

Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



**Prince, Princess, and Homestay Ambassadors Ride  
Czech Heritage Float in St. Joseph's Day Parade**  
(Story on page 3)

Volume 26 – Number 1 – March 2001

**Editor:** Russ Novotny

**Contributors:**

*Dan Baldwin*                 *Frank Novotny*  
*Jim Busta*                    *Linda Novotny*  
*Jerry Cada*                  *Michael Papich*  
*Olga Drahozal*              *Bob Stone*  
*Dusan Neumann*            *Jan Stoffer Tursi*

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***Naše České Dědictví***

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation who pay their annual dues of \$3.00 per person receive *Nase Ceske Deditvi* free. Dues are renewable on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and expire December 31<sup>st</sup>. The newsletter, which is mailed

quarterly, serves to inform its members of its activities, people, and places. Dues received in September apply to the following year for new members.

**December Newsletter Volunteers**

By Frank Novotny

It is always an enjoyable day when we get together to put the Nase Ceske Deditivi together for mailing. We met at the Frank Novotny home and were done by noon thanks to the following helpers: John & Adeline Volesky, Helen Cross, Arlene Netolicky, Emma Davidson, Mana Zlatohlavek, Peg Merta, Darlene Trachta, and Frank Novotny. A light lunch was enjoyed at noon.

We do want to express a sincere thank you to all the above and anybody else who helped getting the activity organized.

**Editor's Message**

by Russ Novotny

This issue is jam packed with news!

I'm especially pleased with the extensive coverage we have for our Homestay program. We will be following the adventures and experiences of our Homestay Ambassadors in future issues as well.

I must point out an interesting tie between our Czech Museum report on their new *20<sup>th</sup> Century Sensations* exhibit and Dusan Neuman's Guest story on his *Visit to Prague*. Upon arriving in Prague, Dusan was greeted by reminders of famous Czechs, similar to those being presented at our own museum. What a coincidence!

Another special story to note is our Historic Perspectives article by Jerry Cada on his parents *Coming to the United States*. It reminds me of a movie plot, and I truly thank them for sharing it with us. I'm sure others of you out there know of other exciting stories. Please share them with us and our readers.

If any of you have or are willing to develop materials that you feel would be of interest to our readership, please contact us at:

Newsletter Materials  
Czech Heritage Foundation  
P.O. Box 761  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

**December Newsletter Corrections**

I regret to report some errors and omissions from the December newsletter.

1. In the article on *Sutliff*, the inscription for the bridge

plaque was reported as being dated 1987, when, in fact, the plaque actually is dated 1887.

2. Pictures for the *Sutliff* and *House of Stone* articles were graciously provided by Mr. John McHugh of Windsong Photography, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mr. McHugh spent significant time visiting these sites collecting the pictures included. I regret failing to acknowledge him for this much appreciated effort.

## 2001 Czech Heritage Board Members & Officers

We are pleased to announce that we have some new additions to our Board this year (shown in *bold italics* in the list below). We have been extremely pleased to see these new members taking on an active role in our meeting and activities. Board members for 2001 are: Emma Davidson, Beula Dvorak, Denver Dvorsky, Frank & Barb Edmunds, David Faltis, ***Fern Fackler***, Jeanne Fee, Dennis Hrabak, Charles Krejci, David Krivanek, Frank Novotny, Russ Novotny, Sherlee Peterson, Leonard Pfeifer, ***Judy Serbousek***, John Rocarek, Sylvia Rohlena, Emil Velky, and Adeline Volesky. Adeline will server as our Corresponding Secretary.

The following picture shows our new officers at a recent meeting.



Left to Right:  
Dennis Hrabak – Treasurer  
Russ Novotny – Vice President  
Sylvia Rohlena – President  
Bula Dvorak – Membership  
John Rocharek – Secretary

## Cover Story: Czech Heritage Float

By Russ Novotny

The Czech Heritage float had a busy two weeks this Spring. First, it appeared in the Cedar Rapids' St. Patrick's Day parade, where it won 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Private Organization entries. The following week, the float won top honors in the St. Joseph's Day parade through Czech Village on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Cedar Rapids.

For many years now, Leonard Pfeiffer has been the vision and the manpower behind Czech Heritage floats. These floats consistently receive awards like those noted above for this particular float. The Czech Heritage Foundation wishes to thank Leonard for his commitment to so effectively putting Czech Heritage in the public's eye.



This particular float uses railings like those on the old 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge in Cedar Rapids that connected the East and West Czech settlements for so many years. That bridge has since been replaced by a more modern structure, which retains several of the styling themes from the earlier bridge. Note the new bridge's railings in the background of the picture on the cover of this Newsletter. That picture shows the float crossing that bridge. These railings bring back many memories to the Czechs of Cedar Rapids.

We were extremely pleased to have our young Czech Heritage representatives riding the float.

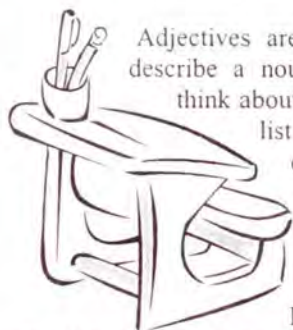


Left to Right:  
1. Sarah Fiala (Homestay Ambassador)  
2. Regina Hogan (Homestay Ambassador)  
3. Kit Wobeter (Homestay Ambassador)  
4. Bridget Samek (Homestay Ambassador & 2001 Czech Heritage Princess)  
5. Matt Samek (2001 Czech Heritage Prince)

## Czech Language Corner:

### Olga's Lesson 5

By Olga Drahozal



Adjectives are those colorful words which describe a noun. Some easy adjectives to think about are the colors. The following list applies to singular nouns. The dictionary will give you the -- "y" ending for masculine nouns, the --"a" ending for feminine nouns, and "--e" ending for neuter nouns.

