



Centennial Commemoration of **SACRED HEART**



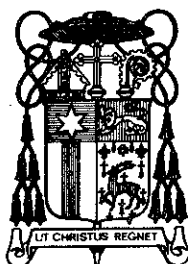
The Lovely Church on Cedar Hill

1879 — 1979

CEDAR HILL (Morse Bluff) NEBRASKA

DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

Post Office Box 80328
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501



Office of the Bishop



Rev. Jerome B. Pokorny
Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish
Cedar Hill, Nebraska

Dear Father Pokorny:

To you and your parishioners I send my heartfelt congratulations as you prepare for the One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of Sacred Heart Parish.

Time by itself is nothing to be celebrated. But the bestowal of the uncountable blessings which God has granted to the people of Sacred Heart Parish during the time of the last one hundred years is certainly something to be noted and to be celebrated with thanksgiving.

For a century Christ has been present among the people, teaching and guiding and sanctifying the parishioners from the earliest settlers of the region down to the parishioners of today. I join you and your good people in expressing sincerest gratitude to God for these blessings.

On this occasion we must not forget the priests and parishioners of the past through whose sacrifices the Faith was passed down to the present day. May this same spirit of sacrifice fill the hearts of all of us.

The best expression of thanksgiving to God is a life lived in accordance with His will and in obedience to all the teachings of His Church. Such a commitment to the Lord on the part of all your parishioners will make the celebration most pleasing to Him.

Asking God's special blessing upon all the people of Sacred Heart Parish on this Happy 100th Birthday, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Glennon P. Flavin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

The Most Reverend Glennon P. Flavin
Bishop of Lincoln



Message from former pastor Father Denis

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church!

Today we observe the One Hundredth Anniversary of our Parish, the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Rejoice! Be proud! Be happy!

After my liberation from the Dachau Concentration Camp in 1945, where five years of my life were spent, there was no plan of repatriation which would have allowed me to go back to Poland, my native country. Poland was enslaved by the Russians. After many struggles, with the help of Monsignor Joseph J. Przudzik, I came to the Lincoln Diocese. Here I was greeted by a great humanitarian, Bishop Louis B. Kucera. After two short assignments, Bishop Kucera sent me to Arapahoe as pastor, where I served for 13 years.

It pleased God that the following 13 years of my priestly life were spent as pastor of Sacred Heart of Cedar Hill. This position I held from October, 1961, to June, 1974, and am today the only living past pastor to witness your Centennial.

On this One Hundreth Anniversary of the Sacred Heart Mission, let us remember that two classes of people are celebrating today — the Living and the Deceased. Let us never forget that. During my pastorate we erected two plaques to express our vivid memory of those who served most unselfishly in God's vineyard in those early days. One was in memory of James and Harriet Noteware, who donated the land for the proposed parish; they also contributed half of the actual building. The mortal remains of Mr. Noteware rest in a small plot just north of the present church.

The second plaque is in memory of Magdaline Hajek, for her pioneering catechetical and organist activities as well as for a thousand dollars which she donated for the Stations of the Cross; the plaque also commemorates Barbara Polivka who generously donated the beautiful tabernacle in the altar. To their memory, and to all the other people resting in the cemetery, a flag pole and a new cemetery fence were dedicated.

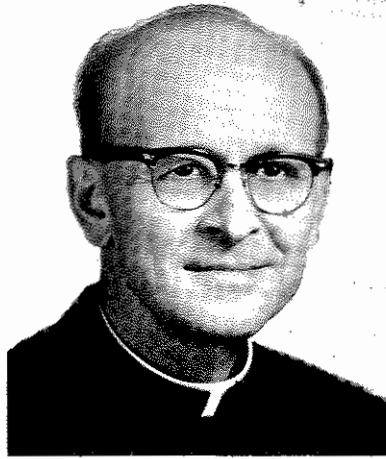
Another flag pole was erected in front of the church. The exterior of the church was painted, and an addition was added to the Parish Hall in which new self-propelled machines are now stored. To parishes with large congregations, this would be a trifle, but for us it was the result of real effort.

To all those people go my ever vivid thanks.

To Bishop Glennon P. Flavin, who in his goodness and kind understanding, allowed me to retire in 1974, because of my ill health, many, many thanks, and God love you!

This Centennial of our Church makes me very happy and grateful. God love you, my friends!

*Cordially in Christ,
Reverend Henry J. Denis*



Message from Father Pokorny

(Interim pastor, November 1, 1978, to June 15, 1979.)

Shortly prior to the death of Father Otto Ekhaml, in November of 1978, I was appointed interim pastor at Sacred Heart for a few months, until the June ordinations in our Diocese would take place and a new pastor was assigned. My pastorate embraced about eight months, and terminated shortly before the date of our Centennial.

During these few months it was a joy to administer the spiritual affairs of the congregation. The parish is correctly named: I found the people reflecting the peace and warmth of the Sacred Heart.

They exhibit the quality of religious life bequeathed to them by their ancestors of the century past; their roots are deep and their faith is strong. Today's flower is bright and beautiful. Two customs from their precious Catholic traditions touched me deeply. One is the enthusiasm with which century-old Czech hymns are still sung. The second is the custom of ringing the church tower bell during the Consecration of the Mass and during the recitation of the Angelus at the end of each Mass. Let Cedar Hill ring out and the surrounding hills and valley echo praise! Know that God is good and that the Word Incarnate lives among His children!

As I stepped from the Church on a recent rare Sunday morning in June, shortly before terminating my stay at Sacred Heart's Cedar Hill, I couldn't help but dream with the pioneer Catholics of a century ago. They stood on this holy ground, they loved God, they wished to provide spiritually for themselves and for their children, their hearts brimmed with thanksgiving in a glorious new land — on the top of this magnificent, cedar-crowned peak their view circled the lush Platte countryside, and they vowed: "This is the Spot!" And Sacred Heart at Cedar Hill was born! Their spirit is today one hundred years young!

May the Sacred Heart enfold them and you, now and forever!

Reverend Jerome Pokorny

Sacred Heart . . . Cedar Hill . . .

The beginning of Sacred Heart church is closely tied to the area known as Cedar Hill. Cedar Hill was originally a post office with the name of Slavonia, established on December 12, 1872. The name was changed to Cedar Hill on May 12, 1874. Tradition has James H. Noteware naming the area because it was on a hill dominated by cedar trees. Mr. Noteware is involved with the area's history and settlement of the area, having been Superintendent of the Nebraska State Board of Immigration. Mr. Noteware apparently dreamed of a town in the area and connected to having a town, hoped to have the railroad come near Cedar Hill.

Cedar Hill appeared on official maps of Nebraska but the actual town never amounted to more than a general store with the postoffice inside and a blacksmith shop located across the road west of the present lodge hall.

The original postmaster of Cedar Hill was Fredric F. Doubrava appointed on December 12, 1872. On May 13, 1874, Bissel P. Rice was named postmaster, followed by James H. Noteware on February 1, 1876. Following his death on September 4, 1877, his wife, Harriet S. Colton Noteware, on September 18, 1877, was appointed postmistress. On October 24, 1882, Rainsford Brownell became postmaster, succeeded by Rainsford C. Brownell on January 16, 1888. The post office was discontinued on March 10, 1888.

Mr. Noteware ceased to be State Superintendent of Immigration when a law was passed that the superintendent could not engage in real estate transactions or improve his finances in any manner; Mr. Noteware did sell land in the Cedar Hill area. He then turned his energies to helping the people who had settled in the area, feeling some responsibility for their being there.

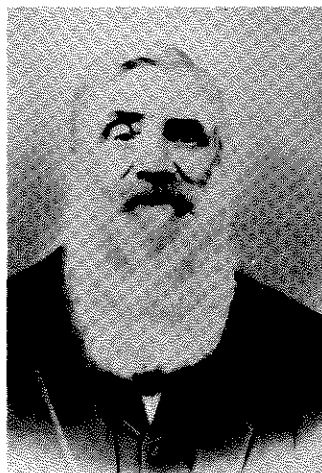
The Czech people were dominant in the area of Cedar Hill. The use of the term Czechs does not accurately describe where the settlers originated. The people of the Cedar Hill area emigrated primarily from the countries of Bohemia and Moravia. It was not until after World War I that the Country of Czechoslovakia was formed essentially from the countries of Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia. Other nationalities around Cedar Hill included German, Irish, English, and Dutch.

All had immigrated to the United States for various reasons. Cheap transportation was available; rates were \$36.75 — \$38.75 from the old country to the United States. The economy was hard in Europe during the 1800s; most farms in the old country were 50 acres or less, therefore overcrowding and poverty were common. The final burden was that every young man had to serve ten years in the Austrian army; this was a source of irritation to their love of country. The people came to the area looking for a fresh start and a new life. Once in this area, these people became a unique pro-

blem for the Bishop of Omaha since as yet there was no priest to speak their language.

Cedar Hill was in the Diocese of Omaha since the present Diocese of Lincoln did not exist till 1887. Bishop James O'Connor, Bishop of Omaha, also had charge of many of the surrounding states. He asked Father Francis Shulak to visit everywhere in the state where Slavik people were known to be so the Bishop might have some idea as to their numbers and needs; this he did from November, 1876, to December, 1887. Father did have previous experience in this area since he had baptized and performed the first marriages here. Much of his baptism and marriage register of these events are preserved at the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Archdiocese of Omaha archives.

In October, 1871, Father Shulak lists the baptism of Joseph Bures "born around June 5, 1870, son of Joseph Bures and Catherine Hromas" as the first entry. The people would see a priest only once or twice a year. If a death occurred, the people would have to conduct their own services. Around the Cedar Hill area, Jan Vyhldal would officiate at these services. He would also conduct catechism classes, and lead the weekly religious services which are described later on. Jan was a leading force in keeping religion "alive" among the people and kept records and details of all he did. Unfortunately, this book was buried with him at his death.



Jan Vyhldal



Mrs. Jan (Frantiska) Vyhldal

Early services were held irregularly with the traveling priest sending word ahead; each family was notified that Mass would be held. Many times, this could not be on a Sunday but rather a weekday since the priest had to serve so many in a vast area. After 1876-77, priests from Omaha, Columbus, Fremont, Abie, and Plasi would come to serve the Cedar Hill people.

By 1879, the Cedar Hill parish was recognized by the Bishop with Father Cyril Augustinsky of Columbus ser-

ving the people much of the time. The earliest records of the parish alternate between the Czech language and Latin and many times the priest would write down what name he had heard. Accurate spelling was not of utmost importance, so often names are found spelled two or three different ways; sometimes the Latin name, other times Czech.

No list of parish families at that time exists, but early names in the records of baptism and marriage include: Jan Kavan and his wife Katerina Vojtech; Wolfgang Ekstein and Anna Mares; Thomas Nemeč and Margareta Severin; Frank Vyhliđal and Karolina Janda; Jan Bauer and Anna Mach; Frank Vojtech and Josephina Krejca; Josef Prochaska and Mary Mach;



Frank and Josephina (Krejca) Vojtech. Behind them from left. Daughter Frantiska, sons George and Frank J.

Jan Vyhliđal and Frantisa Coufal; Franciscus Bobek and Catharina Vrana; Joannis Mizera; and Johanna Louckova; Adalbertus Bunda and Veronica Vopalensky; Josephus Savlik and Apollonia Krzka; Wenceslaus Nesladek and Magdalena Savlik; Albertus Meyers and Francisca Vyhliđal; Wenceslaus Sloup and Josepha Dolezal; Wenceslaus Virka and Maria Kubik; Jacobus Baumann and Elizabeth Roubal; Giuldemus Shanahan and Maria Anna Maloy; Wenceslaus Satorie and Catherina Kutilek; Abraham Burchell and Maria Keefe; Petrus Rank and Maria Killian; Jacobus Dvorak and Maria Krzka; Joannes F. Moolick and Anna Schroeder; Franciscus Mencek and Maria Nevbaly (in 1886 this is listed as Franz Mencik and Maria Nedbal); Patricus

Malloy and Maria Ryan; Wenceslaus Bures and Maria Marstajii; Joannis Ourava and Barbara Rajsl; Antonius Virka and Maria Havlik; Joanis Hynes and Josepha Vyhliđal; Joannis Kavan and Agnes Savlik; Anton Broz and Maria Skala; Joannes Francisca and Anna Dlouly; Hermannus DePool and Maria Ostenvapp; Franciscus Buchta and Juliana Pladck; Michael Malloy and Brigitta Hope; Joannes Dodge and Maria Cernak; Maurities Ladenburger and Carolina Kraus. The spellings are those of the priest.

If a person did not marry or if a couple did not have children, no record of their church membership exists. The records were kept with Plasi's until in 1901 when Sacred Heart, Cedar Hill, was connected to Prague.

The history of the people and the parish are found in the letters of Mrs. Noteware to Bishop O'Conner which are preserved in the Archdiocesan Archives in Omaha. Each letter is bordered in black out of respect for her dead husband. The letters show her to be an educated woman, wanting what was proper since her letters are quite detailed and asked for approval of all that was done.



Harriet S. Colton Noteware, daughter Maud, James H. Noteware.

In 1871 she and her daughter, Maud, traveled in Europe. Traditionally it is believed that following a critical illness in Italy, Mrs. Noteware became a Catholic and was baptized by the Pope. Unfortunately, she never refers to this in her letters; her baptism is entered in the Sacred Heart records on December 9, 1879. Also it is traditionally believed that Mr. Noteware became a Catholic on his deathbed but again no record of this has survived.

Mrs. Noteware's concern for the people and their religion is shown time after time in her letters. The winter of 1878-1879 was extremely severe and she described the following in a letter of January 6, 1879 . . . "Father Cyril, I regret to see, is not blessed with very robust health — he suffered terribly from the cold, and was nearly frozen in going to David City two weeks ago; he also froze his ears yesterday, while walking to the school house to say Mass . . ." When she offered warmer clothing, Father replied that priests were allowed to wear only the habit of St. Francis. Mrs.

Noteware requested special permission for the priests to dress more warmly since they traveled such great distance by wagon.

Mrs. Noteware praised Father Cyril . . . "the fact that he can speak Bohemian, German, and English is surely a pledge of great usefulness... Yesterday he preached both in Bohemian and English to the very evident satisfaction of the representatives of these two languages who heard him...."

Her letters also describe the weekly services held in the public school house, once known as District 77, that were led by the people and were held each Sunday since the priest could come so infrequently. Jan Vyhldal led the services consisting of reading of the Gospel and Lesson, singing litanies and hymns, and prayers. In the earliest years these were held in the homes. In November, 1877. Mrs. Noteware described to the Bishop Father Shulak's impressive preaching to the people encouraging and urging them to build a church. But the actual formation of a parish was not to take place until 1879. The church itself was not built immediately. There was considerable disagreement as to where the church should be built. Some felt it should be built three or four miles to the north on what was known as the "bottoms"; others felt as did Mrs. Noteware that Cedar Hill was the best location. One reason for the delay in constructing the actual church building was caused by this split. Some felt so strongly that they withdrew their names from the early "subscription list" of Father Shulak.

The other reason was the poor crops and poor prices since the Bishop would not allow any parish to go into debt to build a church if at all possible. Mrs. Noteware commented in one letter to Bishop O'Conner that the people were accustomed to a hard life and would sooner give money for a church than to use it for personal comfort but also the problem was where to build.

