

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

Vol. 13 - No. 1
March 1988

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



CALENDAR 1988 KALENDÁŘ

MARCH

- 11-18 all week SPIFS, St. Petersburg, FL Int'l Folk Fest
- 13 Sunday ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE (page 12)
- 19 Sat. ST. JOSEPH'S DAY PARADE (page 5)
- 19 Sat. SOKOL PORK SUPPER 417 3rd St. S.E. Serving starts at 4:30
- 26 Sat. ŠIBŘINKY, Sokol Hall (page 6)

APRIL

- April-Nov. Sat. CZECH CLUB OF DALLAS Dances on 2nd&4th Sat. (page 13)
- 24 Sun. SOKOL AKADEMIE (page 5)

MAY

- 7 + 9 Sat.Mon. CZECH NIGHT, Symphony (page 11)
- 14-15 Sat.Sun. HOUBY DAYS (pages 3&5) Czech Village, C.R.IA
- 28-29 Sat.Sun. ETHNIC FEST (page 4)

JUNE

- 6 Mon. FIRST DAY OF CZECH SUMMER SCHOOL
- 10-12 Fri-Sun. ST. LUDMILA'S KOLACH FESTIVAL J St. & 21st Ave. S.W. Cedar Rapids
- 24-26 Fri-Sun. 8TH SOKOL CANADA SLET Montreal, Canada

AUGUST

- 1 - 3 Mon-Wed. CZECH FESTIVAL Wilbur, Nebraska.

SEPTEMBER

- 10-11 Sat.Sun. CZECH FESTIVAL Czech Village
- 24-25 Sat.Sun. 12TH ANNUAL KLOBAS FEST Czech Club, Dallas
- 26 Mon. DOŽINKY CZECH HARVEST FEST, New Prague, MN

VÍTÁM VÁS!

GREETINGS !!

I was hoping that someone else would be greeting you here, but it just didn't work out that way. I am starting my ninth year as your president and am honored to be able to play a small part in keeping the Czech Heritage Fdn. as active as it is. It's not only the people in charge, though, that are responsible for our organizations success. Credit goes to you folks! You're always willing to help when asked. Mae and I wish to thank you again for your wonderful cooperation. We have a very busy season ahead of us and are looking forward to working with you all. Upcoming events will be covered in the newsletter and we shall let you know when we need your assistance. If you're not contacted and you would like to volunteer, call me, or any of the Board Members. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Frank W. Novotny, President

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CZECH HERITAGE PUBLICATIONS

Last year 1,161 books were sold to people in thirty different cities in seventeen states across the United States.

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THE NUMBERS GO UP

Our membership as of January 1st, was 1,177, an increase from last year of 38. We now have members in 282 cities in 38 states, 1 in Canada, and 4 in Czechoslovakia.

CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF C.R. IA
OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1988

President..... Frank Novotny
Vice President.....Wes Drahozal
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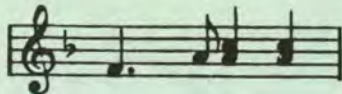
Honorary Directors...Robert Kouba,
M. Melvina Svec.

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KOMENSKÝ, Jan Amos (1592-1670), is also known by his Latin name, Comenius. He was a famous philosopher, teacher, and theologian. His early writings changed the principles of teaching. His first textbook, "The Invisible World", was illustrated! Children's books up to this time had not included pictures as a learning tool. He wrote in the dialect of the region, as Čech, Moravian, and Slovak, are different, but are Slavic languages. The textbook was translated into sixteen languages, and that was over three hundred twenty-five years ago. mms

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MUSIC, MUSIC



What a find at the Moravian Museum in Brno! Ten unpublished compositions by Antonio Salieri (1750-1825) are in the archives. If you saw the movie Amadeus, (Mozart, 1756-1791), you will recall that Salieri was the envious Austrian Court Musician. Mozart's rival, the Italian Salieri was a good friend of Moravian Count Heinrich Haugwitz. The Count's estate at Náměst nad Oslavou, formerly housed the rare items. Among Salieri's works

are forty operas, twelve oratorios, and some chorals. Salieri lived during the the era of Beethoven (1770-1837) and Schubert (1797-1828). Music, Music! mms

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REACHING OUT WITH OUR CZECH HERITAGE

As many of you know, we visit the various elementary schools in Cedar Rapids taking along our organization's Educational Units. We spend a week presenting our Czech heritage to the students.

This season we were approached by Kathy Jansa, PTA President from Franklin Middle School, to participate in their, "Heritage Week". On Monday, February 22nd, a group of us arrived at the school at 7:15 a.m. and set up a well-rounded display in the main hall. From 8:15 to 11:30, the twenty-seven classes of five hundred fifty-seven students spent their time between classes visiting our exhibits. Mae Novotny talked about the mini-museum, Gus Pesek demonstrated the making of feather basters, and Marj Nejdrl brought her hand-painted Easter eggs; along with the two that are going to be sent to Washington D.C., (Story on page 11, column 1). Olga Drahozal spoke about the Czech language, Janice Kralik and Adeline Volesky showed an exhibit of customs and costumes. Linda Novotny and Irma Binko served Poppy Seed Babovka to the students. At 1:00 p.m., the students had a general assembly and some of us presented a thirty minute program. Olga Drahozal gave the Pledge of Allegiance in Czech and Frank Novotny spoke to the group. Everyone enjoyed a composition by Dvořák played on the violin by Chris Faltis accompanied by Sharon Furler on Piano. Emil Lamparek played his Heligonka accordion with some of our people singing a number, and we ended with a lively polka.

