

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

Vol. 13 - No. 2
June 1988

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



CALENDAR

1988

KALENDÁŘ

JUNE

24 - 26 Fri.-Sun. 8TH SOKOL CANADA
SLET, Montreal

JULY

4 Mon. FIREWORKS DISPLAY
Mays Island,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

AUGUST

1 - 3 Mon.-Wed. CZECH FESTIVAL
Wilbur, Nebraska
11 - 17 Week FOLKORAMA
Winnepeg

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

1 - 2 Sat.-Sun. SPILLVILLE
ANNUAL ARTS
FEST. (page 14)

DECEMBER

Details
in
upcoming
issues.

SV. MIKULÁŠ FEST.
Czech Village
SV. MIKULÁŠ
DANCE, Czech Fine
Arts Fdn. Cedar
Rapids, Iowa

VÍTÁM VÁS! GREETINGS!

Can you believe it? Half of the year is already behind us! The last six months have probably been the most hectic, as well as the most rewarding, for me as the president of your organization. As you read the newsletter you will see why, as I have reported on the many different events throughout the issue. The amount of support you fine people give our organization is unbelievable. On behalf of Mae and myself, a sincere THANK YOU! for all of your help and generosity. Without its fine active membership the foundation would not grow. I want to publicly thank my wife Mae for the support and help she has given me. Without her behind me the organization would be hurting! I better sign off, and 'till we have an opportunity to work together again- Děkuju!

F. W. Novotny, Pres.

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TOMMORROW'S HISTORY is being recorded TODAY, by Czech Heritage Fdn. board member Dorothy Simanek. By collecting information concerning important events in the recent history of our organization, Dorothy is preserving current news for future generations. If you have newspaper clippings or photographs from the last ten to fifteen years that may be of interest, please forward them to : Dorothy Simanek, Czech Heritage Fdn. P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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

NEW MAILING LABELS

Did you notice the new address label on the cover of this issue? Above your name is the year in which your membership dues are paid for. Yearly membership runs from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st. Dues may be paid at any time throughout the year. Those joining late in the year are granted membership for the following year. So if you have a number 88 above your name, your 1988 dues are paid. If there are any errors in YOUR new mailing label, please let us know right away. We try to be as careful as possible but honest mistakes do occur.

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"FINAL MOVEMENT" is the tentative title of a new movie being partially filmed in Northeast Iowa, and being produced by the American Screen Co. The movie is loosely based on the life of composer Antonín Dvořák. Miroslav Ondricek will direct the project, which is said to be the first movie to be filmed by an American company as a co-production with the Czechoslovak government. Only a glimpse of Iowa's beautiful countryside will undoubtedly reach the silver screen as principal filming of the new movie will be in Prague.

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MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

Why is the word "dollar" used for our money? During the 16th century, silver coins made in St. Joachimsthal, a town in Bohemia, were thought to contain the purest silver. This prized coin became known as the Joachimsthaler, a word that was shortened to thaler. In some places in Europe, the word became daler. This was the name of certain Spanish coins that were used in America before the Revolution. In 1785, when the United States Congress decided to start issuing money, they chose that word, now spelled dollar, for the unit of currency. Can you imagine?...Ten daler Swedish coins, issued in 1644, weighed over 43 pounds each!! From AMAZING FACTS by Waldman Pub. Corp. Submitted by Holly J. Upah, Rapid City, SD

"WE'RE CZECHS" is Robert L. Skrabanek's delightful account of growing up within a small Czech community in Central Texas during the 1920's and 1930's.

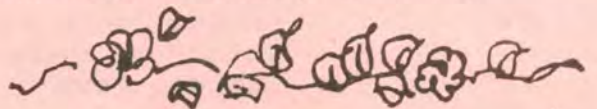
"Papa (otec or tatínek) and Mama (matka or mamínka) and all of their five children were born in Texas, but the way we did things in my boyhood days in many ways had a strong Czech flavor. Even though some fifty years had passed between the time my grandparents arrived in America and the date of my birth, I grew up in a situation which was like having one foot in this country with the other still in the Old Country."

"We're Czechs; they're Americans (My jsme Češi; oni jsou Američané), was an expression commonly used in our homes" (throughout the community) "as well as in our daily conversations... The expression seemed somehow or other to give the impression to us kids that we were a cut above the other white people who spoke English only and lived on small farms near our community." The author explains that it wasn't out of arrogance that the Czechs felt as they did about their non-Czech neighbors. The intense community spirit coupled with the inbred work ethic of the Czechs somewhat divided the lifestyles of the two factions. The language, mutual church affiliation, and family cooperation in the fields, not to mention the cultural and fraternal ties, bound the Czech community together in such a way as to inhibit the breakdown of the tightly-knit group by outsiders.

It was clearly a privilege to be of Czech extraction, Skrabanek writes - a privilege to be cherished and handed on to the next generation.

Robert L. Skrabanek is emeritus professor of sociology at Texas A&M University.

Number Twenty-five: Centennial Series of the Assoc. of Former Students, Texas A&M Univ. ISBN0-89096-365-7. LC87-18002. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2. 256 pp. 40 photos. Bib. Index. \$16.95 Order from your local bookseller or write to: Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843





Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

CZECH FINE ARTS FOUNDATION

1988 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MUSEUM HOURS

The museum is now open Tuesday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. During demolition of the old 16th Ave Bridge and construction of the new bridge, the Czech Museum will remain open!!

SPECIAL RECEPTION

On Sunday, May 22nd, between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. a special showing of the Oral History Project was conducted. Those interviewed on video tape were honored and excerpts from the Oral History library were shown. Donations are needed to proceed with this worthwhile venture. It is extremely important that we preserve our heritage for future generations. If you would like more details about this project, please contact the museum by calling (319) 362-8500.

CZECH SCHOOL IN ITS 118TH YEAR!

