

PŘÍHODY

"happenings"

Vol. 1., No. 1. June 1976



The Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.

P. O. BOX 761

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406



VITAME VAS ! WELCOME !

GREETINGS ! NAZDAR !

OUR FIRST EDITION. This first newsletter brings members up-to-date on what has taken place and some events that are yet to come.

Please consider this copy as an experiment. The format and title pages are not perfect or in final form. So those of you who can create designs and styles of lettering and drawings, please send them to Czech Heritage. We will be more than happy to take your contributions.

In forthcoming issues we would like to have your remarks and your questions. Write to us and we will have a better idea of what you want to hear and what you think.

MEMBERSHIPS

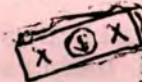
As of June 1, 1976 our paid up memberships number 468. Do invite your family, relatives, and friends to join, at the present \$2.00 dues for each person. Some of you have been members since August 1975! YOU are the ones who sparked the idea - SO, let's keep it glowing!

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

Twice a month the Board of Directors of Czech Heritage Foundation meet at the 1st Trust and Savings, at noon, on the first and third Wednesday. The meetings last about an hour. Some of the recent business has been about the following items:

1. delays in completing the Cedar Rapids-Plzen "Sister-City" project

2. selection of a "logo" design as a trademark for the Village.
3. design for a certificate of Czech ancestry
4. reports on suggestions and further inquiries about Museum and Library plans, etc.



DONATIONS



In 1975, donations totaled \$1133.00. Thirty-four people gave amounts ranging from \$100.00 to \$1.00. A summary shows this:

6 @ \$100.	\$ 600.00
1 @ 75.	75.00
5 @ 50.	250.00
2 @ 25.	50.00
6 @ 5.	30.00
1 @ 4.	4.00
2 @ 1.50	3.00
1 @ 1.	1.00
12 @ 10.	120.00

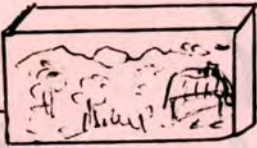
As of June 1, 1976, there were 14 donations and 4 memorial contributions. Two donations were for \$25., 5 for \$10. each, and 7 ranged from \$6. to \$1.00. Recently \$33.00 were given to the Foundation for talks on our Czech Heritage from 3 different groups and from a friend of the speaker. The total of all donations: \$ 123.00. .

The first two Memorial Funds were for Jerry Drahovzal and Godfrey Jandik. The most recent memorial of \$30.00 was in the names of Olga and Frank Chramosta.

As you read on, you will learn about still another kind of memorial for the Museum and still another memorial for the Bandstand .

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AND A MUSEUM BOX!



Also, a \$200. memorial has been designated for a "diorama" by a family. Until such a diorama can be ready and the Museum in order, no further announcement will be made.

What is a diorama? It is a box with glass on one side so you can see the inside which will a miniature of a farm scene, or the interior of a Czech home, or a street scene, or landscape. Usually these "views" are of olden times and show historical "pictures".

* To ALL DONORS and CONTRIBUTORS *
* the Board of Directors of the *
* Czech Heritage Foundation is *
* grateful and sends its sincere *
* appreciation for all of these *
* worthwhile and meaningful *
* gifts. *
* Our community will learn more *
* about our Czech heritage and *
* culture, visitors will find *
* the Czech Village worth a visit *
* THANK YOU! THANK YOU! *



BOOKS for the CZECH LIBRARY!

"Friends of the City Library" are now collecting books

for the big sale in September. Some donated books are in Czech. I have seen them and they are just what we can have for our collection.

So far, more than 20 books are set aside. The plan is for us to replace Czech books with and equal number of good hardback books in English. Some of you must have books you are willing to donate to Czech Heritage so we can exchange them for the Czech books.

Let me hear from you in writing or phone as to what you have and how many books you will give to the book drive. M.Melvina Svec.

**On 16th AVENUE OF NEARBY

June 11,12,13 St.Ludmila Kolach Festival Days
Sept. 10,11. Czech Days on 16th Avenue SW

** At HAWKEYE DOWNS

July 18 Czech Day at the Fair

** C.R.SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Oct. 9 and 11 All Czech music concert. Soloist a Czech violinist.
Dec. The premier of the special Karl Husa composition for our Bicentennial events.

** ELSEWHERE, CZECH FESTIVALS

June 20,21,22 Tabor, South Dakota
July 15,16 Traer, Iowa
August 7,8 Wilber, Nebraska
Sept. 12 Sokols, South Omaha
Oct. 2. Yukon, Oklahoma



OUR STORY 1975-76

Our 1st organization was the Czech Czech Heritage Foundation, the "parent". Then came the Czech Fine Arts Foundation and the Czech Village Association. The \$2.00 dues entitles one to be a member of both Foundations with checks payable to the Czech Heritage Foundat'n.

