was after Dad passed away in 1939 that the Liquor Store went municipal."

Source: Interview with Howard Chalupsky, Silver Lake Leader, October 26, 1989.

### **Mluvíte Český? Do You Speak Czech?**

hrad - castle

Na každém šprochu pravdy troche - There's a bit of truth in every gossip.

#### **As a rule, you should always stress the first syllable of a Czech word!**

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