In 1878 and 1879 Father Cyril Augustinsky came once a month if possible and each time urged the building to begin. A church committee was formed in 1879. Five men were named to be in charge of building a church: Vaclav Bures, Josef Pabian, Jacob Dvorak, Vaclav Hajek, and Jan Vyhldal who was named treasurer. Building did hold a definite promise when the *Fremont Tribune* of February 26, 1880, reported that the Catholics of Cedar Hill, Saunders County, will build a church during the coming season. Mrs. Noteware happily described in her letter of March 10, 1880, the following events: . . . "over thirty loads of the best lumber have been hauled here from Fremont, with which they say the church, so long quarreled over, is to be built . . . in the evening after dark . . . sixteen teams heavily laden, came slowly into our yard, and unloaded their lumber near our house, (for protection!) and all was done with so much quietness and order, that we could not help admiring the action.

The weather was terribly cold — but they made no complaints although it seemed as if they must have

been half frozen. We made them come into the kitchen, and get warm and treated them to an abundance of hot coffee and cakes — last evening a similar scene was enacted. They have now to go to Fremont with some ten teams, next week, to get brick for the foundation. They wish also to have four stones for the corners of the church to rest upon; but this will not be so easily done. There is no stone quarry nearer than Omaha, I believe."

It is in this same letter that Mrs. Noteware urgently asks the Bishop to recommend Cedar Hill as a site for a Benedictine Monastery, of this nothing ever materialized.

The church was well planned with permanence in



Early view of Sacred Heart church before the front was expanded in 1924.

mind. A structure 40' x 60' was built over a corn field. The corn stalks from the last crop can be seen in the crawl space under the church. Apparently the stalks were burned off since the tops of each stalk are charred. It is interesting to note the size and number of stalks to each hill; one example is on display in the back of church. There were seven to eight stalks to each mound with each one less than an inch in diameter.

The land on which the church was built was originally owned by Mrs. Noteware as noted in the Registrar of Deed's records when she deeded almost 15 acres in 1886, holding back the part of the land on which her husband's burial plot is located. This land includes today's church, hall, church farm ground, and cemetery. Mrs. Noteware apparently hoped to have



Early view facing north in the Sacred Heart cemetery.

perpetual care for the grave by having it located just north of the church. In April, 1881, she wrote the Bishop describing the trees she was having planted around the "Square"; three men she had hired were working on accomplishing this.

At some time between March and June, 1880, Father Cyril left Nebraska, and at Mrs. Noteware's request, Father Wenceslaus Kocarnik of Plasi was appointed by the Bishop to take charge of Sacred Heart,



Father Wenceslaus Kocarnik, first pastor of Sacred Heart church.

Cedar Hill. Father Kocarnik blessed the church on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, 1880. Through Mrs. Noteware's work, the Bishop also came to visit at this time; quite an extensive trip.

The first trustees were: Jan Bures, Josef Dolezal, Jan Humlicek, Vaclav Reznicek, Frantisek Vyhlidal and Jan Vyhlidal. Father Kocarnik was in charge of three other parishes as well and the history of Sacred Heart and Cedar Hill are recorded in his letters to Bishop O'Connor that are also preserved in the Omaha Archdiocesan archives.

While the crops of the middle 70's were good, Father's letters describe the extreme hardships all were

experiencing during 1880-1885. In November, 1881, he had to ask the Bishop to dispense his parishes from contributing to the seminary fund. Wahoo and Pilzen (Plasi) had no crop and Cedar Hill had a little but the farmers there were heavy in debt due to it being the third year of crop failure. Father said he was to have received a salary of \$600 from the four parishes but he had received only \$58.00. In 1883, Father Kocarnik writes the Bishop of continued hardship of the people of Cedar Hill; he remarked that last year they had only cornbread to eat and this year they may not have that. In 1885, Father's health had deteriorated and he could no longer tolerate the harsh prairie winters; he asked to be relieved and he was assigned to Illinois. His replacement was Father William Coka, who was followed by Father Jordan Stutz.

Father Stutz kept careful records and lists the following people having children baptized in 1886: Anton Cibera and Alosia Duffk; Frantisek Jacub and Maria Jelinek; Frantisek Frank and Anna Busek; Jan Pabian and Theresa Sperl; Josef Hynes and Anna Jakovec; Jan Rehak and Frances Janka; Jacub Belik and Frances Chladek; Frantisek Krzka and Josefa Musil; Louis Wagner and Anna Homar; Frantisek Simice and Rosalia Bures; Jan Docekal and Maria Jelinek; Vaclav Harkal and Anna Benover; Vaclav Janecek and Josefa Cermak; Josef Roubal and Josefina Wechova; Frantisek Jlynek and Rosalia Kassik; Jakub Janky and Maria Kukujan; Anton Chvatal and Maria Mahlik; Anton Novak and Antonia Kaspar; Frantisek Rezac and Johanna Karpisk; Josef Goith and Frances Jelinek; Frank Pernicek and Josefa Ruzick; Josef Limbach and Anna Ekstein; Anton Kratky and Maria Krichtof; Josef Turicek and Josefa Ekstein; Anton Virka and Maria Hlavlik; Josef Meloy and Jahanna Naigle; Franz Vopalensky and Maria Savlik; Jan Belik and Maria Hynes; Frantisek Severin and Antonia Tekarek; Frantisek Jelinek and Maria Bunda; and Jan Jirovec and Maria Jirovec.

The people survived and prospered so that in 1893

50TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION —

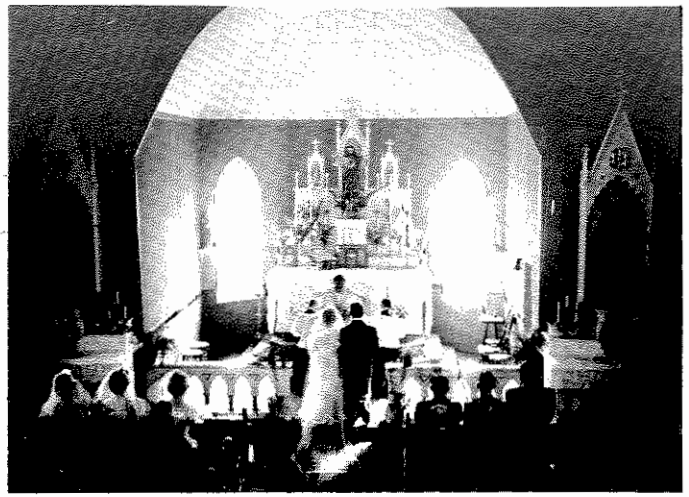
see two pictures on pages 24 and 25.

the tiny altar that looked much like a chest of drawers was able to be replaced by the present altar donated by Vaclav Hajek, Anton Hajek, and Vaclav Spevak. The original altar exists today and has been kept by the Bill Vrana family. In all probability, it was a piece of furniture that Mrs. Noteware donated for the church to use as an altar.

In 1924, the front of the church was enlarged by adding a bell tower and entrance; to the east a sanctuary and sacristy were built. Eskie Eskildsen of North Bend was the carpenter in charge of the building and reroofing, being assisted by the men of the parish. Jim Chromy tells that he has a hammer somewhere in the walls of the church—lost while he was on the roof working as a young man during this remodeling project.

At the same time, outside buttresses were added on the north and south in order to replace cables that were installed inside across the interior to keep the walls from bulging. The present lodge hall was built later.

In 1941-42, under the pastorate of Father Joseph Tupy, the interior of the church was remodeled and redecorated. The walls and ceilings were refinished. Parts of the altars were removed and the altars were painted white with gold trim. By comparing the wedding picture of Ernest Humlicek and Marietta Bauer



Wedding of Joseph Vojtech and Evangeline Wesely, after remodeling.

because of high costs and since World War II made supplies scarce. There was much discussion for and against signing the church up for electrification, but Joseph Sousek, trustee at the time, did so. In 1951, new light fixtures were installed. The pump organ was replaced by an electric one in 1952.

In 1957, the furnace exploded, so a new heating system was installed and the church was again redecorated and the sanctuary was rebuilt. In 1969, under the pastorate of Father Henry Denis, extensive repainting was done, both interior and exterior, on the church; the lodge hall was painted. Carpeting and removal of the communion rail was done in 1975. In 1977, the Altar Society had a new altar built to replace the first one that had been built when the custom of offering Mass facing the people was begun.

The pioneer people would be proud to know that, unlike other churches that either have burned or have been replaced because of inadequate size, the original church stands in excellent condition. Constant attention has been paid to upkeep, anticipating any problems. As far as can be determined, it is the only Czech Catholic congregation that still uses its original church.

In 1879 the people came to receive their Sacraments from greater distances than today's parish boundaries. There is no parish roster for the early years, though Father Shulak did have a "subscription list" to which Mrs. Noteware referred in her letters, but no trace of this can be found. But from the church records of baptisms, it can be seen that many people were counted as parishioners. In 1919, Father Vaclav Pokorny listed 46 families, 237 souls, 20 baptisms, and four marriages for the parish. Father Bede Cernik listed 49 families in the parish in 1937.

On July 1, 1945, Sacred Heart was separated from St. John's of Prague and became the mother parish to Saint George's parish being established in Morse Bluffs. After the church's completion in 1955, Sacred Heart again became a mission church, this time to Saint George's. In August, 1961, Father George Livanec died, and Cedar Hill was without a pastor until October, 1961, when Father Henry J. Denis was appointed



Wedding of Ernest Humlicek and Marietta Bauer, before remodeling.

before remodeling with that of the first wedding, that of Joseph Vojtech and Evangeline Wesely, after the redecorating the contrast can be seen.

At this time, while redecorating, the building was wired for electricity by Anton Wirka of Rescue since the Delco plant located in the old livery barn on the north side of church quit operating. It was known that rural electrification was going to come though the year was not know. It was decided not to repair the plant

pastor. During this time, C.C.D. classes were established. These were held weekly and in conjunction with St. George's.



Father Otto Ekhaml surrounded by children during summer C.C.D. classes.

After being relieved of his much larger parish in Weston, Father Otto Ekhaml came to Sacred Heart and Saint George's in June of 1974. Both parishes worked on extensive renovation of the rectory.



Work on the rectory by men of both parishes.



Relaxing over a meal after a hard morning's work on renovating the rectory.

In November, 1978, Father Otto passed away and since that time Father Jerome Pokorny has served as administrator.

Though the town of Cedar Hill never in truth materialized, more than a church called the people to gather. Cedar Hill was the social "center" of the area. To continue a tradition from the old country, plays were given by the people. The early plays were presented on the north side of the church. A stage was built from the rectory, and benches were set out for the people. This was in the early 1920s.

Drama Club

Albin L. Cihacek

The 1930s had the Cedar Hill parishioners struggling with a prolonged drought and low prices for farm products, consequently the church also suffered in the monetary area. It was decided to try to produce a Czech play, commonly called "divadlo" by the young people of the parish. This would keep the young people occupied, preserve the Czech language, and hopefully aid the parish financially. In the fall of 1934, a Drama Club was organized. Mr. Joseph Sousek took it upon himself to be the director of the play. He ordered several play books from different publishing houses. The choice finally was *Tatinkovy Juchty* (Father's



The cast of *Tatinkovy Juchty*. Left to right: Joe Vojtech, Agnes Nemec, Ernest Humlicek, Cecilia Sousek, Albin Cihacek, Lillian Vrana, Frank Blatny, Marie Sloup, Victor Sloup, Rudy Stranik, and seated Joe Sousek.

Boots) a two act comedy.

The cast was chosen as follows: BALTAZAR RYPAK—Joseph Vojtech; PANI RYPAKOVA—Agnes Nemec; MATYSEK, MARINA, A MADLENA (JEJICH DETI)—Albin Cihacek, Cecilia Sousek, and Marie Sloup; HEDVIKA (DCERA SPRACOVA)—Lillian Vrana; FRANTISEK (JEJI BRATR)—Ernest Humlicek; CHYTIL (POLICAJT)—Rudolph Stranik; KORBELIK (HOSPODSKY)—Victor Sloup; FLASINETAR—Frank Blatny. To keep down the expenses, the individual parts were handwritten, which was quite a task to be sure. After several weeks of learning the lines and practicing the parts, Sunday,

February 17, 1935, was chosen for the first attempt to present it to the public. Since Cedar Hill, being a rural parish, had no hall, the Z.C.B.J. hall at Morse Bluff, Nebraska, was rented.

On the evening of the presentation the hall was packed and the play was a success. The audience enjoyed it and talked about it for many weeks because the play was published in Czechoslovakia and portrayed the Czech life. Many in attendance were not too far removed from the old country, not to have nostalgic memories.

This was an encouragement to produce more plays in the future. *Tatinkovy Juchty* was also presented in Abie, Nebraska, Wahoo, Nebraska, and the Plasi church basement. The interest in Czech plays continued for the next three years.

The plays which were presented to the public besides *Tatinkovy Juchty* were *Pepicka z male hospodky* (or "Josie from a little tavern"); *Slečna Mari veze Zenicha na trakari* (or "Missy Mary hauling her boyfriend in a wheelbarrow"); *Anton! Nezlob!* (or "Anton! Don't annoy me!"); *Osel je osel* (or "Donkey is a donkey"); and *Sojci Pero* (or "Bluejay's feather"). *Slečna Mari veze Zenicha na trakari* was the largest production of them all; the play was a musical comedy of three acts. It involved every member of the Drama Club and also many adults and their talents.

For those that like to remember the "good old days", the total income for *Slečna Mari veze Zenicha na trakari* was \$91.85, the expense was \$34.10. Total profit was \$57.75—not very large by today's standards but it must be remembered that the price of admission was 25 cents for adults.

Another noteworthy reflection is that, while the members of the cast always received recognition by applause when presenting the plays, there were three people who were also very important to the play but were never seen: Mr. Joseph Sousek, director; Mrs. Vaclav Nemecek, prompter; and Mr. John Humlicek, prompter.

The last Czech play *Sojci Pero* was presented December 3, 1938. World War II and the induction of the young men into the service prevented the plays from being continued.

Dances

Dances were popular and were an important form of entertainment and fund raising. The dances were held on "platforms" and the earliest platform at Cedar Hill was northwest of the church in what is now the yard of the present Frank Sloup farm. After World War I another platform was built around a large tree. The tree in the center provided shade. The floor was prepared for dancing by dragging bales of hay around the floor either by hand or behind a car. Ground corn was scattered around to help "smooth" the floor. The platform was left intact all year round.

A later platform was built south of the present lodge

hall. It was brought from Weston, Nebraska. The men were charged 35¢ as an admission price while the ladies were admitted free of charge. This platform was sold in 1938 to Ludvik Wesely. More details about it can be read in the Memory Section.

Another important religious and social event was the annual "Pout", a Bohemian word meaning "pilgrimage". On the day before, the men would set up a tent canopy over the dance platform; the men of the parish brought their canvas to join together to form the canopy.



Cedar Hill Brass Band June 16, 1928. Back row: Jim Vojtech, Cyril Vyhldal, John Vyhldal, Ben Wesely, John Hobza, Frank Navrkal, Anton Vrana, Kneeling: Ludvik Wesely, Joe Vojtech, Anton Hobza, Adolph Havelka.

On the Sunday, after Mass, the Cedar Hill brass band would lead the festivities, food was abundant. The women would serve the dinner, each woman usually having the same job year after year. Generally it was a fried chicken dinner preceded by soup. Though it might be June and it might be hot, a meal was not a meal without soup first! The food was served out of the south windows of the lodge hall.



