

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE



Czech Heritage Foundation Czech Fine Arts Foundation
Vol.II, No.3. P.O.Box 761 Cedar Rapids, Ia.52406. 12/77

SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committees of the two Foundations, Czech Heritage and Fine Arts, are seeking names of members interested in being officers and/or members of the Boards of Directors. The slate will be presented at the Annual Meeting, January 16, 1978.

With a membership of about 500, there must be folks who have IDEAS and the TIME to take an ACTIVE part in the monthly meetings of these Foundations



Officers to be elected include: president, vice-president, treasurer, and a secretary along with the members for the Boards.

It would be most helpful if you will send in names of members or even "members-to-be" and the office for which you are nominating them. Please send in your suggestions before or no later than January 5, 1978. Address the envelope to the Foundation you wish, P.O.Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52406 and in the lower left corner of the envelope write: NOMINATING COMMITTEE. You need not sign your name to your letter.

We can accomplish only as much as we put into our plans, projects, and programs. Comments and ideas from all members are welcome! Members may attend the monthly meetings of the Board of the Heritage Fdn. on the 2nd. Tuesday of the month. A notice appears in the Family Focus section of the Gazette on the Sunday before the Tuesday meeting about time and place.

Many of us have wanted more than ONE general meeting a year. Some suggestions have been: program and social hour in the spring; perhaps a summer picnic, and a fall pot-luck supper.

COMING

So far nothing is fixed as to the dates because the new officers and Board of Directors of the Heritage Foundation are the ones to consider such possibilities. All folks interested in the two Foundations and the Czech Village Association are welcome to such events. Bring your ideas to the January meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING
at 7:30 P.M. at Peoples Bank Community Room - 3rd Ave., 1st. St. S.W. Take the elevator. Plenty of parking. Reports, elections, program and social hour. Let's have a good turn out from all the groups: Czech Heritage, Czech Fine Arts, Czech Village Association.



\$\$\$\$ DONATIONS to the HERITAGE \$\$\$\$

While donations to Heritage have fallen off, the gifts to the Fine Arts have increased. You can add to our income for Heritage by the purchases for holiday gifts of such items as: postal card sets, steins, My Czech Word Book ABC's; and the red book on Czech Settlement in Cedar Rapids 1852-1942 by Martha Griffith. This year the sales of the ABC's amounted to more than 1000 copies. Shop in Czech Village!

The Editor solicits news items, sayings in Czech (proverbs), squibs, or jot down a short story about some incident of years ago? Send in item any time-just be inspired! Plenty of room in the big envelope with the label: "Items for next newsletter" . . . and Thanks

Jel jako po zmrzlích turkách . . .

Our leaflet lists 24 topics and 26 speakers. More than 250 of these flyers were mailed to groups, clubs, lodges, and organizations. In spite of the list being printed so late in the year, many speakers have had "dates"! If you have ideas for topics or speakers, send the information to our PO Box and these will be added in our next newsletter. See p. 7-8.

NOTICE TO SPEAKERS

Please let the Secretary know how many talks you have given and also an estimate of the total number of people in the audiences. Need this information for the annual report at the January meeting. Let me hear by January 5th, 1978.

If you have been on TV., radio, or in the news media, report that also.

Those of you who meet with pupils in grade III in our schools and visit with them about Czech heritage, do send me an estimate of the numbers of children, number of days you have been making "the rounds! Thanks. .



" freckles ' n featherbeds "



This new publication brings to mind experiences of our childhood before and around the turn of this century! . . long, long before radio, automobiles, TV, junk foods.. The setting is Oklahoma. In the 17 chapters you read about the warm featherbeds, the "Nickelodian", 20 gallon stone jars for kraut, heavy long underwear, long black stockings, gathering poppyseeds for kolaches, stomping grapes, sleigh bells on the hind quarters of the horse--high on their hips--and those wonderous pictures in large frames with a key at the side to wind up the music - box inside. . and many more nostalgic events. . .

The book was called to the editor's attention by Charles Vyskocil. If interested, write Mrs. Grace Drabak Smith, 204 N.W. 17th Street, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73103. \$2.25 postpaid. 139 pages, 1977.

