

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

Vol. 14 - No. 3  
Sept. 1989

Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations  
P. O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406



## CALENDAR 1989 KALENDÁŘ

### SEPTEMBER

- 9-10 Sat.-Sun. CZECH VILLAGE FESTIVAL (p.5)
- 20 Wed. CONVERSATIONAL CZECH CLASS begins 7 to 9 p.m. (p.2)

### OCTOBER

- 1 Sun. HOMESTAY PROGRAM AMBASSADORS REPORT 2:30 p.m. (p.16)

### DECEMBER

- 2 Sat. SV. MIKULÁŠ DAY Czech Village

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**COMING!** New product at Fall Festival in Czech Village! Look for canvas shopping bags, 12 x 14 in. in natural color with names of places in U.S./Czechoslovakia. Shop at the Czech Heritage booth Sept.9&10



Bag design not exactly as represented above.

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**\$65 A DOZEN - SOME KOLÁČ!!** Czech Heritage Fdn. members Evelyn Stejskal, Darlene Trachta, and Edith Kolarik were judges for the koláč baking contest at the Chelsea, Iowa 125th Year Celebration in July. There were fourteen entries, "a lot of tasting, it was fun." The first prize dozen was auctioned-off for \$65. E. Stejskal

## VÍTÁM VÁS! GREETINGS!

It doesn't seem possible that a quarter of the year has raced by and it is time again to greet you all. It has been quite an eventful summer what with Houby Days, the Ethnic Fest, the Bridge of the Lions opening, and several other Czech festivities in the area. Also, our ambassadors, back from their homestay in Czechoslovakia have glowing reports of their visit. Be sure to join us on October 1st, when they present their slides and share their experiment in Int'l living with us. It is free to the public, and a social hour with cookies and coffee will follow. More on this elsewhere in the newsletter.

Things have been rather hectic at the Novotnys' but we are getting back to normal at a slower pace. Mae has had two routine check-ups and we're informed all is well and no sign of any problems. Just when Mae finished her treatments, I took a little nine day vacation at Mercy Hospital after having a heart attack. I was very fortunate, no surgery necessary, just a different pace of living. All's well now.

It could be worse. When Mae and I look around and see what problems other people have, we are thankful and count our blessings!

I hope this finds you all thinking of the wonderful summer you enjoyed, and you're all getting ready for a joyous season ahead.

F.W. Novotny, Pres.

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### A ROYAL TIME

Each year the Czech Heritage Foundation selects two young representatives from the Czech community to reign as Prince and Princess. New sovereignty will be elected at the fall festival and our current royalty will step down.

cont.



Before our present Czech Prince and Princess pass on their title, they share with us a few words about their past year...

I am currently a student at Jefferson High School. At Jefferson I am involved in marching band, concert band, and choir. When I'm not at school activities I enjoy riding my bike and being with my friends and family.

I have greatly enjoyed being the Czech Prince for 88-89. It has been an honor representing the Czech Heritage Foundation at all of the dances and parades. I especially enjoyed representing Cedar Rapids in Omaha, Nebraska at the Czech Festival. Thank you Czech Heritage for giving me the privilege of being Czech Prince.

- John Dostal

My year as Czech Princess has been a busy, but rewarding one. It has been an honor to serve the Czech Heritage Foundation and the Czech community. With all the usual parades, activities, and dances, there were some exciting one-time opportunities that I'm glad I was a part of. The bridge opening was a very big celebration and being one of the first people to cross it was something I'll be able to tell people about for years to come. At the end of June, John and I received a grant to go to the Sokol Slet and Festival in Omaha. We met people from all over the world eager to share their heritage and pride with us.

At Jefferson, where I go to school, I participate in band, tennis and volleyball.

All in all, my year as Czech Princess has improved my self-esteem and has made me more articulate. I'd like to thank all of the people who made my year more wonderful than I ever thought it could be!

- Heidi Krejci

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LODGE PROKOP VELKY #137 C.S.A. donated \$2,500. to the Czech Museum during the Radiothon in June. Also, the Czech School of Cedar Rapids received \$500. this summer from the local fraternal group. Keep up the good work!

E. Stejskal

GEORGE HALAS was the son of a Czech immigrant tailor who came from the Province of Bohemia. George learned all about football from Bob Zuppke at the University of Illinois. He was one of ten delegates which organized the American Professional Football Assoc., which later became the N.F.L. In the 20's Halas managed the Chicago Bears. The immortal Red Grange was on the team. Halas created new formations and was an outstanding coach. He managed the Bears even through the 60's and 70's when times were tough and football fortunes suffered. Among his accomplishments, Halas introduced summer training camps, press box spotters and game films to assess player performance. He helped organize the player draft as a means of equalizing competition among teams, supported televised games and backed the merger of the American and National Football Leagues. Before his death in 1983 at the age of eighty-eight, Halas coached three hundred twenty-six winning games, an NFL record.



Excerpted from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL 6-20-89. Submitted by Bruce Janda, Livonia, Michigan

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CONVERSATIONAL CZECH language classes will begin on Wednesday, September 20th, at 7:00 p.m. The twelve week course taught by Olga Drahozal is sponsored by the Czech Heritage Fdn. Classes are held at 1300 2nd St. S.E. Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information call O. Drahozal or John Rocarek at

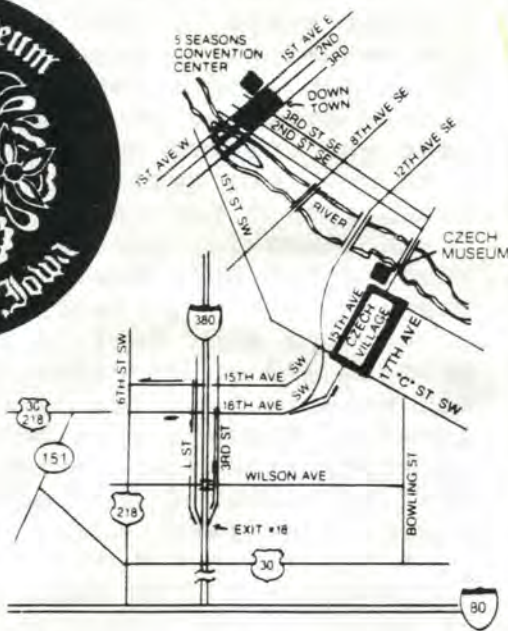
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PAINTING AND GOOSE Time for some lucky person to walk away with a beautiful original oil painting by Elma Buresh or a carved walnut goose donated by the Kupkas of Chelsea. Your last chance to buy raffle tickets for these items will be on the Avenue at the Czech Heritage Fdn. booth during the Fall Fest. The tickets are 3/\$1.00 and you don't have to be present to win. The drawing will be held on Sunday, Sept. 10th, at 4:00 p.m. at the festival. Good luck!