What is the oldest, continuously operating ethnic school in the United States? Why the Czech School of Cedar Rapids, of course! The purpose of the school is to promote interest in Czechoslovak culture and to offer youngsters the opportunity to learn more about our Czech Heritage.

Students become acquainted with the customs and traditions, history and geography of this beautiful country. Language is emphasized, but the student also learns of Czechoslovakia's art, architecture, music, literature; the list goes on and on. Youngsters learn the language by participating in recitations, choral readings, and creative dramatics. Everyday use of the language is encouraged.

Classes, being held at Wilson Middle School, began on June 6th, and will run through July 15th. Students, ranging in age from six to sixteen, meet from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday.

Not only does the program include daily classroom instruction and special guest presentations, students also look forward to the yearly fieldtrip. This year's trip will be to Pella, Iowa on June 27th. A traditional Ice Cream Social and Program culminates the summer's activities and you are all invited to attend. Tickets are sold by the students or may be obtained by calling Edward Kuba, Pres. of the Czech School Board at . The Social will be held at Wilson Middle School, J Street and Wilson Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids, on July 15th, at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy an evening of Czech song and merriment and especially good desserts. You won't want to miss it!

CZECH SCHOOL'S NEW TEACHER

Mildred (Millie) Peshek joins the staff this summer as instructor to the youngest Czech School pupils. Millie hails from the Swisher area and her maiden name of Bistřicky more than

cont.

qualifies her for the new teaching post. She is a former junior-high home economics teacher, and besides her most recent involvement with the Czech School, Millie also works at the Czech Museum. She lives in Cedar Rapids on the city's southwest side with her husband, Joe. Congratulations on your new appointment!

CZECH SCHOOL VISITOR

Melvina Svec came to my Czech class to talk about Czechoslovakia. She talked about a lot of things, like her grandparents who lived in Czechoslovakia. We learned many things from her. She was also my grandpa's teacher. She's in charge of putting the newsletter together with my daddy. She's a real, real, nice lady.

Ann Rocarek

T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

The Czech School of Cedar Rapids have T-shirts for sale! They are available in both children and adult sizes, are red (naturally), and in white lettering read - CZECH SCHOOL ČESKÁ ŠKOLA CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA. The shirts are also cleverly adorned with a school bell inscribed - EST. 1870. They sell for only \$6.00 and you can order by contacting Wes and Olga Drahozal.

countless children's books and texts. Large or small, his illustrations captured the national spirit and pride which he felt for the beautiful Czech countryside and its people. Aleš was a member of the artistic organization Umělecká beseda, and the first chairman of the art society Spolek výtvarných umělců Mánes. In his later years, Aleš's works were prominent in books and periodicals of which hundreds were published under the title "Špalíček".

Information gathered from biography by A.Vodrážka, Orbis Press Agency, ČSSR



MIKOLÁŠ ALEŠ (1852-1913), painter and illustrator, holds a special place in the hearts of all who have had the opportunity to view his works. He is best remembered for his simpler drawings portraying the rural everyday life of his native Czech countrymen. During his life, Aleš received almost no official recognition of his work, but maintained a small, but strong and loyal following. The artist graduated from Prague's Academy of Arts and presented himself to the public as the author of projects of epic works created for the foyer of the National Theatre in Prague. Before completion though, a split occurred between Aleš and the official representatives of the Czech artistic life, and he returned to his small drawings. The fruits of his labor adorned

JUNE gives strawberries and with the scythe the meadows are cut.

Czech Village

Cedar Rapids, Iowa



ETHNIC FEST '88

Again the Good Lord smiled on us and provided our celebration with two beautiful days. Eleven different ethnic groups furnished entertainment and food for an exceptionally large number of people. The entertainment was excellent and the food abundant. The Czech Heritage Foundation was blessed again this year with fine support from volunteers. Mae and I were exhausted by the end of each day, but with all of the fine helpers in our booth, the time went fast and we can now all look ahead. I wish to thank all who provided Czech bakery for our sale. We couldn't possibly succeed in ventures such as these without your kind assistance. With the help of our volunteers the Czech Heritage Fdn. continues to grow and meet its goals. Again, thank you for making Ethnic Fest '88 a wonderful weekend for all!

F. W. Novotny, Pres.

VILLAGE CELEBRATION!

The 12th Annual Houby Days were held May 14th and 15th. The weather was fantastic and we had a great crowd. The music was delightful at the bandstand. The bands added such a festive flare to the Houby Days Festival. Everyone enjoyed the breakfast of houby and eggs provided by the Czech Heritage Foundation. We had a number of participants in the 5000 Meter Race on Sunday. The houby contest was held and yes there was a number of houbys in spite of the dry weather.

We are gearing up for the Czech Fall Festival to be held September 10th and 11th. There will be a polka fest at the Roundhouse so plan to enjoy some good polka bands.

V.W.

HOUBY CONTEST WINNERS

Pat Martin..Best of Show, Lon Anderson..Best Display, Joann Serrie..Most Oddly Shaped Small, Darla Anderson..Most Oddly Shaped Large, Greg McGee..Largest, Darla Anderson..Tallest, Barb Casper..Best Small Display, Erin O'Meara..Most Original Display, Margaret Kadlec..Best Large Display.

HOUBY DAYS '88

By the time you read this, Houby Days will be just a memory, but a wonderful one for the Czech Heritage Foundation. We were busy both Saturday and Sunday and knew the Good Lord was looking after us. The attendance was very good and I do believe we had a wide variety of events, booths, rides, and music.

This year the Czech Heritage Fdn. served the traditional egg and mushroom breakfast with the net proceeds being donated to the Czech Village Assoc. When I offered our services I knew it would be a large committment, but with your help and continuous support, I was sure we would manage. The Czech Village Assoc. needed our help and I hoped I could count on everyone to pitch in, and pitch in you did. I was told to plan on serving four hundred on Saturday and eight hundred on Sunday. By the time eleven o'clock rolled around on Saturday we had served eight hundred seventy-five breakfasts. On Sunday we served nine hundred twenty-five breakfasts for a total of eighteen hundred.