Remember that we said all singular masculine nouns end in a consonant, most feminine nouns end in "a", (although a few end in "e") and neuter nouns end in --o" (although some will trip you up by ending in "--a").

Colors are a common adjective:

Color	Masculine, Feminine, Neuter
red	červený-á-é (chah-veh-nee,-ah,-eh)
white	bílý-a-é (bee-lee,-ah,-eh)
blue	modrý-á-é (mah-dree,-ah,-eh)
yellow	žlutý-á-é (zhloo-thee,-ah,-eh)
green	zelený-á-é (zeh-leh-nee,-ah,-eh)
purple	fialový-a-é (fee-yah-las-vee,-ah,-eh)
orange	oranžový-á-é (aw-rah-n-zhaw-vee,-ah,-eh)
black	černý-á-é (chah-nee,-ah,-eh)
brown	hnědý-á-é (hnyeh-dee,-ah,-eh)
pink (rose)	ružový-á-é (roo-zhaw-vee,-ah,-eh)
gray	šedivý-á-é: (sheh-dyee-vee,-ah,-eh)

#### TRANSLATE:

červený kabát (kah-bat)	_____	coat
černé auto (ah-oo-thaw)	_____	auto
bílý lístek (lee-stek)	_____	ticket
zelený strom (strawm)	_____	
zlutá lampa (lahm-pa)	_____	

In our last lesson we covered the verb "to have" (miti). In an effort to review, let's talk about "I don't have".

#### TRANSLATION EXERCISES:

Ja nemám auto.	I don't have an auto. (Notice: It's really I not have an auto.)
Ja nemáš auto?	You don't have an auto?
On nemá radio	He does not have a radio.

My nemáme piano.	We don't have a piano.
Vy nemáte museum?	You don't have a museum?
Oni nemají metro.	They don't have a metro.

Next issue: forming plurals.

## National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Reports:



### Report on NCSML History Conference in March *The Czech & Slovak 20<sup>th</sup> Century in Retrospect: 1900 – 1938*

By Dan Baldwin

The History and Culture Conference was an unqualified success. Registrants came from 20 states. Close to 250 people attended some part of the conference. The programs were excellent. Among the 18 speakers were university professors from across the country, the president of the Albin Polasek Museum, a former employee of the Bata Shoe Company in Zlin, the extraordinary writer and NCSML national advisory board member Michael Novak, and Ambassadors Martin Butora and Alexandr Vondra. Videos of the individual sessions can be purchased either by calling (319) 362-8500 or through our web site, <http://www.ncsml.org>

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century Sensations Opens May 24<sup>th</sup>



From moon rocks to tennis rackets, pop art to psychoanalysis, *20th Century Sensations* explores the remarkable impact Czechs and Slovaks have had on the world around us, in the arts, politics, business, science, and sports. Personal items, historic artifacts, fine art, and images will tell the

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stories of more than 30 fascinating individuals including Andy Warhol, Madeleine Albright, Martina Navratilova, Sigmund Freud, Franz Kafka, Astronauts James Lovell and Eugene Cernan, Milos Forman, Ray Kroc, Louis Brandeis, Jaromir Jagr, Stan Musial, and many more.

- **Andy Warhol** - Born in Pittsburgh to Slovak immigrants, the artist Andy Warhol defined pop art. On exhibit: Andy's cameras, one of the Marilyn Monroe prints, and a youthful portrait of Andy and his brother, artist Paul Warhola.
- **Tomáš G. Masaryk** - As large a figure in his day as Havel is today, Tomáš G. Masaryk was the revered first president of Czechoslovakia. On exhibit: his reading glasses and personal desk set.
- **Eugene Cernan** - Half Czech, half Slovak, Astronaut Eugene Cernan commanded the Apollo 17 mission, and was the last man to walk on the moon. On exhibit: moon rock.
- **Franz Kafka** - Though he wrote in German, the Czech literary giant Franz Kafka lived half a block from Prague Castle on Gold Lane. On exhibit: First edition of Kafka's The Trial.
- **Sigmund Freud** - Acknowledged as the father of psychoanalysis, the Moravian-born Sigmund Freud authored many books and corresponded with the intellectual giants of his times. On exhibit: Original letters between Freud and Albert Einstein, first editions of Freud's Interpretation of Dreams.
- **Vaclav Havel** - Respected internationally as a moral force for democracy and civil society, Vaclav Havel has been President of the Czech Republic since 1993. On exhibit: Pieces of the lock from his prison cell.
- **Emil Zatopek** - The greatest Olympic distance runner in history, Emil Zatopek won the 5,000, 10,000 and marathon at the 1952 Helsinki summer games, a record never bested. On exhibit: Olympic medals and photos.
- **Roman Hruska** - Nebraska Senator from 1952 – 1974, Roman Hruska was a strong supporter of the space program, and an icon to Czech fraternal and social organizations. On exhibit: Presidential awards, and Senatorial memorabilia.
- **Milos Forman** - Winner of Oscars for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Amadeus*, film director Milos Forman was born and began his career in Prague. On exhibit: shooting scripts and posters.

