

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

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

## A THOUSAND YEARS OF CZECH CULTURE

*Riches from the National Museum in Prague*  
*The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library*



Exhibition At  
The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
May 24 - December 31, 1997

Volume 22 - Number 2 - June 1997





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OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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### NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

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 Dědictví* 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 September issue is July 25th, 1997.

### NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who helped with the March newsletter were: Frank Novotny, Edward and Marie Serbousek and my husband John. Thank you for your support and help.

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Shortly after I became editor, I wrote about the three larger and more active Czech organizations in Cedar Rapids. Since then, we have many new members, so I will mention them briefly again.

CZECH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION was organized in 1972 by a group of devoted Czechs to revive the original 16th Avenue shopping area. They became officially organized in 1975 and "Czech Village" revitalization was officially under way. Store fronts were altered, bandstand and clock tower built, and ceramic plaques with pioneer businesses were set in the walking mall. This group sponsors festivals, concerts and parades. The association meets regularly and is made of Czech Village business men and women.

CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION was organized May 17, 1973 in support of the 16th Ave. merchants and their Czech Village. However, membership grew rapidly and other projects pertaining to Czech heritage needed to be addressed. Czech Heritage Fd'n. sponsors the Homestay program, Prince & Princess, ethnic fest, adult and student Czech language classes. Czech Heritage has membership nationally and internationally and publishes a quarterly newsletter *Naše České Dědictví*. The dues are \$3.00 per member per year.

NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY (originally called Czech Fine Arts) was established in late 1974 to promote and preserve the Czech culture and arts. The Czech Museum & Library was started in 1978 with a small rented house with a collection of glass, costumes, and art. With rapid growth, it was moved to larger quarters near the bridge and the immigration home was later added. Since acquiring a national status and the completion of the new facility, the official dedication of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library took place Saturday, October 21, 1995, with Presidents Clinton, Havel, and Kovac in attendance. They have dues, membership and publish the newsletter *THE MOST (The Bridge)*.

I hope I have clarified some misconceptions. We receive letters of various inquiries. If we cannot answer, we forward the letter to the correct organization. If you are not sure of your membership, check your membership card.

There are other Czech organizations in Cedar Rapids and all cooperate in the promotion and preservation of our Czech culture.

Adeline L. Volesky  
Editor



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Russ Novotny

Thank you for your generous support of our Czech Library fund raising project. In May, I sent you all letters explaining the fund drive. The Czech Heritage Foundation had pledged support of a drive to hire a full-time librarian for the "Library" portion of our National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Czech Heritage's initial commitment was the seed that helped secure additional matching funds to make that goal a reality.

The Library now has their librarian, and our drive to raise funds is well under way. If you would still like to join us in this project, send your donations to: Czech Heritage Library Fund, c/o Dennis Hrabak, Treasurer,

By the time this is published, we will have already enjoyed this year's Ethnic Fest. It's always fun to celebrate our heritage with our friends. We also wish our young Ambassadors a great experience as they visit their Czech hosts this summer as a part of our Czech Homestay program. All you have to do is visit with one of our nearly 50 Ambassadors to understand the value of this fine program.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I have enjoyed reading the publication *Naše České Dédicví* very much. I am enclosing payment for this years membership dues. I hope I haven't missed an issue.

I have visited the museum several times and am very interested, because my grandparents came from Czechoslovakia, but my mother was born here.

Yours truly,

Lois Sherwood, Belle Plaine, Iowa

Dear Editor,

This biography of Bozena Nemeč is condensed from a lengthy biographical sketch of the author in the English translation of "The Grandmother" translated from the BOHEMIAN by Frances Gregor, B.L. and published by A. C. McClurg & Co. in Chicago in 1892. I have used the grammar as used by the translator; that is, no diacritical markings were used and B. Nemeč was used — not Nemečova or Nemečova

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library have several various editions of her work in Czech, but only one copy of this English translation. BABICKA is a classic story of life in that time when Bohemia was part of the Habsburg Empire. If it is not available in the English translation, it should be re-issued for American descendants of the Czech immigrants to this country. (see page 10)

Sincerely,

Lorraine Snider, Cedar Rapids, IA

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the copy of the Czech Newsletter. I would like to know if anyone knows anything about Stupno Czech. My grandparents came from there and settled in Cuba, Kansas. His name was Adolph Havel and he had a sister named Barbara. Also has anyone

done any research on how the Havel River got it's name? I would like any information that anyone might have. My internet address is nhavel@aol.comm.

Sincerely,

Nelson E.Havel

Dear Editor,

First of all I would like to introduce myself. I occupy a position of the branch manager of the museum in Nymburk (Town in Central Bohemia- Czech Republic).

We are interested of the fate of Vytlačil family who immigrated to the USA in the last century.

Enclosed is available information concerning this family. We are interested in the life and work of Mr. Vaclav Vytlačil, allegedly the outstanding American abstract painter.

Because this sphere of the world's cultural heritage is in the Czech Republic not well known, we firmly believe that the presentation of Vytlačil's work will contribute to its understanding. The fact of Vytlačil family contributions to American abstract painting proves the firm structures between our nations.

Therefore we would like to ask you for kind assistance in our investigation of the fate of the Vytlačil family.

Mother — Bozena Krizova, Podmoky village.

Father — Vaclav Vytlačil, Podmoky, Nymburk Dist. Bozena came to the US in 1888 followed by Vaclav and married in New York. Vaclav, Jr. born in 1892, the outstanding painter; Nicholas, 2 girls, Bozena and Helen Vytlačil.

Parents Vaclav and Bozena were divorced and believed to be buried in Czech Nat'l Cemetery in Chicago. Mail to: Vlastivedne Museum, Frantisek Sykora, Tyrsova 174; 288 02 Nymburk; Czech Republic, Europe.

Dear Editor,

I recently joined your organization and am very interested in my Czech heritage. I'm also interested in obtaining information on books about Czech history, language, immigration, and genealogy. Any information you may provide as far as sources for this material would be greatly appreciated.

Also, I have seen a copy of a coloring book you published called *MY CZECH WORD BOOK ABC'S*. I am interested in ordering this in quantity for a family reunion.

Finally, in the December issue of the newsletter, you asked about other Czech cities in the U.S. Although not really a city, NEW BOHEMIA is a small town south of Petersburg, VA, which was settled by Czechs in the late 1800s and 1900s. There is still a large group of Czech descendants in the surrounding counties of Prince George, Dinwiddie and Chesterfield with many Czech surnames such a HANZLIK, SEBERA, BLAHA, ELKO, CERNY, MICHALIK, UZEL, BASL, KUMP, and many others. I'd be interested in hearing from anyone "out west" who may have relatives resettle here from there (that's how many families came to be here). Please feel free to publish mv name and address: Mike Uzel.