With a little scurrying around on Saturday afternoon to get extra food we were able to serve all who attended. What a wonderful feeling, but how tired can a person get and still keep going, mentally and physically.

cont.

As a result, the Czech Heritage Fdn. presented the Czech Village Assoc. with a substantial check which was gratefully received. Mae and I wish to thank everyone for helping us make the Houby Day Breakfast a complete success. We had over eighty volunteers preparing and serving the breakfasts. All of the merchants helped in providing their share of the supplies, and the Ely Presbyterian Church Ladies baked two hundred dozen delicious kolaches, and I could go on and on- but I'll just say THANK YOU 'TILL NEXT TIME!

Frank W. Novotny, Pres.

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CLEVELAND ETHNIC RADIO PROGRAMS

WCPN 90.3 FM — SUNDAY

- NOON** SLOVENIAN, Tony Petkovsek
- 1 pm** UKRAINIAN, Roman & Stephan Zorij
- 4 pm** SLOVAK, Vladimír Mlynek
- 5 pm** CZECH, Joseph Kocab
- 6 pm** LITHUANIAN, Joe Stempuzis
- 8 pm** SERBIAN, George Djelich

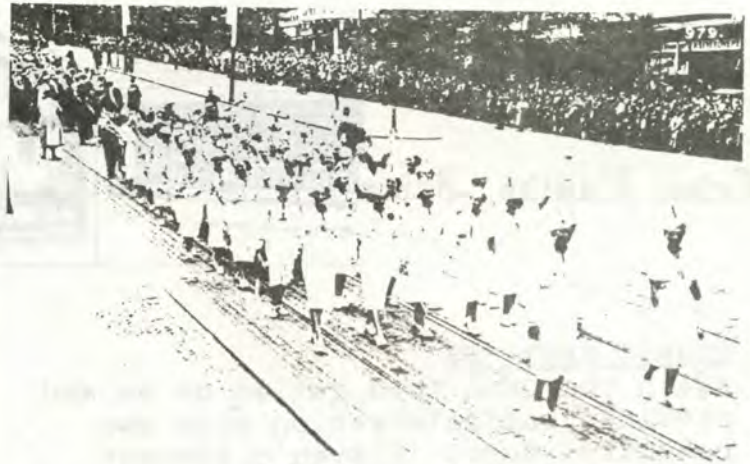
WERE 1300 AM — SUNDAY

- 8 am** SLOVAK, Joe Valencik-Joanna Oros
- 9:30 am** POLISH, Eugenia Stolarczyk
- 10:30 am** CZECH, Zdenek & Evelyn Prazak

OTHER PROGRAMS

- SLOVENIAN** Mon. thru Fri. 4-5 pm, Tony Petkovsek
WELW AM 1300
- CZECH** Thurs. 6-7 pm, Vaclav Hynar
WCSB FM 89.3
- CZECH** Sun. 11 a.m., Joseph Kocab
WRMR 850 AM
- POLISH** Sat. Noon-1 pm, Joe Szulecki
WCSB FM 89.3
- GERMAN** Sat. 11 am, Peter Weber
WCSB FM 89.3

We invite others to send in their own localities Czech radio programming. Since 1947 in Cedar Rapids we have enjoyed Czech music courtesy of KCRG AM1600. The Sunday Morning Czech Party airs from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m., hosted by Czech Heritage Foundations' very own Dave Franklin Kralik.



1938 Prague Slet



Photos from AMERICAN SOKOL April 1988

SOKOL SLET, PRAHA, 1938

It was luck and not planning that found me in Praha to see the next-to-the-last Sokol Slet. Throngs crowded the sidewalks along Václavský náměstí watching the groups marching. The Sokols from Pardubice sang a song about the "pernik" for which the city is famous. In the afternoon at Masaryk Stadium (now called Strahov), thousands watched the thousands of gymnasts on the field performing in perfect precision! Then the Skolky took part with their drills and exercises, with displays of colors and rhythm, alternating with the men's groups. The grand finale had some twenty thousand or more on the field. The stadium dates back to 1928, and its name was changed to Strahov in the 1950's. Since that time the Slet has been called the National Spartakiad.

M. M. Svec

Is "IT" the ČERVENÁ SUKÝNKA (Red Skirt Waltz) or the BLUE SKIRT WALTZ? Some forty years ago the waltz appeared in Czechoslovakia. Under the title of "Waltzland", it was recorded by Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadians. A record made in the CSSR had the title of "Dreams of Golden Prague"! According to the TIMES item from St. Petersburg, sent to us by Eleanor Pohorsky Elkington, the title BLUE SKIRT WALTZ is common in both Czechoslovakia and the United States.

ČERVENÁ SUKÝNKA

Když byla jsem malíčká
a do školy chodívala
vždy mé moje matička
do šatiček oblékala
Červená sukýnka musela být,
bez ní se do školy nedalo jít,
dnes takovou zase mám,
a nejradši ji nosívám.



Tu červenou sukýnku,
nejradši ze všech mám,
dnes večer ji obléknu,
az přijdeš, chlapče, k nám,
Sukýnku pěkně lemovanou,
zdobenou faldickama,
ať nikdy neuvadne,
láska mezi náma.

The following English translation of the Red Skirt Waltz tries to follow word for word as it is in Czech. The English translation may appear awkward because of the different grammatical style in each of the languages.

RED SKIRT WALTZ

When I was a little girl
and to school I walked,
Always for me my mother
into the dress clothed me,
Red skirt must it be
Without it me to school did not go
Today like it again (I) have
and best of all it I wear.

