

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



See page 5 for Easter Story.

Volume 23 - Number 1 - March 1998



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OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚICTVÍ

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage F'd'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 June issue is May 22, 1998.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who helped with the December issue were my husband John, Lisa Volesky and Anna Lou Johnson. Thank you for your support and help.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Wow! I can hardly believe that 1997 has come and gone. It was such a busy year packed with many highlights.

No doubt the biggest event was the exhibit "A Thousand Years of Czech Culture". The 203 artifacts from the National Museum in Prague came to only two cities in the United States, New Salem, North Carolina and to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The exhibit opened in May and closed January 4, 1998. What a fabulous exhibit! In October, the museum celebrated a Harvest Festival and Czech Ambassador to the United States, Alexander Vondra, was guest speaker.

Czech Heritage relocated their Ethnic Fest to the Exhibition Hall at Hawkeye Downs and it proved to be a prudent move. It was time to allow the popular festival to grow. We had outgrown the facility at the Round House in Czech Village years ago. Now we have ample room for the participants and acres of parking. This made for a more enjoyable and relaxed festival. Czech Heritage gained 2 more parade winning trophies. Four local students of Czech background spent a month with a host family in the Czech Republic. Our Special Library Fund drive met with overwhelming success. Our goal of \$10,000 was quickly met through generous donations from all over the United States. It enabled the museum to hire a librarian and much was accomplished. Stop and visit the library and see what you have helped to achieve.

The Village Association sponsored the many regular festivities and added a new and successful flea market for the first time.

More summer concerts were scheduled for the Czech Plus Band in Czech Village. With favorable summer weather, attendance was up.

As I look in my crystal ball for 1998, I see only positive things. The museum will have a new display you will want to see. The Ethnic Fest will be bigger with new ethnic groups joining. The village will add and try new features to their program to attract visitors. The Czech Heritage's Special Library Fund drive for 1998 will again meet with success. There are many Czech families and communities in this country and beyond. We would like to continue to reach out and hope you will renew your membership and receive our newsletter.

Adeline Volesky
Editor

Czech Heritage President's Message

by Russ Novotny

Our organization is proud of the many youths we have supported and who have supported us. That has been primarily through our Homestay program, and our Czech Prince & Princess program. Now, thanks to recent actions by our board, I get to introduce our newest youth program:

FLASH: Czech Heritage Scholarships Available

The Czech Heritage Foundation is now ready to start awarding scholarships to students of Czech heritage who are attending accredited post-secondary educational institutions. We have been building a scholarship fund for some time. The intent has always been to support scholarships from the interest earned on this fund. We now feel we have funds available to start offering some modest scholarships. We will continue to work to grow our basic fund in hopes of increasing our support to students.

Applicants must have Czech ancestry and ties to the Czech Heritage Foundation. They must have completed at least the equivalent of one year of post-secondary education, and be enrolled full time in an accredited post-secondary institution. Awards will be based equally on the student's academic achievement, need, support of their Czech heritage, and character/school activities. Application deadline for next school year is May 1, 1998. For further information or an application package, contact me at:

Russ Novotny

Phone;

Email;

Our organization grows young by involving the youth in our many programs. The seeds we are now sowing are growing, and I am confident that we are in good hands.

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The combined annual board meeting of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. and National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library was held in Heritage Hall on Monday, January 19, 1998.

Officers from both organizations presented financial and business summaries from the previous year. Election of officers was held. Officers for 1998 for the Czech Heritage Fd'n are as follows: Pres. Russ Novotny, V. Pres. Sylvia Rohlena, Secy. Carol Danek, Treas. Dennis Hrabak, and Fin. Secy. Lovell Dvorak.

Other board members are: Emma Davidson, Beula Dvorak, Denver Dvorsky, Barbara Edmunds, Frank Edmunds, David Faltis, Charles Krejci, Diane Krejci, David Krivanek, Esther Lippert, Frank Novotny, Sherlee Peterson, Leonard Pfeifer, John Rocarek, Barbara Schroeder, Dorothy Simanek, Elsie Sova, Jeanne Tompkins, Emil Velky, and Adeline Volesky. Honorary members are: Melvina Svec, Charles Vyskocil, Mae Novotny (dec.), and Bob Kouba (dec.).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I thoroughly enjoy reading your newsletter. I can't put them down until I have read them from cover to cover. I really enjoyed the article by Olga Drahozal about the Czech School 1997. It gave me the opportunity to see if I could figure out some of the Czech words. I have always wanted a first grade reader.

My grandparents, both sets, came from Czechoslovakia so I learned to speak Czech but never learned to write or read it. My husband's ancestors are also from Czechoslovakia. Our children are fourth generation Czech but don't know a word of Czech.

The county we live in was settled by many Czech families. Some families came directly to Prince George County from the Old Country and some settled out west in Nebraska or Kansas or the coal fields of Pennsylvania before relocating in our county or one of the surrounding counties. At one time there were about five Protestant churches and three Catholic churches that had Czech services in the area. Today, as far as I know, only one church remembers its Czech heritage at its annual festival. That is the Church of the Sacred Heart in Prince George County.

I am enclosing a history of the church and the information about the festival. At the liturgy on that particular Sunday, the meditation song was sung in Czech. I think it is interesting that on the back of the festival sheet is the Ukrop's Golden Gift Program advertisement. The Ukrop family attended the Czech Baptist Church across the river from our county. The son married and started a small grocery store in downtown Richmond. This year was the 60th anniversary of the grocery business and it has expanded to over 25 stores in the Richmond area. The son's children have taken over the business. As far as I know the parents are still living.

I am enclosing my membership and gift memberships.

*Evelyn Hanzlik
Petersburg, Virginia*

(See page 14 on the history of the Church of the Sacred Heart, New Bohemia, Virginia.)

Dear Editor:

What a wonderful newsletter! So many informative articles, I am already looking forward to your next issue. The newsletter came to my home as a gift from a dear friend of mine who spent several days in Cedar Rapids. I also hope to visit some day.

