

Chapter 11

1964-1967

1964

Our family on the threshold of the New Year.

I, as the eldest of the family, had just entered my 68th year. So far, thank God, I had been in good health, and each year since 1957 I had worked as a member of the Standard Agricultural Co-operative in its gardening enterprise. In the year just finished, I had performed 286 work units, and I received a monthly pension of 396 crowns.

Brother Antonín in Žatčany worked with his wife as head of gardening of SAC Žatčany until 1963, when his health worsened (arthritic troubles in the leg) and the doctor recommended a change of employment. Now he was working as a boilerman in a factory in Líšeň [a suburb on the eastern outskirts of Brno]. His daughter Vlasta was an office worker in Brno. Her first marriage had not worked out and she had married again, to Hubert Urbánek from Žatčany. Antonín's son Květoslav, who was living with his wife in a newly built house right next door, had a four-year-old daughter Dána and a two-year-old son Milan, and worked in Brno. And his youngest son, 14-year-old Antonín, would learn gardening. The mill stood out of use except for once a week, when it crushed corn for co-operative members.

Brother Tobiáš and his wife were in good health. Tobiáš was in his last year of work, and would go into retirement from September 1. His son Alois was a repairman in the local SAC and had two sons, Jaroslav and Květoslav. Alois was living in a newly built bungalow, No. 320, alongside the buildings of the co-operative.

My third brother, Pavel, was so far also in good health. He worked in a factory in Brno, and during the winter months he slaughtered pigs for people. He was living at No. 247. His wife Marie had undergone a stomach operation five years ago and her health was delicate, but she worked in the SAC. Their daughter Marta, now Svobodová, in Moutnice, had four children, a son Karel and three daughters, Marie, Marta, and Pavla. Their son Jaromír, like everybody, worked in a factory in Brno, and his wife Jiřina, born Vymazalová from Moutnice, was employed all the year round in the sugar factory in Židlochovice. They had two children, four-year-old Jiřinka and three-month-old Pavel.

Brother František likewise still had his full strength. For many years he had been employed in the district woodworking industry at Borkovany. His wife had had an operation a year ago and was now of reduced working capacity, and as a member of the SAC was given retirement. She received 240 crowns monthly. They were living at No. 119. Their daughter Libuše, married to Engineer Eduard Stoniš in Šternberk [a town some fifteen kilometres north of Olomouc], had two daughters, Jitřenka and Milena. Their son František married Marie Petláková from No. 110, and they had two sons, Antonín and Petr. They were living at No. 204.

Brother Josef at Dubňany was working in the lignite mines, but his health was not good. He was often in hospital for lung problems or stomach ulcers. His son Květoslav was also employed in the coal mines, as a "gaffer". He was married, and had a daughter Květoslava.

Youngest brother Jaromír was in good health, and worked as a foundryman in Brno. His wife, as a member of the SAC, worked in the co-operative. Their eldest, their son Josef, was working as a structural engineer on various construction sites in Brno. He was married, and had a son Jaromír. Their daughter Anna was a teacher in Velké Pavlovice. Her husband was likewise a teacher, but at the moment was doing his basic military service (which had been postponed while he finished his studies). And the 10-year-old twins were healthy. They were at school, and were doing well.

January. It froze throughout the month, but there was almost no snow. Temperatures were 10–17 degrees below zero.

From February 10, an increase was announced in the prices of meat, meat products, tinned fish, and cheeses.

On February 10, brother Jaromír's daughter Anna, now Vymazalová, had a son.

February 26. The annual meeting of the SAC was held, and received an account of the co-operative's activities during 1963. We had already received payments of 10 crowns per work unit, and now we received a final dividend of 5 crowns plus 1kg of corn.

The meeting was very lively. The members were not satisfied with the leadership, accusing it of

dishonesty and demanding the election of a new one. (During the harvest, two waggons went missing, and everything was so tangled up that even the criminal police discovered nothing. One person covered up for another, and they saw to it that everything was obliterated.) The chairman, Máša, had now been in hospital for three months receiving treatment, and his deputy was Barnabáš Petlák of No. 252.