That little red skirt
best of all I have
Today evening it I will wear
until (you) come, fellow, to us
Skirt prettily trimmed in lace
set off with little pleats
that never will wilt
love between us.

Although the melody is the same for both titles, here are the words for the -

BLUE SKIRT WALTZ

I wandered alone one night,
"Till I heard an orchestra play,
I met you where lights were bright,
and people were carefree and gay.
You were the beautiful lady in blue,
I was in heaven just waltzing with you,
You thrilled me with great delight,
Then softly you stole away.

I dream of that night with you,
Lady when first we met,
We danced in a whirl of blue,
How can my heart forget?
Blue were the skies, and blue were your eyes,
Just like the blue skirt you wore,
Come back, blue lady, come back.
Don't be blue anymore.

An example of how verb ending agrees with the noun (subject) for chodíl, which means walked-
On do školy chodíl.
He to school walked.
Ona do školy chodívala.
She to school walked.
Oni do školy chodívaly
They to school walked. mms

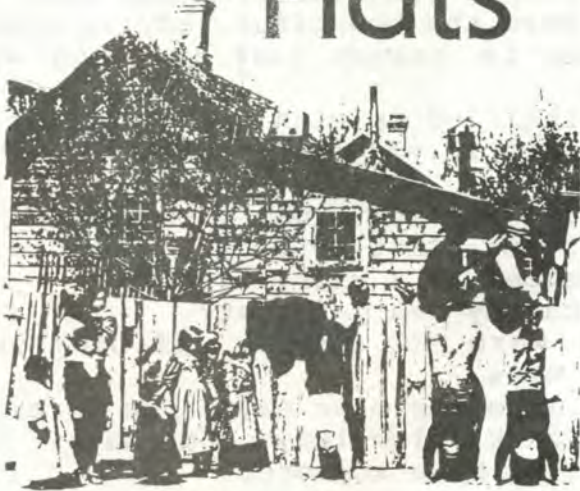
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LANGUAGES Those of you who have at one time or another been abroad, east, west, north, or south, most likely have met the word, ananas. The picture on the can of fruit shows a cut or a drawing of a pineapple! Here are a few other words you may have met:

Cech	English	Spanish	Turkish
čaj	tea	te	cay
káva	coffee	cafe	khave
fazole	bean	frihol	fazulye
cibule	onion	cebolla	sigav
barak	hut	cabana	buraka
banán	banana	banana	muz

Both ananas and muz are botanical names for the items. But WHY pineapple? Seems when the fruit was brought to England in the 1600's by a traveller, the spike-like appearance of the fruit suggested the "pine cone" idea. mms

The Bohemian Flats



Children playing on Bohemian Flats ca. 1895 (M. Eva McIntyre Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center)

As the books of the WPA's American Guide Series began to appear in the 1930s, federal administrators realized that an important story—that of the American people themselves—remained to be told. To tell that story "from the human angle" they initiated the ethnic studies project, aiming to produce books that were "colorful and interesting to the great American public." Many studies were started, but only a few were published before World War II put an end to the WPA.

The Bohemian Flats, first published in 1941, is one of those few. It is charming history of a small, isolated community that once lay on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, tucked underneath the Washington Avenue bridge. From the 1880s to the 1940s the village was home to generations of Swedish, Norwegian, Czech, Irish, Polish, and especially Slovak immigrants. This book's vivid descriptions of their traditions and adaptations offer an unusual insight into Minnesota's multi-ethnic heritage.

The Bohemian Flats discusses the early years of settlement on the Flats, the lifeways and celebrations of the residents, and the razing of most of the neighborhood in 1932; it also provides recipes "From the Flats Kitchens." This Borealis edition contains a new section of pictures of the Flats and an introduction by ethnic historian Thaddeus Radzilowski, who describes the genesis of the book in the WPA and answers more questions about the identities of those who lived on the Bohemian Flats.

Below are excerpts from this interesting study of life on the Flats-

"Hobbies of earlier days in another land were carried over to these Mississippi flats. Those who had herded goats or cows fashioned flutes from slices of bark. Farmers who in

Bohemia had whiled away the winter nights whittling dolls for their daughters, finishing them with gay paint, continued the craft."

"The women no longer wove fabrics from the flax they had raised, as in the old country. Instead they sewed dresses for the children from scraps of material on hand and from remnants... Many children of the Flats had never worn dresses with both sleeves matching until they began to go to school."

"In the early days of the settlement a doctor was seldom called down to the Flats, the villagers being more disposed to trust their own homemade remedies. If an old woman took off her wedding ring and tied it around the neck of a sick child, she was resorting to an old-time cure for fever. Bread and milk poultices, or bacon, or salt mixed with grass or cabbage leaves were used to heal sores and cuts."

To order send \$5.95 (Minnesota residents add 6% sales tax) to: Minnesota Historical Society, Order Dept. 742, 1500 Mississippi St., St. Paul, MN 55101

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Conversational Czech



Language classes sponsored by the Czech Heritage Fdn. will begin in the first part of September. Students will meet one night a week for twelve weeks. Some prior knowledge of the language is required. Graduates of the Czech Summer School interested in someday becoming applicants for the C.H. Homestay to Czechoslovakia should consider attending. Write to: John Rocarek,

p.m. or call after 6:00

MARYLAND CZECHS

Bohemia Manor, a tract of land in Chesapeake Bay country, was named by its developer, Augustine Herman, who is thought to be the first Bohemian on American soil. The land was bestowed upon Herman by the Governor of Maryland, Cecilius Calvert, after the Bohemian fashioned a map of Virginia and Maryland. Herman became Maryland's first naturalized citizen in the bargain (1666) and built a fine manor house which stood for nearly one hundred and twenty-five years. Now only parts of the foundation remain. THE CHESAPEAKE BAY COUNTRY by Swepson Earle, 1924, published by Thomsen-Ellis, Baltimore, MD describes the birth of Bohemia Manor and history of this areas founders.

