

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



“Cornfield Buck”

By Larry Zach

Paintings and story on pages 8 & 9.

Volume 23 - Number 2 - June 1998



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OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. who pay their annual dues of \$3.00 per person per year receive *Naše České Dědictví* free. Dues are renewable on January 1 of each year and expire December 31. The newsletter which is mailed quarterly, serves to inform its members of its activities, people, and places. (Dues received in September apply to the following year for new members.)

Deadline for receiving articles for the September issue is July 25, 1998.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who helped with the March issue were my husband John and Robert and Agnes Netolicky. Thank you for your help.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

When the Czech immigrants came to America, they usually had a trade. It was not hard for them to get a job or they were self employed. They were willing to work hard. When my grandparents, the Jansas came to the United States in the late 1860's, my grandfather was a cobbler and farmer. John's grandparents, the Voleskys, were also immigrants and farmers. A high priority of the immigrants was to own their own home or property because they came from a deprived and depressed country and were downtrodden. That same tradition of ownership was handed down to the Czech families. John and I have always lived on a farm even though I spent five years teaching school. Farming is hard work but it is a great place to raise a family and work close to God and nature.

In 1972 we expanded our farming operations and bought a farm that belonged to an uncle who was born in Bohemia in 1866. The previous owners of that farm were the Czech families of Skala and Bohac.

Iowa has a program recognizing farms that have been in the family a hundred years or more and called Century Farms. John and I are pleased that our farm has become a Century Farm March 16, 1998. Century Farms owners are recognized at the State Fair in Des Moines in August and presented a plaque.

We are in a community surrounded by Czechs who are hard working and caring neighbors, living on farms that were handed down and some are also Century Farms.

Adeline Volesky
Editor

MISS CZECH-SLOVAK PAGEANT CONTEST

Here is an opportunity for girls of Czech and Slovak descent to enter a pageant. Contestants need to be between the ages of 16 to 26, single, attending high school or a graduate and have never been married. They need to be of partial Czech or Slovak descent.

There are four phases of competition in the pageant :

- 1 - A private interview with a judge
- 2 - An on stage interview
- 3 - Costume (Kroj) modeling
- 4 - A talent presentation

The pageant contest will be held July 31 to August 2 in Wilbur, Nebraska. There is a \$4,000 scholarship for the winner. For more information contact: Elsie at [redacted], Nat'l Miss Czech/Slovak USA Pageant, Wilbur, NE.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing again because I was very interested in the article about the town of Western and Western College. I have never known about the early Western College but I am knowledgeable about the time it was moved to Toledo, Iowa in 1881. That is in Tama County where I was born.

I am interested because my oldest sister would like to have attended school there because a friend of hers was attending there. My sister was unable to attend because my father had nine other children to feed and educate.

Next, I am interested because it was called LeAnder College as I recall when it was in Toledo. Later it was turned into an orphans home when the college moved to LeGrand, Iowa. There my late father-in-law Senator Guy Lucas attended school. I do not recall for how long. How long it remained in LeGrand I do not know. I do know it moved later to Albany, Missouri. That is where my late husband Max Lucas attended school for one year. He was so homesick his parents brought him home. He finished his college in Iowa State College.

I hope that this is of some interest to you.

*Madalin Lucas
Keokuk, IA*

Dear Editor,

I am an avid genealogist. I am researching my paternal Bohemian lines. I would love to share info with anyone researching the lines of Frank & Fannie (Podhasky) Lesinger, John & Helen Frish, John & Catherine (Soukup) Wilder, or John & Josie (Rezabek) Vrba.

I understand John Wilder was a member of Kouba's National Band (organized in 1872). Any ideas on what instrument he played in the band?

In some 1917-era letters by my grandfather during WW I, he used the phrase "Ish ka bible". Example: "But Ish ka bible, if I haven't got it, I can't spend it." Is anyone familiar with this term? Is it Bohemian?

My address is

I am looking forward to receiving your newsletter.

*Sincerely,
Kristin Frish*

Dear Editor,

I am writing to tell you about my mother. Mildred Kubicek of Winona, Minnesota was born January 20, 1903 to John and Anna Nekola Kucera in What Cheer, Iowa. She celebrated her 95th birthday this year.

On October 10, 1922 she married Charles Kubicek (now deceased). They had four children Florence, Charles Jr., James (dec.), and Rosanne.

My mother has 3 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, and 7 great great grandchildren.

My mother's life was dedicated to raising her family. After my father's death in 1954, mother became a licensed day care provider until she was almost 80 years old.

My mother is in good health. She is a resident of a care center since August 1997. Although she has become frail, she is alert, has many hobbies, is an avid sports enthusiast, and faithfully follows the Minnesota Twins baseball team and the Minnesota Vikings football team.

*Respectfully,
Rosanne Kubicek*

Dear Editor,

I am sending you an article for your newsletter. Sorry it is so late. I can imagine I did not make it for the March issue. Not only school kept me so busy I could not decide what to write about. I enjoy writing and keeping in touch with Iowa Czechs in this way.

Good luck with your newsletter. I enjoy reading it.

*Marcela Mastiková-Hradec Kralove
(Marcela was a student at Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids last year) see story on page 6*

Dear Editor,

The article on Western was a special interest to me as my grandparents Frank and Anna Andrlé immigrated to America from Bohemia. They lived in Cedar Rapids for a time and then February 14th, 1890 bought four acres in Western from G. W. Stansbury for "\$450 in hand and \$250 by note." Then on March 5th he added an acre for \$60 from a Mary Griffith.

