Lonsdale is growing — its population has jumped 30 percent in 10 years to 1,000. It has its own suburbs, a solar house, a new auto-parts store and an apartment complex.

Lonsdale's growth has created a desire among its Czech-American citizens to preserve and renew their heritage by preserving the schoolhouse.

Being Czech means keeping your customs. In 1962, Rose Smisek gathered Lonsdale women together to form the Seasoned Choralairs, a group that sings Czech songs at fairs, churches and community events. Smisek directs the group. With her daughter, Sister Anita, a nun at the Church of Immaculate Conception in Faribault, Minnesota, she gave a concert of Czech songs in November 1979 at the New Prague High School Auditorium. The concert also featured Milous Ferlik, a native of New Prague and an internationally known concert pianist. The concert drew a packed house of more than 400 and raised more than $2,000 to restore the schoolhouse.

Being Czech means a love of good times — good songs, good beer, good cards and good food—kolacky, rohliky, makovy buchty, zeiniky, cmunda, bozi milosti, vomacka, koblihy, smorum, bromboracky, jiternice, to name a few. Of these, kolackys, rolls containing prunes, poppy seeds or apricots, are best-known and are celebrated at Kolacky Days, a yearly festival at Montgomery, Minnesota, 10 miles away.

Being Czech means being independent, self-sufficient, and thrifty. The Lonsdale phone company is one of the few independent phone companies in Minn. The State Bank of Lonsdale has a record of steady increases in annual deposits and two years ago completed a handsome new building.

Being Czech means close family ties, at home and in business. On Lonsdale's main street, five businesses — Vosepjka Electric Co., the Coast to Coast Store, Our Own Hardware, Rezac Furniture Co. and the Lonsdale Oil Co. — are run by families that have owned and operated their businesses for at least three generations.

Finally, being Czech means Old World craftmanship. For example, Jim Palma, founder of the Coast to Coast store, makes grandfather clocks and machines for repairing watches, clocks and other delicate mechanical devices, such as music boxes.

Smokey Joe Cihla is a blacksmith who has been serving Lonsdale for more than 40 years. So called because of the acrid smoke that permeates his shop, Smokey Joe alternates between creating fine metal work for homes and farms and repairing farm machinery.

Czech pride in craftmanship is particularly striking in the work of Lonsdale's women who make impressive quilts, needlework and Czech designs. With the men, this pride carries over into the modern crafts of carpentry, painting, plumbing, electric repair and masonry. A saying in the surrounding countryside is: *"If you want something done right, take it to Lonsdale."*

But being Czech is not the whole story. Newcomers are bringing new vitality to Lonsdale. They include a real-estate agent, a pharmacist, a dentist. A tool-and-plastics manufacturing company, which employs 20 people, also started a few years ago.

As for the restored school house, Lonsdale people have in mind a multipurpose building for general community use. These would include a community hall where people could meet, vote and debate; a site for a turn-of-the-century schoolhouse museum; a craft shop or boutique, where various ethnic groups could display and sell their wares, and a room for the arts — language, music and drama — where various groups could teach and learn their ancestral customs.

In April 1979, the Committee for the Restoration of the Lonsdale Schoolhouse explained the project to more than 125 local citizens as well as restoration supporters from the metropolitan area. From this meeting many local tradesmen — electricians, carpenters, painters and masons — volunteered their services for restoration work.

This community support, coupled with necessary historical documentation, was the evidence needed by the Minnesota Historical Society to decide in May 1979 that the schoolhouse was worthy of designation as a historical site. In early September Rep. Arlen Erdahl of the First District notified the committee that the building had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This makes the building eligible for federal and state grants.

Following the federal and state recognition, the Restoration Committee acted to form the *3R Landmark Corp.* and to secure a long-term lease of the building from the city of Lonsdale. The corporation is raising funds for the project and has hired architect William Brodersen of Northfield, Minnesota, to prepare drawings for the restoration and to coordinate the construction work. Preliminary design work is under way.

CZECH RECIPES

CERNY KUBA (hot dish)

1 box of barley, soaked over night, cook till done, drain
1 lb. hamburger, fried and drained
1 large onion, simmered
1 lb. bacon, fry, drain, cut up
2 cans of mushroom soup
1 tsp. marjaram (marjanka)
large clove of garlic
salt and pepper
add water as needed
about 1 c. Vaclavky mushrooms, (I use canned mushrooms)

Add all together and put in roaster and bake in oven about 1 hour at 350 degrees.

* * * * * *

CMUNDA

2 c. ground raw potatoes or grated	1 tsp. salt
4 eggs, beaten	1/4 c. flour
1 tsp. caraway seed, optional	1/2 c. milk
2 cloves garlic, mashed with salt	1/4 c. lard, melted
dash of pepper	

Mix all ingredients together and bake in heavily greased tin at 350 degrees for approximately 45 min.

* * * * * *

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN BROWN POTATO SOUP WITH MUSHROOMS
Good Lenten Soup

Peel and dice 4 large potatoes, add 2 qts. water, salt and some fresh or dried mushrooms and large onion, and a mashed clove of garlic. Brown 2 tbsp. flour with 2 tbsp. lard or butter on low heat till flour is brown, stirring frequently. When potatoes are tender thicken the soup with the browned flour and serve. Homemade rye bread goes good eaten with this soup.

* * * * * *

METRIC CONVERSION TABLE

1 acre	= 43,560 sq. feet
	= 0.004047 sq. kilometre
	= 4047 sq. metres
	= 0.404 hectare
	= 0.00156 sq. mile
1 bushel (U.S.)	= 2150.42 cu. inches
	= 35.238 litres
1 bushel (Brit.)	= 2219.36 cu. inches
1 cu. centimetre	= 0.061 cu. inch
1 cu. inch	= 16.387 cu. centimetres
1 cu. foot	= 0.028 cu. metre
1 cu. metre	= 35.314 cu. feet
	= 1.307 cu. yards
1 cu. yard	= 0.764 cu. metre
1 decalitre	= .0283 bushel (U.S.)
1 dry pint	= 0.550 litre
1 dry quart	= 1.101 litres
1 foot	= 12 inches
1 gallon (U.S.)	= 4 quarts
	= 3.785 litres
1 gallon (Imp.)	= 4.545 litres
1 gram	= 15.432 grains Troy
	= 0.032 oz. Troy
	= 0.035 oz. avoirdupois
1 hectare	= 2.471 acres
1 litre	= 0.264 gallon (U.S.)
	= 1 cu. decimetre
	= 1.816 dry pints
	= 0.908 dry quart
1 long ton	= 1.12 short tons
	= 1.016 metric tons
1 metric ton	= 0.984 long ton
	= 1.1024 short tons
1 mile	= 5280 feet
1 nautical mile	= 6080.27 feet
	= 1.852 kilometres
1 pound	= 16 ounces
1 quart (U.S.)	= 2 pints
1 short ton	= 2000 pounds
	= 0.8928 long ton
	= 0.9071 metric ton
1 sq. centimetre	= 0.155 sq. inch
1 sq. foot	= 0.092 sq. metre

3 R Landmark, Inc., is a non-profit corporation charged with the responsibility of restoring the Lonsdale Schoolhouse and converting it to a Cultural Arts Center. The building will contain, among other things, a turn-of-the-century schoolhouse museum, an ethnic craft shop, a meeting room, and performing arts rooms. This center will help Lonsdale preserve a sense of its past and build a vision of its future.

We would appreciate your support.

Send your check to:

3 R Landmark, Inc.
Box ABC
Lonsdale, Minnesota 55046

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your gift is tax deductible.