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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



Stasia Krivanek Crowned Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2003-2004

(Story on page 3)

Volume 28 – Number 3 – Fall, 2003



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

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OUR CZECH HERITAGE



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Nase Ceske Dedictvi

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation who pay their annual dues of \$3.00 per person receive *Nase Ceske Dedictvi* free. Dues are renewable on January 1st of each year and expire December 31st. The newsletter, which is mailed quarterly, serves to inform its members of its activities, people, and places. Dues received in or after September apply to the following year for new members.

President's Message

By Arlo Netolicky

Greetings:

Congratulations to our Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Queen Stasia Krivanek, who won the National Miss Czech-Slovak USA Queen Title.

Again our Czech Heritage committees were very busy.

- Czech School was a busy and successful place and ended with the usual Ice Cream Social.
- The Homestay Program continues with five (5) teenagers coming from the Czech Republic and staying for one month.
- The Scholarship recipients were selected and notified of their standings.
- Soon a new Prince and Princess will be selected.
- The hard work of editor Russ Novotny has again given us another issue of *Nase Ceske Dedictvi*

Newsletter Volunteers

By Frank Novotny

Sincere thanks to the people that have helped in assembling and mailing the newsletter. We have an enjoyable get together at my home, and generally we are done around noon. I get fried chicken, and the workers bring a dish for a pot luck, and we have a wonderful lunch. Thanks again. The people putting the last newsletter together were:

Hedi Benesh, Emma Davidson, Lenora Jiroutek, Peg Merta, Arlene Netolicky, Arlo & Joyce Netolicky, Frank Novotny, Darlene Trachta, John & Adeline Volesky, and Mana Zataluseck.

We welcome anyone who wishes to join us for future issues.

I. Cover Story: Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2003-04

Stasia Krivanek Crowned Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2003-04

By Russ Novotny



Stasia Krivanek was crowned **Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2003** on August 3, 2003 in Wilber, Nebraska. The Pageant is part of a multi-day celebration of Czech Heritage each summer in Wilbur.

Stasia was sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Czech Heritage Foundation. In May, she was crowned Miss

Czech-Slovak Iowa 2003 at Iowa's state pageant, which was also sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation.

This is the second time in the past three years that the Iowa contestant won the National title! In 2001, Lisa Volesky brought the title back to Iowa. Although Iowa had been represented at previous contests, Lisa was the first Iowa entry to receive the national title. We are certainly proud of the youth involvement we have been able to enjoy here in Iowa.

Contestants representing nine states competed for the national Miss Czech-Slovak title in Wilbur this year.



L-R: Leslie Bartos (OK), Frances Brilit (FL), Rebecca Hamata (NE), Carrie Hogg (KA), Megan Kloucek (SD), Stasia Krivanek (IA), Amanda Porubsky (WI), Lauren Valik (TX), Ashley Vlasak (MN)

<u>CONTESTANT</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>
Leslie Bartos	Oaklahoma	Oaklahona Czechs, Inc. of Yukon
Frances Brilit	Florida	Miss Czech & Slovak Florida
Rebecca Hamata	Nebraska	Nebraska Czechs, Inc.
Carrie Hogg	Kansas	Wilson, Kansas Chamber of Commerce
Megan Kloucek	South Dakota	Tabor, South Dakota Chamber of Commerce
Stasia Krivanek	Iowa	Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc. of Cedar Rapids, IA
Amanda Porubsky	Wisconsin	Wisconsin Pageant & Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society
Lauren Valik	Texas	Czech Heritage Society of Texas
Ashley Vlasak	Minnesota	Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota

Contestants are judged in the following categories:

- Talent
- Personalty
- Ethnic costume.

All contestants must be of Czech, Moravian, Silesian, or Slovak descent.

Prizes presented to Miss Czech-Slovak USA include:

- \$2,000 Savings Bond from the Nebraska Czechs of Wilber
- Trip to Czech Republic or Slovak Republic, sponsored by Peter Walter and Linconnection Travel Agency, and John Fiala
- 1 Year tuition scholarship to Florida Gulf Coast University



Jennifer Vollmar (2002-03 Queen), Lauren Valik (1st Runner up), Ivo Broskevic (Czech Republic Embassy, Cultural Affairs, Washington, DC), Stasia Krivanek (2003-04 Queen), Amanda Porubsky (2nd Runner up)



Jon Fiala (Pageant Chairman & Founder, Stasia Krivanek (2003-04 Queen), Ivo Broskevic (Czech Republic Embassy, Washington, DC),

Stasia's parents are David & Debbie Krivanek of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She graduated from Prairie High School

in 2000, and is attending Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota. After graduation she plans on entering the ministry and at some point attending graduate school to earn a Masters of Divinity. Her long-term goal is to become a motivational speaker/evangelist.



