

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

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



Upper photo is of Vicki Newburn in Cedar Rapids.  
Lower photo is of Vicki in Antarctica.  
Her story is on page 6



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## NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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Charles Krejci  
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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

In this issue of Naše České Dědictví I would like to tell you about my own Czech Heritage. My mother came to the United States in 1921 at the age of 29 for opportunity and to join two sisters and two brothers already here. The Jansas, my father's parents also came from Bohemia, but my father, Louis, was born in Linn County, Iowa, near Western. As youngsters, my sister, I and brother spoke only Czech but quickly learned English as soon as we attended school.

My husband's grandparents, the Plocs, Chaloupkas and Voleskys also came from Bohemia.

In 1984, my husband, John, and I accompanied my mother, age 82, to visit her homeland and village of Javornice. We left on Labor Day which was 50 years to the day she arrived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It was a tearful, but happy, reunion visiting relatives, birthplace, studanka (spring), church and school.

In 1987, a family group of 6 took a tour of Europe stopping in Czechoslovakia to renew acquaintances.

In August of 1991, John and I enjoyed a two week visit in Moravia and Slovakia. We returned with two kroje (costumes) which belonged to my mother's family.

Even though we do not have plans to visit, we have fond memories of caring people and a country rich in culture. Prague must be one of the most beautiful cities of the world and we are proud of our heritage.

Adeline L. Volesky

## THANK YOU

Recognition must be given to those who helped label and staple Naše České Dědictví. Those working on the March issue were Dorothy and Lovell Dvorak, Frank and Mae Novotny and my husband, John Volesky.

Those working on the June issue were Martha Krejci, Leona Poduska, Frank and Mae Novotny.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

*Editor*



## HOUBY DAY WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the morel mushroom contest at Czech Village on May 16th. Trophy winners were as follows: smallest morel by Josie Schoeben of Marion; tallest morel by Mary French Donahue of South Amana; best large display by Larry and Arlene Spina of Cedar Rapids. The best display of small morels went to Jo Ann Ferrie of Cedar Rapids. Brian Howell of Cedar Rapids had the large oddly shaped morel. Jeremy Washburn of Toddville had the small oddly shaped morel. Norm Davis of Solon had the largest morel and John C. Volesky won the best of the show category.

Due to the cool spring, morels were not as plentiful but the attendance at the festival was great and the weather was exceptional.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! Here in the midwest we've had a soggy summer and some sections of our country are dry by the news we've been getting. I hope you haven't had insurmountable problems. It appears that nationally the weather may be becoming more normal. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who are struggling.

With the exception of a few rain glitches, our spring festivals were successful and well attended. We look forward to sending a contingent to Spillville, Iowa to help with their celebration of composer Antonin Dvorak's summer there as well as participating in festivities.

As I write this column, we have student ambassadors returning from their month-long home-stay visits in Czech Republic. I'm anxious to hear of the new sights and adventures they have experienced.

Recently you received a letter regarding our foundation's support of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. For those of us who can, a gift is a fine way of honoring our heritage. Thanks to those of you who have given in the past. There have been some very generous gifts but each gift is needed and appreciated.

Na Schledanou  
Dave Faltis

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Adeline,

Greetings from the historical 49er Gold Rush town of Mariposa! Fire season has come late this year, due to the rains. We have a bumper crop of deer mice though; these critters are to be found nestled in every warp & woof throughout the countryside.

Reading this past issue of the newsletter was a real pleasure. . . . I also serve as a tour guide at

the Mariposa History center. Schoolchildren are most zealous to hear the tales of begone times.

I am rather interested in the Army of the Czech Republic. I have been in contact with Lt. Colonel Milos Rydval of the Military mission at the Czech Embassy. The goal would be to develop a base of support, (much like that Israel enjoys in the Jewish Community) among Czech Americans. I'd like to see some Czech Military men attend schools such as the Sgt. Major's Academy. With a better base of support more along these lines could be accomplished. Please include my name & address in an upcoming edition of the newsletter so that others who are interested might contact me.

In August, Joe Churm, Captain US Navy (retired) will be presenting Special Agent James Hardy with a plaque from the American Czech & Slovak Assn. I'm coordinating the presentation. Jim has been a source of encouragement for years. We'll provide you with the details once the presentation is made.

With Best Regards & high regard for your efforts.

Bob Blecha, Lt. Colonel (honorary)  
Member, Czech Heritage Foundation &  
American Czech & Slovak Assn.  
P.O. Box 1486. Mariposa CA 95338  
Phone: [redacted]  
FAX: [redacted]

PS: Jim Hardy is out of the Fresno office of the FBI.

Dear Editor,

I am enclosing some information on Litomysl USA which may be of interest to your readers of Naše České Dědictví.

It might interest you that people living in Litomysl, Czechy are aware of our Litomysl MN as we call Holy Trinity Church of Litomysl. Last fall we had a fellow attending environmental conferences in North Carolina come out to visit us — just to visit Litomysl USA.

My husband and I enjoy reading your newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Mary Spinler

Dear Adeline:

Now you have Arkansas on your mailing list! I was thrilled to see my picture on the front cover of the June 1993 issue of Naše České Dědictví! I am so proud to have this Czech heritage.

My memories of the Czech school, the Sokolovna, Dramaticky Krouzek and the



Čtverlístek shall always be treasured. I have never forgotten the Czech language and I take advantage of it whenever possible. We visited Cechy in 1975 and 1979 where we met our many relatives. My husband Joe was born near Lúže in a village called Lozice. We hope to return to this beautiful country again.

Our best wishes.

Helen Sykora Valenta

## MASARYKTOWN, FLORIDA

When Milan Climbora entered school way back when, he had this little problem. "I didn't understand what they were saying," Climbora said. Around the house in Masaryktown, English was more or less a foreign language.

Time passed and Climbora, who first learned Czech, got the hang of it. These days, people get around fine in Masaryktown in English.

But the town of 2,400 which sits athwart the Pasco-Hernando county line, still retains the flavor of its original Slovak settlers.

Cows graze in a pasture at Psenka and Kostka Streets. Long-haul truck drivers on U.S. Highway 41 may blink when they spot signs for Hodza Street or Hviezdoslav Street — wondering if it time to pull over.

