

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



St. Nickolas Cathedral is located in Lesser Town Square in Prague. It was built in 1704 to 1711.

Volume 22 - Number 4 - December 1997



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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 March issue is January 23, 1998.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who helped with the issue were my husband John and Esther Lippert. Thank you for your support and help.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

John and I recently took a bus tour to the east coast. Before we reached the state of Vermont to enjoy the beautiful fall colors of the leaves, we stopped to tour the Corning Glass Center. Corning Museum of Glass is nestled in a scenic countryside between New York City and Niagara Falls. The museum is the third largest attraction in New York State. It is an internationally renown museum which showcases the largest comprehensive collection of glass in the world. The museum is used to explain the 3,500 year history of the art and use of glass.

Of course I sought out the exhibits of Czech glass. As we followed the tour diagram, it led us into Libenský Lobby. Stanislav Libenský was born near Mnichovo Hradiště in 1921. He received many prizes and awards for his works. We saw many glass objects throughout the gallery from past eras, to various techniques, and a multitude of styles and uses of glass. Over the years Bohemian glass has become an array of innovations and improvements that set a tradition that has survived and had far reaching impact on the industry. Czechoslovakia has many well known glass artists.

The Glass Center is undergoing a multi-million dollar expansion. Renovation and construction is being phased over a five year period and scheduled to be completed by April, 2000, in time for the 150th anniversary of Corning. In an effort to compensate for the closing of the Stuben Factory, a new Hot Glass Show is being offered in an area with seating and a stage. The glass blower demonstrates and explains the steps and process. John and I watched a craftsman blow a beautiful clear glass pitcher which anyone would have loved to have but he immediately crushed it to pieces for recycling in another demonstration at a later date.

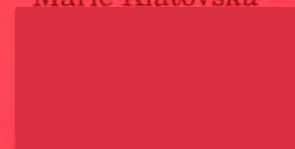
There is an admission fee, but you can return with your ID tag the next day. It was well worth the \$4.00 per person admission. We wish we could have spent more time there.

PEN PAL WANTED

Hello,

I'm writing to you from the Czech Republic. I need help from you. I would like to have a pen friend from your country. If you can help me I would be happy. I'm a 20 year old girl from Prague. I like traveling, and interested in music, art, sports and keeping fit. I'm 178 cm high and slim. Thank you for your kindness.

Marie Klatovská



COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY?

We are promoting a program requesting the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to honor the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on a commemorative United States postage stamp.

We need many letters requesting the issuance of the stamp and, therefore, we are seeking your help to accomplish our goal. The letters should be addressed as follows:

Citizens Advisory Stamp Committee
c/o United States Postal Service
475 L' Infant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-2436

Please send in your request now. Don't put it off!

THANK YOU

CZECH FLOODING

July 1997 will be noted in the tragic way in the history of the Czech Republic. The rainfall in the period between July 4-9 represented 41% of the annual rainfall. The flood wave which came from the mountains reached the cities of Ostrava, Olomouc, and a number of major towns like Kromeriz, Otrohovice, Hodonim, and Breclav.

The flooding completely demolished or heavily damaged 10,000 homes, more than 1,000 km of railroads, 2,000 km of roads and 800 road bridges. Also damaged were schools, hospitals and institutions. Due to failure of water, electricity, and gas, production stopped in large areas.

In the agricultural areas, thousands of acres of fields and crops were flooded and lost.

First official estimates of damage are about 1.8 billion U.S. Dollars an equivalent of 10% of the annual state budget for the Czech Republic. It is estimated that actual damage will exceed the estimate.

The floods initiated a strong feeling of solidarity in the whole country.

Assistance also came from many companies, individuals, and organizations in the United States. The Czech Embassy would like to express its sincere gratitude to them.

The government took a series of energetic moves to fight the floods. The flooding is thus likely to make the implementation of austerity measures this year even more difficult.

(From Czech the News)

(See more flood articles on page 6 & 9)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing because of two articles in the Volume 22 #1 March 1997. The first article of interest is the article about the Dupanda, Iowa. Do I remember it? I should say I do. Many a time I danced there between 1915 and 1927. My first time there was in 1908 when my oldest sister had her wedding dance there. I was five years old then, and went with my parents.

As for the Holy Trinity Church, my father helped build that church. That was their church for many years. Also my oldest brother as well as my sister Julia and another brother William are buried there. I remember church real well. Later, my father helped build St. Wenceslaus west of Clutier. The first church burned down, and he again helped the second church. I am not sure that church still stands. My parents, grandparents, a sister, her husband and one daughter are buried there.

Another article that was of interest to me is the one about Barbara Benda. The reason is both my parents were born in Czechoslovakia, mother south of Praha. I think near the Black Forest.

My father's family was from Vasiku. They came to America in 1874 on the ship DONNA. They came to Belle Plaine where they had relatives. My parents had 12 children. I am the only one living. I live in Keokuk, IA. I have 2 sons in Keokuk in the Foil Stamping Printing business. In August 1997 I will be 94 years old.

*Madalin J. Lucas
Keokuk, Iowa*

IN MEMORIAM

Earlier this year, the Czech community was saddened by the death of two deeply devoted Czech Heritage Fd'n. members.

Leona Netolicky Kaplan died at age 91. Many will remember her as a rural school teacher in Shueyville and Western. After her retirement she taught summer Czech School and served as a board member. She was an active member in many Czech organizations and was a long time member of the Czech Heritage board. She is survived by two daughters Fern Fackler and Sherlee Peterson, both active in Czech events. Sherlee is currently serving on the Czech Heritage board. Leona Kaplan was buried at Sulek Cemetery near Shueyville, Iowa.

William Kupka, 81, died in Chelsea, Iowa. He and his wife Helen attended and supported many Czech festivals and events in Cedar Rapids. He will be remembered for his many wooden articles he donated for door prizes and raffles. His love of wood and carving was featured in the June 1993 *Naše České Dědictví*. Bill and Helen attended our St. Joseph's dance this spring and some lucky person won his beautifully crafted donated article. He is buried at Stayskal Cemetery, rural Chelsea.