I am becoming reacquainted with my Czech heritage since I grew up in a Czech home and area, Cicero, Illinois.

Your hard work is appreciated.

*Arlene Soucek / Raila
Broadview, Illinois*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It was wonderful to meet you again when my sister and I visited the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library recently. The exhibit "A Thousand Years of Czech Culture" was something everyone of Czech heritage should have seen. The history of our nationality is little known by most people of Czech heritage.

I am proud of our National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. It is beautiful. I hope it will become one of the "must see" things on scheduled tours sponsored by different travel organizations.

Your tour of the Corning Glass Center was nice, especially the gallery with Czechoslovakian glass. The crystal vase President Havel gave the museum is a fine example of Czech glass.

I wish I lived closer to Cedar Rapids so I could serve as a volunteer for the Czech Heritage Foundation.

Best wishes for a successful 1998.

*Viola Young
Columbia, Missouri*

Dear Editor:

We received OUR CZECH HERITAGE from Cedar Rapids.

In reference about Dupanda and St. Wenceslaus west of Clutier, yes, it is still there. It was closed about 3 years ago. Now they have funerals and Feast of Corpus Christi with the 3 chapels open with band music. And in Clutier they serve the big chicken and ham meals with Czech bakery.

I hope this information will help your reader, M. Lucas of Keokuk, Iowa

*Gladys Nekola
Toledo, Iowa*

GOOD NEWS FOR CZECH TOURISTS

Tourists planning to visit the Czech Republic will be glad to know that there will be considerable improvement in taxi service starting in April. Measures were taken by a Prague Council to regulate rates of taxi service in the capitol city. The maximum price is 17 Czech crowns per kilometer, 4 crowns per minute of waiting and 25 crowns as an entry fee.

According to the amendment, regulators were allowed to regulate taxi service within their district by issuing a special decree.

Complaints were received by residents and especially tourists. Fees varied from \$5 to \$70 for a ride to the airport.

A RECORD IS BROKEN

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library had a record year of attendance. The special exhibit "A Thousand Years of Czech Culture" from the National Museum in Prague drew large crowds. The exhibit opened in May and closed January 4, 1998. Attendance averaged 3,000 people every month.

In all, the guest book registered some 30,000 visitors. Visitors were from 50 states and 39 foreign countries.

Bus tours were most popular in late summer and early fall. The exhibit was used widely by many school districts as a special learning project as well as for home schooling lessons. The days of highest attendance were around the holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. Highest attendance on one of those days was 350 visitors. On the last two days of the exhibit a large share of the viewers came from a 50 mile radius of Cedar Rapids, especially from nearby towns of Czech background.

The museum is open to visitors, now featuring two private collections.

LEGACY OF LOVE:
THE LAMPAREK COLLECTION
AND

SLOVAKIA'S MOUNTAIN TREASURES
SHEPHERDS AND THEIR ART.

The display features glass and porcelain and artifacts used by herders. The library and immigrant home are also open.

In April, the museum will have the new 4,000 foot exhibit room ready.

THE MONTHS

January	leden	month of ice
February	unor	month of waning winter
March	březen	month of birch
April	duben	month of oaks
May	květen	month of blossoms
June	červen	month of red
July	červenec	month of reddening fruit
August	srpen	month of the sickle
September	září	month of heather blossoms
October	říjen	month of rutting
November	listopad	month of falling leaves
December	prosinec	month of begging to heaven

AN EGG FOR EASTER

Why do we have eggs at Easter? Although today, the painted eggs are associated with Easter, it's a historical fact that they originated in the earliest pagan times. The tradition of decorating eggs has been passed on from generation to generation over thousands of years. Ornamented eggs exist in almost all European and Asian cultures. Archaeologists have often found eggs among offerings placed in graves both in prehistoric and historic periods.

Before the decorated egg, man has been attracted by the perfect beauty of the form of an egg and by the mystery of a seemingly dead object coming through the shell and coming to life. There were many strange conceptions and mystic symbolisms about the egg. According to the studies of combined chemistry and magic from the middle ages, the egg was a symbol of the four elements: the shell is the earth, the membrane is air, the white of the egg is water and the yolk, fire. Even in developed cultures, myths including witchcraft and magic surrounded the egg. One such was the Czech "hospodariček" (serpent) was offered eggs to keep him happy so he would warn the family in times of danger . . . a Czech legend of the 200 cart loads of eggs — one from every village in Bohemia — used in the mortar to secure the Charles bridge in Prague. The folk-lore are numerous and varied in all the nations.

In the past, interest in this most accessible and widespread form of folk art had declined and little was written about it. Now, realizing the painted egg is one of the most marvelous forms of folk art, the facts find that ornamented eggs document events to the earliest periods of human existence.

During pre-Christian times, the peasants of central and western Europe were influenced by the belief that the egg represented rebirth and new life in the spring of the year. It was a festival of rejoicing, marking the triumph of life over death and of spring over winter. Their life was difficult and the "kraslice" (Czech decorated eggs) filled their need for beauty and creativity. The different colors and motifs symbolized different meanings and varied from village to village (e.g. white meant purity, red symbolized good health or wealth, green for hope and after Christ was born for spiritual renewal, etc). It was usually the women and girls that did the decorating and they prepared the dyes themselves by using what nature provided, such as onion skins, flowers, berries, bark, leaves, seeds and even moss. After Christ was born, the missionaries used the kraslice to introduce Christianity and new meanings representing life, heaven and earth were added to the colors and symbols. Thus - bringing us to full circle - an ornamented egg for Easter.

There are many styles and methods of egg decorating varying from area to area. Just to name a

few . . . painted, dyed and scratched, raised designs, glued rush pith and more modern, the lace cut, wax "stained glass" and whatever the imagination can conjure.

As time passes, legends, symbols and meanings change, but the methods have basically stayed much the same and the decorated egg is still a beautiful art form.

Marjorie Kopecek Nejd

. . . by the way — how can you tell whether a chicken is going to lay brown eggs or white eggs?