Sincerely,

Mike Uzel, Chester, Virginia



## BIOGRAPHY



Edward R. F. Kuba, is the son of Albert and Anna Kuba. Albert was born in Cechy (Bohemia) in 1875 and came to the United States in 1878, at the age of 3 years. His mother Anna Brush Kuba, was born near Solon, Iowa.

Edward Kuba was born May 29, 1911 at Cedar Rapids. He had a sister Eloise Kuba Osvald. She was born in 1914 and died in 1996. He has one vivid memory of his childhood. When he was quite young, the Vrba home was on fire. His mother quickly tossed him over the fence to the neighbors and ran to assist the distraught family.

Edward attended Hayes School, the second year it was opened. Since Czech was the language spoken in the home, it was necessary to learn English. When in about the fifth grade he had trouble reading, the teacher suggested he get his eyes checked. He was the first in the class to get glasses and was nicknamed "Professor." During the reenactment of government, he was elected Mayor. So another nickname "Mayor." That nickname stuck around for years and he has been called "Mayor of 2nd Street."

Edward's father was a pant maker by trade and worked for the Walters and Popelka Custom Tailors in the Allison Hotel Building. In the late 20's there was a transition from custom made clothes to ready-made. The prices were competitive and there was immediate delivery. The Kubas purchased a grocery store on 8th St. NW and operated it through the 1930s.

Edward met Josephine Letovsky, at Z.C.B.J. (Now W.F.L.A.) Lodge 262. She would later organize the Z.C.B.J. Drill Team. Edward became interested in pursuing the funeral profession in 1932 and enrolled at the Hohenschuh-Carpenter College of Embalming in St. Louis, Mo. He packed a steamer trunk and with his mother, sister and friend, Josephine, took off for St. Louis. This was during the bank crisis.

Many banks were open today and closed tomorrow. It was at that time that he tried to cash a check on a local Cedar Rapids bank. A cashier's check was denied at several banks, finally cash was obtained with the advice; next time get a Postal Money order.

During all the political campaigning of 1932, and his first chance to vote, Edward had to forego the privilege. An absentee ballot would cost \$2.50 and money was not that plentiful.

Returning to Cedar Rapids for Christmas of 1932, he was able to serve an apprenticeship with Frank Monohan. He was a man of integrity and a very good mentor. Edward and Josephine were married on May 29th, 1934 in the St. Ludmilas Church by Rev. Francis Hruby. The wedding pictures were

taken at the Flender Studio, upstairs over the Silver Palace of the Victor and Prochaska Building on 16th Ave SW. The wedding dinner was served at the Five Sisters Lunch Room on 3rd Ave. SE. This was followed by a trip to Chicago, which was both a honeymoon and business trip. They attended the Chicago World's Fair on Children's Day. (Never saw so many half pint milk bottles. A dairy had provided them for all the children attending.) After making the selections at the funeral supply firm, Edward took off his shoe to pay the bill, taking no chances with checks and also hold ups.

Edward and Josephine returned to Cedar Rapids on Saturday P.M. and the following Monday morning came the first death call. The local funeral directors had formed an association and Edward was excluded. He was able to get a hearse from Iowa City, a vault from Mt. Vernon, and because of freight delays, he sent a truck to Waterloo to get a supply of caskets. Chairs were obtained from the James Gibson Chair and Table Rental. The first chapel was at 1300 2nd St. SE, the present site of the Kuba Annex, now used as a meeting hall for fraternal and receptions.

Edward and Josephine had two sons; Edward R. jr. and John A. Kuba. Josephine died in 1983. There are three grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

After 62 years in the business Edward sold to Michael Papich in September of 1996.

Edward takes pride in his association in the fraternal; Western Fraternal Life Association; C.S.A. Fraternal; Knights of Columbus; American Legion, and the Catholic Workman. He has served on Committees and as an officer in all. He was Secretary of the Iowa District of the Catholic Workman for 40 years. He also served on the National Board of the Catholic Workman and was the National Fraternal Director 6 years. He worked up through the ladder to chair the Iowa Fraternal Congress and served on the board and as Secretary and President of the Iowa Funeral Directors Association. He helped organize the Optimists Jr. Police. He is active on the St. Wenceslaus Parish Board, the Czech School board; The Federation of Czech Groups; the Cedar Rapids Sokol; along with several civic committees.

Perhaps the most unusual happenings at a funeral service took place in the Z.C.B.J. Hall at the funeral service of National President of the Western Fraternal Life Association, Frank M. Barta, on May 22, 1940. The attendance was large and the weather was mild so that the top coats were not needed. The Z.C.B.J. Girls Drill Team was serving as ushers and remarked that there were a couple of rude men present, bumping into people coming to the funeral. Nobody seemed to know them. After the funeral service, several men reported to the police that they had lost their wallets to skilled pick pockets no less.



## CESKY TERRIERS: CZECH TREASURES

(By Cathy Flamholtz)



It was in 1988 when dog lovers caught their first glimpse of an exciting new breed from Czechoslovakia in *DOG WORLD* magazine. Since then, many Ceskys (Ches-kees) now make their home in the United States.

Frantisek Horak is the developer of the breed. The story began in 1928 when young Horak saw a pair of Scottish Terriers on a magazine cover and soon acquired a terrier. In 1934, Horak moved to Plzen and joined a kennel club. The woods and fields surrounding his new home abound in fox, badger, deer, rabbit, and grouse. Horak tried his dog on all of them and led to the establishment of Horak's Lovu Zdar Kennels.

Horak was eager to learn all he could about Scotties and hunting with terriers. He established a friendship with a Scottie breeder, Mr. Cervenka. Cervenka also owned Sealyham Terriers.

Horak loved the Scotties, but found them too aggressive and hard to train. Schooling the Sealyham was easier, but Horak felt the white coat was a disadvantage, but favored the dropped ears. An idea began to germinate. Perhaps a blend of the two breeds would produce an ideal hunting terrier. It took many years to implement the theory.

In 1940, Horak moved to Klanovice with his Scotties and obtained a Sealyham, Juta.

In 1949, Horak mated a Scottie to a male Sealyham. Three puppies were born, but only a male, Adam, survived. Eventually Adam finally passed a hunting ability test and was unfortunately shot by a careless hunter while chasing a rabbit.

In 1950, Horak had a litter of six puppies and only one, Balda, had dropped ears. Balda became the foundation male for breeding. Encouraged by his success, Horak continued to pursue his dream.

In 1963, it became official. The Cesky Terrier was recognized world wide.

Many terrier lovers have been attracted to the Cesky because they are easy to groom. Their hair is fairly soft.

John and Lorie Moody, who are breeders say, "Naturally, we think the Cesky Terrier is the ideal dog. They are small enough to handle easily, but not too tiny and have hair enough to be pretty, but not too much to comb. Best of all they have an excellent temperament and are obedient dogs. They interact well with children."