Today, February 26, there was an election for a new chairman and council. Vojtěch Sedláček from Nesvačilka was elected as chairman, and only Barnabáš Petlák as agronomist remained from the old leadership. Antonín Svoboda of No. 80 was replaced as vegetable crop expert by Jaroslav Čermák of No. 281, and the whole management committee was new.

Temperatures in February varied from 2–15 degrees below zero.

On March 17, the son of teacher Anna Vymazalová “born Rychlíková” was christened with the names Miroslav Josef. The christening was performed in secret in the local House of God at 7 o'clock in the evening.

It was written in the newspapers and said on the radio that we had freedom of religion, but it was a curious freedom when an official who wanted to remain in his post, a teacher who had qualified and wanted to teach in a school, an army officer who wanted to remain in his calling, all had to renounce religion. And so many marriages were registered only in the council office, and many children were not christened, their names were merely entered on the official record. Religion in schools was not compulsory as before, and if parents wished their child to go to religious services they had to submit a request, a *written request* [underlined in the original], to the school. When a child left school and wanted to go on to further education, if it was written on his personal dossier (which was open to inspection at the council office) that he or his parents went to church, the universities and technical colleges did not accept him. So many marriages were celebrated in secret, away from the eyes of the public, and likewise christenings.

March had ended, but winter still ruled and field work had still not started.

April 8. Sowing of spring wheat started.

April 20. The apricot trees came into bloom. The favourable weather allowed the delayed field work to be caught up. The corn and the beet were sown, and the potatoes were planted.

May was wet until the middle of the month, and then dry.

June 2. At 6 o'clock in the evening, a thunderstorm with hail came over from the south-west, and did 80% damage in some of the vineyards. Then a flood came down from Borkovany, where the storm had been even fiercer and the hailstones had broken windows and damaged roofs. The flood covered the whole of the field beyond our back garden and also various other fields, and in places the water heaped up piles of hailstones and other rubbish. These piles had still not completely gone five days later.

June 14. There were elections to the local, district, and regional councils, and to the national assembly.

June 26. The previous local chairman, Karel Ardély of No. 263, finished his term of office, and his place was taken by the previous secretary, Miroslav Dostal of No. 22.

The harvest started on July 13. July was hot and dry, the temperature on some days reaching 33 degrees, and the harvest proceeded smoothly and quickly. The corn was upright and not lodged, and could be cut by combine almost without loss. This year, nothing was cut by the binders, no sheaves were laid down, nothing was taken to the threshing machines, and the women had almost nothing to do.

August 7. The SAC finished threshing the corn, and the next day, Saturday 8, the harvest festival was held.

August 11. They brought us corn from the communal private plots to the extent of 580kg per measure (last year it had been 500kg). [These “private” plots had been worked communally since April 1962.]

August had been almost wholly dry.

September was more dry than wet.

We gathered the grapes on September 24. We collected 150kg from the whole vineyard. What had not been destroyed by the hailstorm in the spring we were now having to share with the starlings, of

which a whole swarm was descending on the vineyards, and so we had to get the grapes in before they were really ripe.

The SAC lifted the potatoes, of which this year there was an excessive crop. At the same time the sugar beet was lifted, and despite the dry weather there was a fine crop. There were plenty of winter apples and pears, though they were misshapen because they had been battered by hail during the spring, but there were few plums.

The whole of September had been dry.

The whole of October was wet. The SAC had not hurried overmuch with the beet harvest in September, and now it was having to be lifted and carted in difficult conditions. Soldiers with army vehicles helped with the carting.

In the first week of November, the SAC, with caterpillar tractors, started pulling out the cherry trees along the alleys leading to the vineyards and to Hastrmánek. These alleys had been planted in 1938. Now the trees being pulled down, and both paths would be destroyed.

November 25. In part of the vineyards, all the vines were being uprooted, and caterpillar tractors were pulling out all the trees. The SAC would be planting an orchard there. Those growers who did not want to give up their vines were given substitutes in the other part, and growers who were already there and had larger holdings had to relinquish part of them. People found this difficult, some protested, some cursed, but all to no avail. The SAC had its own objectives.

December 15. Today the last milking cows belonging to private breeders were taken away. The SAC and the state farm likewise had no milking cows, because all the cowsheds both on the estate and in the SAC were infected with brucellosis. It would take a whole year to clean and disinfect the sheds.