An early Cedar Hill ball team.

After eating, everyone would watch the ballgame. The original diamond was near the hall facing east. Because there was not enough room by the hall, the diamond was moved to an area near the cemetery, facing northeast. The home plate was located where cars now park.



Cedar Hill pugball team of 1939— Back row: Jim Bauer, Ernest Humlicek, Joe Chromy, Tom Pabian, Joe Vyhlidal. Middle row: Adolph Navrkal, Steve Chromy, Adolph Nemec, George Vyhlidal, Tom Shanahan. Front row: Butch Vopalensky, Joe Vojtech, Joe Bauer, Ray Vopalensky, Bill Chromy. Standings that year were: Dwight 10-2, Cedar Hill 9-3, Loma 4-8 and Bruno 1-11.



Corpus Christi June 15, 1941. Procession to outside altars on the road that runs north and south in front of church.

Pout was held in conjunction with Corpus Christi. John F. Vyhlidal remembers helping his father, Josef, build the altars during the 1920s. North of the church on each corner of the area set aside for Mr. Noteware's grave were four posts. The altars were created from elm branches brought by Mr. Vyhlidal and his boys on a hay rack and were woven around and over the posts.

Next came the decorations; certain families were in charge of each altar. The best linens, pictures, statues, and crucifix were used. The early processions included the young of the parish dressed in white, carrying baskets with petals of flowers to be tossed upon the pathway.

The band started from the lodge hall and would play leading by the way north to the area of the altars. They also played between each altar as Benediction was conducted. The priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament

was under a special canopy. The wooden lattice Corpus Christi altars still standing today were built when Father Biskup was pastor.



Adoration at a Corpus Christi altar.



A Corpus Christi altar.



Corpus Christi returning from altars. Cross bearer Johnnie Navrkal. Sister Gertrude de N.D.

The annual chili supper was the last parish effort that would be reminiscent of the work involved with the Pout. Usually it was held on the first Sunday of March; the menu was later expanded to include chicken soup. The supper was an "all-you-could-eat" evening before

tables laden with pies, rohliky, rosettes, kolaches, and relish trays. After the hundreds of people were served, the people of Cedar Hill were left with very sore feet, but having added considerably to the church finances.



Cedar Hill band playing between the hall and the church. Notice some of the players in their ball uniforms.

Bell Still Rings!

Another tradition of the parish is the ringing of the bell. The bell was donated by John Bures when the entrance and bell tower were added to the church building in 1924. The first bell ringer was John Bures, he was followed by John Hobza. When he left the parish, Joseph Vojtech succeeded him. After his death, the present one to call the people to Mass by means of the bell is Adolph Nemeč. If one heard the bell during the week, one knew a parishioner had died, since it was a custom to do this for them. The bell was also rung when President John Kennedy's assassination was announced.

Groups

B.V.M. SODALITY—The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality was originally known as *Marianska Druzina* and was started by Father Alfons Biskup about 1934. As best as can be remembered the first officers were: Libbie Stranik-president; Adeline Dvorak-secretary; and Martha Navrkal-treasurer.



Catholic Workman, Branch #55, on its 25th celebration in 1925.

Catholic Workman, Branch #55

By Adolph Nemeč

The history of the local Catholic Workman, Branch #55, dates back to 1900 to a merger with the "Western Czech Catholic Society" (Z.C.K.J.). The official Catholic Workman (Katolický Delník) charter was issued on February 3, 1900, to the following 14 charter members: Joseph F. Reznicek, Joseph Bures, John Bures, Ondrej Reznicek, Vaclav Navrkal, Matej Pabian, Tomas V. Nemeč, Albert Pabian, Jacob F.

Kavan, John V. E. Shavlik, Boleslav J. Kavan, John Dvorak, John V. Navrkal, Vaclav J. Odvody. The first officers show Frank Vyhliđal as President and Vaclav Reznicek, Secretary, who were then the officers from the Z.C.K.J. of St. John the Baptist, Branch #34, of Morse Bluff, Cedar Hill, Nebraska. The first elected officers were: President, Joseph Dolezal; Vice-President, Frank Vyhliđal; and Secretary, Vaclav Reznicek. This was a 1902 election. A note worthy event took place in 1925 when the local branch celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a pic-



Sacred Heart choir, 1938. Front: Martha Vrana Wolf, Josey Blatny Belik, Hattie Fencil Vyhliđal, Marietta Bauer Humlicek, Cecilia Nemeč Sypal. Middle: Agnes Nemeč Sypal, Cecilia Sousek Cihacek, Albina Bratrsofsky, Adeline Dvorak. Back: Joe Vyhliđal, Albin Cihacek, Father Bede Cernik, Joe Vojtech, John Vyhliđal.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY—The Holy Name Society was organized about 1936 during Father Bede Cernik's time. As best as can be remembered the first officers were: Ernest Humlicek-president; Emil Fiala-vice-president; Albin Cihacek-secretary; Joseph Sousek-treasurer.

nic. On Sunday, June 11, 1950, the local branch celebrated the 50th Anniversary. The general chairman was Joe Vojtech and co-chairman was Bill Chromy.

After assembling in church, the procession to the Noteware Square north of the church was led by the cross bearer, colorguard, Mr. Louis Pokorny and the Malmo Community Band, visiting branches, individual people, officers, and clergy.

The dinner committee consisted of chairman Anton Navrkal; co-chairmen: William Vrana, Charles Hampl, and William Pabian. Dinner was served to about 300 people under a tent canvas top.



Crowd at Catholic Workman 50th celebration, June 11, 1950.

The afternoon program committee chairman was Albin Cihacek. Adolph Nemeč was the master of ceremonies. Speakers present for the occasion were: Father William Rezabek, Supreme President Vaclav F. Jelinek, Supreme Treasurer Joseph Ficeneč, Supreme Trustee Joseph Proskocil, Supreme Chaplin Father Clement Kubesh, Vocalists twins Neola and Nadine Wese-ly. Honored members were: Tomas V. Nemeč, Mike Pabian, John Dvorak, and Joseph Bures.

No program, however, was held because a storm moved in and the activities were rained out.

The Corpus Christi procession was also rained out, but Benediction was held in the church. The evening dance was held at Scott's Lake east of Morse Bluff with music by Cyril Vyhliđal and his Accordion Orchestra playing.

On June 22, 1975, our local branch celebrated the 75th jubilee with a procession to the Noteware Square where the Supreme Spiritual Director, Father Francis Oborny, offered the outdoor Mass and delivered the homily. After Mass, Father Otto Ekhaml gave a few remarks as did Supreme Vice President Joseph Reznicek. A pot luck dinner was served at 11:30 to about 150 people. The local branch provided the drinks, ice cream, and musical entertainment in the afternoon.

The current membership is 112 members and the officers are: President, Julius Nemeč; Vice-President, George Vyhliđal; Financial Secretary, Evangeline Vojtech; Treasurer, Gladys Nemeč; Secretary, Adolph Nemeč.

A Visitor Views Jubilee

The following was taken from the *Katolicky Delnik* of July 1, 1950, and was written by Joseph Reznicek.

On June 11, 1950, we had the opportunity to attend the Golden Jubilee of Branch 55 at Cedar Hill, Nebraska. We arrived at the country parish of Cedar Hill at 10:35. By this time, when still about a mile from the place we heard the band playing. Coming closer we saw the procession already formed for the march to the place where a field Mass was to be offered. Represent-



Outdoor altar for the field Mass, June 11, 1950. 50th celebration Catholic Workman.

tation from various branches, the State Officers, the Supreme Officers, including the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Nemeč of Wahoo. The all-men choir sang at this jubilee Mass. The Czech sermon was delivered by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Nemeč, and the English sermon was preached by the pastor, Father Livanec. Father Livanec stressed the work of the younger folks in the branch. After Mass the K.D. representations again formed into line as before and marched back to the K.D. hall, where a large dining room on the side of the hall served the appetite of the people who came to celebrate with the local branch. A delicious chicken dinner was served with all the trimmings, including rolls, kolaches, especially those with poppy seed. After dinner we drove out to the cemetery, which is only a short distance to the southeast of the church. The place is well kept. Here we visited the graves of my uncles and aunts, and also my younger brothers, who died in 1908. When we came back, the program was about to start. Mr. Adolph Nemeč was the master of ceremonies. He is the son of the branch president, Vaclav Nemeč. Rev. Rezabek gave the invocation. Mr. Albin Cihacek presented the Welcome Address; he is the son of John Cihacek who for many years was branch officer, also a delegate to the State conventions. Unfortunately, when Mr. Jelinek, the supreme president began to speak, it started raining.

After this Father Clement Kubesh presided at benediction in church. I could not help but admire the improvements in the church, and also the wonderful singing by the Men's choir.

My father, Joseph F. Reznicek, was one of the charter members of Branch 55. We were parishioners of Cedar Hill up to 1914. I was 11 years old when we left. I attended catechism classes at Cedar Hill every summer. Rev. Pokorny was the priest in charge of Cedar Hill at the time; but he lived in Prague.

The Cedar Hill parish certainly has everything kept up, since we left there 36 years ago. Father Livanec, with the cooperation of the parishioners, did wonderful work there. This Golden Jubilee of Cedar Hill Branch 55 had the most K.D. members of different branches attend that I have ever seen. Here you can see what a small parish with a good Catholic Workman Branch can do, especially with a priest like Father Livanec, who is one of our active workers.

Altar Society

The Altar Society treasurer's books record the following ladies as having held offices: 1900—Anna Odvody, 1904—Magdalin Buresh, 1908—Josephine Sloup, 1909—Francis Dolezal, 1910—Katherina Hobza, 1915—Emelie Nesladek, 1918—Adela Sloup, 1920—Agnes Hines, 1921—Eva Cichaek, 1923—Marie Nemec, 1925—Julie Stranik, 1928—Mary Navrkal, 1944—Marie Nemec, 1955—Edith Sousek, 1956—Sylvia Novak, 1969—Agnes Sloup.

Records show Mary Navrkal, Marie Nemec, Sylvia Novak, and Agnes Sloup each staying in office over a period of several years.

Six Masses are said for both living and dead members each year. The rosary is recited Sunday before Mass throughout the year. Many times it is in the Czech language and other times in English.

The Altar Society has as its duties: purchasing candles, altar breads, flowers, linens, votive lights, cleaning supplies, children and senior citizens'



Present Altar Society officers: Agnes Sloup, treasurer; Lillian Bauer, vice-president; Evangeline Vojtech, president; Ethel Kavan, secretary.

Christmas treats, Pastor's vestments, altar boy cassocks, vocation donations. In addition to these regular bills, larger projects included: 1972, all altar statues painted; 1974, a white linen casket cover was purchased; 1975, installation of church carpeting; 1977, had a new front altar built; also applied \$450 toward repair of rectory bathroom; 1978, red "Bishop's chair.

We serve the Knights of Columbus breakfast, hold food and bake sales once a year, sponsor parish wedding dances, and sell lunch at near-by farm sales. All these help us to raise money for our parish needs. Perhaps our most extensive project was in 1971 when the Altar Society compiled a cookbook containing many traditional Czech recipes—well over 800 recipes and helpful hints. Over 3000 cookbooks have been sold throughout many states and have gone as far as Germany and Turkey. They are still available for purchase.

Memories of Our Parish and Its People

Albin and Cecila Cihacek recall a "Gypsy Ball" held by Cedar Hill. The parish sponsored a "gypsy" dance given in Morse Bluff, Sunday, February 6, and thought to be in the year 1938. This was something like a masquerade dance. People came dressed like "gypsies". Mr. Vaclav Stranik organized the event and during the dance traditional gypsy goulash was sold as refreshment. A gypsy king and queen were crowned. It is believed that Vaclav Stranik was the first king and perhaps Agnes Nemec was queen.

Former parishioner, Jim Vojtech, remembers catechism during the summer when all the young of the parish gathered under Father Vaclav Pokorny's guidance. Father always wore a straw hat and when it became hot, he would take the religious instruction out under the trees. At the end of each day, the boys would get the "honor" of pushing Father's car to get it started. One day, the car was particularly stubborn; the boys had pushed it almost a half mile to the curve south of the church and Father was becoming angry that the boys weren't pushing fast enough, but then Father noticed he hadn't turned on the key.

Alice Wesely remembers that when she and Ludvik were married, they had a free dance on the platform at Cedar Hill. It was the last dance on that platform and the date was August 18, 1931. The Cedar Hill Band played. On November 13, 1938, Ludvik bought the platform for \$42.00. Joe Sousek was trustee at that time and he accepted the check for the church. Emil Wesely and Ludvik cut it up in sections, hauled it home with their Model T's. It made five loads. They built a large building from these sections that is in very good

condition and is used as a garage and cob shed now. The information is from Ludvik's daily diary which he kept till the day he died.

Frank Vyhlidal and Karolina Janda, by *Cyril Vyhlidal*.



Frank Vyhlidal and Karolina Janda Vyhlidal, believed to be the first couple married in the church.

Jakub Brousek and Marie Vejtasa, by *Mrs. Cyril Vyhlidal*.



Mr. and Mrs. Jakub Brousek and family.

My mother, Marie Vejtasa, came to America in 1879 at the age of five, with her mother, Katerine, and step-father, Anton Pachr. They settled on a farm six miles southwest of Cedar Hill. My father came to America at the age of 20 in 1893. They were married on January 16, 1900, at the Sacred Heart church at Cedar Hill and were the parents of three sons: Joseph, Frank, and Albin, and three daughters; Mary, Barbara, and Albina. Their son, Albin, was killed by lightning on June 16, 1932, while cultivating corn with his father at the age of 21 years.



Albin Brousek funeral. Left side: Cyril Codr, Blazej Kucera, Marie Hajek Hines, Lillian Kucera Codr. Right side: Frank Kucera, Edward Humlicek, Anton Navrkal, William Vrana, Josie Kucera Fencel, Victoria Codr Kriz, Antoinette Navrkal Buchholtz, Lillian Vrana Victor.

In 1870 my father, Frank Vyhlidal, oldest son of Jan Vyhlidal and Frantiska Coufal, took an 80 acre homestead two miles west of what is now the Sacred Heart parish. He worked part time for Mr. Noteware on the land where the church now stands. He described harvesting corn. It took three men to a wagon; one on each side and one behind. "Bang boards" or "side boards" were unknown in those days. The three men changed places so the man behind the wagon would not suffer too long. My dad worked with an Indian and the third man whose name is not known. This third man would lose his temper at times when working behind the wagon. The Indian would be frightened and would take off running; since neither knew the other's language, the only way to get the Indian back was to light a pipe and all three had to have a smoke; then the work could continue.

Dad used to join a caravan of wagons and oxen that took the cross country road to Ashland for a supply of flour. No bridge was needed. The trip took one day there and one day back. The deep wagon tracks were still visible not too long ago on our meadow.

My father helped build the church; he married my mother there. It was the first wedding in the Sacred Heart church. They were the parents of Frank, Sophia, Anton, Joseph, Lucille, Mary, and I, Cyril, am the only one living.

The Janda family settled in Plattsmouth, Nebraska. Brothers of my mother worked in the Burlington railroad shops and also had one of the first Czech orchestras in Nebraska. They traveled by train and wagon to play for dances on the Cedar Hill platform.

