

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

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



## Homelands

The Story of the Czech & Slovak People

See story on page 4

Volume 23 - Number 3 - September 1998



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## NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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### NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚICTVÍ

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. who pay their annual dues of \$3.00 per person per year receive *Naše České Děictví* free. Dues are renewable on January 1 of each year and expire December 31. 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.)

Deadline for receiving articles for the December issue is October 25, 1998.

### NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who helped with the June issue were my husband John and Robert E. and Irma Vanourny. Thank you for your help.

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It does not seem possible that summer is almost over but the indications are here. The days are getting shorter and the children are back in school.

John and I did not even have time for an extended vacation so we enjoyed concerts in the city parks and Czech Village. We attended a picnic on Fourth of July, parades in Ely, Mount Vernon Heritage Days, Solon Beef Days, Freedom Festival, and Swisher Fun Days. It is not necessary to travel far to have an enjoyable time. These small towns have nice parades, carnivals, music, displays, contests, food and fellowship. We're always glad we went because we see relatives and friends we hadn't seen for a long time except on occasions like this. Perhaps this is what these celebrations are all about. Town profits often go toward libraries, parks, senior citizen centers and playground equipment, all worthwhile projects. In August we spent two days at the state fair and were honored with a Century Farm plaque by the Iowa State Secretary of Agriculture.

Earlier this year before garden, lawn and berries John and I spent a few days in northern Minnesota to the Iron Mines, but the highlight of the trip could have been the Hibbing High School with its ethnic history and Czech glass chandeliers. (Story on page 12.) It was a delightful summer that seemed much too short.

*Adeline Volesky*  
Editor

### MOREL CONTEST WINNERS

Here is a list of the winners from the Houby Days contest who entered morel mushrooms in May.

Best of Show - Bob Jedlicka; Tallest - Tony Tomash; Smallest - Tom Callahan; Largest - Tom Schwab; Oddly Shaped Large - Melissa Burdock; Oddly Shaped Small - Larry & Arlene Spina; Best Small Display - Kim Oldridge; Best Large Display - Larry & Arlene Spina; and Most Original Display - Kim Oldridge.

### PARADE WINNERS

Here are the winners of the Houby Days parade. First prize to El Kahir Shriners and second prize to Czech Plus Band. The third prize was awarded to Two Star Detective Agency Float.

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## MORAVIA'S FESTIVALS — ARCHAIC TO MODERN

*(The following excerpts are from NASE RODI-  
NA newsletter, June 1998 issue article by Helene  
Baine Cincenbeaux)*

The oldest Moravian festivals are the archaic Jízda Králu or "Ride of Kings" which go so far back in the midst of the past that only legend is left.

The Ride of Kings occurs in Vlčnov each year at the end of May and every other year in Hluk. Tradition has all the 18 year-old males spending the entire year preparing for this event and the village girls who celebrated their 18th year make the decorations. The horses are heavily covered with colored ribbons.

In Vlčnov, as the grand parade of decorated horses winds through the village, the riders stop to call out verses to onlookers. It has been an old custom to put coins in the boots of riders who bring you good wishes.

Read story on page 14 about the Kings Ride Float in Cedar Rapids.

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## EDWARD R. KUBA

A big thank you to all who have in one way or another expressed their sympathy on the death of my father, Edward R. Kuba, Sr. Dad wasn't only proud of his Czech heritage, but he also took pride in knowing about the Czech Republic and by taking part in seeing it become a member of NATO. He enjoyed speaking the Czech language and devoted many years to the perpetuation of the language and customs through the Czech school. Dad greatly enjoyed being a docent at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library at, as he called it, "the back house," (immigrant home) for he personally knew the resident of the house and could tell many stories of the early residents. One of Dad's greatest dreams was to have the Barta-Letovsky press be on display in the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Dad didn't live to see it in place, but he knew it was to be realized. Again, a big thank you. Dekuji Vam.  
John A. Kuba,

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Reading about the Ames children's choir trip to the Czech Republic prompts me to write for two reasons. As an elementary school counselor here in Ames, several of these students are or have been mine over the years. I'm delighted in the talents of these youths over the past three years. Hopefully you will do a follow-up article upon their return. My husband and I attended two International Folk Festivals there last year and loved the singing and dancing.

Ames has had a sister city relationship with Frydek-Mistek for over three years and several citizens have participated in various trips. At the beginning of the 96-97 school year, six teachers came to Ames and stayed in our homes and toured part of our state. Then six of us traveled there last June. Petr Bujok was our guest here in Iowa and he and his wife served as our hosts there. They lived in a house he had recently built in Moravka, a small peaceful village. The most unique feature was the fact that there was only one telephone in the entire town. It was a pay phone in front of the post office. His wife spoke no English but we learned to communicate quite well and we were treated royally. Petr was employed as a school inspector. We visited some schools in Frydek-Mistek. The children greeted us warmly with flowers and gifts and performed role-plays that demonstrated how they are learning to speak English. We also got to spend a Saturday attending the open house for a school, the first new building in the area in over a hundred years. It was quite a festival!

Our favorite school, however, was our trip to Hrcava located on the eastern border. We walked up the path to step into Poland. Until roads were built after World War II; this small village, high up in the mountains, had been totally isolated from the rest of the world. They had their own culture and variation of the language. Even Petr had a difficult time communicating! We were honored to be the first Americans to visit the school and were given a document from the city to mark the occasion. The children were delightful and entertained us like royalty. While we spent several days in Prague and the rest of the country like typical tourists, our visit to Hrcava will always be special.

*Sandy Caslavka Hoenig  
Ames, Iowa*



## BIOGRAPHY

Frances Hovorka was born on August 6, 1905 at rural Ely. Her parents were Frank and Frances Castek Dolezal. Her grandparents were born in Bohemia. Her siblings according to age were Louis, William, Libbie (Konigsmark), and twins Frank and Frances who were the youngest. She attended Linn Grove, a rural school with about seventeen other children. The teacher taught all the children and all the grades. She remembers starting every school day with the pledge to the flag. The subjects taught then were reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, hygiene, language, and history. The school children were assigned the task of carrying the water bucket from the nearest farmstead. Everyone drank from the dipper. She did not carry a lunch pail because it was close enough to walk home for the noon meal.