Sonja, Debbie, Stasia, and David Krivanek

Thoughts & Reflections

By Stasia Krivanek

EDITOR'S NOTES: I asked Stasia for some comments, and they just poured out. These thoughtful observations should give you some idea how she was able to answer the pageant judges' questions and win them over. It should also show us what a great representative she will be this year in her reign as Miss Czech-Slovak USA. She challenges our community with some good ideas here. Let's see how we can all help to make them become realities.



Stasia in front of "Reflections" of the NCSML

Here are some thoughts I have had in regards to the Miss Czech-Slovak USA title, and thoughts and reflections I've had this past year about being Czech. I know I wrote a lot, but I have had many thoughts about my ancestry over the past year



➤ In May, I went to the Czech Republic on a missions trip with my school. In preparing for the trip, I researched Czech cultural values and attitudes. I was really surprised by the number of Czech cultural values that have been passed down to me. As a result, I realized the benefits of understanding one's national heritage. One of my goals as Miss Czech-Slovak USA is to encourage different Czech and Slovak organizations in the United States to start heritage summer schools and summer day-camps.

➤ I have been really lucky to grow up in Cedar Rapids - in a Czech community. So many of my friends don't know much about their ancestry and I feel like they are really missing out. The evening before I left for the Czech Republic, I went out for dessert with some college friends. We spent some time talking about our different ethnic backgrounds. One friend mentioned that she wished she knew more about her ancestry, but she couldn't, because the country her ancestors came from doesn't exist anymore. I asked her where her ancestors were from. She replied, "Bohemia." Imagine my shock. She is about 50% Czech and she didn't even know it! Since then I have been trying to teach her the little Czech that I know.

➤ There were a lot of girls in the pageant who would have done a wonderful job representing Czech and Slovak Americans this next year. I feel very privileged to have met each and every one of them and I hope to see them all again sometime in the future.

➤ When I went to the pageant, my eyes were focused on representing Iowa well. I didn't really think too much about the idea of representing the entire United States, until a new friend I met in Wilber suggested that I think about why I wanted to represent Czechs and Slovaks in the entire United States. After spending time in prayer, I was reminded of what a gift I had received in having the opportunity to attend Czech school. I would like to see other young people be given this opportunity also.

➤ Czech Days in Wilber, Nebraska are overwhelming. I remember when I went to them the first time representing Iowa when I was sixteen. I think it was then that I really began to realize how much more I could learn about what it means to be a Czech-American.

➤ I'm lucky to have a Babi who enjoys making kroje. I am also lucky to have a De who took me with him to auctions where I could listen to him and his friends speak Czech.

➤ A couple of weekends ago I went to Moravian Days in Countryside, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. The festival was really neat. Saturday evening they had a formal banquet with Czech food and dancing. On Sunday morning, they held a Moravian church service followed by lunch and a music and dance program. There were a lot of young people! I think it would be really great if Cedar Rapids had its own Czech dance group. Then we could send the group to different festivals around the US, as representatives of our community. I think it would attract more tourists to Cedar Rapids.

➤ I also think it would be really neat if the Czech community of Cedar Rapids worked alongside Z102.9 to create a street dance in the Czech Village for high school students.

➤ I am very thankful for the experiences and learning I received during my few years at Czech school.

➤ I also have many fond memories of Houby Days and community events both inside and outside of Czech village.

➤ We need to not only keep our Czech culture alive in the Village, but also in our homes, by recognizing what is distinctively Czech.

➤ When I went to the Czech Republic in May, it was almost as if all of my worlds came together in one place. I went with college classmates from Minnesota to a place that reminded me of home, doing what I am most passionate about - sharing the love and good news of Jesus Christ.

➤ We, as Czech Americans, have a gift that we can give to Czechs in the Czech Republic. We have been able to preserve historical Czech heritage in a way that they have been unable to preserve it.

➤ When I was in the Czech Republic, I spent a weekend with an elderly woman in Blansko. On Saturday evening I asked her if I could sing to her some of the songs I learned in Czech school. I began singing and her eyes filled with tears. We then spent some time singing together. When I began to sing "Kde Domov Muj", she asked me to stop. The next morning when we were all dressed up for church she said, "Now is the time." Then standing at attention in our nice clothes we sang the national anthem. Her respect for her country really struck me. Do we have that same respect for the United States? for God?



III. Czech Language Corner: Lesson 11

By Olga Drahozal

Answers to your translation exercise from the last lesson:

From CZECH	To ENGLISH
Ten profesor ma nove auto.	That professor has a new auto.
Ta zena ma zeleny kabat.	That woman has a green coat.
Ta pani ma velkou knihu.	That lady has a large (big) book.
To piano ma klic.	That piano has a key.

From CZECH	To ENGLISH
Ja mam starou knihu.	I have an old book.
Ty mas malou kocku.	You have a small cat.
Ona ma cerbenou tuzku.	She has a red pencil.
Vy mate širokou (shee-raw-koh) [wide] reku.	You (plural) have a wide river.
Oni maji malou zahradu.	They have a small garden.

The word "zahrada" is interesting. We call it a garden if our backyard has something planted in it, i.e., vegetables, fruit, flowers. If not, we call it our lawn or backyard. The Czech people use the word "zahrada" as interchangeable.

