



SIXTY SIX MEN WITH VISION stood atop a sagebrush and grass covered sandy knoll above the present Malin City Park and looked across a wide expanse of flat land offered by the Lakeside Land Company for settlement in 1909. Those who viewed the unfilled acres were Czech home-seekers, gathered largely from the Midwest who through the Hodpodar, a Bohemian Agricultural journal, published in Omaha, had become interested in settling a new country under the United States Government Irrigation Canal Act. A Bohemian Colonization Club was formed with headquarters in Omaha, officers were elected and a committee of three men was selected

to investigate several places for Bohemian settlement. After lengthy study Southern Klamath County was decided upon and the men arrived in a chartered railway car. On September 30, 1909 they first set foot on the land offered for sale. Some of this land was then under waters of Tule Lake, then in the process of being drained. Most of them bought land upon the recommendation of officers of the land company. Today those same acres are in a high state of cultivation and worth many times the amount of cash that was originally paid for the land.

Malin Marks Fiftieth Anniversary

By RUTH KING

The destiny of Malin, Oregon, this year, 1959, celebrating its 50th anniversary as a thriving small town and a prosperous community, had been determined long before a Czech colonist ever set foot on Southern Oregon soil.

The hardy ancestors of those who came to Klamath County in 1909 as members of the "Bohemian Colonization Club," originally came from somewhere in Russia in the seventh or eighth century

to settle in Central Europe. Their national identity has been established for more than 1,000 years in European culture.

Divisions of this group came later, resulting in recognition of three branches of Slavic peoples, the Czechs, the Moravians and the Slovaks. The name commonly applied to these three branches is Czecho-Slovaks or Bohemians.

Essentially they are one people and the difference in language is in dialect and no greater than the

speech between the people of the South and those in the North in the United States.

The Czech (Bohemian) language is rapid, expressive, lively and melodious and is still spoken in Bohemia, Moravia and with slight variations in Austrian Silesia, in Hungary and in Slavonia.

Locally, the early generation still speaks as they did in their homeland and a few of the second and third generation families seek to preserve the mother tongue, the

old songs, the old dances.

The name Malin, as spoken in Czech, has little resemblance to the English pronunciation, nor do the Bohemian family names.

The Czechs who settled in Malin were all naturalized citizens and most of them were craftsmen, carpenters, cabinet makers, tailors, bricklayers, machinists, blacksmiths, shoemakers. Some were farmers.

All sought the freedom of America, land of vision, of good wages, and promising futures for their youth.

None had material wealth but they brought determination, willing hands and faith in their ability to survive under any conditions.

They brought, too, the lightheartedness of many of the European races. They sang and they danced when there was no money to buy bread nor cloth to make clothes.

And they worked, everyone to his own task, women and children beside men in the fields, often alone while men of the household worked elsewhere to add to family finances.

They came from Omaha, Chicago, St. Louis and other Midwestern cities and towns, some from farms.

In 1906 "Hodspodar," a Bohemian agricultural magazine, published in Omaha, promoted among its subscribers a Far West colonization project. The advance scouts were Frank Zumpfe, a Mr. Svoboda, both from Nebraska, and Vaclav Vostrcil of Oklahoma.

Land in Old Mexico looked good, the panhandle of Idaho even better and Colorado offered undreamed of opportunities. But the three pushed on. The Klamath country they had heard about was new. The southern part of Klamath County was almost untouched except for the hill ranchers and the cattlemen with great ranches down the valley.

Sagebrush grew rank and tall and the fall weather was warm when the scouts arrived. Ducks and geese blackened Tule Lake and deer were plentiful. There was water in the Adams Canal that skirted the foothills. The soil was sandy or black loam.

So the word went back that the long trek was ended, the perfect homesite for the colony had been found.

Three hundred members of the club heard the news and 66 laid plans for the trip west. Many of

them were from farms.

(Continued on Page 3)

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Don't Just Happen.....**

Communities don't just grow; they are planned for, worked for, and fought for. Co-operation is the key for making any community grow into a better community.

**Congratulations to the City of
MALIN
on their fifty years
of progress!**

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FRANK ZUMPF was one of the three scouts sent out by the Bohemian Colonization Club to seek government land under the United States Government Irrigation Canal Act. Headquarters of the club were in Omaha. Zumpfe served with a Mr. Langer from Iowa and a Mr. Vostrcil from Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. Zumpfe, above, were parents of Mrs. Joe Lahaoda of Malin.