Masaryktown is pronounced "Ma-SAR-ick-town". Settlers, mostly immigrants and proud of their heritage, named their town in 1924 after Thomas Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia.

The north-south street are named after U.S. presidents, but one American president's name joins the honored group of Czech writers, poets and patriots whose names grace the east-west streets.

The east-west Wilson Boulevard is named for Woodrow Wilson, whose statesmanship was instrumental in cobbling together the Czechoslovakian state from remnants of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

The town's settlers moved from northern states where they had sweated through hard times in mills and mines and factories before heeding the 1924 call from a Slovakian newspaper editor in New York City to try farming in Florida.

They found a place with water so good that some credit it with helping residents live 85 years or older.

They were one of the last group of settlers

moving out onto the land to cultivate it. They joined forces to plant a cooperative orange grove—only to see it killed by a winter freeze. Some gave up and left.

But other, joined later by Polish, Hungarian and Lithuanian settlers stuck around. They got a second chance through poultry farming. Masaryktown residents called their town "The chicken capital of Florida."

Masaryktown attracts young people lured by the town's quiet, crime-free, drug-free place to live.

A few decades down the road, Masaryktown may lose its ethnic flavor, but today much of the older generation still speak Czech with one another. Ethnic flavor survives the annual Masaryk birthday celebration in March and on Independence Day in October. It survives with the Beseda Dancers, a traditional dancing group. It survives at the museum in the town's community center.

And ethnic flavor survives at the Masaryktown Restaurant — once the Masaryk Hotel built in 1925 by Milan Climbora's parents.

Now run by Alan and Judy Vonberg, who are natives of neither Masaryktown or Czechoslovakia, the restaurant still offers traditional dishes such as chicken paprikash and stuffed cabbage.

It draws customers from all over in search of tastes and smells of the old country.

Through the town's various clubs, residents celebrate birthdays, weddings and holidays together. They throw polka parties, drawing big bands like Frankie Yankovich's.

The people here love each other and care about each other. They share everything good or bad.

People from the outside come to church to Masaryktown because they like the togetherness.

*from the Tampa Tribune  
By Lovell Dvorak*





## BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN SOKOL Manufacturer of Solo Products

JOHN A. SOKOL was born in 1875 in Pilsen, Bohemia, near his ancestral home of Chodav. At the age of 14 he left for the United States, arriving in Chicago where he found employment in a grocery store. In spite of working 14 hours a day for a weekly salary of one dollar plus room and board, he found time to attend night school classes in English and business.

It was at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 (Columbian Exposition) that Sokol became interested in the importing business, and in 1895, at the age of 20, he bought his own grocery and coffee business, Sokol & Company. Within a few years he expanded to three retail stores. In 1899, he married Marie Bejcek, who had come to Chicago from the Strakonice area of Bohemia at the age of 18.

Sokol's interest in travel and adventure prompted him to sell his stores and move to Mexico with his wife and young daughter, Teresa, where he managed a coffee plantation and traded in spices, however, the Mexican revolution forced his return to Chicago where he resumed his wholesale coffee and spice business.

He never forgot the country of his birth, and during World War 1 he worked in the movement for Czechoslovak independence. After the war, he headed an organization which provided supplies for the new Republic. Sokol was instrumental in founding the Czechoslovak-American Chamber of Commerce, of which he became president. He traveled extensively in Europe to establish the direct purchase of spices and herbs from the producers. Sokol & Company was a major importer of Yugoslav sage as well as Czech, Polish and Hungarian poppy seed, dried mushrooms and other commodities.

Solo brand prepared cake and pastry fillings were inaugurated in the 1920's with the first two varieties, poppy and prune. John A. Sokol provided leadership for the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933-1934, and in 1937 the Czechoslovak Republic awarded him its highest decoration, the Order of the White Lion, for his lifetime of effort on behalf of Czechoslovakia.

In addition to his business activities, Sokol was active in civic affairs and served Chicago as Civil Service Commissioner and as Trustee of the Chicago Public Library. He was responsible for the organization of Boy Scout troops in the Czech areas of Chicago.

After Sokol's death in 1943 at the age of 68, Sokol & Company continued under the guidance of his son-in-law, John F. Novak. After Novak's death, Sokol's daughter, Teresa Sokol Novak assumed the leadership. Sokol & Company remains a family owned business, with Sokol's

grandchildren, John Sokol Novak and Mary Ann Sadilek, and great-grandson, John Sokol Novak, Jr. involved in the business.

Sokol & Company today manufactures a wide range of products including the well known Solo cake, pastry and dessert fillings, fresh fruit glazes, and almond paste as well as private label packing of products including anchovy paste and ice cream toppings at its modern facilities in Countryside, Illinois.

In 1997, Sokol & Company will celebrate its 100th anniversary in the food business.

*By Mary Ann Sadilek*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The June issue had a partial listing of voluntary donations received by our financial secretary Loyal Dvorak. Acknowledgements go to the following for their donations: George and Genevieve Lanka, Ken Lastufka, Mrs. Melvin Lenhart, Edna Lenicek, Mary Ann Lizotte, Blanche Long, Pat Lynott, Martha McGrew, David, Marcia, Kristin and Stephanie Machacek, Blanche Masek, Vera Matejka, Lillian Miller, Charles Mraz, Victor and Janice Naxera, Ed and Marie Nejd, Mrs. Otto Nichols, Mildred Peshek, Mary Ann Pochobradsky, Harold and Leona Poduska, Debra Polacek, Ed and Inez Popelka, Joseph Secl, Carolyn Shimek, Bruno Smid, Joseph Mike Swartz, Emil and Alice Terbl, Agnes Vavra, Emil Vellek, Phyllis Vesely, Marie Vileta, Jim and Karen Vlasek, Roman and Lottie Volesky, Mary Zezula, A. J. and Hana Koby, Rose Tomasek, Jeff Barta, Diane Roetlin, Don and Sheila Janda, Edwin Kral, Celia Werner, Harriett Zlatohlavek, Frank and Vlasta Fajmon and Marilyn Sychra.

