

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



Vol. 6 - No. 4
Dec. 1981

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

CALENDAR 1982 KALENDÁŘ

Jan. 18, Mon. ANNUAL MEETING, Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations. Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church.

March 19, Fri. St. Joseph's Day in Czech Village.

May 14, 15, Fri., Sat. Houby Days Czech Village.

June 5, 6, Sat., Sun. All City Ethnic Fair


Aug. 19, Thurs. Annual Picnic for both Foundations.

Sept. 10, 11, 12, Fri., Sat., Sun. The Festival in Czech Village.

Dec. 4, Sat. Sv. Mikulas Day in Czech Village.

SPEAKERS REPORT. Those of you who have been active in presenting programs on Czech heritage and culture during 1981, please send your report by January 11th to President Frank W. Novotny, or phone 365-0868 giving the number of such events, range in attendance and total estimated attendance. If you wish to add other details, such as types of groups or comments, please do so.

* ANNUAL MEETING of Czech Heritage *
* and Fine Arts Foundations, Jan. *
* 18th, Monday, Jan Hus Presbyter- *
* ian Church, corner of 29th Street *
* and Schaeffer Drive, S.W. 7:30 p.m. *
* Annual reports, election of offi- *
* cers, program, refreshments. Ample *
* parking on grounds. *

 We are revising the Speakers Bureau leaflet. If you wish to be listed or wish to suggest a topic and/or speaker, write us at P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52406. Share your ideas with us! Thanks. . . .

NOMINATING COMMITTEE appointed by President Novotny is preparing a slate of officers and board members to be presented at the Annual Meeting in January. Any member of Czech Heritage Fdn. may nominate a candidate or declare his or her own candidacy by communicating with the Nominating Committee: Marge Stone chairperson; Blanche Trachta and Adeline Volesky, or writing to the Nominating Committee, CHFnd. Box 761.

EDUCATION KIT UNITS ON THE MOVE. Units I, II, III are most in demand. To date 12 groups have used different Units. Viewers range in number from 18 to 25 to 50 to 125 and even 600! Total to date is over 1000. Reservations for 1982 are being posted. Write CHFdn., Education Kit, PO Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52406, for details and reservation forms.

PUBLICATIONS. Charles H. Vyskocil is busy replying to requests for price lists and then filling orders for books and postcards. Orders are from one or two items to as many as 50 to 100 for other items. Books were mailed to 17 states to 52 different towns and cities. Orders average 6 to 7 per month so he makes many trips to pick up mail at P.O. Box 761 and then return with packages to be on their way.

Editor Suzy Shutt of the office of the Fraternal Herald (Bratrský Věstník), the official house organ of the Western Fraternal Life Assoc. has helped so much to tell others about us. In the Sept. issue on p. 3. is a report about our activities. "Thank you" Suzy!

VESELÉ VÁNOCE  ŠTASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK

SOME SHORT-SOME LONG.

Plans for the Beseda Dance Classes are under way. Write to us at P.O. Box 761 and indicate your interest and participation. Replies will be sent to those who sign up.

AAA FEATURES CZECH COMMUNITY in the Sept.-Oct. issue of Home and Faraway travel magazine, DISCOVER CEDAR RAPIDS, appeared in 5 colored pictures and 4 pages of text. Efforts of Pat Martin and Joan Liffing Zug gave Czech Village and the Foundations some fine publicity which reached thousands of Iowans.

NO HOCKEY. So little interest indicated to date to attend the Dec. 19th hockey game in Urbandale Arena, that no plans are being made for a bus. It would have been fun to see the Czechoslovak National Olympic Team play in Iowa.

Beloved Praha, Czechy, is said to be the best preserved medieval city in the world.

KOLACHES MADE TO ORDER; Newsletter asked for people who take orders. Here are two "bakers" : Mrs. Marv Kucera, and Mrs. Wilma Kalina,
. Good eating!

FINALLY, A SETTLEMENT ? For more than 30 years, US and Britain have held Czech gold (\$250 million) waiting some settlement of claims by private citizens for property seized by the Communist Govmt. Recently the Czech Govmt. agreed to pay \$81 1/2 million for the US-British claims. Acceptance of this offer depends upon Congressional action. On my last visit to Cechy (1978) for the first time I heard words of anger about the delay on this holding of the gold.