From information submitted by J.R. Doupnik, Easton,MD

A gathering of friends that share a Czech ancestry is scheduled for October 28 in Baltimore. Last year in October the first annual Czechoslovakian Reunion was held at the War Memorial Plaza. Plans are underway now for its second meeting. Although bad weather plagued last years efforts, it is hoped that this fall's get-together will be as big a success, with or without the cooperation of Mother Nature. Contact Virginia S. Baker,

It sounds as if the Czech spirit is alive and well in Baltimore - Keep up the good work.

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WELL DESERVED RECOGNITION

On May 13th, Honorary Board Member Bob Kouba a.k.a. Lieutenant Commander Robert R. Kouba USNR(Retired) was Guest of Honor at the annual Pass-in-Review and Awards Ceremony at the Naval Junior R.O.T.C. Unit of Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, Maryland. Mr. Kouba is not only an important asset to our foundation, he is an active supporter of several other organizations as well. We're proud to have Bob Kouba as a member of our Czech Heritage Foundation.

The Bartered Bride

TV WORTH WATCHING

Iowa Public Television broadcast the University of Northern Iowa's production of Smetana's "The Bartered Bride" on the 3rd weekend in May. The play was directed by William Ferrara and the orchestra conducted by Jack Graham. The UNI students' portrayals were flawless and the music was exceptionally delivered. The comic opera was written by Bedřich Smetana and was first produced in 1866. "The Bartered Bride" was his chief work and is one of the most popular Czech operas ever written. Our hats are off to the University of Northern Iowa for a successful production and to Iowa Public Television for sharing with us such a fine performance.

Attention members! Please let us know when schools in your area are giving a performance of a Czech play or opera. We'd enjoy hearing about it.

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NOVEL CZECH HANDGUNS

Karel Michalek, of Gottwaldov, Czechoslovakia, is a maintenance man at his city's ice hockey hall. Four years ago when a visiting production company of "Holiday On Ice" came to town, Michalek saw his first American revolvers, a Remington Model 1858 and a Colt Single Action Army, that were being used as props in the show. Now Michalek makes handguns as a hobby, choosing not to duplicate the revolvers he has seen, but instead making modifications of his own design. His revolvers are handmade from polished wood and epoxy.

From the American Rifleman, July '87
J.R. Submitted by C. Jungman

From PAMÁTNÍK
ČESKÉHO NÁRODNÍHO SDRUŽENÍ
v druhém odboji 1939-1945
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA



NAŠE RADOST z osvobození Československa a znovuzkřížení národního ducha tohoto kulturního slovanského národa je tím hlubší a významnější, že má kořeny své nerozlučně spjaté s našim rodem . . . Killianova rodina se vystěhovala do Ameriky z rodných svých Čech v prvních letech šedesátých a nikterak se nelišila od set a tisíců jiných vystěhovalců, kteří se vydávali v těch dobách na dalekou, neznámou cestu za moře, aby tam vyhledali sobě a svým dětem lepší budoucnost.

Otec s matkou a osmi dětmi, z nichž nejstaršímu bylo jen čtrnáct roků, a dva páry pracovitých, mozolů se nebujících rukou . . . to byl souhrn tohoto přínosu do nové vlasti. Rodiče Killianovi si však přinesli také odvahu srdcí, lásku k domovu, chuť k práci i kdyby byla sebe těžší a neochvějnou víru ve šťastnější budoucnost. Někteří vystěhovalci zakotvili v New Yorku, jiní putovali k Pittsburghu a jinam, a Killianova rodina zamilovala do Nebrasky . . .

Slyšeli, že Nebraska se v mnohém podobá jejich rodné vlasti, že jsou tam řeky a lesy, roviny a mírné úvaly a k tomu hojnost lovné zvěře. Více si nepřáli! Položili základy k primitivnímu domovu a pustili se do práce. O tom, co museli překonat dříve, nežli vzali do úst první skývu chleba ze zrno, jež sami vypěstovali, možno se dočíst v historických záznamech o prvních českých uselcích v Nebrasce.

Za vydatné pomoci a přispění českého lidu vzkvetlo město Cedar Rapids i venkov . . . Všude, kde se usadili, plně využili výsad poskytovaných jim touto velkou, krásnou, svobodnou zemí, kde děti i oni sami měli příležitost rozvinouti své schopnosti, jichž ani jejich malá, rodná zem za mořem — na kterou nikdy nepřestali vzpomínati, nemohla jim poskytnouti.

Bylo to láska českého člověka k vlastnímu krbu . . . řemeslná dovednost a vrozená houževnatost a trpělivost, jež jest částí slovanského ducha! Ani náš obchod by nebyl tak velkým, kdyby v jeho základech nebyl ukryt tento rys české povahy, a jsme na to hrdí! Možno se proto diviti, že naše radost ze znovuzkřížení československého národa po více jak šestiletém utrpení a poddanství jest tak čistá a upřímná?

Při pomýšlení na všechno to, co musel český národ v minulosti prodělati a při pomýšlení, pod jakou tíhou bylo mu se probojovávat, aby nezahynul a neztrácel důvěry v lepší zítřek, musíme přiznati, že jsme hrdi na svůj český původ.

Věnováno českým pionýrům v upomínku na naše rodiče.

KILLIANOVI

Translation which follows courtesy of
Charles H. Vyskocil

Our joy in the liberation of Czechoslovakia and the resumption of the national spirit of this Slovak culture, is all the more meaningful that its roots are inseparably connected with our birthright. The Killian family moved to America from their native Czechoslovakia in the first years of the sixties and many thousands of other emigrants who began a trip to a distant land beyond the ocean so that they could find for themselves and their children a better future.

