

Czech Costume Contests at Kolache Festival

By: Sharon Maggard

The Prague Kolache Festival is Saturday, May 5, and Czech Costume Judging Contests will be held that day. The first judging contest starts at 9:30 a.m. for ages 0-4 years in front of Vision Bank on Jim Thorpe Blvd. The second costume judging contest starts at 1:00 p.m. at the main grandstand on Main Street at the City Park for ages 5 years through adults. There is no pre-entry for the contest. Contestants come forward for the judging when their age division is announced.

There are two divisions for the contest, American and Traditional. The difference between these two divisions is that Traditional costumes do not have sequins. Traditional costumes can have machine embroidery and also applied rhinestones or beads. The Traditional costumes are not flashy, such as the American costumes with lots of sequins.

Judging for the women and girl costumes are based on the following: full skirt, white apron with trim, white blouse with puffed sleeves and trim, vest with trim, headpiece (cap, bow or garland), black shoes/boots. Married women wear a Czech cap or bow, and single girls wear a garland or bow.

Males: long pants, dark color with trim on front or down the leg with a sash at waist. Men and boys wear a Czech cap. Boys can wear short pants with suspenders or knee pants of a dark color with trim on the front or down the legs; a white shirt with full sleeves with trim and a vest of any color with trim.

The men's and boy's costumes are based on: dark pants with decorative trim down the side, vest with trim, white shirt with puffed sleeves and trim, Czech hat/cap with trim and black shoes/boots.

The proposed age groups are as follows and may be changed at the discretion of the chairman: separate groups for boys and girls ages 0-11 months; 12-23 months; 2 yrs.; 3 yrs.; 4 yrs.; 5-6 yrs.; 7-8 yrs.; 9-10 yrs.; 11-12 yrs.; 13-17 yrs.; and for men 18 years and older; women 18-30 years and women over 30.

Plaques will be presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in the two divisions. Everyone is invited to participate.