If the chicken's earlobes are white, the eggs will be white. If the earlobes are red, the eggs will be brown. MNK

MAY DAY - SAMSULA STYLE

The call of May Day does not always mean distress. In Florida, it can mean a big time in the little town of Samsula.

The Slovenians in central Florida, a farming community west of New Smyrna Beach, enjoy celebrating May Day in the Old World way. The Czechs and Slovaks from Masaryktown welcome their Slovenian neighbors from Yugoslavia. Slovenia is a republic within Yugoslavia. It is a mountainous and agricultural land which fell on hard times in the 1920's.

Many families immigrated to the Port Richey area near Tampa, Florida. In 1926, eleven adults in Samsula organized the Slovenian National Benefit Society to raise money to build a lodge hall. A Slovenian newspaper PROSVETA helped out financially as well as Masarkytown. A Slovenian accordion group played for a night of dancing.

A local Slovenian in Samsula recalled her youth and wanted to pass her heritage to the younger generation. She remembered how musicians would march through her village just before dawn playing songs. A Maypole was set up in the center of her village. It was topped with a green branch from a linden or pine tree.

In 1961 the first Maypole went up in Samsula. People of all ages and nationalities were expected to attend. Youngsters in native dress wove streamers around the Maypole while younger children dropped rose petals. Folks sang songs to lively music to a button accordion. Such instruments were made only upon order in Ljubljana, Slovenia and took one year to deliver.

Ethnic foods included klobassa, sauerkraut and irresistible pastries featuring patica were served.

*Submitted by Dave & Martha Novak
(Have any of our Florida readers been to this celebration and is it still celebrated?)*

BIOGRAPHY



Emma Hodina was born October 8, 1908 to Joseph and Aloise Peshova Navratil in Hlinsko, Czechoslovakia. Her father feared he might have to serve in the army so he came to America to see if he could provide a safe haven and opportunity for his family. He was ready

to return to Europe to bring his family, but the family urged him to stay and they would join him in the New World. In 1911, Mother Aloise came with the children Joseph Jr., Annie (Woodworker) Mary (Koss), Elizabeth (Plotz), and Emma. Emma was two and a half years old during the voyage. She gave her mother some anxious moments when she became lost on the boat. She was found sitting on a step on a lower level eating a dry piece of bread. They landed on Ellis Island and proceeded to Cedar Rapids to join their father and other relatives. Emma's father was an avid sportsman so the family moved to Homolka, Minnesota where there was a lot of game. The town of Homolka was named after an early Czech pioneer and settler. The town was later renamed Middle River, Minnesota. Emma attended a rural school. Her early recollections of life in Minnesota is that of her father working in the iron mines, the cold winters, and on Ash Wednesday her mother made koblidy (fruit filled bun). The family first owned a team of oxen and later horses. They never owned a car. After a few years, the family decided to move back to Cedar Rapids to be closer to relatives.

Back in southwest Cedar Rapids, Emma's father got a job at T. M. Sinclair meat packing plant. Emma disliked house work so she asked her father if she could get a job with him. When she had a job interview with her father's foreman, she did not disclose that she was under age, so he hired her. She stayed for 40 years.

Through a neighborhood gathering she met Lester Hodina, who also immigrated from Czechoslovakia. They were married June 29, 1929 by a judge in Toledo, Iowa. They enjoyed ZCBJ, CSPA and Czech plays. They became parents of two daughters Lillian (Re) and Leona (Ludeen). Both live in California so Emma is an avid traveler to visit her family, 5 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter.

Over the years Ellis Island fell into disrepair. Donations were solicited for restoration. For \$100

you could buy a space on the wall to have names of immigrants inscribed. During a long distance phone visit to California, her daughter sensed the feeling her mother was interested, being an immigrant who landed at Ellis Island. Emma felt the money should go towards her granddaughter's education but family encouraged her to do otherwise. She purchased a space on the wall for her family's inscription.

In 1991, her daughter purchased plane tickets so Emma could visit Ellis Island. The three foot wall has thousands of names all lined up alphabetically including that of her parents, Emma and her sister. Her certificate reads "Among those courageous men and women who came to this country in search of personal freedom, economic opportunity and a future of hope for their families."

Emma is now a resident of Asbury House, a retirement center in southwest Cedar Rapids. She enjoys crocheting and dining out with friends.

Ellis Island Immigration Museum now has web site

Maria Antenoracruz, Assistant to the Director of Public Affairs at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum writes that the newest project is The American Family Immigration History Center which has a web site. The URL is: www.ellisland.org

To visit and view The American Immigrant Wall of Honor on-line, where you can view a registered family name, research if one has been registered, possibly locate a family name and register your family using the electronic form the URL is: www.wallofhonor.com

INTERESTING FACT

At the Masaryk Train Station in Prague, there is now a memorial tablet with these words: "Hundred of thousands of Czech women, men and children passed through this gate after 1848 to seek a new home on the other side of the Atlantic. Dedicated to their memory and their part in the advancement of the American continent, by the citizens of the Republic, on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the New World."

This station was the starting point for most of the emigrants from Bohemia and Moravia who then went either to Hamburg or Bremen on their journey to America.

Taken from the Sokol So. Omaha Newsletter — May 1, 1994.

KRIKAVA FAMILY GRAVE MARKER RECOVERED

On one of our many trips to the Czech Republic, Alton and I made a miraculous find. We had discovered from Alton's grandfather, Josef Krikava's wedding certificate, that he was not born in the village of Karizek, where the old Krikava home is located. Alton's great grandfather, also Josef Krikava, had lived with his wife and two children in Karizek, house #2, which had been passed to him by his father Jan. This house had been in the Krikava family since 1733, when houses were numbered. His great grandfather apparently moved near Kublov to work in the Hreben iron mine. We have an artist's drawing of him, and on the picture it says he was a miner from Hreben. Therefore, Alton's grandfather was born in the parish of Veliz near Kublov, about 15 miles from where the Krikava home is.