The Sunday Des Moines Register, Oct. 23rd, reports the fantastic Asian collection of the Brague Naprstek Museum in the 21 halls of the Libechov Mansion at Melnik 28 miles north of Prague.

Another place to visit is the BOOK MUSEUM of Zdar nad Sazavou, some 85 miles from Prague. The collection shows the evolution of writing over thousands of years. (Zdar is a quaint mountain village in Moravia. All houses are wooden and the site itself is a "museum" and set aside by the government as a national historic site. I was there in 1966 but since we did not see the museum, maybe it is a new project. MMS)

& ABOUT CZECHS, HERE AND THERE

Recently at the Des Moines Symphony Concert, pianist RUDOLF FIRKUSNY, Czech virtuoso, was soloist. At age 4 he started piano lessons and six years later he made his debut with the Prague Philharmonic!

The New York Times reports "solid musicianship" of EUGEN PROKOP at a concert at Carnegie Recital Hall. Prokop is a violinist, "a mature artist". He has lived in Belgium for many years.

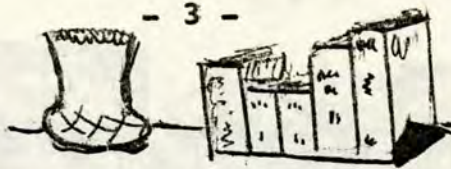
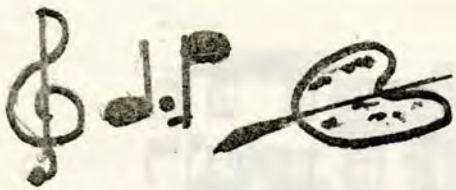
Last May at the Stuttgart State theater, West Germany, the ballet "Daphne" had its world premiere. The musical score for the event was ANTON DVORAK'S "Seventh Symphony in D Minor."

In October, VILEM NOWAK died in Prague at the age of 91. He was considered one of the best-known artists, a painter.

And now, the translation of the one line item in lower right column on page 1, : "He drove as if going over over frozen pumpkins." Most likely we'd say, " He drove like crazy."

Thanks to Marie Wokoun for list of "sayings" Send in your favorite remarks

Your editor visited the American Czech Educational Center in St. Louis on Nov. 26th. It is the meeting place for the CSA, Sokols, and Unity of Czech Ladies and Men. Gym and kitchen facilities are excellent. Czech School is Friday evenings . . .



Fine arts

MEMORIALS and DONATIONS to our fund for the Museum and Library for this year total \$1212.00 The sums range from \$2.00 to \$400.00 per donation. These monies are used for the acquisitions of museum items that will make for a well-rounded collection for displays. It is later than we realize when it comes to locating precious representative items of Czech culture and heritage. All donations to the Fine Arts Fdn. are income tax exempt.

A TRAVELLING EXHIBIT sponsored by the Foundation is now ready. The first such display is at the new Sheraton Hotel Inn, 33rd Ave. SW off highway US 218 and 30. . .

During the month of December the display can be seen there. For January, it will be moved elsewhere.

If you wish to donate or loan any items for these displays which will be changed monthly, please call Robert Schaffer, or Elsie Jelinek ,

BOOKS and other publications for the library continue to come to us now and then. Some donations have come from out of the state as well. . .

Keep the thought of making your own contribution of Czech items suitable for the Museum or Library .

Later on a complete list of donors and items contributed will appear in a future issue of the newsletter. We are still sorting and classifying materials for the library.

HAVE YOU HAD ANY KLOBASY?

These were a popular item at the CFAFn.TENT on Czech Days on the Avenue in September. You wonder about the spelling? Kolabasié is the Polish spelling and KLOBASY is Czech word. It is a lightly spiced plump sort of a sausage, 3 to 4 inches long, and smoked just as the "hot dog" is when you buy them.