F.W. Novotny, Pres.



Map of Cedar Rapids



# 16th Annual Czech Village Festival

Saturday and Sunday  
September 9 & 10, 1989  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Two days of Czech music, food  
gaiety and old-fashioned fun!!

For More Information Call:  
319-362-8500

16th Ave. in Czech Village will be closed to vehicular traffic on  
Saturday, September 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and  
Sunday, September 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## SPECIAL TOURS

### FOLK ARTS AND MUSIC PAVILLION

Demonstrations of Old World  
Arts and Crafts

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00p.m.

Music

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### THE CZECH CHRISTMAS SHOP

Lovely Old World glass Christmas  
ornaments will be featured.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.-5p.m.

Guided tours are given  
during  
regular Museum hours,  
or by  
special arrangement.

# CZECH MUSEUM & Immigrant Home

10 - 16th Avenue S.W. - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

## RADIOTHON REPORT

The third annual fundraiser held on June 18th was extremely successful and the money is still coming in. If you were out of town that Father's Day weekend and didn't get a chance to contribute, there's still time for your donation to be counted towards our \$10,000 goal. We only have a \$1,000 to go! KCRG-AM's Czech Party with host Dave Franklin broadcast live from the Czech Museum and live entertainment was provided by the Czech Artists, Czech Heritage Band, Czech Plus Band, Emil Lamparek, Elmer Netolicky, Arthur Simanek, Czech Heritage Singers, and the Czech School children. Thank you one and all for your support!

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**AJ LŮČKA, LŮČKA, ZELENÁ!** The Czech School kids ended another summer with their ice cream social and program on July 21st at the Wilson Elementary School building in Cedar Rapids. Everyone had a grand time. Twenty-four students participated this year and an even greater attendance is expected next summer. The future of our Czech organizations depend on our continual efforts to get the young people of our Czech community involved. Will there ever be a time when the words to Aj Lůčka, Lůčka, Zelená are forgotten?

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**SBOR DÁMSKÁ MATICE ŠKOLSKÁ**  
(Czech Women's Educational Society) has awarded \$300.00 college scholarships to the following Cedar Rapids area seniors: Warren Valenta of Jefferson H.S. to Northern Iowa, Shane Wm. Serbousek of Jefferson H.S. to Kirkwood Community, Diane Lowe of Prairie H.S. to Iowa State, Gia Pierce of Kennedy H.S. to Univ. of Iowa, Angela Zahradnik of Prairie H.S. to Univ. of Iowa. Second year \$300.00 scholarships were awarded to: Dave Zahradnik of Iowa State, and Mark Goedkin of Loras College.  
Florence Dvorak

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**THE RUSSIA HOUSE** is a newly released spy thriller written by John le Carre. Tom Stoppard is writing the screenplay and the movie is to be filmed in Russia. Also the book is  
cont.



being printed there! A highly unusual commercial venture. Tom Stoppard, formerly Tom Strasussler, was born in Czechoslovakia. When the Nazis moved in, the family moved to Singapore. Later he was educated in England. Refer to our newsletters: March '84, p.10 and June '85, p.5 to learn more about Stoppard. His plays have been on Broadway and at the Hancher at the Univ. of Iowa!

\* \* \* \* \*  
BLESSED AGNES OF BOHEMIA

Agnes was born in 1211, daughter of the first hereditary king of Bohemia Premysl Otakar I and his second wife, a Hungarian princess, Cunegunda. Already this Czech family had among its members two saints, St. Wenceslaus and St. Ludmila. But there were two more saints on her mother's side and both were living in her time, St. Hedwig (duchess of Silesia) was Agnes' aunt, and St. Elisabeth of Thuringia, her first cousin.

Agnes was brought up and educated in several monasterys. Her hand in marriage had been promised on several occasions during her first seventeen years of life, the first engagement arranged at age three. She would never marry. Her decision to give her life to God made a deep impression all over Europe. Agnes decided to follow in the footsteps of her cousin St. Elisabeth, whose process of canonization was then in course.

Agnes devoted her life to the poor and abandoned, and helped found a hospital in Prague for the sick. She choose for herself a life of poverty, while giving all she could obtain to others. She was said to have possessed special powers of mental telepathy, had the ability to predict the future, and many times healed the sick through her prayers.

Blessed Agnes died on March 2, 1282, and she was immediately venerated as a saint because of miraculous healings accompanying her burial.

Repeated petitions for her canonization were made following her passing, but plagues, politics, and wars postponed the action.

Rediscoveries of ancient documents around 1930 prompted the Archbishop of Prague, Cardinal Karel Kaspar, and other bishops of Czechoslovakia to file a new petition with Pope Pius XI. WW II interrupted these efforts

-4- again. The new Archbishop of Prague, Joseph Beran, later Cardinal, took further steps in 1947 while in Rome for resuming the case. The political situation in Czechoslovakia after 1948 interrupted the procedure again. The case was resumed again in recent years when numerous petitions for the canonization not only from Czechoslovakia, but also from abroad, reached the Holy See. Archbishop of Prague, Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek asked Pope John Paul II to resume the process and on November 12, 1989, at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Blessed Agnes of Bohemia will become a saint. Excerpts from Hlas Naroda, August 13, 1988 and information sent in by J. Kocab, Cleveland, Ohio

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PILGRIMAGE TO ROME November 9th - 16th

In honor of the canonization of St. Agnes of Bohemia. Tour package includes special tickets for the canonization ceremony at St. Peter's Basilica, sightseeing tour of Rome including a visit to the Nepomucem and the grave of Cardinal Beran, special Czech Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, lecture on the life of St. Agnes delivered by Msgr. Polc, and much, much more. Endorsed by the Czech Catholic Union and Cleveland District Alliance of Czech Catholics. For details write: L-N Travel, 5923 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, OH 44134

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PICNIC TIME

The Z.C.B.J. Park, along the Cedar River, again hosted this year's Annual Pot Luck Supper, August 8th. About a hundred Czech Heritage members attended and the weather was perfect. The bugs didn't bother and the park was beautiful thanks to caretaker, Jerry Wright. The meat dish and beverages were supplied by the foundation, and from all indications it turned out to be a wonderful evening. A short informal meeting was held and the rest of the evening was spent socializing. Thanks to all who came and helped.

F.W. Novotny

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THE MORAVIAN BRETHERN conference is

set for October 13th - 15th at Bethlehem, Penn. at the Moravian College. The meetings are sponsored by the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences of America. The Moravian settlement dates back to 1774.