AMERICAN-CZECH-KOREAN CITIZENS! This fall, 93 persons took the oath of Citizenship in U.S. District Court in Cedar Rapids. Three Korean children have been adopted by Czech families in this district.

THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS-KOLACHES !

Mary Hudecek, Protivin, reported to Sokol Minnesota SLOVO that women in the parish baked 9000 kolaches (750 doz.) and 3000 rohliku (250 doz.) for the 2 day festival featuring noodle soup and other goodies. The noodles were made from 800 eggs (66 2/3 doz.), Mrs. Hudecek is famous in her area and beyond for her skill at various types of embroidery work.

and CAN YOU TOP THIS? So this editor wondered how Cedar Rapids kolach bakers would score. You'd never guess. During the 3 day st. Ludmila festival in June 19, 848 (1,654 doz.) were consumed! Well, folks from all over Linn County and beyond were there to enjoy the goodies.

Two other records are the dozens that are consumed in a matter of a few hours! At the Hus Memorial Presbyterian noodle luncheon and supper 1440 (120 doz.) are eaten. At the annual Sokol supper in some 4 hours 1,920 (160 doz.) are served and/or sold. Think of the hours AND hours of work it takes to make quantities.

During the Czech Festival in Czech Village, the Sykora Bakery turns out some 10,000 to 12,000 kolaches along with thousands of rohliku, hundreds of Danish, along with breads and other bakery.

Then add to the above during the festival are the hundreds of dozens of kolaches sold by the church groups at their "stands" on the Ave. What a TRADEMARK we have in a kolach.

At our ANNUAL MEETING, Jan. 18th, two displays of interest will be: "HERITAGE OF CEDAR RAPIDS", a recent production of Citigames, Inc. Thirty-two local businesses are represented on the game form. Czech Heritage Fdn. is there, too. Another item will be linen tea towels from Czechoslovakia. They are colorful with typical Czech designs and motifs.

The annual SIBRINKY DANCE will be held early in March at the Sokol Hall. Watch for more details.

Sorry our professional typist is on trip to Arizona-hence we revert to this style of letter type.



Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

It is Christmas Time at the Museum! Come to see our Christmas tree so lavishly decorated with traditional ornaments. Each ball was blown to size and shape and hand painted with its individual design. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The Museum will be closed during January and February. Tour groups may arrange for a guide by dialing 366-4937.

Recently a young student in Iowa on one of those International Student Exchange Programs, visited the Museum with his "Iowa Family". The young man was delighted to see so many authentic Czech exhibits. What a story he will have to tell upon his return to his homeland in Europe. As is true of exchange students, he speaks several languages.



Honored with a Governor's Leadership Award on Iowa Community Betterment Day in Ames was Robert Schaffer, president of Czech Fine Arts Foundation. The wife of Gov. Robert D. Ray, Billie, made the presentation to Bob at the Leadership Luncheon. The 1981 Czech Princess and Prince, Lynne Marie Nejd and Jeff Donoghue, greeted hundreds of Iowans at the Czech Museum and Library booth throughout the day.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISITORS from local schools, 200 of them, visited the Museum in the last two months. All had seen some of the Units in the Education Kit before coming to the Museum. The children asked intelligent questions, were very interested and well mannered. It was a pleasure to have so many young visitors who came in small groups.

ANOTHER GRANT. The Fine Arts Foundation was again a recipient of a grant from the Linn County Board of Supervisors. These funds will be used to preserve fragile news and magazine articles, handcrafts, manuscripts, pictures, posters, as well as to repair and properly store precious artifacts.

MORE CZECH HERITAGE NEWS

PROJECT 1982.. The Linn County board of Supervisors awarded the Czech Heritage Foundation a grant of \$3,200.00 to proceed with another historical non-profit project, a traveling display about Czechs in Linn County. Pictures, postcards, posters, programs, and other flat materials will be visually displayed in swinging exhibit panels that are free standing and portable. Appropriate captions will accompany the displays or copies thereof and will be protected by plexiglas covers.