BIOGRAPHY



Rose Stejskal Dryml was born on August 24, 1907 to Mike and Marie Stejskal in Kouty, near Podebrady in Cechy. She has two brothers Joe and Frank and two sisters Anna Shulista and Agnes Benda. Her father came to America to join a brother in Cedar

Rapids, Iowa. The family came at a later date.

Rose came in 1923 to Ellis Island when she was 16. The rough and stormy voyage took two weeks. By the time she came here, she had already completed her education. She received all A's because she loved the required sewing course and disliked gym, but she was a Sokol. She made her own kroj and proudly displays a photo of her wearing it.

As soon as she came to Cedar Rapids, a match maker introduced her to John Dryml. She was not ready to settle down and she told him so. In May the match maker again invited the two to a dinner. John asked to escort her home. He must have swept her off her feet. Rose Stejskal and John Dryml were married November 6, 1929 at St. Wenceslaus Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Her husband got a job at Bezdek's Greenhouse where he worked for 45 years before his retirement. Since they never owned a car, he moved to be close to work and walked or rode a bicycle. Her husband loved his work and was very devoted to his job so the family really never got involved in a lot of organizations and activities. Before and after Rose was married, she played parts in numerous Czech plays. During the depression she helped out in the kitchen at Ross Steak House and she cleaned house for a few friends.

She has been an active member at St. Wenceslaus Church helping bake kolaches. Her job was to grease the little buns in the pans set out to raise. She was careful to do a good job and she got the title of "greaser" for 16 years. This September for Goulash Days she ate her goulash at home rather than going to the church.

She taught summer Czech School for 26 years.

After her husband retired, they both loved working in the garden. Rose said "the weeds never had a chance in our garden."

The year 1979 was not a happy one. Her mother died in May, their son John died a few

weeks later and in December her husband died. When their son died, he left 3 young sons behind. The Drymls became very active and instrumental in helping out.

Rose has 5 grandchildren, Tim, Mike and Rich Dryml. Their daughter Rose Marie and David Burke who live in Cedar Rapids have Christopher and Clarice.

When Rose had her 90th birthday in August, she was overwhelmed when she had a steady stream of visitors and a big basket of cards.

Rose still lives in her own home and has a lady friend help with the yard and shopping. Her house was spotless even though her joints are getting stiff, but her mind is very sharp.

SPECIAL LIBRARY FUND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our 1997 mission has come to a successful conclusion. Our goal of \$10,000 for the first year has been reached. More importantly the library in the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has the appearance of a library with rows of shelves stocked with books from storage, magazines, and a computer. This was all made possible through your generosity.

The following donations were received from May 14 to November 14 from the following: Mrs. James Cada, Mildred Chadima, Denver Dvorsky, Vlasta Fajmon, Alice Kadlec, Louis L. Melsha, Emil & Evelyn Novak, Sylvia Rohlena, George & Marilyn Roushar, Vlasta Lorraine Snider and WFLA Lodge #262 all from Cedar Rapids.

Contributions from around Iowa are: Helen L. Barta, Richard & Tammy Beranek, Don Ceynar, Joe & Marianne Klinsky, Donald & Sylvia Konopauk, Verona Krob, Emily Lins, Arlene Netolicky, Connie Caslavka Wubbena, and Phyllis Vesely.

Out of state contributors are: Musel Family, CA; Lodge Mile Hi Czechs #432, CO; Zdenka and Stanley Winters, FL; Joseph Cihlar, Mildred Koncel, IL; Ellen Neal, MI; Dianne Flugge, J. L. Kubicek, Janet & Jonathan Liebsch, MN; James Repka Family, Czech Catholic Union, OH; Raymond Marek, Hertha Scott, TX; Lori Tracy, WA.

Because matching funds were made available for a period of two years, the Czech Heritage Fd'n. will continue this special project through the year 1998. Donations may be given as memorials. The address for the Library fund is: Czech Heritage Library Fund, c/o Dennis Hrabak Treas.,

CSPS HALL IN CEDAR RAPIDS

(This article is reprinted in part about the CSPS Hall in Cedar Rapids and its organization as it appeared in the newspaper THE CEDAR RAPIDS SUNDAY REPUBLICAN on Sunday, June 10, 1906.)

The initials CSPS are doubtless familiar to many Americans, but few know what they stand for or what they mean. CSPS means CESKO SOLVANSKA PODPORUJICI JEDNOTA or Bohemian Benevolent Association. This organization is one of the oldest in the U.S. and has a lodge in every city which has at least a hundred inhabitants. The CSPS order donates liberally to all noble undertakings.

The oldest lodge in Iowa is Prokop Velky. The Karl IV was organized later. Prokop Velky got its name from Procopius the Great, who led the Czech army to many victories during the Hussite Wars and battled for the cause of reformed religion for which Jan Hus gave his life.

Meetings in Cedar Rapids were held in a hall on First Ave. and First St. After a delegate returned from a national convention, enthusiasm grew rapidly in Cedar Rapids.

As the lodge grew financially, members began to talk of building their own structure. In 1881 it was determined to purchase two lots in the center of the Bohemian District where the CSPS now stands.

When the lots were paid for, the organization began to gather funds for the "erection of a hall of its own." It was proposed to build a large national building for public gatherings, entertainment, social assemblies, and conventions. A Bohemian School was proposed.

Brown and Zika did the construction. The corner stone of the building was laid Oct. 30, 1890 in the presence of the largest body of Bohemian people in Cedar Rapids on any occasion. Governor Horace Boles acted as the orator at the laying of the corner stone and placed copies of the Bohemian papers, Cedar Rapids Morning Republican and Evening Gazette, list of members of the society, donors to the building fund and other important papers.

The building, which cost \$17,000, was built in a comparatively short time. The keys were formally handed to F. W. Slapnicka in a ceremony on June 6, 1891. A large crowd rejoiced but a heavy debt was still incumbent, but members worked tirelessly until the burden was removed.