# 16th Annual Czech Village Festival

**CZECH MUSEUM and LIBRARY OPEN**  
SATURDAY 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
**September 9 & 10, 1989**  
**Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

*Two days of Czech music, food  
gaiety and old-fashioned fun!!*

*Co-sponsored by Czech Village Association  
Czech Heritage Foundation, and  
Czech Fine Arts Foundation*

*See the newly opened 16th Ave. "Bridge of Lions"*

## SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

### 7 am to 11 am - BREAKFAST FOR VISITORS

\$3.00 Adults, \$2.50 Children 12 and under at Festival tent.  
Shredded ham in scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, coffee,  
milk.

### 7 am to 12:00 noon - CARP FISHING CONTEST

Saturday, September 9. Register at Novak's Bait Shop.

### 8 am to 11 am - EMIL LAMPAREK PLAYING HIS ACCORDION

### 8 am to 8 pm - VILLAGE STREET FAIR

More than 60 booths of antiques, arts,  
crafts, collectibles and more.

### 10 am - AMERICAN & CZECH FLAG RAISING CEREMONIES at Bandstand. Veterans of Foreign Wars and Czech Heritage Foundation.

### 11 am - CZECH BAKE-OFF JUDGING BEGINS

A contest for Czech baked delicacies at tent by  
bandstand. Winners announced at bandstand  
at 2 pm.

### 1 pm to 5 pm and 6 pm to 10 pm - "GAMES" at Festival tent

### 2:30 pm - KOLACHE-EATING CONTEST Register at the bandstand at 2:15 pm.



## CZECH MASSES AT ST. WENCESLAUS CATHOLIC CHURCH September 9 & 10, 1989

The Celebrant of the Masses will be BISHOP JAROSLAV SKARVADA, the Bishop of Litomysl, and Bishop of Czech Catholics living outside of Czechoslovakia. The Masses will be at 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday. The St. Wenceslaus Choir will assist. Present will be Msgr. Peter Esterka of the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minn. A reception for Bishop Skarvada will be held in the St. Wenceslaus GYM BUILDING at 2 P.M. on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1989.

## SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

### 7 to 11 am - BREAKFAST FOR VISITORS (Same as Saturday)

### 7 to 9 am - KARL TUREK & HIS ACCORDION

### 9 to 11:30 am - ELMER NETOLICKY PLAYING HIS ACCORDION

### 9 am to 5 pm - VILLAGE STREET FAIR

### 10 am - CZECH PRINCE AND PRINCESS CROWNING (at bandstand)

### 11 am - CZECH HERITAGE PARADE Highlighting our ethnic history. Line up at 2nd St. S.E. between 12th & 14th Ave.

### 1 pm - NON-COMPETITIVE PAGEANT OF CZECH COSTUMES

### 1-5 pm - GAMES AT FESTIVAL TENT

## MUSIC AT THE BANDSTAND

### 9 am to Noon - CZECH PLUS

### Noon to 2 pm - BUTTON ACCORDION SHOWCASE Co-sponsored by Boddicker's and Czech Artist Band

### 2 pm to 5 pm - CZECH HERITAGE BAND

## MUSIC AT BANDSTAND

### 9 to 1 - CZECH ARTIST

### 2 to 3 - BODDICKER'S CZECH SHOWCASE

### 3 to 5 - BODDICKER'S POLKA DOTS



**Saturday and Sunday  
September 9 & 10, 1989  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

**FESTIVAL BEER GARDEN  
and  
POLKA FEST**

at Riverside Roundhouse (Farmers Market)

**BEER, KLOBASY, PORK**

\$3.00 gate admission each day

**SATURDAY**

2:30 to 6:30 - DAVE SALMOND BAND from Omaha

6:30 to 10:30 - MARK FRANA

**SUNDAY**

12 to 2 - DAVE KRALIK PARTY TIME BAND

2 to 4 - IVANHOE DUTCHMAN

4 to 6 - DAVE KRALIK PARTY TIME BAND

6 to 8 - IVANHOE DUTCHMAN

**MUSIC AT LION'S PRIDE RESTAURANT**

Saturday, 1-4 p.m. - Sunday, 1-4 pm - CZECH PLUS

**FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS  
NEXT TO BANDSTAND**

FOR INFORMATION CALL 319-362-2846

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THE POLKA SHOW with Chuck Stastny is expanding. The show has gained a half an hour of air time. Listener's support over the past two and a half years have made this extension possible. This South Dakota based radio show is heard in parts of nine states in the midwest, and even parts of Canada. Stastny's Polka Show is heard on WNAX Radio - 570AM every Sunday from 5:30p.m. to 6:30p.m. Central Time. Tune in for some of the best in polka of all styles. Bands and record companies can send promo recordings to Stastny at:

Wagner, SD 57380

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THE ST. WENCESLAUS CZECH GOULASH AND BAZAAR DAY will be on Sunday, September 17th, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Be sure to attend the special polka mass. Watch for raffle tickets now being circulated for the \$1,000 cash prize and twelve bags of groceries worth \$50 each. \$1 ticket donation. Good food! Games! Fun!

-6- FRANTISEK CARDINAL TOMASEK of Praha,



"Who works for the kingdom of God does much.

Who prays for the kingdom of God does more.

Who suffers for the kingdom of God does all."

Tomasek

Czechoslovakia, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree at John Carroll University at Cleveland, during their May commencement ceremonies.

Cardinal Tomasek was born at Studenka, Moravia, (southwest of Ostrava) in 1900. He was educated at Olomouc, and became a priest at the age of twenty-two. In 1949 he was appointed auxiliary bishop of Olomouc. He spent the years 1951-54 in a labor camp. In 1965 Bishop Tomasek was appointed apostolic administrator of Praha, replacing Praha's Archbishop Beran. Tomasek was created cardinal priest "in pectore" by Pope Paul VI in May of 1976. Having passed his eightieth birthday, he is no longer eligible to vote for the election of a pope. Excerpted from POSEL, Czech Catholic Union, Cleveland, Ohio

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THE CZECH PLUS POLKA BAND continues to propagate our Czech heritage with its first appearance at the 19th Annual Polka Fest at Gibbon, Minn. With their own Czech music style and Southern Bohemian type costumes, they wowed the Minnesotans who thoroughly enjoyed the dance numbers ranging from Kmoch to Kubes. The polka fest lasts five days and in that time fifty-five bands take turns playing twelve hours every day. Czech Plus also was honored to play at the polka mass for the ecumenical service.



In our last issue we offered this sketch by Josef Lada and asked you to name the military man pictured. Were you able to identify him?