Grandfather played the E flat clarinet in Benesh's dance band. He also taught the Bohemian language on Saturdays to small children in the old Western College.

With the help of Grandmother and their three children (one my father) raised berries, plums and grapes on five acres.

Their property adjoined the Dr. Wes Netolicky home and after grandmother died, the doctor purchased the five acres and home. Grandfather divided his time among his children.

My father, Frank, married Sylvia Hemskey who was raised in the Fairfax area.

As the Western College was being torn down, my father reserved some of the lumber to build his house, including the hand hewn beams.

I truly enjoy the well written interesting newsletter. Thank you.

Arlene Anderle

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

One of our memorable accomplishments for 1997 was a visit to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. My husband and I attended my family's annual reunion in Iowa last August. (I was born and grew up in Traer). We made it a point to stay over an extra night in Cedar Rapids and spend Sunday afternoon viewing "A Thousand Years of Czech Culture". We had enjoyed the old facility a number of years ago and were anxious to see this impressive new building et al. It made me even more proud of my 100% Czech heritage.

We spent almost a month in the Czech Republic in 1995 and hope to return before long. In the meantime, we know where we can count on a real treat closer to our home in Kansas City!

Congratulations on a job well done and continued success in your endeavor.

*Ramona Caslavka Schmidt
Leawood, Kansas*

Dear Editor,

I am forwarding a letter for a pen pal for Brigita. I became acquainted with her aunt Eugenie Linkova-Bouskova when she was here with 2 other Czechs and a Hungarian journalist. Eugenie is the editor of a bi-weekly magazine "REZNICKOL UZENARSKÉ NOVINY" and is a reporter for "SLOVO". Every month I send her information about livestock news and ISU Meat Lab information which she uses from time to time.

I am a second generation Czech out of south Texas, but have been in Ames since 1950 when I joined the faculty in Agronomy. I was involved in the Czech Republic with the development of an extension service, as well as five other countries in eastern Europe. My Czech language skills are fair. This has been a positive factor in my dealings with people in that country. I have been retired since 1992, but work regularly at the university on various projects.

Thank you for helping Brigita find a pen pal.

*John Peseh
Ames, Iowa*

Dear Mr. Professor,

My name is Brigita Housova. I am from the Czech Republic near Liberec. My aunt works as a journalist and editor.

I am 16 years old and study business academy. My hobbies are: music, sports, internet, and I like nature. I would like a pen friend, boy or girl to 19 years old. I'm sorry my English is not too good.

Brigita Housova

IN MEMORIUM

The Czech community suffered a great loss with the sudden death of Edward R. Kuba on April 14. Most people thought he was born in Europe because he could speak and articulate so well in the Czech language and he was so fiercely loyal to Czech organizations and activities. He and his wife Josephine Letovsky Kuba had two sons, Edward Jr. of Alexandria, MN and John of Helote, TX and 3 grandchildren. He was entombed at Sisley Grove Cemetery west of Cedar Rapids.

Mr. Kuba's activities were varied, but many of them were devoted to his pride in his heritage. He was active in St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Sokols, Czech School, WFLA, CSA, Nat'l. Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Federation of Czech Groups, 16th Ave. Commercial Club, Czech Nat'l Cemetery, Czech Village Assn., South Side Development, Masaryk Park and Pavilion, Sokol Park and the Czech Heritage Foundation, and many other organizations.

He was featured in the June 1997 issue of *Naše České Dědictví*. His biography and his article on a local fund raiser for Czech flood relief appeared in the December 1997 issue.

VICE PRESIDENT GORE AT "OSADA" DEDICATION

(Mr. Kuba was a member of the Affordable Housing Committee and Community Development Program in Cedar Rapids. He was one of the invited guests to attend the dedication ceremony of "Osada" by Vice President Al Gore. Kuba wanted to share his pleasure and pride by writing this article for Naše České Dědictví. He died before he was able to complete this article.)

Ladies and Gentlemen: The Vice President of the United States, Honorable Al Gore.

This announced the visit of the Vice President to Cedar Rapids, Iowa on Wednesday, April 1st of 1998. He came to help dedicate the "Osada" affordable housing project in south east side of the city. Mayor Lee Clancey updated the 250 invited guests on the accomplishment of a project that took a vacant wholesale grocery warehouse and soft drink bottling plant and transformed it into a 67 apartment complex. It took a good bit of planning and as the Czechs would say "mnoho zlatich" (many gold crowns).

The vice president commended the city for converting idle buildings in the inner city to housing along with restoring the proud past of this area. This area, the South Side, was home to the Czechs. Vice President Gore stated that our program to preserve the heritage and the community life around "Osada" (Czech word meaning community) was a part of President Clinton's plan to help contain urban sprawl. He stated it is more economical to take advantage of developed areas of streets and utilities than to take a corn field for development and housing.

BIOGRAPHY



L-R: Emma Hadacek, Anna Klima

Anna Klima and Emma Hadacek are the daughters of Joseph and Emilie Cecak Mareda. Mr. Mareda was in Vienna to train as a tailor. Shortly after their marriage, they left from Bratice, Bohemia in 1903 to come to America. They sailed on the German vessel The SS Grosser Kurfurst. It was so old and decrepit it had to be scrapped as it was no longer seaworthy.

