CZECH WORDS CONTAINING NUMBERS

STANISLAV TVRDIK
Prague, Czechoslovakia

Editor's Note: Many English number-names can be imbedded in words (bONEr, wEIGHT, asNINE, atTEND) or split between two words (IT WOuld, boTH REEds, OF OUR, IF I'VE, is EVENtually); Martin Gardner exploited the latter idea in a Kickshaws quiz. Alternatively, the sounds of number-names can be embedded (WON­
der, TOOt, bEFORE, dictATE). Similar games can be played in Czech; in fact, writing short stories with numbers substituted in appropriate words is a common logological pastime. The following summary of Czech number-words was translated by Harry Par­

Many words and verbal compounds contain the letters of various numbers. These words may be presented so that at the appropriate place the symbol of the corresponding number is written instead of its letters. Examples:

1 JEDNAtel 1-tel (manager, editor, agent)
   (jedna is the feminine form of jeden = 1)
2 meDVëdi me-2-di (bears)
   (dvë is the feminine of dva = 2)
3 sTërik s-3-k (soda water)
4 (no examples given; however, it might be used by finding words to fit the patterns --ë tyñ-- or --ëty fi--, possibly in dialect)
5 zPET z-5 (back, as in 'there and back')
   kouPE Tësky kou-5-aëky (the purchase of a bag, of luggage)
6 kaSE STaëf ka-6-aëf (the gruel is enough)
7 (an incorrect example was given in one of the accompanying stor­
ies: 7-nul for sednul, 'sit down'. Actually, sedm = 7)
8 kOSMos k-8-os (cosmos)
9 buDE VëTërik bu-9-rik (there will be a breeze)
10 buDE SE Tëktë bu-10-kët (it will get woven)
0 pracovNICE pracov-0-e (worker)
   ohNU Laëf oh-0-t (I bend the thath)
   jeZERO je-0 (lake)
   paNIC KAële pa-0-ële (the youth coughs)
100 STOdola 100-dola (barn)
   kuSTOd ku-100-d (custodian)
100s pBlSTAv pBl-100 100-v (port, harbor)