As a child she remembers home butchering and fried down meat. She looked forward to the Fourth of July celebration at the Coufal Dance Floor. The Dolezal family lived on a farm where the labor was intensive, but it was not without fun. The family attended dances in the CSPA Halls in Ely, Swisher, and Western. At a barn dance or Becicka's Hall when the little children got sleepy, the parents would put the children to bed made up of coats and wraps worn by the guests. A midnight lunch was served. The hot dogs were heated in a boiler and served on rye bread. Frances recalls how delicious the wieners were. Often the dance lasted well past midnight, almost time to milk or cultivate corn.

On the farm her brothers Frank and Louis were mechanically inclined. They owned and operated a repair shop that once was a creamery. William had a Chevrolet car dealership in Ely. Frances' father went to Ames to learn butter making. Frances did some house work but returned to Ely to work at the Ely telephone switchboard.

On October 27, 1925, Frances married Gilbert Hovorka in Cedar Rapids at the Justice of the Peace. They have a daughter Juanita, married to Bill Dlouhy, one grandchild and one great grandchild.

Gilbert Hovorka died in 1991 but Frances keeps busy with her crafts and reads extensively. She does not look her 93 years. She has a good



*The Ely creamery where Frank Dolezal made butter. The creamery was converted into Dolezals Repair Shop. Frank and Louis Dolezal were the mechanics.*

sense of humor and has good health except her aching back. It was a delightful visit in her neat and attractive home.

## HOMELANDS

HOMELANDS — The story of the Czech & Slovak people is a long awaited "permanent" exhibition now on display at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The word "permanent" does not mean it will never change. It means the exhibit is made up of the museum's own artifact collection. Displays will undergo changes from time to time.

HOMELANDS tells the story of the Czech and Slovak people from the days of Slavic tribes wandering into Central Europe through the Velvet Divorce in 1993.

Rare maps, glass and porcelain, a Mucha print, a printing press on which Czech language newspapers were printed are on exhibit.

The center of the exhibition in Costume Square. The costumes are displayed in three categories; Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak. The costumes are shown in front of dramatic images appropriate to each region.

HOMELANDS has a touch of fun that makes it appealing to all ages. A large "castle" reminiscent of medieval structures acts as a staging area before guests embark into the first theme section.

The museum is located in Czech Village on the banks of the Cedar River. The museum was dedicated October 21, 1995 by Presidents Clinton, Havel, and Kovac. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Closed on Monday. Admission is \$5 per adult, \$4 per senior (65 or over), \$3 for children 5-16. Children under 5 are admitted free with a paying parent or guardian.



## CZECH HERITAGE SINGERS

The Czech Heritage singers of Cedar Rapids, Iowa were established in the fall of 1988. Their first public appearance was for the Czech Heritage Foundation at the St. Nicholas Dance at the Eagles Hall, December 1988.

As we celebrate our tenth year, still singing the precious songs of our ancestors, we have found that our Czech-American audiences are most appreciative of our melodies, some of which we have been able to translate to English.

As we face the second millennium, we hope to be able to continue to entertain our audiences and leave them with a better sense of knowing and understanding the love we have for our České písničky.

In the picture, left to right back row: Jim Vanourny, Elmer Netolicky, Joe Petrzelka, Emil Lamparek, Bernie Drahozal, Emil Vellek, Virgil Novotny.

Middle row: Marj Nejd, Frannie Whitters, Alice Kadlec, Helen Quass, Patty Houdeshell, Marie Cada, Milly Ortner, Amelia Youngblut, Patty Yilek.

Front row: Dorothy Simanek, Mary Jepson, Elizabeth Becicka, Irma Binko, Inez Popelka, Leona Poduska, Irma Modracek, Pauline Jasa and Olga Drahozal, director.

Unable to be present for the picture: Sister M. Christine Elias de Notre Dame.

O.D.



### SISTER CHRISTINE'S FIFTIETH JUBILEE

Sister Christine Elias, ND, a native of Cedar Rapids and a member of St. Ludmila Parish, celebrated her 50th jubilee as a member of the Notre Dame Sisters. She renewed her vows on May 31. The Rev. Herb Hayek OP, one of her former students presided. A reception followed. Sister Christine celebrated with the Notre Dame community in Omaha in July.

Georgette is the daughter of the late Joseph and Katerina Elias of Cedar Rapids. She made her first profession of vows in 1948. She attended the College of St. Mary and Creighton University, both of Omaha, earning both a bachelor's and a master's degree in education. Sister Christine

taught in Kansas and Nebraska. In Iowa she taught at St. Joseph's in Chelsea and St. Ludmila's 1950-54, 1970-74, and 1977-80.

In addition to her teaching, she also served as a member of the leadership team for her congregation, and as a delegate to the Congregation's General Chapter in Czechoslovakia in 1974.

Since retiring from the field of education, she has remained active, volunteering at the St. Vincent de Paul Society Store, Green Square Meals, parish associate at St. Ludmila's ministering to the elderly and sick, and at Mercy Hospital as an EME, and docent at Czech & Slovak Museum.

She is a member of both the Heritage Area Care Review Committee for Nursing Homes, Czech Heritage Singers, and Czech Heritage Fd'n.

D. S.

## CLUTIER — CZECH COMMUNITY

*(Excerpts from the July 28, 1950 edition of THE STAR CLIPPER in celebration of Clutier's Golden Jubilee.)*

The population of Tama county is made up of several nationalities, but the Bohemians and Germans contributed more to this county than all other foreign countries. The Bohemian people settled chiefly in the hilly sections because of the abundance of timber. Fuel in their native land was scarce, hence they were attracted where wood was plentiful. Most of the Bohemian immigrants were farmers who came with yoke and oxen, starting in 1860. Many who came left their parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends to come to a new land. They encountered hearts filled with courage, hope, and ambition. They set foot on American soil with faith to win the battle of life in their newly adopted country.