Our sincere thanks to the faculty and PTA of Franklin School for asking us to spend the day with them, and to the students for their interest in our heritage. I extend a special thank you to the people that helped us put the project together.

Frank W. Novotny



Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

19th. For more information, call (319) 362-8500 or write: The Czech Museum, 10 - 16th Ave, S.W. Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY MARCH 19, 1988

The Czech Museum will be open 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guided tours are provided for all visitors.

SEASONAL DAILY HOURS AT THE MUSEUM

Starting on Friday, April 15th, the Czech Museum will be open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 9:30 to 4 p.m.

EGG DECORATING AND EASTER CUSTOMS

On Saturday, March 26th, and Saturday, April 2nd, egg decorating techniques will be demonstrated from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. by artists Marj Nejd and Vera Cousins at the Museum. Guided tours through the Museum and Immigrant Home will include Easter Customs.

WILLOW SWITCHES

Also on Saturday, March 26th and Saturday April 2nd, demonstrations of "willow switch" making will be presented. The switches, braided from pliable willow branches, play a part in the celebration of the Czechoslovak Easter tradition. Each child visiting the Museum will be given an opportunity to braid a willow switch of their own.

HOUBY DAYS

The Czech Museum will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 14th, and from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 15th.

COSTUME SEMINAR

A seminar on planning the design and construction of your own Czech, Moravian, or Slovak folk costume will be held on Saturday, March

MUSEUM OPEN DURING BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Our facility will remain open during construction of the new bridge. As of March 1st, the entrance to the Museum will be from the City Parking Lot on A Street, north of 16th Avenue.

MODERN TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED INTO MUSEUM TOURS

Video tapes showing close-ups of some of the fragile items will be used as part of our guided tours. The tapes are of currently safeguarded items in storage because of the planned bridge construction. The video tapes and equipment were acquired through grants awarded by the Linn County Board of Supervisors for use with our Oral History Program. The expanded use of this technology is allowing the public access to items currently unavailable for display. J. F.

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DID YOU KNOW THAT-

1. In an encyclopedia and in our dictionary the last word in the "C" section is Czech or Czechoslovakia? - and
2. Yugoslavia was spelled Jugoslavia? Could it be the "J" came from our word jižni(south)?- and
3. The Cyrillic alphabet was brought to the Kingdom of Moravia (863) when Cryil and Methodious came from Greece as missionaries? Some Slavic nations, (parts of Yugoslavia and Russia), use that style. USSR is CCCP. - and
4. In Mongolia, street signs and many slogans and sayings are printed in the Russian alphabet? "Because when the Japanese invaded Outer Mongolia the Russians came to help us. The Russians are our friends."



ETHNIC



CELEBRATION

SATURDAY / SUNDAY MAY 28 & 29

Each year the Czech Heritage Foundation is proud to be a co-sponsor of the Cedar Rapids Ethnic Festival. Again, the Riverside Roundhouse, located just two blocks west of the Czech Village, will host the event. With an expanded entertainment schedule, this years ETHNIC FEST '88 promises to be the premier Ethnic Celebration of Eastern Iowa.

Costumed exhibitors will be displaying craft items and serving ethnic delicacies at their decorated booths. Represented are the Americans, Blacks, Czechs, Danes, Greeks, Irish, Italians, Lebanese, Mexican, and Vietnamese. Sponsors and major participants are local, non-profit organizations. Two stage areas will be used to ensure continual entertainment.

Entertainment with a particular Czech flair:

Czech Heritage Singers of Cedar Rapids

Czech School Children Singers

Boddicker Showcase

Czech Plus Band

Other regional ethnic entertainment:

Children's Parade of Flags

Dougherty, Davis, and McPartland

Washington High School Jazz Band

Filipino-American Dance Troupe from (Des Moines)

Scottish dancers (Des Moines)

Mesquakie Indian dancers (Tama)

Navajo Nightstalkers

Dutch Heritage Dancers (Pella)

Dixielanders Jazz Band

Los Ninos dancers (Des Moines)

Vietnamese Dragon Dance

Foggy Mountain Cloggers

Japanese Koto Program

Austrian Yodeler

Gate admission will be \$2.50, but advance tickets will be sold for only \$2.00. Children fourteen and

under will be admitted free when accompanied by a paid admission. Contact the Czech Heritage Fdn. or the Czech Museum for advanced ticket sales.

Enjoy authentically prepared ethnic cuisine while experiencing entertainment representative of lands far away, but most of all, come, have fun, and join us as we CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE ! R. N.

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FRANK MERTA MEMORIAL

A deeply appreciated memorial donation has been received from the family of Frank Merta. Mr. Merta was a young man of ninety-seven when he passed away in December of last year. He was a great lover of Czech music and a great singer, reaching the hearts of both young and old. Present plans are to purchase an item for the museum with a plaque identifying the donation.

FWN

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

BULLETIN

Office of Continuing Education
and Public Service
302 East John Street, Suite 202
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(309) 333-1465

ISSUE 40, WINTER 1987-88

■THREE GROUPS IN CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA are keeping alive Czech culture and traditions. They are the CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC., THE CZECH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, AND THE CZECH FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION. The three cooperate in a variety of activities and also support a museum and library.

The Fine Arts Foundation promotes cultural and fine arts events, ethnic fairs, and manages the museum and library.