Frank Vojtech and his wife, Joephina Krejca, arrived in this country from Lukovo, Znojmo, Moravia, Budejovice, in 1877. They had two children, Frantiska and George. They settled on 40 acres a mile west and a mile north of Cedar Hill and lived in a sod dugout. On December 24, 1878, a son, Frank J., was born to them

and was baptized by a traveling priest, Father Cyril Augustinsky, in the public school house District 77, on February 2, 1879.

Frank J. used to relate the memory of watching his father and other men of the church move the body of Mr. Noteware from Killian Cemetery to its final resting place north of the church which his wife chose for him with the wish that perpetual care be provided for the grave.

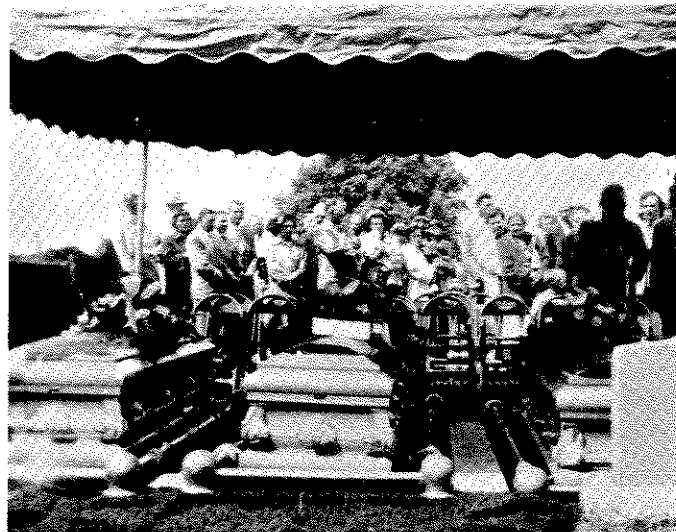
On May 9, 1904, Frank J. married Mary Bauer at Sacred Heart. To them were born six children: James, Joseph, Emily, Helen, Marie, and Ernest.

Both were active in church affairs, Frank with the dances and "picnics" and Mary helping at Pout and dinners. She would always make the noodles for the soup, and her grandchildren would be fascinated by watching her cut the noodles as thin as slivers. People judged a woman's skill by how thin her noodles were! After retiring to Fremont in 1943, they returned to renew their wedding vows on their 50th anniversary. Mary passed away on June 22, 1970; Frank, on August 11, 1974. Both are buried at Cedar Hill cemetery.

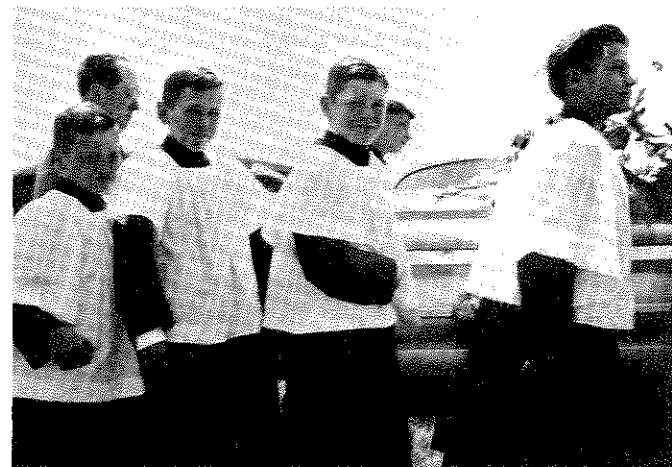


Mr. and Mrs. Anton A. Vrana were married September 27, 1909, at Sacred Heart. Mrs. Vrana was the former Josephine Tomcak. To them three children were born: William F.; Linwood, Mrs. Lester (Lillian) Victor; Omaha, and Mrs. Harold (Martha) Wolf; Park Forest, Illinois. They lived on a farm near Linwood and were parish members of Cedar Hill till they retired to Prague in 1967. Many people remember "Grandma" Vrana's devotion to the church by the beautiful flowers she brought each Sunday for the altars. She passed away May 14, 1975 preceded in death by Anton on September 9, 1970.

On May 7, 1955, the Cedar Hill community was saddened when James Kadlec, his wife Elizabeth (Betty) and their ten year old son, Delbert, were killed in a car-train accident three miles west of North Bend. Funeral services were held on May 10 from St. Charles church in North Bend, with Father Livanec of Sacred Heart conducting the services. Burial was at Cedar Hill. The Kadlecs had been Cedar Hill parishioners before moving west of North Bend. Delbert served as an altar boy at Sacred Heart. Jim was the son of Joseph and Mary Kadlec; Betty was the daughter of Joseph and Frantiska (Fanny) Vyhldal. They were married at Sacred Heart May 19, 1942. The statue of the Holy Family on the right of the main altar was purchased with money from this family.



The funeral of the Jim Kadlec family.



Pallbearers for Delbert Kadlec casket.

Jan and Frantiska Coufal Vyhldal arrived in Saunders County April, 1870, with their children: Mary, Frances, Josephine, Katherine, Caroline, Frank, James, John, and Anton from Slavetice, Moravia. In this country two more children were born to them: a son, Joseph, in 1873 and a daughter, Anna, in 1875. Jan lived from June 24, 1825, to November 19, 1906. Frantiska was born June 15, 1830, and died November 10, 1905.

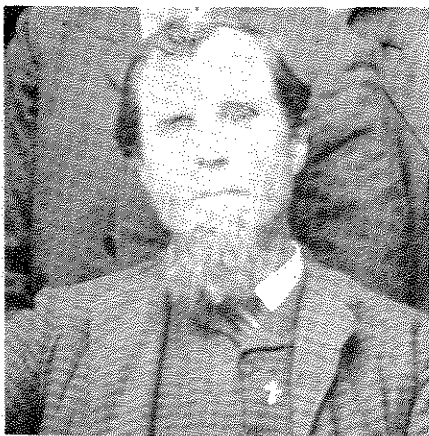
Jan and Frantiska with their nine children came by covered wagon and settled in Bohemia township about two miles west of the present Cedar Hill. They spent their first winter in a dugout, the following spring they built a sod house east of the dugout in which they lived while they built their permanent home of adobe and wood farther east of the sod house. They lived here all their lives.

Jan was very interested in getting a Catholic Church built in the area. He and his neighbor to the south, Josef Pabian, went to see Mr. Noteware for advice as he was a realtor and from the railroad. Mr. Noteware told them he would donate the land if the church would be built at Cedar Hill since there already was a little store started and hopefully the railroad would be coming here from Wahoo. Mr. Noteware also told them that the Order of St. Benedict was looking for a place to build a monastery and he hoped they would select Cedar Hill. Mr. Noteware's dream did not come true as the Benedictines built at Lisle, Illinois, during the 1880s.

Jan Vyhlidal, Vaclav Bures, Josef Pabian, Vaclav Hajek, and Jakub Dvorak canvassed the neighborhood to collect donations for the church building project. Before this Jan had received permission from the Bishop authorizing him to baptize and bury the people. He held burial services both at Killian cemetery and at Sacred Heart. He also held prayer services in homes and District 77 and taught catechism. When he discontinued, Magdaline Hajek took over teaching. He organized a choir even before an organ was purchased.

Jan carried a "Big Prayer Book" as his children called it. From it, he carried out the services and in it he also kept records of the baptisms, burials, and other activities. It is said he had performed 105 burials. When he died, his family did not know what to do with the book, so they buried it with him.

Jakub Dvorak was one of the first of five men who worked to have a Catholic church built at Cedar Hill. He and his wife, Marie Krska, were the parents of five daughters and three sons: Anastazia (Mrs. Joe Pabian); Pauline (Mrs. Frank Ondracek); Mary (Mrs. Fred Walter); Victoria (Mrs. Jim Broz); Helen (Mrs. Louis Feala); John, Albert, and Emil. Jakub had come to this



Jakub Dvorak.

country from Kamenna, Trebic, Jihlava.

Jakub passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of fifty years in 1893. His wife, Marie, was left to bring up the eight children, with the youngest, Emil, being only one year old. Emil is living in Fremont with his wife Anna (Bauer) Dvorak and his daughter, Adeline.



Thomas and Margaret (Severin) Nemec.

Thomas was born December 20, 1848, in Duetih, Moravia; Margaret Severin was born July 6, 1849, in Blatnici, Jaromerice, Moravia. They were united in marriage on November 21, 1870, and came to this country in 1875 with their two sons, Thomas and Bartie. They were to have seven more children, born to them in this country. Mary Severin, Margaret's mother, came with them from the old country. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Cedar Hill with 38 living grandchildren. Mr. Nemec died November 6, 1930, after Margaret had passed away on May 30, 1929. They were preceded in death by daughter Josephine Nemec Pabian and son, Bartie.



Joseph Sr. and Frantiska (Fanny) Vojtech Vyhlidal taken with their family standing behind them. Left to right: Elizabeth (Betty), Mrs. James Kadlec; Rose, Mrs. Andrew V. Kucera; Julia, Mrs. Ben B. Bartek; Joseph E.; John F.; and George. A daughter Adeline died in infancy.

Joseph and Fanny were married November 18, 1896, at Sacred Heart. Joseph was the son of Jan and Frantiska Coufal Vyhldal and was born March, 1873, on the home place where he lived and farmed till his death on January 6, 1940.

Fanny was the daughter of Frank and Josephine Krejca Vojtech; she was born September 8, 1875, in Krakovice, Moravia. After she was widowed, she remained living on the home place with her son, Joseph E., and his wife and family, until her death February 25, 1962. This farm is in the Vyhldal name for over 100 years.

Joseph was involved in many of the church activities; he was elected many times as trustee. He and his family sang in the choir many years. He served as treasurer of the *Katolicky Delnik* for forty years.

John and George Vyhldal recall the platform dances held at Cedar Hill on the stationary platform south of the lodge hall in the early 1920s. These are known as "The Cedar Hill Picnics". Mrs. Ray Stranik relates their memories.

The following men were assigned to get supplies which were purchased at Morse Bluff, Nebraska, for the lunch stand: John Navrkal got the cigars and cigarettes; Joseph Vyhldal Sr., the "wagon load" of soda pop; Jim Nesladek, the blocks of ice to keep the pop and ice cream cold; Frank Vojtech, the ice cream, candy, and gum; John Cihacek, the weiners and bread.

The ladies prepared the lunch inside the hall and served it through the windows to the customers outside. Sandwiches were 10¢ these consisted of two hot dogs and two slices of bread; kolache 5¢. There was also a bar set up outdoors along the side of the hall where the pop was sold for 5¢ a bottle, candy bars and gum 5¢ each, ice cream cones also for a nickel. Cigarettes were 15¢ a pack; brand names recalled were Lucky Strike, Camels, Chesterfield, and Old Gold. Cigars were 2 for a nickel, some 5¢ each, and Charlie Denby's were 10¢ each. the musicians were given a free lunch.

John Cihacek and Jim Navrkal were in charge of selling the admission tickets which were 75¢, and ladies were admitted free. Bands from neighboring towns played for the dances, but for the most part Cedar Hill Band provided the music.

In later years Vaclav Nemecek, Vaclav Stranik, Joseph Sousek, Edward Sloup and John K. Hines were in charge of these duties.

Mrs. Ann Seifert and others of the Kocarnik family have corresponded with Mrs. Jerry Brtek about the memories of their parents, Mrs. Seifert writes: "My father was Father Wenceslaus Kocarnik's brother. He was Alois Kocarnik who married Mary Buresh of Cedar Hill. They were among the first married at the church there. My grandparents on mother's side took a homestead there. Grandpa died in 1907, and grandma

lived there with son, John, and his family.

"Father Wenceslaus would travel by horseback, later buggy, to the different farms, where he would have Mass for a few farmers during the week. At first Alois and Frank (another brother) were with him in Omaha, later they took a homestead in Plasi and Frank opened the store and together they worked the farm. Frank married, and Alois lived with the couple in the store. He used to drive Father Wenceslaus around to farms. That was the way he met my mother, as Father used to say Mass in their home. Father Kocarnik knew several languages and in retired years at Lisle, Illinois, he translated stories that used to come in the *Katolicky Kalendar*."

Martin A. Hobza the son of Frank and Antonia (Rombosek) Hobza was one of the earlier faithful and devoted parish members. He was born in Roketnice, Moravia on November 10, 1865, and at the age of 18 he came to America with his parents and 2 brothers. They settled on a farm in the vicinity of Colon, Nebraska, also known as the Sand Creek location. Later moving to a farm near Morse Bluff.

In 1891 he was united in marriage to Caroline Vyhldal at Sacred Heart Church, Cedar Hill, of which he was a faithful member until his death on August 2, 1942. He was a 46 year member of the *Catholic Workman*. His wife Caroline died January 14, 1905. On May 14, 1906, he married Catherine Havel. He was the father of 3 sons and 6 daughters. He was church lector and sacristian for many years and used to drive horse and buggy to neighboring parishes for a priest to say Mass. Many times boarding and rooming a priest over the week end.

Philip Nesladek remembers listening as a young boy to his grandfather, Wenceslaus, describe the Pawnee living among the settlers. During the summer months, the Indians would live on the "bottom"; many of them lived on the islands in the river. For the winter, they would follow what little game was left into the hills and would camp in small numbers along the creeks. During one winter, diphtheria killed most of them and they were buried where they died.



Joseph and Anastazia (Prochaska) Bauer and family.

James Bauer, now of North Bend, recalls carrying the flag during Corpus Christi and K.D. celebrations. He also tells of many memories of his father, Josef, who was ready to start school in the old country when his parents came to Nebraska. Josef was then about six and his parents wanted him to go to school here. Josef walked the many miles across the bare prairie since at that time there were no trees only a bush here and there. Josef was caught in hail and heavy rains again and again and his parents thought him lost after one such time, but he was found huddled under a bush. They vowed they would sooner have him safe so he never learned to read and write but he did learn to speak English because Josef had to pasture the family's cow!

Jim recollects his father telling him that the Bohemians and some Germans and English lived to the west; the Irish lived to the east but each family had a few cows and the boys would herd and pasture them in a common place to the south by Sand Creek. When the cows were content, the boys could play and would learn some words in the others language.

Other remembrances include the Bishop's visit around 1908. He came here in one of the first cars. Jim rode the family's white horse carrying the flag and leading the parade that met the Bishop to bring him the half mile to the church.

At Pout, there would be tug-of-wars between towns. Jim was on the team but Prague had such big men that Cedar Hill didn't have much success! The ball teams were more fortunate; he was the umpire. The team would meet for away games at Cedar Hill and they would ride a truck to the towns where they played.

Ceske Katolicke Osady V Americe

The following was translated from the book, *Czech Catholic Parishes in America, 1865-1890*, and is another written history we have of our area and church. Special thank you to Mrs. Rose (Ray) Stranik for her translation.

"From Morse Bluff, fellow countryman, Jan Bures, wrote us this: 'I came to this community of Cedar Hill, Saunders County, in the year 1870 from which time fellow countrymen kept coming. At the beginning we used to meet on Sunday at the schoolhouse for prayer services. Twice a year a priest would come to us. Our greatest longing was so we would have our own church of the Lord, but due to our poverty it was not possible. In the year 1880, Rev. Augustinsky of Columbus was coming to us who first saw to it a committee be elected which would oversee the church building. There were 50 families of us but only 24 families of us stayed. Members of this board of trustees were Vaclav Bures, Jakuba Dvorak, Jan Vyhlidal, Vaclav Hajek, and Josef Pabian. The greatest benefactor was Mrs. Noteware, she gave 15 acres of her land on which to build the church; furthermore, she paid half of what it cost in building the church; the Mass vestments she herself established, she gave everything

whatever was needed to beautify the church. Now we have a beautiful church, which is 60 by 40 feet. It was dedicated by Rev. Kocarnik. Once a month the Reverend would come from nearby Plasi, now however in May Rev. J. Koutek said Mass here. Our church is located between Morse Bluff and Prague, 40 families belong to it.

