

Historically Speaking

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The Havlik Family



By 1934, the Ladislav and Louise Havlik family had been residents of St. Paul for five years. They were, left, front row, Ladislav, Martha, Georgine, Louise; back row, Lydia, Charles, Marie and Otto.— Photo courtesy of Martha Havlik

*Written by Janet and Robin Elstermeier,
Historical Society Members*

Some of us have lived in St. Paul for most of our lives and we know that we have been very fortunate, because we always had a grocery store where we could buy our food. In fact, during the 1950's, there were times when there were four

stores in St. Paul where we could make our food purchases. One of them was Havlik's Market. We have decided to write this story about the Havlik family, as the various members of this family were a part of St. Paul for many years. Robin and Janet Elstermeier recently spent an enjoyable evening visiting with Martha Havlik about her

A Message From the President *Kaye Tomlinson*

Hello from the Historical Village.

What a wonderful spring we are having.

We are getting many things accomplished in this great weather. The church has new siding on it and the trim will be painted green this spring. Our new building is coming along on schedule. It will be such a wonderful addition to our village. We will put a lot of memorabilia in this new building. It is being built on the grounds just east of the depot. We are excited about moving in late this summer. Watch for our opening.

We will once again sell pies during GCA Days. It is a fund raiser.

Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at the library community room at 2 p.m.

We are so sad to see that Tubby's Fire House is closing. It was very needed in our community and will be greatly missed. It holds a lot of historic fire equipment.

Until next time, keep hope in your heart and peace in your life.

family and their history in St. Paul and before they moved to St. Paul. It happens that Martha is the only living member of the Havlik family. We will tell you the story, as she told it to us. We are pleased to have a few pictures to share with you, also.

In 1912, in view of the prospects in Czechoslovakia of the forthcoming World War I, Martha Havlik's paternal grandmother, a widow, decided she should look for a better life for her family. So she made a very difficult decision, and she chose to leave her home in Czechoslovakia, (now known as the Czech Republic) and with four of her six children immigrated to a new life in the United States. They made the trip by ship, landing in Galveston, Texas. Staying behind were the two oldest boys, one of which was Martha's future

father, Ladislav, who was a 30-year-old butcher and sausage maker. Martha's future mother, Louise, lived in that same town with her parents, who ran a Hostel where they took in and provided meals to boarders. Louise would go to the butcher shop to buy the meat for the Hostel where she met and got to know the handsome "Lad" and eventually the two fell in love.

In February, 1914, Lad (32) and Louise (22) were married. Lad's mother returned from the USA for the wedding. Her two sons and new daughter-in-law decided to immigrate also and returned with her to Texas. Louise later recalled that the trip by ship was long and difficult, traveling across the Atlantic Ocean. Louise suffered a little from motion sickness. The cabins on the ship were nice enough, but it was still a long trip. After they settled in Texas, the young family grew, as a son, Charles, was born in 1914 and a daughter, Marie, was born in 1917. One of Lad's brothers, living in Texas, bought and managed a restaurant there. Lad was able to find work in a meat market. He wasn't content with the job that he had, and faithfully read the business ads in the Chicago papers. One day he saw an ad for Pecenka's Meat Market, in Ord, Nebraska. It was 1918 when Lad loaded up the little Model T car with the family and the dog, and took off for Nebraska. It was a long slow trip, as they made their way to Ord.

Lad worked in the meat market in Ord for 10

The Havlik Family

Ladislav Havlik, born July 15, 1881, died April 9, 1943, at the age of 61;

Louise Havlik, born May 20, 1891, died September 30, 1977, at the age of 86;

Charles Havlik, born November 28, 1914, died March 13, 1959, at the age of 44;

Marie Louise Havlik, born June 20, 1917, died November 20, 1969, at the age of 52;

Otto J. Havlik, born August 22, 1919, died April 20, 1985, at the age of 65;

Lydia Havlik, born December 24, 1920, died February 19, 2003, at the age of 82;

Martha Havlik, born August 1, 1927;

Georgine Havlik, born April 8, 1931, died October 5, 1994, at the age of 63.



