



The CZECH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF TEXAS

McLENNAN-HILL CHAPTER

On March 23, 1991 the Czech Heritage Society of Texas held their spring meeting at SPJST Lodge 6 at Cottonwood Hall near West, Texas. Approximately 70 people from McLennan and Hill Counties attended. State Trustee Marjorie Matula conducted an organizational meeting of the McLennan-Hill counties chapter. Chapter officers and directors were elected and sworn in by the State President Jerry Prochazka. 30 interested people signed up for membership.

The mission of the McLennan-Hill chapter of the Czech Heritage Society is to preserve and promote the heritage, culture, history, language, and genealogy of the Czechs and Czech Moravians of Texas. Chapter meetings are held quarterly. Programs include Czech history, and current affairs in the Czech lands. A Christmas party is held in the Czech tradition.

The chapter is an active participant in the Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen pageant in the spring of each year along with the other 14 Czech Heritage Society chapters in Texas. The chapter supports the Texas selected Queen at the Miss Czech-Slovak US Queen Pageant in Wilbur, Nebraska the first weekend of August each year.

The chapter participates in the annual Westfest, a celebration of culture with a Czechoslovakian flair in food, entertainment, dances, exhibits, demonstrations and Parade of Authentic Czechoslovakian Costumes. Each year the McLennan-Hill Czech Heritage Society chapter sponsors a Czech Heritage float for the Westfest Labor Day weekend parade that typically includes State and National Czech-Slovak Queens. The chapter also sponsors a Genealogy booth assisting Westfest attendees with researching their family history. Books on Czech history, culture, traditions, and genealogy are available at the Westfest booth and the West Public Library.

The chapter has published and offers for sale, a book called "Czech Reflections" which preserves for future generations some of the recipes, customs, interests and memories of pioneer family life of those who immigrated to Central Texas and the West area from Moravia, Bohemia, and Slovakia. The book is a collection of History and Folklore of farm life, soap making, home remedies, has a short history of West and Westfest, sokol, Czech dance groups, costumes, traditional customs, proverbs, music, language and collection of authentic recipes, cooking tips and helpful hints.