The C & NW railroad was being built. Clutier was half way between Elberon and Traer. Frank Parizek's 80 acre farm was purchased for a town site in the fall of 1899. The railroad promoters bought the entire farm for \$65 per acre, which was above the market price. The town was named after Bertram Clutier by a brother-in-law railroad capitalist, but Clutier never lived in the town. The first train ran in Clutier in June 1900.

A petition for incorporation was presented in District Court in Toledo November 13, 1900. The new town council set the license fee for each saloon at \$25 per month. The saloon could not open before 5 a.m. and close no later than 10 p.m. and remain closed all day Sunday. Will Kokesh operated the livery barn and feed stable. John Chervený became a merchant. Joe Madera was a tailor for 37 years. Ben Kremanak was the director of Clutier's first brass band. Other Bohemian merchants were: Alois Bata, making harnesses; Anton Hanus and Roushar Bros. had general stores; F. Hadacek, a hardware store; John Vesely, furniture; and Cizek's had an implement factory. By 1910, the population reached 300. J. P. Novak, a banker, served as mayor for 26 years. St. Vaclav (St. Wenceslaus) and Immaculate Conception Churches served the community as well as the ZCBJ.

Clutier had its share of excitement. In February 1915 the Salt Creek flooded and several Cedar Rapids men narrowly escaped death. The Clutier Dance Hall went without music when the

band didn't show up. The musicians were Cedar Rapids men. The train was 5 hours late so the group, Ben Jansa, Rudolph Fichtner, Leo Ulch, Thomas Suchomel Jr., and Emil Tuma, an editor of a Bohemian newspaper, hired a livery man to take them to Clutier. The day was warm and the melting snow raised the creeks to overflowing. When the vehicle was four and a half miles south-east of Clutier, Salt Creek was a quarter mile wide. The driver did not want to cross the raging current, but the musicians were anxious to play for the big ball and urged the driver on, so he drove in the dark at 7 o'clock and into the icy water. The driver urged his horses on until the vehicle was partly submerged. Sensing the crossing was impossible, the driver attempted to turn back, but ice and driftwood upset the buggy. The young men clung to the buggy and called for help. In the meantime a horse had fallen into a hole so the driver had to jump into the icy water and slashed the harnesses to release the two horses. Other horses eventually rescued the musicians except Mr. Tuma, as the water had risen to new heights. The cold wet musicians were taken to the Charles Plucar farm. A telephone alarm was made to neighboring farmers who came with lanterns. No one could get their horses back into the water again to reach Tuma. Mr. Tuma was rescued at 1:30 a.m. when two farmers from the Clutier side of Salt Creek came with horses and a rope. Mr. Keil, a farmer, embraced Tuma and the other farmer dragged both men through the icy water to high ground and safety. Editor Tuma spent the night in Elberon before returning back to Cedar Rapids Sunday night. The water receded rapidly and the buggy was retrieved. It was hanging precariously only a few inches from the creek embankment, narrowly slipping down the bank which could have resulted in members being dumped into the flood, possibly drowning.

In August 1930 during Clutier's Kolach Day celebration, a three passenger biplane was doing a big business giving rides to passengers for \$1.50 to \$2.50 a ride from a pasture on Ed Krezak's farm. The plane fell in Joe Dvorak's pasture. Emil Dolash 24, of Vining and Emil Breja of Elberon were taking their fourth straight ride when the plane crashed as it was "stunting". The pilot lost control for some reason. Dolash died of his injuries but Breja recovered.

Clutier is still a small friendly town made up of Czech residents mostly in retirement.

## BONI PUERI BOYS CHOIR VISITS CEDAR RAPIDS

The members of the Boni Pueri Boys Choir from Hradec Kralove in the Czech Republic is a group of 36 top notch performers gleaned from 300 boys who are enrolled in the program. They are recruited from 2,500 schoolchildren in the Hradec Kralove area.

At the concert which the Boni Pueri presented on July 11, 1998 in Warde Hall, Mt. Mercy College, they were introduced by Carol Stewart who represented the Alliance for Arts and Understanding, the sponsoring organization from St. John University, Collegeville, Minnesota which brings internationally famous choirs to America Fest.

The Boni Pueri (In Latin, The Good Boys) have won first place honors when competing with other boy's choirs in England, Holland, China, Australia, Canada, and America. They were conducted by Dr. Pavel Horak and accompanied on the piano by Dr. Karel Koldinsky. The master of ceremony and grandfatherly chaperone is a gentleman of Dutch descent, Dr. Jan Toor. Dr. Jaroslav Kaiser accompanied the Boni Pueri as a general facilitator.

Sponsors were The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, with support from Victor and Jan Naxera, George (Max) Naxera, Don and Irene Hamous together with the Federation of Czech Groups, with support from Sokol Cedar Rapids, First Trust Bank, Robert F. and Jan Kazimour, Guardians of St. Joseph Branch #137 Catholic Workman, Cadets of St. George Branch #45 Catholic Workman, John A. Kuba, Papich-Kuba Funeral Home, Czech Catholic Union National Office, Western Fraternal Life Assoc. National Office, Lodge Karel IV #3 WFLA, Lodge Cedar Rapids, #262 WFLA, Lodge Prokop Velky #137 CSA, Lodge Junior American Czech #388 CSA, Lillian Kopecky, Ed and Marj Nejd, and Mt. Mercy College.

The concert's title which was "The Glory of Czech Singing" included selections by Dvorak, Mozart, Jirasek, Faure and Vodnansky and Vodnansky presented in memory of Edward R. Kuba Sr.

The Boni Pueri was organized in 1983 and in its earlier times when Czechoslovakia was under communist control, the choir incurred the expected impediments with respect to a certain amount of freedom of choice in their repertoire. Youngsters are recruited as young as the age of four and can continue studying with the choir until they have finished their academic schooling. The thirty-six students who visited Cedar Rapids ranged in age from 10 to 21.

*(by Olga & Wes Drahozal)*

## MAREK MINAR — VETERINARY STUDENT

Marek Minář is a 24 year old student from Nove Malin, Czech Republic, who is studying to be a veterinarian. After extended studies in Brno, he decided to take a six months break to get some hands on experience in the United States and to improve his English. After spending a month in Arkansas, he came to the Frey Pet Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He lived with the Dean Frey family during his intern experience here.



