

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

Vol.4.No.1. Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations
March 1979 P.O.Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.



OUR THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

of the Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations set for Jan 15th was postponed to Jan.23rd and at last was held on Jan.31st! And you all know WHY the delays. About 70 members and guests attended at the Peoples Bank & Trust Co.Community Room which was filled to capacity and even more chairs could have been used.

Reports of the election of officers and board members and reports of some committees are in this issue of the newsletter.

Strolling accordionist, Netolicky, entertained with familiar melodies during the social hour. Thanks to him and to those who donated the fine variety of Czech sweets and to those who managed the kitchen crew.

ELECTION RESULTS

President: Roland Raim
V.President: Frank W.Novotny
Secretary: Bette Landa Trefny
Treasurer: Charles E.Krejci
Members of the Board of Directors:
George Barta, Denver Dvorsky, Dennis Hrabak, Paul Kosek, Robert J.Kubik, Robert & Eva Kouba, Emil Lamparek, Wencil Lippert, Wm.B.Pohorsky, Jitka Schaffer, Donald E.Smith, Ray Snitil, M.Melvina Svec, Edwin Trachta, Charles Vyskocil, Mana Zlatohlavek.

The Officers and Board meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 P.M. Western Fraternal Life Association in the Lounge, lower floor. Members are welcome to attend these meetings.

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The Czech Heritage Foundation now has as MEMORIAL-GIFT BOOK for recording all contributions. The volume will be on display at the Museum when the listings are brought up-to-date . . .

CALENDAR of EVENTS

MAY 18-20 HOUBY DAYS, 16th Ave., SW.
JULY 1 . POLKA FESTIVAL on Czech Day, All Iowa Fair, Hawkeye Downs. Czech Heritage Fdn.cooperating. Watch for more details later.
AUGUST . Annual PICNIC for members.
SEPT.7-9. CZECH DAYS on 16th Ave.SW.
From July to October, events at a few places include: Solon Beef Day, St. Ludmila Kolach Festival, Tabor, S.D., Omaha & Wilber, Neb., Wilson, Kan., Yukon, Oklahoma

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The following report was given at the Annual Meeting in January:
A total of 79 programs in 1978 were reported by Irene Hamous, Bette Trefny, Alma Turechek, Marge Nejd, & Melvina Svec. Approximately 3158 people were in the audiences at the programs. Several members were on radio or TV. Some speakers did not send in a report so we are sure that our messages reached thousands in eastern Iowa.

We had a booth or stand to display our items and invite memberships at Houby Days, St.Ludmila Kolach Festival, Solon Beef Days, Tru-Value Czech Days, and Czech Festival on 16th Avenue.

In August the members enjoyed a picnic at ZCBJ Park, a shaded, cool wooded area down Cedar River road.

The guest violinist, Bělčík of Praha, and his son, Victor of Colorado Springs, were honored guests at the reception at Sokol Hall following the October concert of the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra.

(continued, next page)

Demonstrations of handcrafts, art and other work native to Czechoslovakia were in evidence during Czech Days, Czech Festivals here and also in Dubuque. Thus people are hearing us and getting to know about our projects, culture, and programs. . . .

Frank W. Novotny, Chr.

YOU are on CAMERA !

IPBN, the Iowa Public Broadcasting Network, station 12. on March 14th. Tune in at 11:30 A.M. or 1:30 P.M. to see and hear the story of Czechs in Iowa and Cedar Rapids. This first run of the historical series is presented during school hours. In the fall, the entire series about ethnic groups in Iowa will be run at PRIME time in the evenings

PEOPLE DO KNOW ABOUT US

The most recent requests for some of our materials and information on our groups have come from (1) The Center of Ethnic Publications, School of Library Science, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio., (2) Regenstein Library at University of Chicago, Special Collections Archives; and (3) Washtenau Community Collage, Ann Arbor, Michigan; (4) U.S. Committee for UNICEF., (5) Tabor S.D. for items to include in 6 "Study Kits" prepared by a class in Multicultural Education at State University, Vermillion. These Kits will be available on loan to schools thruout South Dakota.

MAKING RECORDS

Elizabeth Nemecek WILLSON and Fred ANTHONY each account for 12 new members in the Foundation. Just two members brought 24 newcomers to our ranks! How many new members have YOU added to our roll call ?

footnote: It will be interest for you to know that the C.R. Community Concert Series will present this coming season the GLINKA CHORUS from Lenningrad, and the PRAGUE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA.