"What is known about the Noteware family, let it be mentioned, that Mr. Noteware was a non-Catholic, and his wife became a Catholic after she was married, he himself then was baptized a Catholic on his death bed. Mrs. Noteware with her daughter was baptized by the Holy Father in Rome."

History in Pictures

These four couples were all married on May 1, 1923, by Father Martin Bogar:



Ben and Mary (Humlicek) Wesely.

Ben C. Wesely was born November 11, 1889, in the vicinity of Cedar Bluffs. Mary was born April 15, 1899, at Linwood; Mr. Wesely was a convert to the Catholic faith. Mary has been a member of this parish all her life. To them were born three sons; they had seven grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Mr. Wesely passed to his eternal reward February 7, 1971.



John and Emma (Kavan) Ladengurger.

John was born November 20, 1898, on the farm where he still lives near Prague. Emma was born July 18, 1899, near Linwood; to their union were born two daughters and one son. They had six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Emily passed away October 4, 1971.



James and Emma (Krondak) Svoboda.

James was born September 21, 1902, in the Linwood vicinity; Emma was born January 28, 1907, near Prague. To them were born two sons and two daughters. They have 13 grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.



Hobert and Agnes (Humlicek) Tranda.

Hobert was born on October 30, 1890, in Czechoslovakia; Agnes was born December 15, 1893, in the vicinity of Linwood. To this union were born one son and five daughters. Hobert passed away on April 18, 1968; Agnes died on June 11, 1963.

Looking back a half century



All parishioners of Sacred Heart taken on the 50th Jubilee which was celebrated June 7 and 8, 1929.

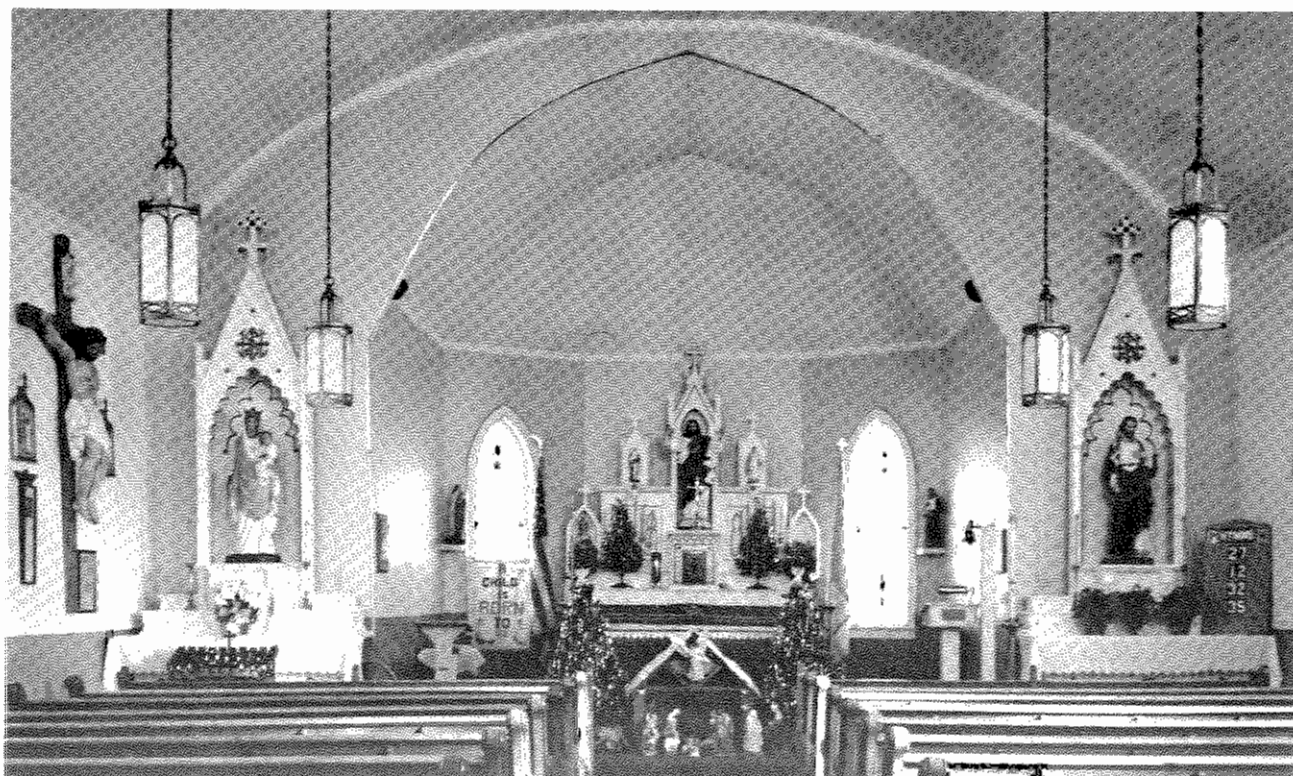


Waitresses for 50th celebration. Each headband was embroidered CH. Standing: Anna Pabian Nesladek, Agnes Chromy Sloup, Marie Pabian Schuler, Lillian Vrana Victor, Emma Vyhliidal Cihacek, Hilda Landenburger Simodynes, Agnes Nemeč Sypal, Adeline

Dvorak, unidentified, Cecilia Soušek Cihacek, Martha Navrkal Nelson, Marie Sloup Hruska. Bottom row: Libbie Stranik, Helen Vojtech, Irene Krummel Zakovec, Libbie Novak, Antoinette Navrkal Buchholtz.



**The Golden Jubilee of the Sacred Heart Parish
of
Cedar Hill, Nebraska, June 7 and 8, 1929.**
(Photo by Anderson Studio, Wahoo, Nebraska)



Present interior of Sacred Heart at Christmas, 1978.



Confirmation — October 26, 1937.



First Communion — Father Ernest Sloup. Back row—Harvey Sloup, Joe Vojtech, Jr., Bill Chromy, Jr., Arnold Codr, Ron Bauer, Delbert Kadlec, Bob Rumph. Front—Dave Bauer, Donna Chromy, R. Mahrt, Dorothy Ladengurger, Geraldine Navrkal, Betty Ladenburger, Dan Bauer.



First Communion Class — Libbie Stranik, teacher. Front row: Viola Kauma, Betty Vopalensky, Rose Navrkal. Middle—Edward Sousek, Joe Bauer, Ermin Hajek, Lorin Racek. Back—Butch Vopalensky, Edward Hines, Frank Vlasak.



First Communion — 1945, Father Tupy. Girls—J. Nesladek, L. Steinbach, R. Kucera, unidentified, A. Sloup, L. Navrkal, J. Brousek. Boys—J. Hobza, B. Codr, G. Rolenc.



Communion Class — June 1955.



First Communion — Father George Livanec. Maribeth Stranik, Karen Sloup, Vicky Vyhldal, Patty Dunker.



The Frank Humlicek family.



Wedding of Rudy and Agnes Sloup. Father Klepac performed the ceremony. Father Shonka is other priest, 1933.



Confirmation of Karen Sloup, sponsor is sister Agnes Kasper and Father Denis.



April 20, 1975, classmates on 40th Ordination Anniversary — Father Ekhaml and Father Pokorny.



Cyril and Kristina (Cerny) Chromy family. Back—Alice (Wesely), Cyril Jr., Lillian (Prohaska), Joe, James, Mary (McDaniel), Steve. Front—Agnes (Sloup), Cyril, Adelyne, Kristina, Bill, Rose (Brazda).



Oldtimers could not quite remember what was in the cornerstone for the 50th celebration. This crowd witnessed the digging of the corner stone on March 25,

1979, and can tell you that they found nothing, since it turned out to be a solid piece of rock!



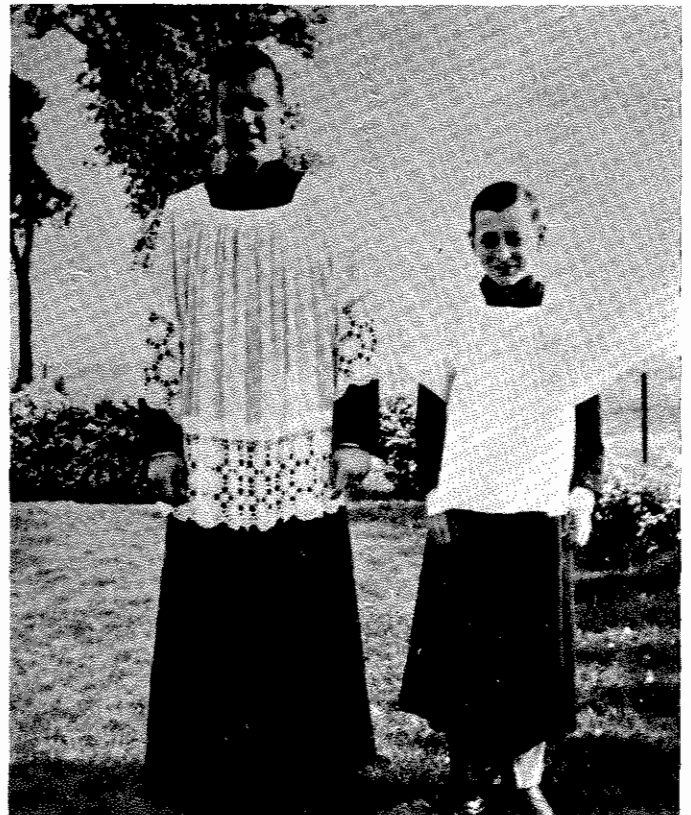
Father Otto and friend.



January 7, 1945, Adolph Nemeec, Father Tupy and Edward Sousek after Edward served his last Mass before leaving for the service.



Father Bede and servers, 1938. Back—Adolph Nemeec, Father, Ed Sousek. Middle—Bernard Blatny, Jim Bauer, Marcillin Hajek. Front—Cyril Nemeec, Edmund Vitek.



Altar boy brothers Rudy and Harvey Sloup.



Stanley Vyhlidal, John Hobza, Father Livanec, Rudy Sloup, Bill Vyhlidal.

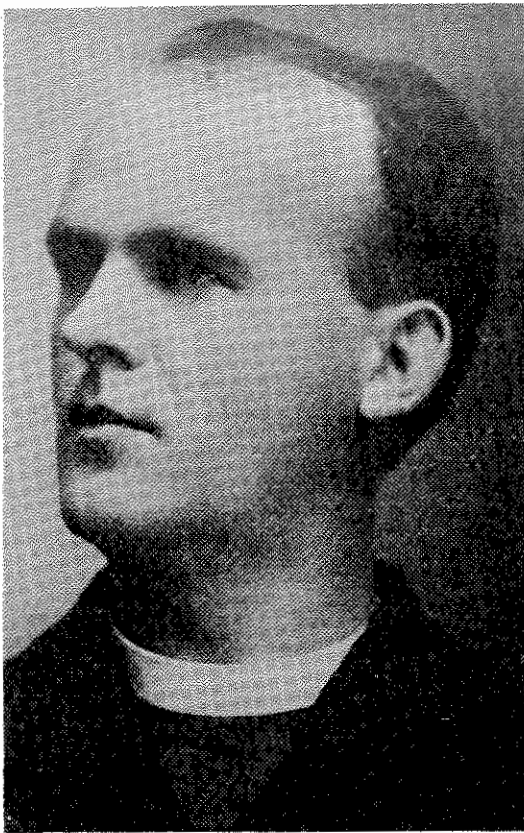


1979 — Mark Nemeec, Alan Sloup, Father Pokorny, Jim Nemeec, Frank Sloup.

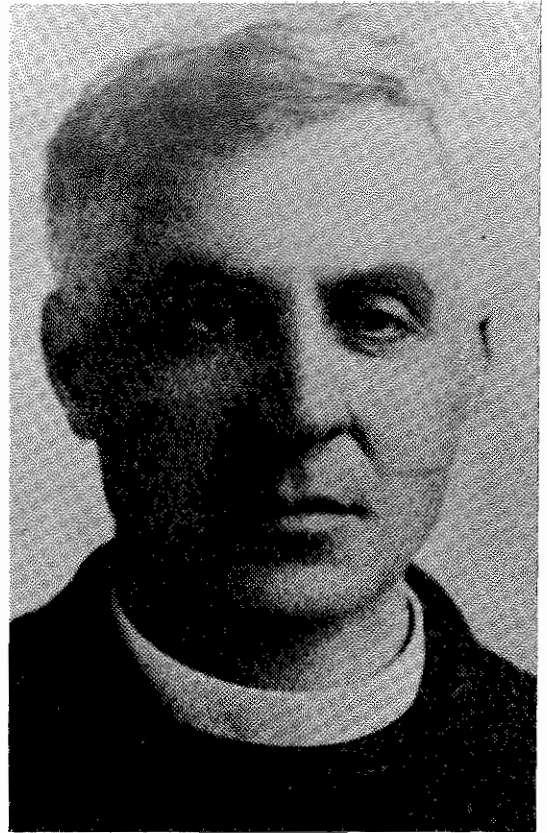
Priests Who Have Served

(Taken from church records)

1877-1878	Father Francis Shulak
1879-1880	Father Cyril Augustinsky
1880-1885	Father Wenceslaus Kocarnik
1885	Father William Coka
1885-1889	Father Jordon Stutz
1889-1899	Father Frantisek Hovora
1900	Father Jan Vlcek, Father Martin Bor
1901-1908	Father Jan Novotny
1908-1920	Father Vaclav Pokorny
1920-1922	Father Martin Bogar
1923-1925	Father Jaroslav Hancik
1925	Father Vaclav Supik, Father Adolf Jaset, Father Frantisek Jemelka, Father Antonin Rehor, Father Ferdinand Pokorny
1925-1929	Father Ignac Skopal
1929-1932	Father Alois Horacek
1932-1934	Father Alfons Biskup
1934-1938	Father Bede Cernik
1938-1945	Father Joseph Tupy
1945-1961	Father George Livanec
1961-1974	Father Henry Denis
1974-1978	Father Otto Ekhaml
1978-1979	Father Jerome Pokorny, administrator