The Czech Heritage Foundation publishes a newsletter, NASE CESKE DEDICTVI (Our Czech Heritage), MY CZECH WORD BOOK ABC'S, MEET THE CZECH LANGUAGE, and HISTORY OF CZECHS IN CEDAR RAPIDS, as well as a book of recipes and traditions, THE CZECH BOOK..

The village commemorates the early Czech settlers and their contribution to the development of Cedar Rapids and Linn County. Several celebrations and festivals are sponsored annually by the village, including Houby Days (May), an Ethnic Fair (May), Czech Festival (Sept.), St. Nicholas' Day (Dec.), and St. Joseph's Day (Mar.).

In addition to making available an educational kit, the Czech Heritage Foundation can also provide speakers to interested groups. Melvina Svec, Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.

The Bulletin has thirty-two pages, reports the content in summary form on meetings, workshops, seminars, and lectures of previous sessions and topics, location and participants. Meetings are held at colleges, universities, and government centers. The item above appears on page thirteen in the # 40, Winter 1987-88 issue.

Czech Village

Cedar Rapids, Iowa



PARADE TIME AGAIN!

The Czech Village Association will enter a float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17th. Watch for it and cheer!

We're planning a large turn-out for the St. Joseph's Day Parade at 11:00 a.m. on March 19th. Wear your best red threads and join in the fun!

AREA BUSINESSES SUFFER

The City of Cedar Rapids has agreed to partially subsidize maintenance costs for our parking lots in the Village. The closing of the bridge has brought traffic to a near standstill on the Ave. and expenses have been hard to meet. It is hoped the assistance will continue until the new bridge is in place.

CZECH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

- President.....Patty Konecny
- Vice President.....Rick Bartunek
- Secretary.....Virginia Wilts
- Treasurer.....Ray Snitil
- Asst. Treasurer.....Dennis Hrabak
- Asst. Secretary.....Dick Barta
- Board Members.....Gary Ficken, Bob Schaffer, Frank Novotny, Kris Jones, Lester Sykora, Lumir Vondracek, Dr. Alan Robb, and Ernie Hlas.

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"A SOUND MIND IN A HEALTHY BODY"

April 24th, at 1:00 p.m., at Regis High School will be the time and place of this years AKADEMIE. Address-Prairie Dr. and K Ave. N.E. in Cedar Rapids. Come and watch the Sokol tumblers. Hundreds attend this event.



Don't miss it!!

HOUBY DAYS

Saturday & Sunday, May 14th & 15th
The Village is without a Coordinator, however the merchants have pulled together again to organize an even bigger and better Houby Days Celebration. There will be music at the bandstand all day Saturday and Sunday, plenty of Kolaches available, and the Czech Heritage Fdn. will offer the breakfast each morning. Watch for details of the Houby Hunting Contest and also the Annual Race to be held on Sunday. There will be a carnival, street vendors, and plenty of good food. Come down on the Ave. and help us celebrate! V. W. * * * * *



BUTTON BUTTON...

When the 16th Avenue Bridge was closed a coalition of concerned citizens made plans for its preservation. One fund raising project was the selling of "Save the Bridge" buttons. Marj NejdI designed the buttons and they were manufactured by St. Anne's Circle, St. Wenceslaus Church. Patty Konecny covered the production costs and over five hundred of the buttons were sold. Now that a new bridge to replace the old is anticipated, proceeds from the button sale will be used to purchase something fitting for the new structure.

THE NORTH AND SOUTH SLAVS

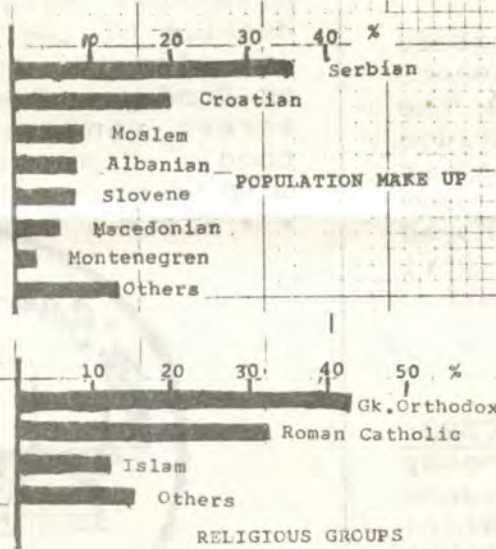
The South Slav of Yugoslavia has far more variety in heritage and culture than does Czechoslovakia. True, there are differences in Cech, Moravian and Slovak languages and in some historical background, but there are more common bonds than among the South Slavs.

In Yugoslavia there are nine different units which make up six Federated Republics. This means that although Belgrade is the capital of the nation, each republic has its capital city. It is true that Praha is the capital of Czechoslovakia, but Brno and Bratislava maintain a status in some respects.

The two graphs below give the reader a breakdown of the population mix and religious make-up. Some parts of the nation use the Latin Alphabet while others, the Cyrillic. The Greek Orthodox is most common in the south eastern regions.

The South Slavs are said to have migrated from north of the Carpathian Mts., which are the northern rim of Slovakia, during the seventh century. The Serbs and Croats were among the very first to settle where they now live. Then came the Bosnians, Montenegrins, Slovenes, and the Hercegovinians. Among the fringes are Greeks, Albanians, and Macedonians. In addition there is a mix of many others from nearby countries.