So ended another year which in hustle and work had passed very quickly. Now, in the time of winter quiet, it was possible to look back, and to compare how we used to live with how we live now.

People's standard of living was very good. There were few houses in Těšany where at least one member did not go to Brno to work either in a factory or sometimes on a construction site, from which he brought home at least 1000 crowns a month. A lot of women were working in the SAC. They had private plots, they received corn in kind, and they could keep animals at home.

Before the war, when people sold something or earned some money, they bought fields, animals, agricultural machinery, and tools. Now, they were buying furniture, carpets, and electrical goods such as refrigerators, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, television sets, and radio receivers, in short things which made life more pleasant.

People, especially the young, went around well clothed, in dresses made from fine quality material.

Likewise, in the matter of food there was a great difference from pre-war years. For example, on Christmas Eve there was no house in Těšany where they did not have a carp [the traditional Moravian Christmas Eve dish] and an abundance of traditional home-made cakes and other delicacies. Butcher Frant. Horák at No. 30 said that never in his life had he sold so much meat and meat products (there was now always a sufficiency of meat). And in the provision shops, butter, artificial fats, tinned fish, and cheeses were being sold as never before.

In the taverns, so much beer and lemonade was being sold that the breweries could not cope, and likewise plenty of wine and brandy was being consumed. (However, many workmen, when they called in at the tavern having just received their wages, came home without them.)

When I compared children's clothing as it was before the first war and as it was now, I saw a great difference. Children were going to school well clothed in warm dresses and sweaters and in winter coats, and likewise footwear was good (children did not go barefoot even in the height of summer). Before the war, boys went around all winter in simple cotton clothes without linings, they had one pair of shoes a year, for everyday wear and for Sundays, and as soon as it got a little warmer they went barefoot from March to November. And we girls went all winter in bodices and printed skirts.

Before the second world war, the greatest wish of the young was to have a bicycle. Now, young and old alike wanted to have motorcycles. They were already to be found in every second house, and in some houses there were two. But even this was not enough for today's people, and they were buying themselves cars. Today there were 15 private cars in Těšany. A motorcycle cost 8,000–10,000 crowns, a car 40,000–90,000 crowns.

The following inhabitants died during 1964.

January 23	Josef Ryšánek	No. 129	69 years old
March 14	Vladimír Horák	No. 16	60 years old
April 10	Josef Jílek	No. 162	[no age given]
May 27	Jenofefa Kostrhonová	No. 259	64 years old
July 2	Josef Kroupa	No. 192	76 years old
September 6	Adolf Vystavěl	No. 17	80 years old
September 21	Eduard Chaloupka	No. 140	86 years old
October 8	Barbora Urbanová	No. 83	77 years old
November 10	František Dobrovolný	No. 63	61 years old
November 28	Anna Menšíková	No. 301	61 years old
December 4	Anselm Chaloupka	No. 255	[no age given]
December 5	Šimon Nehyba	No. 272	[no age given]
December 22	Eduard Langášek	No. 33	83 years old
December 25	Karolina Štěpánková	No. 63	84 years old

1965

The New Year started with snow. The cold was moderate, but there was plenty of snow, and the temperature throughout the month varied from 2 to 8 degrees below zero.

On February 9, the annual meeting of the SAC was held, with a celebration of the final dividend. Chairman Vojtěch Sedláček of Nesvačilka had shown himself to be a very good manager. The co-operative had started operation in 1958, and had paid the following per unit of work done.

Year	Immediate payment (crowns)	Final dividend	Total payment
1958	7	3	10
1959	9	0.40	9.40
1960	7	7	14
1961	7	8	15
1962	10	5	15
1963	10	5	15
1964	10	14	24

All the members were very pleased with chairman Sedláček, and on the proposal of Jos. Horák of No. 167 they delightedly voted him a bonus of 2000 crowns for his work.

February, like January, had been mild, and again there had been plenty of snow.

According to a new decree, the delivery quota of lard from home slaughtering was discontinued. Anyone wishing to slaughter paid 25 crowns at the post office and received a permit.

March. A great blizzard blew up during the night before March 6, and snowdrifts built up on the transport links. The buses stopped running, and workmen were unable to get to their places of work.