Father with mother and eight children, oldest was fourteen years old and with two pairs of hard working hands, not afraid of calluses, was the combination of their entry into the new world. The Killian family also brought with them the courage of the heart, love for the home, willingness to work even if it was difficult and the everlasting belief in a successful future. Some emigrants remained in New York, some moved to Pittsburgh and elsewhere and the Killian family moved to Nebraska . . .

They had heard that Nebraska resembled their native land, that there were rivers and forests, flat lands and some rolling lands with plenty of wild game. They did not care for more! They laid the foundation for their primitive home and began to work. About what they had to do before they could eat their first bread from grain they had raised themselves, can be read in the history of the first Czech settlers in Nebraska.

With the help and contribution of the Czech people, the city of Cedar Rapids became a reality . . . Everywhere they settled, they utilized the privileges granted by this large beautiful free nation, where the children and they themselves had the opportunity to enlarge their capabilities, something not possible in their homeland beyond the ocean - of which they never could forget.

It was the love of Czech people for their families . . . the mechanical skills and inborn tenacity and patience is a part of the Slovak spirit.

cont.

Even our store would not be as large if the foundation was not the hidden trait of Czech nature and we are proud of this. It is no wonder that our joy over the rebirth of the Czechoslovak nation is sincere?

Considering all that the Czech nation had to endure in the past so that they would not perish and not lose faith for a better tomorrow, we must admit that we are proud of our Czech origin.

Dedicated to the Czech pioneers in remembrance of our parents.

KILLIAN

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A COMPLETE SUCCESS!

The Benefit Dance for our Homestay Program was held on Sunday, March 13th, at the Eagles Hall in Cedar Rapids. The Ambassadors were introduced to the large group in attendance and as always everyone had a grand time. We want to thank all who contributed to the Bake Sale and those of you who worked so hard to make the evening a complete success.

C.H. Homestay
Program Committee

BON VOYAGE

By this time our Homestay Ambassadors will be on their way to Czechoslovakia for their month long stay. We wish each of them, Dan Chadima, Ed Kopecky, Colleen Novak, and Darcie Novotny, a safe and pleasant journey. Before you know it they will be back and filling us in on their Homestay experiences. Look for their reports in the next issue of Naše České Dědictví.

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CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

If you are interested in tracing your Czech, Moravian, or Slovak ancestry in Minnesota, you will want to be aware of this recently organized group. For details write to the society in care of the Sokol Minnesota SLOVO, 5604 Morgan Ave, South. Minneapolis, MN 55419

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MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!

The Czech Heritage Foundation was honored this year by being asked to

participate in the "Czech Night" at the Paramount Theatre, on May 7th and May 9th. We were invited by the Cedar Rapids Symphony and asked to wear our Czech costumes (kroji), and to serve kolaches and coffee before and during intermission.

Before the performance Dave Franklin and his Party Time Band played in the mirrored lobby and Alma Turechek spoke about the featured composers. Both pre-concert activities were enjoyed by the large number in attendance.

My own personal observations of both nights were the large audiences and the cross section of people attending. I was amazed at the interest shown by the younger generation in our Czech heritage. The concert was wonderful to listen to and I enjoyed watching the conductor and the marvelous way in which he lead the musicians.

All in all, it was great exposure for the Czech Heritage Fdn. We reached a new and different group within the Cedar Rapids population. Our volunteers enjoyed working with the Cedar Rapids Symphony personnel and look forward to the opportunity to be alongside them again soon.

Last, but not least, my sincere thanks to the ladies who baked the kolaches and to all who helped serve.

F. W. Novotny, Pres.



Czech Heritage Foundation members turned out in record numbers to enjoy the Symphony's exclusive Czech program. Composers featured were Dvořák, Janáček, Smetana, and Czech Heritage Foundation member Karel Husa of Ithaca, New York. The Cedar Rapids Symphony gave a spell-binding performance, and guest artist, violinist, Elmar Oliveira deserves equal praise.

The special concert was sponsored by the SCI Financial Group, Inc.

If you would like to see similar performances in the future, why not write the Cedar Rapids Symphony and let them know? Their address is: 201 2nd St. S.E., Cedar Rapids, IA 52401.

CZECH SCHOLAR VISITS IOWA

Ludek Broz, distinguished Czech scholar and theologian, has been a visiting professor this spring at the University of Dubuque theological seminary. He has been accompanied to this country by his wife, Bella Vera, and their adult daughter. Professor Broz is the head of the department of systematic theology in the Comenius Faculty of Protestant Theology in Prague. He is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, and the author of numerous publications written in Czech, German, French, and English on various religious topics. On April 19th he delivered a lecture at Coe College in Cedar Rapids on the subject of "Being Religious in Communist East Europe". On April 24th Professor Broz gave the sermon at Hus Memorial Church and returned to Cedar Rapids again on May 8th to preach at Westminster Presbyterian Church. It was a genuine pleasure to hear Professor Broz and to talk with him and his lovely wife and daughter. We wish them "dobrou cestu" as they return to their home in Prague. RJS

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CONGRATULATIONS CHUCK STASTNY, host of The Polka Show on WNAX Radio, for completing your first year of radio broadcasting. Both Chuck and The Polka Show have received many positive comments from these states across the midwest- Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. WNAX is a very powerful station reaching as far as four hundred miles in all directions from its home in Yankton, South Dakota. The Polka Show is heard at 5:30PM Central Time on WNAX, Five Station Radio, 570 on your AM dial. Chuck plays all styles of polka music and would like to hear from bands across the U.S. interested in having their music played at WNAX. Write to Chuck Stastny,

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CZECH CLUB - DALLAS, TEXAS

Write for this club's free Activity Calendar. Lists dances to be held at 4930 Military Parkway, Dallas, Texas 75227.

ATTENTION! HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 1988

Upon completion of your freshman year at college, you may be eligible to apply for an interest free loan. At least three of the requirements are: be of Czech ancestry, have acceptable scholarship rating, and in financial need. Write for application forms to: Council of Higher Education, P.O. Box 136, Brookfield, IL 60513. Grants are available for graduate study depending on the field in which you major.