The hall became the center of Bohemian public life. Theatrical performances of which the Bohemian people are particularly fond, musical and literary entertainment and dances were held on the second floor. The third floor, a spacious and well furnished lodge hall, became a source of much revenue, nearly every Bohemian society and lodge rented it for meetings. The first floor was rented to business firms. The rear of the building intended for a Czech School was used as one of the stations of the fire department.

Since the lodge failed to provide a school, it was financially supportive for students to attend Monroe School to "make good" on their promise.

With the increase in the Bohemian population of Cedar Rapids, it soon became apparent that the facility of the CSPS was inadequate and plans were drawn for a spacious addition.

Building at the expense of over \$8,000, in October of 1900, the fine new 3-story addition to the building was publicly dedicated. Prof. Bohumil Shimek gave a splendid address.

Since the erection of the addition to the CSPS, scarcely a week has gone by that one or more public gatherings or entertainment have not taken place within its walls. The main hall with its gallery running around 3 sides of the room, seats some 500 people, but on many occasions 800 or more have been present at plays and political gatherings. In fact, the invincible Prokop Velky lodge is already practically planning on building another addition in order to accommodate the increasing demands of the time.

(From the Genealogical Society of Linn Co.)



The CSPS Hall - 1103 3rd St. S.E. as it looks today.



The former firehouse.

These photos show the buildings as they look now. Both buildings are owned by Service Press & Litho Co. Inc. Their offices are on the ground floor. The Drawing Legion rents the dance floor and stage on second floor. The Drawing Legion regularly features art, crafts, and musical artisans. The top or third floor is used but unoccupied.

The former firehouse is still in use as an apartment and offices.

FLOOD NEWS

Here are some excerpts from a letter about the flooding from Marcella Mastikova. She was an exchange student at Mount Mercy College this past year. She did some volunteer work at the museum in the library. She spent a few weeks with Frank and Barb Edmunds before she returned home. She is a member of Czech Heritage.

August 12

Hradec Kralove

...my parents took two weeks off from work with repairs on the house. The weather is great. We appreciate it a lot because we did not have much of a real summer weather before that. It was raining in July and the result was the floods. I guess you have heard about them even in Iowa because they were so terrible. This country has not seen anything like this for centuries. It was all



Marcella Mastikova on her visit to Spillville, Iowa while she was a student.

like a nightmare. I had never thought anything like that could happen here. A good one third of the country was under water at one time! It was scary. My home town was affected, too. Even our neighborhood was. We were very lucky though. We live two blocks from the river and the water stopped in front of our house. Yet there was some water coming from the river, and dad had to pump and drain it away all night to save our basement. Electricity was off for two days. But that was nothing comparing to what happened in Moravia (the eastern part of the country). There is hardly a single area which was not affected. Lots of people lost their homes completely, and are living in college dorms now. Almost 50 people died altogether. There is even a village which was completely wiped off the surface. I have never seen such a disaster! All crops are completely destroyed in that area. People compare the situation to that after World War II. Moravia is much worse off. I will find out when I go back to school at the end of September. Olomouc (where my university is) was highly affected, too.

It is clear this will not help the national economy at all. The government seems to be doing a good job about this (so far). It is good that people are still able to come together and help each other quickly and effectively.

SANDWICH BUFFET FOR CZECH FLOOD RELIEF

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

It is with pride and gratitude that the Federation of Czech Groups makes this report to the Societies and individuals involved in the project—Sandwich Buffet For Czech Flood Relief.

On July 24th, president Edward R. Kuba, called on the following organizations to assist in a fund drive for the victims of the flood in the Czech Republic: Sokol Cedar Rapids; Cedar Rapids Lodge #262 W.F.L.A.; Lodge Prokop Velky #137 C.S.A.; Lodge Karel IV W.F.L.A.; Junior American Czech #388 C.S.A.; Lodge 500 W.F.L.A.; Lodge Cedar VII W.F.L.A.; Lodge 423 W.F.L.A.; Cadets of St. George #45, Catholic Workman; St. Josephs Branch 137, Catholic Workman; St. Marys Society 119, of the Czech Catholic Union; Czech Heritage; Czech School Board; Czech Plus Band; National Office of W.F.L.A.; Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. All but one of the groups were present at the meeting.

It was decided to hold the affair "A Sandwich Buffet" on August 14th 1997 in the Grand Hall of the Czech and Slovak Museum and Library which was offered to us rent free. Serving would be from 4:30 to 8 00 P.M. with the price of the tickets at \$10.00 (Donations gratefully accepted). We served Blimpies, with baked beans and a salad. (Joe Vondracek took the task of the sandwiches.) Members provided the desserts, kolaches, pies, cakes and cookies. For the entertainment we were favored with accordion music by Erma Binko and Elmer Netolicky.

This was followed by the Czech Plus Band, The Heritage Chorus, and rounded out by Emil Lamparek and his accordion. All this donated.

It was envisioned that the customers would come in, take their sandwich and dessert, eat, and go home. But, much to our surprise and pleasure, most of them stayed to the very end and enjoyed the music and camaraderie.

It is almost impossible to mention all persons involved. We would run the risk of missing one. So on behalf of the Federation of Czech Groups, we say a great big "THANK YOU" to all that in anyway participated. It would not have been as successful without the combined efforts that formed the Federation in 1936.

To the date that this report is being prepared: Aug. 26, 1997, we can give this financial report. All bills are paid. Income: Advance sale of tickets and donations \$6,266.00; Expenses: food etc. \$897.33; Profit \$5,368.67.

Arrangements are being made to transfer the funds directly to the stricken area.

In the name of the committee and all who helped with the sandwich buffet, music, desserts, set up, tear down; benefactors and friends, I again say Thank You and God Bless. I am certain that our Czech cousins will echo that sentiment.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Edward R. Kuba President

(photo on next page)

(More flood articles on pages 3 and 9)



The event was well attended and enjoyed.