The Maredas came to Chicago to live where they spent seven years and Mr. Mareda was a ladies tailor. There, three daughters were born to them; Anna, Lillian, and Emma. Because of health reasons the family left Chicago for a farm home in rural Clutier before moving to the town of Clutier.

When Anna was five years old, she received a doll she treasured so much it is still a family heirloom. Emma received a teddy bear for Christmas as a child. It too is a family heirloom but has very little monetary value because the boots, mitts, and eyes had to be replaced from the original because of wear. The following Christmas they got a red wagon for Christmas, but the girls were reprimanded for being too noisy in what was otherwise a quiet neighborhood. Every Christmas the three girls would get only one gift they were expected to share.

They have fond memories of living in Clutier. At one time the business district was six blocks long. It had the necessary businesses to accommodate the needs of the community. It had a metals shop, variety store, restaurant, depot, Catholic church, and livery barn. By now Mr. Mareda had a thriving tailor shop designing patterns, sewing suits and ladies garments including wedding gowns. The Clutier banker Joseph Paul Novak, had a beautiful white stately house on a hill with concrete sidewalks. The initials JPN were imbedded in the cement with copper pennies. Pranksters often tried unsuccessfully to retrieve the coins. On Halloween night, it was almost a custom to see a row of outhouses on main street. One night a drunk set the two cell wooden jail on fire. It was replaced with a new brick structure. During a rowdy World War I celebration, a shot-

gun accidentally went off shooting a hole through the flag. On a more serious note, the ZCBJ Hall held many special events. One such special event was a visit to Clutier by Jan Masaryk, son of Czech President Thomas Masaryk, for a speaking engagement. He spent the night with the Mareda family. Of course the girls were excited to host a celebrity in their home.

Anna, now in her teens, returned to Chicago to explore her possibilities, but returned home. She graduated from Business College in Cedar Rapids in 1919. Anna married William Klima in 1929 just as the depression was setting in. Her husband worked at People's Bank and Cargill. They have two sons, Larry and his wife Roberta, and Jon and his wife Nancy. Anna has five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Her husband died in 1994.

A sister Lillian Hora is deceased.

Before Emma married she did housework. She worked for \$4.50 a week, but the depression altered her plans. She attended and graduated from beauty school, then worked in beauty shops in Cedar Rapids. She married Vincent Hadacek in a garden wedding in Toledo, Iowa. After her marriage she set up her own beauty shop in part of her father's tailor shop in Clutier. They had three children. Joseph lives in Minnesota, twin girls, Sandra Blozovich of Colorado, and Sonja Youngkers of Fairbanks, Alaska. Emma has six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. In 1945 the Hadaceks bought a 70 acre farm in Western, Iowa. Vincent Hadacek died in 1960 at age 60.

Anna and Emma both have traveled extensively. Emma 90 and Anna 94 each still live in their own home. They like to tease each other when they get together that their facts are not straight, but both have vivid recollections of the past.

Their bit of advice for the younger generation is: too much violence on television is unhealthy for impressionable minds.



*The Mareda family in their Clutier tailor shop.
L to R: Joe, Emma, Lillian, Anna and Emilie
Mareda.*



HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

Hradec Králové is one of the major and most beautiful Czech cities. Its size being close to that of Cedar Rapids, it is hard to miss once you get out of Prague in the eastern direction. You can get there in less than two hours. Generally recognized as the administrative as well as a commercial and cultural center of the whole Eastern-Bohemian area, the town will welcome you with its characteristic skyline composed of three spires and sometimes referred to as **LITTLE HRADČANY** because of their resemblance to the Prague Castle.

Actually, even its name will tell you a lot about it. Those of you who know some Czech might have noticed the relation between **HRADEC** and *hrad* (meaning castle). You could come across similar names, such as **HRADEK** or **HRADIŠTĚ** all over the country. They imply that back in the Middle Ages there used to be a castle or a fortified settlement. The same is true about Hradec Králové whose population and importance grew so rapidly that in as early as 1225 it was given the status of a royal town, which makes the city over 770 years old! A reminder of the town's royal status is the white two-tailed lion in its coat of arms, an emblem reserved for the Czech kings and their possessions solely.

The town's name is derived from **KRALOVA**, meaning "the queen". Its modern form would be **KRALOVNA**. The name of the town would mean something as **The QUEEN'S HRADEC** or **QUEEN'S CASTLE**. This brings us to another important and interesting part of the town's history. There used to be a queen's castle at one time, when the king declared it a so-called dowry town, thus making it the seat of widowed queens. The most famous and beautiful one of them was Queen Elizabeth who had the gothic cathedral built at the beginning of the 14th century, leaving a gorgeous reminder of herself in the very heart of the town up to the present time.

*by Marcela Mastíková
Czech Republic*



HAVEL IN - KOVAČ OUT

Czech President Vaclav Havel was reelected to a second term as president. He was sworn in, in February in Vladislav Hall of Prague Castle. The ceremony was attended by both members of Parliament. After the swearing in ceremony and following tradition, President Havel spoke from the balcony of the Castle's Third Courtyard to listeners who braved the sub-zero temperatures to hear him speak. After a military review, Mr. Havel paid homage to the remains of the Patron Saint of Bohemia, Saint Wenceslaus in Vitus Cathedral.

President Havel has declared he plans to be more energetic and more radical in his second term as the country's president. He plans to be more vigorous and unwilling to be hostage of the party establishment.