PUBLICATIONS IN 1978

Four issues of Naše České Dědictví appeared during the year. Three of them ran 6 to 8 pages and one was a "mini" of 2 pages. Our newsletter is sent to members in good standing, (dues paid), to news media, to some Czech publications in other states, libraries, and to those on the list of "requests".

SALES OF PRINTED MATERIALS

Mail order sales of our "products" for 1978 reported by Charles H. Vyskocil :

| | |
|--|-----|
| My Czech Word Book, ABC's . . . | 343 |
| History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids, 1852-1942 | 42 |
| Steins | 18 |
| Sets of postal cards | 2 |

Total sales of above items came to \$441.75 with postage costs \$8.62 .

"Thank you" Charlie for all of the bookwork , , packaging and mailing.

In addition the above items are sold at Koseks, Joens Brothers, and the Saddle & Leather Shop-- all located on 16th Avenue S.W.

Therefore, other sales brought the grand totals as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| My Czech Word Book, ABC's | .448 |
| History of Czechs | .248 |
| Sets of Postal Cards | .214 |

Adequate supplies of all three items (and steins) are on hand to meet the needs of Czech Days here and elsewhere.

P.S. Mail orders amounted to 40 during the year and went to 12 states other than Iowa.

AT THE ART CENTER

Many of you remember the FESTIVAL OF CZECH ARTS held during Nov. and Dec. 1971 at the Cedar Rapids ART CENTER. Some 14,000 attended the programs and enjoyed the exhibits. Our newcomer, DIRECTOR JOSEPH CZESTOCHOWSKI, is looking into hosting a Czech Exhibit of various art works. Watch for details as plans develop

Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual Meeting of the two Foundations on January 31, 1979, the following were elected to serve in the coming year:

President: Robert Schaffer
V. President: Mildred Drahovzal
Secretaries: Marie Trachta
: Rose Kopecky
Treasurer: Elsie Jelinek

The Board includes the officers and Arlene Boddicker, Val Barta, Emma Davidson, Jana and Milan Fast, Joan Havran, John Kuba, Charles E. Krejci, Milton Langer, Esther & Wencil Lippert, Dorothy Longstaff, Mildred Ortner, Ann & Gus Pesek, Barbara Skogman, Ray Snitil.

***** MUSEUM HOURS *****
Thursdays 12:30 to 5:00 P.M.
Saturdays: (:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
1607 C St., SW. south of 16th Ave.

Because of unfavorable weather conditions, regular open hours were suspended for a part of the winter. Anyone wishing a tour of the MUSEUM may phone Robert Schaffer, to make arrangements for a group - or for individuals. About March 1st regular open hours will be resumed.

NEEDED: WOMANPOWER & MANPOWER

The Museum is still in need of HELPERS to be on duty during open hours. Please check your calendar and schedules for free Thurs. afternoons, 12:30 to 5:00 PM., or Sat. mornings 9:30 to 12:30, or afternoons from 12:30 to 4:00. Perhaps you could choose one day every week or once a month on the same day or more often.

Please call Bob Schaffer, as he is planning the schedules. Let him know the hours and days you can be at the Museum. You will enjoy meeting the visitors and the groups coming to the Museum.



GIFT-MEMORIAL BOOK

A special book for listing donations of articles and funds is being prepared. Later on the volume will be with the Guest Book at the Museum.

THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

A group is now organized and will be working on the cataloging and shelving of the growing library collection. Recently some boxes of books have come to us. Those of you who have volumes to add to the collection can either ask us to call for them or perhaps you might bring them to the Museum - and if it not open at the time, leave the items at Czech Cottage, 100 - 16th Ave., S.W.

GIFTS to the FINE ARTS FOUNDATION for the MUSEUM

Our Museum is a reality! Here the visitor can observe examples of Czech culture and heritage. In this way, everyone can better appreciate some of the experiences and culture of other times and places in Czechoslovakia.

With limited space and funds and workers, the Fine Arts Fdn. is developing a living Museum. Many individuals, families, and organizations have made contributions of articles and money to be used as needed.