CHALLENGES:

The --- ing ending on English verbs is called a gerund. It does not exist in the Czech. "I am looking--" becomes "I look--" and "I am having--" becomes "I have."

Another challenge occurs when we try to translate: "I do not have--". In Czech the negative ne precedes the verb.

- I do not have = I not have, as in Ja nemam
- I do not give = I not give, as in Ja nedam

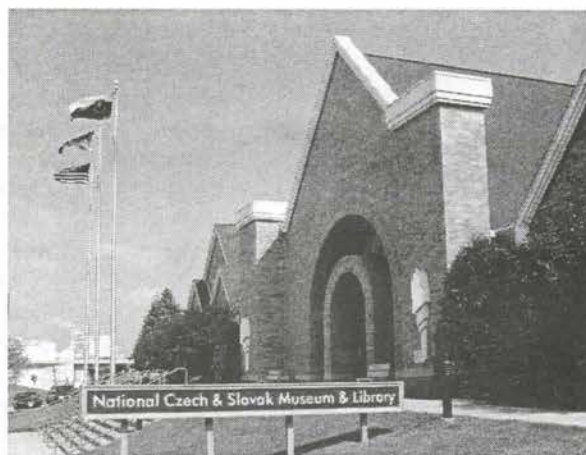
Here is a sample:

PERSON	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st person	Ja nedam	My nedame
2 nd person	Ty Nedas	Vy Nedate
3 rd person	On, ona, ono, neda (he, she, it)	Ony, oni nedaji (they – only for masculine Oni only for feminine)

Write all the persons using the sample above for the verbs

- hledam (I am looking)
- volam (I am calling)
- nemam (I do not have)

IV. National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



Special Exhibit

Liberation: World War I and the Formation of Czechoslovakia

October 31, 2003 - March 7, 2004



The Czechoslovak independence movement is an epic of grand proportions set against the dramatic backdrop of World War I. As Europe suffered under the ravages of war, three men (Tomáš Masaryk, Edvard Beneš, and Milan Štefánik) worked in exile to promote the formation of a free Czech and Slovak country. Meanwhile, Czech and Slovak

soldiers were forced to fight for their oppressors, the Austro-Hungarian Empire. *Liberation! World War I and the Formation of Czechoslovakia* tells the story of the men who worked for the creation of Czechoslovakia and the soldiers who risked their lives crossing enemy lines to fight against their oppressors. Their efforts were rewarded with the formation of a free Czechoslovak Nation at the end of the war. Their challenges continued for months after the war when 70,000 Czechoslovak soldiers remained in Siberia to guard the Trans-Siberian Railroad on behalf of the Allies. *Liberation!* also explores American support for the independence movement. *Liberation!* closes March 7, 2004.

Liberation! will include objects and archival material from the NCSML's own collection as well as loans from the National Museum in Prague, the Library of Congress, The Wolfsonian, The Herbert Hoover Museum and

Library, the Oshkosh Public Museum, and many private collections. The exhibit will also include original motion footage of the Czechoslovaks and other Allied troops in Siberia in 1918 and 1919.



Exhibit-related programs will be offered throughout the four months of the exhibition. These include lectures, films, and a forum titled, *Nation Building: The Question of U.S. Intervention from Czechoslovakia to Iraq*, moderated by U.S. Congressman Jim Leach.

Liberation! World War I and the Formation of Czechoslovakia and related programs are supported in part by a grant from Humanities Iowa. For more information about these programs, or the exhibition, call (319) 362-8500 or visit the web site, www.NCSML.org.

Hundreds Attend 2nd Annual Dance Festival

Reprinted from NCSML Newsletter



United Moravian Societies Dancers from Berwin, IL

The NCSML hosted its 2nd Annual National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival in the Museum garden on Sunday, July 20, 2003. Dancers from Minnesota, Illinois, and Texas performed to an audience of more than 500 people from 13 states. Mark Vyhldal's Band inspired many to get up and dance, despite the heat. You won't want to miss the fun at next year's dance festival, Sunday, July 18, 2004.

CALLING ALL

Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dancers:

Bring your troupe to Cedar Rapids for the 3rd Annual Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival in 2004. For more information, contact Jan at (319) 362-8500 or jan@NCSML.org.

Property Donated to NCSML

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) announces that Scott E. and Penny Olson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa are donating the property at 1548 A Street SW to the museum. The 10,000 square foot building and land, valued at \$240,000, sit in the heart of Czech Village.

Scott Olson, a registered architect and commercial real estate broker, has owned the building since 1997. He said, "I am thrilled that this gift will make possible future expansion options for the museum by providing property adjacent to their current facility. This will assist in the redevelopment of the Czech Village area which is a part of RiverRun by giving the museum control of a highly visible property and the ability to create a more tourist friendly environment."