## QUICK POPPY HORNS

2 cans (8 oz. each) refrigerated crescent dinner rolls

1 can Solo or 1 jar Baker Poppy Filling Glaze

1/2 cup confectioners sugar

1 to 1-1/2 tablespoon milk

1/4 teaspoon grated lemon peel

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease large baking sheet and set aside. Separate dough along perforations into 16 triangles. Spread with poppy filling over triangles. Roll up, starting at wide end. Place pointed end down, on prepared sheet.

Bake 12 to 14 minutes until golden brown. Remove from baking sheet and cool on rack for 5 minutes.

To make glaze, combine ingredients and stir until smooth. Drizzle glaze over horns while still warm. Let stand until glaze is set. Makes 16 horns.

*(This recipe is from the Centennial Celebration Cook Book by Solo.)*



## VICKI NEWBURN'S (I-O-W-A) IDIOT OUT WALKING AROUND

Vicki Newburn tells about her experience living at McMurdo Station in Antarctica. She is a resident of Cedar Rapids. Her great grandfather, John Hach, was born in Pilsen, Bohemia in 1853 and came to the United States in 1857. Her great grandmother, Anna Stepanek, was born in Prague in 1860 and came to the United States in 1866. They were married in 1880. Her grandfather, Edward Hach, born in Chelsea, Iowa, and her grandmother, Emma Modracek Hach, born in Cedar Rapids in 1891, operated a general store in Chelsea until the 1930's. The family home in Cedar Rapids is still occupied by her aunt, Delores Hach. Vicki's mother, Esther, was also a resident of Cedar Rapids.

Vicki was employed in communications when she decided she was ready for change and adventure. She answered an ad in a newspaper. Three weeks later she received a phone call from New Jersey. She passed extensive and exhaustive medical exams, personal interviews and received a contract. When she was issued a plane ticket, she was allowed sixty pounds of personal luggage. Her first treasure was a teddy bear as a constant reminder of home and a heavy duty extension cord for electricity.

A group flew on a commercial flight from Los Angeles to Christchurch, New Zealand where she had a ten day weather delay to McMurdo, Antarctica.

Her duties were to cater to the needs of scientists. Of the 1200 personnel, the ratio was two women to every eight men. The scientific studies pertained to health and performance of humans, behavior of Weddell seals and fish plus many others. Vicki witnessed the hole in the ozone layer.

Meals were reconstituted dry food, occasional fresh food and Antarctic fish.

Antarctica is a dangerous continent. Vicki attended survival school. She learned a lot about herself. She missed simple things like coat hangers and Kleenex. Sunday worship was often conducted by volunteers who attended. Worshippers were of various denominations and worshiped the same God but in different ways. Christmas had a spiritual significance because there were few material things.

Vicki's stay at McMurdo station was October 1988 to October 1989 and returned for a summer

support July 1990 to February 1991. She attended Hawkeye Community College and was in the United States Army Reserve 1974 to 1980 in the 404th Signal Company. She is doing radio talk shows and lectures. She is also writing a book on her experiences in Antarctica and should be finished this year. The title of her book will be *I-O-W-A - IDIOT OUT WALKING AROUND*. We wish you much success.

She is available for talks and can be reached by writing Vicki Newburn at

phone

or at Kuba Funeral Home, where she is employed. That address is 1228 2nd St. S.E., Cedar Rapids, IA 52401 and the phone is (319) 364-3301.

## ANTARCTICA

*By Vicki Newburn*

Antarctica is the coldest continent on earth. The world's lowest temperature was recorded in 1983 at Vostok Station of -128.6 F. Winds can exceed 200 miles per hour in just a few minutes making survival difficult. At the same time, Antarctica is classified as a desert. Annual snowfall varies from 6 inches in the interior to about 50 inches on the coast. It covers 5.4 million square miles and has 90 percent of all the world's ice and 70 percent of the world's fresh water.

Some 200 million years ago Antarctica was joined to South America, Africa, India and Australia in a single large continent called Gondwanaland. Today, only geological formation, coal beds and fossils remain as clues to its warm past.

That's where I come in at. The National Science Foundation is very interested in what lies within the deep frozen continent of Antarctica. They hire contractors to supply and build science laboratories, repair facilities, housing, water and power plus transportation. My first adventure to Antarctica I was hired for the Austral summer season which was from October through the end of February by ITT. My job title was General Field Assistant. Sounded like a fun job to me. Little did I know that a General Field Assistant is better known as a goffer., go for this, go for that.

My last touch with the real world ended in Christchurch, New Zealand, where I was issued cold weather clothing for the rest of my trip and for working in Antarctica. Here's a partial list of survival clothing that I was issued: Thermal



underwear, parka, bear paws mittens, bunny boots, balaclava, wool shirt and socks.

We left Christchurch completely dressed in our survival clothing on a Navy C-141 headed due south for McMurdo Station. It was a long journey, taking 6 hours to get to McMurdo Station. You could feel the temperature in the plane dropping the closer we got to Antarctica.

McMurdo is one of the United States' year round stations. It was established in 1955 and women have only been allowed to participate since the 1970's. It's built like a small mining town with all of its buildings above ground.

The living conditions for the women were Jamesway tents. These tents were used during the Korean War. They had wooden floors and at the back you found a covered walkway to the bathroom. I found a sign on the door which read:

#### **WARNING**

##### **Water Rationing In Effect**

**Personnel Are Allowed One-two Minute Shower a Week. Flush Toilet Only When Necessary.**

**Warning in Effect Until Further Notice.**

Now I could handle all of this as long as I stayed warm! There were only two times during the summer season that we were given the opportunity to spend the night in warmer living conditions because of incoming storms. The first storm, my roommate and I chose to spend the night in the tent. The second time we headed for warmer conditions.

There is still another bright side to look at. The United States Navy is also at McMurdo. Representing the U.S. claim on our stations located throughout the continent. They also furnished the transportation and communications back and forth on the ice and the real world. Plus the food! For me that meant no cooking or doing dishes. No fighting checkout lines at the grocery store.

Fresh fruit and vegetables came in only when the planes were able to fly. When the planes stopped so did the fresh food supply. In late February a vessel arrived bringing with it next year's resupply of food and materials needed for operating the stations. When the off load of the vessel was completed it marked the end of the summer season. McMurdo was about to close. The 24 hours of daylight were about to turn into 24 hours of darkness.