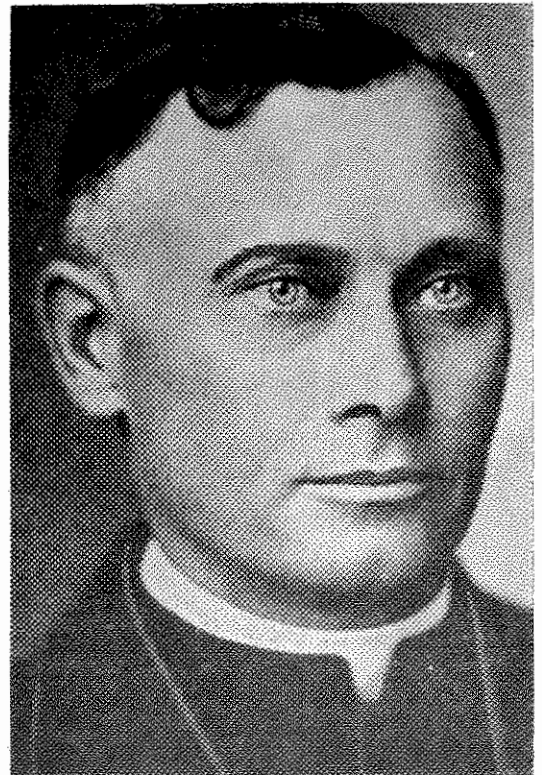
Rev. John Vlcek
1900



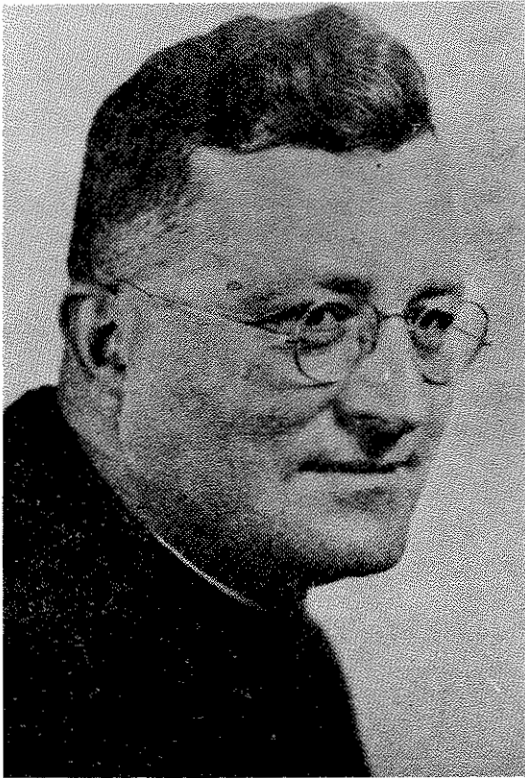
Rev. Martin Bogar
1920–1923



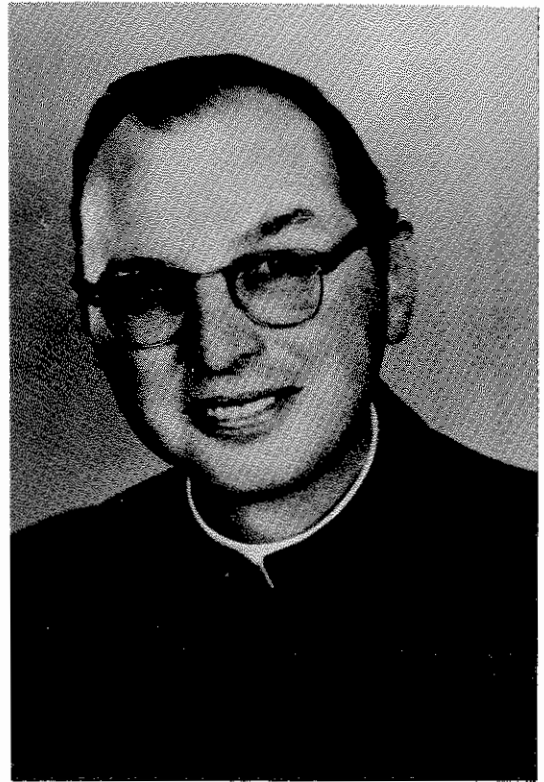
Rev. John Novotny
1904–1908



Rev. Alphonse Biskup
1931–1934



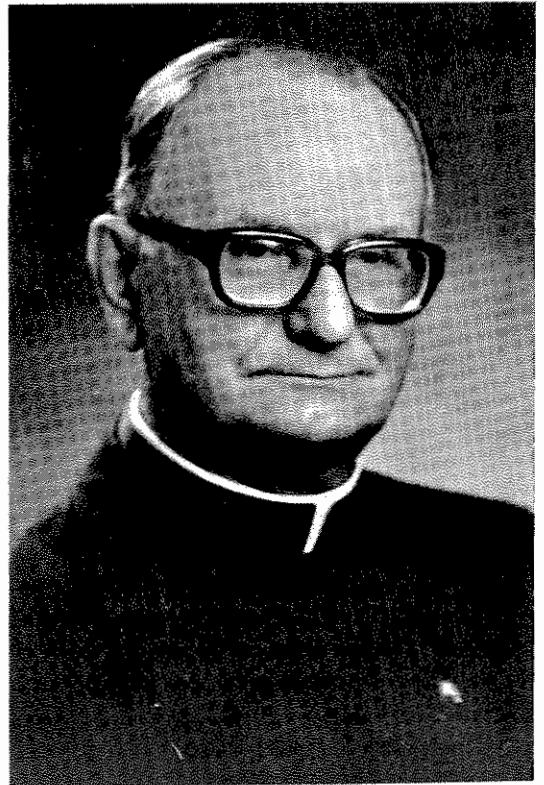
Rev. Bede Cernik
1934—1938



Rev. George Livanec
1945—1961



Rev. Joseph Tupy
1938—1945

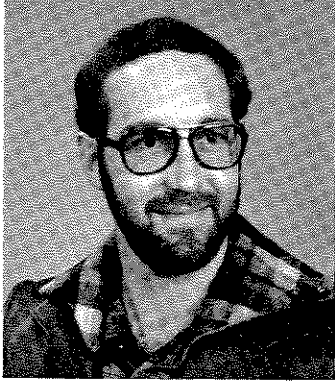


Rev. Henry J. Denis
1961—1974

Parishioners Today

JEFFERY BAUER

I am the fifth son of Joseph and Lillian (Hines) Bauer. I am a life long member of Sacred Heart where I



received all the sacraments. I farm with my father and do custom farm work. I have served as altar boy, lector, C.C.D. teacher, and am an officer of Knights of Columbus. I am Chaplain for the North Bend Jaycees.

JOE AND LILLIAN BAUER

My great-grandparents, Jan and Anna (Mach) Bauer, settled in 1877, one mile due west of Cedar Hill. From my father's memory, they had six children: Josef, Lawrance, John, Katie (Svoboda), Anna (Storm) and the last daughter he believes married a Duda. My grandparents, Josef and Anastazia (Prochaska) Bauer, settled 1½ miles north of his parents. They had six daughters: Mary (Mrs. Frank Vojtech), Emma (Mrs. Albert Dvorak), Anna (Mrs. Emil Dvorak), Libbie (Mrs. Frank Vopalensky), Lillie (Mrs. William Vopalensky) and one son, James A. (my father), who were all born here.

My father, James, was born April 1, 1890, and received the sacraments at Sacred Heart. On February 22, 1916, he and Anna Janecek were married in Prague.



They had four children: Marietta (Mrs. Ernest
34

Humlicek), Leona (who died at age five and is buried at Cedar Hill), Joseph (myself), and James F., who married Lorraine Petrzelka of Prague. My parents lived on this farm until 1947 when they moved to North Bend. My wife and I still live on the home place.

I was born January 9, 1923, and received all the sacraments at Sacred Heart. I attended catechism classes here; one of my teachers was Libbie Stranik. I also served as altar boy. On February 7, 1945, Lillian Hines and I were married at Sacred Heart by Reverend Joseph Tupy. To us were born eight children: Ronald, November 14, 1945, Daniel and David, July 13, 1947, Randolph, August 17, 1951, Jeffrey, January 25, 1953, JoAnne, July 31, 1954, Timothy, June 30, 1958, and Rachelle, April 22, 1960. Timothy's soul returned to his Maker on August 15, 1958. His body rests in the Cedar Hill cemetery.

I have served as trustee four times and Lillian is a member of Altar Society, chairman of a group, and taught C.C.D. classes over 15 years, being one of the first teachers of the program begun by Father Denis. All our boys have served the priests at the altar and as lectors. JoAnne and Rachelle have both taught C.C.D.

Ron graduated from UNL, served in Viet Nam as an air traffic controller, lives in North Bend, and is a four state manager for veterinary supplies. Dan attended Salvaturian Minor seminary for one year, served in the National Guard, farms south of Morse Bluff, and works in North Bend. He married Kathy Chromy on April 12, 1969, and they have four daughters: Kristine, Deborah, Danielle, and Rebecca.

David served in Viet Nam with the Marines, is attending UNL and works in Lincoln. He has one son Chad.

Randy is a graduate of Chadron State College and is Director of Admissions for that college. He married Lorrie Johnson of Chadron June 14, 1975.

JoAnne lives in Lincoln where she is assistant travel agent for an agency.

Rachelle is a freshman at Chadron State College.

MRS. AGNES BRTEK

Mrs. Agnes Brtek immigrated to America in the year 1911 from Zruc, Czechoslovakia. She came to Clarkson, Nebraska. She was married to Vaclav (Jim) Brtek on January 16, 1916. Vaclav Brtek, son of John Brtek, lived on a farm which is her present home. She lived on this farm all these years. Agnes gave birth to two girls and four boys. Mary and Frank died in infancy, Laddie passed away October, 1948. Joe passed away in June, 1974. Martha, the youngest of the family, is married to Lad L. Cihal and lives on a farm near Malmo. Jerry, the second youngest, is married to

Lillian Lorraine Lebeda and lives on the home place. Her husband, Vaclav Brtek, passed away in January, 1949.

Mrs. Brtek, with her family, became members of Cedar Hill church in the year 1951. They had belonged



to Prague in earlier years. On March 12, 1979, she was 85 years old. All these years Agnes is very active and a hard worker on the farm. This makes her the oldest member of Cedar Hill church at the time of this writing. Her maiden name was Petrasek and she is the only living member of the Petrasek family. She had two sisters and six brothers. Agnes is also the only living member of Cedar Hill who immigrated to America from Czechoslovakia.

MR. AND MRS. FRANK BRTEK

Frank and Julia (Chromy) Brtek became



parishioners in 1947. They were married May 19, 1941, and are the parents of two children, Don and Delores.

MR. AND MRS. JERRY BRTEK

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brtek were married in Cedar Hill on August 4, 1964. Lillian is the daughter of Josef and Antonia Lebeda of Wagner, South Dakota. She was a convert several years before their marriage to the Catholic faith. Jerry became a member of Cedar Hill around 1951. Jerry has always farmed on the home place. Lillian taught nine years in the primary grades (second grade) before their marriage. They continue to live on the home place and engage in farming. Jerry



was the entertainment chairman in 1963-1975. He was a trustee in 1974-1977. He also has been vice chairman of the DDP program several years.

Lillian has held several Altar Society offices: vice-president in 1967-68, president in 69-70, secretary two years, co-chairman and chairman of our Lady of Fatima group. She still is the chairman of Family Affairs Commission. Being an artistic person, she has shared her talent by making posters, bulletin boards, centerpieces, nut cups for various occasions. She has made nearly all of Cedar Hill's banners. Lillian also belongs to the Catholic Daughters of Wahoo and is the only member from Cedar Hill. Jerry is also Jaroslav, Jaroslav being the Czech pronunciation for Jerry.

MR. AND MRS. JAMES CHROMY



WILLIAM F. CHROMY FAMILY

William F. Chromy and Teresa Ann Wachal were married on December 29, 1972, in Schuyler, Nebraska.



They have two daughters, Anna Maria "Annie" born May 18, 1976, and Kathryn Ann "Katie" born on September 11, 1977.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM L. CHROMY

Bill and Julia Chromy are Sacred Heart parishioners all their life. They have three children: Mary Ann (Mrs. Rollie Otte) who has two children, Jerry and Deanna.

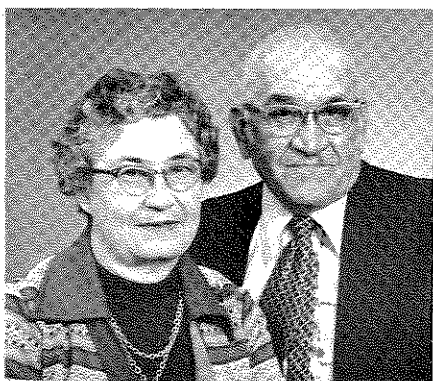


She is a member of St. George's parish of Morse Bluff. Bill Jr. and his wife Teri have two children, Annie and Katie, and are Sacred Heart parishioners. Donna (Mrs. Daryl Brabec) has three children: Dwaine, Dan, and Dee Ann. They belong to St. Wenceslaus parish at Wahoo.

MR. AND MRS. ALBIN CIHACEK

Albin and Cecilia were married at Cedar Hill on April 29, 1947. Albin is the son of John A. Cihacek and Eva Votava; he is a life time parishioner and held office in the Holy Name Society and C.Y.O., member of the Entertainment Committee, Cedar Hill choir, Drama Club, C.C.D., and Catholic Workman. He was a church trustee 1952-1960.

Cecilia is the daughter of Joseph Sousek and Josephine Mach and has been a parishioner since 1926.



A past officer in B.V.M. Sodality, member of C.Y.O., Cedar Hill choir, Drama Club, Catholic Workman, and Rosary Society, Cecilia was a correspondent for the *Register* 1934-1947.

Their children are: Larry: C.Y.O. member and president in 1965 and 1966, altar boy, member of Catholic Workmen. Graduate of the University of Nebraska B.S. and M.S. and R.O.T.C. Iowa State University Ph.

D. Presently Area Research Agronomist and Plant Nutrition Specialist for New Mexico State University. He married Karen Fosler, November 23, 1973.

Dennis: Altar boy and member of C.Y.O. Graduate of University of Nebraska B.S. Presently Product Manager for Mobil Chemical Company in Richmond, Virginia.

Gene: member of C.Y.O. Attended Milford Technical College. Presently employed by Omaha Public Power District as electrician in Arlington, Nebraska. Married Linda Ludwig, April 22, 1978.

Kenneth: member of C.Y.O. Presently attending the University of Nebraska.

MR. AND MRS. CYRIL CODR

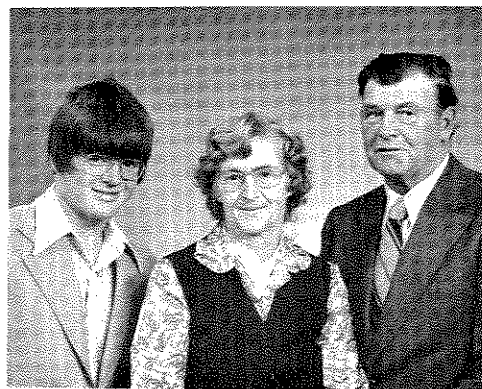
Cyril was born May 2, 1910, and is a life long parishioners of Sacred Heart, Cedar Hill. He married



Josephine Gruntorad on August 28, 1934. They are the parents of seven children and also have twenty two grandchildren at present. Cyril served as trustee for two years.

MR. AND MRS. ERNEST ECKSTEIN

Ernest and Anna Eckstein were married January 27, 1942. They are the parents of three sons: Lyle James,



Daniel, and Richard. Ernest and Anna have one grandchild. Ernest was trustee under Father Denis.