Michal Kovac said it would be in the best interest of Slovakia if he stepped down as president.

Vladimir Meciar was handed some presidential powers in the absence of Kovac until a successor has been elected. There has been some unrest. The Democratic Union is accusing Meciar of doing everything he can to ensure that Slovakia is drifting from a democracy and becoming a country like Cuba, North Korea and Libya.

There is a movement to hold a referendum on direct presidential elections.

(From Czech the News & Clearinghouse)

WINNING THE GOLD

The Czech ice hockey team won the gold medal at the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan earlier this year. The gold medal was the first ever won in ice hockey and also the third ever won by Czech athletes in the Winter Olympics.

The ice hockey team from the Czech Republic beat the United States in the Quarter-final 4:1; in the Semifinals it beat Canada 2:1 in overtime; and in the Grand Finale the Czech team beat its longtime Russian rivals 1:0.

The ice hockey's team success brought much glory and celebration. On hand to welcome the charter plane carrying the winning team were more than 10,000 fans at the Prague Airport. After a brief meeting, President Havel and a joyful crowd of 130,000 fans gathered at Old Town Square to welcome their heroes.

Katerina Neumannova also won the silver and bronze in the 5K and 10K race in Nagano, Japan making Czechs in the Czech Republic and abroad very proud.

HOMELANDS - THE NEW EXHIBIT

HOMELANDS is the name and theme of the new exciting exhibit at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

First, let's look back to see how we got here. The first and early displays were of the museum's own collections, the largest being that of the "kroj" (native folk costume). It is the largest collection of "kroj" outside of the country of Czechoslovakia. Last year we had *The Thousand Years of Czech Culture* which came from the Prague Museum after its showing in Old Salem, North Carolina. From January 1998 to April, during a period of transition we had the *Legacy of Love: The Lamparek Collection and Slovakia's Mountain Treasurers, Shepherds and Their Art*.

Now we have come to the *HOMELANDS* exhibit which opened April 30th. It will again showcase the museum's own collection with many new items. The highlight of the exhibition is Costume Square, where the "kroje" from Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia will be shown with scenic backgrounds from each region on mannequins that are displayed in the finest cases and lighting. Other phases of the new exhibit take you through the years of Czechs and Slovaks during the years of wandering tribes to a nation that has overcome wars and struggles to a new and free country in the heart of Europe.

Admission prices for the *HOMELANDS* exhibit are \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$2 for children ages 5-16. Children under 5 are admitted free with a paying adult or guardian. (Free admission to members of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Must present membership card.)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR INVITED TO CZECH REPUBLIC

The Ames, Iowa Children's Choir was founded in 1995 and is in its third year. It includes 140 singers ages 8 to 18 in four choirs. It has been invited to participate in the 4th Mezinarodni Folklorni Festival in Frydek-Mistek Czech Republic June 17-22. The Choir has been invited to be the honored guests of the festival by Mr. Vyvijal, Frydek-Mistek's mayor and Ostravicka, a children's folk music ensemble in that city. The Iowans will perform in schools and surrounding communities as part of the festival. Frydek-Mistek is a sister city of Ames.

Six ensembles from four other countries will take part in the festival.

In preparation for the overseas tour, the Ames Children's Choir studied the Czech "roots" in Iowa with the unique connection of Antonin Dvorak's short stay in Spillville, Iowa where he played the organ in St. Wenceslaus Church.

In April, the Choir toured Iowa, including the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, as well as Minnesota and North Dakota.



ALFONS MUCHA EXHIBIT IN U.S.

Alfons Mucha was a well known Czech artist. He was born in a small Moravian town of Ivančice in 1860. He spent the last 29 years of his life in Prague. Consequently, he was preoccupied with religion, mysticism, and his passionate interest in the past and the future of his native land.

In Paris in 1894, Mucha became famous literally overnight. He was given the unexpected opportunity to design a poster for Sara Bernhardt's theatrical production. In a few days Mucha delivered a highly original design of unusually elongated shape, delicate coloring and a combination of simplified outlines with Byzantine richness of ornamental design. Over the next six years he designed nine exquisite posters for the renowned French actress.

An exhibition of 180 of Mucha's works opened in the San Diego Museum of Art in February of this year. Included were paintings, jewelry, posters, sculptures, pastels and illustrations selected from collections from Britain, the Czech Republic, Japan, and America. The exhibition will travel to several cities in the United States including Seattle, Washington, West Point Beach, Florida, Raleigh, North Carolina and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa owns two early twentieth century lithographs designed by Alfons Mucha. The first is for the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. This is a recent acquisition, donated to the Museum in 1997. It will go on exhibit for the first time with the opening of *HOMELANDS*. The second is from the Regional Exhibition at Ivančice in 1913. This one was exhibited in the gallery until about a year ago. The Museum also has a set of four collectors plates from Mucha's four seasons series.

For those interested in researching Mucha, the Library has a book (in English) containing a comprehensive list of pieces. Visitors can also purchase books about Mucha and his design motifs in the Gift Store.

LARRY ZACH - WILDLIFE ARTIST

Larry Zach is an accomplished artist. It is not a wonder his landscapes, wildlife, and rural scenes are so well known and admired. He was born and raised on a farm between Swisher and Amana, Iowa near the Coralville Reservoir. His success can be attributed to his strong feelings and experiences in outdoor life. His parents, Vernon and Martha Dvorak Zach, still live on the farm where Larry was born and grew up with a brother Allen.