In the Czech Republic, his mother is a nurse. His father was an engineer on a locomotive, but now serves as Mayor of Nove Malin. Marek has a younger brother in school and an older brother who is a chemical engineer in a food processing plant.

Marek was sixteen years old when the communist regime was collapsing. Like many other youths, he attended meetings in support of freedom for Czechoslovakia because the old system was just not working. Since the Velvet Revolution in 1989, he and the younger generation see freedom as an opportunity for self-expression, growth, and prosperity but has created hardship for the elderly who have been accustomed to tightly controlled lives. Marek thinks Havel is the man best suited to be president and compares his difficult task of transition to that of Tomas Masaryk after Czechoslovakia's freedom following World War I in 1918.

Like most Czech visitors to the United States, he was overwhelmed with the vastness of this country. He was impressed with the speed and efficiency of our communication system. In Arkansas he was invited to go fishing but he had no license. After a quick phone call, he was on his way to fish. In the Czech Republic, this would have taken a month to achieve. In retrospect, he appreciates the slower life style of the Czech people. We rush around too much and that carries over into our driving behavior. He observed we are a mobile society and our families are more scattered, while Czech families live closer together. Marek does not own an automobile because they are too expensive. He commutes on a bicycle he owns.

Marek visited Czech Village and the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and was awestricken by the lovely building and to find such a large Czech community in the heartland of America so devoted to its heritage and culture. He crossed the Bridge of Lions, visited Masaryk Park, and dined on poppyseed kolaches, much to his delight.

Marek planned to spend the month of June in Kentucky on a horse farm during foaling. He and a friend will travel by car visiting our national parks before returning to the Czech Republic in late summer.



## SV. PETR & PAVEL KATOLICKY KOSTEL

### (St. Peter & Paul's Catholic Church)

For some rural Solon, Iowa parishioners it can be the best of times while others view it as the worst of times. Progress can be evaluated in different ways. St. Peter & Paul's Church met its demise in 1996 when the doors were closed.

St. Peter & Paul's Catholic Church was established in 1861 by the Bohemian immigrants who settled around Solon, in Johnson County. The original stone church was located across the road from the present church. It was built at a cost of \$1,300. The rock was hauled by a team of oxen from a distance of five miles. Jacob Zinkula was a stonemason from Bohemia and worked on it. It was hand built and took five years to complete. It was built to serve the community as a religious and social center. The stone church deteriorated and was closed in 1916. It stood as a landmark in memory of its founders until permission was granted to raze the building. In 1938 the original St. Peter & Paul's Church was torn down, and a large stone cross was placed where the altar once stood. The cemetery is a reminder of the founders who built the church and worshiped there.

The second St. Peter & Paul's Church was built across the road from the original church on donated land. Ground was broken on April 18, 1916 to accommodate the fast growing congregation. The offset spires make the architecture unique. The new church was made of steel framework, brick, and tile. Inside, the stained glass windows were donated by Bohemian parishioners with Czech inscriptions underneath. The marble

altar was shipped from Italy with the Last Supper carved onto the front of it. The picture of St. Peter & Paul in the vestibule was brought to the New Country from the Old. The Infant Jesus of Prague, a Czech religious symbol, adorns the altar. The bid of \$13,800 did not include the heating, lighting, and windows. The second new church was finished and dedicated July 15, 1917. Fr. Florian Svrulik of St. Wenceslaus Church in Cedar Rapids delivered the sermon. Following the dedication, a dinner was served for an estimated crowd of 1,000 who attended the ceremonies. A local newspaper described the church as "The most beautiful in the state, with high vaulted ceilings, three gold and white altars and altar rail finished in white marble. Statuette groups represent the fourteen stations and the solid oak pews add to the grandeur of the entire building."

For many years the church was the hub of activities. It was a place for weddings, solitude, funerals, and a place to celebrate the sacraments. Corpus Cristi Day was an annual celebration held after Trinity (after Easter).

Now the doors are closed. Younger people move from the farm to the city with their families. There is a shortage of priests and society exercises more flexibility in practicing religion.

St. Peter & Paul closed its doors June 30, 1996, but it will not be forgotten. Many of today's elderly still living in the community have ties and memories that filter down through the years along with the traditions and heritage of the Czech culture. St. Peter & Paul held the community together. Now parishioners travel to Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and to Solon and beyond.

St. Peter & Paul's Church is now on the National Register of Historic Places. A Foundation Board has been established for the purpose of raising funds to completely renovate the church to its original condition while upgrading the facility to make it fully functional for reunions, weddings, concerts, tours and special events. For more information write to: St. Peter & Paul Historical Fd'n., P.O. Box 172, Solon, Iowa 52333.

To reach St. Peter & Paul's Church, turn east off Highway 1 between Mt. Vernon and Solon on 120th St. to Taft Ave. N.E.

*(Information and excerpts from Joanne Nalley, Seminar in Historical Research & Dr. Charlotte Fallon, May 9, 1996.)*



## HISTORY OF CZECH CATHOLICISM

The Czechs have a very complicated history that affected the people and their religion. For centuries Central Europe was in a constant struggle by zealous rulers. Until the 9th century the Czechs and Slovaks were part of the Great Moravian Empire. As the empire struggled to maintain their independence, they became part of the Hapsburg Empire. In 1620, they were reduced to a second-class status.

Religion played an important role during these changes. The Christian Church, later known as the Roman Catholic Church, came to Bohemia when St. Wenceslaus and his mother St. Ludmila began the first Catholic Church. In one sense Bohemia became the first Protestant "country" in Europe due to the revolt against the church by Jan Hus. Hus and Martin Luther became vocal against the Catholic Church while trying to rid Austrian authority and replace it with Czech democracy. In 1415 Hus was executed. This gave Bohemian nationalism a martyr and a movement gained momentum. In 1618 the Protestants revolted against Austria but lost in the White Mountain Battle. The Catholic Church then received financial and political support from the nobility.