There is another Czech breed (new to this country). This breed is called the Slovak Tchouvatch and hails from the Czech side of the Tatra Mountains. This very large solid white dog is a home guardian and livestock protector.

Any readers can get more information by writing to: Nat'l Cesky Terrier Club, Lori Moody, 202 Deluca Rd., Goldsboro, North Carolina 27534.

## HUNTING AND TOASTING "LOVU ZDAR"

Nature is exceedingly varied in Czechoslovakia, a country in the heart of Europe. The landscape includes mountains, valleys, forests, lowlands, and fish ponds.

Many species of game have become extinct, but others thrive in abundance. Deer is native to Czechoslovakia and deer hunting dates to the Middle Ages. Excessive herds cause damage to forests and plants. Sika, Virginia, and roe deer are hunted and most plentiful. Ducks and pheasants are hunting favorites. In the last several years wild boars have roamed the forests.

Hunting is a social hobby in Czechoslovakia. History of hunting can be learned in museums and chateaus. There is a permanent exposition at Ohrada Museum at Hluboká Chateau in South Bohemia. The Baroque hunting chateau was built in 1708-1713. The first collections were arranged by Vaclav Spatny. Remarkable expositions on gamekeeping and hunting can be seen in a museum at Lednice Chateau in Moravia. Exotic game and a collection of old hunting weapons can be seen at Usov, North Bohemia, which stands on the site of a medieval castle, the Liechtenstein museum of forestry and hunting.

In another chateau near Prague, Konopiste, which was a medieval castle, visitors admire the large collection of historical weapons and suits of armor. The former residence of Crown Prince Ferdinand is crammed with a large hunting exhibit.

The white deer was brought from Asia 200 years ago and are now kept in a preserve in Žehušice near a small village of Kutna Hora.

The moufflon, a goat and sheep like animal with horns, was brought from Asia about a 100 years ago is also kept in a preserve.

Other animals no longer to be hunted are the brown bear, lynx, wolf, otter, and eagle owl and are found largely in the forests.

Ceremonies and festivities are popular on the last day of hunting season. After a round of tall hunting tales, a toast "lovu zdar" (good hunting) is held. Those drinking the toast must follow an old custom. As the story goes, St. Humbert, patron of hunters, was an avid lover of hunting, wine, and women. He was often invited to banquets of noblemen. At one of the banquets St. Humbert was seated next to the nobleman's beautiful wife. He was so captivated with her beauty he put his right hand around her slender waist. The host wanted to avoid a scandal so he kept proposing a toast "Lovu Zdar," but Humbert kept raising and toasting with his left hand. The host asked why he toasted with his left hand. Humbert answered, "My dear host, when the right hand is busy hunting, the left hand must do the drinking." It became a favorite story of the hunters. Since then, "Lovu Zdar" toasts are left-handed.



## LETTER FROM PRES. HAVEL

In December 1996, Czech president Vaclav Havel underwent surgery to remove a malignant tumor from his lungs. A large "get-well-card" - was posted at Sykora's Bakery in Czech Village in Cedar Rapids for messages and signatures. It was mailed after Christmas. The following letter of acknowledgment was received. In translation it reads:

Dearest,

Mr. president has asked me to thank everyone who signed the "get-well-card" wishing him a speedy recovery.

Mr. president deeply appreciated the sincere expression of concern and sympathy during his recovery. Because Mr. president has a large and close heartfelt relationship with Czech countrymen around the whole world, the wish for his speedy recovery from these Czech countrymen beyond the borders of our country, made him exceptionally happy and strengthened him.

Once more thank you for your interest on the health of Mr. president. With heartfelt greetings,

Dr. Pavel Seifter  
Dept. of foreign affairs



Kancelář prezidenta republiky  
Odbor zahraniční politiky

Vážení  
Wes a Olga Drahoželovi a Don a Shiela Jandovi  
Sykora Bakery  
Czech Village Bake Shop  
73 16th Ave. SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
USA

2/10/97 Prague  
KPR 594/97


Vážení,

pan prezident mne požádal, abych poděkoval všem, kteří se podepsali na jeho "get-well card" s přáním brzkého uzdravení.

Pan prezident si hluboce váží všech projevů zájmu a sympatie, které během své nemoci obdržel. Jelikož pan prezident má velice blízký a srdečný vztah k českým krajanům po celém světě, přání brzkého uzdravení od krajaňské komunity v zahraničí ho v době pro něho těžké mimořádně potěšila a posílila.

Ještě jednou Vám děkuji za Váš zájem o zdraví pana prezidenta.

Se srdečným pozdravem,

  
dr. Pavel Seifter  
ředitel odboru zahraniční politiky

119 08 Praha-Hrad, Česká republika  
tel. (02) 2527 2244, fax (02) 2527 2300

## SPECIAL LIBRARY FUND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is like building a new home. There is much to be done after the building is erected and the contractors leave. Such was the case with the library. The attractive well lighted room is there and we have a wonderful collection that needs to be housed. In order for this to happen, the Czech Heritage Foundation stepped forward and took a leadership role. Letters were sent to the membership for funds to support this special project.

Donations up to April 15 were received from: Daniel Baldwin, Lee Ann Benischek, Marjorie Cernin, Darrick Chadima family, Leonard & Charlotte Chadima, Irma Slapnica Dahl, Martha Divishek, Chuck Dlask, Lovell Dvorak, George Elias, David & Kristin Hruska, Leo Jindrich, Rodney Jiruska, George & Louise Kalous, Ida Shuster Kansky, Leona Kaplan, Marie Krueger, Emil & Evelyn Lamparek, Edna Lenicek, Doris Looney, P. H. Maloney, Rose Marek, Ruth Mitvalsky, William & Marcia Novak, Frank Novotny, Mary Ann Pochobradsky, Charles Opatrny, Elizabeth Priban, Evelyn Prior, Helen Stevens, Robert & Marcella Stolba, Robert & Marge Stone, Marvel Svoboda, Lillian M. Syrový, Alice Terbl, Agnes Tosh, Darlene Trachta, Stan & Delores Travnicek, Julia Tschopp, Agnes Vavra, John & Adeline Volesky, Mary Vrbicky Varuiaris, and Judy Wagner all from Iowa.

Out of state donors includes Florence Dose and Vlasta Miller from South Dakota; Helen Hammond, Idaho; Elizabeth Miller, New Jersey; Milton & Betty Nemeč, Oklahoma; Edith Lund & Lillie Neumiller, North Dakota; Liba Watson, Ohio; Bishop Emil Wcela, New York; and Bob & Margie Zenisek, Kansas.

The Czech Heritage Foundation sincerely thanks everyone for their generosity. All the contributions will continue to be of service to those who use and enjoy the library. Many donations are being given as memorials to their loved ones. It is a gift that will keep on giving. All donors will be published in future issues.