March 15. Frant. Vahala at No. 198 started to demolish his house. It jutted out into the street beside No. 135, and the carriageway in front of it was very narrow. Now, after the removal of the house, the street would be wide and straight. The shelter at the bus stop, which was awkwardly situated, was also demolished, as was the wall around the park in front of the manor house. The latter would enable the path to the primary school to be widened.

March weather. Blizzards, night temperatures 2–4–8 degrees below zero, day temperatures 0–2–3 degrees above. Towards the end of the month the frosts ceased.

April 2. The SAC started sowing.

The first third of the month had been dry and warm (up to 20 degrees above zero). The remaining two-thirds were cold and wet. Work was delayed, and up to May 1 the SAC had still not sown the beet.

The apricot trees came into bloom on April 24.

The whole of May was cold and wet, and the fields were sodden. After May 20 the SAC called on

members to go and single the beet whatever the weather, as soon as the plants were showing their first pair of leaves.

The whole of June up to June 25 was cold and wet. From June 25 temperatures rose to 30–33 degrees with thunderstorms, and this continued to the end of the month

July was generally cold and wet. The harvest started on July 29, but as a result of the cold and rain the corn was not in good shape, and a poor yield was expected.

At the start of August it rained almost every day, but then the weather improved a little. The harvest was going very slowly.

August 26. Františka Krupičková of No. 157, 55 years old, died poisoned by mushrooms.

On Wednesday September 8 the SAC finished threshing. There was little corn this year. Last year the SAC gave members 580kg per measure from the private plots, but this year the distribution was only 350kg per measure.

The whole of September had been dry and warm. The potatoes were already lifted, but they were few and had been attacked by rot. Maize, which in other years had been cut at this time, was this year still green as in August.

The whole of October was dry and during the day warm, but from October 11 night temperatures fell to 3–4–6 degrees below zero. The maize froze while still unripe. Because of the dry weather, the lifting of the sugar beet was going very quickly. This year, for the first time, the co-operative was lifting part of the crop using a beet combine, which ploughed up the beet, cleaned it, and poured it on to a trailer.

November 6. The SAC finished harvesting the beet. The crop was markedly lower than in the previous year.

A new metal shelter was put up at the bus stop.

November 29. The SAC finished cutting the maize. As a result of the cold summer and occasional frosts, the cones were unripe and milky.

During the first half of November, morning temperatures were 3–5 degrees below zero and day temperatures 6–8 degrees above, and on November 11 there had even been a little snow. In the second half of the month, night temperatures fell to 8–10–13 below with day temperatures 2–4 below. Towards the very end of the month, November 28, a warmer spell set in.

December was not unduly cold, with night temperatures 2–4 degrees below zero and day temperatures from zero to 2–3 degrees above.

People in Těšany had an abundance of baked cakes and cookies for the Christmas festivities, and no table wanted for fried fish. And everywhere wine, canapés, and liqueurs were prepared for New Year's Eve. When I think back to my childhood, on Christmas Eve we had neither cookies, nor fish, nor a tree.

For supper on Christmas Eve, we had semolina gruel [Sue tells me that “hasty pudding” is a near equivalent in English], according to the carol “Stromka stromka zelená jabloňka seděli tam dvě pastýři jedli kaši z hrnka” (Little tree, little tree, little green apple tree, two shepherds sat there eating semolina from a mug), and then a winter fruit salad with sliced dried apples, pears, or plums, with small cakes to finish. Again, the exchange of gifts on Christmas Eve was not then the custom. Before supper on Christmas Eve, when mother had washed the kitchen floor, they brought two bundles of rye straw threshed with flails, which were spread out all over the floor, where they remained throughout Christmas Day and were removed on the morning of St Stephen's Day, this to indicate that the Lord Christ had been born in a cowshed. “The Lord's Birth” was such an important festival that no cleaning was done on that day, and the lunch dishes remained unwashed until the stars came out in the evening. Additionally, the taverns were empty. Nowadays, the tavern was always full, whether it was a festival day or not.

