



Prague Kolache Festival

1st Saturday in May- May 3, 2008
Prague, Oklahoma



PRESS RELEASE

Kolache Festival is a Family Affair for the Pratkas

By: Sharon Maggard

The Pratkan family has been active supporters of the Kolache Festival for many years. The patriarchs of the family, the late Jerome and Christine Pratkan, were full blood Czechs. 2007 was a special year for the family as three of its younger members were participants in the Royalty Pageant. They include Madeline Hecker, 1st Runner-Up in the Jr. Queen division; Samantha Pratkan, 2nd Runner-Up in the Princess division; and Sarah Jordan, Honorable Mention in the Princess division.

A large group of cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents were on hand at the pageant to cheer them on.

Jerry Pratkan served his second year as President of the Kolache Festival this year. He also served as President in 1996 and 1997. Jerry and wife Jenny danced the Beseda. Jerry has served on various festival committees and officer positions for the past 23 years. His daughter Marria Pratkan Brydon was Director of the Royalty Pageant and her husband Doug served as emcee. They danced the Beseda on festival day and their two daughters were in the costume contest. Jerry's son Josh has helped with setting up the day before the festival for several years. He also helped with the fireworks display.

Steve and Pam Pratkan danced the Beseda and helped plan the 2007 festival. Pam has served as a past president in 2004 and 2005. Steve and Pam have also served on various committees for the past 12 years. Their daughter and son-in-law, Treasure and Jimmy Nash, danced the Beseda.

Henry and Shirlene Pratkan were the 2006 Parade Grand Marshals, honored for their many years of helping with the festival and teaching the Beseda. Their daughter Sharon Pratkan Maggard has served on various committees and has been publicity chairman the past 13 years. She has taught the Beseda, promoted the festival on radio shows, sings the Czech National Anthem for the opening ceremonies, and was a member of the Prague Community Choir this year. Her husband Rick worked in the Beer Garden. Their other daughter, Debbie Pratkan Lokey has sung the Czech National Anthem and her husband Doug was chairman of the Beer Garden.

Cecilia Bartos Hecker has helped with the Prague Czech Folk Dancers for several years and danced the Beseda this year. Her two daughters Megan and Madeline also danced. Her brother Stanley Bartos worked in the Beer Garden and other brother Tony and wife Rhonda danced the Beseda and in charge of the food booth for the Catholic



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Church. The church group baked a 1,000 dozen kolaches this year. Their daughter and son, Leslie and Nicholas, both danced the Beseda.

The festival is such an important event for the family that Dillon Morgan flew home on a four-day leave from military service with the Marines. He is stationed in California. Dillon enjoyed the festival all day, and a special Czech meal prepared by his grandmother Rosalie Navrath.

A special surprise of the day was a relative from south Texas who came for the festival. Michael Pratka, his wife and three children had recently moved to Oklahoma and were not acquainted with any of the Oklahoma relatives. He knew the Pratkas lived in Prague and took the chance of coming here and trying to meet them. He accomplished that task and enjoyed a nice visit with everyone downtown and at the home of Agnes Pratka.

Most of the family enjoyed the Polka Street Dance and the fireworks to conclude a wonderful Kolache Festival. It's truly great to be part of a large family!