C.R.YOUTH SYMPHONY TO PRESENT TWO CONCERTS

This group presents two all Czech Music Concerts in January 1978. . The first appearance will be in Des Moines, January 14th, at the Music Teachers of Iowa - the Iowa Music Education Conference. The expenses of transportation by charter bus is an item the young people have no way to meet as there are no funds. We are asking for the support of this project and those of you who wish to make a financial contribution please send your check made out to Czech Fine Arts Fdn, PO Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.

The second concert by this fine group will be at Sinclair Chapel, Coe College, January 29, 1978, on a Sunday afternoon. Watch news media for more information. Write down the date, January 29, on your calendar.

a riddle: Kdo vždy nosí hřeben a nikdy se nečesá ?
Who always carries a comb but never (uses) combs ?

CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND DOODLERS

The newsletter is really in need of a suitable masthead for this Czech Fine Arts Section. Will those of you who are so creative and artistic, please create some meaningful design? Hopefully we will have something appropriate for this section. Send your designs to the editor, please.

Editor of newsletter and Acting Secretary: Miss M. Melvina Svec



Czech Village

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

CECH DAYS na ŠESTNACTO

The 4th Annual Czech Days were really a daze on September 9-10, 1977. From a survey the editor made with the merchants the following remarks resulted:

"Sunny skies brought hundreds of people, looking, visiting, buying and selling..It really was nice.. The Flea Market attracted many of our visitors. . Much better than last year..a happy atmosphere . . . Merchants participated in gifts and attractive merchandise."

More than 8000 kolaches were sold! That was not enough to supply the demand. Kolach producers were the Sykora Bakery, Dostal Catering, and Tabitha Circle of the Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church.



The Children's Parade had a modest number of "floats" and costumed marchers. They showed a lot of originality and also creativity! Let's have more taking part next year.

"The activities at the BAND-STAND added to the festivities. Also the Boddicker accordion students & dancers gave color and music for all to enjoy. "

" In some stores, the clerks and also merchants wore the Czech national costumes. That was nice. "

"Business at the Czech Fine Arts Tent selling Klobasy was GREAT. The service included sauerkraut, a soft drink, and potato chips. "



" Cars from other parts of Iowa were in evidence. Saw many people who were strangers so shows that word got around what was going on. Lots of new faces in my shop."

"Even though closing time was 5 o' clock, some shops were open until 10 P.M."We finally locked the doors."

"People were elbow to elbow along the Avenue! Food served inside and outside kept many people busy."

"Maybe Saturday and Sunday would be a good time to have this sort of thing."

One merchant estimated that over 5000 people were around on Saturday evening to dance, visit, listen to the music and just look around.

"Just had no troubles with crowds or individuals on a Saturday evening!.. nobody unruly..most people met old friends, shopped and looked."

"What an improvement over last year! I was surprised by the business we had...."

AND NOW? CZECH DAYS 1978

As soon as the Czech Village Association members caught a breath, they began to plan for 1978. Constructive suggestions have come from many participants and those interested in improving lay-out, events etc. More about this in another item.

Give a GIFT of a MEMBERSHIP in the Czech Heritage Foundation to a member of the family, a friend, a neighbor, even if out of the state! Do it NOW so they get a copy of this newsletter.

The cost? ONLY \$ 3.00 for dues for all 1978. Make check payable to Czech Heritage Fdn. and mail to address on page one. . . . or let me add it here:

PO Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia.
52406



PŘIJDTE k NÁM -
na ŠESNACTO

Come to our Place -
on Sixteenth
Avenue, S.W.

Czech Village, the busy Cedar Rapids Neighborhood shopping area just two blocks south of the new 12th Avenue Bridge, is the delightfully unique spot for all your holiday shopping needs.

Friday, November 25th kicked off holiday shopping with Santa Claus, introduced by merchant Paul Kosek, lighting the Village Christmas Tree in Kosek Memorial Bandstand. There's a "Santa Studio" open from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M. Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22, on the corner of 16th Ave. and C Street, which includes an artist who will sketch your portrait while you wait.

There are drawings for holiday bags displaying holiday birds (geese, of course), and Santa Lollipops for the children and new shopping bags displaying the Czech Village emblem.