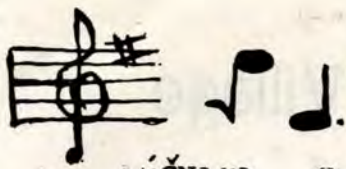
Kris Barta sends out the membership cards and keeps a card file.

The secretary has a complete file of members for use in mailing out notices, letters, and "PRÍHODY".

The secretary also keeps the records of DONATIONS and writes letters to the donors on behalf of the Board to thank these people and also for memorial funds. The family whose member is memorialized also receives a letter.

Museum and Library donations will be acknowledged by the Secretary of the Fine Arts Foundation.

- President: Adolph Topinka,
- V.President: Raphael Snitil
- Treasurer: George Chmelieck
- Secretary: M.Melvina Svec



Czech Fine Arts Foundation



LÚČNICA CONCERT

The sold-out house that greeted the SLOVAK FOLK DANCERS is proof that Cedar Rapidsians are truly hungry for Czech concerts and programs.

Rollie Raim reported that the Director of the Dance Group rated the facilities of the Paramount Theater for the Performing Arts next to tops. Even so, much needs to be done to bring up standards in the theater. Here are a few of the needs: restoring the former elegance of the original decor, new stage curtains, new carpeting and upholstering.

The costs of labor and materials will be major items. So, when the drive for funds for refurbishing the theater gets under way, let's all give it our support \$ \$ \$ \$\$\$



LISTEN ! the BAND !

The Paul and Stanley Kosek Families have matched the \$2500. grant for a real special BANDSTAND to make the sum of \$5000. needed to build such a structure. The Kosek donation is in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Kosek, long time supporters of our Czech heritage.

The bandstand will be in the 16th Avenue area. Soon you will see it and then enjoy the kinds of entertainment it makes possible.

The design reminds one of the old-time bandstands in parks and like those you still can see in places like Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) or Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad) in Czechoslovakia.

TO COME LATER

The Fine Arts Foundation is cooperating with the Cedar Rapids Symphony in co-sponsoring a Czech concert October 9th, a Saturday, and October

CZECH DAYS ON WILSON AVENUE

Czech Days at the Wilson Avenue DRUG TOWN were featured on the 9th and 10th of May, a Friday and a Saturday. The display of Czech glassware and garnets was viewed and enjoyed by hundreds of people on those two days. All employees of DRUG TOWN wore Czech costumes of varied styles, typical of different regions of Czechoslovakia, where costumes are worn at festivals and on special days.

GIFTS for the MUSEUM

To those of you who have treasures from Czechoslovakia of olden times, or from your family home, or even recent purchases which you want to share with others, we are now able to take care of such contributions.

Please keep in mind that items should be worthwhile and meaningful - not cast off items you want to junk.

If you have questions about items or are ready to make donations of an items or items, get in touch with one of the following members:
Mrs. Elsie Jelinek,

George Barta,

George Joens,

Roland

Raim,

NOW IS THE TIME TO TALK OVER WITH YOUR FAMILY ABOUT THE ITEMS YOU AND THEY WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CZECH MUSEUM... Books for the Library are also being collected.

11th, a Monday. The Fine Arts Foundation will also assist Coe College the week in December when composer, Karl Husa, is in Cedar Rapids. You will hear more about these events in time for the fall concert season.

The Husa composition is to honor our Bicentennial, was commissioned by Coe College, and underwritten by a grant from a Cedar Rapidian.



Czech Village reporting

CZECH VILLAGE ON CZECH DAYS

Czech Days will be celebrated in 1976 for 2 days during September - Friday the 10th, and Saturday, the 11th. Plans are under way to make it larger and better affair than a year ago.

A ribbon cutting ceremony and a parade are in the planning, and also arts and crafts, a kiddie midway, sidewalk sales, booths, displays of Czech heritage items. The Sokol Dance group and gymnasts will perform. Games and good food will be on hand.

Cut-off dates for advertising and participating: July 30, 1976.

Les Sykora

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The SECRETARY REPORTS

There are 38 members of the Czech Village Association. Members have purchases from 8 to 10 shares of stock. These monies go to pay for the coordinated over-all plan of the village design for the Avenue. Funds for other future projects will come from this source. Some of the events on Czech Days in September will add to our funds.

Some merchants are ready to start construction of store fronts this summer. They will, of course, pay for changes on their properties. The designs of fronts are to have the look of an old Czech village.

The Board of Directors meet at 1:00 P.M. weekly, on Thursday, in the lounge area of the Tri-Mi Crafts Shop at 65 - 16th Ave., SW. At meetings there are discussions of on-going events, plans for September Czech Days, and an exchange of information from Czech Heritage and Czech Fine Arts Foundations. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation are welcome to attend the meetings. .

Marge Van Fleet

RIVERSIDE CITIZENS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A great amount of progress has already been accomplished. Houses have been purchased, either moved or destroyed to make way for the new 15th Avenue. Parking facilities are now under construction. It is hoped that one home can be purchased to be used for a Temporary Czech Heritage Museum.