THE GOOD SOLDIER ŠVEJK was the creation of author Jaroslav Hašek. The character Švejk first appeared in 1911 in a series of comic tales published in the Bohemian satirical magazine *Karikatury*, which was edited by the artist Josef Lada. Hašek reincarnated The Good Soldier Švejk into book form after the first world war. He planned six volumes, but had completed only four when he died in 1923 of tuberculosis. The unfinished novel became an immediate worldwide favorite. It still maintains international popularity and is considered one of this century's finest classics. Everyone can relate to Hašek's "underdog" character. Švejk is ready to serve his country in the wake of the great world war, but there is a problem. He was already discharged once from the Imperial Army for "idiocy." Surpassing all odds he is reconscripted as an officer's orderly. He gives every appearance of



being an idiot, but isn't really. He agrees with every word his superiors utter and obeys every order to the best of his ability. It's just that things somehow happen to prevent him from ever completing his appointed tasks. As hard as he tries to get to the battle-front, obstacles delay his actual appearance in the trenches. Overall, he may be viewed as a "sly old

fox", but rest assured his seemingly "good fortune" is purely incidental. Surely he doesn't intentionally make the mighty Austro-Hungarian Empire and its Imperial Army a laughing-stock. Or does he?

As mentioned earlier, Švejk's image was captured by Josef Lada. Watch for his biography and other samples of his illustrative talents in December's issue of *Naše České Dědictví*.

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#### A CZECH VILLAGE

On July 20, 1947, I was at Masaryk Station in Prague trying to buy a train ticket to Račice, my mother's birthplace. She had told me it was about two hours by train, but the ticket agent said it was much farther and would require my changing trains. I insisted Račice was near Prague and was taken into a large room behind the ticket windows where a uniformed station official showed me the train connections in a big book. I saw he was pointing at "Radčice" and I quickly turned back a page to show him "Račice." "Ah, Račice!" he exclaimed. Apparently they heard a "d" when I pronounced the name. I soon had a ticket and was boarding the local train to Hněvice, the nearest stop to Račice u Roudnice nad Labem. Six plain wooden benches provided seating space for about thirty-six riders. The benches were parallel across the car and, facing each other, formed three compartment-like areas. When we pulled out of the station the car was full with people standing in the aisle on one side.

As soon as the train began to move, most of the passengers unwrapped paper parcels containing dark bread and sausage or pieces of cooked meat. A younger woman sitting across from me with two small children offered some yellow cherries, which I sampled. (I had never seen yellow cherries before.)

She asked me where I was going and we talked about my coming visit to Račice. Then she shyly asked if she could touch the hem of my skirt. I was wearing a dark blue two-piece suit that had once been my WAVE uniform. She marveled at the quality of the material, saying she had never seen anything like it.

Arriving at Hněvice about an hour and a half later (a stop almost in the middle of nowhere), my newfound acquaintances waved good-bye as I left the train. A man at the little station pointed out the rooftops of Račice nearby and also asked me if I had any chocolate. He didn't seem pleased when I said I had none.

I set out to walk a kilometer (about five-eighths of a mile) to the village. Followed the tracks a short distance and then turned down the steep bank to a lane through hop fields. The hop vines were

cont.



twined around poles more than twice my height. Emerging from this little forest I came to a turn in the lane which now led me along the main street.

The village was deserted. I saw no one although once I thought I glimpsed movement of a curtain in a window. The thick soft dust in the street sifted into my toeless shoes and I had to stop once to empty them...standing first on one foot, then the other. Five geese strutted single file across my path.

I saw the village bell mounted on a high post before the old schoolhouse (just as my mother had described it) and knew I would soon turn left and come to the second house from the corner.

A high whitewashed stone wall was all I could see at first. I pushed open the wooden gate and entered a small courtyard. On my left was a rabbit hutch whose occupants paid not the slightest attention to me. On the right a big featherbed (peřina) was hung out to air on a long pole suspended under the wide eaves.

The entrance before me was open. Of course there was no doorbell and I would have bruised my knuckles trying to knock on the wall. As I stepped into the little entryway I called out, "Je někdo doma?" (Is anyone home?) In a room to the right a woman was putting a baby into a carriage and at a small table by the window a man sat reading a newspaper. She was so surprised to see me she couldn't speak. Her husband came forward and very formally and politely asked if there was something he could do for me.

I explained that I had come to see the village where my mother was born and believed she had once lived in this very house. "What was your mother's name?" he asked as he regarded me curiously. When I told him, his face lighted up with a smile and he exclaimed, "Marie Lorencová! I remember her very well. I used to go to school with her. My father bought this house from her father when they went to America." I was no longer a stranger. In a way, I had come home.

Mrs. Syrový busied herself in the kitchen corner and soon set before me a plate of scrambled eggs, two slices of very dark bread and a glass of beer. She hoped I would not be offended at being offered such poor food, but I assured her that fresh eggs were a real treat. Mr. Syrový wanted to know how my mother was in America and also wondered how I happened to be in Europe. I told him I was a civilian employee with the U.S. Army of Occupation in Frankfurt, Germany.

Later he took me on a walk through the village. (Mrs. Syrový remained at home with their grandson.) I had my camera and extra rolls of film, and I snapped pictures of everything I thought would be of interest to my mother.

The village was no longer deserted. Word had gotten around and now people were in

the street eager to meet me...especially those who remembered my mother. For two hours we talked about many things. They told me Račice had changed very little in the forty years since my mother had left and how, luckily, they escaped damage during the war. Allied bombers attacked the big benzine tanks near Hněvice but not a single bomb fell on Račice. When the advancing Allies were almost in Czechoslovakia, the Nazis hurriedly moved their prisoner-slaves from Terezín (concentration camp) back into Germany. Open cars were packed with nearly naked humanity. Those who died enroute were tossed off the train and left to lie along the tracks. Some of the villagers had helped to bury bodies.

I told them about my sightseeing tour in Prague, and that one day I had gone with a friend to Lidice. There we found no trace of the town...just a grassy plot with a border of flowers and a tall wooden cross ringed by a halo of barbed wire.

When I told my audience how I thought Račice was deserted as I walked in, a man laughed and explained that they wait to find out who strangers are before coming out. Many had watched me empty the dirt from my shoes.

A tall whitehaired woman who had been silently standing to one side suddenly asked, "Why did you cut holes in your shoes?" I tried to explain that toeless shoes were being worn now...it was the "moda" or fashion...but she just made a sound that was very much like "Humph!" and said no more.

I saw a bronze plaque on a large boulder that was enclosed by an iron fence. On it were listed the names of those from Račice who had died in World War I. My uncle Josef's name was fourth on the list. He had been my mother's only brother. The train to take me back to Prague was due after four o'clock and as the time drew near, I bade my new friends farewell...Na shledanou. Two of the younger men escorted me to the Hněvice station.