Christmas gifts of permanence for your home are arrayed at JOENS BROTHERS INTERIORS, where carpeting, vinyl and ceramic tile, and custom-made draperies provide an "indoor-world of color". Other gifts for both beauty and functional uses are at BARTUNEK'S MAYTAG, the AVENUE FLORAL by PIERSON'S, and NOVAK AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING.

Dine at OLDE TOWNE INN for extraordinary Czech food, spend an entertaining evening at ERNIE'S TAVERN, treat your sweet tooth at BOBI SWEET SHOP, and shop at BODDICKER SCHOOL OF MUSIC, "Your Complete Music Store."

COAST TO COAST has all of your home needs and KOSEK'S DIME & DOLLAR STORE is chock full of all items a dime store is famous for. And UNITED STATE BANK, in Czech Village, will fill all of your banking needs!

SYKORA BAKERY has Christmas cookies and special cakes and breads for all holiday occasions, while gourmet meats and Czech specialties are available at 16th AVENUE MEAT MARKET and POHLENA'S MARKET.

SADDLE AND LEATHER SHOP carries the finest in leather specialties while CZECH COTTAGE displays the most elegant gifts, antiques, and jewelry.. and CZECH CLOSET has a spectacle of high fashion peasant-look and comfortable creative clothing.

"A Little of Everything Special is in CZECH VILLAGE."

(reported by Pat Martin)

"We Only Just Begun" seems to be the opinion of the Czech Village Association regarding the annual Czech Village Festival, as the merchants plan Czech Days of the future," so says PAT MARTIN, the Czech Village new coordinator, whose office is located in Joens Brothers Interiors at 59 - 16th Avenue, SW.

"We feel very pleased with the 4th annual Czech Days and are planning even more events to involve our public for the Czech Village Festival," she said.

Events under investigation include amusement shows, more friendly and fun contests, and the development of a Spring Czech Days.. More details later ! . . . Pat Martin

MEET PAT MARTIN !

Have you met Pat Martin? You will know her when you see her along the Avenue: bright eyes that dance, black hair, jolly, friendly, full of ideas that are innovative and creative. Her long stride helps her to cover the Avenue in a hurry. She has been interested in our projects ever since we got under way some 3 years ago. WELCOME PAT! We like what you are doing. . . (the editor, mms)

MEMBERSHIP IN FOUNDATIONS EXPIRES DEC. 1977. RENEW NOW \$3.00 per person. Send check to our PO Box..



RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN
EARLY CEDAR RAPIDS

Early Czech settlers were Protestants, others Catholics and the liberals who were called Free-Thinkers.

The first St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church was ready in 1882 but within 20 years it was too small for the rapidly growing parish. The present Gothic edifice was dedicated 1905. Imagine! it was built at a cost of \$49,000. Over the years the church founded recreational clubs and also insurance groups. By 1927 some of the services were conducted in Czech and some in English. Now services are in English unless some special visitors or event takes place.

St. Ludmilas Catholic Church started a school in 1914 in a house on the property that was purchased by the parish members. One room served as a chapel. The church was erected in 1926 at a cost of about \$27,000. The church has a fun carnival, big kolach festival and bazaar every summer.

In both of the above projects, it is likely that labor and even some materials were donated. Imagine trying to build those structures nowadays for that small sum of money.

The Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church started as a group of Evangelicals of the Reformed Church and met in homes. Once in a while, the pastor of the Ely church (1858) walked to Cedar Rapids or people here walked to Ely to attend services. The church is unique because it was the first Czech Protestant Church in the United States.

Mr. Sinclair let the group use a room at the packing plant for the services. Mission status lasted for some years. Both the First and the Second Presbyterian Churches in the city helped the Czech group. Finally a church at the corner of 9th Ave., 7th Street SE was dedicated in 1916. The edifice cost \$ 24,000. The new Hus Memorial Church is on 29th Ave. and Schaffer Drive. SW.

There was also a Jan Hus Methodist Church, once a Mission of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church. The Czech Church was located on 14th Ave. and 2nd Street, SW. Later the church members became the present Asbury Methodist Church 29th Ave., 3rd St. S.W.

