

Pavučina Corner – By Tony Kadlec

FIRST ANNUAL SILVER LAKE HISTORY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION A GREAT SUCCESS

This past Saturday afternoon, August 6th, a Silver Lake roundtable history discussion was held at the American Legion Hall and by all accounts, it was a great success.

Scores of historical photos, old newspaper articles, reference books, and family histories/trees were brought to the gathering and displayed; attendees were able to make digital copies of the photos that piqued their interest and shared their knowledge to help identify the subject matter and identities of folks in the pictures.

A digital recording of the event was made for posterity and the digital photos will be made available on a public website that is yet to be implemented. Please stay tuned to this column for more details on the availability of these materials and opportunities for you to contribute a copy of your historical materials to the collection.

I would like to give special thanks to our featured speakers: Kathy Bednark, Jerome Kadlec, Kevin Koktan, Ray Mrkvicka, Raymond Pavlish, Marilyn (Horejsi) Schmidt, Majorie Stritesky, and Melvin Wraspir.



Silver Lake Native Melvin Wraspir holding court at the 2011 Silver Lake History Roundtable Discussion

To summarize, Tony Kadlec chaired the discussion; Raymond Pavlish told the story of his family's voyage from the Czech Lands and settlement in the USA; Kathy Bednark, Kevin Koktan, and Melvin Wraspir each spoke of their adventures in researching their Czech family lines; Jerome Kadlec told the story of his 60+ year musical career; and Ray Mrkvicka, Marilyn (Horejsi) Schmidt, and Majorie Stritesky each recalled their memories of growing up in the Silver Lake area. A newspaper article was read, detailing the story

how Anton Nuwash (Nunvar) killed the last bear in McLeod County with his bare hands and an ax. Attendees asked follow-up questions and offered their own recollections and family stories.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a vote was taken and the group agreed that the Silver Lake History Roundtable Discussion should indeed be held next year, in 2012!

Among the attendees were:

Ruth Ahrens, Albert Ardolf, Larry Ardolf, Kathy Bednark, Lynn Benz, Margaret Benz, Nancy Benz, Marlyce (Wraspir) Bjork, Margaret Eischens, Rich Glennie, David & Susie Horesji, Ray & Alice Jilek, Jerome Kadlec, Ken Kadlec, Tony Kadlec, Stan Koci, Rich Koeppen, Bernie Koktan Sr., Kevin Koktan, Pat Mahon, Ron Makousky, Magdalen (Ardolf) Miller, Sharon Miska, Ray Mrkvicka, Don Navratil, David Ondracek, Raymond Pavlish, Leon Pesina, Dariel Posusta, Rachelle Pulkrabek, Ron & Eileen Pulkrabek, Barb Ruzicka, Joe Schermann, Marilyn (Horejsi) Schmidt, Steve Schmidt, Nancy Shamla, Majorie Stritesky, John E. Sustacek, Doris Wraspir, Melvin & Donna Wraspir, and Karen & Jerry Zajicek.

This event would not have happened without the efforts of the following team of volunteers: Jerome Kadlec, Ken Kadlec, Pat Mahon, Ron & Eileen Pulkrabek, and Joe Schermann. And finally, we would like to thank American Legion Post #141 for sponsoring the event by offering their hall for this community meeting.

THIRTY YEARS AGO (1981)



POLA-CZESKY DAYS ROYALTY - Front row (l to r): 1981 Princess Diane Stifter, 1981 Queen Pokornowski; back row: Candidate Gwen Ranzau, 1980 Princess Margie Stifter, 1980 Queen Lori

Konerza and Candidate Renee Goede. This year's four candidates spent Saturday going through various stages of competition culminating in the Coronation Pageant at 2:30 p.m. Silver Lake School auditorium was filled with people watching the girls perform in various phases of the competition. Candidates were judged on poise, gown, manners, spontaneous questions, interview and talent (Source: 6 August 1981 *Glencoe Enterprise*).

Hard to believe, but another Pola-Czesky Days has come and gone. Here is a 'historical' photo of the celebration from 30 years ago. This photo reminds me of a time about five years later, when our gifted mathematician/friendly neighbor Gwen Ranzau generously volunteered her time to help me wrap my mind around the first and second fundamental theorems of calculus, when I was struggling through it on a holiday break from college. Blessed be her memory!

If you have any contributions or suggestions for topics for future columns, please contact me by email: tkadlec@gmail.com or call me: (651) 271-0422 or send your letters to my attention: 1408 Fairmount Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105. See this article online at: www.kadlecovi.com Dekuji! Tony Kadlec