We drove to Kublov to see if we could find some information. There were about five houses, an old church dating back to the year 1035 A.D., and a cemetery. Alton asked an old carpenter who was doing some work on the church if he knew the Krikava name. He said it was familiar but didn't know why. He sent us to the house of the priest. The priest got out the old church records but the pages were torn out for the years we were looking for.

He opened the church, showed us around and played the organ for us. We then looked through the cemetery. We found the grave of Antonin Dvorak's music teacher, Josef Leopold Zvonar, but no Krikavas. We gave the priest a telephone number where we could be reached in case they remembered anything.

The carpenter went home and asked his wife if the name Krikava meant anything to her. She remembered it was the name on the old cast iron grave marker hidden in the shed behind the church. We were notified the next day and we returned.

We carried the marker out of the shed to look at it. There were three grave markers which had been hidden during the communist era. The communists were taking them to smelt down for the iron. The information on the marker told us it was Alton's great-great grandfather Jan, his great-great-grandmother Anna, and his great grandmother Josefa listed there. It said Jan Krikava was a farmer and all the names and dates agreed with the information from the archives. We took pictures and asked the priest if we could have copies made. The priest said we could make a donation to the church and take the original marker as it belonged to our family anyway.

Then began the lengthy process of getting legal permission to take the marker out of the country. One of Alton's cousins worked in customs and cut through the red tape.

After getting permission to have it shipped to the U.S., it arrived in November 1996. We had to go to Minneapolis to clear customs to bring it home. Last summer (1997) Alton mounted the markers in stone and we have it in our family cemetery. Translated the marker says:

"Three steps from the wall in this holy ground rests in our Lord: Jan Krikava, farmer from Karizek died 1844 at age 81 years.

His spouse Anna died 1842 at age 73 years.

Josefa Krikava, born: Kovandova from Lisne, spouse of the miner of Hreben died 1853 at age 40 years.

Peace to their ashes!"

Because Josefa's husband Josef had not died yet, they did not use his name on the marker. Instead, they said "The miner of Hreben." To this day they do not put the name of a person still living on a tombstone.

Submitted by Marie Krikava Glenville, MN.



LEGEND OF THE FROST

If you are a gardener, there is a warning for you. A Czech legend warns not to plant young tender plants before May 12, 13, and 14 because of the three frozen kings or "three frost saints."

Pankrac died May 12, 304 A.D. Servac died May 13 and Bonifac died on May 14.

On May 15, Sophia brought about a kettle of boiling water. Sophia was undoubtedly brought into the legend because her feast day was May 15 and because she was known for her excellent cooking and baking. So on May 15 or later it is safe to plant.

When May temperatures threaten frost, the legend is especially recalled. In the New World, this legend might apply in parts of Canada and Northern United States, but elsewhere gardens are planted in March and April and in some southern areas the climate permits planting the year around.

TOWN OF WESTERN, LINN COUNTY

The town of Western was surveyed on Section 34 in 1856. The first settlers on the present site of Western were Adam Perry and Wyatt Wherry in 1849. They appear to have been the only settlers until 1856. During this year Jacob Shuey Sr. of Shueyville, Johnson County, purchased Wherry's farm of 120 acres and donated it for the use of Western College. To this Adam Perry added 40 acres.

In 1856, a store and a shoe shop were opened and the following year a post office with the name of Western College followed in 1887.

The second store opened in the village was by John Henderson, a Legislator. In 1860, a hotel was started. Soon several more stores and shops opened at the village. For a time business was lively. The outlook for the town was very bright. In 1861, a two story brick schoolhouse had been constructed.

In 1874, a large and flourishing mill was completed and opened. It had three run of stone and a prosperous milling business was carried on for many years. In 1867, the village was incorporated with W. B. Wagner as Mayor. This, however, did not secure its prosperity.

Two religious organizations were established, the United Brethren and the Methodist Episcopal. The latter was organized in 1864, and a church was erected the same year. The United Brethren was established under the auspices of the College, and services were held in the College Chapel. The church prospered with the college.

WESTERN COLLEGE

Western College was the outgrowth of a meeting of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Brethren in Christ, at Muscatine, Iowa in 1855. It was the first step taken by this denomination to found an institution of learning west of the Mississippi. At this meeting the matter was thoroughly discussed. A Board of Trustees was named to take an active measure in founding a seminary of learning under the control of the church. Mr. Shuey, of Shueyville, wrote to Mr. Weaver in reference to a site in Western. It was concluded it would be just the place for a college.

The community assisted by Adam Perry, raised a bonus of \$7,000 and W. H. Shuey made a donation of \$6,000 in land and money. The Trustees accepted the offer and site where the college would stand. Plans were laid out together with the town, and the name of Western was given.

The College campus contained 17 acres of ground and around this the village was built and grew until it had a population of 300. It was thought that the college would be supported by the people who settled on the fertile prairies surrounding it, but in this they were disappointed. A foreign element, many Bohemians, became owners of the lands and they were less supportive of the institution.

The main building was completed and formally opened January 1, 1857. The school commenced with 58 pupils. The faculty were graduates of colleges of other religious denominations. The college grew and prospered until 1864 and declined when men enlisted in the Civil War.

In 1867, the College again commenced to thrive. Two other buildings were added. One of the prominent features was a good library of some 800 volumes. There was a fine cabinet which contained many valuable collections.

The college did not continue long in its second period of prosperity. It was deemed by the management to move it.

A new location was selected in 1881 and transferred to Toledo, Iowa in Tama County.

It was also noted there were three newspapers printed. The Western Gazette, a college paper with O. E. Hogue as editor, a Bohemian paper printed in Bohemian and the Western Light in 1875. It consisted of seven columns and of a Republican nature.

It has also been said that Orville and Wilber Wright attended the college when the family resided in Cedar Rapids.

TOWN OF WESTERN WIPED OFF THE MAP

(From the Cedar Rapids Gazette Aug. 6, 1959)

The town of Western is no more.