View of Czech Village and NCSML Next to River



Zoom in on NCSML. Donated Property Across the Street from the Clock Tower



Donated Property next to NCSML



Donated Property is a Key Part of Czech Village

Tim Kintner, chair of the Board of Directors, and Gail Naughton, president/CEO of the NCSML, accepted the gift. Kintner said, "This extraordinarily generous gift positions the museum and library for future expansion and growth. We are eager to explore the possibilities that it presents for us as we continue to expand our programming and outreach as the preeminent national museum and library focusing on the history and cultural heritage of the Czech and Slovak people."

Naughton stated, "When the current building of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library was dedicated in 1995 it was the result of a vision and dream embraced by individuals, businesses, city government and foundations throughout the city and Linn County. People came together around a vision, made a plan, donated funds, and went forward on faith to build something great. They made an investment for the future. It was only seven years ago this building was dedicated and look at what we have today! The museum and library contributes significantly to the quality of life for citizens of Cedar Rapids and Linn County and attracts visitors from all over the world. Many visitors tell us that this museum is their destination - it is the reason they come to Cedar Rapids. The original investment of time, talent and money has had a real return economically for the city of Cedar Rapids."

With the RiverRun plan, it is time for the citizens of Cedar Rapids to invest in the future again. We support the vision RiverRun has for the city - for visitors and

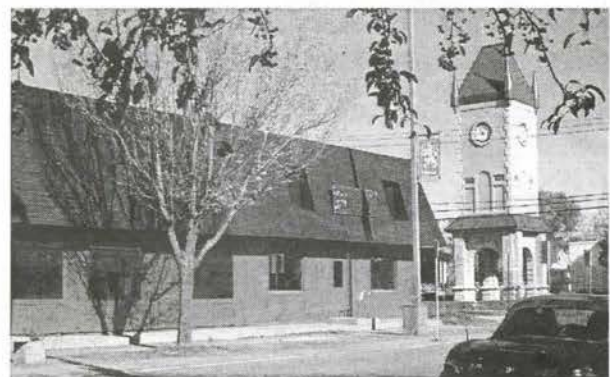
citizens alike. It took a community filled with vision and possibility to bring the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library to reality just seven short years ago. It will take that same community's vision of possibility to bring the River Run project to reality today.

When the original settlers came to Eastern Iowa from the Czech lands more than 150 years ago, they came with a vision of a better life for their families. They embraced the possibilities their new country offered and accepted the changes they faced in America. Today it is with that same spirit and sense of great possibilities for the future that the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library looks to and embraces the potential the River Run project brings to our community."

Building History

1548 A Street SW combines three original business addresses in Czech Village: 40, 44 and 46 16th Ave. SW. Various businesses were located at the three locations over the years. Highlights of the businesses at these addresses over the years are:

- 1903 - dry goods store
- 1906 - Wesley Chapel, a place where new Bohemian immigrants could learn English from St. Paul's Methodist Church volunteers.
- 1912 - barber
- 1917 - hardware store
- 1919 - "soft drink" joint
- 1921 - second hand store
- 1925 - CJ Kosek electrical contractor
- 1933 - feed company
- 1937 - tavern (owned by one of the **first** women to have a business on the avenue, Jennie Maxa)
- 1945 - radio service store
- 1951 - branch of the public library
- 1957 - a residence; saw filters business
- 1966 - Joe's Diner
- 1970 - Salvation Army
- 1984 - The **three** store fronts were joined and became the location for Bulicek's Bridge Villa
- 1990 - Riverside and Company.



Several Original Storefronts were Incorporated into One Large Property

V. Czech Heritage

Special Reports:

Czech Homestay Ambassadors

EDITOR'S NOTE: This year, the Czech Heritage Foundation sent five students to represent us as Ambassadors to the Czech Republic. They visited host families in the Czech Republic for one month this summer. There, they got the special opportunity to go beyond the status of "tourist" and really learn about life in the Czech Republic from their host families. Following are their reports on their grand adventures. Seldom do we get the chance to give a young adults a memory that will last a lifetime, and maybe even change that lifetime. I think you'll see from these reports that this program does just that.



Czech Heritage Homestay Ambassadors and Their Hosts on Their Last Night in the Czech Republic

Naomi Fottral



On June 18th, when we landed in the Prague airport, I was greeted by my host sister, Katka, and her father. We were driven back to her flat and I began unpacking, wondering what the next few weeks would be like. I stayed with Katka in her flat, along with her mother, her step-father, and occasionally a sibling would be there as well. (She had a half sister

and brother, and for most of my stay her half sister was at her grandma's house.) For the first week or so, I got acquainted with my home, host-family, Prague, and their life-styles. We visited Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, and other touristy places. Also I learned how to use the metro, and tram, so that I could navigate myself around

Prague alone. Their school year was just about coming to an end, so I only went to school twice.



Naomi's Favorite Picture of Prague Castle

Katka's father took us on a little road trip, to see the country-side, old towns, and castles, in Southern Bohemia. We left on a Friday, and returned on a Sunday. During this time we stayed in a type of motel, in the part of the country that is supposedly regarded as having the cleanest air in Europe. We went on quite a few guided castle tours, and my favorite one ended up being in a little town called Český Krumlov.