The summer population was about 1200 people on station. The winter over crew would drop to 120. At that time I was asked if I would like to join the winter over crew. I was told that I had

seen the best and the worst was about to come, but some how I just wasn't ready to come home. I wanted to experience it all. After all, I figured you only did this once! Little did I know that a return trip was already in my future.

I'm often asked, "Would you do it again?" My reply is still the same, "If God opens the door."

*Submitted by Rose Polehna*

## **LETTER DATED 1905**

May 21, 1905

Dear Relatives, especially you dear Mother.

Your letter dear sister received some weeks ago. I put off answering it until I felt better. Sorry to say my condition is no better — rather worse. If we could live all together and work together as a family, our lives would be better. Now each one works for themselves — that's not good. I work at the Packing House and make \$1.65 a day. My wife washes clothes for people and makes \$1.25 a day. May (Vampola) does housework and gets \$4.00 a week. Henry (Jambor) works and makes as much as \$20.00 a week but gives us \$3.50 a week. We bought a house for \$1500.00 — put down \$675 the balance to be paid \$14 monthly. House is beautifully arranged. It has 4 rooms downstairs and 2 large room upstairs and is furnished. Gas lights are installed everywhere, basement 2 pumps and summer kitchen. We have a lot so can raise vegetables.

I didn't feel well, was very unhappy — don't expect to live long. In your last letter, you wrote that you had a pay due postage on my letter. The stamp I fear must have come loose. Perhaps your letter dear sister will not reach me on this earth. I am sick of life. So my dear sister don't blame me or feel sorry for me and my unhappy life. I answered Joseph's letter and hoped we would again meet and I would be with my own in my old age. He never answered my letter. My hopes for a better life are futile.

Give my best regard to all and my first wife, Joseph and his wife and their family, also Mary Pavlovskou and Mary Malkovou.

I want to mention that letter which you said you had to pay postage for. The stamp must have come loose. I would never send the letter to you without a stamp on it. I am sending my regards and love you until death.

My address is:  
Frank Pecha



## MUSIC

(continued from June issue)

1941 - The Kenny Hofer Orchestra was organized in December to play for a New Year's dance. Through the golden era of the 40's and 50's he played in 500 different ballrooms including the Aragon and Trianon in Chicago. In recent years the band wintered and played in Texas. Kenny and the band received citations for outstanding service from the Nat'l Ballroom Operators of America every year since 1948. After Kenny's sudden death in 1986, Maxine, his wife, carried on playing the electric organ. The band is now led by son Tom while Maxine oversees the operation at Hofer's Ballroom in Walford, Iowa.

1942 - Leo Cole's Band is recalled by some people. They had a weekly half hour radio program from WMT when the station was located in the Paramount Theatre Building.

1977 - The Jolly Bohemian's Band, under the direction of Eddie Ulch, appeared at Polka Fests in states other than Iowa

1979 - The Czech Plus Band is made up of musicians most of whom are of Czech extraction. Their music is played in the traditional Czech style and tempo. The band's engagements range from church related Polka Mass to Czech Village celebrations. It is under the management and direction of Wes and Olga Drahozal who are trying to preserve the heritage that was passed down to them from their parents and grandparents.

1986 - The Party Time Band under the direction of David Franklin Kralik has 5 members. They appear at festivals, anniversaries and parties. They play Czech music as well as country and try to stay current.

1986 - The Czech Heritage Singers organized under the sponsorship of the Czech Heritage Ass'n. by Olga Drahozal. The aim of the thirty or so members is to perpetuate the beauty of Czech folk songs. The members dress in colorful costumes. The singers play a prominent part in Czech Village events and Memorial Day services. Particularly noteworthy is a program of Czech songs sung in the Czech language and then followed with the translation in English.

Another band that received national recognition is the Czech Artists under the direction of Art Simanek of Center Point. They received the honor of being selected to play in an extended 4th of July celebration in Washington DC in 1991.

A band directed by Leonard Reyman of Swisher, Iowa can be found playing for dancing engagements in this area.

The Ivanhoe Dutchmen under the direction of Becky Livermore are from the Solon and Mount Vernon area.

## KARLA MASARYK CHORUS

The Karla Masaryk Chorus pictured on the cover of the June issue inadvertently named Bessie Naxera as Bessie Neprash. Bessie Naxera is in the back row fourth from the left. Mitzi Gugenbuck's name should read Mitzi Gugenbuel.

## ŠKODA LÁSKY (Beer Barrel Polka)

The composer of the universally popular polka, Škoda Lásky (Beer Barrel Polka), Jaromir Vejvoda, was honored by his friends, neighbors and others on the occasion of his 75th birthday this past June, in the town of Modranec, where he now resides. Radio stations dedicated the day to him and played the many songs he composed.

Actually, the original title of "Škoda Lásky" was Modřanka named after the town in which he first played this song. Vejvoda, who was a band leader, was born in Zbraslav, a small town near Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia. The Czech words to "Škoda Lásky" were written by Václav Zeman, who Vejvoda had never met.

Although this polka was written 50 year ago, it did not become popular until the late 30's. When the German Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia in 1939, thousands of Czechoslovak airmen and soldiers fled to France and England and enlisted in the armed forces to fight against Hitler. They brought the song "Škoda Lásky" to England where it was translated (freely) into the "Beer Barrel Polka." Ironically, it was sung by most of all of the allied forces and by the enemies also. (In the German version the title is "Rosemunde," the name of a girl.). It was one of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's favorite songs. When he visited Czechoslovakia after the war in 1945, he met Vejvoda and presented him with a special citation — because "Vejvoda's polka" helped a little in winning the war.

Actually, the worldwide popularity of "Škoda Lásky" never brought much financially to Vejvoda. In 1936, he sold all rights to his polka for which he received a royalty of about \$5,000. The Communist regime made this polka national property, and any money which he may now receive is confiscated.