- **Martina Navratilova** - The dominant women's tennis player of her time, Martina Navratilova fled Communist Czechoslovakia to the West. On exhibit: tennis racket and trophies.
- **Stan Musial** - The greatest hitter in National League history, Stan Musial is a hero to baseball fans everywhere. On exhibit: Silver bat, uniform, ball, and glove.
- **Ray Kroc** - The inventor of fast food, Ray Kroc founded McDonald's and forever changed the way the world dines. On exhibit: Early McDonald's memorabilia.
- **Peter Stastny** - A National Hockey League Hall of Famer, Peter Stastny and his two brothers made up the famous "Stastny line" for the Quebec Nordiques in the 1980s. On exhibit: hockey gear.
- **Jim Lovell** - The astronaut Jim Lovell commanded the Apollo 13 mission, and uttered the famous words, "Houston we have a problem." On exhibit: Signed patch worn during the Apollo 13 mission, a medal presented to Lovell by the Czech government.

20<sup>th</sup> Century Sensations will also present the video *Enduring Spirit*. Produced by the American Friends of the Czech Republic, the video features George Halas, Eugene Cernan, James Lovell, Madeleine Albright, Martina Navratilova, and Ray Kroc.

Whether you are Czech or Slovak, a film buff, sports fan, art lover, or follower of world politics, *20<sup>th</sup> Century Sensations* will surprise, entertain, and illuminate as to the origins of Czech and Slovak influences on our contemporary culture.

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## ***101 Artists Come to the Czech & Slovak Museum, May 24***

Jan Stoffer, Tursi

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library will host a *101: Czech Artists of the Post-Revolution Decade*. This special photographic exhibition opens May 24, 2001. Photographer Chad Evans Wyatt introduces visitors to some of the most influential people of the 20th century through his dynamic photographs. The 40 photographs feature three generations of artists who are defining Czech culture through movies, books, sculpture, paintings, and music; their influence is even sensed in the United States. Admission to this special exhibition is included with the regular admission price of the museum galleries.

For a decade following the Velvet Revolution of 1989, Wyatt took portraits of artists at work in the Czech

Republic. His images of musicians, writers, actors, painters, and photographers are startling and evocative, revealing the subject's character as well as Wyatt's compositional skill with camera and film. This traveling exhibition has already received rave reviews in Prague, Czech Republic, and in Washington, D.C.

Wyatt will lead visitors on a guided tour of his work on May 24 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. At 11:00 a.m., he will sign copies of his book, 101: Artists in the Czech Republic.



## NCSML Kicks Off 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Houby Days Celebration May 18

Jan Stoffer Tursi

Houby Days is one of the most anticipated festivals of the year. This year's celebration, the 24<sup>th</sup> annual, will be held May 18, 19, and 20, 2001.



The festivities kick off with **A Taste of Czech & Slovak**. The Museum Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library invites you to indulge in their favorite Czech & Slovak foods. A great way to get into the flavor of Houby Days weekend!! The Taste will be Friday, May 18, 2001, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the WFLA Heritage Hall.

Throughout the school year, students and teachers have worked on projects about the people of the Czech and Slovak Republics. The NCSML is proud to have been a part of these award-winning endeavors. The public will have an opportunity to see what these young people have accomplished this year in a special, **temporary exhibition of these projects from Pierce Elementary, McKinley Middle School, and Prairie Middle School** in the South Hall.

Saturday, the NCSML will host Pine Wilson, folk dancer. Come on down and **learn some Czech and Slovak folk dancing, including the Maypole dance**. This free activity will be in the NCSML Garden at 10:00 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m.

The NCSML Garden Stage will be the setting for a fun and unique contest. Bring your lawn chairs and join the fun at the **button accordion contest Saturday at noon**. You will have a unique opportunity to hear this wonderful Czech instrument played by masters.

A **quilt and needlework show** will be held in the WFLA

Heritage Hall on Saturday and Sunday from noon – 4:00 p.m. Join us at the NCSML for a **Parade of Kroje** Sunday at 2:30 p.m. or following the parade. The NCSML Garden Stage will feature the colorful costumes of the Czech and Slovak Republics.

## Special Reports:

### Czech Summer School

By Olga Drazahol

The 131<sup>st</sup> consecutive year of Czech Summer School for children is scheduled from June 11<sup>th</sup> through July 13<sup>th</sup>. Classes are held at Wilson Middle School on J Street and Wilson Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. They will run Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM for five weeks. Students aged 5 through 13 may register on the first day of school. They will be divided into three classes based upon age and/or past experience. Fee for Czech School is \$15.00 per student or \$25.00 per family. A program at Wilson school on Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup> culminates the course.

### Homestay Program Update

By Russ Novotny



What a great reeling to have our Homestay Program back on track. We are busy preparing to send four more students to the Czech Republic for a month-long experience living as a part of a Czech family. We have already sent 49 youths on such an experience. Meet our new Homestay Ambassadors in the following article.

This recent resurgence of the program is due in large part to the efforts of Jeanne Fee. She located, and has been making arrangements with officials of a secondary school in Prague (see related article below on PORG), to find host families and coordinate activities there. We feel that this program is so important that the Czech Heritage Foundation has sent Jeanne to Prague to visit the host school and families to insure that the program will continue to be the success it was in the past.

The host school in Prague wishes to make this a two-way Homestay program. That is, they also wish to send some of their students here to spend time with our families and learn more about the United States. Please let us know if you might be interested in hosting a Czech High School student.

# Homestay Ambassadors Introduced

By The Homestay Ambassadors themselves

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Following are excerpts from the application that our Homestay Ambassadors submitted to be considered for participation in the Homestay program. These excerpts were generally taken from their answers to the question "Why do you want to spend a month in the Czech Republic?" As you will see, our selection committee did a fine job of selecting students who will represent us well and make the most of this wonderful opportunity.

## Kit Wobeter Toledo, IA South Tama County H.S.



I would like to spend a month in the Czech Republic because I could bring back many stories and experiences to tell to my family, friends, and others who want to learn more about life in the Czech Republic. A few of my relatives took a trip to the Czech Republic for three weeks in 1985, and I am sure they would love for me to go

to the Czech Republic and see the things that they enjoyed seeing. They even visited some relatives that live in Proseč and visited the house that my grandpa's grandpa lived in. Our family is proud of our Czech ancestry, and by going on this trip I could learn more about them. Also, I could share with my host family stories about life in the United States. They would probably be interested in hearing about traditions and other facts about the United States.