Before I was back at the Hotel Flora in Prague that evening, I know Mr. Syrový was once again seated at the table by the window in his cottage, writing a long letter to my mother to tell her about their visitor that day.

Frances Vilim  
Park Ridge, Illinois

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Do you recognize this gentleman? Need a clue? He taught Sokol classes in Cedar Rapids years ago. Watch for his biography in our next Naše České Dědictví.



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE, a friend or relative, who isn't a member of the Czech Heritage Foundation? Why not sign them up? All it takes is \$3.00 and the new member will receive this quarterly publication. The Naše České Dědictví is overflowing with information about current events and news items as well as biographical studies and histories. Write: P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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OMAHA, HERE WE COME!

The week of June 20th through the 25th was a big week for the Czechs. The 17th American Sokol Slet and Czechoslovakian Festival was held in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Sokols held their gymnastic demonstrations and competition Monday through Friday and put on an interesting performance on Saturday evening, the 24th.

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the Czech Festival was held. Everyone enjoyed the various displays.

Cedar Rapids was well represented, both in the field of gymnastics and in the Czechoslovakian Festival which was such a vibrant contribution to the event. The Czech Heritage Singers of Cedar Rapids took part as did the Czech Artists, Boddicker's Czech Showcase, and the Czech Plus Band.

Two buses of Czech Heritage members left early on Saturday, and both the performers as well as those who just came along to enjoy the weekend, were not disappointed.

The Omaha Czech Brass Band did a very nice job of musically tying together the various events.

We stopped-off at the Bohemian Cafe for a nice sit-down dinner with Mercedes Shileny-Kapoun, formerly of Cedar Rapids, proprietess of Omaha's European Connection, as the Bohemian Cafe bills itself. Everyone agreed that it was the perfect way to end a wonderful weekend, including our Prince and Princess, John Dostal and Heidi Krejci, who did a fine job of representing Cedar Rapids

F.W.N. & O. D.

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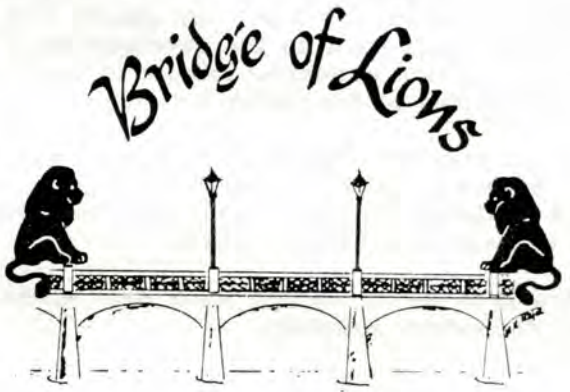
LIONS, LIONS, LIONS

July 15th was an eventful day for the

Czech people on the south side of Cedar Rapids and surrounding areas as on that day the 16th Ave. Bridge was opened to traffic.

The Czech Heritage Fdn., wanting to do something special for the bridge, decided that lions would be the proper touch. We purchased the lions and paid for their installation, and as a result the bridge is now known officially as "The Bridge of the Lions."

A dedication committee was formed, made up of representatives from our organization, the Czech Fine Arts Fdn., Sokol Cedar Rapids, Czech Village Assoc., and the Federation of Czech Groups.



The ceremonies began on the stage situated at the center of the bridge at 1:00 p.m. with an introduction by WMT radio personality, Jerry Kiwala. The Czech Heritage Singers, Czech School Children, and the Czech Plus Polka Band offered music, followed by the invocation by Rev. Clarence Frana, St. Ludmila's Church. Presentations were made by Edward R. Kuba, Pres. of the Bridge of the Lions Committee, then speeches were given by Congressman Tom Tauke and Senator Tom Harkin. Mayor Don Canney spoke following more music and the introduction of the bridge builders. Rev. Glenn Hunt lead in the benediction assisted by area clergymen. A ribbon-cutting culminated the formal dedication program and the grand parade followed at 2:00 p.m. With over one hundred and ten registered entries, this parade was the biggest and best in recent memory. There were well over three hundred people IN THE PARADE, and was enjoyed by no less than twenty-five hundred citizens.

F.W.N. & J.R.



July 7, 1989

I am pleased to send greetings to the city of Cedar Rapids, the Czech Heritage Foundation, and the merchants of historic Czech Village as you dedicate "The Bridge of The Lions." This bridge is truly a monument to your civic pride and rich cultural heritage. More than a convenient span over the Cedar River, it is a link to the roots of your community.

The "Bridge of The Lions," by reuniting Czech Village with Southeast Cedar Rapids, recognizes the important contributions Czech immigrants and their descendants have made to the development of your fine city. It is a wonderful tribute to them and a beautiful symbol of friendship between neighbors.

Today, as you take just pride in the achievements of all those who have followed the Czechs who settled in Cedar Rapids in 1856, may this bridge point the way to a bright future.

Barbara joins me in sending warm best wishes for a joyous dedication ceremony.



*Gay Bush*

BRIDGE DEDICATION PROGRAM

Right - Elsa Grimmer, bridge contractor, presents Cedar Rapids Mayor Donald Canney with a glass milk bottle from an old Czech dairy, found intact by workers. Below left to right - Edward Kuba, Pres. Bridge of the Lions Committee; Rev. Glenn Hunt leading the benediction assisted by area clergy; Congressman Tom Tauke; Senator Tom Harkin.





BRIDGE OF THE LIONS

When it was assured a new bridge would be constructed to replace the deteriorated 16th Avenue Bridge, we pondered what we could do to make this bridge unique and out of the category of "just a bridge." After some thought and discussion we came up with the idea of incorporating statues of lions into the planning. The idea was brought up before the Czech Heritage Foundation board. The board moved to purchase the lions and offer them to the city for their consideration. Feeling that this project was in keeping with preserving our heritage, the board passed the resolution unanimously.

A visit was made to Ornamental Concrete Co. of Fairfax, Iowa to view any lions they might have or could obtain. A decision was made to place two larger lions at each end of the bridge and smaller ones placed in each of the four sitting areas on the bridge.

Why lions? Lions were selected for the project to give the new structure a European look. We hope the lion theme will become popular in the Czech Village among its shops. The foundation is extremely confident that the bridge's eight distinctive lions will increase visitor interest in the Czech Village as well as the Czech Museum.

The thick mane of the lion which covers his powerful head and shoulders and his deep sunken eyes and wrinkled forehead lend an appearance of wisdom and nobility. The royal lion's majestic appearance infers great strength and agility. Czechs have long regarded the lion as their national mascot.