Larry's grandparents were William and Adeline Petrak Dvorak, but his Czech ancestry is traced to 1827 when Steven Dvorak was born in Moravia. He married Anna Maršalek who was born in 1834, also in Moravia when it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They came to the United States in 1872 and settled in Johnson County.

Great, great, great grandparents Joseph and Francisca Zach immigrated from Krons, Bohemia in 1865. They came on a sailing vessel that took six weeks, of which three days were spent fixing a broken rudder. Joseph was a cabinet maker in Bohemia and brought a lot of woodworking tools with him, mostly planes that are still in the family's possession. Everything in the early days was made of wood including the screws and guides. Only the blade was metal. Joseph Zach settled south of Swisher in a small cabin and worked as a farmer and stone mason.

The love of wild life was handed down to Larry through the generations. As a youth he showed his love for the outdoors and spent his leisure



hours observing nature, collecting butterflies and insects. As a teenager when he was free from school and farm duties, he hiked along the Iowa River that bordered the farm and studied the birds, trees, and creatures along the streams, timber, and foothills. It was not unusual for him to be out from dawn to dusk studying the adaptation of plants and animals to their environment called "the balance of nature".

As a boy he had "Coonrocky", a pet coon, "Henry", a pet crow, "Chief", a dog, and "Blacky", the horse.

After Larry graduated from Cedar Rapids Prairie High School, his outdoors experiences and involvement led him to college. After earning degrees in fish and wildlife biology and science education, he taught in Ankeny, Iowa for 18 years. He has been painting full time since 1990. His degree and artistic ability make it possible for his paintings to be successful. As you study his paintings you can see the alert deer and pheasants huddled motionless in the tall grass on the freshly white fallen snow.

Zach's paintings have appeared on the covers of 18 magazines. Iowa conservation groups named him artist of the year six times. Larry donates some of his paintings to conservation groups for auctions as a fund raiser, bringing the price over \$1000 enabling the group to raise considerable sums of money.

He has the natural ability to transfer what he sees and loves on paper as a wildlife artist. Some of his recent works are "Broken Solitude-



1998 Iowa Habitat Stamp by Larry Zach

Whitetail" which was a popular print in 1992. "Old Rival-Whitetail" took months to paint and was the most popular print in 1997. "Winter Sunrise-Whitetail" appeared on the September 1996 cover of Iowa Conservationist. A set of six collector's plates have been produced featuring Larry's whitetail deer. He was also honored when he was chosen to design Iowa Habitat Stamps for three years.

Larry still resides in Ankeny with his wife Marcia and their two children Chris, 15, and April, 12. His paintings can be seen and are for sale in art stores.

The Czech community extends its congratulations and continued success to artist Larry Zach.



1984 Iowa Duck Stamp Design by Larry Zach



Storm's End Rocky Mountain Elk by Larry Zach

IOWA'S MOTHER OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Marcie Machacek. She has been selected as Iowa's Mother of the Year. Marcie and her husband live in rural Alburnett, Iowa.

A celebration was held in April at the Best Western Hotel in Newton, Iowa. Marcie represented Iowa at the national convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

Marcie and David Machacek have been married for 31 years and are the parents of two daughters Kristin and Stephanie. Kristin attended and graduated from Iowa State College in Ames, Iowa. She was married to Ryan Baker in 1997. The couple live in Davenport. Stephanie is on break from college and lives in Ames.

Marcie graduated from the University of Northern Iowa and teaches middle school children with severe behavioral disabilities and emotional disturbances. Marcie and Dave live on a farm.

Winners were judged on philosophy of parenting, community involvement and achievement. Marcie's philosophy reads: The most important job one can ever have is that of being a parent. It is the parental responsibility to provide a safe, love-filled, supportive environment for healthy growth—emotionally, physically and spiritually.

Spending time with each child and keeping communications open at each stage is paramount.

Parents need to nurture, accept and expect individual differences, provide close family activities and opportunities for individual growth.

Parents need to tell and show their children that they are loved and that you love each other. My goal is to have happy children.

Both daughters spent a month in the Czech Republic with the Homestay program. Marcie served one year on the Czech Heritage board. She and her husband Dave are currently serving their third year on the Ethnic Fest committee. Marcie is well acquainted with Czech tradition and heritage. Dave's grandfather Wesley and Pauline Novak Machacek came to America from Milan, Bohemia.

ST. JOSEPH'S PARADE

Parades, parades, and more parades. There is a special fascination about watching a parade or being in the parade itself. This year was no exception. We had a beautiful day for our annual St. Joseph's parade. We had around a hundred entries with an assortment of various floats,

music, antique vehicles and modern vehicles carrying individuals wanting to gain public office.

The spectator section was filled to capacity with youngsters waiting for treats, and the elderly who brought chairs along to relax in comfort. The route was longer this year and I hope that in future parades more people will watch from the Bridge of Lions.



Maybe the reason this year's parade was special was because Elaine Brejcha had asked yours truly to be Grand Marshal. I was truly honored to be asked and enjoyed riding in the red convertible, waving to the people and in plain language "I really enjoyed the honor". Thank you for asking me. Best wishes for successful Houby Day parade.