After we got back from the road trip, we had a couple of days of down time, and then we were off again. This time we went on a little backpacking trip. It was quite a bit different from the backpacking I'm used to. One of the nights was spent in a monastery, and two nights were spent in a tepee. We had left on a Monday night, and returned to Prague on Saturday night.

On the following Tuesday we took a six hour train ride to her Grandma's house. She lives in the country in a little town that's right on the border of the Czech Republic and Poland. After that we went on a rafting trip, and before we knew it, it was time to come home.

I would like to say thank you to all of the people who made this trip possible. It was such a great experience, and I would do it again in a heart beat. I am sure that I will always remember this trip, as it is unlike any trip I will ever go on.

Austen Fiala



Thank you all for helping me and my friends go to the Czech Republic. I don't think I have ever learned so much in such a short period of time. The family I stayed with was great. Mikulas was my host brother. I stayed with his mother and him in their flat in Prague, but I spent half my trip there.

Once school was out we went to stay with his father in the south Bohemian Forest for a few days. While we were there I learned for the first time that the Czech Republic had vipers! I had heard that the climate was almost exactly like Iowa, so I expected the same kind of animals to live in that climate. But Mikulas's dad told me stories about finding huge vipers on his back porch and trying to kill them or scare them away from the house. The rest of the trip, whenever I walked in the forest, I felt a little uneasy.

After spending a weekend with his father, we stayed at his weekend house in Sasava with his grandparents. Mikulas and I spent our days fishing and swimming and walking to old historical towns to see castles. And at night after dinner Mikulas would translate conversations so that I could speak with his grandparents.

Once we left Sasava, Mikulas and I went to a 10 day Judo camp. This judo camp was located in a part of the Czech Republic that is always 8 to 10 degrees cooler than the rest of the country. At judo camp we worked out and rebuilt the campsite. Speaking with kids at the judo camp was very difficult because only a few of the older kids could speak any English at all, and not enough to put together a sentence. So my conversations with them were usually a mixture of English and German. The judo masters, on the other hand, knew very good English and I spent many nights around the campfire speaking with them about lifestyles in their country compared to lifestyles in America.

This trip was a wonderful experience for me. I would need a book to explain everything I learned while I was there. Thank you for such a great experience.

Kelsi Kautzky

To all Cedar Rapidian Czechs: I cannot express to you my gratitude for the gift of such a once in a lifetime opportunity. I have been to Europe before, but it was nothing like this. I was in a huge group of 40 people, and everywhere I went people stared at us all the time thinking, "Stupid tourists", and the gypsies saw big red targets on us. It was nice to be able to go to tourist areas and not have people gawk because we were tourists. It was also wonderful because I lived with someone who knew all of the tricks of the trade and helped me so I didn't feel out of place. It was great having my own personal tour guide.



About two weeks in, we took a trip to the place that my ancestors were from. We stood on his land, drank from his well, and saw where he worked. The feeling was completely indescribable, like some sort of overwhelming happiness standing in the place where part of my family started. Before I went, I was inspired to learn about my ancestry, but now I've decided to become more active in learning. Next year at the University of Iowa, in addition to working towards being a pharmacist, I will be learning the Czech language. I feel like I already have a foot in the door because I have spent a month there and picked up on some of the language.

It was nice not be in Iowa, where I am familiar with everything. It is such a rewarding lesson that you learn when you go somewhere that you don't know anything, don't have everything and nothing is the same. When you get home you don't even have to think twice about whether or not you appreciate something. Something so simple as an attached shower head makes you remember how good you've got it! I had a great time and would do it all over again if I could, thank you so much to everyone who made this trip possible. Diki moc!!

Rebecca Moeller

When I was singing Czech folk songs in Mrs. Drahozal's Czech School class, I never thought that in eight years I would be in the Czech Republic singing those same songs while riding down a river in a canoe. Words cannot express how grateful I am to have been selected as a participant in this year's Czech Republic trip. Representing the Czech Heritage Foundation as well as the United States of America in the Czech Republic was a wonderful experience that I will never forget!



While staying in the Czech Republic there were many challenges that I was forced to face head on. Luckily, I was able to overcome these obstacles and truly enjoy myself. One example of these challenges was the obvious language barrier. I had learned the basics of Czech and I was able to get around in the more "touristy" parts of Prague. However, trying to communicate with my host mother who did not speak much English at all was a different story. This challenge helped me strengthen my Czech language skills and form a close relationship with a very kind and caring woman who became a second mother to me.



Rebecca's Host Sister, Host Mother, and Rebecca

Regardless of the trials I faced, I had a wonderful stay in the Czech Republic. I would have to say that my most memorable moment was when I went to the Hanovsky Pavilion and saw the entire city of Prague from on top of a hill. At this point, I realized how fortunate I was to have been chosen for this trip and that experiences like this only come once in a lifetime. Once again, an enormous thank you goes to the Czech Heritage Foundation for choosing me to go on this trip. You all have played a big part in helping me learn more about another culture and also myself. Děkuji mockrát!