The new Bridge of the Lions, with its unique "Old World" design and architecture overshadows all others in the state of Iowa. The Czech Heritage Foundation is honored for its involvement in the acquisition of the lions.

C.K. & J.R.

\*\*\*\*\*

A BRIDGE OF THE LIONS COMMITTEE

MEETING AND SUPPER is scheduled for Friday, September 29, at 6:00 p.m. at the Lion's Pride Restaurant in the Czech Village. Call Ed Kuba at \_\_\_\_\_ by the 25th for your reservations. Dutch treat.

PHOTOS ON PAGE TWELVE

- 1-3) New Bridge of the Lions
- 4) Ribbon cutting ceremony
- 5) Czech Heritage parade float
- 6) C. Heritage Fdn. Prince & Princess John Dostal and Heidi Krejci
- 7) Czech Fine Arts Fdn. float
- 8) Parade Grand Marshal Lester Sykora and wife Wilma

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THE INWOOD BALLROOM in Spillville, Iowa was the scene for the Skoda, a folk ensemble from Plzen, Moravia, to make their U.S. debut. At the August 12th premiere, twelve musicians and performers played violins, Bohemian bagpipes, clarinet, trumpet, accordion, and a bass violin. Of special interest was the Bohemian bagpipe. It featured bellows under the arm so the performer can also sing, was intricately carved, and decorated with a goat's head topping the instrument. We also got to see and hear the Fanfrnoch, a ceramic jug with a leather covered top through which horse hairs are threaded. It had a very funny almost human-like sound when played. They also used a Bum-bac. This is a stick as long as and shaped like a broom handle. A tambourine is mounted in the middle, with a ridged metal tube mounted underneath it. This is struck and/or stroked with a drum stick. The Bum-bac is topped-off with a cymbal and used to provide the percussion sounds. They sang, and played and danced their way into the hearts of the audience.

Many of the songs were familiar to us, and we especially enjoyed their version of the "Doudlebska Polka" which has the men doing hand actions to the music while the women go around the outside. At a certain point in time, the music changes and men and women pair off and do the polka. This repeats again several times while everyone gets to dance with a new partner each time.

We thoroughly enjoyed this new group and their performance, and we sincerely hope that sometime in the future they can return to the U.S. and perhaps come to Cedar Rapids.

O. Drahozal







BUTTONS AND T-SHIRTS commemorating the new Bridge of the Lions are still available, but for a limited time only. The inventory is dwindling and when they're sold, that'll be it! The T-shirts are \$10 and the buttons \$1 each. Your last chance to purchase an original souvineer from the dedication will be on Saturday, Sept. 9th, on the Avenue at a special booth set up by the bandstand.

\* \* \* \* \*

MY TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

All people of Czech ancestry, living in this country, have reason to be proud of their Czech heritage. As a young teen, growing up in a Czech community in New York City, I have many fond memories of the early 1900's.

The East Side of mid-Manhattan (New York City) was an enclave of four and five-story tenement houses called "railroad flats" - all rooms adjoined off a long hallway. The neighborhood we lived in, at the time, was inhabited by mostly Czech people, all immigrants, the same as my mother and father. In those years, all nationalities who came to America sought to identify with their own kind. It made life easier for all of them in a new world.

Growing up as a young boy on the sidewalks of New York City became an education in itself. It taught me self-preservation, pride and motivation. My beautiful mother instilled in me the importance of hard work, integrity and sincerity. She also taught me the values of real friendship. As kids, playing on the sidewalks of New York, we had to improvise a lot - you see, nobody had any money. We played jump-rope, using an old clothesline, and hop-scotch, using chalk and a small empty metal can. We played marbles, hide-and-go-seek, and tag "you're it." Watching cars driving by, we would try to call out their proper names - cars with names such as Marmon, Moon, Stutz, Durant, Hupmobile, Star, and Graham Page. They are all gone now, swallowed up by General Motors and Chrysler. Ford was already on the market.

A very special treat for kids were Sunday picnics to City Island. That required a ride on the elevated train on Third Avenue to Pelham Bay Park, then a bus ride to City Island. Two or three families would all go together. Our mothers would prepare baskets. The banquet fare was always shared by everyone. My mother's fried chicken was a culinary delicacy. She would go to the chicken market Saturday morning early, to pick out her own bird. The market had facilities where customers could pluck the feathers from their own chicken - this made it less expensive.

Another treat for kids was a Sunday all-day outing to South Beach, New Jersey. Families would get together early, with

food baskets loaded, and then take off on a long journey to the beach. First came the Second Avenue elevated train ride, all the way down to the Battery Park. Then an exciting ferry-boat ride to Staten Island, and yet another train ride to South Beach. The trip took about two and a half hours. This is where I first learned how to swim. Swimming in the East River around 74th Street, on hot and muggy days was another favorite pastime. We would drop down to one of the barges tied up to the dock, take off our clothes and jump in.

"Skinny-dipping" in the old days for boys, was a natural thing. Another diversion was to fly a homemade kite, made out of strips of wood from an orange crate, off the roof of our apartment tenement building. When the wind moved the air-currents, with plenty of line you could send a kite off way up into the heavens.

The side-streets of New York City were a veritable playground for teenagers. We played stickball, using old broomhandles and a rubber ball that was made by Spaulding. Traffic was negligible in the late twenties as there were few cars. A horse and wagon was still on the scene. I remember the street cleaner with his broom and shovel, pushing along his two-wheel metal cart that held a large trash container. He swept and picked up the dung left behind by the animals.

A popular neighborhood spot was John Jay Park, which overlooked the East River. A number of us formed a ball club, and here we played baseball and touch football. We played other teams and on occasion went to Central Park where conditions were much more favorable for baseball.

Ice skating in the winter on the lake in Central Park, also gave us another way to expand our energies. Winter in Central Park portrayed a winter scenic wonderland. The trees took on a different character covered in white overcoats. For kids in the city, it was a big thrill.

The City offered everything for young people growing up. Things to do that did not require a pocketfull of money.

However, we did not have the many luxuries offered to the young people of today. One such privilege, would be a private bathroom. I recall the zinc metal wash tub we had - it hung on the door. It was just long enough to sit in, not lie down.

Mother would fill it with hot water which she heated on the stove, as we lived in a "cold-water flat." The zinc tub would be placed on the kitchen floor, ready for the next participant. At times, it was embarrassing when a neighbor would knock on our door. I remember covering myself with a towel while my mother answered the door. The neighborhood I called home was known as "Little Bohemia." Mostly families of Czechoslovakian heritage lived within blocks of each other. We even had a Czech newspaper that was published once a week. There was a small Jewish community on 74th



Street near First Avenue. They were the peddlers and small merchants who worked hard, putting in long hours without complaining.

