

# Tabor Founder's Day Event Wednesday

By MILD HARTLEY  
P & D Associate Editor

**TABOR**—The Tabor community notes its founding and tradition of patriotism here Wednesday with a Bicentennial Founder's Day.

The events got underway with activities at the first Tabor school—a big cabin being restored by local Jaycees—at 7:30 p.m.

Activities then shift into the Heseda Hall at 8 p.m. for historical background on the founding of the town and the long held patriotism of the Czech immigrants in the Tabor area.

At opening ceremonies will be a presentation of flags to the community by Les Holgrensd, Yashton, chairman of the South Dakota Bicentennial Commission.

After the ceremonies will be presentation of a certificate of appreciation to the Jaycees for efforts involved in the Bicentennial and restoration of the old school.

Clarence Vlasak, chairman of the dedication committee for the Tabor annual Czech Days festival, will announce this year's honoree.

As activities shift to Heseda Hall, a Czech scene of the founding of Tabor in organizational meetings will be recreated as the community notes its birth April 8, 1872.

Early patriotic celebration in the town will be noted, and the speech of early pioneer Joseph Vytorny will be delivered in English as translated by Tabor Bicentennial Chairman Laddie Kostel.

Then six generations of the



JOSEPH VYTORNÝ  
Tabor Pioneer

Vytorny family will be recognized at the festivities.

Vytorny was Tabor's first mayor and was born in what is now Czechoslovakia in 1828. He came to the United States in 1868 with his family—his elderly father Joseph Vytorny, a wife and four daughters.

The family set out from Ely, Iowa, where they had lived two years in the spring of 1870 in an ox-drawn wagon for Dakota Territory.

Vytorny filed for a homestead a mile and a half north of Tabor where the family lived in the

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covered wagon until a sod house was constructed.

After farming the homestead for five years, Vytorny purchased a saloon in Tabor which he operated until 1891. After selling out, he moved to Tyndall for 10 years of retirement until returning to the family homestead operated by his son, Joseph, where he lived until his death in 1908.

One of the founders of the town of Tabor, Vytorny served as mayor for many years. He was also instrumental in organizing the first public school and the construction of the first Roman Catholic church built of chalk rock in 1874.

From the first, Tabor had a traditional July Fourth celebration. Vytorny spoke at the first celebration in 1873 at the log school which is currently being restored.

The first speech has been lost—but his speech for July Fourth in 1881 was written out in pencil for eventual translation this year for the Bicentennial.

The Founders Day observance Wednesday is part of a series of Bicentennial events scheduled this year by Tabor community residents.

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