Other riverfront properties are scheduled for removal to make way for the Riverfront GREENBELT south of 16th Avenue bridge.

Money is available for the construction of the bandstand which is in the drawing board stages at present. Paving of 17th Avenue and surfacing of parking lots are on the schedule for late 1976 or 1977.

George Barta

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MERCHANTS TO REBUILD STORE FRONTS

Cedar Rapids 16th Avenue S.W. merchants are in the process of remodeling store fronts to give the 4 block area by the Cedar River the appearance and atmosphere of a small Czech village. Alterations of 6 to 8 store fronts are planned for 1976. .

Bob Schaffer

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yes-we are listening

Members of the Czech Village Association are invited to send in their short "talks" on items of interest for the next issue of the PRÍHODY. Even a funny story or joke make good reading!

CONTRIBUTORS

to this issue of PRÍHODY include:
George Barta Bob Schaffer
Elsie Jelinek Melvina Svec
Roland Raim Les Sykora
Marge Van Fleet

WHY A CZECH IS NOT A BOHEMIE or BOHEMIAN

The word Bohemie is slang. It is as insulting as calling people of any other ethnic group by an uncomplimentary name. Also some people think that a Bohemian is a gypsy or lives a high life, free and easy - sort of a "hippie" style of life.

Of course, the Kingdom of Bohemia DID exist about 1000 years ago as also there was a Kingdom of Moravia. Then when the Austrian-German Royal House of Habsburg ruled the Austro-Hungarian Empire more than 300 years ago, there WAS a Province of Bohemia. But all of these ideas are past history.

Oh yes, some of our older generations in this community remember the days before World War I and some of these local citizens were in the Imperial Austrian Army of Emperor Franz Josef or served in some of the government offices. So these people still use the word Bohemia and Bohemian to refer to their former homeland and people. At that time they lived in the Province of Bohemia as it was called.

Let us go back to the years before Christ. The vast Roman Empire extended around the Mediterranean Sea and inland to the Danube River in Central Europe. Roman slaves pulled the oars of the river boats that patrolled the frontier of the Danube.

To the north of the river were several Germanic tribes of early peoples. One was the Marcomanni (frontiersmen) and another tribe was the BOII. Early maps called that part of Europe BOIOHEMIE. And so for the next 1300 years books and maps called that part of Europe BOHEMIA and writers and map makers kept using that name.

Around 600 A.D. there began a surge of SLAV people moving toward the west from lands to the east now called Russia, Poland, Romania and the Ukraine. These people settled and took over the lands once peopled by the BOII. Among the Slav people was a leader that legend says his name was Jan Cechus. His followers then were called Cechs.

What happened to the BOII tribe? It is presumed some moved away, some were killed, and perhaps some intermarried with the Slavs. At any rate the BOII have been lost and gone for some 1300 years and the Slavs have occupied Central Europe ever since.

In 1918, at the close of World War I, there arose from the break up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire some other nations. One was called Czechoslovakia made up of the former provinces of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia and Ruthenia. To the south, Yugoslavia was created from the former lands of Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Hercegovina, Slovenia, Macedonia, Dalmatia, and Montenegro. Then what was left of the former empire were Austria and Hungary.

The Republic of Czechoslovakia existed from 1918 to 1938, only 20 years. The Nazis began to move into Czechoslovakia in 1938. During World War II the Nazis occupied the country. In 1948 the Communists took over. And in 1968, Dubcek, the Slovak, led the interlude of easing up on government restrictions. The brief period was called the "Prague Spring." It soon came to an end. Russian tanks rolled into Prague. The land was remapped. Moravia was included in Czechy and Ruthenia had been absorbed by Russia earlier.

Of course most all ethnic groups have been the objects of cruel jokes from time to time. A recent article in NEWSWEEK (April 12) stated that eastern Europeans, mostly Slav speaking people, have had more than their share of such cutting remarks. Recently a person remarked to me that it was funny that she is a Bohemie but her grandmother is a Czech. The time is NOW for our community to know the story and forget the old names.

GIFTS to the CZECH MUSEUM * * * * * GIFTS to the CZECH LIBRARY

I, _____, hereby relinquish all claims on the donations of _____, _____, _____ to be placed in the CZECH MUSEUM or the CZECH LIBRARY in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The story of each item is on another sheet of paper, telling as much of the following facts as I know and some other interesting details or stories about the object.

1. where it was from
2. other owners ,if any,and where they lived
3. its age or approximate date it was made,place, by whom
4. estimated value,if possible
5. special information about design, craftsmanship, materials and so forth
6. other additional facts or stories of interest

Given this _____ day, in the month of _____, year of 19____ .

Signed _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Received by _____ Date _____

* * * * *

Please keep in mind that the items should be worthwhile and meaningful and not a piece of junk you or the family want to throw out!!!!

* * * * *

If you have questions or want to deliver the donation, get in touch with one of these members:

Mrs.Elsie Jelinek

Mr.George Joens

Mr.George Barta

Mr.Roland Raim