On 86th Street, from Avenue "A" all the way up to Lexington Avenue, German families had their residence. German hofbraus and beer gardens dominated the scene. Beer, entertainment and excellent food was indigenous to the community. On Saturday nights the strain of German music by a talented musician playing his accordion echoed onto the street.

The Czech environment in and around 73rd Street on the East Side was enveloped by a salubrious people whose attitudes embodied the traits and heritage of Czechoslovakia. We had everything necessary for life's sustenance and entertainment within a radius of a few blocks. On the block we lived on, between 73rd and 74th Streets, we had a funeral parlor, bakery, butcher shop, candy store, grocery, ice cream parlor, and a Chinese laundry. Across the street, Tony, the iceman, was located in one of the cellars where huge cakes of ice were stored. We had a wooden icebox. The top portion held the large chunk of ice. The inside was lined with zinc and the water from the melting ice drained into a large pan placed beneath the icebox.

The Boroughs of New York City, all five, commemorated with parades every year. All across the nation, parades took place on July 4th, Memorial Day and Easter. New York City was a conglomerate of different ethnic societies. Many celebrated their own particular holidays with a colorful pageant, honoring a special time - the Irish celebrated on St. Patrick's Day, the Italians honored Christopher Columbus on Columbus Day, and the Czechs on May Day. The Czechs celebrated Freedom Day on Memorial Day, May 30th, with a colorful and moving parade that assembled at 72nd and 73rd Streets and First Avenue. The entire cavalcade of marchers, bands and different Czech organizations paraded up to Central Park where the festivities took place. Fun, games, May Pole Dance and refreshments lasted all through the day. The young men and women, who were members of the Red Turners and Blue Turners, many who were gymnasts, participated and paraded in their clubs' colorful uniforms. The celebration went on into the night as revelers continued celebrating at Narodni Budova (National Hall). Dancing, gaiety, and high jinks prevailed into the wee hours of the morning.

Narodni Budova was designed and built in the early 1900's to serve as a sanctuary where Czech people could enjoy their native food and customs. Czechoslovakian stage plays and melodramas were presented by Czech students of drama. Narodni Budova also had a well-known Czech restaurant that served the best of Czech foods, gourmet fare, piquant and delicious. The national dish was roast pork, dumplings, and sauerkraut.

-14- As I look now look back upon those wonderful years, I realize what a great advantage they were for me. I learned the lessons of real life, appreciating the good things that are free, and cherishing the good things that came my way.

John Joseff  
Manassas, Virginia

\* \* \* \* \*

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From Kytice, Slovan Americký 1915-16



THE JEDNOTA CESKYCH DAM (Society of Czech Women) was founded in Cleveland, Ohio, on August 25, 1870, as a cultural and insurance organization. Soon subordinate branches were founded in all cities where Czech women resided. When first organized the annual dues of the lodge were two dollars. After one was a member for six months she could collect, in case of illness, two dollars per week for the first six months and one dollar per week for the second six months. In case of her death her beneficiaries received \$400.

The Anna Naprstek Lodge #24 was the first organization in Cedar Rapids to be affiliated with the national J.C.D. The second local organization to become affiliated with the J.C.D. was the Zofie Podlipska Lodge #25 which was founded in Cedar Rapids in 1885 with thirty-eight charter members. In choosing the name for their

-15- organization, says an early report of the lodge, the members wished to show that, though they were far away from their homeland, they had not forgotten it and therefore they desired to honor an author of whom Bohemia was proud. By correspondence Zofie Podlipska gladly gave the Cedar Rapids lodge permission to use her name. The lodge cared for the sick and needy, contributed to the Czech School, and sent donations to Bohemia. By the 1970's Zofie Podlipska merged with the larger C.S.A. (Czechoslovak Society of America) fraternal organization.

From The History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids Vol.s I&II

Can you identify any of these gals? Please write if you can. Bottom row, third from right is Anna (Škrdla) Brůna 1858-1921, my great-grandmother. John Rocarek,



ZOFIE PODLIPSKA  
CISLO. 25 J.C.D.  
VYLET  
19 CERV. 1906

ZOFIE PODLIPSKA  
#25 Jednota Ceskych Dam  
An outing  
June 19, 1906



HOMESTAY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

After another successful year of sending the ambassadors for their month-long stay in the "old country", it is time once again to start our search for applicants for 1990. Applications are available at high schools in the Cedar Rapids and surrounding areas. Students must be of some Czech descent and be entering their junior year. For more details call Mae Novotny

Sherlee Peterson, or Marge Stone. The deadline for returning the applications is October 14th. Students chosen will attend Czech language classes and orientations.

The ambassadors are selected by three impartial judges who are not affiliated with the Czech Heritage Fdn. and are not familiar with the applicants or their families. The judges, professional individuals who are youth oriented, base their recommendations on several criteria. The student's enthusiasm, knowledge, poise, maturity, along with their ability and willingness to adapt, are important areas, to name a few.

The cost for each ambassador is approximately \$1,100 to \$1,200 for transportation and \$50 to \$75 for visas and passports. Our co-sponsor, the Experiment in Int'l Living organization in Vermont (student exchange group), and its Czech liason-counterpart, CKM in Prague, require \$600 to \$700 for insurance and administration fees. OUT OF THIS, \$250 to \$350 goes to the host family in Czechoslovakia to cover food and travel expenses for the ambassador's THIRTY DAY homestay. This is not much money when considering the fine treatment and loving care our students get during their stay. The host families take great pride and effort to see that the students are well fed, very well fed, (just ask one of our ambassadors), and that they are given the opportunity to attend different activities - ballet, theatre, museum tours, etc..., and tour the sights of Czechoslovakia. Some of our ambassadors have even toured neighboring countries! The total cost of all of the above for each student is approximately \$2,000 (a lot less than other European student exchange programs). The Czech Heritage Fdn. grant to each student is \$1,000 and the student pays the balance. Sometimes the students' family helps out with their portion of the trip, but more often than not, the ambassador pays his or her own way, by working part-time jobs after school and full-time during the summer. Past ambassadors have been found waiting tables, detasseling corn, and clerking in stores, in an effort to pay their own way.

Concerning the foundation's share - this is one of the few Czech Heritage Fdn. projects which is self-funded. The Homestay Program Committee raises funds by soliciting donations. Many are ear-marked by the benefactor because of the popularity of the

project. Proceeds from the Annual St. Joseph's Day Dance, sponsored by the Homestay Committee, are also used to fund this very worthwhile project. The Homestay Program provides an excellent opportunity for our youth to enrich their Czech heritage. It is through these endeavors that we will perpetuate our organization and guarantee its existence in the future.