The address for the library fund is: Czech Heritage Library Fund, c/o Dennis Hrabak Treas;



# A THOUSAND YEARS OF CZECH CULTURE

RICHES FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN PRAGUE  
at the National Czech & Slovak Museum &  
Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
**CULTURAL EVENTS CALENDAR**

## Programming Schedule for 1997

### June 4 Short Program "Learn at Lunch"

"A Thousand Years of Czech Culture: Through a Curator's Eyes" Carmen Langel, Curator of the National Czech & Slovak Museum  
12- 1 p.m. WFLA Heritage Hall

Bring your lunch and join us for a behind-the-scenes look at the preparations for this major exhibit.

### June 14 Stories, Tales, Legends, & Lore

(Children's Story-time)  
10 a.m. Museum Library

### June 16-19 "Ja Rada Tancuju" (I Like to Dance)

Ethnic Folk Dance Classes for Young & Old  
9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. 4 - 6 year-olds Mon.-Thurs.  
10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m. 7 - 11 year-olds Mon.-Thurs.  
1 - 2:30 p.m. 12 - 17 year-olds Mon.-Thurs.  
7 - 9 p.m. Adults Mon. - Wed.

WFLA Heritage Hall

Participants will learn basic folk dance steps, some traditional Czech and Slovak dances, and even an international folk dance or two!

Instructor: Louise Wessinger,

St. Paul Czech & Slovak Folk Dancers

### June 19 Inter-Generational Dance

7 p.m. - 9 p.m. WFLA Heritage Hall

A time for dance class participants to join together for an evening of dancing fun!

### July 1 Lecture "Empires to Republics: A Czech Nation Looking for Freedom and Independence"

Dr. Jitka Sonkova, Kirkwood Community College  
7 p.m. WFLA Heritage Hall *Free to public.*

### July 4 Czech Plus Band

Summer Concert Series

4 p.m. National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

### July 16 Short Program "Learn at Lunch"

"Goosetown"

Slide Program by Marybeth Slonneger

12- 1 p.m. WFLA Heritage Hall

Through slides and stories share experiences of the immigrant families that settled in Iowa City in the mid-1800's.

### July 19 Stories, Tales, Legends, & Lore

(Children's Story-time)

10 a.m. Museum Library *Free to public.*

### July 19 "Nase Ceske Pisnicky"

(Our Czech Songs)

Traditional Czech folk songs performed by The Capital City Czech Choraliers of Lincoln, Nebraska  
Ray Svoboda, leader

7:30 p.m. WFLA Heritage Hall *Free*

### August 15 Registration Deadline for

"Kava a Knihy" (Coffee & Books)

Reading-Lecture-Discussion Series to be held at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library  
Registrants will receive a list of the books selected, information on acquiring the books, and a schedule of the discussion times. *Fee*

### August 16 Stories, Tales, Legends, and Lore

(Children's Story-time)

10 a.m. Museum Library *Free*

### August 20 Short Program "Learn at Lunch"

"Heirlooms for Tomorrow"

Joann Neff

12- 1 p.m. WFLA Heritage Hall

The art of painting on porcelain will be discussed and demonstrated. Information will also be presented on the various types of porcelain and the history of this art form.

### Sept. 8 "Kava a Knihy"

Reading-Lecture-Discussion Series

First Book Discussion

7 - 9:00 p.m. Museum Library *Preregister*

### Sept. 17 Short Program "Learn at Lunch"

"Genealogical Research Via the Internet"

Martha Wilding, Museum Librarian

12 - 1 p.m. Museum Library *Free*

How to use technology in the search for your roots.

### Sept. 20 Stories, Tales, Legends, and Lore

(Children's Story-time)

10 a.m. Museum Library *Free*

## DEFENESTRATION OF PRAGUE

The Thirty Years War went through several distinct stages: The Bohemian (1618-1625) The Danish (1625-1629), The Swedish (1630-1635) and the Swedish-French (1635-1648).

The Bohemian War was set off in 1618 when Hapsberg's Ferdinand took the throne. Ferdinand, a staunch Catholic, was inspired by the Jesuits and Catholicism. Ferdinand deeply wanted to unite Europe under a "traditional" religion for his lands-Austria, Bohemia, and Poland.

The freedom of Bohemian Protestants had been accepted by Emperor Rudolf II. The spark that set the war off came when the Archbishop of Prague ordered a Protestant church destroyed. When the Protestants rights were being ripped away, it caused a Bohemian outrage. Instead, some nobility took some action. In Prague on May 23, 1618, the nobles threw three of Ferdinand's regents out of the windows at Hradcany Castle. The regents fell an astonishing 50 feet. They fell in a dry moat covered with decaying refuse. This smelly muck saved their lives. This event is called the Defenestration of Prague. (Defenestration is from the Latin word fenestra which means window. It was an old Bohemian custom for people to punish offending officials by throwing them out of a window.) Civil War began in Bohemia.

The Bohemian Protestants removed the Catholic king, Ferdinand, from the throne and chose Protestant Fredrick, elector of Palatine, in Ferdinand's place. To make matters worse for the Bohemians, Ferdinand was chosen Holy Roman Emperor, which gave him great power. In 1620, his general, Johan Tserclaes, defeated the Bohemians in the famous Battle of the White Mountain. The defeat cost the Bohemians their independence.

Protestants were stamped out and Catholicism became once more the religion of the land.



# A THOUSAND YEARS



The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, Iowa is the second of two cities in the U.S. to experience the privilege of hosting the spectacular "A Thousand Years Of Czech Culture." The 4,000 square foot exhibit consists of 207 artifacts. Cedar Rapids is especially honored to host this exhibit. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, founded in 1974, was dedicated October 21, 1995 with Presidents Bill Clinton, Vaclav Havel, and Michael Kovac in attendance.

The artifacts are on loan from the National Museum in Prague. It was built in 1818 and stands prominently on Wenceslaus Square.

The independence of the new Czech Republic was proclaimed there. The museum was damaged during the uprising in 1945 and 1968. Thousands of television viewers saw the museum in the background as thousands of people celebrated the fall of Communism in Prague.



The exhibit is divided into five eras starting with the 14th century (Middle Age), 15th century (Hussite), 16th century (Renaissance), 17th & 18th century (Baroque) and ends at 1918.

This chest dates to 1500. Such chests were used for homes and churches. One of the few to survive in Bohemia, this wooden chest is characteristic of work from South Germany, Danube and Alpine region.





