

John Kroutil: Yukon Mills

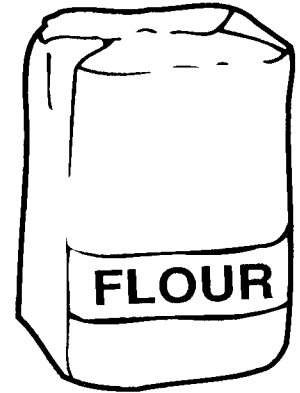
John Kroutil **immigrated** from Czechoslovakia with his parents in 1881. The family first settled in Nebraska before coming to Oklahoma Territory in 1890. John and his brother Frank purchased the Yukon Mill and Grain Company in 1902.

Other Czechs had **migrated** to the young **territory** in the **land runs** of the 1890s, north from Texas and south from Nebraska and Kansas. Because many had been wheat farmers in their **native** country, they grew wheat in the new land and were happy to take their grain to the Kroutil brothers, where they could do business in their **native tongue**.

Milling was an important industry in the early years of statehood. In 1910 the flour milling industry was by far the most productive. There were 295 plants and 842 workers. Total sales were \$19 million of the state's \$53 million industrial output. Yukon Mill and Grain Company was among the most successful, along with Shawnee Mills, owned by J. Lloyd Ford.

John Kroutil served as president of the Yukon Mill and Grain Company until his death in 1954. In 1912, he and his brother opened the Yukon National Bank. John Kroutil also served as president of the Yukon Electric Company, which was formed in 1907 after a steam-powered electric **generating plant** was built near the mill.

For his **philanthropy** and business leadership Kroutil was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1933. On June 12, 1954, he died of a heart attack on his farm near Piedmont, Oklahoma.



Vocabulary

immigrated— came into a foreign country to live

migrated— moved from one country, place, or locality to another

milling— processing in a mill (as by grinding into flour, meal, or powder or by shaping with a cutter)

native country— a particular country where someone was born

native tongue—the language a human being learns from birth

territory— a geographic area belonging to or under the control of a government