* * * * *

BOHUMIL SHIMEK was born on June 25, 1861 on a farm near Shueyville, Iowa in Johnson County. At the age of four, young Bohumil and his family moved to Iowa City.

He grew up and was educated in Iowa City, graduating from high school in 1878. Shimek received a Civil Engineer Degree in 1883, and in this same year helped organize the first



DR. BOHUMIL ŠIMEK

engineering society in Iowa, drawing up its first constitution and serving as its first secretary. The young scholar taught for two and a half years in the Iowa City Academy, and for three years in the Iowa City High School.

On June 23, 1886, Shimek was married to an Iowa City native, Anna A. Konvalinka, and together they raised five children.

cont.

Shimek, for the next half century would be associated with the University of Iowa in Iowa City, with the exception of two years between 1888-90, when he taught at the University of Nebraska. In 1902 he received his Master of Science Degree from the University of Iowa. He devoted his entire life to education and research in the field of taxidermic botany and plant ecology, and was considered America's foremost authority on the prairies and native grasslands of the Midwest. Professor Shimek was equally knowledgeable in the fields of zoology and geology, and his research took him around the globe. His assembly of fossils and rock formations from the Central Mississippi River basin was the largest in the country. Because of his special interest in Iowa's loess* formations, Shimek became a pioneer in the study of soil conservation and the cause and effect of topsoil erosion. Professor Shimek served as head of the Botany Department at the University of Iowa from 1914 to 1919, and during his affiliation with the college wrote hundreds of articles, over fifty of which are listed in IOWA AUTHORS AND THEIR WORKS, 1918 Ed. As an exchange professor in 1914 he lectured for one semester at the University of Prague. The professors and students there were surprised to discover that their visiting scholar had learned to speak the Czech language fluently, without formal training and by self study only, while growing up in a small town in Iowa. As honorary chairman of the Geological Section of the Scientific Congress which met in Prague, Shimek found himself in Europe, in 1914, witnessing first-hand the beginning of WWI. An honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Prague was awarded him this same year, but because of war's intervention, Shimek didn't receive his honor until 1919, becoming the first recipient of such a diploma granted by the University under the direction of a new Czech Republic.

*(lō/is) wind-borne particles, finer than sand, which fall to earth forming layered deposits.

Shimek's career affiliations, (holding offices in most): Honorary member of the Botanical Society of Bohemia, Natural History Society of Prague, Geological Society of America, and the Iowa Academy of Sciences. Member of the American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science (sectional V.P. in 1911), Botanical Society of America, Ecology Society of America, Iowa Conservation Assoc. (Pres. in 1910), Washington Academy of Sciences, Sigma XI, Served as nat'l and state director of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Active in the Masonic Lodge, Shimek held several posts of distinction, the most prestigious of which were Assoc. Grand Patron in 1918, and Grand Patron in 1919.

The professor served on the Iowa State Geological Board, was director of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory at Lake Okoboji in 1912, 1916, and again in 1918. In other civic capacities he was also Johnson County Surveyor, a member of the City Council, Library Board, School Board, and Park Board of Iowa City.

In spite of his no doubt busy schedule, Professor Shimek always found time to assist his fellow kinsmen. Although an American by birth, his fervent love of the "old country" was evident as he spent countless hours on the behalf of his Czech brothers and sisters. He was a founder of the Council of Higher Education (Matice Vyššího Vzdělání) in July of 1902, preparing its constitution and by-laws and drew support for the organization by writing and lecturing about it. With the firm foundation that he and others built for the Council, Shimek went on to serve as this organization's president for almost twenty-five years.

An avid writer, Shimek was an editor for the official publication of the C.S.P.S. Society.

During WWI the professor lectured nationwide for the war effort, hoping to free his ancestral homeland and raise money for foreign relief. Shimek also served as president of the Czechoslovak Council in America. In 1922 his wife Anna died and on March 6, 1924, Shimek married Marjorie Meerdink of Muscatine, Iowa.

cont.

On January 30, 1937, at the age of seventy-five, Prof. Bohumil Shimek died at his home in Iowa City from heart disease and influenza. Surviving, were wife Marjorie; four daughters, Ella Shimek of Iowa City; Bertha, Mrs. Dr. P.J. Hanzlik of Cleveland/San Mateo, Calif.; Anna, Mrs. Milo O. Hanzlik of Cedar Rapids; Vlasta, Mrs. Dr. George Krepelka of Staceyville, Iowa; and one son, Frank J. Shimek of Kingston, New York. Perhaps Professor Bohumil Shimek's greatest memorial is the state forest in southern Iowa which bears his name. Within the borders of Van Buren and Lee counties lie 8,760 acres of land which make up Shimek Forest. This reserve stands as a monument to one of Iowa's greatest leaders. J.R.

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SPILLVILLE FALL ARTS FESTIVAL

On October 1st and 2nd, the St. Wenceslaus School Gym in Spillville, Iowa will host this event and you won't want to miss it. Doors will open at 10:00 a.m. The exhibit closes at 4:00 p.m. The Czech Heritage Foundation has reserved a booth and we hope to see you there. The Arts Festival is sponsored by the St. Wenceslaus Women's Guild. For more information write to them at P.O. Box 238, Spillville, IA 52168.