# OF CZECH CULTURE



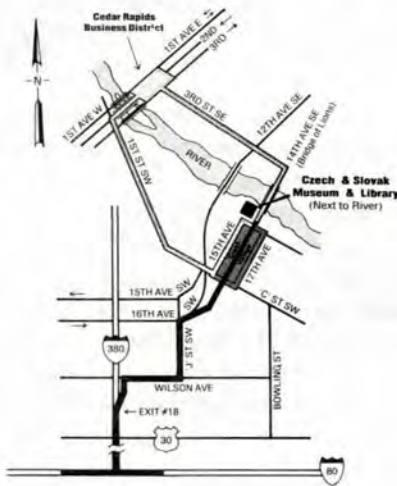
This crossbow dates to the early 1600's. The bow and arrow was man's chief weapon for hunting animals and for making war before the invention of gunpowder. The crossbow was mounted on a wooden handle somewhat like the stock of a gun. A trigger released the bow string and fired the arrow.

Five themes are covered: religion, politics, performing arts, fine and decorative art, and folk art. Most of the artifacts have never been out of the country.

This glass vase is decorated with enamel paint and made in 1850.



## How to reach the Museum



From Interstate - Follow the posted signs.  
From Business District - Follow either route above.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is located in S.W. Cedar Rapids on the bank of the Cedar River. The Iowa Department of Transportation has overhead signs and exit markers to the museum from I-380.

Admission is \$6.00. Seniors (65 and over) and Groups (10 or more) \$5.00. Children \$3.00.

Hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 9:30 - 4:00. Sunday, noon - 4:00. Exhibit will be here from May 24 to December 31, 1997.



## BIOGRAPHY OF BOZENA NEMCOVA 1820-1862

Bozena Nemcova, author of "The Grandmother" (Babicka) was born in Vienna on February 2, 1820 to John Pankel and Theresa Novotny. John Pankel was equerry (an officer in charge of the horses of a royal or noble household) to the Duchess of Zahan, the owner of the large Nachod estate.

Bozena's father was a lover of music and literature and among his children Bozena shared his interest, which he encouraged. At the age of six she was sent to school in another village where she remained for six years living with her godmother. When she left school, she lived at Chvalovitz in the family of the steward of the manor, who was a good friend of her father's and who was known for his intellect besides having an extensive library to which Bozena had access. She had been placed with the family to learn German, music, and needle work, but had no aptitude for either music or needlework and her time was spent among books. When she returned home after two years, she continued her reading, and borrowing books from the castle library of the Duchess.

In 1837 she married Joseph Nemeč, an officer of finance, a marriage encouraged by her father. He was a man of culture and Bozena took an interest in the literature of her native land writing a poem "To the Bohemian Women" which along with other poems gained her popularity. When the family moved to Prague in 1841, she was received with open arms into circles of young authors. Although her early education was in Bohemian language, her formal education was in German as was her husband's, so they engaged a teacher and both began studying their native language.

In 1845 her husband was again transferred to Domazlitz where she continued her writing, but also contracted the dread disease, consumption. In 1847, her husband was transferred to Neumark on the Bavarian frontier where Bozena's health improved. However, her husband was again transferred to Nymberg in 1848 at the time a revolutionary wave swept over Europe, which involved Bohemia. Both Bozena and her husband were ardent patriots and the active part they took in politics brought them trouble from the government. From that point on, their lives became more and more difficult. In 1849, Mr. Nemeč was transferred to Liberety, then to Hungary, and in 1853 he was placed on the retired list, but with such a small pension that poverty was a part of their lives and Bozena also became seriously ill.

After this the family mostly lived in Prague, closely watched by the police and earning very lit-

tle in various literary labors. Bozena died in 1862 following the darkest years of her life and was buried at Visehard. Several years later, the ladies of the American club erected a suitable monument over her grave. Joseph Nemeč died in 1869. Of their four children, Henry died in 1853, Charles became a professor in the Agricultural College at Tabor, Jaroslav had a similar position in Odessa and Dorthea was a teacher in Jincin. The two motives that guided Madame Nemeč in her work were her patriotism and her love for the common people. While at Domazlitz she wrote to her friend; "The common people, they are my joy; I feel refreshed whenever I grasp the hard rough hand of one of these women." Although better educated in German, she wrote in Bohemian. The works of Bozena Nemeč were collected and published in 1862 in eight volumes and again in 1875 in six volumes. "The Grandmother, A Story of Country Life in Bohemia," is her best work and most of the incidents related in the story are based on fact. The princess in the story was the Duchess of Zahan and "Barunka" was the author Bozena Nemeč.

Madame Nemeč was also the author of "The Mountain Village" "Peasants and Politics," "Recollections of My Life in Hungary" and other works of short stories, tales and fables.

## BRUNCVIK AND THE TWO TAILED LION

*(The March issue had a legend about Duke Bruncvik and the lion on the Czech Coat of Arms. The legend did not say why the lion had two tails.*

*Martha Wilding, new librarian at the Nat'l Czech & Slovak Museum & Library sent this excerpt from the book THREE GOLDEN KEYS by Peter Sis.)*

... Bruncvik was fortunate to have a lion friend because there were many dangers ahead for the brave knight as he continued his quest. Together they fought the powers of evil. They conquered the Bastion of Hate. They faced the Creature of Lies, Envy and Greed. They beat them all. One day they came to the Black Rock of Darkness. This was a mighty Sorcerer with a magic sword that could crush anything. The lion distracted the Sorcerer and was struck by the power of the sword. (ever since, the Bohemian Lion has two tails)





## WHAT'S IN A CZECH NAME?

If you are Czech or live in a Czech community, these family names might be yours or familiar to you. Interestingly enough many of the names have a specific meaning. Names and words range from Kral, a king to a little mosquito, Komarek.

In the area of woods and forest we have: Forst, a senior forest ranger, Vosika, a tree of the aspen family; Striska, a sliver; and Vorisek, a small nut.

Audubon would be pleased with the variety of bird names: Spacek, a starling; Cejka, a blue jay; Papousek, a parrot; Lastovka, a swallow as well as Cermak, Slavik, Stchlik and Strand which are European species. Ptacek is a small bird.

In the animal kingdom a Stika is a fish; Jelinek, a young deer and Veverka, a squirrel.

In the category of occupation there are: Kovarik, a young blacksmith; Mlinar, a miller; Sedlacek, a young farmer; Svec, a shoemaker; and Zahradnik, a gardener.

The colorful names are Sedivy, gray; Rysavy, red; Cerny, black; Cerveny, red; and Modry, blue.

Czech names of interest are Svoboda, freedom; Vesely, happy; Koblaha, doughnut; Kozich, a fur piece; Polevka, soup; Pytlik, a bag or sack; Trnka, a plum; Varecka, a wooden ladle and Perina is a feather bed.

If you do genealogy, you will find some Czech names with various spelling. Some Czech names were change entirely to simplify the name or meaning.

Here is a partial listing of names of business people that were pioneers in establishing business on Sixteenth Avenue and areas of Cedar Rapids in the early days whose Czech names have meaning. They are: Charles Tichy (quiet), Joe Zastera (apron), George Kosek (blackbird), John Tlusty (fat), Jan Hrbek (little hump), J. L. Prochaska (stroll), Charles Turecek (little pumpkin), Charles Kriz (cross), Frank Stastny (lucky), Emil Krejci (a tailor), Frank Klepach (shaker), Kudrna (curly), Sojka (jay bird), Kapoun (capon), Kacena (duck), and Vesely (happy).