I could also bring new types of food that they have never heard of or tried, and my host family could give me different types of food to try. I could also learn about a culture that is different from the one I live in every day. I could learn some things about life that I may have missed in our rushed lifestyle. If I am near the country, I would like to see how they farm and what equipment they have compared with the techniques and equipment that we use on our farm. I am fairly educated on farmers' markets in surrounding towns, and it would be interesting to see what fruits, vegetables, and other items are sold in markets in the Czech Republic.

I would also like to meet people from another country and learn to communicate with someone whose language I am not fluent in. It would be interesting being in the Czech Republic for four weeks and to see how much of the language I would pick up with little prior learning.

Just the fact that I am traveling to a foreign and overseas country interests me. I am a person that likes to see new places and explore them. I have been reading in a magazine about traveling to foreign countries and exploring the countryside with very few expenses. This sounds like something that I would enjoy doing in the future. This is probably because both of my parents have traveled around the world and have had great experiences. My father was in the Peace Corps in 1973-1974, and he traveled to Kenya, India, Nepal, Singapore, Great Britain, and some islands in the South Pacific. My mother went on a trip to Russia for three weeks after her first year in college with the American-Soviet Friendship Tour in 1976. They had a good time, and they encouraged me to travel around the world with every opportunity that I have.

Since I am a runner and I train during the summer, I would have a once in a lifetime experience to run in a foreign country and run in new surroundings. I also like being independent. That is usually the way I like to learn or experience things. Although I will be with a host family most of the time, I will basically be on my own because it will take time to fit in with my family and learn enough of the language to have a conversation. After the trip is over, the experience from giving presentations and talking about my trip will be a benefit to me later in life.

I hope to contribute much to my host family. As I have said before, I hope to share traditions, customs, and stories about the United States. I could also have different types of food to share with them. I could also help cook an American meal and tell them about American meals. I would also help do family chores and participate in family activities. I would do everything I could to blend in with the family and help them do daily jobs.



Kit with Parents Berleen & Pete Wobeter

## Bridget Samek Cedar Rapids, IA Xavier High School

I want to spend a month in the Czech Republic because I think it will be a good experience. I love to travel and meet new people. I also like to learn new things. One of my hobbies is photography and I love to see different countries and photograph them. European countries have so much more history than the United States and to

capture it on film is a wonderful adventure. I would also like to see the country that so many of my relatives came from.

I love to meet new people. I am very outgoing and have no trouble getting to know people. I would like to share experiences from my life with them like I hope they will do with me. I am helpful and would be happy to help with any chores or jobs they would like me to do. I am also an organized person.



From this experience, I hope to gain the knowledge of what it is like to live in another country. I would also like to see how other people in the world live. Every time I go to the Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, I always see what the Czech Republic used to be like but never what it is now. It gives the impression that the Czech Republic is still in the Middle Ages. I know it's not, but I don't know what it is. I would like to see how they really live.



Bridget with Parents Richard & Elaine Samek

**Regina Hogan  
Earlville, IA  
Beckman High School**

To go to the Czech Republic and see exactly how Czech families operate would be rewarding. Having the chance to go to museums and landmarks that tell the story of my relatives would be incredibly satisfying. Seeing the land that my ancestors, as farmers, toiled over for years would also



be interesting. Getting to know the landscape, which is bound to be very different considering I live in a very flat part of Iowa, will be a unique experience in itself. More appealing than any of that though, will be the opportunity to come back to the United States and share all the knowledge that I will have acquired with my family and friends.

As this is a cultural exchange, I should hope to provide my family with an understanding of the American/Czech culture that I am used to. This I would do simply through my actions and words. What I mean by that is I would cook them a meal or two "American style", and talk in English from time to time, because I'm sure that they will want to try out their English on me as much as I would want to try out my Czech on them. I would share stories about life and living in the United States. So that they can gain a better understanding of the country that I come from, I would also share stories about school, and friends, and how they differ from the US to the Czech Republic.

I would think that I would be able to blend in as part of the family, and not be so much a guest, but more a member of that family, for the month that I spend there, by helping out in anyway that I can. In this way, I would enlighten them as to the life that I lead here in the United States.

I cannot even begin to write how enthusiastic I am about this trip. I want to absorb as much information as I can about my relatives, and this would be a wonderful way to do it. An experience like this would not only give me stories to tell upon my return, but it would also give me stories to tell my children.



Regina with Mother Margaret Hogan  
(Father John Hogan not pictured)

**Sarah Fiala  
Cedar Rapids, IA  
Xavier High School**

I believe that spending a month in the Czech Republic would be the experience of a lifetime. Very few people ever get the chance to experience a change in culture such as this trip offers. It would provide a connection between the people of Iowa and the people of the Czech Republic. I think it would be



a wonderful chance for me to truly discover what it means to be a person of Czech descent.



I would be open to their ways of life, and I would share with them what it is like to be an American. I would serve as a bridge between both communities.

I hope to gain insight into the Czech way of life. I think it will be an eye-opening experience. I hope that I would make a real connection.



Sarah Joins in the Fun at Our St. Joseph's Dance



Sarah with Parents John & Theresa Fiala

## Homestay Host School - PORG

Excerpts from PORG Materials and Web Site

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** PORG (První Obnovené Reálné Gymnázium) is the secondary school in the Czech Republic that is helping coordinate our Homestay program. School officials helped recruit host families from the student body, and our Homestay Ambassadors will spend the first week of their visit in Prague with their host students attending classes and school events with them. PORG officials are also working to sponsor a reciprocal project where PORG students will spend time with host families here in Cedar Rapids.