Moje jméno je Danielle Stegr

l	z	y	s	e	d	m	a	g	i
o	p	q	s	o	p	ž	n	s	a
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k	t	e	t	i	n	d	m	d	p
a	n	p	q	m	r	i	o	d	a
c	f	e	i	n	o	e	i	s	p
b	g	j	e	d	e	n	y	n	g
o	p	i	s	h	j	v	w	m	o
p	o	d	m	o	d	r	a	o	t
i	d	s	m	p	i	m	n	e	s
z	e	i	e	n	a	s	o	k	ě
r	s	f	i	s	t	ü	i	i	m

Translate words into Czech and find on grid.

Czech Word

English

- boat
- chair
- desk (table)
- lamp
- meadow
- blue
- city
- yes
- no
- one
- seven
- green
- day

Danielle Stegr is a 1st year Student in Division III,
1997 summer Czech School.

(Answer on page 12)

AMBASSADOR VONDRA GUEST SPEAKER

On Saturday October 25th, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library celebrated Dozinky (Fall Harvest Festival). It has also been three years since the museum was dedicated with the attendance of the three presidents, Clinton, Havel, and Kovac.

This year's guest and keynote speaker was Czech Ambassador to the United States, Alexander Vondra. Mr. Vondra was born on August 11, 1961 in Prague. He attended Charles University in Prague and earned the degree of Doctor of Natural Science. He speaks English and Russian.

In 1989 he became active in the country's democratic opposition and cooperated with opposition groups. In January 1989 he became a spokesperson for Charter 77 and organized demonstrations for which he was sent to prison for two months.

After the Velvet Revolution, he was the foreign policy advisor to President Vaclav Havel and held other high ranking offices. In 1997 he was appointed Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States. Ambassador Vondra replaced Michael Zantovsky who is a member of the Czech senate.

Slovak Ambassador Branislav Lichardus was also invited but he was unable to attend.

OSKAR SCHINDLER

The movie SCHINDLER'S LIST is about Oskar Schindler, who was born in 1908 in Svitavy, Czechoslovakia, 15 kilometers (9 miles) from Brnenec. He was the son of a Catholic insurance salesman. He was expelled from high school for falsifying his report card. Long before he opened his first factory, he was known as a high-flying scoundrel, more interested in women, drinking, money and fast motorcycles. He became a full fledged member of the Nazi party because he thought the membership would improve his luck in business.

Schindler moved his kitchenware factory from Cracow to Brnenec, Czechoslovakia. The Germans wanted him to make arms. He bribed Nazi officials to bring his workers with him, but he never produced weapons. The Brnenec factory was actually a "camp" for a protective haven for his workers. They were well cared for.

As time went on and the Communist Party came to power in Czechoslovakia, heroism was forgotten. Few remembered the lives he had saved in his "camp".

As recently as 1993, articles in the local press criticized Schindler expressing doubt that his camp was any different than other Nazi work camps.

When the movie SCHINDLER'S LIST was released, people were miffed at the attention he received. Historians say the story should be told and then the curtain closed on that period. The film upset some residents as it happened in the past and Schindler's story is only now being told. There is mixed reaction. One resident said he should have been given his due recognition a long time ago.

St. Louis Sokol Newsletter

CHRISTMAS IN EASTERN SLOVAKIA VIANOCE NA VYCHODNU SLOVENSKU

The beginning of December filled Slovak villages with hustle and bustle preparing for the coming holiday season. Fruit and nuts were gathered and stored for holiday goodies. Ornaments for the tree were crafted out of straw. Small toys were made for the children. The week before Christmas saw the preparations in high gear. The house was cleaned and scrubbed from top to bottom. Clothes were cleaned so that everything was bright and shiny for the coming of the Christ Child. Baking was usually done the day before Christmas Eve.

One custom occurred during the baking of the Babalky, the small dough balls eaten during the Christmas Eve supper. As the babalky came out of the oven, the Slovak mother called her children to come into the kitchen. The children each took a babalka and ran outside. They gave the babalka to the first person they met. This person would be their friend for the coming year.



Christmas Eve was a quiet day, but none the less, full of activity. There was the Svaty Vecere, or Holy Supper to be prepared. This meatless meal consisted of a soup made from dried mushrooms or sauerkraut. The fresh baked babalky were placed into the soup and fresh ground poppy seeds were sprinkled on top. There was also fish; peas, a wish for prosperous New Year; stewed prunes, eaten in pairs so that everyone would be healthy in the New Year; bread, the staff of life, smeared with honey and garlic, symbolizing all the sweetness and bitterness of life; fresh fruit or a compote made of stewed fruits, nuts and the homemade pastries each Slovak housewife was famous for.

The youngest children were given the important job of watching for the First Star in the evening sky. When this star was seen, it was time to begin the Svaty Vecere. The older children went about giving the farm animals extra feed and water. These important animals were treated like members of the family. They too, would celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Straw was scattered under the table and under the tablecloth. This was to remind the family of the manger where the Christ Child was born. In some villages, a chain was wrapped around the legs of the table. This was to keep the bounty found on the table at this time of year from escaping.

With the squeals of the children announcing the appearance of the First Star, lighted candles were placed in the windows and the door was cracked open. This was to let any travelers know they would be welcome into the home on this night. One never knew if the Holy Family would stop on their way to Bethlehem, and each Slovak home left an empty place at their table just in case.

The Svaty Vecere was started with a prayer of thanksgiving for the bounty on the table and for all they had received the previous year. Each person ate a piece of oplatky, a piece of communion wafer with scenes of the Nativity stamped onto them; and clicked of wine with wishes of "Vesele Vianoce!" and "Na Zdravije!"

SECRETARY OF STATE ALBRIGHT

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visited Prague in July. She held official discussions with Pres. Havel and other high level dignitaries.

Havel presented Secy. Albright the Order of the White Lion, the highest civilian award of the Czech Republic.

In an emotional speech, M. Albright said. . . "I am filled with pride every time I hear the playing of my country's national anthem THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER and yours WHERE IS MY HOME, but nothing compares to the feeling of coming to my original home, Prague, as the Secretary of State of the United States."

In a private part of her stop in Prague, M. Albright visited the Old Jewish Cemetery and Pinka's Synagogue where names of 77,000 of the Czech Jews who perished in the Holocaust are named. She found the names of two of her relatives among them.