Judge Charles Penningroth today issued a decree declaring that streets in the town platted in 1856 and never used, are no longer streets.

Petitioners in the suit were Theodore and Betty Willis. Since the streets in the town had never been used, they asked clear title to the land.

In his decree the judge noted the town passed into limbo not long after it was platted and the streets and alleys never ceased as farm land.

He further noted that if there is no formal acceptance of streets and alleys the title to the land rests in the platters.

Since Linn County entered no protest in the case, Judge Penningroth ordered title to the land quitted against all claimants.



Western School students posing at a dress rehearsal in May 1929 in preparation of a May Day program to be held in Western Hall.

Back row left to right: Charles Witousek, Elmer Benish, Elgie Benish (Smith), Alice Miller (Campenella), Mary Netolicky (Stroleny), Alma Benish (Simon), Olga Netolicky (Jilek dec.), Joanne Sonka (Sister Consolata), William Jansa (dec.), teacher Miss Leona Mae Netolicky (Kaplan dec.).

Middle row: Ronald Kalous (dec.), Elmer Witousek, Libbie Kalous (Langton), Iva Sword (Muharin dec.), Rose Sonka (Rezac), Irene Benish (Rajtora dec.), Alice Netolicky (Kadlec), Leona Jansa (Poduska), Lillian Josifek (Palmer), Mary Jane Simon (Koutny).

Front row: John Sword, Frank Sonka (dec.), Charles Josifek, Irvin Sword, Alvin Benish (dec.), Harold Simon, Justus Simon, Robert Kalous (dec.), Elmer Netolicky.

WESTERN PIONEERS - WITOUSEK FAMILY

This story is reprinted from the Portraits Biographical Album of Linn County 1887 and tells about a family that settled near Western.

John Witousek is a general farmer and stock raiser, occupying a comfortable homestead in College Township, section 35. He is one of those excellent Moravian citizens who have contributed their share in building up this part of the State of Iowa. Mr. Witousek was born in March 1816. He was reared on a farm in his native country. He was united in marriage, in 1836, with Miss Frances Polak from the same Province in Moravia. The parents with their 3 children wanted to secure for their family all the advantages possible, determined to try to seek life in the new world. In 1853 they set sail. After a short stay in Racine, Wisconsin, they came to Johnson County and settled on 40 acres of unimproved land, and

then to College Township. They kept adding to their possessions from time to time. After years of earnest effort and persevering, Mr Witousek finds himself the owner of 375 broad acres, all improved and under good cultivation. He has been remarkably successful, used wise judgment and accumulated property and retained it. He has a fine dwelling, two good barns, all necessary out-buildings, implements and appliances for carrying on agriculture in a first-class manner.

Of the union, six children have been born, two of whom are deceased. The eldest son, Frank, is married and lives in Cedar Rapids and is a dealer in boots and shoes. He has four children.

Anna is the wife of Jerome Bostrokey. Francis and Charles are deceased. Joseph lives at home. Emma is the wife of John Zofl. Mr. and Mrs. Witousek are members of the Evangelical Church and in politics Mr Witousek is a staunch Republican.

(continued on next page - Dr. Wesley Netolicky)

DR. WESLEY NETOLICKY

Dr. Wesley J. Netolicky was a prominent citizen of the town of Western, Iowa. He was born in 1870 in Cedar Rapids, to which his father Wesley Netolicky came from Czechoslovakia in 1867. Dr. Netolicky, who symbolized the country doctor, began his practice of medicine in March 1896 at Western. He read medicine with Dr. Stansbury of Western College which in those days was in lieu of premedical training. Dr. Netolicky graduated from Drake University Medical School in 1896.



During his half century of medical care to the people of his area he became active in business and civic activities. He served as president of the Swisher Trust and Savings Bank. He was a member of the Linn County, Iowa and American Medical Societies and attended conventions in Detroit, Omaha, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, and New Orleans.

In 1918, Dr. Netolicky went to Tulane University for a post-graduate course, but when the influenza epidemic broke out he dropped the course and rushed home to care for the patients of his area.

To the residents of Western, Shueyville, North Liberty, Fairfax, and Solon, many of whom he brought into the world, he was known as "Dr. Wes".

He loved to fish and play tennis and cards. He had a double court on his 10 acre estate near Western where some Coe College matches were once played.

He and his wife Carrie (Fuhrmeister) had two sons Lewis and Robert. Dr. Bob was also a noted physician and surgeon. There were also two daughters, Irene Strang and Olive Weeber. Dr. Netolicky died in 1946 after a one day illness of a heart attack. He retired in 1945 and was living in Cedar Rapids at the time of his death. He was a good doctor as well as a good friend.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Czech Heritage Fd'n, would like to thank all the members who included a donation with their memberships, renewals, or simply a donation in the past. Your generous donations have made it possible to maintain our \$3.00 per person annual dues the same as when we organized in 1974, even though the cost of paper, printing and

postage has escalated. Because of your generous contributions, the organization realizes it is your way of showing appreciation for our efforts. Some month's donations exceed the incomes from dues.

In October a donation with a new membership was received from Genevieve Martin. Donations with renewals were received from: Jeanne Andre, Wynona Dreuss, Jerry Ptacek, Bill Vocelka, and Mary Sherry. A donation was received from Anton Vanicek.

In November, donations received with renewals were received from: Marcella Anderson, Franklin Barta, Richard & Tammy Beranek, Eugene Kadlec, Evelyn Kleppe, Alton Krikava, Emily Lins, Richard Liphardt, Ronald Skorepa, Carol Jean Smetana, and Ethel Zobac.