A partial list is given below:

FUNDS to be used as needed:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 4 donations, \$5 or less . . . | \$ 17.00 |
| 8 donations \$10 to \$25 . . . | 125.00 |
| 2 donations \$50. | 100.00 |
| 2 donations of \$100 each . . | 200.00 |
| Western Fraternal Life Bohemian Svgs. & Loan | |
| Roundhouse collections . . | 104.61 |
| Museum Treasure Chest . . | 779.00 |
| Czech Village, Bingo Tent . . | 225.00 |
| Events on the Avenue . . | 670.07 |
| | <u>\$ 2,320.68</u> |

DONATIONS to help Museum expenses
 Toward monthly rental . . \$ 600.00
 Utility costs \$ 300.00
 900.00

DONATIONS for Specified Items

I. Costumes
 CSA Lodge # 14 \$ 100.00
 WFLA Drill Team 100.00
 WFLA, Cedar # 7 300.00
 WFLA, Karel IV, No.13 . . 300.00
 WFLA, # 262 300.00
 \$ 1,100.00

II. Glassware
 Memory of Mary Herda Pyle 50.00
 Damske Sbor Matice
 Skolska. 300.00
 \$ 350.00

III. Linens
 Tablecloth in memory of 151.00
 Leo Raim from the Family

IV. Donations of Articles
 Costume, parasol, trunk from
 Mrs. Norman Dake
 Rug, easel - Mrs. Bertha Blaha
 Costume - John Kuba
 Glassware and doll - Western
 Fraternal Life Assoc.

As the Museum grows, some of the items to be added to our displays are dishes, kitchen equipment, toys, tools, furniture, quilts, and many other articles. Do you have some of these treasures to loan or give to the Museum?
 Elsie Jelinek

WE SEND CONGRATULATIONS !

The Foundations CONGRATULATE each of YOU on your skills and contributions to our Czech heritage and culture.

to CATHY DUVAL, granddaughter of Mrs. Libuše Pauck. Cathy graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in New York. She is now on a scholarship at the Charles University in Praha where she is majoring in Czech and Russian languages.

to DON ZASADNY of Cedar Rapids who placed 5th in the World Trampoline Championships in Sydney, Australia last fall. He was a member of the United States Team .

to LESTER SYKORA and his brother, GEORGE who made the front page (in color) in a recent Gazette story. They were on the job at the ovens in the bakery. Pictured were six different kinds of Czech breads and specialties.

In 1928 a large loaf of rye bread - only as Sykora can turn out rye bread - cost 25¢; today that same size loaf costs \$1.10. Flour was 2¢/1lb then and today is 15¢ to 22¢/1lb. So, like the \$732 Chevy in 1934 is today 7 to 9 times that price of long ago.

to GARY A and GEORGE J SVEC who are experts in diamond point engraving, a hobby as well as a business. They work with glass etching designs . For example, etching works better on lead glass than harder glass. Gems and Minerals are also one of the mediums they use to create many beautiful designs and objects.

to JANICE HORAK, librarian, finds answers to questions that people phone in for answers. She said that the City Library Reference Services found answers to some 86,000 questions in 1978. Those people sure know WHERE to find the answers!

to VINCE FIALA, CHARLES KOPECEK, FRANK DRAHOZAL, AND ED GRUBHOFFER whose story appeared in the paper about one year ago now. They were "showing off" the sausages, salami, bologna, and jaternice which are specialties made from "Old Bohemian" recipes at Polehna Market on 16th.

Some others who made the news last year are: ROSE POLEHNA with her noodle making machine; MARGE NEJDL demonstrating egg coloring; FRANK NETOLICKY and accordian; MRS. FRED MALLY, MRS. CHARLES EASKER, CAROLYN HAMDORF reviving the stripping of feathers; the BODDICKER musicians and many others. This editor cannot keep up with you busy, active do-ers ! CONGRATULATIONS !

Czech

do Ameriky !

The following story was told to Mrs. Vlasta B. Fajmon by her father, Karel Bezdečný, age 97, about his early days in Cedar Rapids.

"Narodil jsem roku 1882 v Poděbradech a do této zaslíbené země a do Cedar Rapids jsem přijel v roce 1908. President Theodore Roosevelt právě dokončoval lhůtu.

Můj první bydlení bylo na 16 avenue, zapadní, u bratra Štěpána, který bydlil v domku na tom místě kde se nyní nachází Koškův obchod.