## BASIC FACTS

*Education is what remains after we forget everything we learned at school. (Karel Oapek)*

PORG is a co-educational, nonsectarian institution, and the first independent secondary school in the Czech Republic.

The PORG project was initiated in January 1990, immediately following the Velvet Revolution. As the first independent secondary school in Czechoslovakia it opened its door to students on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1990, in the presence of the Minister of Education.

PORG is a highly selective 8 year secondary school, modeled after the Reform Secondary School, a type common in the pre-war Czechoslovakia. These schools were designed to provide a balance between the education based on classical studies (i.e. Latin and Greek) and the education based on mathematics and science. This enables a student to experience a full range of studies; not only does he/she learn to differentiate between the disciplines, he/she can also determine where his/her interests lie.

Our students and teachers are not confined to the state regulated curriculum; they are able to choose both their own areas of study and methods of teaching.

Each of our grades has a maximum of 24 students. This size is ideal for both group work and individual work. We strive to provide an environment which emphasizes academic excellence and encourages the fullest development of the young personality. Our teaching staff is made up of a group of highly qualified, enthusiastic, and open-minded men and women.

Our curriculum focuses on problem solving and independent decision making, with a concern for the environment and timeless cultural values. PORG's ultimate goal in this approach towards education is the development of a creative intellect.

## INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

PORG has organized a number of exchange visits and trips with secondary schools all over Europe. Our students have had a chance to share experience with students from Great Britain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Israel, the United States, and Poland. We intend to expand these activities as we consider them essential for our students' ability to cooperate with people from abroad.

## HEADMASTERS' WORDS

**Ondřej Štefl, the founder and first headmaster of PORG:** During the period of the communist rule in Czechoslovakia our educational system greatly suffered. Several months before the Velvet Revolution a group of friends and I got together and discussed the possibility of the creation of a different type of school with a different

educational approach. We wanted a school that would be free from ideology. We wanted a school that would focus on the needs of the individual student rather than on the needs of the state. We wanted to introduce new aspects of education aimed at the development of creative thinking, the ability to deal with problems, the strengthening of the individual responsibility; these characteristics may be commonplace in other parts of the world, but were hardly present in Czechoslovakia in 1990.

**Václav Klaus, the Headmaster of PORG:** Now, after six years of its existence, PORG has grown into a well-established school with many excellent and highly motivated students and teachers. It continues with its efforts to find new alternative ways of education and preparing students for the rapidly changing future world. Methods we use include various forms of projects, many of them being international, special courses, team teaching, etc. The feeling that we go in the right direction arises not only from favorable responses from our students and their parents, but also from the fact that students leaving PORG after their final examinations are highly successful in entrance examinations at Universities. Many of them are studying at faculties of philosophy, law, social sciences, medicine.

In 1994 we were ranked as the best independent gymnasium in the country by the Czech School Inspection as regards the level of students' knowledge in various subjects.

PORG permanently attracts the attention of media. There have been more than 90 articles published about PORG, including one in the Times, and massive coverage on TV and radio channels. We are open to all ideas or other forms of help and co-operation. I would like to thank our sponsors and supporters and turn to anybody willing to support us in the future. Do not hesitate to contact us.

PORG  
Lindnerova 3  
190 00 Praha 8-Liběň  
Czech Republic

Email: [Klaus@porg.cz](mailto:Klaus@porg.cz)

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## Komensky Society Awards Scholarships

By Bob Stone

The Komensky Society has announced the names of five high school seniors who will each receive a \$500 scholarship from the Society. The special Viasteny Scholarship was awarded to Natalee Offerman of Center Point-Urbana High School, and regular scholarships to Darren M. Blaha, Xavier High School, Isaac A. Bowers, Alburnett High School, Jessica B. Long, Jefferson High

School, and Dustin R. Mallie, Lisbon High School.

The purpose of the Komensky Society is to provide aid for the education of students of Czech or Slovak ancestry. To be eligible students must graduate from a Linn County High School and must attend a college, university or other approved school in the State of Iowa. The awards are made for one year only.

The society is named after Jan Amos Komensky (1592-1670) who was a world famous Czech educator, scholar and philosopher who introduced modern educational methods and textbooks throughout Europe during his lifetime. He is often referred to as "The Teacher Of Nations".

The current officers and board members are: Bob Stone, President, Marge Stone, Vice President, Jan Naxera, Secretary., Vic Naxera, Treasurer, Charles Opatmy, Director, and Florence Ramsey, Director. Anyone who is interested in joining The Komensky Society, contributing to the fund, or securing more information, may call any of the officers or directors. Bob Stone.

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## St. Joseph's Dance Report

By Frank Novotny



The Czech Heritage Foundation was blessed with good weather, a wonderful attendance, and a rewarding response to our St. Joseph's Dance on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at the P2 Retiree Hall.



Jim Busta from Minnesota, played wonderful music for listening and dancing pleasure. Mike Lassack helped to keep the crowd moving and move it did.

### Everyone Got into the "Swing" of the Chicken Dance

We had about 327 tickets turned in at the door, which caused us to be overcrowded for space. As a result, we have contracted Jim Busta for music and the Elks Club for the afternoon of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002, 2:00-6:00 PM.



We had a very good response from the former Homestay Students, and also from all of our members. We had 60 prizes that were donated by members (thank you), which we gave away at three different drawings for door prizes. We also had 18 wonderful prizes that were given away as raffle prizes.