Over the centuries down to WWI, there were kingdoms, such as Serbia and others. Often "boyars" aristocrats from Russia, or the "zupan" had control. Then the Magyars (Hungarians), Germans, Austrians, Italians, and Bulgarians ruled some portions of the area. For centuries the Turks increased the area they controlled or influenced, and the Mongolians in the 1200's known as the "Golden



The countries on the peninsula as well as northward into parts of Yugoslavia are often called The Balkans.

Horde" also invaded. The Balkan Wars, 1912 - 1913, weakened the Turkish influence. WWI broke out after the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife on June 28, 1914. Right after the war the South Slavs became a nation in their own right. Today the area is 98,766 square miles (larger than Wyoming), with a population over 23,000,000 (about equal to that of California).

mms

ANNUAL ŠIBŘINKY

You don't want to miss this special event scheduled for March 26th, 8:30 to 12:30 p.m. The Jolly Bohemians will play and there will also be door prizes. The Masquerade Ball will again be held at the Sokol Gym, 417 3rd St. S.E. Cedar Rapids, IA See you there!

Naše X-ray Shoe Fitting služba odhaluje příčinu nesnází s nohami.



Jestli-že jste nikdy neměli potíže s nohami ve svém životě, pak máte zač děkovat... Také byste měli být na pozoru. Nezapomeňte, že to vezme častokrát pouze jeden pár nesprávně pasujících bot k začátku vážných nesnází s nohami, jež vás mohou trápit léta. Proč dávat své zdraví v sázku, když naše X-Ray Fitting služba zaručuje správnou obuv pro vaše nohy?

A jestli-že už máte potíže v tom směru, bolesti v nohou a nepříjemnosti v chůzi, použijte naší bezplatné — nezávazné prohlídky, jež ukáže, co je příčinou vašich potíží. Nic bychom se nedivili, že vašim nohám ukážeme cestu ke zdraví s botami přesných rozměrů a stylu... Jak jsme pravili, tato služba vás nestojí nic i když může vám neb některému členu vaší rodiny ušetřit nesmírně mnoho trápení.

KRALL SHOE CO.

118 první ulice jihovýchodní.

Dvořák a Kacerovský, majitelé.

Naproti poště.

Our X-ray Shoe Fitting service
reveals the cause of trouble with your feet.

If you have never had trouble with your feet in your life, then you have something to be thankful for... Also you should be on guard. Don't forget, that it takes often only one pair of ill-fitting shoes to begin serious trouble with the feet, which will bother you many years. Why should you put your health at risk, when our X-Ray Fitting service guarantees correctly fitting shoes for your feet?

And if you should have trouble in this area, pain in your feet and discomfort in your walking, take advantage of our free - no obligation examination - which will show, what is the cause of your troubles. We would not wonder, that we would be able to show your feet the way to good health with shoes of exact measurement and style... As we have said before, this service will cost you nothing, even if it will be able to save you or any member of your family an immense amount of suffering.

118 First Street S.E.

Across from the Post Office

Dvořák and Kacerovský, Owners

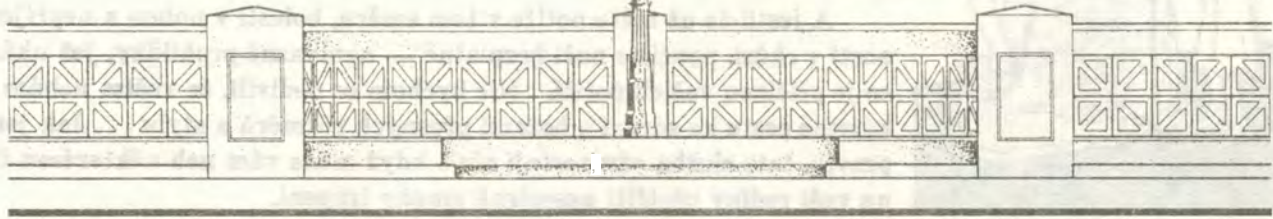
From the March, 1945 Vol. 53 #64
issue of ŠIBŘINKY

Translation courtesy of students of the Wednesday
Night Adult Czech Language Class, and their instructor,
Olga Drahozal.

NEW 16TH AVENUE BRIDGE

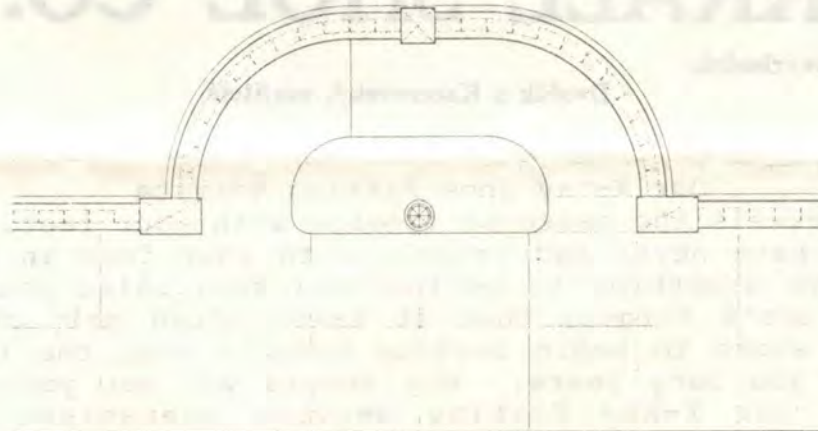
A new structure, approved by the Cedar Rapids City Council, may be in place as early as spring of 1989. The new bridge will feature concrete benches and old-fashioned light posts. Its design will compliment the ethnic character of the Czech Village area. Credit goes to City Engineer, Dick Ransom, Shive-Hattery

Engineers Inc., and the Design Review Committee, made up of Patty Konecny, Ed Kuba, and Lester Sykora. A necessary study is being made by a Waterloo firm to determine whether the existing bridge, built in 1906 and designed to resemble the St. Charles Bridge in Prague, has historical or architectural significance.