Ed Stetka

*From American Sokol  
Submitted by Chas. Krejci*





## EMMA BIDERMAN

(celebrated 107th birthday in April)

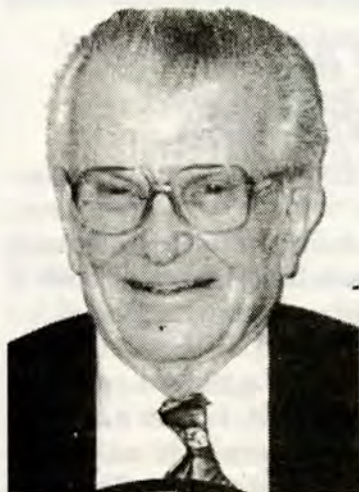
Emma Biderman is one of the top 50 oldest Iowans. She was born April 3, 1886, the year the Statue of Liberty was dedicated. Her parents, Joseph and Anna Cerny Erenberger, were Czech immigrants. The Erenbergers and their six week old son, Joseph, left Bohemia. Other children were Anna, Mary, Josephine and Emma the youngest of the family. She attributes her longevity to good health and hard work. In an interview, she said she baked kolaches on Saturday with prune filling her favorite. She also baked zelniky (cabbage rolls), houska and rolls. She had a big garden and helped the men in the field and raised ducks and chickens.

She has seen three of her children celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

For the past two years Emma has been a resident of Halmar in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

*Biography follows in next issue.*

## TOP FRATERNALIST



Frank Novotny

Frank Novotny, a 45-year member of Western Fraternal Life Association's Lodge No. 7 in Cedar Rapids, was named WFLA's Fraternalist of the Year.

The award is presented to the member who has demonstrated outstanding service, accomplishment and dedication to fraternalism. Frank was chosen from nominees submitted by local lodges.

WFLA has 177 lodges throughout the United States.

In addition to WFLA, Frank is an active member of Czech Heritage Museum, the Federation of Czech Groups, Fidelitas Lodge, Fairest Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Mercy Prime Timers, Senior Advocates, Ely Friendship Senior Citizens and Fairfax Never-Too-Old Seniors. He served as a 4-H leader for 15 years, organized the College Community School Community Club and the Band Parents. He has been involved with the Homestay project which sends young people to Czechoslovakia for a four-week visit. Frank has twice been the recipient of the Governor's Leadership Award.

*Cedar Rapids Gazette, Wed., June 23, 1992*

## PUZZLE BY JENNY QUELL

P B C D O A M D G Z I F B N M K I D  
R I U L C H V T H R Z E D T N A C H  
D O P A P O E S Y F R N Y L M A P N  
T Z E M S H Z T A B U L E R D Z I A  
E I D P F I O N I L T K T H F I R K  
I A R A T E R B E U E F D R H D B A  
B V L N A K E T N L L V C V R L A H  
S B L O S T P E V E L N H O E E C I  
R D B A R E R K M Z Y F V F T R H N  
O N I T J N Z N T U N S U S P M E K  
K S Z B K K N U D I M T Y B H A M  
N V M D R H A B Z R D O I R A Z R O  
O B H I T S H N K T O P Z T O K P K  
N A P M O T I D A H H D Y F R P U F  
H A K S K U T P M K C H K V A I O P  
P I D A N L F S V E T L O H B D I S

Translate the English words to Czech. Then find them in the puzzle and circle them. (horizontal, vertical or diagonal.)

LAMP	CHALKBOARD
LION	WINDOW
BOOK	DOORS
PAPER	LIGHT
PENCIL	MAP
PEN	TABLE
WALL	CLOCK
CEILING	CHAIR
FLAG	

For answers and translations see page 11.





## St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church Iowa City

In September, St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church will celebrate a century of service to the Iowa City community.

Construction on St. Wenceslaus began on April 15, 1893. Work on the 40 x 80 foot brick building was completed by September of the same year. On Christmas Eve of 1893 St. Wenceslaus held its First Mass in the new church.

St. Wenceslaus was built to serve Iowa City's Czech-Bohemian population. Located at the corner of Dodge and Davenport streets — in the heart of Iowa City's Czech-Bohemian "Goosetown" district — St. Wenceslaus served as a house of worship and a community gathering place for Czech-Bohemian residents.

The first Bohemians came to Iowa City in 1865 from the Bohemia district of Austria. A year later, fleeing political and religious oppression before and after the 1866 Austro-Prussian War, large numbers of Bohemians came to the Iowa City area. By the time St. Wenceslaus was built, 20 percent of Iowa City's population was of Bohemian descent.

At first Bohemians worshiped at Iowa City's St. Mary's Catholic Church, but St. Mary's held

its worship services in German—a language most Bohemians couldn't understand. Bishop Harry Cosgrove recognized the need for a church to serve this growing ethnic population.

Construction of the church cost only \$7,000. Most of the work was done by parishioners—many of whom were skilled carpenters, stone cutters, roofers and plasterers. Many of the houses in the "Goosetown" neighborhood were also built by these skilled tradesmen.

Iowa City's Czech-Bohemian population continued to grow during the first two decades of the 20th century. St. Wenceslaus grew right along with the city. In 1921, the church was expanded to accommodate the growing number of parishioners.

Expansion of St. Wenceslaus cost eight times as much as building the original, but it is the only Iowa City church constructed in the crucifix architectural style.

Today St. Wenceslaus serves some 600 families in the Iowa City area. Its centennial celebration on September 26, just two days before the feast of St. Wenceslaus, will honor the church's Bohemian-Czech heritage.

*Credit to Nancy Witt, KWWL Newspaper, May 1993*



*Holy Trinity Church and rectory of Litomysl,  
Owatonna, Minnesota*

## LITOMYSL USA

Litomysl USA does exist. This is a Czech community about 10 miles south of Owatonna, Minnesota. At one time immigrants from around Litomysl, Czechoslovakia settled here and built a church in 1878. In 1940, a new and beautiful stone church was built which was called Holy Trinity Church of Litomysl. We have a resident pastor and a parochial school (St. Isidore's School) still open with all 8 grades. Every year we hold a huge festival on the last Sunday of July. The purpose of this festival is to raise money toward the



operation of the school.

On May 16, 1993 we held our 4th annual Czech Music Fest at 4:00 P.M. featuring music by Dvorak and Bedrich Smetana and other Czech composers. This music festival was held in honor of Bedrich Smetana, who was born in Litomysl, Czechoslovakia over 200 years ago. The music was performed by a group of professional musicians from the Twin City area including Young-Nam Kim and Daria Tedeschi on the violins; Michael Adams - viola; Anthony Ross - cello; and James Howsman - piano.