In 1929, Ladislav Havlik and his partner, Joe Kuklish, purchased a meat market for sale in St. Paul. In July of 1929, Ladislav and his son, Charles, are pictured behind the counter of the meat market.— Photo courtesy of Martha Havlik

years. While the Havliks lived in Ord, their family grew. Otto was born in 1919, Lydia in 1920 and Martha in 1927. Then, in 1929, Lad found out that there was a butcher shop for sale in St. Paul. So he partnered with Joe Kuklish and they operated the “Meat Market”. It was located on the north side of Howard Avenue, where Brehm Drug is now located. It was on the west part of their present store. Later, Lad bought out Joe’s interest in this business. The Meat Market was housed there until about 1937 when they moved a few buildings to the west. Currently, the east side of the “Love It Beauty Salon” is the building that was the home of what was now called “Havlik’s Market”. There were rooms above their store, which were rented as office space for Charles and Pearl Dobry’s Law Office. Dad, Ladislav, was the sausage maker and butcher until he died in 1943 at the age of 61 years. His sons, Charles and Otto, assumed these duties, as they had been well trained by Dad, so they continued to follow in his footsteps.

The family could not speak English, but spoke

Czech. The children learned to speak English in school, and they were able to teach some English to their parents. Martha said her father never could speak very much English, but her mother spoke some English with quite a Czech accent. Martha remembers attending school at the wooden grade school building in St. Paul through the 8th grade. Her kindergarten teacher was Miss Curtis and her first grade teacher was Allura Woodbury. When the Havlik family first came to town, they were living at the corner of 6th Street and Adams Street in a small house on the east side of the street. Currently Dennis and Marj Sperling use this building to house their insurance business. The Havliks continued to live there until after Georgine was born in 1931. So the parents and six children all lived in this small two bedroom home. During Georgine’s first year, the family moved to a house on Sheridan Street, where Rick and Linda Goettsche currently live. The Havlik children thought they were in a “palace” then, with four big bedrooms. During

their years of growing up in St. Paul, the four older Havlik children were able, as young adults, to attend classes at The Zocholl Business College. It was also called the St. Paul Business College and it was run by Mr. Zocholl. It was located on the block where the local hospital is now, which was just across the street from the Havlik residence.

Martha graduated from St. Paul High School in 1944, then attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln for two years. She transferred to Washington University in St. Louis and studied nursing, earning her Bachelor's Degree in nursing. She taught Nursing Arts for a short time at Creighton University, St. Joseph's Hospital, in Omaha. In 1950, the Veterans Hospital opened in Grand Island. Martha was working there the first day it opened and helped care for the first patients admitted. She

continued to work in Grand Island at the VA until 1962. Georgine attended the University of Nebraska for two years. Then in 1950, she was employed in the Engineers' office, at the Ordinance Plant in Grand Island. There she met John Shoemaker, who was an engineer. They were married in 1951. They moved to Illinois, where John had another engineering position, then they relocated to Ralston, Nebraska where he was employed at Microswitch. They then moved

closer to St. Paul and lived north of Dannebrog. Georgine didn't work full time in the Havlik Markets, but she was able to help them out as needed. She was busy raising her children and taking good care of John. Their family included a daughter, Kay, and a son, Steve.

During the years that Lad worked in Ord, he

perfected his "recipe" for what became known as "Havlik Sausages". So when he started his business in St. Paul he continued with this endeavor. Martha remembered that people, young and old alike, liked to come to the back door of the Havlik Meat Market and get a sample of the tasty hot dogs from her dad. The Havliks needed a "slaughter house" so the building was built on the east end of Howard Avenue past the present Super 8 motel, on the

north side of Howard Avenue. Martha said that they primarily sold meat in their store, but gradually stocked groceries, too, to sell to the people of St. Paul and the surrounding community. She said that when they added the groceries, they thought they were pretty "fancy" and even had two counters to use to take care of their customers. Brother, Charlie, became ill with cancer of the stomach and died in 1959 at the age of 44 years. The butchering and sausage duties all fell to Otto after

Havlik Market

We Deliver *Phone 79*

ST. PAUL, NEBR.