## MORE ON THE DIVADLO

The article by Leona Poduska in the March issue about the Divadlo in Cedar Rapids brought back many memories. The Czech dramatic and musical productions were very popular for a number of years, especially with the older Czechs, some who were in this country for a short time. I would like to add more to Leona's excellent article but from the performer angle, not as a spectator.

As a member of the ZCBJ Dramatic Club, I had the privilege of being a part of the Divadlo before the popularity started to decline. I joined the dramatic club in the middle 1930s while still in my late teens. Young men were hard to recruit to play the romantic roles, so with plenty of makeup to make me look older, I frequently got that part. My biggest problem was the spoken Czech used in the plays which in some cases was quite different from the Czech used "on the Avenue" as Czech Village was known then.

On a number of occasions the ZCBJ Dramatic Club was invited to put on a Divadlo in the ZCBJ lodge halls of the small, predominately Czech towns

west of Cedar Rapids. The stages in these old lodge halls were much too small for a Divadlo with a large cast so we tried to put on plays with smaller casts, but it didn't always work out. I recall several occasions when we had to also use part of the seating area in front of the stage.

One trip to a small town in the early spring comes to mind as being a disaster, but after it was over, became quite humorous. The town is approximately 50 miles west of Cedar Rapids and at that time on a dirt road, a short distance from the old Lincoln Highway. When we left Cedar Rapids, it was starting to sprinkle. The farther west we went, the harder it rained. Reaching the dirt road we knew that we could have a problem. But we had no other choice, so we continued. Before we got very far we became stuck in the mud. The passengers got out of the car to push. This not only happened once but twice. When we finally made it to the town, we certainly didn't look like actors and actresses.

The kind people of the town brought buckets full of cold well water for our use. We cleaned up the best we could, but washing in a bucket of cold water is not the same as washing with running hot water in a bathroom. We quickly got into costume, smeared on some makeup and were on stage. The presentation went as well as could be expected considering the mood we were in. In the middle of the first act, the roof over about half the stage area started to leak very badly. The Divadlo stopped very quickly while the actors conferred as to what we should do now. We decided to continue using the dry half of the small stage. After all, "The show must go on!"

The rest of the first act went quite well except for one problem. We had an actor who was known for his enthusiastic hand gestures which several performers could testify really were not appropriate for a very small crowded stage. The second act also started well but after a few minutes there was a strange sound over our heads and the water-soaked curtain fell to the stage floor with a loud thud. Several men from the audience came on stage and moved the curtain to the already wet half of the stage. After another brief conference by the actors, we continued and finished without further problems. On the way home, several of us younger people vowed we would never again play in a small town lodge hall especially if it was raining. Guess what? That fall we were back on that same stage putting on another Divadlo. Once a "ham actor" always an actor.

World War II came along and a number of us went into military service. The ones remaining continued putting on the plays, but it was obvious they were no longer getting the support. After the war ended and we returned home, we tried desperately to revive the Divadlo, but with each performance it became clearer we would not succeed. Actors and actresses were hard to find, the audiences were gradually getting smaller and the end of another Czech tradition was near. Finally the ZCBJ Dramatic Club voted to disband as the other groups were doing. The disbanding brought my acting career to an end. No, I did not receive any offers from Hollywood or Broadway.

*By Lovell L. Dvorak*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Again in 1997, we have a lot of generous readers and members of the Czech Heritage Fdn..

The following long list is in recognition of those who voluntarily sent a donation with their membership dues.

For January: A new member donation was received from Don & Barb Pulkrab. Donations with renewals were received from: Jeanne K. Andre, Marie Bauer, Jean Blahnik, Jeanne Burianek, Don Ceynar, Leonard & Charlotte Chadima, Christine Coverly, Anne Dalecky, Elsie Kozler Day, Geraldine Dhooghe, Martha Divishek, Joe Doupnik, Ludmila Dutkova, Louis & Lydia Elias, Gladys Faiman, John & Frances Feiereisen, Dianne Flugge, Alice Hakel, Evelyn Hall, Donald & Dorothy Harrelson, Bob Harris, Lillian Kolar Heckers, Anna Mae Horak, Camille Hubacek, Pauline Jasa, Dorothy Kadlec, Eugene Kadlec, Clementine Kinkor, Cyril Klimesh, Mildred Koncel, Anthony Konvalinka, Ernest, Helen, Edward, & Janet Kopecky, John Kuba, Leonard & Violet Kycek, Judith Lindsay, Walter Liphardt, Rose Lovetinsky, Jarmila McMullen, Marvin & Marie Melsha, Lillian Miller, Zula Oujiri, Joseph Petrzalka, Robert Petrzalka, Harold & Leona Poduska, Irene Pudil, Marvin & Hermina Rigel, Sylvia & Robert Rohlena, Irma Rozek, Joseph Secl, Elmer & Mary Rose Sedlacek, William Shebetka, Steve & Pamela Shipp, Donald & Dorothy Sirowy, Grace Soukup, George Stancel, Carol Stodola, Robert & Marjorie Stone, Alice Terbl, Darlene Trachta, Anton Vanicek, Marie Vanous, Emil Vellek, Evelyn Vecera, Jim & Karen Vlasek, Frank & Ruth Ann Volesky, Charles & Lillian Vyskocil.

Donation only: Frank Novotny.

The February donations are from the following new members: Sue Bulgrin, Ronald Skorepa, Mike Uzel, and Angela Zias.

Donations with renewals: Kenneth & Florence Allen, Lucian Anderle, Jeff & Judi Barta, Wilma Benish, Doris Beseda, Gerald Caslavka, Denver Dvorsky, Jan & Norm Eberle, Frank Elias, Mrs. Ralph Evans, Fern Fackler, Vernon Flint, Jackie Hess, Lillian Janousek, Leo Jindrich, Rose Kopecky, Edward Kuba, Mildred Kucera, Charles Kurka, Rose Machovec, Charles Opatrny, Mary Ann Pochobradsky, Inez Popelka, Rose Pospisil, Elizabeth Priban, John Repka, Betty Rosell, Mrs. Carol Russell, James & Martha Serbousek, Robert Sheldon, Don & Maxine Skala, Elsie Sova, Roman & Lottie Volesky.

Donations only: Norbert & Vera Banowetz, and Mrs. John Mizia.

Donations received in March from new members were: Geraldine Cabrnock, Lloyd Holecek,

and Mary Sherry.