Rachel Sippy

Most students spend their summers lounging around or working. I did much more. I had the unique experience of traveling to the Czech Republic for one month to learn about its people and culture. I traveled with four other students, and we each stayed with a Czech family.



My host family consisted of my host sister, Barbora (Bara for short), Bara's sister, Veronika, my host mother, Helena, and Bara's grandmother (affectionately called 'Babi'). There was also the much-loved golden retriever, Coleta. We lived in a small town, Rudna, just outside of Prague.

This trip allowed me to interact with my family. Bara rides horses. She rides in endurance races (40 miles). She has trained five days a week for the last nine years. When I wanted to see her ride, she gave me directions to the town, and we agreed to meet. I took the bus, but once I got off, I realized I didn't know where to go. I couldn't see any barns nearby. I decided Bara would probably come get me, and sat at the bus stop to wait. After an hour, the bus for Rudna came, so I decided to go home. Only after I bought my ticket and stepped onto the bus was I able to see over the large fence across the

street, where a number of horses were standing. The barn had been across the street the entire time! Bara thought this was very funny, whereas I was not as amused.

My family didn't have a car, so I was grateful for Prague's public transportation system. Bara had planned out a number of trips for us, and we were able to meet with the other American students and their hosts to tour Prague. Prague has a lot to offer to any tourist. There are modern shops for buying beautiful Bohemian crystal, night clubs for dancing, and McDonald's for when you're homesick. 'Old Town' offers a rich view of historic Prague; many of the buildings are kept in the Renaissance style, and there are countless art exhibits and museums to see. Just outside of Prague, there are castles to visit (I think we castled ourselves out) and we were even able to visit a former Jewish ghetto.

There were also many little pleasures to enjoy. The farmer's market sold fresh foods, as well as homemade crafts. There were painters on the sidewalks and beautiful wheat fields in the countryside. We were able to meet so many people and formed friendships with people across the world.

I am very grateful to the Czech Heritage Foundation for this amazing trip. I have learned so much. Many people will never have an opportunity even close to this; I cannot express what this chance meant to me. I hope the Czech Heritage Foundation will continue to provide students with this invaluable experience. Thank you so much.

Czech Heritage Float is "Judges Favorite"



Patriotic Theme was "Judges Favorite"

Once again, the Czech Heritage float took one of the top honors in this year's Freedom Festival parade. The parade was held 8/28/03 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The float sported likenesses of American Presidents and several American flags to represent the patriotic theme of the parade.



Czech Prince & Princess Ride on Float

Czech Heritage Float Trophies on Display in Czech Village

By Russ Novotny

What do we do with all the trophies? "Let's put them on display" was the answer, and a storefront in Czech Village provided the place.



Czech Village Storefront Filled with Trophies for Parade Floats Sponsored by Czech Heritage

Thanks to the work of Leonard Pfeifer and some cooperative merchants in Czech Village, the huge collection of trophies and awards won by our parade floats now are on display there. For those of you familiar with Czech Village, they are being displayed in the windows of the former Vondracek Meat Market, in the heart of Czech Village. Be sure to stroll by and take a look soon. We don't know how long this space will be available to us.



Leonard on His Float

Leonard was the designer, builder, and promoter for these floats that won all the trophies. He also helped build the display for the trophies. Over the years, Leonard's floats have been a mainstay of local parades, consistently winning top honors. Each year seems to bring a new theme, and each float that year is a variation on that theme.

Czech Heritage has been a sponsor for Leonard and his parade floats since the late '80s. We wish to thank him for all his efforts, and the visibility he helps bring to our mission of preserving and promoting our Czech heritage.

VI. Historic Perspectives:

A Peaceful Acreage in a Peaceful Place

Researched by Evelyn Stejskal

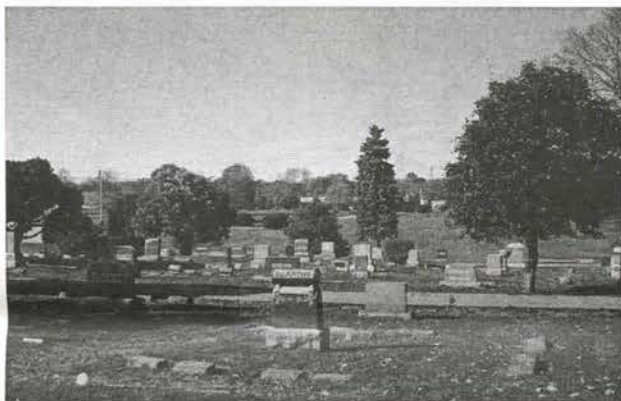
This story is about a house on an acreage in southwest Cedar Rapids that is now a part of the Czech National Cemetery. The time was circa 1920. The first known family to live in this house were Peter and Christina Procek and their 7 children; Adolph, Stanley, Benjamin, Lillian, Robert, Leo, and Richard. Robert was only 5 years old but he still recalls the acreage had a barn and some small buildings. Mr. Procek worked at Wilson-Sinclair Meat Packing Plant for income but the family of 9 had to raise much of their food. They raised chickens. Eggs were a staple food and often used.