ELEVATION AT PIER WITH SEATING PROJECTION

Drawings courtesy of Shive-Hattery Engineers, Inc.



Overhead view of one of the four planned bench areas.

We're grateful to City Engineer, Dick Ransom, and Ken Bradford of Shive-Hattery for their assistance.

The Czech Heritage Fdn. will be sponsoring the breakfast at Houby Days. Serving hours will be 7 - 11 a.m. Saturday, accordion music will be provided, and on Sunday, Dave Franklin will present his Czech Radio Program on AM-1600. The breakfast will include scrambled eggs and mushrooms. Wild mushrooms will not be on the menu. Only commercially grown houby will be served due to laws regulating food distribution.

FWN

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

The University of Nebraska has entered into a trade agreement with the Charles University in Prague, Czechoslovakia. The colleges will exchange six professors each during the next three years. This program will make Omaha's University of Nebraska the only college in the U.S. with a formal, institutional exchange with a university in Czechoslovakia.

Excerpted from the Omaha World Herald

1. Do you recognize this picture?
2. Where and when did you see it?
3. Who is the artist?



1. Anyone who went to Czech School in Cedar Rapids during the 30's or 40's should recognize it.
 2. It was on the cover of the Czech School song books.
 3. The artist is Mikoláš Aleš (1852-1913). In our next issue we'll tell you more about him.
- O. Drahozal

CZECH SUMMER SCHOOL 118TH YEAR
 Classes will begin on June 6th, and run for six weeks, ending on July 15th. Students will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Monday thru Friday. Registration will be held at the beginning of each class day, the first week of school. Any youngster, between the ages of six and fifteen may attend. Students need not be of Czech ancestry, and can start at any age between six and fifteen. The tuition is \$3.00 for each student or \$5.00 for a family. This covers all of the expenses and needs for the entire six week session (including the field trip). Students are divided into three levels, by age. Each level has its own teacher and instruction is

geared to beginners, as well as to returning students. The program includes daily classroom instruction in which the youngsters will learn about our Czech culture. Subjects covered are: customs, traditions, history, geography, art, architecture, music, literature, industries and natural resources, and of course the Czech language. Highlighting the summer session will be the fieldtrip to another Iowa ethnic community, to compare that culture's customs and traditions with our own. An ice cream social and program will culminate the summer's activities. Czech Summer School will be held this year at Wilson Middle School, J Street and Wilson Ave. S.W. For further information contact: Olga Drahozal, Bessie Dugena, or Patricia Hikiji P.H.

THEY CAME TO NORTH TAMA is an account of the first settlers in North Tama County, Iowa, written by Janette Stevenson Murray. The book includes human interest stories of the lives of pioneer families, including members of Tranquillity Church. Most members of this church parish came from Scotland to homestead in Iowa. Out of this community came James Wilson, United States Secretary of Agriculture for sixteen years under Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft. The majority of the book centers around the Scottish immigrants of the area, but included is a small section devoted to the Czechs. Businessmen of Czech ancestry mentioned are M. Krezek, J. Podhajsky, and the Cizek brothers, to name a few. Murray's account contains a handy index and collection of old photographs of early settlers. Copies are available by sending \$5.00, postage paid, to: Mrs. W.M. Kelley,

DIAL 369-6217 for information concerning upcoming events sponsored by Czech organizations in the Cedar Rapids area.

IOWA STATE FAIR SINGERS appeared at three daily performances August 20-29, at Des Moines. Nicolet Pohorsky of Keokuk, Iowa, daughter of Wes and Marilyn Pohorsky, was one of the twenty-five applicants selected from among five hundred Iowans! The group staged a ninety minute show during which thirteen costume changes were made. Last summer the troupe traveled some five thousand miles attending State and County Fairs and 4-H events. Two or three members would spend the night with a local family. Nicky enjoyed seeing the variety in Iowa landscapes, meeting people, and the family atmosphere-being with a "Mom and Dad". Nicky is a senior at Keokuk High School.

E.P.E.

Josef Hrbek was a young man when he left his parent's home in Michigan heading west to seek his fortune. In Wisconsin he worked as a blacksmith and wagonmaker and after marrying Barbora Doležalová in Milwaukee the two moved to Champaign, Illinois. In 1866 the Hrbeks relocated in Cedar Rapids and Josef opened his own shop. Here they settled to raise their family. One of the Hrbek's nine children made quite a name for herself. Sarah B. Hrbek, better known as Šárka B. Hrbková was born in Cedar Rapids on August 23, 1878. From 1895 to 1906 she taught in the public schools here and worked as a reporter for the Cedar Rapids Republican newspaper. In 1904 the first night school for Czech immigrants began and was held at the Czech School building. Miss Hrbková was the group's first teacher, and for two years she held the English language and citizenship classes without pay.