In the nineteenth century the Protestants tried to undermine Catholicism but 96% of the Bohemians in Europe identified themselves as Roman Catholics. Religion played an important role in their lives. An agricultural schedule was dictated by the church's calendar. Customs centered around the church. Pussy willows were blessed on Palm Sunday. To ensure good health, a person was to take a bath in a creek before sunrise on Good Friday. Music should accompany religious services. All of these customs played a major role in the lives of Bohemian immigrants. The first group of emigrants in 1848 were skilled craftsmen and considered wealthy who fled to escape oppression. A different group emigrated in 1890 to 1924. This group was made up of peasants and rural people. They emigrated for economic reasons.

When the Bohemian immigrants arrived in America they settled in the mid-west states, Texas, and in rural areas. The first Catholic Church was established in St. Louis, Missouri. It was founded in 1854 by Father Hessoun. He realized a need for a Czech church and a school, and printed a newspaper to keep adults aware of their heritage. The next two Bohemian parishes were established in Hoystyn, Texas in 1856 and in Greenstreet, Wisconsin in 1859.

Churches were used by Bohemian immigrants not only in a spiritual and religious manner but were modeled after churches left behind to

remind them of "home".

It was not easy to establish a church in America. There were no regulations to establish a parish. At "home" they were born into a parish. After a bishop gave an approval, the land, labor and material were often donated. Bohemian priests were scarce because the church of Bohemia did not feel responsible to provide priests for Bohemian Americans. Bohemian American priests were traveling missionaries from village to village and were the poorest of the poor. Immigrants who had little money often paid priests with gifts of food and fuel. In 1917 only 270 Bohemian American priests ministered to 320 parishes and missions. As emigration grew, so did the building of churches. Prior to 1920, 96% of the Bohemians were of the Catholic faith. However after emigration, it is estimated that 50% of them left their religion.

For those who remained with the church, they respected the authority and trust in church doctrines and sacraments. The Bohemians in the New World eagerly built churches, parochial schools to maintain a bond between parents and children. Parents were committed to children's education. Families sent their children to school in the wintertime but kept them at home for planting and harvest.

As the Bohemians were aware of their newly acquired freedom in America, they began to drift away from religion. To fill the void, they joined Bohemian organizations and Sokols especially in the larger cities. In Chicago by 1912, Bohemians were the seventh largest ethnic group. But religion was prevalent in the rural areas. The Bohemians were determined to own land and worked hard to achieve success.

The first Bohemian immigrants came to Iowa in the mid 1800's and immigration peaked in 1890. The first Bohemian parish in Johnson County was St. Peter & Paul's Church established in 1861 and officially founded in 1862. There were four families who played a predominant role in establishing the church. They were the Zinkulas, Verbas, Krobs, and Brouliks. Now the church 133 years old, provides parishioners and visitors with memories of a heritage of a by-gone past. But to many the visit still reminds them of "coming Home".

*(Information from Seminar in Historical Research, Joanne Nalley, Dr Charlotte Fallon, dated May 9, 1996.)*

The names Bohemia and Bohemians is used when the country was a part of the Austrian Empire ruled by the Hapsburg dynasty.

In 1918 Czechoslovakia became a new and free nation and the people are called Czechs.



## CESKA SKOLA 1998 Czech School

Czech School has concluded its 128th Year of consecutive instructions. Fifty-three students were registered this summer. They presented a program at Wilson School auditorium on the evening of the 10th which show-cased some of the things they learned the previous five weeks. Choral presentations, songs, dances, and instrumental selections were on the program which was dedicated to the memory of Edward R. Kuba. Mr. Kuba was the president of the Czech School board for many years before his untimely death in April.

The field trip was to the Herbert Hoover Museum & Library at West Branch. Frank Novotny came to our school to demonstrate the art of kraslice by showing us how he decorates eggs with straw.

Division I charmed the audience at the program with some special new songs of their own after which they hosted their parents in their classroom.

Division II contributed to the program with folk dances which were taught to them by Marj Nejd. Dressed in native colorful costume, they were very impressive. They also presented a choral reading entitled "Poor, Sad Madelyn".

Division III learned about immigration patterns of the Czechs, and traced their own genealogical roots by drawing a family tree. They also visited the National Czech & Slovak Museum to view the newly installed exhibit "The Homelands" and toured St. Wenceslaus Church.

Graduates having reached the age of 13 and having attended Czech School for at least two years are: Monica Bailey, Stephanie Beer, Will Bys, Aubrey Flaherty, Sabiya Drahozal, Surria Drahozal, Violet Lucca and Hannah Waters.

Teachers were: Bessie Dugena, Division I, Leona Poduska Division II, and Olga Drahozal Division III. Teachers aides were Fred Anthony, Jeanne Tompkins, Helen Cross and Milly Ortner. Na shledanou, děti! So long, children.

O.D.

## BONI PUERI AT CZECH SCHOOL PROGRAM

A special treat to Cedar Rapids audiences was afforded to us at the conclusion of the annual Czech School program at Wilson School on Friday, July 10, when the Boni Pueri treated us to a vignette of their musical repertoire with three lovely melodies. After their delightful presentations the boys were introduced to their Cedar Rapids hosts. Seventeen homes opened up their doors to these charming guests and many of these families were parents of our Czech students. For the next three nights and two days Czech boys were immersed into American families. And American boys and girls forged friendships with the "good boys" of the Czech Republic.

Activities included swimming, miniature golf, water slide parks, mini-car racing, baseball games, visit to the science station, family picnics, hikes in area parks, bike rides, a visit to the zoo, just plain talking (the boys all spoke enough English to sufficiently communicate with their guests) and, of course, many of the younger boys got an introduction to the great American pastime, the Nintendo games.

On Sunday the Boni Pueri sang during the church services at the beautiful St. Wenceslaus Church of Cedar Rapids at the invitation of Rev. Karl Glovik. A parish brunch followed the services.

Monday morning dawned all too soon. A light breakfast was served at Kuba Hall and the parting began. Some tears were shed, and many hugs were shared. The good boys entered the bus and their hosts were left behind to wave them on and wish them well.

"Na shledanou! We hope to see you again some time soon, Boni Pueri. It was good to have you here".