(From Czech the News)

"Twas the day after Christmas

By Louise McNeil
(Van Buren township)

"Twas the day after Christmas
And I and my spouse
Tried to put back together
What once was our house.
The papers were scattered
All over the floor
And it looked like a cyclone
Had come through the door.
We picked up the papers,
The ribbons and all,
Then vacuumed the carpet
Way out to the hall.
The table we shortened,
Best china put back
And found our best crystal
Had nary a crack.
The silver all polished
And placed in its chest,
And now for a moment
We sat down to rest.
Our left-over turkey
Could feed a small troupe
With sandwiches, noodles,
And then turkey soup.
It was hectic and noisy
But, oh, such good cheer
We're anxiously waiting
For Christmas next year.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

(From the Cedar Rapids Republican dated Sunday 20, December 1908.)

Students performing in the Christmas program given Friday morning by Miss Boland and Miss Grier's A and B fourth grades at Tyler School were as follows: Anna Risk, June Shuey, Elmer Jenista, Esther Dvorak, Ruth Modracek, Lillian Svatosh, Rose Medulan, Lizzie Yaints, Faun Fitch, Libbie Nemeck, Willie Holmes, Genevieve Bikland, Lester Stasny, Scott Smith, Belle Nepras, Darold Jack, Beryl Newman, Frank Rocarek, Esther Payn and Irma Holec.

The program by Miss Forsythe's second grade and Miss Hasek's first grade children, Thursday afternoon at Tyler School were: Herbert Smith, Tillie Pavlicek, Thomas Ross, Eva Rau, Ernest Pipka, Frank Hoffman, Sara Cohn, Wilbert Christle, William Rompot, Florentine Severa, Lucille Zalesky, Laura Gardner, Albia Nechvil, Sadie Kozberg, John Sloan, Willmuth Lavell, Ruth Boyd, Lena Chamberlin, Lucile Skala, Emil Vytlacil, Bohumil Pardubsky, Barbara Modracek, Leroy Rowray, Alma Sedlacek, Mary Teply, Ella Pavlicek, and Leta Garnes.

(Reprinted from the Genealogical Society of Linn County, Iowa newsletter.)

THE CHRISTMAS APPLE

The apple is a very old fruit. It is mentioned in the Bible beginning with Adam and Eve.

The apple has a lot of symbols. It is round like the earth, moon and sun. On the bottom end is a blossom. A blossom that started as life, like the life of man. The red color is a symbol of courage. The white flesh of the apple stands for purity and faith. If you cut the apple in half crosswise, you will find a star. The star led the wise men to Bethlehem. The seeds in the center are reminders that God should be in the center of our lives.

A Christmas tradition was to cut the apple into halves with three sections. The three sections signify the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Breaking the three sections reminds us that the Lord broke bread for the Last Supper.

The apple is an interesting fruit and serves as a Christian message that Our Lord is King and we celebrate his birth on December 25.

PEACE CORPS - FLOOD AID

The Peace Corps sent seven Crisis Corp volunteers to the Czech Republic to help with flood relief. The mission was initiated by the Bohemian Corp in the Czech Republic. Volunteers were selected who served in the Peace Corp in the Czech Republic in the past. Volunteers arrived in September and will stay in Moravia for 3 months and help local officials reconstruct flood damaged areas.

(More flood articles on pages 3 and 6.)

My Wonderful Trip to the Czech Republic

by Erin Van Etten

First and foremost I have to thank the Czech Heritage Foundation and all those who helped me go to the Czech Republic this summer. It was the most rewarding experience in my life.

My trip started out getting up early Monday June 23, and getting finally packed. Then I met Sara, Angie, and Casey and we left Iowa behind for one whole month. After a very short flight to Chicago, we then boarded Lufthansa that took us all the way to Frankfurt, and then to Prague. We arrived in Prague on June 24th in the morning.

My first day I slept and then moved to a temporary flat in Prague with my sister Alena. This was because her brother had a week break and the family flat was full. On my second day I saw the famous Old Town Square and my personal favorite was the Astronomical Clock. During the rest of my first week I saw a Czech school and visited Kuk's castle. My first weekend we took a camping trip, and near our campspot was a famous 12th/13th century castle called Hrad Kost. My second week I saw sister Alena, and her friends Vacek and Eva took me camping again to the famous Krkonose Mountains. There I spent my 4th of July hiking up Snezka Mountain (snow). It is the highest mountain in the Czech Republic. From there the view was amazing. It also allowed you to see a great view of Poland. Snezka is the border of the Czech Republic to Poland. After that short camping trip I returned to Prague. I saw an excellent concert there. It was the Smashing Pumpkins. Even though they are American, after the concert my Czech sister loved them. Later that weekend, another ambassador, Sara Andrews came with Alena, her friends and I, to Pisek where there was an open-air two day rock festival. Unfortunately, it wasn't safe for us two American girls, so Sara and I took a train back to Prague. It felt wonderful to be independent. At this point we had about ten days left. With Sara I saw quite a few neat things in our last two days there. Such as the John Lenon Wall, Charles Bridge, Jewish Town, St. Vitus, and the National Palace where the president stayed. At the Palace I saw an excellent exhibition of Rudolf II. I will never forget the Old Jewish Cemetery and its great significance to Prague. It contains graves from the 14th to 18th century and has many important Jewish leaders, writers, etc. Also very impressionable was the Ceremonial Hall dedicated to the Holocaust victims in Terezin, Czech Republic. These are just a few memorable sites I remember from the Czech Republic and

Prague. I'll especially remember Novotny's Footbridge, because that's my Czech family name (my mother). Even though it's common, it was very exciting.

I'll never forget just how beautiful Prague was. I love all aspects of it, even the small unknown buildings. I'll also remember the closeness I gained with Alena, her dad, and her grandma. I'll always remember Marie and Yiktor (Sara's family) welcoming me into their flat. And also the friendship between myself, Sara, and Angie gained on the trip home, learning how we had all changed and learned so much.

How wonderful it was! Thanks again.