Frank Edmunds, Frank Novotny, Homestay Students, and Czech Prince & Princess (Past & Present) Helped Pass out Raffle & Door Prizes

The Bake Sale table was a terrific success as well as the light lunch that we served.



All in all, we took in over \$3,800 for our efforts and as a result, the Homestay and Scholarship Fund each received right at \$1,500 for their share of the earnings.

All this wouldn't be possible if we didn't have some dedicated people in our group. At this time I would like to personally, and in behalf of our Foundation, give a sincere thank you to Evelyn Stejskal who turned in \$1,100 in donations and tickets sold. Thank You! Following is a list of the people Evelyn contacted and who helped her collect these funds:

- Hy Vee Stores
- Roland Wilbert Vault Co.
- Cedar Memorial and Turner Funeral Homes
- Drug Town, Wilson Avenue
- Murdoch Funeral Home
- Brosh Funeral Homes, Cedar Rapids & Solon
- Iowa Valley Monument
- Jiruska Enterprises
- Papich Kuba Janeba Funeral Homes
- Stalker Electric
- Bartunek Appliance 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Al and Irene's Barbeque
- Teahans Funeral Home

- Stejskal florist
- Save A Lot, J. St. SW
- Hawkeye Seed Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SE
- Carver Ace Hardware, Wilson Ave. SW

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Elks club on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2002, 2:00-6:00 PM. We will have the Jim Busta Band providing good music, and room for 450 in the lovely Elks Hall.

## St. Joseph's Dance Thank You

By Jim Busta

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Thanks to the Jim Busta Band for helping us to have such a successful Dance. Following are excerpts from the Thank You note we received from Jim.

Dear Friends:

Thank you for the invitation to play at the CR. Czech Heritage/St. Joseph's Day Dance. We had a great time performing and by the response of the people in attendance, they also enjoy our performance. What a crowd!!!! It was great to see so many friends going back to the days when I lived in Cedar Rapids. The enthusiasm of the crowd was great. We had many people ask us if we would be back next year ...



... Once again, we had a wonderful time Sunday, and we would welcome the opportunity to return for future engagements.

Sincerely, Jim Busta

## Historic Perspectives:

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Here's a new feature. Chuck Jungman has been doing illustrations of some of his fond memories of the past. He calls the series "Do You Remember". Chuck has agreed to let us publish several of these images. I'll be including others in future issues to "tickle" your memories too. If any of these remind you of a story you'd be willing to share, please contact me and perhaps, you too can become a published author.

## Jungman's *Do You Remember?*



## Coming to the United States

By Jerry Cada (Son of Marie & James)



Marie & James (Vaclav) Cada - 1985

Living in Czechoslovakia at the end of World War II was a difficult time. The Communist party dramatically increased in membership through 1947, largely due to the influence of the Russians who remained in Czechoslovakia after the war. However, in late 1947, the economy began to decline as jobs were scarce and industry and agriculture began to suffer. Elections were to take place in the spring of 1948, and the Communist party feared it may lose its control. In an effort to support

any opposition, they began to use force to take over the government. They also required every government employee to become a member of the Communist Party.

Vaclav and Marie Čada who lived in the town of Petrohrad, were both government employees. Vaclav, who worked on the railroad during the war, was a member of the State Police (Státní Nebezpečnost), and Marie was a schoolteacher. As life in Czechoslovakia became more difficult, they made up their minds that they would not join the party and knew that they would eventually have to leave the country. The event that made up their mind occurred the morning of March 10th, 1948 when Jan Masaryk was found dead outside Černin Palace. Jan Masaryk, who was the son of the first President of Czechoslovakia, was the Czech Foreign Minister and a member of the National Socialist Party. He was a thorn in the side of the Communist Party membership. He had fallen out of a window and plunged several stories to his death. The government ruled it a suicide, but investigations pointed to the probability that he was murdered by being pushed out the window. Following this tragedy, Vaclav and Marie Čada decided they had to leave the country.

The Čadas told the School Administrator of their plans. He knew of a former student, Alois Horak, who also wanted to leave and arranged a meeting between the Čadas and Mr. Horak to plan their escape. Two friends of Mr. Horak's also wanted to leave and a date was set for all five to escape--March 20, 1948.

On March 19, the day before the planned escape, Vaclav and Alois borrowed a car and drove along the planned escape route. They were not stopped at all by the police, border patrols, or soldiers. It appeared that the plan would work.

On the morning of March 20th Louisa boarded a bus for Prague, but disembarked the bus at a town called Krupa. There he met his two friends and another friend who had agreed to drive them to the border. Meanwhile, Vaclav was called to the police station to receive orders of where he would be stationed and was detained longer than expected. Marie became worried when Vaclav didn't return from the station as planned and was startled by a knock at her front door. It was her cousin from Prague, who had taken the morning train and was paying her a surprise visit. Marie explained to her what was happening and her cousin agreed to go to the police station to retrieve Vaclav. In the meantime, Alois arrived at the house wondering what had happened as they were running almost an hour late. A short time later Vaclav arrived. After tearful good-byes, the five were on their way.

Arriving in the town of Bochov, they stopped for bread, salami, and something to drink. An SNB officer saw Vaclav and asked him where they were going. When Vaclav said they were on their way to Cheb, the police officer asked to ride along since he needed to go there as well. Vaclav told him they had no extra room in the car.