Donations received with renewals for December were from: Arlene Anderle, Helen L. Barta, Norbert & Vera Banowetz, Jeff & Judi Barta, Robert Baumruk, Kenneth Blezek, Blanche Bohatka, Ruth Bys, Jos. F. & Esther Cerveny, Bob Chadima, Leonard & Charlotte Chadima, Vivian Christen, Joseph & Libby Dalecky, Kathryn Betlach Dankowski, Harold & Emma Davidson, Betty Dempnock, Frank Detert, Mary Ditch, Bernice Dvorak, Gladys Faiman, Vlasta Fajmon, John & Frances Feiereisen, Vernon Flint, Agnes Gilbert, Lorene Guthrie, Mary Halbert, Evelyn Hall, Mrs. Edward Hanzlik, Bob & Margaret Harris, Douglas Hladek, Edwin J. Hynek, Pauline Jasa, Louis Jedlicka, Marilyn Jensen, Leo Jindrich, Celeste Johannes, George & Louise Kalous, Mildred Koncel, Norma Knoche, Anthony Konvalinka, Edwin Kral, Diane Krejci, E. J. Kubicek, Leonard & Violet Kycek, George Lanka, Milton Lastovica, Edna Lenicek, Rose Lovetinsky, Betsey McCalley, Victor & Georgianna Marek, Blanche & Joseph Masek, Josephine Matizak, Marvin & Marie Melsha, Erma Meskimen, Patricia Moloney, Musil Family, Milton & Betty Nemecek, Betty J. Nemecek, Clifford & Lucille Netolicky, Richard Netolicky, Emil L. Novak, Robert Novotny, Frank Podzimek, Sister Mary Lou Podzimek, Frank Port, Clara Pospisil, Alma Rigel, Diane Roetlin, George & Marilyn Roushar, Cecelia Scott, Olga Sedenka, Marvin Sedlacek, Dwane Shalla, Joseph Shimek, Robert Stolba, Alice Terbl, Jeanne Vlasek Tompkins, Delores Usher, James & Martha Vanourny, Robert & Irma Vanourny, Robert J. Vanourny, Agnes Vavra, Charles F. Vavra, Roman & Lottie Volesky, John Vondra, Esther & Donald Vorel, Bishop Emil Wcela, Jody Feldtman Wright, Karla Zahradnik and Anna Lou Zielinski.

A donation was received from Jarmilla Jedlicka who is a nonmember.

THE CHICKENS SQUAWKED FOR HELP

(Josef Holecek submitted this article to the Hospodar which appeared in the February 1913 issue. It tells about the hardships that were overcome by Czech settlers and their families.

The Hospodar was a Czech publication. There is still a Hospodar but it is printed in West Texas and can be found in our museum in the library.)

Longberg, North Dakota — I have been a subscriber to the Hospodar for quite some time, but until now I have never written a letter to you. I realize that there are many settlers here who do not subscribe to the Hospodar. I would like to give an account of our experiences, and how we came to homestead.

A person at the western prairies, stakes a claim for a homestead, and pays the government \$14. Then he has only six months to establish that homestead. By then he must have established permanent residence on his claim.

So one beautiful day we rode out to Wagner in South Dakota with the old car. The journey lasted a whole week. We found ourselves in Rhame, North Dakota. It was bitter cold, "cracking cold". Our first task was to unload the car. In this lonely town we didn't know anyone. We unloaded the car and went to look around to inquire as to where might we store our things,

As we wandered around, we were noticed by the town banker. He asked us what we were looking for. When we told him of our situation, he offered to let us store our belongings in his stable. We began immediately to carry our things. By noon we had finished and now we had to consider how we could get to our homestead yet that day.

On the wagon, we had left those most necessary items like the stove, the table, some chairs, bed, mattress, sacks of oats and necessary life-sustaining items. On top of it all, we put the crate with the chickens. It was a horrific pile. The chickens had to ride on top so they would not suffocate. We had to take great care so the crate would not fall off. A pair of horses was tied behind the wagon. The second pair we harnessed up to the wagon. We had sixteen miles to go.

We did not know the way. We had been there only once before. We didn't rightly know which road we should take and we were hoping to get to our destination before dark.

Fortunately we did take the right road. The countryside seemed familiar. Just as we came to the edge of a big ravine, we couldn't remember whether we had ever seen such a ditch like that on our previous trip.

As night came on, I got off the wagon and slipped down the ditch to check if we could cross at that point. From down there, the hill looked as tall as the spires of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague!

As we started down the ditch, a tire fell off one wheel of the wagon. The crate with the chickens did a somersault and fell off the wagon. The chickens were squawking for help, the horses were panting, and I did not know what to do first.

I left everything and clambered up to the top of the ditch to look around in the dark, to try to make a decision as to our next move.

There in the dark I could make out two dark humps. I came to them and saw they were two sod dwellings. I came to the nearest one. It seemed totally deserted. There was nothing inside, not even a stove. I went to the second sod house. There was a residence which must be a place for a bachelor. A bed and small stove stood in the corner. Someone surely must live here but at the moment was not present. A small kettle of milk stood on the table. I went back to the wagon to announce what I found.

I unharnessed the horses and let them graze. We made ourselves some supper as we were frozen to the bone and hungry too.

After supper we tried to figure out where we should spend the night. It was evident that someone lives here.

We decided to spend the night in that empty sod house on the hill. We unloaded the mattress and slept on the floor. We put the horses in the barn. We put down lots of hay for them which was readily accessible.

In the morning our first concern was to eat, so we headed back to the sod house where we had supper the night before. It seemed no one was there so we entered the door. Suddenly a chap stuck his head out of the bed. We backed out but then proceeded to ask permission to make breakfast there. He kindly welcomed us and gave us permission to make breakfast. We invited him to eat with us. From our conversation we found out that it was about two miles to our homestead. He suggested we consider settling about half mile to the west of his place since there was a small home and barn there and nobody living in it at the time. We accepted his suggestion.

When we got there the barn was too small to stable both pairs of horses. We tied up one pair on the outside. On the third day they disappeared, no one knew where! It's extremely difficult to hunt for horses in a strange part of the country on the borderline of three states. In May a man found one horse nineteen miles away. The other was never found.

We are here for two years now. We have all the necessary buildings on our land now. For two years we were visited by hail storms, but they left us with at least some grain and flax, so that on the whole we are satisfied.