The next family to live in this house were Frank and Rose Dvorak and their children Lucille, Libbie, Georgia, Lester, and twins Frank and Stanley. Mr Dvorak worked at Century Engineering and as a part time butcher. Libbie (Dvorak) Rozinck had few recollections of the acreage except playing with the neighbor children Dorothy (Stejskal) Kiracofe and Joe Stejskal, and had a lot of fun, even eating supper with the Dvorak's a few times drinking milk and eating bread.

Ed and Mary Koss were the next occupants of the house with their children Lillian (Koss) Schminke and Leo. Leo was born in the house in 1930. Lillian remembers very little about the little farm. Mr. Koss farmed and did custom farming.

About 1933, John Knapp, a house mover was hired by William Aossey to move the house to 18 Wilson Ave. SW onto the Aossey property. In 1957 Albert and Nancy Aossey lived in the house. In those days it was not unusual for gypsies to roam the countryside. The gypsies stopped at Aossey's store and station to make a purchase and disappeared. Little Albert was nowhere to be found. The frantic parents thought he might have left with the gypsies. A thorough search found the child in a nearby raspberry patch. After feasting on berries he fell asleep in the patch. This acreage became the city gardens and eventually was developed into the Czech National Cemetery park addition.



**Czech National Cemetery Addition
in the Background**

In the 1960's, the Aosseys sold the house for \$200.00 to a minister who moved it to 2911 Schaffer Drive SW. In 1977, Pat Ribble purchased the house and did extensive repairs and landscaping.



Evelyn Stejskal wishes to thank Bob Prokop, Lillian Schminke, Libbie Rozinek and Albert Aossey for the visits and providing this information. The house photo was provided courtesy of Windsong Photo.

VII. Feature Articles:

SVU North American Conference Takes Place in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

By Adeline Volesky

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) North American Conference took place on June 26 and June 27, 2003 at Coe College, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. SVU's Mission Statement reads, "The SVU is an independent, non-profit international cultural organization dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, the free dissemination of ideas, and the fostering of contact among people. It brings together scholars, scientists, artists, writers, students, lawyers, businessmen and others, throughout the world who have, because of their ethnic background or professional calling, an interest in the Czech Republic and/or Slovakia, their histories, peoples, or their cultural and intellectual contributions" (www.SVU2000.org).

An opening reception for the conference was held at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML) on Wednesday evening. The Laska Gallery of the museum was formally opened with a special presentation. Michael Cwach (Yankton, SD) performed the Ceske Dudy for all of those in attendance.

The conference officially began at 8:30 AM on Thursday, June 26, with brief comments by Dr. Mila Recheigl (SVU President), H.E. Martin Palous (Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the US), H.E. Martin Butora (Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the US), The Honorable Jaroslava Moserova (Senator, Parliament of the Czech Republic), Zdenek Lycka (Dir., Cultural Dept. and Relations with Czech Abroad, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prague), Paul Pate (Mayor of Cedar Rapids), and Cathleen Oslzly (Conference Coordinator).

Academic sessions commenced throughout Thursday and Friday, ranging from numerous topics and backgrounds. Panelists from all over the US and Europe presented various topics, many discussing Czech migration, and others the presence and current issues of Czechs and Slovaks in America, and relationships abroad. Thursday evening was concluded at Coe with a Chuckwagon BBQ and Polka Dance, with entertainment by Cedar Rapids' very own Czech Plus Band. The conference formally ended on Friday with a reception at Coe. Numerous awards were given at the reception to honor current SVU members, officers, and special guests. Over fifty door prizes were distributed from local Nebraska and Cedar Rapids businesses and individuals. A Czech and Slovak sing-along brought back many memories and created a spectacular finish to a successful conference.

Many conference participants additionally attended a Spillville, Iowa Tour on Saturday, a Clarinet and Piano Recital Saturday evening, and the Cedar Rapids / Solon / Ely Tour on Sunday.

Thanks to Local Donors:

I want to thank and recognize the many local donors who made it possible to give door prizes at the SVU Conference at the Coe College Memorial Union banquet on Friday, June 27, 2003. The prizes demonstrated the warmth and hospitality of our Czech community to the visitors from many states and foreign countries. Donors were:

Sykora Bakery, Czech Cottage, National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Frank Novotny, Czech Heritage Federation, Brosh Chapel, Frank and Evelyn Stejskal, Emma Davidson, Papich-Kuba Chapel, Saddle and Leather Shop, Bartunek's Appliance, St. Wenceslas Church, Czech Feather and Down Company, WFLA, and Catholic Workman #45.