Donations received with renewals were from: Mary Ann Alberty, JoAnn Chadima Bailey, Franklin Barta, Mark Bigaouette, Sylvia Brown, Tom Collins, Donald & Vera Conway, Dorothy Kralova Cummings, Charles Danek, Harold & Emma Davidson, Mary Ditch, Bernice Dvorak, Frank & Barbara Edmunds, Anna Eisner, JoFran & James Falcon, Libbie Fields, Della Flider, Stan Folda, Fran Hallett, John Havlicek, Edward Hayek, Donald Horak, Janice Horak, Leonard Jansa, Janet Jeffries, Mildred Starek Jezek, Celeste Johannes, Mary Klopp, Bruce & Linda Koehler, Irene Konecny, Edwin Kral, Joseph & Mardella Kurka, George Lanka, Doris Looney, Blanche & Joseph Masek, Josephine Matizak, Geraldine Michalek, Leona Mihal, Elizabeth K. Miller, Virginia Muir, Colleen Novak, Nancy Pajeau, Clifford & Sherlee Peterson, Richard & Betty Petrzalek, Bennie Pospisil, Ramona Caslavka Schmidt, Frank Schovanec, Betty Sedlacek, Marvin Sedlacek, Vlasta Lorraine Snider, Linda Starek, Joseph Mike Swartz, Josephine Tisl, Phyllis Vesely, Miles Volf, Frances Vilim, Jeanette Hanket Wagner, Bishop Emil Wcela, Ann Weiland, Stanley Winters, Elsie Zajackowski, and Aldrich Zobac.



*Left to Right: Sarah Andrews, Erin Van Etten, Angela Zias, and Casey Parker.*

## HOMESTAY STUDENTS

Anxiety and anticipation is running high for these four students. They are completing their Czech speaking courses and orientation sessions. They will leave June 23rd from the Cedar Rapids airport. Since they will fly on Luftansa overseas, they will land in Frankfurt enroute to Prague. They will spend one month with a host family before returning back to Iowa in July.

Sarah Andrews and Erin Van Etten are from Center Point, Casey Parker from Hiawatha, and Angela Zias from Cedar Rapids.

Bon Voyage Sarah, Erin, Casey and Angela!



# CLASS OF 1891



*First row, left to right: CC Slapnicka, Lumir Vane, Edward E. Hach, Frank Bena, Millie Rittenburn, Stuart Paul, Vlasta Mitvalsky, Edith Savel, Wencil Cihula, Mrs. Frank Whitney, Miss Shuster, Mrs. Theodore Simon, Mrs. Frank Dvorak.*

*Second row, left to right: Mrs. John Randa, Frank Hrdlicka, Frank Patek, Grover Cherry, Edward Prazak, Godfrey Melsa, Charlie Svec, Charles J. Novak, Mrs. Agnes Driscoll, Mrs. Minnie Bean, Mrs. Blanche Sova.*

*Third row, left to right: Anton Stransky, Mrs. Bessie Shuster, Mrs. Blanche Halla, Vlasta Novotny, Howard Staves, Jerry Plotz, Joseph Paul, Mrs. John Pluhar, Mrs. Frank Bartosh, Mrs. William Stusak, Mrs. Anna Quick, Tillie Wanous, Mrs. Joseph Blazek.*

*Back row, left to right: Mrs. William Bellendorf, Mrs. Joseph Sejba, Frank Vomacka, Joseph Bena, Joseph Busek, Harry Stusak, and R. J. Hurka.*

This group of students attended Monroe School and were in C grade. The C grade was advanced kindergarten class that would graduate to first grade. Their ages were from 5 to 6.

Many of these students became prominent. Cyril Slapnicka was vice president and manager of the Cleveland baseball club. Lumir Vane and Howard Staves were dentists. Edward E. Hach, president and manager of Hach Bros. Company, Rudolph Hruska a Belle Plaine insurance salesman, Charles Novak, secretary to the Luberger company, Edward Prazak became a proprietor of a

fruit ranch in Houston, Texas; Frank Patek a proprietor of the Riverside feed mill, Joseph and Frank Bena were farmers in Bertram Township.

Most of the girls married, many moved to other areas.

Monroe School was located on 3rd Street S.E., where most of the Czech immigrants settled in Cedar Rapids in the late 1800's.

Monroe School was demolished in 1996 to make way for city re-vitalization and the near-by Witwer building is being converted into an apartment OSADA (see March issue page 12).

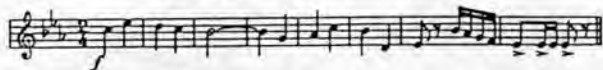


# Cedar Rapids' own Czech Plus Band 1997 Summer Concerts

in the  
Czech Village Bandstand



Concert Series



All concerts Friday at 7 p.m.

(NO RAIN DATE)

May 16	-----	at Masaryk Park
May 23	-----	Ethnic Fest Opener
June 6	-----	Guest Artist
June 20	-----	at Sokol Park
June 27	-----	Concert
July 4	-----	4 p.m. at Czech / Slovak Museum



July 18	----	WFLA Concert (Nat'l Convention)
July 25	-----	Concert
Aug. 1	-----	Guest Artist
Aug. 8	-----	Concert
Aug. 15	-----	Guest Artist
Aug. 29	-----	at Masaryk Park
Sep. 5	-----	Czech Heritage Singers
Sep. 12	-----	Final Concert

**Czech Plus Band:**(since 1978)-  
over 19 years of authentic Czech brass music

- Official Band of the Czech Village in Cedar Rapids, IA

Czech Plus Band / Wesley J. Drahozal, Mgr.  
28 - 25th Ave. SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-4149  
(319) 364-0540  
web: <http://members.aol.com/czechplus>  
email: [czechplus@aol.com](mailto:czechplus@aol.com)

## The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Presents its 6th Genealogical/Cultural Conference

October 1-4, 1997 at the Radisson South Hotel  
(Bloomington, MN)

- Conveniently located near the famous Mall of America
- Narrated ethnic tours to New Ulm, New Prague, Spillville, and St. Paul
  - How To Research sessions by James W. and Paula Stuart Warren, Professional Genealogists
  - Sessions on Holiday Traditions and Antique Decorative Arts (Glass)
  - On-Site Research Library and translation assistance
  - Sales Room with CGSI materials, decorative eggs, taped music, etc.
  - Czech and Slovak Republic regional networking/sharing sessions
  - Nation's largest live fashion show of authentic folk dress with narration
  - Performance by St. Paul Czechoslovak folk dancers and ethnic brass band
  - 32 Sessions altogether for Friday and Saturday covering music, art, history, immigration and settlements, military, archive research, travel, meanings of geographical names, and much more

To make reservations at the Radisson South, call either 1-800-333-3333 or locally (612) 835-7800. Tell them you are with the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society. Dialers of the 1-800 number must indicate they are making reservations at the Radisson South in Bloomington, MN.