Mám různé vzpomínky na ty tak dávné časy. Když jsem odpočinul si po té daleké cestě přes moře na německé lodi "Kaiser Wilhelm", bratrova žena mě vedla při mém hledání nového zaměstnání. To trvalo několik dnu. Protože jsem byl vyučen jako řemeslník v zpracovávání dřeva, našel jsem konečné práci v továrně u Cedar Rapids Sash and Door.

Pracoval jsem pilně abych dosáhl vyššího platu. Dostával jsem pouze 4 dollary na týden. Pomatují že tam byl hlavní ředitel který měl na starost výkon práce. Byl Českého původu a též ovládal Českou řeč. Když jsem tam pracoval 4 měsíce, ptal jsem se o přidávek, a on mě řekl, "Můžeš být rád že máš práci. Jsi ještě "greenhorn" - a neumiš řeč, a jestli se Ti to nelíbí, tamhle jsou dveře."

(continued in the next issue)

Note: Readers will appreciate that the above was an informal conversation and that many words in the Czech language differ from region to region within the country.

ENGLISH

To America !

To help the reader follow the Czech words more readily, this translation is not in the best literary style - but rather stays close to the words in Czech. The editor thought it would be helpful to those of you wanting to follow the text more closely.

"I was born in the year 1882 at Podebrady (Bohemia) and came to this land of promise and to Cedar Rapids. I came in the year 1908. President Theodore Roosevelt was just completing his term (in office).

My first home was on 16th Avenue with my brother Steve who lived in a house at the place where now stands Kosek's store.

I have rosy memories of those long ago times. When I had rested after my long journey over the ocean on the German ship "Kaiser Wilhelm" my brother's wife accompanied me in seeking new work. That took several days. Because I had been trained in woodworking, I finally found work at the factory of the Cedar Rapids Sash and Door.

Work I (did) diligently so that I'd get higher pay. I was receiving there only \$4.00 a week. I remember the head supervisor who had the responsibility for (the) performance of the work. He was of Czech origin so likewise spoke fluently the Czech language. When I had worked (there) 4 months. I asked for a raise, and he said to me, "You can be glad you have work. You are still a "greenhorn" - and you do not know the language, and if you are not pleased, there is the door."

At this point, it would be wise for the editor to take full responsibility for whatever errors appear on this page.

z cizho nezbohatneš.
Cin pro praveho, neboj se žadného.
Podvod a klam zradi se sam

You'll not gain riches from strangers.
Act right, fear no one.
Fraud and deceit betray themselves.

(submitted by Mary Prohaska, Dysart, Iowa)

Summary of Donations to date, Czech Heritage Fdn.

| Year | \$1-\$10 | | \$11-50 | | \$51-100 | | over \$100 | | Total |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------|---------|--------|----------|--------|------------|----------|----------|
| | # | \$ | # | \$ | # | \$ | # | \$ | |
| 1974 | 10 | \$83. | 1 | \$ 25. | 1 | \$100. | 4 | \$ 1225. | \$ 1433. |
| 1975 | 3 | 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15. |
| 1976 | 10 | 79 | 7 | 159. | 1 | 53. | - | - | 291. |
| 1977 | 8 | 37 | 1 | 15. | - | - | - | - | 52. |
| 1978 | 8 | 33 | 8 | 263. | 1 | 100. | 2 | 351. | 747. |
| 1979 | - | - | 3 | 70. | - | - | - | - | 70. |
| Total number of donors to date: 68 | | | | | | | | | \$ 2608. |

The report of donations at the left was made by Treasurer, Charles Krejci. Now, let's make 1979 a banner year in support of Czech Heritage Foundation!

How do you like the design below? It is the creative work of Marge Nejd1. The idea of a "Gift Card" was suggested by Charles Krejci. He writes, " Do you have a gift problem? Want something different? Give a gift certificate! "



On the inside of the fold is this message:
 A MEMBERSHIP IN THE CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION
 is being established as a gift to you from

with the wish that you will enjoy the
 membership for the coming year

SO! for an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, some special event, or "just because" send to P.O.Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 52406 the dues of \$3.00 per individual, name and the address of the person or persons. We will mail the GIFT CARD and the MEMBERSHIP CARD and a copy of this newsletter.