The Board of Directors of Heritage Foundation will be looking for items related to forgotten events, such as the Czech community's celebration of Cedar Rapids semi-centennial in 1906, and the 500th anniversary of the martyrdom of Jan Hus observed in Cedar Rapids in July of 1915. Many other types of materials of historical interest will be displayed.

The exhibits will be available for groups and can also be seen at the Museum.

The equipment has been ordered and should be received by January 1st. Those of you who have material to donate or loan for display please contact any member of the Board of Directors.

R.J. Stone

GIFTS to the MUSEUM. Recently the Museum acquired some luster ware and other items from the estate of friends of Mildred (and Jerry) Drahovzal. The items were in Illinois so Gus and Della Flider of Moline drove to nearby Hampton to bring the package to Cedar Rapids. We are lucky to have members all over United States! Thank you.

And a second donation to the Czech Library comes through the thoughtfulness of Frieda Soukup Hunstad who resides in Detroit. THE EVOLUTION OF THE POLKA FROM 1830 to 1980 AS A SYMBOL OF ETHNIC UNITY AND DIVERSITY is a thesis written by Christopher Ann Patton of the Graduate Division of Wayne State University. A quick look at the work finds it to be well written, full of interesting and to me unknown facts. It is also very easy reading. Miss Patton is also from the city of Detroit. This is a fine addition to the Library. M.A.D.

ROOTS. Do you have "roots" in Tama County? There you will find Tama, Traer, Clutier, Vining, Toledo, Chelsea, Elberon - places you will recognize as having many Czechs. Mrs. Marie Vileta writes that tours of the TAMA COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM can be arranged. Usual hours are Wed. and Sat. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The logo of the Genealogical Society says: "Pride in The Past
Faith in The Future." Besides artifacts on display the records include newspapers, census material, manuscripts, county records, geneology collections, maps, atlases, plat books prior to 1926 and historical collections. Many newspapers have been microfilmed. Mrs. Vileta can be reached at

The Tama Historical Society is in the building at

Czech Village



SV. MIKULAS Day was finer than ever in Czech Village this year. The event was celebrated on December 5th because a Sunday event in the Village is not feasible. Chances are that we will hold the event annually on the Saturday before December 6th, the actual feast day. Like St. Joseph's Day, St. Nicholas Day is gaining "major" status as a significant event in the Czech community.

Have you seen the 1982 EASTERN IOWA CALENDAR OF ARTISTS AND COMMUNITIES? This beautiful calendar of events is the work of Czech Fine Arts Board member, Fern Kaplan Fackler. Works of outstanding artists and our four Czech events of the year are two features of interest to us all. Fern, who co-chaired the 1981 Czech Bake-Off with Martha Krejci, is active in the promotion of area artistry. The calendar she designed is available at Czech Cottage, 100 - 16th Ave., S.W. for \$2.95.

TOURS FOR SCHOOL GROUPS. Czech Village, Pioneer Village, Bruce more, Nature Center and the Paramount Theatre of Performing Arts have formed a partnership to promote school group tours of our facilities in the Cedar Rapids area.

Village News by
Pat Martin



"PROJECT BEAUTIFUL". On November 11 "Project Beautiful", sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Board of Realtors, presented an award to Czech Village in recognition of its neighborhood beautification at the annual Project Beautiful Awards Luncheon. Also recognized was the renovation and beautification of Hach Brothers building. Hachs have one of the oldest businesses in Cedar Rapids. Bob Hach is a member of Czech Heritage Band.

CZECH COMMUNITY SCORES AGAIN!

Statewide recognition was achieved again this year as the new Czech Museum and Library won second place for Czech Village in the "Neighborhoods" category at Iowa Community Betterment Day. Held on Nov. 6th at the Hilton Coliseum in Ames and attended by a busload of Volunteers involved in the Cedar Rapids Czech community. The event attracted more than 1000 Iowans involved in making their communities better places in which to live.

Attending the event were dignitaries such as Iowa's governor, The Honorable Robert D Ray and his wife, Billie, and The Honorable George H.W. Bush, vice-president of the United States.

More than \$20,000 in prizes capped the day's honors for communities involved and one of the sponsors contributing to this program's funding is Iowa Electric Light and Power Co. of Cedar Rapids.