I would like to counsel anyone to try their luck, because I know there are quite a few good homesteads available. Don't be afraid of difficulties, slowly but surely you will reach your goals.

A patient person is able to help himself in this homesteading more easily within ten years than he could prosper in a city in twenty years.

I extend many good wishes to the editor and our faithful readers.

*Josef J. Holecek
Submitted by Olga Drahozal*



The St. Joseph's Day Dance at the PT Hall in Cedar Rapids as it looked last year, food, fun and dancing.

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY DANCE

It is time to make arrangements for our annual fund raiser for two of our important projects — the Homestay Program and the new Scholarship Project.

We are inviting you to come and spend an enjoyable afternoon with us at the Local P-3 Retires Inc. Hall at 116 - 14th Ave. S.E. in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 15, 1998. Music will be furnished by Mike Lasack and his Rhythm-Aires. Their music is enjoyable to listen to as well as to dance to, so you can be assured of a lively afternoon. The dance will start at 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. The admission is \$5.00. All directors have tickets and tickets will be available at the door. In addition to the music, we shall have light lunch available and also a bake sale. (Contributions for the bake sale will be appreciated.) Also door prizes will be given during the afternoon.

We have had wonderful cooperation in the past and hope '98 will not be a disappointment. Come and join us for a worthy cause and at the same time meet your friends and have an enjoyable time. Thanking you in advance.

Frank Novotny and Committee

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

In Czechoslovakia, St. Joseph's Day was a day of fun and gaiety. Musicians of the village serenaded the homes where a Joseph lived. The band traveled by horse and wagon and the festivities continued late into the night.

It is thought that St. Joseph's Day originated in Italy in the 14th century. A friar named Joseph was honored on March 19. In 1870 Pope Pius IX declared Joseph a patron saint to honor the day of his death. Many Czech families use the name Joseph in honor of the saint. Unlike the green on St. Patrick's Day, red is used in clothing, bread and even red beer.



The Czech School chili supper fund raiser photo taken last year.

CZECH SCHOOL CHILI SUPPER

Our annual benefit chili supper is coming so we want to pass out information to our potential customers.

This year we are changing our location and are having our chili supper at St. Wenceslaus Church basement, 1224 5th St. S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We were rather crowded in past years so we hope this move will give us more room. Serving time will be 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. with the price of tickets remaining at \$3.00 per person. We are having a bake sale along with the chili supper so donations are welcome. Looking forward to seeing you the 1st Saturday in March on the 7th, 1998.

A little summary of our Czech School for '98 — a meeting was held on January 20th with the following decisions being made. School will start June 8th and continue through July 10th with a program and ice cream social on the 10th. We are having the same teachers, Leona Poduska, Bessie Dugena and Olga Drahozal, with several assistants. The registration will be \$15.00 per single student and \$25.00 for a family of more. The officers are Ed Kuba, Pres.; Millie Ortner, V.P.; Marge Petrzelka, Secy.; and Frank Novotny, Treas. The board of directors are looking forward to a wonderful year.

Frank Novotny

SPECIAL LIBRARY FUND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Czech Heritage Fd'n. wants to thank all who helped us reach our goal of \$10,000 to hire a librarian and make the necessary progress to become a useful room of books, magazines and a computer. We are very excited with the progress but it is far from being completed.

Donations received after November 1997 were from Bob & Charlotte Chadima of Cedar Rapids and from Donald & Sylvia Konopasek of Remsen, Iowa.

Since the matching funds were made available for a two year period we will continue this special project in 1998 and publish names of donors.

1998 HOMESTAY STUDENTS

Greetings to all of you out there, and allow me to introduce myself. My name is Matthew James Fee. I am a seventeen year old junior who is currently attending Center Point High School. I was one of two lucky recipients for the honor to go to the Czech Republic through the student ambassador program.



I live with my mother Jeanne and my father Jim. My brother is currently going to college in Fort Dodge. His name is Chris and he was also a Czech Heritage Ambassador when he was a junior in high school.

My Czech heritage is derived from my mother's side of the family. My grandfather and all of the other Matus family were fully of Czech descent as well as my Grandmother's side, the Pisney's. Thus my mother being a full blooded Czech gave me half of the heritage alone.

A little about my hobbies and interest now. I am involved in my school's drama department, the Children's Theater, Group Speech and I have been accepted to Boys State (a program that gets youth ready for politics in the near future). I love to read any books I can get my hands on. The ones that appeal most to me are written by Irvin Welsh, a Scottish author. Another hobby is both reading and writing poetry. I am fascinated with the works of Jack Kerouac, T. S. Elliot and Allan Ginsberg. Aside from reading I also love to involve myself in writing screenplays, as one day I hope to write and direct my own movie.

I feel very honored and privileged to have been accepted for this wonderful experience, the Student Ambassador program, and hope to make the most of it. I look forward to meeting all sorts of new and interesting people and seeing the Czech Republic. The most important thing to me involving this trip will be the memories and stories it will provide me with my family, friends and one day my children. Mere words cannot express my gratitude for this once in a lifetime chance. **THANK YOU !!**

Dobry Den! Moje jemno je Jeri Serbousek

I am a sixteen year old junior at Prairie High School. I am a member of the band and serve as the Section Leader of the Mellophone/French Horn section. I also participate in Wrestling State Team and am part of the lights and sound crew for the theater productions.



Outside of school I am involved in many activities. I enjoy playing the piano. I have been a member of the College Challengers 4-H Club for seven years. I have served on the County Youth Programs Committee and County Council. I have done many different projects for 4-H but one of the most interesting and memorable was studying my family tree and researching my Czech roots. I found it very interesting and fun going through a couple of Czech cemeteries in the area and finding stones of Great-Great Grandparents and being able to read some of the stones that were in Czech. I am an active member of the First Presbyterian Church near Ely and involved in the Youth Group and sing in the Adult Choir.