She had entered the University of Iowa as an undergraduate when her brother Jefrem (Jeffrey), who had founded the School of Slavonic Language and Literature at the University of Nebraska, died (Dec. 1907) and Miss Hrbková was asked by the university chancellor to replace him. At Nebraska she finished her undergraduate work and obtained a B.A. degree from the University of Iowa in 1909. In 1910 she received the title of Adjunct Professor; in 1914 Assistant Professor, with a position on the University Senate and in 1918 was made full professor. When World War I broke out Miss Hrbková became active in the war effort here at home. She was the only woman member of the Nebraska State Council of Defense, and was State Chairwoman of the Womens Defense Committee. In this work she lectured throughout the State of Nebraska.

In 1919 the university's Department of Slavonic Language and Literature



Šárka B. Hrbková
(1878-1948)

was abolished. The college cited declining enrollment as the cause for closing the department, directed by Professor Hrbková since 1908, and she was subsequently dismissed. Fighting her separation from the university faculty, she argued that politics, and not poor enrollment figures was the basis for her dismissal.

Unsuccessful in her attempt to salvage the department, Prof. Hrbková

cont.

moved to New York accepting a position in the Czechoslovakian Division of the Foreign Language Information Service of the Red Cross. In this capacity she assisted Czech immigrants passing through the port of New York. Later she became associated with the New York State Board of Education as Supervisor to the teachers of English for the foreign born.

In her lifetime she wrote hundreds of articles which were published in major newspapers and periodicals from coast to coast. For years she was editor-in-chief of the Komenský Magazine. Translations of numerous works by Czech authors are available to us thanks to this educators tireless efforts.

She returned to Cedar Rapids in 1942 to the house at 1446 5th Ave. S.E., which she and various family members had occupied since her early teaching days here.

Šárka B. Hrbková died on Saturday, February 7, 1948, leaving no immediate family. She is buried in the family plot at the Czech National Cemetary in Cedar Rapids.

For their assistance in providing biographical information, I wish to thank the Linn County Heritage Society, and especially Mr. Joseph G. Svoboda, University Archivist, Univ. of Nebraska at Lincoln.

J.R.

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HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED TWO WOODEN EGGS IN THE MAIL?; with the return address - 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.? Marj Nejd1 of Cedar Rapids has. She's been asked to paint the eggs in the traditional Czech style to help celebrate a very special occasion. They will play a part in the Annual White House Easter Egg Hunt. The White House lawn has played host to this tradition since 1878. Marj is recognized world-wide for her excellence in the art of egg painting and decorating.

J.R.

CZECH NIGHT AT THE SYMPHONY

On May 7th and 9th, at 8 p.m., the Cedar Rapids Symphony will feature the music of Dvořák, Husa, Martinů, and Smetana.

The Czech Heritage Fdn. has been invited to make it a special night at the Paramount. Dave Franklin and his Party Time Band will provide music in the lobby and members will wear their costumes and greet the patrons. We were also asked to sell Kolaches and coffee during intermission.

Our organization will also have advance tickets available for sale soon. Contact Frank and Mae Novotny , or write,

FWN

HUSA'S MUSIC COMES TO CEDAR RAPIDS

The Boston Globe music critic had these words for the Czech composer's work, "The performance was a wonderful one... The audience notoriously resistant to contemporary music, gave the composer a standing ovation."

Pianist Louise Vosgerchian, in a recital (Oct. 3, 1987) at Paine Hall, Harvard University, gave four hundred students "something to think about". Four of Husa's compositions were presented. At the conclusion of reporter Dick Dyers' review, he wrote, "...there were cheers for her at the beginning, but even more at the end...for the beaming composer who had given everyone so much to ponder."

Another critic after hearing the Cincinnati Symphonic Orchestra's presentation of Husa's material, writes, "One of the few new music programs by the Cincinnati Symphonic Orchestra in recent years that brought much of the Music Hall to its feet".

Karel Husa's music is indeed special and enjoyed by people all over the world. One of his works, "Music For Prague, 1968" has been delivered over five thousand times around the globe.

The Czech Heritage Foundation is extremely proud to have the music of one of its members, Karel Husa, of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, presented in Cedar Rapids in May.

mms

Four to go on Czech trip

This summer, four area youths will have a chance to study their ancestry firsthand.

The four were chosen by the Czech Heritage Foundation Homestay Program to travel to Czechoslovakia.

The students are: Ed Kopecky, 17, son of Ernest and Helen Kopecky, Cedar Rapids; Darcie Novotny, 16, daughter of Fran and Duane Novotny, Marion; Dan Chadima, 17, son of George and Joanne Chadima, Fairfax; and Colleen Novak, 17, daughter of Richard and Norma Novak, rural Solon.

All four students have Czech ancestors, one of the requirements for the trip, which is sponsored yearly by the foundation.

This is the fifth group of students to travel to Czechoslovakia.

Each student will receive about \$1,000 toward the trip, which is scheduled for July. Once in Czechoslovakia, the youths will stay with Czech families for the four weeks they are in the country.

Before traveling, the students must take a 12-week course in the Czech language. The class is offered through the foundation.

"I'm very excited," says Ed, whose father is Czech. "I'm interested in my heritage. I thought this would be a good experience for me, so I applied."

Darcie's sister, Danica, took the trip last year.

Darcie believes people have misconceptions about what Czechoslovakia is like. She doesn't think it will be much different from the United States.

Colleen says she's looking forward to finding out more about her Czech ancestry. "I just hope to become more aware of the other cultures," she says.

Dan says he's excited about the trip. "It's one of those experiences I'm sure you're never going to forget," he says.