Czech Village entered the "Neighborhood" category for communities of 25,000 population or over. Winners in that category are as follows:
1st: Drake Neighborhood, Des Moines;
2nd: Czech Village, Cedar Rapids;
3rd: Playland Neighborhood, Council Bluffs. Honorable mention, Village of East Davenport and Hillcrest Neighborhood, Fort Dodge.

The Governor's Leadership Award, earned by exceptional community
(continued p .6.)

Community Scores - volunteers state-wide, was won for Czech Village by

Robert Schaffer, president of Czech Fine Arts Foundation. Picture p. 3.

This version of **The Night Before Christmas** was written by Elmer J. Nemeč, Crete, Nebraska. We share it with you. Ready for chuckles ?

For those who do not understand the "garbled" Czech in the story, read this translation in the best of "garbled" English !

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
(Vánoční noc)

Byla vánoční noc a skrz celej haus
nic se nehnulo, ani jeden "maus".

Punčochy ve řadě nad kamnami
byly opatrně pověšeny.

Dětičky v peřinách zabalený,
zdálo se jim o houskách pečený.

Náš vospalej pes, už nažranej dost,
tam u kamen zdřimal, volizoval kost.

A mně ve houpáku, co se mi nestalo,
moje své chrápání mě taky uspalo.

Ale najednou na střeše takový šramot,
já vyskočil hned a vlít do mých kalhot.

A pes se probudil a štěkal tak stekle,
jsem jistej že myslel že teď je v pekle.

Tam na naší střeše náký zvíře tam věje
a já jsem chtěl vědět co se tam děje.

Já vyběhl ven a uklouz jsem na led,
a v sedu kouk vzhůru, to byl ale pohled

Tam vedle komína, ach jej na mouduši
bylo chlupatý zvíře, mělo velký uši.

Mělo dvě oči a veliký rohy,
a červenej nos, a tenoučký nohy.

Nos rozsvícenej, že já věděl hned
Todle je Rudolf a žádnej medvěd.

On tam vám na střeše frkal a hekal,
na ledovým šindeli se náramě smekal.

A jeleni za ním se taky hrabali
jako masní kočky se marně škrabali.

A saně už vysely přes okapem,
sem, tam náká hračka už vypadla ven.

Sandi Claus křičel, "prosim tudle noc
já potřebuju velikou pomoc".

Tak jsme se radili Sandi Claus a já,
co se dá dělat než Rudolf hapá.

Pak jsme vynášli, co teď každej ví,
Rudolf na kopytách měl podkovy
hladký.

Šli jsme k mému autu a s kolách jsme
vzali řetízky a Rudolfoj na nohy dali.

Sandi Claus do saních vlít jako myška
a smál se sám sobě jako chytrá liška.

A Rudolfoj nad hlavou prutem prásk
tak, že se do kšíru vopřel a táh jako
vlak.

Rudolf vyhazoval, ani jednou nehekl,
na kopytách řetízky, ani se nesmekl.

A Sandi Claus ohlásil: "děkuju vám
moc, veselé Vánoce všem, a všem,
dobrou noc."

It was Christmas Eve and through the whole house nothing moved, not one mouse. . Stockings in a row above the stove were carefully hung.. Children in featherbeds bundled, they dreamed of sweet breads baked.. Our sleepy dog, full of food, was by the stove dreaming of licking a bone. .

And I in the rocker, what happened to me, my own snoring lulled me to sleep. . All at once on the roof such a racket , I jumped at once and flew to my trousers. The dog awoke and barked so mean, that I am sure he thought he was in hell. .

There on our roof some animal was whinnying and I wanted to know what was going on. . I ran outside and slipped on the ice, and sat looking up and that was some sight ! . There by the chimney ,oh my, oh my, a hairy creature had large ears. . It had two eyes and large horns, a red nose and thin legs. . Nose lighted, I knew at once it was Rudlof and not a bear.

Up there on the roof he snorted and groaned, on ice-covered shingles it was exceedingly slippery. . Deer behind him also pawing like greased cats vainly scratching. .