Picnic Hams Smoked	11c lb.
Baby Beef Roast Corn Fed	10-12c lb.
Pot Roasts	8-10c lb.
Beef Steaks Tender	12 1-2--15c lb.
Lard 4 lbs. for	25c
Hamburger--Pork Sausage 3 lbs.	25c
Veal Roast Extra Choice	10c lb.
Veal Chops	14c lb.
Summer Sausage	15c lb.

This Havlik Market advertisement appeared in the August 18, 1933 issue of the Howard County Herald.

Specials

Prices Effective Thurs.—Fri.—Sat.

<p>PURE FRESH GROUND BEEF 3 LBS. \$1.39</p>	<p>WILSON'S CRISPRITE BACON 1 LB. PKG. PLUS 1 LB. ROLL WILSON'S PURE PORK SAUSAGE BOTH FOR 79c</p>
<p>SUPREME CRACKERS 1 LB. PKG. 23c</p>	<p>WILSON'S CHILI WITH BEANS 15½ OZ. TINS 49c</p>
<p>SPRING VALLEY OLEO 3 LBS. 49c</p>	<p>GREAT NORTHERN DRY BEANS 2 LB. PKG. 25c</p>
<p>SWIFTNING SHORTENING 3 LB. TIN 69c</p>	<p>DOVE SOAP 3 REG. BARS 49c</p>
<p>Another Fresh Shipment NESTLE'S CANDY BARS 10 BARS 39c</p>	<p>TEXAS RUBY RED GRAPEFRUIT 20 LB. BAG \$1.29</p>

Havlik's Market

PHONE SK 4-4471

Free Deliveries Tues. - Thurs. - Sat., 10 A.M.

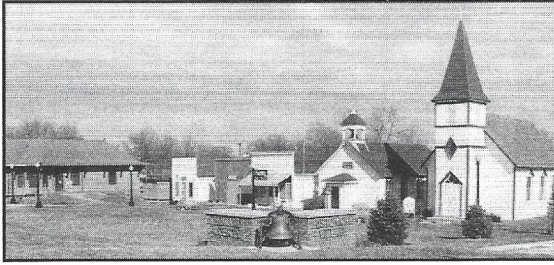
his brother's death. Saturday evenings were very busy as many of the rural people came into St. Paul on Saturdays to do their shopping. Martha remembers being so busy working at the store, and then enjoying the chance to take a quick break so they could run to Dillard's soda fountain and have a cherry phosphate. The family sometimes worked until 10 or 11 p.m. or later, before they closed their doors and cleaned up so they could go home and enjoy a nice lunch, prepared by their mother, Louise.

In 1960, the family built a new house on 7th Street. Mother Louise, Marie, Otto, Lydia and Martha all moved to this new house. They were by then getting ready to build the new store, so the family worked together to plan for this construction.

In 1961, the Havlik Market moved to the "new" store, which is currently the home of the Hometown Market, on 6th Street. This building was much larger and it was very modern, a fine improvement and addition to the St. Paul business district. They were able to provide employment to many women and men over the years, as well as high school boys and girls. The Havlik family members all took their turns with the various duties in their stores over the years. Their sister, Marie, died in 1969 of ovarian cancer, when she was 52 years old. They sold their grocery store to Jerry Klingensmith in 1969 and he opened the doors as a "Jack and Jill Store".

It was 1963 when the Havliks bought the Locker Plant from Elmer and Lillian Anderson. Otto, Lydia and Martha all took care of business there, and continued with the Havlik Hot Dogs, as well as other meat products. It was during this time that Otto was elected to serve as a St. Paul City Councilman. He was encouraged to run for mayor and was elected. He served as mayor from April 27, 1964, to June 29, 1970. During his terms as mayor, the paving districts were started, the fire hall was built and the swimming pool was built. Otto stayed busy until he had some health problems. He died on April 20, 1985, at the age of 65. Lydia and Martha Havlik continued to run the business until they sold it on June 1, 1993, to Jeff Christensen, and Jeff continues to make the former "Havlik Hot Dogs" today.

Havlik's Market added groceries to their meat products over the years. This ad appeared in the January 9, 1961, Phonograph. Later that year, they moved to their new grocery store, now the location of Hometown Market.



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