Neighbors photo by Chris Stewart

Scheduled to visit Czechoslovakia this summer are (from left): seated — Colleen Novak and Darcie Novotny; and standing — Ed Kopecky and Dan Chadima.

Reprinted with permission by the Cedar Rapids Gazette.

HOW ABOUT A TICKET?

Last year our friends Helen and Bill Kupka donated a large wooden picture which the Czech Heritage Fdn. raffled-off. The proceeds were given to the Homestay Program Fund. We have received a letter from the Kupkas' offering the foundation another gift to be used for the same purpose. We gladly accepted their offer and the donation will be unveiled shortly. Tickets will go on sale soon and the drawing will be held during our Fall Festival in September. This will allow everyone even more time to purchase their raffle tickets. Last year the drawing was held during the Houby Days Celebration and the lucky winner was Peggy Merta of Solon. This year it could be you!

FWN

ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE

This is our fifth Annual Benefit Dance for our "Experiment in Int'l Living Homestay Program". We are sending four students to Czechoslovakia this summer and this dance is our major fundraiser. On Sunday, March 13th, the Czech Heritage Fdn. will sponsor the evening of fun and entertainment at the Eagles Hall, 202 7th Ave. S.E. Cedar Rapids, IA. (The Eagles' are donating the use of the hall, Thanks!) We'll dance from 4 - 9 p.m., with Simanek's "Czech Artists" furnishing the music. At intermission, 6:00 - 7:00, we shall have entertainment, drawing for door prizes, and lunch will be served by the Eagles. Throughout the evening we'll have a Bake Sale and sell chances on specially donated items from the families of the students going to Czechoslovakia. Our students will be introduced along with our Czech Prince and Princess. Admission will be \$3.50 at the door, with tickets being sold by our Board Members in advance for \$3.00. We're looking forward to an evening of fun, and hope to see you all there. If you would like to donate items for the Bake Sale or door prizes, contact us or just bring them along. Any monetary donation to the Homestay Program will be greatly appreciated.

Frank Novotny and the Homestay Program Committee

MASARYK in TEL AVIV? Yes! In 1927 the President visited the city. An Honorary Citizenship of the city was conferred on him. The city square, Kfar Masaryk, was so named because, "Masaryk personally emanated dignity, decisiveness, and strength." Soon a cultural center will honor Masaryk's teaching with the motto, "Justice, Freedom, Humanism, and Life in Peace."

The Jews demonstrate their appreciation for Slovak aid to Jews during the holocaust by planting a tree to honor those Slovaks who saved lives.

Excerpted from the American Bulletin of the Czech Nat'l Council of America Dec.'87 issue. M.J.Z.

CZECH CLUB OF DALLAS, TEXAS holds dances twice a month at 4930 Military Parkway, Zip 75227 (1-214-381-9072) \$4.00 Adults / Teens to 17 yrs. \$2.00 Dancing 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dance to your favorite area Czech bands.

THE GOLEM

"He is fumbling his way now along the wall; at this moment he must be laboriously spelling out the letters of my name in the darkness, on my door... The door opens, and he comes in... with the gait of a man forever in fear of falling... unfamiliar face clean shaven, with prominent cheek bones, eyes slanting... Terror takes me by the throat..."



Typical alleyway in the Ghetto, Prague, 1898.

Reprinted in part from THE GOLEM by Gustav Meyrink, Dover Publications, Inc. 1986 Edition

Lithograph by Hugo Steiner-Prag from *Der Golem*, published by Kurt Wolff Verlag, Leipzig, 1915.

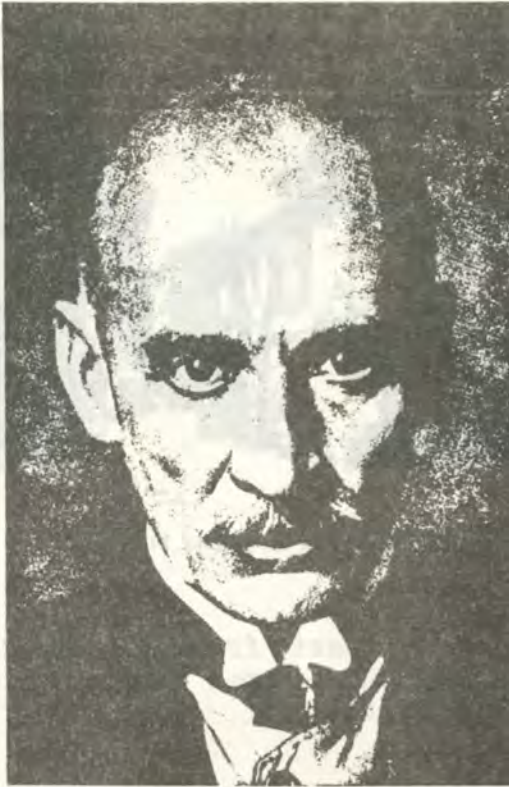


This is the first meeting of Athanasius Pernath, gem-cutter with a shadow in his past, with the Golem, the strange supernatural force reputed to haunt the ancient Ghetto of Prague. From this meeting grows an incredible web of experiences, set within the twisted crumbling walls and dark passages of the Ghetto around the turn of the century.