There was now only one tavern in Těšany, whereas there used to be three. Chalupa's at No. 23 was now “Industrial Supplies”, and Sýkora's at No. 29 was now a “Buffet”, which in addition to beer, lemonade, and smoked meats sold all kinds of confectioner's products including ice creams. The buffet was open from 8 o'clock in the morning until 4 in the afternoon. The tavern was open from 10

in the morning to 1 in the afternoon and again from 4 in the afternoon until 10 in the evening. It was nothing unusual, either in the buffet or in the tavern, to see women sitting over a beer and smoking, and among the young the vice of excessive drinking of spirits was widespread and it was not unusual to see a 16-year-old boy staggering around drunk. And smoking was widespread among girls and women.

The following inhabitants died during 1965.

Jenofeřa Vahalov	No. 154	60 years old
Karolina Dosoudilov	No. 241	88 years old
Frantiřek Buček	No. 186	83 years old
Frantiřka Krupičkov	No. 157	55 years old
Frantiřek Hork	No. 230	83 years old
Marie Hnilicov	No. 229	72 years old
Josef Novotn	No. 134	63 years old

1966

The New Year entered with frost and later with blizzards, with temperatures of 7–10–14 degrees below zero.

Immediately after the start of February the frost eased, with night temperatures 2–3 degrees below zero and day temperatures 2–3 above. In the middle of the month, temperatures rose to 10–15 above. On February 17 I heard a skylark singing.

February 17. The SAC members celebrated their final dividends. This year the co-operative paid a final dividend of 12 crowns per work unit, which with the 10 crowns already paid gave a total of 22 crowns plus payment in kind. Besides this, the co-operative paid National Insurance for its members. The members were very satisfied, for many were receiving an amount of money which their labours would not have brought in had they been working on their own.

The weather was favourable to the end of the month. Preparations for sowing were already in full swing, and the colt's-foot along the banks of the brooks was in flower.

In the first week of March, sowing of spring wheat started.

On Sunday March 13, Jan Chaloupka of No. 193 was buried. This was the first time the Requiem Mass had been celebrated in the afternoon during the funeral. Previously, the funeral had always been held on the Sunday without a requiem mass, and the Requiem Mass had been celebrated next day, on the Monday.

During the second half of March the weather worsened. Winter returned, with temperatures 3–7 degrees below and showers of snow and rain.

April 8. The apricot trees came into bloom.

April 19. The first thunderstorm arrived, with welcome rain.

April 26. They started putting scaffolding around the church. Until now, the church had been roofed with blue slates. It had been built in 1896, and even after the events of war the roof had not been repaired. Now the whole roof would be renewed (in fired tiles).

Also, the repair of the public building known as "The Old School", No. 139, was completed. The cost was 180,000 crowns.

April had been warm and quite dry.

May 8. Today was a Sunday, and so the national holiday was postponed until the Monday.

Metalworkers were covering the church tower with metal sheets even in the rain. On May 12 and 13, the new tiles were put on, and on May 23, 24, and 25 the whole church was painted from the outside (and the tower red). [I suspect that this last comment refers only to the tower roof. The church is in the background of Vermouzek's Plate 24, a monochrome photograph, which shows the tower itself to be light, presumably white or yellow, and the pointed roof above it to be dark, presumably red. Another diary entry, for 6 July 1973, refers to roofers painting the church tower red. Red roofs above white or yellow walls are common for churches and similar buildings in the area, and can look extremely attractive.]

May had been warm and sunny, but quite rainy.

June 29. My brother Pavel reached his sixtieth year, and went into retirement. He would receive a monthly pension of 800 crowns. We all went to celebrate his birthday, and made merry throughout the night.

The whole of June had been very wet.

July started with wet weather, and on July 13 the harvest started. The work was badly hindered by the incessant rain.

Because of the great amounts of water, the combines could not get to the fields, and both the “co-operatives” and the “state farms” had to look through piles of ancient and almost thrown out agricultural implements for scythes (which the younger generation did not know how to use). Lodged corn had to be cut by hand. The state farms gave 100kg of barley for cutting one measure of barley, and 60kg of wheat for cutting one measure of wheat. Brother Jaromír cut 17 measures on the state farms. People were glad to go to this work, for which they received corn. The work was hard, and in many places they were standing in water. [The quotation marks are in the original, and it would seem that “co-operatives” and “state farms” had become the local terms for those working in the relevant enterprises.]

