

*Following is the Richka-Kosiv website excerpted and translated into English.*

The Richka-Kosiv website title is 'Welcome to the official website of the village Richka.'

Below this are seven topics.

1. The folk people of Richka..

2. Recreation in Richka..

3. The history and interesting facts of the village Richka. The first fact is that the village was founded in 1694 by a 'rich lord' who built the first house by the river. The village Richka is on the river Richka. The Richka flows into the Rubinitzsa at Sokolvitsa near Kosiv.

4. The Richka School of Woodworking Arts. This is of most importance. Richka has been for centuries and still is a center for woodworking and other crafts. There is no school 'building' but rather the school is an association of cottage industry artists centered in Richka. Four portraits follow. The first is of the founder of the school. He was Marco Mehedynyuk (1903-1958). He crafted axes and plates and crosses out of wood. One of his crosses, called the 'plum cross', was made for the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph and is still on display in the Emperor's library. Tonyuka Yakaba Baseelobeecha (1886-1946) began work at age 19 and expanded the scope of the art. He added inlay of colored woods and produced many household utensils such as wine sets and other items such as chess games. He won the title Master of Folk Art. Ignat V Shatruck (1886- 1946) made boxes, picture frames and furniture. He introduced inlaid mother of pearl, beads and metal wire. The fourth photo is of I. U. Hreemalyuk (1904-1989) who was known for making tableware, salt shakers and vases. Ilko Kischuk (maybe related to the many Kishchuks of today) introduced copper inlay and the burning or scorching of the wood for decorative effect. Richka woodwork items are displayed in museums throughout Ukraine and in Poland. The large church in the village - Basil the Great church - is made entirely of wood.

5. 6. 7. These topics are about the district center Kosiv government and society. The Kosiv Institute for Folk Arts is located here. About 200 students are enrolled in classes for woodworking, leather working, metal working, painting, sculpture, clothing design, architecture, weaving, and computer-aided design.