In the town of Karlovy Vary they experienced car problems and after spending time at a service station, they were on their way again. Shortly before they arrived in Cheb, they pulled over and the men changed into police uniforms that Vaclav had provided for them. As they neared Cheb, they were stopped by Czech soldiers. Vaclav spoke with them and they were waved on. They were stopped four more times between Cheb and the Czech-German border. Each time they were asked where they were going and why they were driving a car from Prague. After they had passed the last town before the border, they felt they would have a better chance of making it across on foot rather than in a car. They stopped near a cemetery, jumped out of the car and began to run toward the border. They ran past the cemetery, along some railroad tracks, through a small field and into a patch of timber towards another field. As they ran through the timber and into the clearing they heard "cracking" noises behind them. A few hundred yards away, coming out of the woods, were two SNB officers shooting at them with a pistol and a machine gun. The group ran down the hill towards the creek that separated the Czech-German border. The creek was deep because of the melting snow. Alois Horak was the tallest and he jumped in first. Within a few steps the water was chest deep. His two friends followed. Vaclav had lost his pistol while running down the hill and had stopped briefly to try to find it but then also headed for the creek. Marie was small in stature and couldn't swim, and knew she would not be able to make it across. She stood by the creek and told them to leave her there and to save themselves. But Vaclav shouted for Horak to come back and help. Horak and Vaclav carried Marie across the creek toward the German Border Guard who was watching what was happening. As soon as they made it across the creek, the German guard began shooting back towards the Czech SNB and blowing his whistle. He waved the Czech guards back and shouted that these people were now safely in Germany.

*The irony of that moment was that just three years earlier, the Germans were their enemies because of the war and now, they were saved by a German from their own people!*

The five went to the German Guard Post with the German guard and since the Čada's spoke fairly good German, they told them why they escaped. Vaclav had cigarettes inside one of his layers of clothing, exchanged the cigarettes for some food. Because of the poor economy, cigarettes were a wanted commodity.

After they ate, they walked with the guard to a nearby town. Here the guard took them to the police station where they spent the night.

The next day they were taken to the German town of Tierschenreuth. There the three men were taken to a train that was headed for a temporary camp at Regensburg. The Čada's remained for a couple of days to meet with an American Army Intelligence Officer who wanted to

know what the political climate was and how life was in Czechoslovakia. They were then transported to the refugee camp at Dieburg. The camp at Dieburg was a converted old school house and provided sleeping accommodations for 38 to 40 people. Small wooden beds lined each room, and this is where refugees lived for many months.

The Čada's became good friends with a couple by the name of Havelka. They were from the same political party as Mr Čada. Mr Havelka was also good friends with the former Czech Ambassador to Sweden, who was now living in Sweden. In late August, an opportunity came to go to work for a factory in Sweden that made electric transformers and motors.

On September 9, 1948 Vaclav and Marie boarded a train which took them through Northern Germany and Denmark. The train ride was very sad as much of Germany was in ruins from the war. Buildings, houses, bridges, and roads were destroyed all throughout Germany. They were transported from Denmark to Sweden by boat.

They arrived in Sweden on September eleventh and settled in the town of Vasteras. Mr. Čada began working at a company called ASEA (Now ABB). Later that year the Čada's were blessed with a son and two years later a daughter.



**Marie & James Čada  
Afternoon Walk in Sweden, 1948**

Vaclav and Marie heard what a great country America was and decided they wanted to come to the USA. In 1951 they applied for Visas to come to the United States of America, and June of 1952 they were granted permission to come. They sold all their belongings and received some financial assistance from the Catholic Youth Organization and International Red Cross. They

boarded a ship that took them back to Germany where they spent a few days in a refugee camp. Finally they boarded the "General Taylor", which was a converted military transport ship, bound for the United States of America.



**U.S.N.S. General Harry Taylor (T-AP145)  
Ship the Cadas came to America on. Mr. Cada slept  
on the lowest level and Mrs. & child on the upper**

They arrived in New York on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1952. Upon leaving the ship they were met by a representative from the Czechoslovak National Council organization that assisted Czech immigrants coming to America. Once they cleared customs, they were taken by bus to Chicago. Here they worked and lived. In 1961 they moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa where they live today. Another son (Jerry) was born in 1962.

Although they physically left Czechoslovakia behind, they brought the old country with them in their hearts. They keep the Czech traditions as part of their lives. They have retained their pride in their heritage, while experiencing a love for a country which has allowed them the democratic freedoms they deeply desire.

The remaining members of the group came much later to America. They also eventually settled in the Chicago area.

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## ***Guest Column:***

### **A Visit to Prague**

By Dusan Neumann

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Our Guest Article this issue is from Dr. Dusan Neumann, a foreign correspondent for the Czech magazine, "Tyden." About the time of our last Presidential Election, Dusan visited the Czech Republic. His observations are particularly fitting as the Czech & Slovak Museum & Library prepares their exhibit of famous Czechs. We appreciate his analysis and opinions, and hope that he will continue to provide other guest columns in the future. Thank you, Mr. Neumann.

Only an eight hour long flight separates New York from Prague, but what a different world. The picture that dominated front pages of Czech newspapers when I arrived was a photograph of American. It was not George Bush or Al Gore who attracted the attention of journalists, but the astronaut James Lovell, the captain of Apollo 13, who visited the land of his ancestors for the second time. His grandparents immigrated to the US from a little village in Southern Bohemia. He brought with him the Czechoslovakian flag he had on the board of stricken ship. Lovell gave this flag to his Czech relatives.

Strangely, it is not the first Czechoslovakian flag that was in space on the American cosmic ship. On the wall of the National Astronomical Observatory hangs another flag. This one is a present from the astronaut Eugene Cernan who had carried this flag on the Moon's surface during the mission of Apollo 17. Also Eugene Cernan's grandparents came to America from Southern Bohemia.

The American presidential candidates are not forgotten in Prague. A column commenting on the last days of the campaign revolves around their position on European affairs. The subtleties of Social Security reform, the campaign reform, and the tax reform did not make more than three lines. Czechs hardly see any difference between both candidates, but their preferences incline more towards George W. Bush, because they remember the spontaneous reception given to his father, who was the first American President ever to visit Prague.