The Homestay Adventure

by Angela Zias

60 miles east of Prague in the middle of farming country lies a town called Pardubice. True to form, the people there have their own brewery, and specialize in making some of the best gingerbread in the Czech Republic. I feel fortunate to have called it home for a month this summer.

I lived with my sister Katka and her mother in a tiny three-room apartment (kitchen included). She spoke almost no English and her mother spoke German, so from the beginning communication was strained. But we adjusted, and in the end it was no big deal. They were both extremely generous—Katka crunched with her mother for an entire month, just so I could have a room of my own.

What did we do? A few times we went to whatever movie was playing in the cinema, and one Saturday we piled on a bus along with the entire youth population of Pardubice to go to an all-night house party in a nearby town. But usually Katka and I would go to her favorite bar, an outdoor establishment called Zluty Pes. We would talk there for hours with her friends, a number of whom spoke excellent English. I was fascinated with what I learned about young people's attitudes (and Czech culture) that way. Some nights, however, I ended up walking home without her, unable to hold out until she was ready to leave (dawn). As a result, I was left with the task of finding something to do all day while she slept. So I started investigating. I bought a map, and systematically went hiking to all the little villages surrounding the city. Hours and hours past endless fields of wheat, corn, hops and wild grasses, peppered with the gorgeous scarlet poppies that grew wild everywhere. I would pick a secluded place for lunch, still shy of anyone who might try to talk to me. But inevitably someone would come along, and (what I could manage of) a conversation begun. This was by far the most memorable

part of my trip, surpassing even my visits to Prague and Karlstein. It gave me a genuine sense of what the country and the people are like, and made me truly proud to know, "this is where I came from." I thank the Homestay Committee for providing me the chance to realize this. It is something I'll remember and treasure for the rest of my life.

My Homestay

by Casey Parker

I was a little nervous and really tired when I arrived in Prague at 10 o'clock in the morning. But it turns out I had nothing to worry about and my host family was all that I could hope for. My host father and brother met me at the airport. And my sister and mother were at home waiting to greet me and get me settled in. The drive from Prague took about two hours so I caught up on some sleep I had missed.



Left to right: Petr, Mrs. Holková, me, Gabka, Ms. Holek

Here is my family. My father, Pavel, owns a factory in Brno. They make sewing machines under the Zetina and Pfaff names. They also make handcuffs for police departments and handguns displaying the family name, Holek. My mother, Olga, teaches History to 15 year olds at the small school in the town. She is extremely nice. My sister, Gabriela, studies law at the university in Brno. She's twenty. And my host brother, Peter, is eighteen and will continue his education by going to Palacky University in Olomouc this year. He wants to major in sports.

The town, Naměšt' nad Oslavou, has about 7,000 residents. My family has a very beautiful house on the hill and it overlooks the town as well as the castle on the hill on the other side of the river. There is a fabulous view from the kitchen window.

I think that I was very lucky with my family because I did something with them almost every day. They were very concerned that I have a good time and they really showed me the country. We did day jaunts to Hlouboka and České Budjovice, Zdar nad Sasavou, Olomouc, Pardubice, Prague, and Vienna in Austria. We also went on 2 week-end trips during my stay. First to Benešov, there was a large festival celebrating the castle Konopiště, the summer residence of Franz-Josef, Duke of Austria-Hungary. The second trip was to Slovakia. We went to a spa in Trenčianské Teplice. It was definitely a new and exiting experience. I had my knees and elbows wrapped in steam towels!!!

This never would have happened with out the hard work and dedication of all of you involved in the many benefits and in the Czech Heritage Foundation in general. It was definitely a wonderful experience and my thanks goes out to each and every one of you for your help. Na Schledanou

My Trip to the Czech Republic

by Sarah Andrews

First of all I would like to thank the Czech Heritage Foundation for making this trip possible. I would definitely have to say that being in Prague has been the best time in my whole life. I learned so much in the one month I was in the Czech Republic. It really opened my eyes to the world and the people around me.

During my days, I usually went sight seeing with my family and friends, or occasionally just by myself. During the evenings I went to movies, concerts, clubs and sometimes just for a nice walk. Prague at night is beautiful.

I stayed with a young couple both 22 years old, Marie and Viktor, who were the perfect host family. They really made me feel welcome and by the time I had to go home I cried and didn't want to leave. I can't thank them enough.

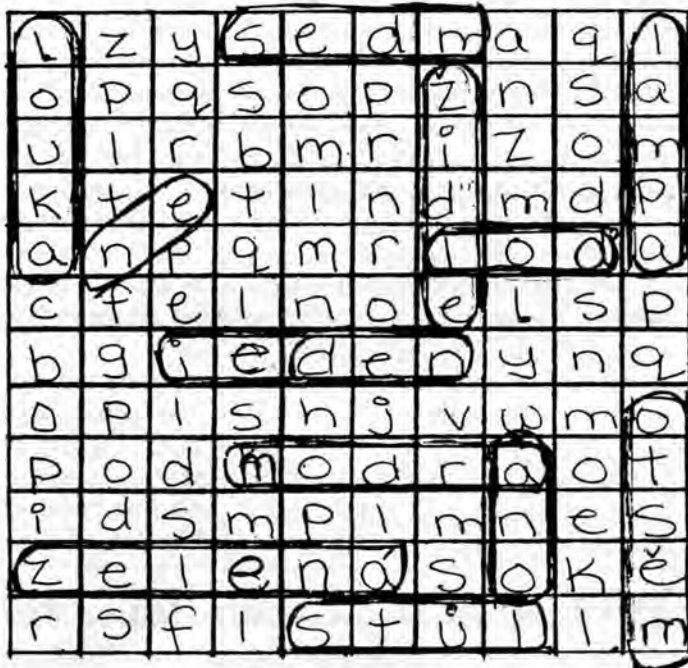
Prague is an amazing, old, city and the history is very interesting. The culture is great. I loved the food, the people, and just the lifestyle in general. If I could, I would like to live in Prague and someday I will definitely go back. I really hope that this program will continue on because it is such an invigorating, learning, memorable experience.