*By Olga & Wes Drahozal*

## Northeastern Bohemia Research Project begins publication

Kathryn Betlach Dankowski and Jim Kleinschmidt are working on "the Northeastern Bohemia Research Project," which, of course focuses on that area.

Dankowski and Kleinschmidt report that after only a few years, the NEB has information on over 49,000 people (including people born in Bohemia as well as from around the world). A total of 8,134 births in Bohemia are recorded, representing 805 surnames and 246 villages. A total of 365 villages are included in the NEB project.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in this interesting project, contact Kathryn Betlach Dankowski.

Email:  
Kleinschmidt at

Call  
Contact Jim

Email:

## MADELEINE KORBEL ALBRIGHT

Madeleine Korbelt Albright was born May 15, 1937 to Joseph and Anna Korbelt in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Her mother Anna Speeglova Korbelt was born to a prosperous family and had a comfortable life, and educated in Switzerland like Madeleine. Madeleine got her first lesson on tyranny when she was a year old. The Nazis overran her country in 1938. Her father found himself on a political hit list after Hitler's invasion. The Korbelt with their baby walked the streets of Prague and stayed visible in public places until they received fake documents. They fled to Yugoslavia enroute to Britain. While they lived at Walton-on-Thames, the family hid under steel dining tables during air raids. She soon learned resiliency from her mother.

It was only after she was nominated as Secretary of State by President Clinton that she learned her parents were not raised as Catholics. Rumors were confirmed that her grandparents were born Jews and did not die of natural causes during the war. They died in concentration camps during World War II. For many Holocaust survivors who learn their family history as adults, the trauma lies not so much in the fact, but in the fact it was kept hidden.

After Czechoslovakia was again free, the Korbelt returned to their native land. Joseph Korbelt, her father and role model, might have become Foreign Minister had the communists not taken over in 1948. Instead Korbelt and his family sought asylum in the United States in 1949 where Korbelt taught international relations at the University of Denver. As a result of all the adversity, Madeleine learned political strategy, determination and perfection. These qualities eventually led her to political success. Madeleine was never a lighthearted American kid. In eighth grade she won a United Nations contest for being able to name all the member states of that time.

Madeleine Korbelt Albright's education consisted of a B.A. from Wellesley College with honors in Political Science. She studied at the School of Advanced International Studies at John Hopkins University. She received her Masters and Doctorate from Columbia University's Dept. of Public Law and Government, and a Certificate from the Russian Institute. She lived in four countries and speaks fluent English, French, and Czech, with good speaking and reading abilities in Russian and Polish. During her years as a student, she was distinguished by her ability to rise early and work late, study hard, and make friends easily.

Thinking she might like journalism, she took a summer job at the Denver Post and there met

Joseph Patterson Albright, grandson of the founder of the *New York Daily News*, heir to his aunt Alice Patterson's *Newsday*. They married three days after Madeleine graduated from Wellesley in 1959. They had twins Anne and Alice born six weeks prematurely. Eleven years later daughter Katie was born. While Madeleine was raising the girls she was always studying and volunteering, but was always there for her daughters when they needed her. In 1968 the family moved to Washington D.C. After 23 years of marriage and escalating success, Madeleine's world crumpled when her husband Joseph announced in 1982 the marriage was over. Madeleine was devastated but was financially secure with a spacious Georgetown town-house and a 370 acre farm in Virginia. Anne is now a lawyer outside of Washington, D.C., Katie, a lawyer in San Francisco, and Alice a financial executive in London. Madeleine became more involved in politics and policies. She became a staff member of the National Security Council, as well as a White House staff member, President of the Center for National Policy, and Research Professor of International Affairs. While she served as United Nations ambassador for four years, she lived in New York City and almost lived in the shuttle as she attended briefings and other important meetings.

After Democratic President Bill Clinton was re-elected in 1996, Secretary of State Warren Christopher planned to leave his job. Because of her knowledge and political expertise, Madeleine was high on the president's list. She had the ability to use logical solutions to world problems and the strict discipline to see them through. In order to win the nomination, she made friends with people in high offices, and collared discreet politicians and Republicans who might not vote for her. On January 23, 1997, Secretary Madeleine Albright was the first female Secretary of State and the highest ranking woman in the United States government. The confirmation vote was unanimous 99 to 0. Her immediate response was "Who wasn't there?"

Upon confirmation as Secretary of State, she traveled around the world to meet with leaders and diplomatic officers.

Her philosophy is in part "just because you cannot do everything does not mean you do nothing." She lost little time making her presence known, but she is smart enough to let President Clinton be master of his own foreign policy.

She has never forgotten how the people of her native Czechoslovakia, blocked by Stalin from joining the Marshall Plan, quietly absorbed ideals, even across a sealed border.



*Hibbing High School on National Register with Czech glass chandeliers.*

## HIBBING'S CZECH CHANDELIERS

Hibbing, Minnesota has an ethnic history. It is named after Frank Hibbing, a German immigrant. He was an expert iron ore prospector. He detected iron ore as he cut a road through the wilderness and assisted in the town's development. Hibbing grew rapidly as it was close to the site of the world's biggest open pit iron mine. As the mine rapidly grew from its beginning in 1895, it became evident the town was sitting on deposits of iron. In 1918 all the town's buildings were mounted on steel wheels and moved two miles south so the ore could be mined.

The mining company realized the importance of education so they financed the construction of the new re-located school. Construction of Hibbing High School began in 1920 and was completed in 1923 at a cost of \$3,926.32. This architectural beauty, resembling a medieval castle, is constructed of red brick trimmed in Bradford stone in the shape of the letter E. It sits on ten acres. The school once housed students K-12 but now houses grades 9-12.

The classrooms have been changed from the original plan to meet fire safety codes. During changes every effort was made to match the original edifice. The school has been called "the school with the golden door knobs", but actually the knobs are brass which gives them the appearance of gold.

The ceiling of the foyer and the auditorium is all hand molded by Irish craftsmen. In the back of the molding is braided horse-hair, and behind the horse-hair are bronze sticks. This technique helps to eliminate cracking of the delicate molding. The ceiling has been repainted only once.