The sleigh now was hanging over the eaves and some toys fell out. . Sandi Claus cried out, "Please, this night I need much help!" So we deliberated, Sandi Claus and I, what to do before Rudolf falls. . Then we learned what you all know, Rudolf on his hooves had smooth shoes. . We went to my auto and from wheels took the chains, put them on Rudolf's feet. . Sandi Claus flew to his sleigh like a mouse and smiled to himself like a sly fox. . Over Rudolf's head he cracked the whip who braced himself into the harness and pulled like an engine. . Rudolf leaped, with not one groan, did not even slip.

And Sandi Claus announced, "Thank you much, a Happy Christmas to you all and to all good night! "

The story in the left column appears courtesy of Editor Suzy Shutt at the Bratrský Věsňik office, Omaha



ALL ABOUT A PRINCE AND PRINCESS

Right here in Czech Village. The candidates for the 1981 contest for Prince and Princess had interesting stories to tell about their Czech heritage. We asked them to share the family histories with our readers. We print the story written by the Princess.

I am Lynne Marie Nejd1, born Feb. 1967 to a Czech father and German mother. Grandmother on my father's side came to United States with her family in 1913 from Chrastany in the former Province of Bohemia. Her father was a masonry worker. His first job here was with the Rock Island Shops and later was employed by Douglas Starch Works. One day in May 1919 he just left home to go to work when part of the plant exploded. Later, called Penick and Ford, father worked there until his retirement.

Grandfather on Dad's side worked for Cherry Burrell as a tool and die

maker. Mr. Cherry commissioned Grant Wood to paint grandfather in a picture called the "Machinest". It is one of the industrial pictures in the C.R. Art Center permanent collection. Grandfather and some others developed a spigot which dispenses 3 to 5 colors of ice cream from the same spigot.

Mother's grandmother came from Reugen, Germany, at the age of 6 on April, 1890. Her father was a commercial fisherman in the North Sea. They came to Lowden, Iowa. The family rented a house and father worked for the Northwestern Railroad for a year. He saved enough money to buy a small farm west of Tipton.

Grandfather on mother's side came to United States from Anethem, Germany, in 1890 with his widowed mother and 3 brothers. His uncle sent his mother money to come to Lowden, Iowa. His father was a goose herder in Germany. He married in 1902 in Clarncce, Iowa. The festivities lasted 3 days!

(continued next page)

Membership records are another task managed by Charles H. Vyskocil. He reports as of Nov. 1st, there are 850 members of which 240 are Mr. and Mrs. There are 481 women and 369 men memberships. Our numbers should be some larger. Why not consider inviting others who are of Czech ancestry, or have an interest in our group? Members include not only local area folks but from all over United States. A membership as a birthday or holiday gift may solve your shopping problems. Although some of you have paid the dues for 1982, the form below will help others to take care of renewals, new memberships, or gifts.

----- TEAR OFF HERE -----

MEMBERSHIP IN CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, Inc.

Renewal \$ _____ New \$ _____ Gift \$ _____ Donation \$ _____

Dues are \$3.00 per individual for one year (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.) Please make check payable to Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc., and mail this form with check to us at P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.

Your name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ zip _____

If you include a gift membership, name of person(s) _____

_____ address _____

_____ zip _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

THANK YOU. BEST WISHES for 1982.

My father works on the Chicago-North western Railway as Yardmaster. My mother is a Dental Assistant. I have a brother, Douglas Scot Nejd, who attends Wilson as do I. My brother and I, my mother, grandmother on both sides all attended Hayes and Wilson Jr. High Schools. I am in the 9th grade.

The story of Prince Jeff Donoghue will appear in the March issue of the Newsletter.

CZECH LANGUAGE will be offered as an independent study course at Kirkwood Community College this winter quarter. Students use materials and tapes to study the language. The materials for this course were developed through a Federal Grant. Ted Hlubucek and Dr.

Zdenek Salzmann of Amhurst University (Massachusetts), served as the consultants and reviewed the material as it was developed. Also there were local representatives of the Czech community who served on the Curriculum Advisory Committee.

The materials include language learning, packets, audio cassetts, and video cassettes. Students wishing to enroll for this course should phone Florence Masters, 398-5443 to arrange for orientation and to obtain materials.

How about writing the dates & events on that 1982 KALENDAR? Then keep the "date" with us for coming events.

Come! Participate!
See you January 18th

CZECH HERITAGE FDN.

P. O. Box 761
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