Near the Old Town Square lies the district of Josefov, where Prague's thriving Jewish quarter was located until the Second World War. Hitler's troops practically annihilated the Jewish populace and today only a trace of the once teeming society exists. The Ghetto's been redeveloped over the years and now six fully appointed synagogues and an ancient cemetery containing twelve thousand gravestones attract thousands of visitors each year to this obscure corner of Prague.

The most frequently visited grave is that of Rabbi Low (Yehuda Low ben Bezalel) who died in 1609. This sixteenth century teacher and scholar became famous as the legendary creator of the Golem. According to Hebrew folklore, the Rabbi brought to life a giant clay figure, the Golem, by using long-lost formulas from the kabbala. The creature's existence has been chronicled by such contemporary writers as Isaac Bashevis Singer and Elie Wiesel. Gustav Meyrink, master novelist of the supernatural, brings the Golem "to life" while offering an unparalleled account of life long ago in the Prague Ghetto.

cont.



Gustav Meyrink

The author was born in Vienna in 1868, the son of an elderly nobleman and a court theatre actress. As a young man he lived in Munich and Hamburg, moving later to Prague where he attended business college. Meyrink became a banker; a position he maintained for several years, until January of 1902, when he was arrested for fraud. Meyrink was incarcerated for almost three months. A full investigation lead to his release, but the scandal permanently damaged his reputation. During this trying time an old back ailment, diagnosed as tuberculosis of the spine, gradually became worse. Now, in both poor mental and physical health, and unemployed, Meyrink the banker, became Meyrink the author.

The world of the occult sciences had always intrigued Meyrink and his knowledge of Alchemy, Spiritualism, Far Eastern thought, and the like, provided a wealth of information for the novice writer from which to draw. Prague frequently lent itself as the backdrop for Meyrink's unearthly stories, as in *The Walpurgis Night* (1917), and *The Angel* from the

Western Window (1927).
 The *Golem*, written in 1915, was an immediate best-seller, selling two hundred thousand copies, and is by far the author's most recognized work. His knowledge of the English language was remarkable and between 1909 and 1914, Meyrink translated into German several novels by Charles Dickens. He moved about Europe, but spent the greater share of his later years in Austria and Germany. Gustav Meyrink wrote up until his death in 1932, leaving a wife and daughter.

J.R.

OPERA & MUSIC TOURS to Europe in 1988 include PRAGUE, BUDAPEST, & VIENNA. April 3-18, includes Prague Spring Festival with Opera and Symphony. Later the Musical Heartland of Europe: BERLIN, DRESDEN, PRAGUE, May 22 through June 4. Tours by Dailey-Thorp Travel, 315 W. 57th St. New York, New York 10019 (1-212-307-1555)

JARMILA NOVOTNA was in Praha last summer and was honored by the Czechoslovak Society of International Contact for her life long contribution to opera and Czech Music. She was presented with a gold medal.

Opera News, Feb. 1988

 Jarmila Novotna was encouraged to pursue a career in voice by Emmy Destinova (1878-1930). Novotna performed in Berlin, Salzburg, Vienna, San Fransisco, Chicago, Rio de Janeiro, and made films in Germany, France and the United States. In 1940 she appeared at the Metropolitan in New York City. It is said of her, "A great beauty and a consumate actress, Novotna's musicianship satisfied her time's most demanding conductors."

Excerpted in part from Hamilton's The Metropolitan Opera ENCYCLOPEDIA

mms

OH NO !!! If you don't pay your membership dues this will be the last issue of Naše České Dědictví you will ever receive!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Suggestions are always welcome. Let us know how we're doing. Anyone wishing to contribute material or articles for future issues please submit to John Rocarek, 1821 J St. S.W. Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

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This professor from the State University of Iowa was instrumental in the formation and initial success of the Matice Vyššího Vzdělání (Council of Higher Education), in 1902. Watch for his biography in our next issue.

IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE?

We don't have members in the following states:

- Alaska, Delaware,
- Hawaii, Louisiana,
- Maine, Mississippi,
- New Hampshire, North Carolina,
- Rhode Island, South Carolina,
- Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming.

Dear Members: Help us reach our goal of 100% representation. If you have friends or relatives in any of the thirteen states listed above, why not send them a gift membership? Shouldn't your organization have a member in each State of the Union?



DOUBLE? TRIPLE? QUADRUPLE?

If every member of the Czech Heritage Foundation sent us the name of just one friend or relative, along with a check for \$3.00 (one years dues), we would double our membership and double our capabilities. Think about it!

* * * * *

WHERE'S MY \$3.00 GOING?

- Here is a list of just a few of the fine activities your membership dues support:
- Czech Prince and Princess sponsorship.
- Publishing Dědictví.
- Adult Czech language classes.
- Support to Czech Museum.
- Homestay Ambassador Program.
- Czech group gatherings, such as dances and festivals.
- Numerous publications, My Czech Word Book, History of the Czechs in Cedar Rapids I and II.
- The list goes on and on...

Dues time is here again! If you do not have a membership card for 1988 then give yourself a present and renew your membership! Dues remain at only \$3.00 per person per year. Why not consider a gift membership to someone for 1988?

Please check proper item: Renewal _____ New Member _____ Gift Membership _____

Name (s) Ms., Mr., Mrs. _____

Mr. and Mrs. _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to Czech Heritage Fdn. Mail to PO Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA. 52406

Membership dues \$ _____ Donations \$ _____ Gift Membership _____

We appreciate your continued membership and support to carry on the projects, activities and goals to preserve our heritage and culture. THANK YOU.

Na Shledanou !

CZECH HERITAGE FDN.

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