The auditorium is a theater designed after the Capitol Theater in New York City. The beauty of the wall decorations, draperies, and the chandeliers is very unusual in a high school. The chandeliers of crystal imported from Czechoslovakia, contain red, white, and blue electric lamps. One color or a combination of colors may be used to bring about beautiful lighting effects. These chandeliers are lowered every three years for cleaning, and at the same time the bulbs are replaced. It takes two hours to lower the chandeliers and one to two weeks to clean them. The

cost of each chandelier in 1920 was \$15,000. They are now insured for \$250,000 each. The velvet seat covers were red, then blue and in 1973 they became gold.

The auditorium has a seating capacity of 1,800 and is used for a variety of

purposes. The acoustics were the best for the time but not by today's standards. With the stage measuring 48 X 60 feet, it can hold the Minnesota Symphony or the Passion Play. There were at one time 45 backdrops. Some have deteriorated and can no longer be used. None of the drops are rolled up, instead they are pulled straight up 90 feet above the stage floor in the fly area. The auditorium boasts a magnificent Barton organ, one of only two that exists in the United States. It was purchased from a Chicago Vaudeville Theater in 1920 for \$26,000. It contains over 1,900 pipes. The organ can play any instrument except the violin. A Steinway grand piano was purchased in 1922 for \$50,000 and is now valued at \$75,000.

The library is unique because it contains historical oil paintings depicting workers of various nationalities who came to labor in the iron mines. At one time the school was represented by 33 different nationalities. The display cases in the library and halls have extensive doll collections. The dolls dressed in native costume represent the 33 nationalities. The Czech dolls are wearing their "kroj".

November 26, 1996, disaster struck the school. As workmen were remodeling, fire broke out from a welding torch. All 1,100 students and faculty were evacuated from the building in sub-zero temperatures. The whole building suffered smoke damage and classes were suspended until January 6, 1997. The school was cleaned from top to bottom. The community realized how close they came to losing a true treasure.

The school attracts visitors from around the world. Room lighting has been modernized and has continual maintenance. Visitors remark how well kept the building is. The school was the recipient of the Bellemy Award in 1986 honoring it for its fine academic program. The Hibbing High School is listed on the National Register and is open to tours. (Need appointment during school year)

*(Editor's note- The school is a magnificent structure and the students are to be commended for the respect they have shown to its beauty.)*



*Hibbing High School's magnificent 1,800 seat auditorium*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The ACKNOWLEDGMENTS are published in every issue of *Naše České Dědictví*. It is only one way the Czech Heritage Fd'n. can say "thank you" to its members. We could not maintain the \$3.00 per person annual dues which were established in 1974 if it were not for your generous donations.

Donations received in March from new members were from: Kristin Frish, Patricia Heitoff and Elmer Witousek.

Donations received with renewals were from: Pauline Baca, Jo Ann Chadima Bailey, Sylvia Brown, Joseph Cihlar, John Cimburek, Richard Cinert, Tom Collins, Dorothy Kralova Cummings, Sharon Curtis, Paul Davis, Elsie Day, Arthur Drahozal, Olga & Wes Drahozal, Anna Eisner, Della Flider, Donald & Shirley Frus, Alice Hakel, Charles Halaska Sr., Fran Hallett, Hellen Hammond, Marge Holets, Donald Horak, Joe Hostak, Don & Gladys Hruby, Bruce Janda, Rudolph Jansa, Janet Jeffries, Alice Kadlec, Cyril Klimesh, Irene Konecny, Jerome Kovar, Lillian Kroupa, Beatrice Losenicky, Richard Louvar, Madalin Lucas, Bruce Melsha, Ellen Neal, Sylvia Neitderhisar, Mrs. Otto Nichols, Charles Opatrny, Allan & Jane Peremsky, Paul & Mary Ann Pizarik, Bennie Pospisil, Rose Pospisil, Evelyn Prior, John & Susan & Ann Rocarek, Marjorie Ruzicka, Frank Schovanec, Bertha Scott, Ed & Erma Schuch, Wes & Lillian Serbousek, Vlasta Lorraine Snider, Elsie Sova, George Stancel, Linda Starek, Carol Stodola, Mary Ann Tegen, Josephine Tisl, Joseph Uzel, Frank Valenta, Joe & Helen Valenta, Frances Vilim, Charles & Lillian Vyskocil, Julia Wadden, Ann Weiland, Mrs. Gladys Wheeler, Frank Winkler, and Angela Zias.

Donations were also received from Helen Cross, and Union Pacific Corporation by Joyce Faltis.

In April a new member Tony Salonick, sent a donation.

Donations with renewals were received from: Irma Binko, Linda Brink, George, Joanne, Daniel & Tamara Chadima, Helenka Claypool, Bessie Dugena, Robert Fisher, Janice Gagliardi, Father Karl Glovik, Lillian Kolar Heckers, Paul Kosek, Ken Lastufka, Richard Long, Helen Masha, Bessie Sasek, Frances Schluneger, Ramona Caslavka Schmidt, Carol Jean Smetana, Mike Uzel and Connie Wubbena.

Donations were received from: Kenneth Allen and Violet Blaha Manteufel.

May new member donation: Elizabeth Finkenhoefer.

In May, donations received with renewals were from: Bernard Drahozal, Janice Horak, Don Janda, Joe & Mildred Peskek and Aldrich Zobac.

Donations were received from: Emma Hadacek and Arlene Raila.

In June donations from new members were received from: Rep. Ro Foege, John Satek, and Judith Kral Tucholski.

Donations with renewals were received from: Ruth Archibald, R. S. Bezdeny, Donald & Vera Conway, Charles Danek, William & Helen Faltis, Leslie Farmer, Jackie Hess, Larry Lehecka, Doris Looney, Pat McCluskey, Raymond Marek, Nancy Pajeau, Irene Popham, Elsie Prince, Florence Ramsay, Joseph Secl, Agnes Tichy, and Virginia Wilts.