By Frank Novotny

"CLOSE CALLS" - A NEW BOOK

"CLOSE CALLS" Remembering World War II in Czechoslovakia is a childhood autobiography of the author, Vera Anna McKenna. The book is easy to read about important historical events and daily life during the war in the capital city and on the farm in the country. All readers learn something new: Junior high students for history classes, and all ages, even veterans. The book reveals very little known facts how the Czech country was the subject of national Holocaust, how the Czechs survived it, and what was going on in Prague in the last days of WWII. The American army was in the neighborhood but was not allowed to come to Prague. The Czechs had to wait for the Russians while losing a lot of lives.

The book contains maps, photographs of Prague, and family pictures. P.O. Box 144, Crookson, MN 56716-0144. Make checks payable to Book Fund \$10 + \$2 shipping.

(Note) It is over 50 years that World War II ended and it is time to realize when, where and how it ended in Europe. It was in Prague the Germans surrendered, we had to wait for the Russians. Only those who were in Prague know what happened. These witnesses are getting old and soon no one will be left. I, too, am in remission from cancer.

The University of North Dakota is helping me in a private publishing. My book is not available in book stores.

Vera A. McKenna

CZECH HERITAGE SINGERS

The Czech Heritage Singers continue to entertain audiences with a program of Czech songs. Czech songs translated into English have become a favorite with American listeners. In April the group sang for the 60th anniversary celebration at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library for Emil and Evelyn Lamparek. The singers assisted with the flag raising ceremonies on May 16 at Czech Village for Houby Days. May 25th the Czech Heritage Singers took part at the Czech National Cemetery services.

They are looking forward to a busy year of preserving our heritage by presenting our melodies to the public.

O.D.

BRNO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA IN CEDAR RAPIDS

The Brno Chamber Orchestra was on tour in the United States. The group performed at Coe College in Sinclair Auditorium on April 8.

Included in the program was a 17th century suite of ballet music that was discovered in a castle by Jiri Matzl who is also the groups director. The world class ensemble blended Baroque, Classical and Contemporary works that were written from the Czech and Slovak regions.

Pianist Michiko Otaki took part in Mozart's Piano Concerto in a Major K414. She is a musical perfectionist at the keyboard.

The closing number was Leos Janacek's Suite for Strings.

Other U.S. cities included in the tour were Cleveland, Atlanta, and Washington, DC.

"ZADRZ" "SEDNI" "LEHNI"

(catch) (sit) (lay)

Maryland State Police have acquired nine German shepherds imported from Europe since 1993, most of them from the Czech Republic. Although they are quite expensive, troops esteem the Czech dogs for the qualities they have. They possess superior training and breeding. They are bigger and stronger. Unlike American dogs, they do not have diluted blood lines. Handlers always address the dogs in Czech — "Zadrz, Sedni, Lehni" (catch, sit, lie down) and only "Good boy" praises seems to be the exception to break through the dog's language barrier.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Once again the members of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. are to be recognized for including a donation with their dues.

In January new members who included a donation with their \$3.00 dues were: Violet Blaha, Peter Krcek, David, Debby & Stasia Krivanek.

Donations with renewals were from: Harold Adams, Jean Blahnik, Francis Bozaneck, Jeanne Burianek, Donald Ceynar, Helen Cross, Elizabeth Dake, Anne Dalecky, Martha Divishek, Denver Dvorsky, Frank & Barbara Edmunds, Mrs. Ralph Evans, Fern Fackler, Edna Goodrow, Carol Grigson, Donald & Dorothy Harrelson, Anna Mae Horak, Camille Hubacek, David Janicek, Leonard Jansa, Mildred Starek Jezek, Vlasta Johnson, Dorothy Kadlec, George Klumpar, Mildred Kucera, Emil & Evelyn Lamparek, Walter Liphardt, Esther Lippert, Joseph Lodl, Pat & Mildred Lynott, Mildred McIlrath, Jarmila McMullen, Lillian Miller, Esther Musil, Edward & Marjorie Nejd, Duane Nesetril, Arlene Netolicky, Wallace Oliva, Eva Paleckova, Betty Pavlinak, Joseph Petrzek, Harold & Leona Poduska, Inez Popelka, Elsie Prince, Don & Barb Pulkrab, Sylvia & Robert Rohlena, Elmer & Mary Rose Sedlacek, James & Martha Serbousek, Steve & Pamela Shipp, Donald & Dorothy Sirowy, Robert Skalicky, Grace Soukup, Libby Spawr, Teri Thorpe, Darlene Trachta, Anton Vanicek, Marie Vanous, Evelyn Vecera, Emil Vellek, Phyllis Vesely, Marie Vileta, Liba Watson, Stanley Winters, Rose Wolf, and Viola Young.

Donations only were received from: Catholic Daughters of America, Mrs, Marvin O'Conner and Dorothy Niebes.

Donations received in February with renewals were from: Gerald Caslavka, Mary Cejka, Carol Danek, Stanley & Dorothy Ditch, Florence Dose, Rose Dryml, Louis & Lydia Elias, Robert Janak, Lillian Janousek, Mary Jepson, Chuck & Ginny Jungman, Joanna King, Clementine Kinkor, Mary Klopp, Elsie Ann Kloubec, Ernest, Helen, Edward & Janet Kopecky, Milos Kukal, Charles Kurka, Joseph & Mardella Kurka, Murl & Marilyn Madsen, Mrs. Louis L. Melsha, Evelyn Mikulecky, Zula Oujiri, Mary Ann Pochobradsky, John Repka, Marvin & Hermina Rigel, Betty Rosell, Irma Rozek, Robert & Ella Samek, William Shebetka, Frank & Ruth Volesky.