The Czech Reformed Church was built on 2nd Street, 15th Ave., SW and dedicated in 1911 with all debts paid. By 1942 the membership dropped to 62 and the congregation was then dissolved.

This will be the last of the brief reports on the early history of our Czech Community. Now that the story of those years (1852-1942) is available in the publication, "The History of Czech Settlement in Cedar Rapids", written by Martha Griffith, there is no need to tell the story in our newsletters. The booklet of 96 pages has been only recently published by the Czech Heritage Foundation. It sells for \$3.00 postpaid. Write the Foundation if you wish copies. Address is on the masthead of the newsletter.

* * * * * mms * * * * *
* Some members have paid their dues for the coming year.. Have you?
* \$3.00 per individual gives you membership in both Foundations. Make
* check payable to Czech Heritage Foundation and mail to our PO Box 761
* Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406 AND * * * * *
* * * * *



*Seasons Greetings
and Best Wishes
for all 1978!*





CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION CZECH FINE ARTS FOUNDATION

of
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

offer
these
PROGRAMS
which
are

**interesting
informative
entertaining**

**READ ON
for
TOPICS
and
SPEAKERS** →

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

TRAVEL and HISTORY

1. TRAVEL WITH ME TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA
WHILE IN YOUR ARMCHAIR (slides)
George J. Naxera, Jr.
2. OUR CZECH HERITAGE
M. Melvina Svec
3. MY CHILDHOOD IN OLD BOHEMIA and
MY RETURN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Elizabeth Landa Trefny

ABOUT THE HERITAGE and FINE ARTS FOUNDATIONS and THEIR WORK

1. OUR LIBRARY COLLECTION AND NEEDS
Jana Fast
2. GIFTS OF TREASURES FOR THE
MUSEUM COLLECTION
Elsie Jelinek
3. THE STORY OF THE FOUNDATIONS and
CZECH VILLAGE PROJECT
Roland Raim

CUSTOMS

1. HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES IN OLD
BOHEMIA
Barbara Benda
2. CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY TRADITIONS
with appropriate songs and music
Kveta Vondracek Smith
Lenora Stark Topinka
3. FOLK FESTIVALS IN CENTRAL EUROPE
with slide presentation
Alma Turechek

CZECHS IN CEDAR RAPIDS

1. CZECHS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD
Georgiana Hach Brejcha
2. ONE HUNDRED EIGHT YEARS OF THE
CZECH SUMMER SCHOOL
Mildred Libal Drahovzal
Marie Wokoun
3. CZECHS IN POLITICS: LOCAL AND
STATE GOVERNMENTS
Ernest Kosek
4. COME INTO MY KITCHEN
Rose Bartunek Polehna - or -
Marie Jerabek Vitek
5. THE CHANGING ROLE OF GYMNASTICS
Kveta Vondracek Smith
6. CZECH ORGANIZATIONS: PAST AND
PRESENT
Charles H. Vyskocil

OTHER TOPICS

1. FROM POLKA TO BACH (accordion)
Arlene Reyman Boddicker
2. CUT GLASS RINGS TRUE
Irene Naxera Hamous
3. HOW TO GROW YOUR FAMILY TREE
Sharon Stotler Hruska
4. TRADITIONAL CZECH MUSIC
The Fred J. Kosek Family
String Ensemble
5. CZECH ETHNIC STUDIES AT
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Florence Masters
6. THIS IS THE WAY TO COLOR EGGS
Marjorie Kopecek Nedjl

7. FOREIGN TRADE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Charles Opatrny
8. BEAUTIFUL OBJECTS AND HANDCRAFT
OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Jitka Hajek Schaffer - or -
Robert Schaffer
9. LITERATURE AND POETRY OF
CZECH AUTHORS
Marie Wokoun

★ ★ ★

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TO REACH A SPEAKER

You phone or write the person and make your plans directly.

Inquire if the speaker has a fee.

You may wish to make a donation to one of the Foundations.

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NEED A PROGRAM?

Even on short notice we will make an effort to help you!

If the person you call is not available for your program, perhaps another person can be suggested even though that name is not on the list.

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Please be sure to use ZIP CODE if you write a letter.