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## HOMESTAY PROGRAM OCTOBER 4

The Czech Heritage Foundation sent two students to the Czech Republic June 22nd to July 21st. The two students are Jeri Serbousek of Prairie High School and Matt Fee of Center Point-Urbana High School. They will give a program on their experiences Sunday October 4th at 2:00 p.m. at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. There is no charge as this is their thank you to Czech Heritage Foundation for the \$1,000 scholarship to travel to the Czech Republic.

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## HOMESTAY SCHOLARSHIPS

Czech Heritage Foundation will be offering scholarships of \$1,000 to students who are now Juniors in High School. After Czech language classes and orientation, they will be found families in and near Prague to live with a month the summer of 1999. This will be the 16th year for the program which was started in 1984 and has sent 51 students to their country of ancestry. Applications will be available September 15th and will be due November 1st. They can be obtained from High School Counselors or by calling Jeanne Tompkins, . The student must be of Czech-Slovak heritage.

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## DIAL ARTS

For up-to-the-minute Cedar Rapids Area Cultural Alliance member events and activities throughout the Cedar Rapids area, dial this number 551-ARTS (2787). PLUS MUCH MORE.

## CZECH GOULASH DAY

Have you ever cooked a one dish meal for 1,500 people? The women at St. Wenceslaus Church have been doing that for a number of years. It all started in 1960 when it was known as a bazaar. Then, in 1981 it became known as St. Wenceslaus Czech Goulash Day and Bazaar.

Czech goulash is a hardy dish made with meat, vegetables, and special herbs and spices.

Followers of all denominations who enjoy church dinners, look forward to this annual event. This year the Goulash Day will be held on Sunday, September 20, 1998 at the church.

Serving will be from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The menu includes the goulash, Wence burgers, kolaches, pies, cakes, pop and coffee.

A Polka Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come.

A fun day is planned for the whole family with games, cake walk, bingo, and country store.

St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church is located at 510-16th Ave. S.E. in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



## PRAZSKY KRYSAVIK

*(Beautiful Prague Dog)*

Seldom seen outside the Czech & Slovak Republic, the Prazsky Krysavik has been selectively bred as an urban companion. Although there are fewer than 600 individuals, most of them in Prague, breeders have successfully fixed this personable little dog's type. It can be seen in exhibits at European dog shows.

The Prazsky Krysavik was developed by the Czechs and Slovaks who wanted to create a distinctly non-utilitarian breed. This slight and delicate breed is probably the most recent strictly companion dog to develop in Central Europe.

The dog's origin is the Czech Republic in the 1980's. It weighs 2 to 6 pounds and is 7 to 8 inches tall. It has a lean delicate body covered with thin skin with very short thin glossy hair. Its neck is long and narrow supporting a delicate head. Its life expectancy is 12 to 14 years.



## FREEDOM FESTIVAL FLOAT THE KING'S RIDE

Each year the Czech Heritage Foundation takes great pride in the celebration of American freedom.

One aspect of this American celebration is the Freedom Festival in downtown Cedar Rapids.

As the people of America celebrate with parades, the people of Czech ancestry living in Cedar Rapids wish to celebrate with our presentation of the Czech Heritage Float entitled THE KING'S RIDE.

It is the second in a series of floats tracking the journey of St. Joseph. The Kings Ride is an event that is celebrated on the seventh Sunday known as Whitsentide Sunday. Whitsentide Sunday is a recounted event of the Czech people when the Czech Republic was at war with their neighbors, the land of Poland.

The invasion of the troops from Poland was led by their King and as the battle raged in the streets of downtown Prague, it soon became apparent to the Polish King that he was outnumbered and was losing this battle. In an effort to save his own life and escape the Czech troops, he would dress in ladies clothes and attempted to sneak past the war zone and return to Poland.

His attempt to fool the Czechs was discovered and the Polish King was forced to hold a rose in his mouth as he paraded through the streets of Prague dressed in ladies clothes, to be publicly humiliated by the Czech people in the Czech and Slovak Republic. This event is observed to this day by the Czech and Slovaks.

Freedom is something we all seek and desire to celebrate and honor those who fought for these freedoms. The Czech Heritage Fd'n. is proud to be American Czech and stand up with pride for America.

## Membership Application

Please check the proper item: Renewal\_\_\_ New\_\_\_ Gift\_\_\_

Name(s) Ms., Mr., Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable and mail to :  
**Czech Heritage Foundation., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406**



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.

We appreciate your continued support. With your help we can carry on with projects, activities, and goals to preserve our heritage and culture. THANK YOU! **Na shledanou!**

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

### COMING EVENTS

- 
- September 4 .....Last Summer Concert Czech Plus Band  
7:00 p.m. Czech Village
  - September 7 .....“Kava a Knihy” - Reading & Lecture  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Museum Library
  - September 8 .....Czech Heritage Fd'n Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Museum
  - September 20 .....St. Wenceslaus Goulash Day  
St. Wenceslaus Church 10:00 a.m. to -
  - September 20 .....Slide & Lecture, Andera's Crosses  
Dr. Loren Horton, 2:00 p.m. Museum, Free
  - October 4 .....Homestay Program  
2:00 Museum, Free
  - October 5 .....“Kava a Knihy” - Reading & Lecture  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Museum Library
  - October 13 .....Czech Heritage Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Museum
  - October 24 .....Dožinky - Fall Festival  
(Watch for announcement)
  - October 24 .....Stories, Tales, Legends, & Lore (children)  
10:00 a.m. Museum, Free
  - November 10 .....Czech Heritage Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Museum
  - December 8.....Czech Heritage Christmas Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Museum
- 

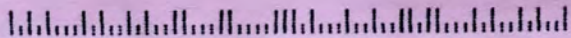
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## **How to Preserve a Husband**

Be careful in your selection. Do not choose too young. When selected, give your entire thoughts to preparation for domestic use. Some wives insist upon keeping them in a pickle, others are constantly getting them into hot water. This may make them sour, hard and sometimes bitter, even poor varieties may be made sweet, tender and good by garnishing them with patience, well sweetened love and seasoned with kisses. Wrap them in a mantle of charity. Keep warm with a steady fire of domestic devotion and serve with peaches and cream. Thus prepared, they will keep for years.