Wet weather continued until August 10.

August 14. The house of Oldřich Sedláček, No. 235, was burnt out. The fire had been started by children playing with matches.

August 25. The harvest finished. During the wet weather, it had been very tedious and laborious work. The corn had been very good and had yielded plenty of grain, but rather a lot had sprouted.

The weather was wet until the middle of September, but then it was dry until the end of the month. Both following months were also dry, and the harvesting of autumn crops went without difficulty. This year, the greater part of the sugar beet was lifted by combine.

All the work was finished before Christmas, and co-operative members and workers on the state farms who had singled, hoed, and lifted the sugar beet received a ration of sugar at reduced price. For one measure of beet they received 18kg of sugar at a cost of 2.40 crowns per kilogramme.

At the start of December, they started work on the brook behind our yard. The work started from the mill. People had planted fruit and other trees along the brook on both sides, and these trees were now being pulled out by a caterpillar tractor. At one point an excavator was digging out a trench to drain off the water, so that the workmen could repair the banks.

For the first Christmas since the death of my husband, I was not alone. My brother Jaromír's son Josef, with his wife and two boys, were living with me. At their own expense, they had made themselves a kitchen and living room from the agricultural buildings in the yard, and they had a bedroom in the loft with a window facing the street.

On New Year's Eve, I reached 70 years. All my brothers came to wish me good health, and we reminisced, chatted, and made merry until morning.

The following inhabitants of Těšany died during 1966.

March 10	Jan Chaloupka	No. 193	60 years old
March 31	Františka Čermáková	No. 35	45 years old
April 14	Jenofefa Sedláčková	No. 128	82 years old
April 20	Věra Sedláčková	No. 128	56 years old
June 26	Kristina Kurdiovská	No. 302	83 years old
August 20	Vratislav Mandelik	No. 230	45 years old
August 24	Josef Nádeníček	No. 207	58 years old
September 20	František Hnilica	No. 125	76 years old
October 12	František Sedláček	No. 197	64 years old
October 23	Jan Horáček	No. 145	74 years old
December 12	Josef Příbyl	No. 256	65 years old
December 16	Leopold Mitiska	No. 96	60 years old
December 30	František Skříčka	[no number given]	22 years old (suicide)

1967

The New Year started with falling temperatures and with snow.

Immediately after the New Year, work started on the brook behind our garden. All the trees which had been beside the brook had already been uprooted, and no compensation was paid (there had been two large cherry trees by my own garden). An excavator with an enormous bucket was scooping mud and earth from the brook, and broadening and heightening the banks. We marvelled at the amazing strength of the machine and at the beautiful work it was doing, and compared how many people would have been needed to do the job by hand and how laborious the task would have been. And here the machine was being operated by a single man.

After January 10, temperatures dropped to 10–15 degrees below zero, and work on the brook stopped.

On February 16 the co-operative members held a lavish banquet to celebrate the year's results, with plenty of food and with music. The members were satisfied. For each work unit they received a final dividend of 15 crowns, which with the 10 crowns paid during the year gave a total for the year of 25 crowns in addition to payments in kind.

On Sunday 19 February, there was a house-to-house collection to buy a clock for the church tower. The collection raised a total of 20,000 crowns.

After February 20, warm weather set in, with thunderstorms and wild winds. The excavator behind our gardens started work again. Some people had concrete footbridges across the brook, and the excavator picked up these footbridges as if they were light wooden boards and put them down again undamaged.

The fine weather at the end of February and the beginning of March hurried forward the spring work, and sowing started on March 4.

March 5. International Women's Day was celebrated. The village council invited all old ladies of over 75 to come to the meeting room in the council office, where refreshments and gifts had been prepared for them. Some received dress material, others bedlinen.

In the middle of March, we pulled out the tops of all the vines. The vineyard had been planted in 1933, and now was two-thirds gone.

The weather in March had been dry and warm.

April 8. The apricot trees came into bloom. During the whole month it was dry and cold.

In May, bricklayers prepared round openings in the church tower into which the clockmakers would put the tower clock.

In the first half of May, I received an agricultural tax demand. I was treated as having a private plot of 0.48ha, and was assessed for 336 tax units.