For further information about the conference call the Czechoslovak Information Hot-line: (612) 645-4585, or access our home page at: <http://members.aol.com/cgsi>.

## ST. LUDMILA'S KOLACH FESTIVAL

The kolach is a favorite pastry for Czechs and non-Czechs. Baking the fruit filled buns takes skill and practice. Kolach recipes and "know how" has often been handed down to families from one generation to the next. There are so many factors that affect the outcome of the delicacy. On a hot and humid day when you least feel like baking, that is the day for yeast to be very active. Shortening and flour can make a difference as well as the kneading. Ovens and temperatures differ widely and challenge the outcome of the ever popular kolach.

So why not just come to St.Ludmila's annual Kolach Festival and buy your tasty treats and enjoy some of the festivities. Events include a Folk Fest, Grandma's attic, food, and carnival. The first prize for the raffle is \$5000, 2nd prize \$1500, 3rd \$1000, and 10 other prizes.

The festival is held on June 13, 14 and 15 at the church located at 215 21st Ave. S.W. in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

For further information call 364-7313 or 366-5129.



## Membership Application

Please check the proper item: Renewal  New  Gift

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

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

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

Membership dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Why not consider a gift membership for someone special? Your dues and generous donations help to fund several worthwhile endeavors such as Czech Prince and Princess sponsorship, financial support for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, adult Czech language classes, the Homestay Program, along with publishing the quarterly Naše České Dědictví, and other numerous publications. The list of Czech Heritage projects goes on and on.

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

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

### COMING EVENTS

- June 6 .....Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
- June 9 .....Czech School
- June 10 .....Czech Heritage Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- June 13-15 .....St. Ludmila's Kolach Festival
- June 20 .....Concert in Sokol Park 7:00 p.m.
- June 27 .....Concert, Bandstand
- July 4 .....Concert at Museum
- July 8 .....Czech Heritage Meeting
- July 11 .....Czech School Program & Ice Cream Social 7:00 p.m.
- July 18 .....WFLA Concert  
National Convention
- July 25 .....Concert, Bandstand
- July 26 .....Flea Market, Czech Village
- August 1 .....Concert & Guest Artist
- August 8 .....Concert, Bandstand
- August 12 .....Czech Heritage Picnic  
ZCBJ Park 6:00 p.m.
- August 15 .....Concert & Guest Artist
- August 29 .....Concert, Masaryk Park
- Sept. 3 .....Concert & Czech Heritage Singers
- Sept. 9 .....Czech Heritage Board Meeting
- Sept. 12 .....Final Concert
- Sept 23-Oct. 4...Tour to Czech Republic from Cedar Rapids  
319-395-9920  
or 800-373-5970

### OTHER ETHNIC EVENTS

- June 14 .....Kolach & Klobas Fest  
East Bernard, Texas  
409-335-7907
- June 14 .....Cesky Den  
Hillsboro, Wisconsin  
608-489-2521
- June 21, 22....Czech Fest  
Phillips, Wisconsin  
715-389-1793
- July 26, 27....Czech Festival  
Wilson, Kansas  
913-658-2211
- Aug. 1,2,3 .....Czech Festival  
Wilber, Nebraska  
402-465-4957
- Sept. 6, 7.....Bohemian Hall Open House  
Cleveland, Ohio  
216-562-7730
- Sept. 14-17 ....Polka Fest  
Las Vegas, Nevada
- Sept. 27.....Banquet & Ball  
Cleveland, Ohio  
216-562-7730
- Sept. 28, 29...Moravian Fest  
Countryside, Illinois  
708-562-2307
- Oct. 1-4 .....Czech Genealogical Conf.  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
612-645-4585



**CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.**

P.O. Box 761  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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National Czech & Slovak Museum  
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

RECEIVED MAY 28 1997

## CESKA SKOLA-CZECH SCHOOL

The Czech School for children has been in continuous operation in Cedar Rapids since 1870 when a group of concerned Czech immigrants felt the need to establish a "Skola pro Deti" to teach them the basics of reading and writing the mother tongue. Long gone are the days when classes were conducted every Saturday (all day) and on Sunday mornings, plus two or three classes on week-days after "American school."

Years ago Czech families, upon settling into their new land, fell into two categories: 1. "We are in Amerika and we will only speak English!" meant that a rich culture was lost to those children who grew up in that kind of atmosphere. Those families also were of the attitude that to correspond with relatives in "the old country" was being somehow unfaithful to their new country. Now in searching for their long-lost roots, the grandchildren and great grandchildren of these early immigrants very often find themselves at a dead-end in their genealogical search. 2. "We are in Amerika, and we will learn to speak English (very often from youngsters who perfected the language in school and then taught their parents) . . . but we will never forget our beautiful Czechy and the relatives we left behind" was a better philosophy, historians agree.

Most of us feel very fortunate that our immediate ancestors held the latter philosophy. And we are grateful to those who had the foresight to establish the "Ceska Skola."

The school has had some lean years. The events immediately following World War II were years in which we saw continually falling enrollments. Energies were better spent in getting jobs and earning a living. The American trend was headed toward leisure-time activities which involved the entire family.

With the popularity of Alex Haley's book "ROOTS," a new interest in ancestry arose which swept the Czech descendants in American communities along with it. There followed an increase in Czech School enrollment with a continued

climb ever since. Last year's summer classes totaled 78 students from 50 families.

**CZECH SCHOOL 1997 - CESKA SKOLA** "pro deti" (for children) ages 6 through 13 will open another five weeks course at Wilson Middle School in Cedar Rapids. Classes will run Monday through Friday, June 9th through July 11th and are conducted from 8:00 a.m. til 11:00 a.m. On Friday, July 11th, there will be a program in the Wilson School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. This will be followed by the customary Ice Cream Social in the cafeteria. Tuition is \$15.00 per child or \$25.00 per family. Students may register at 8:00 a.m. on the opening day.

Three teachers will be returning this year: Mrs. Bessie Dugena, Mrs. Leona Poduska and Olga Drahozal. Classes are divided according to age and comprehension and every grade begins with the basics.

Children are taught the Czech alphabet, colors, numbers, simple words and songs. Older students learn Czech history, geography, artists, composers, poets and the grammatic structure of the Czech language. Visiting speakers are invited to share their knowledge with the classes.

The annual field day will be to Spillville, Iowa on Friday, June 27th. Two buses will be reserved for the students, for whom there is no charge. There is extra room on the busses for adults and chaperones, but the seating is limited. The charge for the trip will be minimal, so make your reservations as soon as possible by calling Frank Novotny, , VITAME VAS, deti, do Ceske Skoly!

*By Olga Drahozal*

## TOUR

August 3-15, 1997 Homecoming trip to Slovakia and Gbely, Moravia and Prague.

Touch the heart of Slovak and Moravian folk culture and heritage with Helen Baine and Helene Cincebeaux. Tour departs from Newark, N.J. Call Helene