Following the concert, a traditional Czech dinner was served in the church dining hall with the menu consisting of pork, dumplings, sauerkraut, rye bread, filled biscuits and dessert. The concert was free to the public.

The Litomysl community is located about 10 miles south of Owatonna on Steele Co. Road #45 and 2 miles east on Steele Co. #14 or from Austin, Minnesota, take Highway 218 to Bixby and about 5 miles west of Bixby on Steele Co. Road #14.

My husband and I have traveled to Czechoslovakia 4 times. Last time was 1992. I have many cousins living there. At the present time, one of our sons has a Czech student living with them and attending school in New Richland, Minnesota. His name is Steve Aser. His future plans are to attend an American university to study business. Two years ago we had a Czech cousin, Martina Sisrova, staying with us for 6 months mainly to observe the American way of life.

I hope some of this will be of interest to you and your readers.

*By Mary Spinler*

## KOMENSKY SOCIETY AWARDS THREE SCHOLARSHIPS

Chairman Vic Naxera has announced the names of three high school seniors who received a \$500 scholarship from the Komensky Society.

The 1993 winners are: Vlastenky Scholarship to Linda Lechty of Kennedy High School, Cedar Rapids, attending UNI and regular scholarships to Sarah Novotny of Washington High School, Cedar Rapids, attending ISU and Alissa Conway of North Linn High School, attending Loras College.

The recipients and their families were guests of the Komensky Society at a picnic that was held in June at the Grandview pavilion in Bever Park.

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

*Robert J. Stone*

## CZECH SCHOOL

This year the Czech school program centered around the "Celebration of Anton Dvorak's visit to America." On June 21st, the students and chaperones took a field trip to Spillville. At the close of the school year, a program was held in the Wilson School auditorium followed by the customary ice cream social.

The teachers were Bessie Dugena, who had 26 students ranging in ages 6 to 8. Leona Poduska had 18 students, ages 9 and 10. Olga Drahozal had 20 students, ages 11, 12 and 13 plus.

## Answer to Puzzle on Page 9

LAMP - LAMPA

LION - LEV

BOOK - KNIHA

PAPER - PAPIR

PENCIL - TUŽKA

PEN - PERO

WALL - ZED

CEILING - STROP

FLAG - VLAJKA

CHALKBOARD - TABULE

WINDOW - OKNO

DOORS - DVEŘE

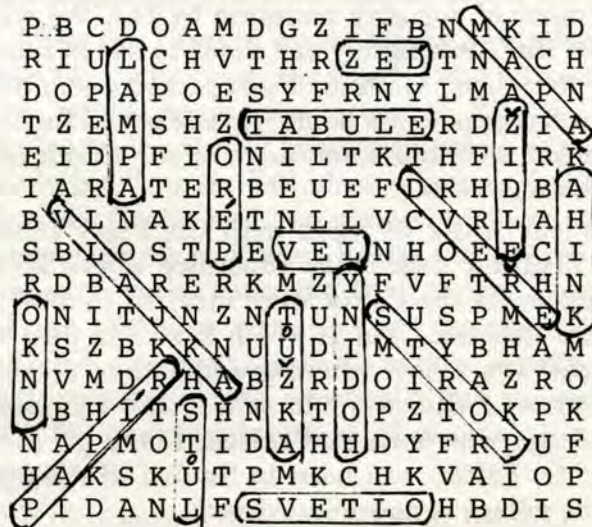
LIGHT - SVĚTLO

MAP - MAPA

CLOCK - HODINY

CHAIR - ŽIDLE

TABLE - STŮL





## OUR TRIP TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The beginning of our trip to Czechoslovakia started five years ago when Mae and I hosted Vladimir Pisek, one of three plowmen that represented the Czechs in the World Plowing contest at the Amana Society in Iowa. Vladimir stayed with us for two days and insisted we visit his family at his home at Vraskow near the Rip Mountain north of Prague.

During the summer we again hosted Doc. Ing. Jiri Erbes (Professor) from the Univ. of Agriculture in Brno for five days. In February of this year, we had Jiri Erbes and Prof. Zdenek Posvar and they too insisted we visit them.

Also Clarence and Arlene Netolicky hosted Tony Andrak during the summer and in February Jela Tvrdonova stayed with Arlene for 2 days. In 1992, our grand daughter stayed with the Josef Tuma family in Prague and wanted us to visit, so we had seven good reasons to visit friends in Czechoslovakia.

We left June 9, the four of us, Mae, myself, Arlene and Sarah for an adventurous two weeks. We arrived at Prague airport aboard a Czech plane two hours late and were greeted by Jiri Erbes and a driver from Brno who was going to take us to Brno for the first four days of our visit. Also waving his hands and grinning from ear to ear was Vladimir and his wife with gifts and assurance we had plans on staying with them. After a four hour trip to Brno, we were wined and dined by each of the three families. We then went to Nitra where Jela Tvrdonova was connected with the University. We stopped at Bratislava where Arlene had a chance to visit Tony and his family. Then we were off to Prague for the remainder of our stay traveling by bus. We were met by the Tuma family and made to feel at home. After four days, Vladimir Pisek picked us up with all our baggage to his home. No one spoke English there but with our knowledge of the Czech language we got along.

It was while we were with the Pisek family that Vladimir took us to Sopotnice where Mae's grandparents the Faltis' were married in 1870 in a small Catholic Church which is still in use. We also saw the school where grandmother Theresa (Martines) Faltis went to school and the home where she was born and raised. Mae's grandfather, Mr. Faltis, was born in Sv Jiri (St. George) but the village is now non-existent.

If we were to tell you about everything we did and saw and the treatment we received, there would be no room for anything in the newsletter. We feel that the people are happy and progressing toward a normal life. Their hospitality is tremendous and they insist we come back and hopefully we shall try in a couple of years. Again, we say if you have any roots in Czechoslovakia it will be a trip of a lifetime. Our sincere thanks to the families of the Lancas, Erbes, Posvars, Tumas, Tvrdons and the Piseks.