VISIT THE CITY LIBRARY

The Library is saluting St. JOSEPH'S DAY and St. PATRICK'S DAY in March. Come to the "Browsing Shelf" to the

right of the main desk and then among the bookstacks! Doris Wilcox and staff have for your enjoyment Czech (and Irish) books, tapes, films and records.

Recent Arrivals

Before Frank Kucera moved to Seattle, he left three boxes of books for our Library. Soon we will unpack them and are sure to find many treasures. Thank you, Mr. K.

Only the other day, a new volume off the press was sent by Mrs. Stanley Greene of Denver, Colorado. The book, "The Czechs and Slovaks in North America—a Bibliography" by Esther Jerabek, is a comprehensive listing of scores and scores of references.

And from Mrs. Robert Burrows (Catherine Herejk), Belle Plaine, two large, heavy volumes "Letem Českým Světem", literally "A Flight over Czech Land" tho' we might say "An Overview of Czech Lands".. Five hundred photographs of views in the 1890's of cities, towns, villages, rural and mountain scenes and the text are a gold-mine of information.

The gratifying reaction in seeing these pictures is that those of you who have been in Czechoslovakia will recognize the very same buildings—baroque, renaissance, Gothic, neo-Gothic, Roman, architecture of the structures—many dating back to the 13-14 centuries; still intact and there. Of course some have been renovated and the facades kept in condition. The only difference between the pictures and today's views, tho' the cobblestones remain, is that the modes of transportation differ. Oh yes—clothing styles and sizes of trees are also different!

You will recognize the Old Town Square with the famous clock (damaged during WWII), huge statue of Hus and Tyn Church of 14-15 century. .at Olomuc the St. Wencil cathedral (1305) with its tall, TALL spires in all their glory..Karlový Vary nestling in the valley ..the castle Hluboká.the chapel at Karlštýn..and the Špilberk castle at Brno where Hitler had dungeons, torture chambers, master phone switchboard to run the affairs of invasion and occupation.

The views are from all over Čechy, Moravia, Silesia, and Slovakia.

50 YEAR JUBILEE of C.S.P.S. 1904 is also from Mrs. Burrows. The events were held in St. Louis. Pictures of members from Iowa, Ill., Ohio, Penna., N.Y., Md., Mich., Wis., Minn., Mo., Tex. give an idea of the spread of Czech lodges.

A picture of Prof. Bohumil Shimek, famous botanist at Univ. of Iowa, and a brief story of his accomplishments are of interest. Many of you remember him or even may have known him in his time.

Named are lodges in our area: Cedar Rapids PROKOP VELKY č 46 (1882): Jos Žbanek, W.F. Severa, Jos. Kroulik, F. Janda, W.F. Slapnicka; KAREL IV, č 77 (1882): Jos. Pátek, Bart Sedlacek, Vac. Kudrna; and the MLADOČECH č 82, Ant. Sokoup. Jan Sykora, Jiří Voříček. . . In 1833 lodges were POSLEDNI TABORITÁ č 84 in Ely, and LASKA č 164 in Solon. Other lodges were in Belle Plaine, Vining, Quarry and other states.

On June 21-23, 1891, the C.S.P.S. Hall in C.R. was dedicated and opened for events. Recently the building was recognized as an historic site.

The advertisements in the book recall many places and people of those years at the turn of the century: F. Červená, pekař a cukrář, (baker-confectioner); same for C.K. Kosek; Tichý a Škvor, lékárna (pharmacists); same for B.O. Jandera; Jos. Měkota, právník (lawyer); Dr. Jan C. Petrovský, lékař; Jan Vosmek, krejčí (tailor); A. Nemeč a V. Divišek, obuv (shoes) same for Jan Krall whose name is still on a shoe store! and P. Matyk a Syn, dry goods; Kouba a Syn, leather goods, harnesses; Jos. Hruška, pivo (beer); Jos. Pták, toombstones; Frant. Dostal, resturance; Dr. W.F. Naibert zubní lékař (dentist); same for Bratři Haškové; J. Vesely, J.F. Kofron, C. Laubek at C.R. Dílna kolar a kočary, vozý (carriage works, wagons). Grocers were Emil Pazdera; and V.E. Váně; and Kašpar, Vondraček, Krejčí, and Bartoš. .