I have also participated in many Czech functions. I graduated from Czech School after attending six years. I also attended Sokol Gymnastics for five years and was part of Czechmates which represented Sokol at many parades and other heritage activities. When my brother was Czech Ambassador I helped with, and, attended many Czech Heritage sponsored activities.

My Czech Heritage comes from both sides of my family (Serbousek and Berry). I am anxiously looking forward to my experience this summer of going to the Czech Republic to learn more about my heritage and culture. I would like to thank the Czech Heritage Foundation for providing me this opportunity.

ETHNIC FEST

Time to let our people know about our Ethnic Fest which will be held at Hawkeye Downs this year. Last year was our first move to Hawkeye Downs from the Roundhouse in Cedar Rapids. It was a good move and the response from the public and the participants was positive and we are looking for a better year in '98.

We are going to have more ethnic groups joining us on the 23rd and 24th of May 1998. The hours will be like last year — May 23rd (Saturday) 12:00-10:00 p.m. and May 24th 12:00-8:00 p.m. We have 2 stages set up, one on either end of the Exhibition Hall with plenty of room all under the roof inside of a building. The facilities are much better to serve the public and there is plenty of free, close parking and this year we hope to have more handicapped parking. The donation is the same as last year's: \$3.00 in advance and \$4.00 at the door, children 14 and under are free if accompanied by an adult. This is a family geared two days of entertainment and food enjoyment. Please come and spend the weekend with us.

Thank you in advance.

Frank Novotny and Committee

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

The years immediately after the Civil War brought several families of Czech and Slovak nationality to the area around Petersburg, Virginia. There were 29 Catholic families who settled in Prince George and after pooling their time and resources they erected the first building at Sacred Heart using the wood from the land. The new Church was dedicated on Sept 28, 1906 (the Feast of St. Wenceslaus). The ceremony was celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Van De Vyvre, and the sermon by Missionary Father Melichar. People of all denominations came to celebrate this new beginning. By the end of the first year, a piece of land next to the railroad was prepared for a cemetery a little way from the church. In 1908, the parishioners decided to build a hall next to the railroad on the edge of the church property. The first dance was held July 5 of that year.

The first pastor was Father Konicek to serve the needs of the Czechs and Slovaks of the area of Petersburg. Father Konicek died in 1912 and was replaced with Father Leo Stefl's pastorage. The new Bohemian Hall was added and served as a public school for a short time. After Stefl's death Father Stephan Shrahulek was appointed and he continued to conduct sermons in English and the Czech language.

In 1950, the wooden frame church, having served the parish for 44 years, began to show its age and a new brick church was built.

Father Lawrence Prochazka followed Father Shrahulek, and in August 1967, Father Norbert Skvarla was sent to serve the church.

The church continued to grow. In 1978 the church was renovated and rededicated.

To highlight the Diamond Jubilee in 1981, the parish was able to sponsor a Czech family's arrival in the United States and celebrate its 75 years of existence by reaching out to its own roots.

The recent years have been good to the church. The original 29 families have grown to more than 300 families. Situated between U.S. Route 460 and I-295, many visitors share in the worship. In 1994, Rev. Edward Hanzlik was ordained as Permanent Deacon.

For the past 91 years, Sacred Heart has held an annual Parish Festival to celebrate its heritage the last Sunday in September. The celebration includes Czech food and polka music. The 1998 celebration will be September 27, 1998.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES MONDAY, MAY 25, 1998 CZECH NATIONAL CEMETERY 11:30 A.M.

SOKOL PORK/DUMPLING DINNER 417 THIRD STREET S.E. CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

**APRIL 18th
SERVING FROM 4:30 TO 7:00 P.M.
COST: \$8.00
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ED KUBA
364-3301**

CZECH SCHOOL CHILI SUPPER BAKE SALE ST. WENCESLAUS CHURCH (Basement) Cedar Rapids, Iowa SATURDAY, MARCH 7 5:00 - 7:30 P.M. \$3.00

ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE MARCH 15, 1998 2:00 - 6:00 P.M. Mike Lasack and his Rhythm-Aires Local P-3 Retirees Inc. 116 14th Ave. S.E. Cedar Rapids, Iowa Admission \$5.00 Door Prizes Lunch Bake Sale

TRIPS

- #1 - Folk Textiles in Slovakia, Moravia & Prague, May 25 to June 5
- #2 - 10th Treasurers of Slovakia Trip, July 5 to July 18.
- #3 - Charming Eastern Slovakia, August 2 to August 15.

All trips are planned by Helen Cincebeaux and her mother Helen Zemek Baine. Trips depart from Newark, N. J. Call _____ or e-mail _____

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

- March 7Czech School Chili Supper
at St. Wenceslaus Church
5:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- March 10Czech Heritage Meeting
7:30 at the museum
- March 15St. Joseph's Day Dance
P.T. Hall 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Homestay Fund Raiser
- March 21St. Joseph's Day
Celebration and Parade
- April 14.....Czech Heritage Meeting
7:30 at the museum
- April 18.....Sokol Pork & Dumpling Dinner
4:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- May 12.....Czech Heritage Meeting
7:30 at the museum
- May 16-17.....Houby Days
Czech Village
- May 23-24.....Ethnic Fest
Hawkeye Downs
- May 25.....Memorial Day Services
Czech National Cemetery 11:30 a.m.
- June 9Czech Heritage Meeting
7:30 at the museum



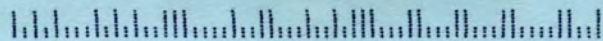
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WHY ??????

Do people recite in a play and play in a recital?
do we ship by truck and send cargo by ship?
do we have noses that run and feet that smell?
do you fill in a form by filling it out?
do you drive on a parkway and park in a driveway?
does a house burn up as it burns down?
does the alarm clock go off by going on?
does Hawaii have interstate Highways?
is a slim chance and fat chance the same?
is a wise man and wise guy the opposite?
is a TV called a set when there is only one?
is there no egg in eggplant?
is there no ham in hamburger?
Why do I wind my watch to start it
but when I wind things down, they END?