Na zdar a na shledanou Mae and Frank Novotny, Arlene Netolicky and Sarah Novotny.

## CZECH PRINCE & PRINCESS

It is again that time to have the young people of our area be advised about participating in the annual crowning of our Czech Prince & Princess.

The deadline for entering is Oct. 1st of 1993 and the crowning will be October 30th at the Masquerade (Sibřinky) dinner dance at the Sheraton Inn on 33rd Avenue in Cedar Rapids held in conjunction with the ground breaking for our new National Museum and the Genealogical Cultural Conference.

The requirements are 12 to 16 years in age, of Czech background and a resident of Cedar Rapids and surrounding area. They will be personally be interviewed by a panel of unbiased judges and crowned on the evening of the 30th of October. Crowns will be awarded to the prince and princess along with a kroj for the princess and a Czech outfit for the prince.

Please apply for application forms and more information from any committee member — Florence Dvorak,

; Marcie Machacek,

; Leona Kaplan,

## CZECH HERITAGE HOME STAY PROGRAM

Tamara Chadima, Brian Dvorak and Jamie Serbousek will present a program about their one month stay in PRAGUE with a host family this summer. Each received a \$1000 scholarship from the Czech Heritage Fd'n.

The program will be held Sunday, Oct. 3 at Asbury Methodist Church, 336 27th Ave. S.W at 3:00 p.m. There is no admission and is open to the public.



# HISTORY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GLASS 1350-1506

## MEDIEVAL ERA

The Czech Lands of Bohemia and Moravia lie in the very heart of Europe surrounded by mountains and forests. When the Slav tribes settled the area, the natural resources aided the country's economic and cultural development. The silica in Bohemia's mountains, the water power of the streams and wood available became the basis for development of famed Bohemian glass.

Glass manufacturing was established in the area during the period of Celts settlement in Central Europe when glass beads and bracelet production in Bohemia is first documented. Invasions by Germans eradicated the Celtic culture and also disrupted Czech glass production.

Archeological discoveries of the sites of Slav settlements from the eighth and early tenth century discovered glass furnaces in Nové Město Na Moravě and Nitra in Slovakia. Archeologists discovered glass workshops in Olomovec, Moravia, manufactured beads and rings dating to the eleventh century.

Jan III, Bishop of Prague, ordered the enlargement of the narrow Romansque windows of the St. Vitus basilica in the Prague castle and the installation of two stained glass windows from the Old and New Testaments in 1276. Unfortunately, a chronicler's report is the only record of these now lost stained glass windows.

Full development of glass manufacturing did not occur until the reign of Charles IV (1346-1378), King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor. Charles IV was a patron of the arts. During the fourteenth century and beginning of the fifteenth, a total of twenty glassworks were established. Sheet glass was being manufactured by the cylinder technique, vessels, roundels and mirrors were also produced. Charles IV made Bohemia the center of his entire empire and worked to make Prague as prosperous as other European cities. He founded the New Town of Prague in 1348 and ordered the construction of cathedrals, castles and palaces. This construction stimulated the glass industry. Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini, later Pope Pius II, mentioned in 1458 that during his visit to Bohemia he had seen more

beautifully decorated windows than were possessed by any other kingdom in all of Europe and "not only in big cities but small villages as well." Unfortunately during the wars in the Czech Lands, few windows were preserved.

The stained glass windows of Žebnice (about 1330), St. John the Baptist panel in Osek before 1360 and the Crucifixion in Karlštejn Castle before 1370 are outstanding examples of stained glass art.

During the reconstruction of St. Vitus Castle, the southern portal was built in 1366-1367. The mosaic "The Last Judgement" was installed and is unprecedented and never surpassed work in Bohemia. The eighty-five square meter surface contains glass tesserals in some 30 different shades including some produced by overlaying transparent glass on gold foil. The complex process was mastered at such an early date in Bohemia is surprising.

Distinctive glass mirrors were also made. A spectacular example is in the castle at Karlštejn. The ceiling was decorated at the direction of Charles IV with mirrors of yellow thin walled glass lined with gold foil.

Bohemia had become a leader in glass production in Central Europe in the second half of the fourteenth century and probably exported glass before then. We know that glass was ordered in 1378 from Hlohovec in Silesia from a north Bohemian glassworks.

The Hussite Wars (1419-1436) erupted after the death of Wenceslaus IV and weakened by strife delayed glassmaking development. Only roundels and crests of the Bohemian Crown Land and the Imperial Crest are notable of this period.

After the Hussite strife, Georg of Poděbrady (1458-1471) stabilized the Czech Land. Bohemian silver mines, among the richest in Europe, contributed to the state's prosperity but to economic instability. Two stained glass windows from the Křivoklát Castle and two stained glass windows from the church at Prague Karlov (1502-1506) are important works surviving that period. The production of these windows marks the end of medieval glassmaking in Bohemia, a period of great importance both artistically and technologically for the development of glassmaking in Bohemia.

*From the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, N.Y.*



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR BREAKS INTERNATIONAL BARRIERS

*By Dee Ann Rexroat*

It's trite but true: Music is the international language.

No one questioned that fact when locals came in from the rain and packed the first floor of the Paramount Theatre to hear the Prague Children's Choir. One of its Czech folk songs was called "It's Raining" and featured the musical pitter-patter of falling raindrops. The audience lapped it up.

Americans also related to several Negro spirituals sung in perfect English, and to the J.S. Bach and Schubert versions of "Ave Maria."

The spirited choir of 30 girls and five boys had just come from Des Moines, where it won an international choir contest last weekend. It's no surprise this serious children's choir, with its pure, vibrato-less tone and absolute intonation, won grand prize.

The children don't smile but they have personality. They sway their heads and bodies freely to the music, which seems to keep them from sounding stiff.

The program began with a litany of short European classical works dating back to Renaissance composer Praetorius and forward to Berlioz and contemporary Czech composers. Frequent soloists sang with birdlike clarity, even without microphones. The choir alternated between a cappella and accompaniment by a fine young company pianist.