Lisa Volesky Wins Heritage Cultural Award

By John Fiala, Vice President,
Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Science (SVU)

EDITOR'S NOTES: The Stephen J. Fiala award was presented to Lisa Volesky during the 2003 SVU Conference held on Coe College campus in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. John and Lois Fiala established this award in memory of their son. John provided this article for us.

The STEPHEN J FIALA Heritage Cultural Award is awarded to a young person who has demonstrated perpetual Czech-Slovak loyalty towards preservation of heritage, culture and traditions. A recipient must demonstrate in their community their pride of Czechoslovak involvement in education, humanities and development of international betterment. Stephen J. Fiala, whose life only spanned 39 years, was a person devoted to enhancing people relationships. His goal in

life was to improve through education, the understanding of people's need for a better society. His charisma with young people brought about an understanding of togetherness. He was a giver and doer. His philosophy of life was, "You never give up and always move forward with inspiration as it is an educational part of life."



John Fiala Presents Award to Lisa Volesky

The selection of Lisa Volesky, by John and Lois Fiala, for the STEPHEN J FIALA award, was because Lisa has demonstrated a youthful ambassadorship with society through her education. This is directed towards teaching the youth, motivating the community of Cedar Rapids and state of Iowa in organizing and directing the Iowa state Czech-Slovak pageant held during the Houby Days Festival, participating in the World Congress of SVU in Pilzen, Czech Republic in June of 2002, and the 2003 SVU Conference in Cedar Rapids wherein she presented youth movement incentives, and her personal pride of Czech-Slovak ancestry, which brought her the 2001-02 Miss Czech-Slovak USA Queen title and crown. Her gratitude and servitude are two of her strong characteristics.

A. Czech Heritage Contributors

The following graciously included additional donations with their membership application fees

May, 2003: John Fiala, William R. Novak, Robert Tayek

June, 2003: Hedvila A. Benesh, Mary Bozanek, Sandra C. Clayton, Helen Cross, Rep. Ro Foege, Janet L. Jeffries, Annalou Johnson, Karen Millard, Robert Ohnoutka, Helen K. Olson, Inez Popelka, Frances Sankiewicz, Ramona Caslavka Schmidt, James C. Shimek, Evelyn Thuerauf, Jeanette Hanket Wagner

July, 2003: Carol K. Grigson, Celeste Johannes, Ronald Keberle, Sherlee Peterson, Dr. Kathryn Vacha

August, 2003: Sharon S. Curtis, Frank Kysilko, Laurie Robinson, Hattie Suchy

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.

It is time to renew your membership, unless you are a new member. Memberships expire December 31 and are renewable January 1. Use this handy Membership Renewal Application form. Don't forget. Renew now so you won't miss a single information packed issue of Naše České Dědictví.

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

C. Czech Out These Web Sites

Travel to the Czech and Slovak Republics from the comfort of your own home. Read a Czech newspaper (in Czech if you want). Research your Czech/Slovak roots. The web contains more sites and information related to our heritage than any of us will ever have time to fully explore. Try some of these sites out.

Lists of Links to Other Czech & Slovak related Web Sites

<http://www.ncsml.org/links.htm> - Provided by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library)

http://www.slavophilia.com/pages/Country_Focus/ - Slavic and Eastern European Links. Includes Czech Republic and Slovak Republic

Cedar Rapids Gazette Features

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/village/index.htm> - Czech Village (Gazette articles, clickable map, village-related web sites, recipes, photo tour)

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/czech/index.htm> - Dedication of National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library - Special reports and related articles (1995)

Official Governmental Sites

<http://www.czech.cz/> - Czech Republic

<http://www.slovakembassy-us.org/> - Slovak Embassy in USA

Other Sites of Interest

<http://www.ncsml.org/> - National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library.

<http://www.afocr.org/> - American Friends of the Czech Republic

<http://www.svu2000.org/> - Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)

CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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D. Calendar of Events

- Oct. 14 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:30 PM
- Oct. 30 **NCSML 9th Annual Fall Dinner** – Reception at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library His Excellency Martin Palouš, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States.
- Oct. 30 **Liberation! World War I and the Formation of Czechoslovakia** - Special exhibit OPENS at NCSML
-
- Nov. 5 ***The View From Here: Recent Pictures From Central Europe and the American Midwest*** – Exhibit in NCSML, Laska Gallery
- Nov. 7 ***Documentary. American Experience: Woodrow Wilson.*** – NCSML Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM
- Nov. 8 **Life Long Learning** – NCSML Heritage Hall, 2:00 PM
"Woodrow Wilson's Foreign Policy and the League of Nations."
"President Woodrow Wilson and the Role of the U.S. in the Formation of Czechoslovakia."
- Nov. 9 ***Nation Building: The Question of U.S. Intervention from Czechoslovakia to Iraq*** – NCSML Heritage Hall, 2:00 PM
- Nov. 11 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:30 PM
-
- Dec. 6 **Svatý Mikuláš (Saint Nicholas) Day** – Czech Village
- Dec. 9 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:30 PM
- Dec. 13 **Museum Guild 5th Annual Cookie Walk.** – NCSML Grand Hall.