But the educational reform here is also of major public concern. The Department of Education just sent to the Czech Parliament the draft of law that will require a mandatory teaching of two foreign languages in high schools. So far a knowledge of one foreign language is required for a student to graduate from the high school. In the new system students will start to learn the first language in the third grade and the second one in the sixth grade.

To graduate from a high school every student will have to pass mandatory examinations from Czech language, mathematics, foreign language and two elective subjects - all sanctioned by the Department of Education. Only complex education is seen as a valid vehicle for successful integration into modern Europe.

On the surface Prague is a booming city. The traffic, shops, lights - not much different from any capital in Europe. But not everything is rosy in this heart of Europe. The socialized health care system was abolished in favor of something modeled after our HMOs with similar results. The unemployment exceeds 10%, the cost of energy is climbing, and the value of Czech crown is dropping. For American tourists it is a blessing - a dinner in a good restaurant costs - with a tip included - around five dollars. And they can meet in those restaurants other Americans - like James Lovell, Bruce Willis, or Barbara Streisand.

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Membership dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Why not consider a gift membership for someone special? Your dues and generous donations help to fund several worthwhile endeavors such as Czech Prince and Princess sponsorship, financial support for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, adult Czech language classes, the Homestay Program, along with publishing the quarterly *Naše České Dědictví*, and other numerous publications. The list of Czech Heritage projects goes on and on.

**It is time to renew your membership, unless you are a new member. Memberships expire December 31 and are renewable January 1. Use this handy Membership Renewal Application form. Don't forget. Renew now so you won't miss a single information packed issue of *Naše České Dědictví*.**

**Please renew today! A Bargain at \$3.00 per year**

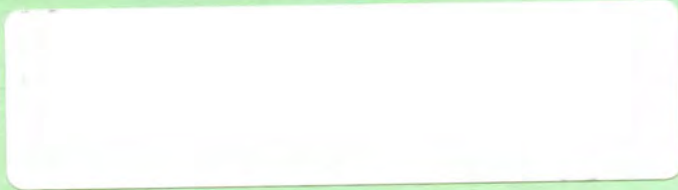
## Calendar of Events

May	8	Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting- Museum, 7:00 PM
	18	Summer Concert Series, Czech Plus Band – Kosek Bandstand, 7:00 PM
	18-20	Houby Days – Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, IA
	24	20th Century Sensations: Czechs, Slovaks, and Popular Culture Exhibit Opens - Museum
	24	101 Czech Artists of the Post-Revolution Decade Exhibit Opens - Museum
	25	Summer Concert Series, Czech Plus Band – Kosek Bandstand, 7:00 PM
June	7	Porcelain Painting Class – Museum, 6:30-8:30 PM (also June 14 & 21)
	8	Summer Concert Series, Czech Plus Band – Masaryk Park, 7:00 PM
	12	Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting - Museum, 7:30 PM
	21	Learn at Lunch: "Radio Days" - History of the first "Czech" Radio Programs - Museum
	22	Summer Concert Series, Czech Plus Band – Kosek Bandstand, 7:00 PM
	24	Life Long Learning: "Verboten: Music and Art Banned by the Nazis" Lecture/Recital - Museum
July	5	Film: "The Competition" (1963) – Museum, 6:30 PM
	6	Summer Concert Series, Czech Plus Band – Museum Garden Stage, 7:00 PM
	10	Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting - Museum, 7:30 PM
	12	Film: Loves of a Blonde" (1965) – Museum, 6:30 PM
	19	Film: "The Fireman's Ball" (1967). – Museum, 6:30 PM
	20	Summer Concert Series, Czech Plus Band – Sokol Park, 7:00 PM
	26	Learn at Lunch: "Shop 'Till You Drop – Christmas Markets in Prague" Museum
Aug.	3	Summer Concert Series, Czech Plus Band – Kosek Bandstand, 7:00 PM
	5	Muzika Muzika (Music Music). Czech Heritage Singers. – Museum, 2:00 PM
	14	Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting - Museum, 7:30 PM
	16	Film: "Madeleine Albright" - former United States Secretary of State – Museum, 6:30 PM
	17	Summer Concert Series, Czech Plus Band – Kosek Bandstand, 7:00 PM
	23	Film: "Andy Warhol" (1987) - influential 20th century artists – Museum, 6:30 PM
	30	Film: "Milos Foreman" (2000) - great 20th century directors – Museum, 6:30 PM
	31	Summer Concert Series, Czech Plus Band – Kosek Bandstand, 7:00 PM
Sept.	11	Czech Heritage Annual Picnic - Z.C.B.J. Park in southwest Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 6:30 PM.
	14	Summer Concert Series, Czech Plus Band – Kosek Bandstand, 7:00 PM

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### **Czech Out These Web Sites**

Travel to the Czech and Slovak Republics from the comfort of your own home. Read a Czech newspaper (in Czech if you want). Research your Czech/Slovak roots. The web contains more sites and information related to our heritage than any of us will ever have time to fully explore. Try some of these sites out.

Cedar Rapids Czech Village (recent Gazette articles, clickable map, village-related web sites, recipes, photo tour)  
<http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/village/index.htm>

National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library Dedication - Special reports and related articles (1995)  
<http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/czech/index.htm>

National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (be sure to try their link to "Other Web Sites")  
<http://www.ncsml.org/>

Czech Republic  
<http://www.czech.cz/>

Czech Links  
<http://slavic.ohio-state.edu/people/yoo/links/czecho.htm>

Prague Castle  
[http://www.hrad.cz/index\\_uk.html](http://www.hrad.cz/index_uk.html)