I wish I could tell everything about my personal experience, but it's impossible to explain how good I felt, how much fun I had, how many places I saw, and how many genuine people I met. There aren't enough words to describe it all, and I'm sure Erin, Angie, and Casey feel the same way.

Thanks again to all who helped make this trip possible and good luck to you future ambassadors.

(Answer to puzzle on page 7)

**Moje jméno
je Danielle Stegr**



Czech Word

lod
židle
stůl
lampa
louka
modra
mesto
ano
ne
jeden
sedm
zelená
den

English

boat
chair
desk (table)
lamp
meadow
blue
city
yes
no
one
seven
green
day

WISCONSIN POLKA FEST

A new Czech Polka Festival in the midwest sponsored by the Greater Wauzeeka Enterprise Association of Wisconsin has entered the scene.

The success of the festival was due largely to the support given by the Wisconsin State Historical Society, and the efforts of Fred Drenberg, his charming wife, Ethel, and Bruce A. Zinkle, president of the Wauzeeka Community Hall Restoration Committee.

The festival made its premiere with a one-day celebration amid the unexplainable unseasonable winter storm on Sunday, October 26th. The Czech Plus Band and friends boarded the chartered bus at 7 a.m. and left Cedar Rapids with high expectations. We were not disappointed. Through rain, sleet, slush and snow the bus slid, waltzed and polkaed

into the great town of Wauzeeka, Wisconsin, population 595.

The festival was held in the newly restored opera house which will be completely renovated in time to celebrate the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial next year. The beautiful original maple dance floor was retained and refinished to the delight of the enthusiastic dancers. The high arched dome, recovered through the efforts of volunteers, provided superb natural acoustics. Raffle tickets for various donated articles were sold and the cake-walk was a very popular event.

Also braving the elements, a bus load of enthusiastic supporters arrived from Milwaukee along with John Marvin of St. Paul. They immediately took to the floor as they were greeted by the band with a newly scored Czech Plus rendition of the "Milwaukee Waltz".

From the opening number "Ceska Muzika" to the final waltz "Cerny Cikan" four hours later, the authentically costumed band presented their authentically ethnic Czech music to the delight of a crowded dance floor. A number of those who attended wore traditional Czech "kroje".

The Czech Plus band presented Mr. Drenberg with a gift packet of literature published by the Cedar Rapids Czech Heritage Association. Mr. Drenberg happily accepted and officially invited the Czech Heritage Association to attend the second annual Czech Polka Festival tentatively scheduled for October 3rd and 4th, 1998.

Our sincere congratulations to those who worked so hard to make this First Annual Wauzeeka Czech Festival such a success. To those in attendance it brought back the memories of many years ago when such events took place at our local Czech dance halls, C.S.P.S. and Z.C.B.J. where the people would gather together to dance, and socialize.

Wes and Olga Drahozal and Czech Plus Band

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following is a list of names of people who sent donations with their dues and renewals to the Czech Heritage Fd'n.

For July donations with new memberships were received from Richard G. Long, Rose Wolf and Frank Zabransky. Donations received with renewals were received from: Franklin Lundak, Sharon Benesh, David Marner Sr. & Mrs., Joe & Mildred Pesek, Irene Popham, Elsie Prince, and Leora Zahorik. A donation was received from Mike Swartz.

For August: donation with a new membership from Richard Cinert. Donation with a renewal from Joe Hostak.

For Sept.: Donation with a new membership from Richard & Kathrin Hanson. Donations with renewals from: Karen Bartachek, Edward Drahozal, Donald & Shirley Frus, Eldon & Marion Hosek, Alberta Husch, Lois Jensen, A. J. & Hanna Koby, Mildred Koenigsmark, Frank Kysilko, Pat McCluskey, Marion Moravec, and Jeanette Hanket Wagner. Donations only were received from: Joseph Kubicek and Mike Uzel.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The following Czech surnames came from our membership files of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. Often times Czech names were given due to their trade, personal disposition or features, or unexplained reasons that stuck with an individual or family.

Becicka	Little Keg
Beranek	Little Ram
Beseda.....	Visitors or Dance
Cerney.....	Black
Cervený.....	Red
Falcon	Hawk
Holub.....	Pigeon
Hruby	Coarse
Hruska.....	Pear
Kohout	Rooster
Konvalinka.....	Lily of the Valley
Krall	King
Krejci	Tailor
Kroupa.....	Barley (?)
Kurka	Crust
Liska	Squirrel
Opatrný.....	Careful
Pospíšil.....	Hurried Up
Ptacek	Little Bird
Salat.....	Lettuce
Sladký.....	Sweet
Smetana	Cream
Sova	Owl
Spina.....	Dirt
Stehno.....	Thigh
Svec.....	Shoemaker
Svoboda.....	Freedom
Syrový	Raw
Teply	Warm
Tichý.....	Quiet
Velký	Large
Vesely	Happy
Zahradník.....	Gardener

THE ORIGIN OF TAPS

"It all began in 1862, during the Civil War, when a Union Army Captain, Robert Ellicombe, was with his men near Harrison's Landing, in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of this narrow strip of land. During the night, Capt. Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded in the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

"Crawling on his stomach through the gun fire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but

the soldier was dead.

"The captain lit a lantern. Suddenly, he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son! The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

"The following morning, the heartbroken father asked permission of his superior to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted.

"The captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for the son at the funeral. That request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. Out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

"This wish was granted. That music was the haunting bugle melody we now know as 'Taps.' used at all military funerals."



NEW CZECH PRINCE & PRINCESS CROWNED

The Dozinky celebration included the crowning of the 1997-1998 Czech prince and princess on Saturday October 25th at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

Debra Rigel, past reigning princess and student at Prairie High School crowned Stasia Krivanek as princess. She is the daughter of David and Debbie Krivanek and attends Prairie High School.

Quentin Lewis crowned Brandon Hamous, 16, as prince. He is the son of Bruce and Barbara Hamous and attends Marion High School.

The new royalty will participate in various parades and events in the Czech community in the coming year.