After intermission, several unidentified soloists sang with piano accompaniment and then the well-rehearsed choir returned for Czech folk songs and the spirituals "Yonder Come Day" and "Nobody Knows." The choir finished the evening with its most popular hit in Des Moines, Oscar Peterson's "Hymn To Freedom," which moved the audience because of its relevance both to its native Czech Republic and to our recently celebrated Independence Day.

Following a standing ovation, founder-conductor Cestmir Stasek led the children in a mystical encore by the Baroque composer Buxtehude.

This is the choir's first U.S. tour, and according to a choir associate, the first trip to America for every one of its members. Stasek founded the non-profit group in 1949.

*Reprinted with permission by  
The Cedar Rapids Gazette*

## 3rd CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL/CULTURAL CONFERENCE

**OCTOBER 28-31, 1993**

Hosted by The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International and  
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library,  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l (CGSI) is holding its 3rd Genealogical/Cultural Conference — with the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (CSML) as co-host.

The two groups are the largest of their kind in North America. CGSI has over 2,100 members. CSML features an authentic immigrant home, and the finest public collection of Czech, Moravian and Slovak national costumes and other artifacts.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** The Sheraton Inn — Cedar Rapids, Iowa will be the site of the conference. It is located just off I-380 at 33rd Ave. exit. A map will be provided with your confirmation letter. Free transportation to and from the Cedar Rapids Airport. Special reservations rates of \$55.00 per room (1 to 4 persons) is available through October 6, 1993. Amenities include: indoor swimming pool, sauna, game room, exercise room, free in house movies and satellite TV. To get this rate, you must call Sheraton Inn at 319-366-8671 by Oct. 6. To get the special room rate, you must tell them you're coming to CGSI Conference. Please reserve your room early.

**AIRLINES:** United Airlines, the official conference airline, is offering special discounts to conference guest. Call 1-800-763-0407 for reservations, and mention the Czechoslovak Conference.

### SPECIAL CULTURAL EXHIBIT

More than 100 pieces of rare Bohemian, Moravian & Slovakian folk dress and folk art from the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection will be on display October 6-31 at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. This is the finest known private collection of such artifacts, and the collector has agreed to give special presentations before and after the conference.

### PARADE OF KROJE

A highlight of Friday evening's reception will be a fashion show of national costumes (from the Czech Republic & Slovakia). We want to encourage you to wear your costume and have the details described by Helene Cincebeaux. To participate, please send details of Kroje such as the town of origin, age and any historic or family significance to: Kroje, P.O. Box 5398, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-5398 by Sept. 1. If you don't know the background, send a photo or describe it by colors, materials and types of decoration: lace, cutwork, etc. We will play music from the area of the Kroje as it is modeled. Prizes will be awarded to all who participate.

### GROUNDBREAKING, OCT. 28th

Join Slovak Charge d'Affaires Milan Erban and Charlotta Kotik for the groundbreaking of the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

For more information about these events call (319) 362-8500.





## COMING EVENTS

- Sept. 10 Concert 7 p.m. - Czech Plus Band  
Bandstand, Czech Village
- Sept. 12 Czechoslovak Day Festival,  
Highland Park, MN (612) 920-5949
- Sept. 26 54th Moravian Day  
Countryside, IL
- Oct. 3 Home Stay Program, Asbury  
Church 3:00 p.m. (page 12)
- Oct. 15-16 Central Slavic Conference at  
Ft. Leavenworth, KS  
(931) 684-4333/4434 Fax 4701
- Oct. 28 Groundbreaking for new National  
Czech & Slovak Museum & Library  
10 - 16th Ave. S.W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 3:00 p.m.  
Celebration Fundraising Banquet  
Cedar Rapids Country Club  
550 27th St. Dr. S.E.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 29-30 3rd Czechoslovak Genealogical/  
Cultural Conference, Sheraton Inn,  
525 33rd Ave. S.W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA
- Oct. 30 Celebration Dinner & Dance for  
the new National Czech & Slovak  
Museum & Library. Czech Plus  
and special featured Master of  
Ceremonies KMRY's JOE LACINA  
Traditional Czech dinner \$15  
Dance tickets (only) \$10  
Dinner & dance special \$20  
Call (319) 362-8500 for  
reservations
- Oct. 30 Crowning of Czech Prince &  
Princess (see page 12)
- Dec. 4 Sv. Mikulas Day,  
Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, IA

## POLICE ESCORT TO SPA FOR TOADS IN SPRING

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Hundreds of toads will get police protection on their spring trek into the west Bohemian spa town of Karlovy Vary, the CTK news agency said Tuesday.

Each April, the toads leave a nearby forest and move to their summer home in a lake by the Male Versaille restaurant in the center of town. They must cross a busy street, "which has proved perilous in the past," CTK said.

The toads travel at night, so police will enforce the closure of Krizikova Street between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. until the migration is finished.

## To Reap a Bountiful Harvest

### *Czech immigration beyond the Mississippi, 1850-1900*

By Stepánka Korytová-Magstadt, Ph. D.

This definitive contemporary history of rural Czech immigration is the first to utilize both Czech and American sources. This thorough, informative, and eminently readable book offers not only complete information on Czech rural communities in the nineteenth-century American Midwest, but an understanding of the reasons for emigration that led Czechs to uproot themselves from their European homeland.

Dr. Korytová, a Czech historian who studied in the United States and received her doctorate from Charles University, is herself a twentieth-century immigrant. She is uniquely suited to write with empathy and insight on this topic. The book contains maps, historical photos, a genealogical resource list, and a glossary of Czech terms.

*Rudi Publishing, photos, maps, Czech genealogical resources, extensive bibliography, index, pronunciation guide, glossary, demographic indices. CIP*

\$14.95 paper ISBN #0-945213-07-7, \$24.95 hardcover ISBN #0-945213-09-3



Photo courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

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Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*To Reap a Bountiful Harvest* will be available in June of 1993. To order now send to Rudi Publishing, Distribution Center, 153 38th St. NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402. Make checks payable to Rudi Publishing. To order by phone (credit card orders only), call toll free 1-800-999-6901.



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## IOWA REMEMBERS AND HONORS ANTONIN DVORAK 1893-1993



Antonin Dvorak  
1841-1904



Dvorak family home in Nelahozevsi.



St. Wenceslaus Church  
in Spillville, Iowa  
where Dvorak played  
the organ.