The whole of spring had been dry up to May 22, when it started to rain and rained for two days.

June 1. The clockmakers installed the tower clock into the holes already prepared, and the next day, June 2, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the clock struck for the first time. The clock was obtained by collection and cost 40,000 crowns.

June 10. The SAC had already singled the beet without difficulty. In other years, members had been unwilling to single more than 3–4 measures, but this year they were taking on 6–10 measures.

The weather had been fine but cold until June 8. It rained on June 8, 9, and 10, and again on June 12 and 13. It was then fine until the end of the month.

July 11. The harvest started.

July 31. The SAC harvest finished. It had gone very quickly. The corn was standing upright, not lodged, almost all had been cut by combine, and because the weather had been dry there were almost no losses. The corn yielded well, and from the private plots the SAC gave seven metric cents per measure. The average yield this year from one hectare was 37 cents.

The whole of July had been dry.

The whole of August was dry.

There was little fruit this year, with no plums at all, and what there was fell from the trees

prematurely because of the drought.

Likewise there was little water, during the greater part of the day the water in the main was not flowing, and for drinking and cooking we had to fetch water from the well. The loudspeakers were continually reminding people to be economical with water from the main, and not to use it to water plants.

At the start of September, the SAC planted strawberries on the terraces in the vineyards.

September 16. The SAC laid on a celebration for its members to mark the tenth anniversary of the foundation of a "Standard Agricultural Co-operative". To this end, a handsome booklet had been produced which showed the ten years of activity of the co-operative, with photographs and with a short history of Těšany from the second half of the thirteenth century. The booklet was printed by the "Grafia" printing works, and every member received a copy. During the celebration, twenty members were called up for special mention, and they received diplomas and 250 crowns each.

The food was lavish. Four pigs had been killed, and a hundred trays of cakes baked. The celebration was attended by participants from the broadcasting service and by television cameramen, who took pictures of the central co-operative buildings, of the vines, and of the festive supper in the evening.

The first third of September had been warm and dry, then with rain and showers until September 15, then it cleared again although there were still a few showers.

During the first week of October, the SAC gathered the grapes. 450 cents of grapes were harvested.

Because the weather was favourable, the beet was being lifted, in the greater part by combine. The SAC was in no hurry. The reaping of hay seed was a complete failure this year because a plague of mice had destroyed it.

November. Owing to the favourable weather this year, the SAC lifted the beet quickly and without difficulty, the majority by combine. The crop was good, one sector yielding 460q per hectare. The SAC delivered 80 waggonloads over and above plan to the sugar factory.

On December 12, retired teacher Pavel Hanousek died. He had taught in Těšany since 1934, and since 1945 he had been the Těšany chronicler.

December 18. The SAC let it be announced that any member who cared to present himself at the SAC office with a one-litre bottle would receive a litre of wine for the festival, and that wine was on sale at 20 crowns per litre to anyone who wanted to buy. Further, each member's family could buy thirty eggs for Christmas from the co-operative at one crown each.

After the second world war, a charming custom grew up whereby on Christmas Eve people lit candles on the graves in memory of the dead. This year, the weather was exceptionally favourable, and on Christmas Eve both cemeteries were full of twinkling lights.

On New Year's Eve, village chairman Miroslav Dostal wished the inhabitants all the best for the New Year, and at the same time thanked them for their co-operation and understanding. All taxes had been paid, nobody owed anything, and furthermore a total of seven million crowns had been spent in the shops and refreshment places in the year just finishing.

On New Year's Eve we all went to Žatčany, where brother Antonín celebrated his 65th birthday and his retirement from work.

The following inhabitants died during 1967.

[no date]	Pavlina Petláková	No. 15	57 years old
March 15	Josef Chalupa	No. 271	72 years old
March 29	Josef Horák	No. 167	62 years old
April 22	Josef Jedlička	No. 75	51 years old
April 23	Ludvík Horák	No. 16	61 years old
September 25	František Dostal	No. 31	75 years old
October 10	Josef Vahala	No. 240	73 years old
October 20	Karel Dvořák	No. 215	59 years old
November 2	Josef Mandelik	No. 284	82 years old
December 12	Pavel Hanousek	No. 295	63 years old