Plan on an exciting afternoon on October 1st at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 336 27th Ave. S.W., in Cedar Rapids, at 2:30 p.m. The ambassadors will be sharing their homestay presentation with us. You won't want to miss it, and make sure to bring a friend or neighbor. Even non-Czechs enjoy the ambassadors' enthusiasm as they take us with them on "Four Weeks in the Old Country." Czech Heritage Foundation Homestay Program Committee

OCTOBER 1ST PREVIEW!  
"FOUR WEEKS IN THE OLD COUNTRY"

Teri Bartachek - Well everybody was right. This was the learning experience of my life! There was so much culture, history, beauty, and of course, communism.

We spent the first week in and around Prague. During these days, I toured the streets of Prague, along with some of the other ambassadors and our brothers and sisters. This has to be the most beautiful city in the world. The buildings are from the medieval era, and the government is constantly renovating them to keep them beautiful. We spent our evenings in Prague at various theatres and cultural events. We saw a ballet one night, a violin-piano recital another, a modern theatre production, and an American movie with subtitles. The rest of my trip was spent in other parts of Czechoslovakia. First, my family and I went up north to the Great Mountains. This is where I discovered that my family was "nature-happy." We went on one five mile hike and then a ten mile hike the next day. For the five days we were in the mountains we stayed in a cottage owned by my father's corporation. From there we went to my family's cottage which is south of Prague. We toured many castles in this area and got a feel for the small town life versus the city life. If you'd like to hear more about Czechoslovakia and my stay there, plan to attend our presentation in October.

cont.



Dawn Buresh - My homestay in Czechoslovakia was the most exciting month of my life. It was a full month of experiences I will never forget! Being away from home can change a person in many ways. It really makes you think about the things back home in the U.S. you take for granted. My family was excellent, and I miss them very much. In the Horak family there were two sisters, Marcela (18), who showed me the many places in Prague, and Eva (15). Their father, Ivan, works for a company specializing in the production of chicken, ham, and eggs. Their mother, Marcela, works for a company that produces frozen foods.

The first few weeks we spent touring in Prague and visiting nearby castles including, Karlstejn, Konopiste, Krivoklat, Rozemberk, and many others. During my stay in Prague, I was able to meet my relatives, the Nemecs. My homestay was very exciting, educational, and enjoyable. I would encourage anyone considering applying for future scholarships, to try for it. I know you wouldn't be disappointed; I wasn't, it was great! I want to thank the Czech Heritage Fdn. and my host family for giving me the opportunity to experience what life is like in the "old country." I will never forget it! I also send a special "Ahoj" to the Horaks, my Czech family, and "Thanks for the recipe, Matka."

Darrick Chadima - I couldn't begin to report about my homestay in Czechoslovakia without first thanking the Czech Heritage Foundation for making it possible. It was a memorable experience and I had the greatest time. Whoever matched the ambassadors with the host families did a terrific job.

My Czech brother, Honza, and I got along perfectly because we are so much alike. We're both involved in bands, and our musical tastes are very similar. Honza and I are also both interested in athletics.

Six of us went on a two day, one hundred and forty kilometer bike trip. Fellow ambassador Matt Faltis, his host brother Filip, along with his classmates Roman and Petr, my brother Honza and I, made up the group. We saw a lot of the beautiful Czech countryside. There were lots of hills, but luckily on our route, no

-17- mountains.

The Dobias family live in a flat on the southeastern outer edge of Prague. They are a very generous and loving family, and I was extremely lucky to have had them as my host family. I miss them a lot and would like to go back someday.

Again, I'd like to thank the Czech Heritage Fdn. for this fantastic experience.

Matt Faltis - During my trip to Czechoslovakia I learned much about the culture as well as gaining first-hand experience of everyday life there.

The people of Czechoslovakia are quite friendly. My host family was an excellent example of a typical Czech family. They were very kind and considerate and went out of their way to make sure I was having a good time. I would also like to thank the Czech Heritage Foundation for making my homestay trip possible. Thank you!

Tim Pfeifer - While in Czechoslovakia I stayed with the Bartoskova family. They made me feel right at home. My host family shares my love of nature and wildlife, and one of my biggest thrills was being able to hunt deer during my visit. European deer are very different from deer found in the U.S., and hunting them over there is difficult. It requires the knowledge of many guidelines and restrictions that are in place. We saw several deer, but had to wait for the right one to come along. Only the younger bucks were in season. After a lot of patience I got a deer and the Bartoskovas sent me the rack. I just got it in the mail!

I was told that I was the first American Indian/Czech to visit there and because of it, my stay received newspaper and television coverage. I visited an Indian camp for children and stayed in a teepee for a couple of nights. I was able to share with them the knowledge I have of my Indian heritage thru my dancing. As a matter of fact, another highlight of my cultural exchange was when I was allowed to perform my ceremonial Indian dances at a museum where a brand new American Indian section was just opening up.

As a result of my trip, there is a possibility that I will be able to go

cont.



back to Czechoslovakia to study on an art scholarship. I can truly say that the experiences and the knowledge I gained from my homestay will be with me for the rest of my life. Thank you Czech Heritage.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SOUTHSIDE SELF-IMPROVEMENT ORGANIZATION has been revitalized. Merchants on the east side of the bridge are uniting as a result of the bridge dedication activities. They will be represented at the Fall Festival on the east end of the new bridge, at the Local P-3 Union Hall parking lot. Watch for their tables and displays Sept. 9th and 10th.

\* \* \* \* \*

LIFE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TODAY  
On July 18th the Czech Heritage Fdn. met and hosted three from ČSSR. William Nechanicky of Virginia Beach, Virginia sponsored Dr. Antonin Mikan, his sister, Vendula Nachanicka and her son, Pavel, on a tour of the midwest. The three lectured and showed slides of Czechoslovakia at universities and

-18- to select groups of interested American/Czechs in the midwest. A luncheon at the Lion's Pride restaurant attended by officers of our foundation and friends, preceded a tour of the Czech Village area and the museum. Then we took them to supper at our house where young Pavel was fascinated with our son's new computer, as he plans to attend Czech. Tech. Univ. and study computer science. After supper we went to Sokol Hall, where they showed their slides, some of which were beautifully set to music by Antonin, whose hobby is music. Antonin's vocational field is analytical chemistry in agrochemical labs, and Vendula is a factory production planner in a large wood and veneer manufacturing factory. The audience of over a hundred consisted not only of local people, but some out-of-town visitors as well. The question and answer session which followed touched on some very current and interesting subjects.

O. Drahozal

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