CZECH GLASSMAKING

Czech glass dates back as far as the 14th century. The first glass factories were fired with wood and built near a forest. Coal and gas furnaces were used when there became a shortage of wood. During the wood shortage, there were only 169 furnaces producing glass.

Bohemian table crystal, colored glass, and bottles were made at Haida and Steinschonau. Modern glass products considered to be works of art, came from Karlovy Vary-Moser and Skrdlovice. The Glatz factory had a reputation of exceptionally beautiful colored glass of high quality. Amber and red were most decorative.

A new series of glass was developed namely the "case technique." This procedure allowed a design to be cut through the top layer allowing the colored glass to show. This method was discovered by Casper Lehmann of Prague.

Bohemian glass cutters that were skilled in faceting, notching, and engraving took their skill to other countries and abroad.

Czech glass blowers trained from an early age. Most came from families where the skill had been handed from father to son for generations. Designers who shape the glass were often trained in sculpture, drawing, and painting. Most studied in special schools and applied arts. One school in Kamenicky Senov is the oldest kind in the world and was founded in 1856.

In 1980 after a lull in glass making, the Czech industry again accelerated. Because of its popularity and export demand, hand work gave way to machine made. Seventy percent of the Czech glass production is exported.

Crystalex specializes in handpainted glass from delicate tracery to heavily painted or gilded and enameled vases that can take six months to complete and cost thousands of dollars.

Beside the glass industry, garnet jewelry and Czech beads have been made since the 14th century. The beads were recognized as extremely high quality, fine color, and highly lustrous. European traders traded these colorful beads with the North American Indians for fur and hides. Czech beads were introduced to America by Columbus when he presented a necklace of red beads to the natives of San Salvador in 1492.

PRAGUE'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

Before world War II, the Jewish population was high. After the war about 40,000 remained. When the state of Israel came into existence in 1948, many Jews emigrated legally from

Czechoslovakia. Another wave of emigration came after the suppression of the "Prague spring" when Jews fled. The war hardly affected other religious groups like it did the Jews in Czechoslovakia.

The Jewish community in Czechoslovakia had to literally rise from the ashes after the war. They are organizing traditional events for children and adults like Hanukkah, Purim, Passover, and Seder, a ceremonial dinner. They have begun to teach religion to the Jewish community without fear and to use their freedom.

In the past, Prague was known in Hebrew as Prag. The Pinkas Synagogue is now open after being closed for 20 years. Jewish historical and cultural monuments are becoming tourist attractions. Franz Kafka was a writer who shaped Bohemian Jewish culture. A number of great religious rabbis lived and worked in Prague. The best known is Rabbi Yehuda Liva ben Bacalel (1523-1609) associated with the creation of the legendary Golem. He was also a great educator and religious philosopher. Prague was the seat for the Horowitz family and David Oppenheimer.

Prague has always been the cultural life of the Jewish community and was an organic part.

CZECH TRADE CENTER OPENS IN CHICAGO

With an exhibition of Czech products, the Czech Trade Center (CTC) officially opened for business this October.

The CTC with offices in Chicago's World Trade Center, is a non-profit organization founded by the Ceskoslovenska Obchodni Banka to promote Czech exports of goods and services to the U.S. and to support the expansion of bilateral trade.

Along with a range of businesses and marketing services, the CTC will offer showroom space for Czech firms with the aim of enhancing their chances for developing their markets in the U.S. The center will also provide advice and assistance to American firms looking for Czech business partners through Czech invest, which will share office space with CTC.

CTC's first major project was Czech Days, a promotion for the Czech trade mission to the Midwest. It was held in early October at Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Twenty companies had signed up for the event from glassware to gourmet foods to industrial goods.

At the helm of the center are George Kubin, Ceskoslovenska Obchodni Banka Representative in Chicago, and Petr Chadraba, a professor of marketing at DePaul University.

from Newsletter Ahoy

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 Dédictví, 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

- Dec. 6 Sv. Mikulas Day
Czech Village
Cookie walk and bake sale
- Dec. 8 Czech Heritage Meeting
7:30, museum
Bring refreshments
- Jan. 19, 1998 Annual Meeting Combined
Bring refreshments - Museum
- Feb. 10 Czech Heritage Meeting
- March 7 Czech School Chili Supper
at St. Wenceslaus Church
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- March 15 St. Joseph's Day Dance
PT Hall 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Homestay Fund Raiser
- March 21 St. Joseph's Day
Celebration and Parade
- May 16-17..... Houby Days
Czech Village
- May 23-24..... Ethnic Fest
Hawkeye Downs

BEGINNERS CZECH CONVERSATION CLASSES

Spring Term - 10 weeks
Mondays: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
February 2nd through April 6th, 1998

ADVANCED CZECH CONVERSATION CLASSES

Spring Term - 10 weeks
Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
February 4th through April 8th, 1998

Fee for each course: \$20.00 payable to Czech Heritage Foundation. Books are available at first lesson. Classes are taught at 28 - 25th Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids, IA

Advance registration:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Check No. _____

Course for which you are registering: _____

Dates for the above course: _____

Mail to: Olga M. Drahozal



1998 HERITAGE TOURS TO CZECH & SLOVAK REPUBLICS

Spring Heritage TourMay 3 - 15
June Festival TourJune 17 - July 1
Celebration TourJune 22 - July 8
Fall Treasures TourSept. 11 - 28

Hosted by Mark Vasko-Bigaouette, President and founder of Genealogical Society, International. Call 1-888-42-8687 or write Heritage Tours, 4219 Thornhill Lane, St. Paul MN 55127.

Kde Domov Muj? (Where Is My Home?)

It surfaces, periodically, the question of "place," for the writer. There is, I believe, beauty to be found in each locale on our globe especially that of one's youth; for many the colored roots of "growing up," prevents any thoughts of transplanting.

When you attend the newly dead you "see," the canopy of humanness that covers all, "know," that whatever the creed, color or "place," on our globe the descent of ". . . zero at the bone." Listen! Do you hear it—twittering . . . the Wren has returned.

Submitted by J. L. Kubicek