A donation was also received from a nonmember in February.



*1998 Homestay Students
L-R: Jeri Serbousek and Matt Fee*

HATS OFF!!!

Czech Heritage Fd'n. is sending two students to the Czech Republic this summer. They are Jeri Serbousek, daughter of James and Judy Serbousek and Matt Fee, son of Jim and Jeanne Fee. Jeri attends Prairie High School and Matt attends Center Point-Urbana High School.

They participated in the St. Joseph's Day parade and the St. Joseph's Day dance. The dance is the largest fundraiser for the Homestay and Scholarship programs. They thank all who contributed in some way.

Jeri and Matt fly to Prague Monday, June 22nd and return home July 21st. They will be flying United and Lufthansa Airlines. They are the 50th and 51st students Czech Heritage Fd'n. has sent to Prague beginning in 1984 when Czechoslovakia was still a communist country. Many of these students still keep in contact with their Czech "brothers" and "sisters".

\$1,000 scholarships have been given to these 51 students. A round trip airline ticket is \$1,058 this year plus program fees and insurance of another \$765. Still it's an inexpensive way to experience a month of their Czech roots.

Jeri and Matt are studying Czech language with Olga Drahozal and they have met with last year's ambassadors for up-to-date information and tips. They are eagerly looking forward to June 22nd.

D.K.

MORE HATS OFF!!!

St. Joseph's Day is a Czech holiday that is celebrated with a parade, wearing red, and with dancing. The St. Joseph's Day dance is always fun and well attended because we have been cooped-up during the winter. We can get out, meet friends, eat, dance and test our luck. The St. Joseph's dance, which was held March 15 is a fund raiser to send Homestay students to spend a month in the Czech Republic and a new scholarship program unveiled for the first time this year. The Czech Heritage Fd'n. is proud to announce it will give second year college students a scholarship if they meet the necessary requirements. We hope to make a difference in the lives of our youth with their education so very necessary in today's competitive world and work environment.

HATS OFF to all those who gave so generously. We want to acknowledge the donors who made it possible for us to achieve this goal and assist our youth.

The donors for this event were: Fee family, Serbousek family, Mid-Continent, Brosh Chapel, Teahen Funeral Home, Papich-Kuba, Murdock's, Cedar Memorial & Turners, Roland-Wilbert Vault, Ray Jiruska Enterprises, Hy-Vee Store, Iowa Valley Monument, Stalker Electric, Novak-Miller Monument, Carver Hardware, Helen Kupka, Drug Town, Czech Feather & Down Co., Saddle & Leather Shop, Polehna's Meat Market, Czech Cottage, Bozenka's Shop, Western Fraternal Life Assn., Rapid Vending, Frank & Barb Edmunds, Sykora Bakery, Zindrick's Restaurant, Leonard Fisher, Frontier Garden Center, Wildlife Habitat, Ace Hardware, D & V Industrial Supply, Pepsi Cola, Jim's Food Market, Fareway Market, Iowa Lube Inc., Sports Page Restaurant, Happy Chef, Willy Woodburn's Restaurant, Papa Juans, Perkins (Collins Rd.), Denny's (Marion), Al & Irene's BBQ House, Red Apple Restaurant, Nelson Meat Mkt., Mr. Movies (Edgewood Rd.), Mr. Movies (Marion), Duchess Cleaners, Pierson Florists, Dodge Cleaners, Village Inn, and Stejskal Florists.

HATS OFF to all who donated bakery for the bake sale and to the many workers who set up, and decorated. It takes a lot of help to make things happen.

SPECIAL LIBRARY FUND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Even though our fund drive for the library at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has not yet started its second phase for 1998 we continue to get financial support.

Donations received already this year were from Irma Rozek, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kurka, Lee Ann Benishek, Bessie Sedlacek, John & Adeline Volesky and Frank Novotny all from Cedar Rapids.

Two Blocks of Proud Tradition in Cedar Rapids

Every large Iowa community has at least one feature that makes residents feel it is something special. It may be a park, a certain building of distinct architecture, a bridge or a picturesque or historical street. In Cedar Rapids, one such area is Czech Village. It has them all.



These photos were taken in 1971 of southwest Cedar Rapids, which is known as Czech Village. Many changes have taken place since this photo.

Photos by Larry Neibergall. Copyright 1971 The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company. Reprinted by permission.



The Saddle & Leather Shop in Czech Village is still a family business in its 52nd year. George Barta and his daughters Nancy and Kris Jones (Kris in photo) are on hand in the shop to accommodate horse enthusiasts with a full line of clothing and leather goods and products.



This pedestrian traffic sign was once used on a Sixteenth Ave. corner. It had instructions in Czech as well as in English.

CHILDREN'S CZECH SCHOOL

Cedar Rapids Czech School for children aged 6 to 13 will again be held at Wilson School this summer and run for five weeks. Classes begin June 8th and close with a program and ice cream social at the Wilson School on Friday, July 10th. Tuition is \$15 per child or \$25 per family. Class times are 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Children are taught the basics of the Czech language through stories, poems, songs and dances. Special folk artists are guests who share their expertise with the students. A field trip to the West Branch Hoover Memorial Library is planned. Contact: Olga Drahozal for information

CZECH PEN PALS WANTED

Pani Martina Postova mailed a packet of letters from children aged 11-12 from Karlovy Vary looking for pen pals from American counterparts. These letters will be offered to the summer Czech School students. Perhaps there are some children in other parts of our country who might enjoy that opportunity. Here are three letters that were included in the packets.