JIM ECKSTEIN

Jim was born on June 25, 1900, and is the son of Vaclav and Tillie Weverka Eckstein. Jim was united in

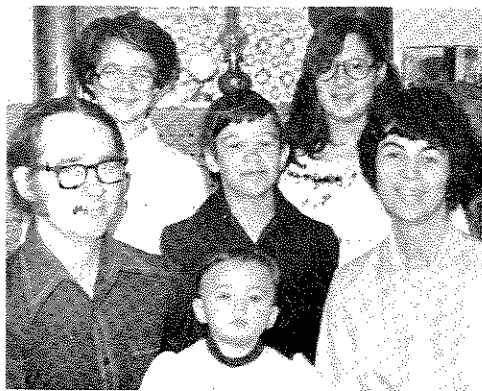


marriage with Mary Reznicek on November 26, 1918, and were blessed with three children: Ernest, Caroline, and Marie. Mary passed away on April 27, 1967. Jim has 18 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

JERRY HALL FAMILY

My husband and I are new parishioners of Sacred Heart having returned "home". We, my parents, Joe and Evangeline Vojtech, and my grandparents, Frank and Mary Vojtech, have all been married in Sacred Heart church. My great grandparents, Frank and Josie Vojtech, arrived in this area in 1877 from Luckov, Moravia. I have memories of catechism classes in the lodge hall and the old rectory; having to bring all water in cream cans; helping my dad "turn" the K.D. badges—black side for funerals and purple side for celebrations; long hours on my knees during Holy Saturday services when they began at 10:00 a.m. and seemed to last forever. I knew I couldn't wiggle since mom and dad were looking down from the choir loft.

I recall not being able to have not even a drink of water all night and morning before Holy Communion; I remember when it was an understood "must" that women sit on the north side of church, men on the south, and children in the front pews. Also dad would



drive us to Mass with horse and wagon if the car couldn't make it through the snow, and there were a few times that mom would walk the two miles to play the organ so the Mass wouldn't be quiet.

I was a parishioner until my marriage on September 5, 1964, to Jerry Hall of North Bend. To us were born five children: Mary Patrice and Timothy Patrick on January 8, 1966; Beth Anne, February 3, 1967; Gregory

on July 8, 1969, and Rebecca born December 31, 1977. Timothy passed away on January 9, 1966; money donated to the family was used to purchase the processional cross that stands by the altar at Sacred Heart.

My husband is a contractor and, as a project of the Altar Society, built the altar that is used for Mass. I belong to the choir and love the Czech songs; hopefully our children will carry on the traditions.

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE KAVAN

George and Ethel (Ostry) Kavan moved to Cedar Hill from Mead in 1963. The family includes four daughters: Joyce Ruzicka, North Bend; Sue Mixan, Omaha; Cindy



Pollard, Morse Bluff; and Karen of Omaha. There are also six grandchildren. Ethel is past president of the Altar Society and is presently the secretary. Ethel's great grandfather, Jan Vyhldal, was one of the charter members of this parish.

MR. AND MRS. JOIE KAVAN

Joie and Alice (Ostry) Kavan moved to Cedar Hill in 1966 from Wahoo to the family farm that was homesteaded in 1876. Our sons Marvin and Joe served in the Vietnam war and are now married. Marvin lives



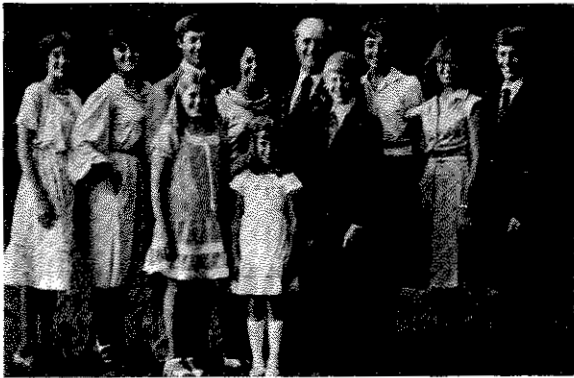
in Mississippi. Joe lives in New Jersey. Our daughter, Connie, is married and lives in North Bend. We have one granddaughter and four grandsons. I belong to the Altar Society and served two years as president. My great grandfather, Jan Vyhldal, was one of the first pioneers who helped to build the church at Cedar Hill.

THE ADOLPH NEMEC FAMILY

My life as a Cedar Hill parishioner began on January 27, 1923, when I (Adolph) was born to Vaclav and Marie (Hobza) Nemeč, on the third generation farm of my grandfather, Thomas F. Nemeč, two miles south of Cedar Hill. I was the third of five children; the others were: Cyril, Cecelia, Agnes, and Marie who died in infancy.

I was baptized in Sacred Heart but since we were a mission of St. John's of Prague, and my folks were great promoters of Catholic education, I attended kindergarten through eighth grade at St. John's where I received the Sacraments of Penance, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation. In the second grade, I learned and memorized the Latin Rite Mass as an altar boy.

In my early years I remember helping my parents and grandparents set up the outdoor altars for Corpus Christi processions; the outdoor dinners; platform



dances; the Thirteen Hour Devotions; and various other religious services and church activities. I remember how my father or grandfather sometimes would have to drive for the priest to Prague or bring him back on a Sunday afternoon. I recall the many years my mother was officer and member of the Altar Society, her voluntary washing, ironing, and preparing the altar linens and priest vestments and her other appointed duty, the Rosary before Mass every Sunday.

I remember my father's voluntary duties as sacristian after my grandfather Martin Hobza, who did it for many years, moved to Prague in 1938. I can clearly recall helping my father balancing parish books from collections when he was a church trustee for many years, also vividly recall helping him with grave digging for many years, even after my folks retired and moved to Dwight, Nebraska. I continued grave digging until 1964.

I had many enjoyable summers playing softball on the Catholic Workman team with Joe Vojtech as coach and manager.

I recall how my brother, Cy, and I took care of the Parish Sunday Store in the Catholic Workman Hall after Jim Nesladek gave it up in about 1946. We would sell candy, gum, tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, combs, razor blades, and other notions each Sunday before and after Mass. We arrived about an hour before Mass to unpack the boxes and wait for our loyal parishioners to come in to congregate and visit about the various

events around their farms and their neighbors in the course of the previous week.

In recent years, other than being on the Parish Cemetery Board, I have "inherited" the task of bell-ringer: five minutes before Sunday Mass, at Elevation during Mass, and during the Angelus after Mass each Sunday. I am a former high school C.C.D. teacher and one of the first parish lectors; also I served on the Vocation and D.D.P. committees.

On September 8, 1953, Gladys Novak and I were married in Assumption Church, Dwight, Nebraska. Gladys is an active member of the Altar Society of which she was secretary for five years. Currently she is in the tenth year of teaching elementary C.C.D. classes for the Cedar Hill and Morse Bluff children which are held at St. George's parish hall in Morse Bluff.

Our nine children all received their sacraments here and attended parish C.C.D. classes. Deborah, Joseph, and Cynthia are graduates of Bishop Neumann High School in Wahoo. Currently Constance, James, Virginia, and Mark are enrolled there. Laura and Kristina attend rural elementary school.

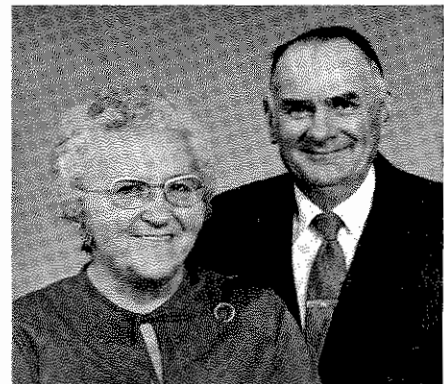
Joe is a former altar boy and lector. He was a music major at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, where he was choir director at St. Thomas Aquinas church. He is now at St. Pius X Seminary, Erianger, Kentucky, and is associate music and choir director there.

Debbie and Cyndy, both elementary education majors at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, are also active in their parish away from home. Debbie is director of the Brass Choir and Cyndy, a choir and board member, is also social activities director at the Neumann Center. Both girls are former parish substitute C.C.D. teachers.

Sunday mornings will usually find our family in the choir, Jim and Mark as altar boys or lectors, and all of us on occasion in the offertory procession.

MR. AND MRS. FRANK NEMEC

Frank Nemeč is the grandson of Thomas and Margaret (Severin) Nemeč and son of Joseph and Mary K. (Dolezel) Nemeč who were life-long parishioners of



this Sacred Heart. Frank was baptized, received the sacraments of Penance, Holy Communion, and Confirmation in Sacred Heart church.

On August 22, 1959, he married Mary Linhart in Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, Hennessey, Oklahoma. He was a trustee and Mary was president of the Altar Society, and a C.C.D. teacher. She leads rosary before early Mass; a part of which is said in Czech. Mary leads the litanies in March to Saint Joseph, May to the Blessed Mother, June to the Sacred Heart, July to the Precious Blood of Jesus, and in October to the Blessed Mother. We thank God for our parish and hope it can still be here for many years.

JULIUS NEMEC FAMILY

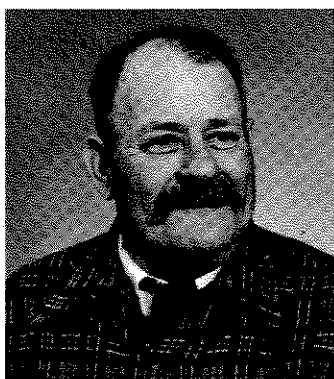
Julius and Rose Nemecek were married May 4, 1974, at St. Charles church in North Bend. They have two foster children, Elizabeth Staska, age 8, and Joseph



Staska, age 7. Julius has been a life-long member of Sacred Heart parish, has been a trustee, and is presently president of Catholic Workman, Branch #55. Rose is a parish organist and a member of the Altar Society.

RUDIE NEMEC

My father, Thomas V. Nemecek, was born in Moravia on September 14, 1873; he came to this country with his parents as a little boy. My mother, Anna (Hruby) Nemecek, was born near Touhy, Nebraska, on March 28, 1883. They were married at Touhy in 1906. They had four children: Marie Osantowski of Bellwood, Nebraska, Thomas of Hayward, Minnesota, I, Rudie, who lives on the home place, and one sister who died in



infancy. They settled near Prague and were life-long parishioners of Cedar Hill. Dad died June 18, 1958, and Mom passed away June 18, 1940.

I have six children: Richard of Lincoln, Rudie Jr. of Mead, Ralph in the Air Force, Roger who was killed in a tractor accident in 1977, Anne (Mrs. Robert Soukup) of North Bend, and Audrey who lives in Little Sioux, Iowa.

I have been a life member of Sacred Heart church.

MR. AND MRS. MILTON NOVAK

Milton and Sylvia Janecek were married on

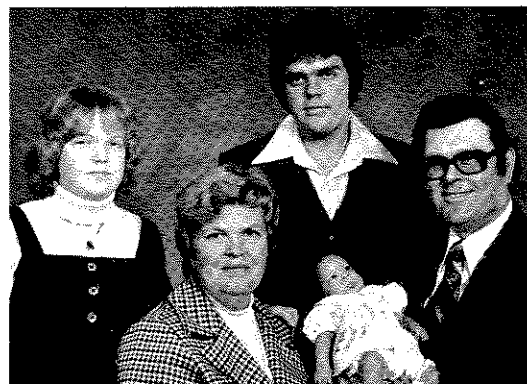


November 27, 1945. Milton is the son of Anton and Antonia Kaspar Novak. Sylvia has served as treasurer and held office for several years in the Altar Society.

KENNETH J. ODVODY FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Odvody and family own a farm in the Morse Bluff area. Ken and Arlene were married at Wahoo on November 6, 1976.

Arlene, widowed prior to her marriage to Ken, had three children. They are Charles Rezac, married and

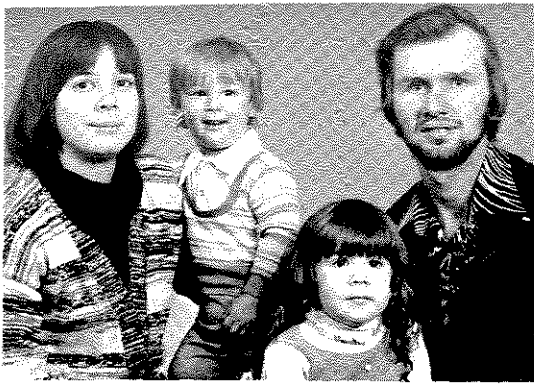


living at Wahoo, Kenneth, and Angie who live at home. Ken and Arlene were blessed with a daughter Christina Lousie, born November 27, 1978. Ken's main occupation is farming. He also does road maintenance work for Bohemia Township. He is sexton for Sacred Heart and Killian cemeteries.

Ken has served as trustee. Ken is originally from Prague and moved to the Morse Bluff area in 1969.

LEONARD PALENSKY JR. FAMILY

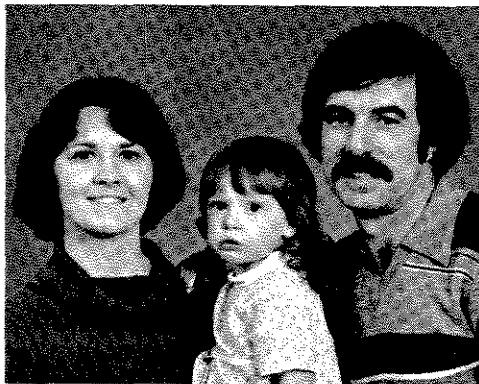
Leonard and Loretta Palensky were married at Sacred Heart, Cedar Hill, on June 7, 1975. Loretta is



the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Vrana. They have two children, Rachel and Leonard III. Loretta is a member of the Altar Society.

THE FRANK POLLARD FAMILY

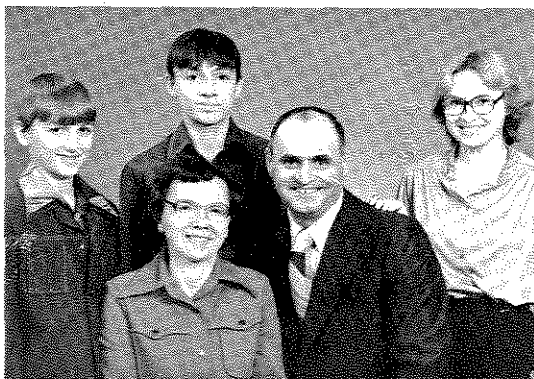
Frank and Cindy (Kavan) Pollard moved to Cedar Hill from Saint Mary's parish of Schuyler in 1977. They have one daughter, Kelly Anne. Cindy belonged to the



Cedar Hill parish before her marriage in 1972 and was a member of the church choir. Her great great grandfather, Jan Vyhldal, was a charter member of the church.

THE FRANK B. SLOUP FAMILY

Frank B. Sloup, son of Frank G. Sloup and Sophie R. Nesladek, moved to their present home, the farm across the road from Sacred Heart church, in 1958. On September 9, 1961, he married Marie J. Polacek,



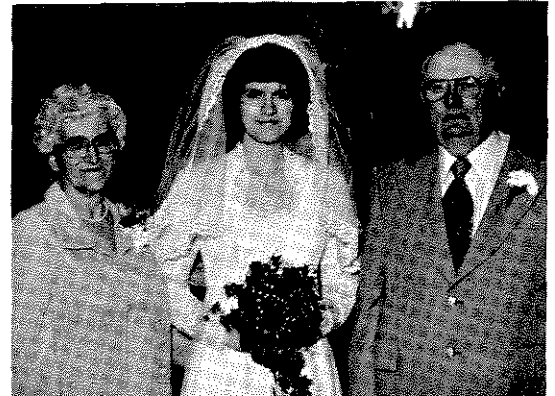
daughter of Emil Polacek and Mary Vasa, in Omaha.

Three children were born: Amy J., October 1, 1962, Alan J., December 27, 1963, and Frank J., June 15, 1965.

1965. At present all three children are attending North Bend Central High School, North Bend, Nebraska. Marie is a member of the Altar Society and Frank has been custodian of the church since 1958.