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NAMES OF PEOPLE, EVENTS, AND PLACES perpetuate the history of Czechs, Moravians, and Slovaks. Often the name of an organization, lodge, or group is identified by such. Some examples are - Havlik Borovsky, historian; Jan Kollar, author; famous cities such as Praha, tabor, Plzen, and Ceske Budjeovice; land features as Bila Hora and Rep; rulers such as Vladislav I (1120-1125), Queen Libuse,

-14- Svatopluk Cech (founder of the Kingdom of Moravia, Jan Zizka (Hussite General), and Jan Hus (religious reformer). Many others you will find in your own communities. Our thanks to The Fraternal Herald (WFLA newsletter), and to Frank Vlasak, Nebraska Director for the idea and some examples. MMS

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LANGUAGE TEXTS OF INTEREST

Modern Czech Grammar, Wm. E. Harkins. A complete, self-sufficient introduction to the Czech language including readings, exercises, grammatical explanations, and a basic vocabulary of about 1,200 words. 338 pp. Lists for \$29.50 SALE PRICE \$15.00 Columbia University Press, 136 South Broadway, Irvington, NY 10533

Slavica Publishers, Inc., Catalog #33 April '88 now available. Lists text and reference books. Many Russian grammars, teaching materials, etc. Catalog gives details of item contents. More than twenty in Russian, four Romanian, three Hungarian, two Czech, and others. Various volumes in modern and/or ancient forms of the language. Write Slavica Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 14388, Columbus, OH 43288.

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This Iowan of Czech ancestry was known the world over in philharmonic circles

cont.

around the turn of the century. Here's a clue to his identity - He had something in common with the "Final Movement" article on page 2. Watch for his name and the answer to this riddle in your next issue of Naše Ceske Dédictví.

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MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES were held at the Czech National Cemetery in Cedar Rapids on May 29th. The guest speaker was from Chicago, Lojza Kolařik, National Secretary of the C.S.A. Fraternal Organization. The Federation of Czech Groups coordinated the ceremonies which included music by the Czech Plus Band and vocals by the Czech Heritage Singers. The Czech National Cemetery Assoc. dedicated the association's new columbarium, by having a ribbon cutting ceremony in conjunction with the Memorial Day events. A large number turned out for the observance.

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LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL? WHY NOT A GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO THE CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION? GREAT FOR BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES!

Your \$3.00 donation does more than deliver four issues of the NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ to the lucky recipient's door. It also provides funds for various Czech Heritage programs. THANK YOU.

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Make check payable to:
Czech Heritage Foundation
P.O Box 761
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

THE DURANT POLKA FEST is billed as "The Best Polka Fest in the Midwest". It could be. If not the best, it most certainly qualifies as one of the Midwests' largest. Hours of the best polka music available in this area will be provided on September 8th, 9th, and 10th. There'll be dancing in the streets and plenty of good food. For more information write: Polka Fest, P.O. Box 452, Durant, IA 52747

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KOMENSKY SOCIETY AWARDS

President Victor F. Naxera has announced the names of six high school seniors who will receive \$400.00 scholarships from the Komensky Society.

The 1988 Vlastenky Scholarship was awarded to Danica Novotny of Linn Mar High School. The other five students are: Mark Goedken of LaSalle High School, Lyle Kolosik of Springville High School, Douglas Krejci of Jefferson High School, Christine Lechty of Kennedy High School, and Terry Tesar of Springville High School.

The recipients and their parents will be guests of the Society at its annual picnic in Bever Park.

The purpose of the Komensky Society is to provide aid for the education of students of Czechoslovak ancestry. To be eligible students must graduate from a Linn County High School and must attend a college, university, or other approved school in Iowa.

* * * * * RJS

CZECH FOLK FEST

Traer's 14th Annual Celebration will be held July 14th - 17th. Ten great bands from four states will provide over forty hours of music for your dancing and listening pleasure. Carnival rides, dance contest, arts and crafts, and much, much more. Adm. \$3.00 per day, Kids get in free! Sponsored by the Traer Lions Club. For more information write: Traer Czech Folk Fest, Traer, IA 50675

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We're always looking for interesting articles to share with our readers. If you have an item to offer, or if there's something of particular interest you would like to see featured, please let us know. Write to J. Rocarek,

PUBLICATIONS OF CZECH HERITAGE FDN.
1988 Price List

1. My Czech Word Book, ABC's, 26 pages. Words in English and Czech, Text and illustrations. 8th printing, \$1.50 plus*
 2. Album of Bohemian Songs for Piano, "Album Českých Písni pro Piano". Fifty-one folk and patriotic songs of Cechs and Slovaks, 62 pages. Words on pages facing music which has both clefs. 4th. printing \$3.50 plus*
 3. History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids, Vol. I., 1852-1942. Martha Griffith, 96 pages. \$2.00 plus*
 4. History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids, Vol. II, 1942-1982, compiled and edited by the Foundation. Same sequence of topics as in Vol. I. Vol. II has Index for both volumes. 112 pages. \$3.50 plus*
- Note: Purchase of Vol. I & II at same time, price is \$5.00 plus \$1.00 mailing.
5. Meet The Čech Language in Nature, Home And Our Heritage, M. Melvina Svec, 6th printing, 48 pages, \$2.50 plus*

6. The Czech Book, Recipes and Traditions, Pat Martin. 64 pages. Stories and colored pictures of costumes, people and bakery. \$3.75 plus*, by Pat Martin.
7. Czechoslovák Wit and Wisdom, 40 pages, \$2.95*. Sayings in Czech and English. National anthems in English: Where is My Home? (Čech-Kde Domov Můj?) and On Tatra (Mts.) It is Lightning (Slovák-Nad Tatrou sa Blyská) and the popular Prune Song (Švestková Alej). Music has both clefs. Pat Martin.
8. FABLES from Czechoslovakia, 36 pgs., 8th printing, \$1.50*. The Čech version, POHÁDKY naší matinky s tatinkovými OBRÁZKY, 48 pgs., 3rd printing, \$1.50*.

*ALL OF THE PUBLICATIONS MAY BE ORDERED FROM CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, Inc., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52406. ADD MAILING CHARGES, \$1.50 for 1 to 3 books. Organizations and merchants or groups interested in quantity orders (10 or more of one title) at wholesale prices write the Foundation at above address.

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