Dear Friend,

I'm twelve years old and in the first year at grammar school in Karlovy Vary. We study Czech on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. My dad has a private company and my mum works with him. My brother Joseph is 5 years old. My favorite music is rock. My favorite singer is Freddi Mercury from the group Queen. My favorite subjects are English and math, sports are volleyball, tennis and football. My address: Stepan Tichý.

Dear Friend,

I'm your new pen friend. My first name is Henry. I'm from Karlovy Vary. I'm 12 years old. My school is The First Czech Grammar School and I'm in year 6. There are 30 students in my class. My favorite subject is history. I like football and windsurfing. Above all, I like ice cream. And you?

My address is: Jindra Uhlík.

Dear Friend,

I'm eleven years old and the first year in grammar school. My dad works in a factory and mum in an office. My brother Vaclav is seven. My favorites pop music, pop group Kelly Family, geography, and hockey. I play volleyball.

My address is: Jan Petrák.

CZECH PLUS BAND CONCERT SCHEDULE

The Czech Plus Band launches its 20th year of service to the Czech community commencing with the traditional pre-Houby Days concert on Friday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m. The band, recently acclaimed as "folk artists" by the Iowa State Historical Association, will continue to preserve Czech heritage through its summer concert series.

FRI. June 5th: Cedar Rapids, Czech Plus Band; Summer Concert Series at MASARYK PARK, east end of the Bridge of the Lions, 7 to 8 p.m.

FRI. June 12th: Cedar Rapids, Czech Plus Band; Summer Concert Series at Czech Village Bandstand, 7 to 8 p.m.

SAT. June 13th: Cedar Rapids, Czech Plus Band at St. Ludmila's Kolac Fest; concert on the festival grounds, 5 to 7 p.m.

SUN. June 14th: Cedar Rapids, Czech Plus Band at St. Ludmila's Kolac Fest, an outdoor Czech Folk Hymn Mass, 9 a.m.

FRI. June 19th: Summer Concert Series at Czech Village Bandstand featuring Czech School Students 7 to 8 p.m.

FRI. June 26th: Summer Concert Series at Czech Village Bandstand, 7 to 8 p.m.

SAT. June 27th: Cedar Rapids, Czech Plus Band in the Freedom Festival Parade, downtown Cedar Rapids, 10:00 a.m.

SAT. July 4th: Cedar Rapids, Czech Plus Band; a special Freedom Festival concert at the NATIONAL CZECH AND SLOVAK MUSEUM AND LIBRARY GARDENS at 4 p.m.

FRI. July 17th: Summer Concert Series at Czech Village Bandstand, 7 to 8 p.m.

FRI. July 24th: Summer Concert Series at Czech Village Bandstand featuring special guest artist, Blair Thorn 7 to 8 p.m.

FRI. July 31st: Summer Concert Series, SOKOL PARK, 7 to 8 p.m.

FRI. Aug. 7th: Summer Concert Series, Czech Village Bandstand, 7 to 8 p.m.

FRI. Aug. 21st: Summer Concert Series, Czech Village Bandstand, 7 to 8 p.m.

FRI. Sept. 4th: Summer Concert Series, Czech Village Bandstand featuring the Czech Heritage Singers as guest artists.

Membership Application

Please check the proper item: Renewal___ New___ Gift___

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

Address _____ Zip + 4 _____ - _____

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

Membership dues \$ _____ Donation \$ _____ Gift Membership \$ _____

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

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

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



COMING EVENTS

- June 1“Kava a Knihy” (Coffee and Books) Discussion
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Museum Library
- June 8 - July 10Czech School for Children
- June 9Czech Heritage Meeting
7:30 at the Museum
- June 12, 13, 14St. Ludmila’s Kolach Festival
- June 27Children’s Storytime
10:00 a.m. Museum Library (free to public)
- July 6“Kava a Knihy” (Coffee and Books) Discussion
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Museum Library
- July 10Czech School program and ice cream social
7:00 p.m. Wilson Middle School Auditorium
- July 10, 11Boni Pueri Boys Choir from Czech Republic
- July 14Czech Heritage Meeting
7:30 p.m. at the Museum
- July 25Children’s Storytime
10:00 a.m. Museum Library (free to public)
- August 11.....Czech Heritage Picnic ZCBBJ Park
6:00 p.m. all Members Welcome

For concert schedule see page 14.

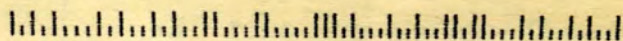


CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. Box 761
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa

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I'm Up to My Armpits in Green Beans

My canner lost its pressure
The gauge is on the blink
While a bushel of green beans
Awaits me in the sink.

The jars I've used forever
Have cracks and nicks galore
I'm out of standard lids
And so's the grocery store.

My jams have turned to syrup
Tell me why they didn't gel?
I only cut out half the sugar
For less calories,
Does it matter pray tell?

I pickled cukes for several days
Fresh spice, pickle salt,
I did this right you see
Now tell me why they're soft again?
What's that? The wrong variety?

The lids are coming off the beets,
The applesauce has mold
Guess I'll read the book next year
Or put my canning tries on hold.