MR. AND MRS. RUDY SLOUP

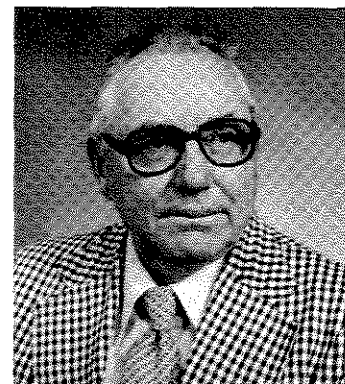
Rudy and Agnes (Chromy) Sloup were married in Sacred Heart, September 19, 1933. They have four children: Agnes Kasper, Rudy, Harvey, and Karen Barry. Karen received the Catholic Workman achieve-



ment award from Branch 55. Agnes and her daughter, Karen, are among those who have led the rosary before Mass for many years. All are K.D. members. Agnes serves as Altar Society Treasurer. Rudy and Agnes have 13 grandchildren.

VICTOR C. SLOUP

Victor and Marie A. Racek were married on September 27, 1938. They had three children: Marie Jean born on November 12, 1940, Carolyn born on June



15, 1943, and Arlene born on April 4, 1949. Marie passed away on December 19, 1976. Victor has been a trustee.

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD J. SOUSEK

Edward Sousek was born near Prague. At the age of two years he moved with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sousek, to the farm on which he still resides.

As a youngster he was an altar boy, up to the time he



entered the armed forces. He attended District No. 79 elementary school, the building now being the home of the American Legion Post No. 340. He is a permanent member of this Post. He graduated from Cedar Bluffs High School. He is a Veteran of World War II, having served 22 months with the army, 16 months of which were spent in the South Pacific. While stationed in Japan he spent Christmas Day, 1945, with a fellow parishioner, Frank Vyhldal, who was also stationed there.

Edward is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council No. 3736 of North Bend, a member of the Morse Bluff Rural Fire Protection Board, and a dealer for Pfizer Genetics seed.

Edith was also born at Prague. Edward and Edith were married on April 29, 1952, at St. John's Church in Prague. Edith then became a member of the parish where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis C. Ostry, were married on January 30, 1923. The parish had a custom of having processions to the outdoor altars on the feast of Corpus Christi. Edward's parents and another family had charge of the north altar. After Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sousek moved to North Bend, the job was passed on to Edward and Edith.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Sousek operate a Grade A dairy farm and are members of Mid-America Dairymen, Inc. They were also honored as the Conservation Farm Family for 1966 by the Saunders Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors.

Edith attended St. John's Parochial school and graduated from Prague High School. She is a member of the DCCW, the Catholic Workman Branch 55, and the Country Gals Club.

MR. AND MRS. ED STEINBACH

Ed and Agnes (Hraban) Steinbach were married on



February 24, 1930, at Bruno, Nebraska. They have three children: Leo, Mrs. Henry (Leona) Stevens, and Mrs. Milton (Marlene) Smid. They have 13 grandchildren. Agnes, during the years of the chili suppers, was on the noodle making team. She is a member of the Altar Society.

THE JOE E. STEINBACH FAMILY

I (Joe E. Steinbach) have been a parishioner of Sacred Heart church, Cedar Hill, all my life. I was in the service for two years. On January 25, 1954, I married Gladys A. Sykora, who had lived in Prague all her



life and was a beauty operator for many years. I was a trustee for the years 1969 and 1970 under Rev. Henry J. Denis.

My wife is a member of the Altar Society. We have three daughters: Diane, Susan (who attends Neumann High School), and Shirley, who graduated from District 51 and will attend high school this fall.

MR. AND MRS. RAYMOND A. STRANIK

We were married at Sacred Heart Catholic Church February 26, 1974, and since then are parishioners. I, Rosie (Kucera) Stranik, am a member of the choir and the Altar Society of which I was secretary in 1973 and '74.

We live about 7 miles northwest of Cedar Hill where we have a general farming operation with the primary



livestock being Black Agnus stock cows.

I have many fond memories of Cedar Hill having attended catechism here. Classes were taught in a one room building north of the church for the primary grades. That same building in earlier years served the

visiting priests as a place to stay overnight. I made my First Holy Communion June 17, 1945. Sister M. Seraphine was our teacher. I still remember, in my eyes as a youngster, how much larger the Church seemed. The aisle seemed never to end as we all marched down, my heart was beating as I hoped not to make a mistake. I remember the choir singing the beautiful Latin High Mass and other hymns.

Both my grandparents were married at Cedar Hill. John P. and Marie (Nemec) Kucera were married October 13, 1896. They made their home on a farm southeast of Linwood, Nebraska. My other grandparents, Joseph and Frantiska (Vojtech) Vyhlidal, married November 18, 1896, and made their home on the homeplace two miles west of Cedar Hill and were life-long parishioners.

My parents, Andrew V. and Rose M. (Vyhlidal) Kucera, were also married at Cedar Hill; on October 12, 1926. They were parishioners until 1946 when they, my brother John, and I, moved to Schuyler. Two years later we moved to a farm east of Linwood and were parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church there until it closed January 26, 1969, when we again became parishioners of Sacred Heart. My mother died November 24, 1970, and is buried at Cedar Hill cemetery.

My husband's grandparents, Josef (1853-1938) and Anna (1855-1931) Stranik, and his uncle and aunt, Vaclav (9-27-1880—4-30-1949) and Julia (3-17-1880—6-8-1960) Stranik, were also Sacred Heart parishioners and are buried at the cemetery.

EVANGELINE VOJTECH

Joseph and Evangeline (Wesely) Vojtech were mar-



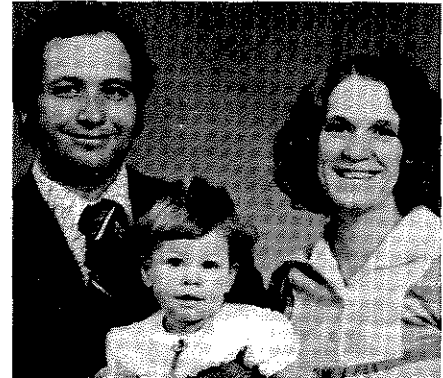
ried at Cedar Hill on April 28, 1942. They had three children: Mrs. Jerry (Cecilia) Hall, Joe Jr., and Mrs. Homer (Delores) Wall, and eight grandchildren. Before his death in 1974, Joe served as secretary of Catholic 42

Workman for 40 years, trustee, was a member of the choir and was active in his youth in many Cedar Hill activities, being a life-long member of the parish.

His parents, Frank J. and Mary (Bauer) Vojtech were born, reared, and lived here before retiring to Fremont in 1943. His grandparents Frank and Josephine (Kreja) Vojtech were early settlers from Moravia and were among the original families of Sacred Heart. Evangeline became a parishioner after her marriage, is Altar Society president, and has been an organist for the parish for the past 30 years. Evangeline is financial secretary for Catholic Workman, Branch 55.

GEORGE VRANA FAMILY

George and Sharon Vrana of Linwood were married on September 20, 1975, at Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Wahoo. Sharon is the daughter of Mr. and



Mrs. William Brabec of Colon. They have one daughter, Amy Marie, born on June 16, 1977, and a son Brian Matthew, born April 16, 1979. Sharon is a member of the Altar Society.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM VRANA

William and Majorie were married December 31, 1934, at Sacred Heart. Mrs. Vrana is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Kavan of Morse Bluff. They were



blessed with four children: William Jr., who died in infancy, Theresa, George, and Loretta, who are all mar-

ried. Mr. Vrana has been chairman for vocations for 15 years and is co-chairman for D.D.P. At this time he is trustee. Mrs. Vrana is a member of Altar Society and has taught C.C.D. classes for seven years. They are both life members of Sacred Heart.

BILL VYHLIDAL

Bill has been a life time member of Sacred Heart. He and his wife, Lillian Fencl, were married on November



28, 1933, at Plasi. They had four children, Bill of North Bend, Lillian Ohnoutka of Weston, Rita of Lincoln, and Cecilia Perk of Brainard. Lillian died August 8, 1962. Bill has eleven grandchildren.

CYRIL VYHLIDAL FAMILY

Cyril and Barbara (Brousek) are the oldest living couple who were married in Sacred Heart, Cedar Hill.



They were married on February 12, 1924, and are the parents of one daughter, Hattie, and one son, Donald. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vyhldal and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Brousek, shared in the early years of Cedar Hill and are included in the memories section.

MR. AND MRS. FRANK E. VYHLIDAL

We have been members of the Sacred Heart, Cedar Hill parish, since we were married in 1946. We have



two daughters, Catherine and Victoria. As a youth, I, Frank, served as an altar boy for years. To put down memories that I have of our parish would be to write my life story, since I was born and raised here and chose to make our home here. My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Vyhldal, and my grandparents were life members of the parish. I have found my happiness here where our ancestors chose to live; and the faith in God which they have passed down to us is our greatest treasure.

GEORGE VYHLIDAL

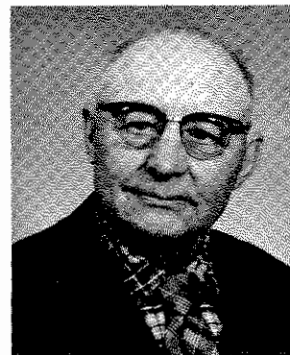
George is the son of Joseph and Frantiska (Vojtech) Vyhldal and is a life long member of Sacred Heart. He



lives on the farm where his grandfather, Jan Vyhldal, settled when he came to this country. Jan was among those who founded the church. George is a member of the Catholic Workman.

JAMES VYHLIDAL

I have been a member of Sacred Heart, Cedar Hill, parish all my life. I have one brother Frank E. Vyhldal



and one sister, Mrs. Emil (Emily) Cihacek. My father Frank J. Vyhldal was born March 27, 1881. He died June 18, 1956, at the age of 75 years. My mother, Mary F. (Sloup) Vyhldal, was born April 28, 1886. She died January 8, 1974, at the age of 87 years. My father and mother were members of the Cedar Hill parish all their lives.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN VYHLIDAL

John and Kristie Vyhldal were married at Cedar Hill on April 24, 1934, by the late Father Alfons Biskup. John is the son of Joe Vyhldal and Fannie Vojtech. Kristie is the daughter of James Navrkal and Mary Cerny. John and Kristie have been Cedar Hill parishioners all their lives. They are the parents of three children: Stanley, Mrs. Kathy Hynek, and John



MRS. MARY WESELY

Mary and Ben Wesely were one of four couples married on the same day at Sacred Heart. Their biography



Jr. All are members of the Catholic Workman. They have 13 grandchildren and one great grandchild. John is a member of the choir.

is included in the memory section. Mary has been a parishioner longer than anyone else in the parish, having been a member since her birth.

MRS. ALICE WESLEY

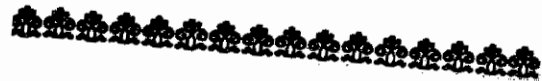
Ludvik Wesely and Alice Chromy were married at Sacred Heart Church, Cedar Hill, on August 18, 1931,



by Father Alfons Biskup. They were blessed with three daughters: Dorothy, Mrs. Richard Kavan of Morse Bluff; Mildred, Mrs. Arsene Fauquet of Lincoln; and Bette, Mrs. Roger Hindrichs of Lincoln. There are three granddaughters and one great grandson. Ludvik passed away on October 18, 1978.



Albin H. Blatny and her brother the late James J. Blatny, he died March 13, 1973, at the age of 83 years. They became parishioners of Sacred Heart, Cedar Hill since St. Mary's Catholic Church in Linwood was closed January 1969.



EUGENE WESELY FAMILY

Eugene and Maxine Fencel were married on August 25, 1953. They are the parents of three children:



Monica (Mrs. Dave Glodowski), Richard, and Carolyn. They farm near Cedar Bluffs. Monica and Carolyn are employed in North Bend, and Richard is employed at Stormor in Fremont.

NO PICTURES AVAILABLE

John and Anna (Codr) Chromy were married May 22, 1907 at Sargent, Nebraska. They lived on a farm three miles east of Linwood all their married life until they retired and moved to Linwood in 1945.

They joined the Cedar Hill parish in 1932. They were parents of seven children. They are three sons Mike of Schuyler, John of Omaha, and Louis of Milford. Daughters: Mrs. Adolph (Albina) Ourada, Malmo; Mrs. John (Blanche) Buchta of North Bend; and Mrs. Frank L. (Julia) Brtek of Linwood, Nebraska. A daughter, Helen, passed away at the age of 10 years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Chromy and their daughter are buried at Cedar Hill cemetery.

MR. AND MRS. VITUS BLATNY

JOHN LADENBURGER

Oldest Parishioner



Mrs. Agnes Brtek



Cyril and Barbara Vyhldal

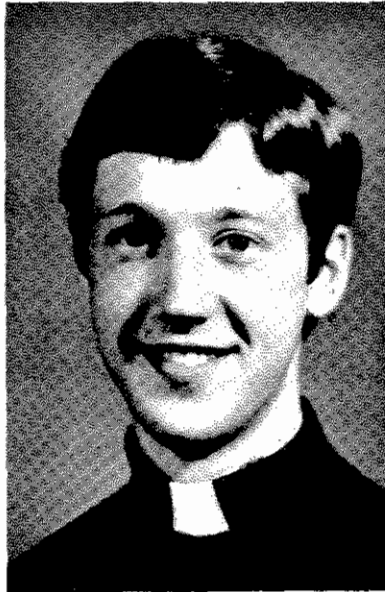
Longest Married Couple

*Sacred Heart's
Newest Bride and Groom*



Gerald and Theresa (Vrana) Jakub

Sacred Heart's Seminarian



Joseph Nemeec

Organists



Mrs. Evangeline Vojtech



Mrs. Rose Nemeec

Pioneer couple of Cedar Hill and Morse Bluff



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blatny were originally members of Sacred Heart, but when St. George Church at Morse Bluff, was built, they took membership there; they provided physical labor throughout the time it was being built.

The couple was married in Czechoslovakia in 1905. They came to this country in 1906. Make their home in the vicinity of Linwood, working for neighbors wherever jobs were available. In 1909 they took up farming near Bruno, and then made the round of Weston, Valparaiso, and Prague.

The Blatnys finally settled in Morse Bluff, becoming parishioners at Cedar Hill. While at Cedar Hill they helped in many ways to promote the growth and activities of the church. Their efforts were always apparent on Corpus Christi when they took part in

decorating the outside altars. They were Sacred Heart parishioners for 13 years.

The new St. George parish and church in Morse Bluff was started in 1955. Mr. Blatny was on hand to help when building was started, and continued giving his services to the day it was finished.

Their labor of love, however, did not end here. Mr. and Mrs. Blatny then went ahead to beautify the grounds of St. George. Many trees and flowers were planted on the grounds and tended by them. Today, however, little is left of their labors.

Mr. Blatny died in 1972 at the age of 91.

Mrs. Blatny hopes to celebrate her 91st birthday in July at the Nursing Home in North Bend, Nebraska, where she now resides.

A note of explanation

As one reads this centennial book, perhaps the question is raised as to how various information came to be included. A memorative book such as this is only as good as the information and pictures that people are willing to share. All that was found was included, and perhaps this book will be a stimulus for more people to write down, perserve, and research their memories and family — church roots.

For information about obtaining more copies of this Centennial Book, simply address your mail to: Sacred Heart Church (Cedar Hill), Morse Bluff, Nebraska 68648.

