

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

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



## Czech Heritage Prince and Princess 2007

Jordan Netolicky and Emma Lehmann

(Story on page 4)

Volume 32 - Number 2 - 2007



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Kendra Kolthoff	Adeline Volesky
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## Nase Ceske Deditvi

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation who pay their annual dues of \$5.00 per person receive *Nase Ceske Deditvi* 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 September apply to the following year for new members.

### President's Message

By Leonard Pfeifer



It is with pride that I am able to witness firsthand the professional excellence associated with the Czech Heritage Foundation. This volunteer based group embraces the mission of programs for Czech youth.

For more than 24 years, the volunteers at the St. Joseph Dance have successfully raised funds for the Home Stay Program. An effort by Heritage volunteers makes this project fun for all involved. This is a genuine coup for our organization as more than \$80,000 has been raised since its early beginnings. Thank you to the dreamers and believers who have worked to achieve this huge success.

**February Newsletter Volunteers:**

Hedi Benesh, Arlene Netolicky, Peg Zach, Emma Davidson, Bernice M. Smith, Marie Cada , Bonnie Stepanek Arlo Netolicky, Joyce Netolicky, John Volesky, Adeline Volesky, Russ Novotny and Judy Serbousek

If anyone is interested in helping with this project, Please call Joyce Netolicky or  
Your name and phone number will be put on the calling list, and if you can help, we will call and let you know the time and date. It will be greatly appreciated. We fold, label, sort and pack the newsletters for mailing.

## **Editor's Message** - by Tara Quell

This is my second and final edition as Editor of the Czech Heritage Foundation newsletter. As many of you already know in March I accepted and started a new position at the Freeport Arts Center in Freeport, Illinois as a Museum Educator. I've also recently been accepted in the Masters Degree program at Northern Illinois University in Art History and Museum Studies and was awarded a full-tuition scholarship. I will be pursuing my degree full-time this fall. I've enjoyed editing the newsletter, even though it was only briefly. In the future please send John Rocarek your announcements, articles and photos for upcoming issues at

### **I. Special Notices:**

#### **CZECH SCHOOL 2007**

It's time for the school bells to ring at the Cedar Rapids Czech School. Class will meet June 11th - July 13 from 8 - 11 a.m. at Wilson Middle School. Students ages 6 -13+ are welcome regardless of national background. Registration forms can be obtained by calling Barb Edmunds or at registration on the first day of school. Tuition is \$35.00 for one child and \$10.00 for each additional child in the same family.

The annual program and ice cream social will be held on Friday, July 13th at 7 p.m. Our teachers will be Division 1: Bessie Dugena, Division 2: Jaromir "Mira" Tvrznik and Division 3: Radka Horkova. Mira and Radka will be coming from the Czech Republic to teach again this year. We have a new music director, Donna Merkle, who recently moved from Houston, TX.

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#### **ST. JOSEPH DANCE 2007**

The Czech Heritage Foundation would like to send a BIG thank you to all that helped and to those that sold and bought tickets. A special

thank you to Evelyn Stejskal for all of the tickets and donations she was able to obtain for this dance.

A special THANK YOU to the following people and companies that contributed to help make the St. Joseph Dance a success:

Swisher Trust & Savings Bank, Red Frog, Roland Wilbert Vault Co., Cedar Memorial Funeral Home, Hy Vee Drug Store, Cedar Memorial Park Cemetery, Murdock Funeral Homes, Brosh Funeral Homes, Iowa Valley Monument, Jiruska Enterprises, Stalker Electric, Papich Kuba Funeral Homes, Bartunek Appliance, Teahen Funeral Homes, Leo & Elaine Shima, Fleck Sales - Scott Frerick, National Flag & Flagpole, Pierson's Florist, Vic Pilsner - D&V Industrial Supplies, Polehna's Meat Market, Tic Toc Restaurant, Zindrick's Czech Restaurant, Czech Cottage, Saddle & Leather Shop Inc., Joen's Brothers Interiors, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Merle Norman Cosmetics, Czech Shirt Shop, Dairy Queen - Johnson Avenue, Cottage Kitsch, Larry & Arlene Spina, St. Wenceslaus Monica Circle and The Ambassadors. And many others not mentioned who donated baked items, donations and gifts for the door prizes and raffle items. We thank all of you!

The 2008 St. Joseph Dance will be held Sunday, March 30th, 2008 at the Elks Lodge with Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen. Mark your calendars!

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#### **MISS CZECH SLOVAK IOWA PAGEANT**

The 6th annual Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant was held Saturday May 19th in Czech Village in conjunction with Houby Days. Casey Dvorak, daughter of David and Jody Dvorak from West Liberty was crowned Miss Czech Slovak Iowa for 2007-2009. She will travel to Wilber, Nebraska to compete in the national pageant in August. Annelyn Broghammer, daughter of Tim and Laurie Broghammer will serve as Little Sister for the coming year.

## II. Cover Story:

### 2007 Czech Heritage Prince and Princess

*Jordan Netolicky and Emma Lehmann were crowned Czech Heritage Prince and Princess at the annual meeting in January. Following are personal statements from Jordan and Emma.*

#### **Emma Lehmann, Czech Heritage Princess**

In a perfect world, we would all be whatever our hearts desired and our imaginations fantasized about; whether it be stunningly gorgeous or strappingly handsome, side-splittingly funny or amazingly clever. However, this is not a perfect world and sometimes these traits are nothing but a figment of our imagination.



In the world we live in, not everyone can be graced with the immense beauty that I possess (or be as humble, for that matter, as I.) Not everyone can have my amazing wit, charm, or intellect, and only a few of the exceedingly lucky ones have the honor of being Czech.

My name is Emma Lehmann, I am the daughter of Steve and Karen Lehmann, granddaughter of Marvin and Marlene Kolars of Montgomery, MN and the late Wilford and Lucille Lehmann of Hastings, MN, and sister to Rachel, Megan, and Cassie Lehmann. I am proud to be able to call myself the 2007 Czech Heritage Princess.

Although, as you may have deduced, some of the traits that I profess are "mildly" fabricated, I do consider myself a somewhat funny and nice person to be around. I enjoy doing

activities with my friends and family, for the most part. As well as reading, biking, and listening to music.

Sadly I possess no athletic inclination whatsoever, however I thoroughly enjoy school. I love writing as well as science, and believe that I am an overall good student, and a well-rounded person in general.

It is fantastically important for me to partake in Czech functions and to better acquaint myself with my heritage, whether it be Czech or not. I have attended countless Czech events and over the years, grown to love and truly appreciate the members of the Czech Heritage Foundation. Thus, this year I was immensely honored to be crowned the 2007 Czech Heritage Princess, following in the footsteps of my older sister, Rachel.

I have only partaken in a few events during my reign as the Czech Heritage Princess thus far, including the St. Joseph's Day Dance, Protivin Masopust Celebration, and the Czech Heritage Queen Minnesota pageant. However, I look forward to many festivals, parades, and appearances in the future and most of all to learning about my heritage as well as promoting the importance and splendor of the Czech Heritage Foundation. I wish to attend Czech School this year, after attending for years prior, but this time I would like to help and attempt to pass on any knowledge that I have retained.

Thus, although it may not be a perfect world that we live in, at this point in my life it is for one reason as well; I am one of the exceedingly lucky sorts, one of the Czechs.

#### **Czech Heritage Prince Jordan Netolicky**

My name is Jordan Netolicky. I am 15 years old and live in



Swisher, Iowa with my parents, Rex & Joey Netolicky, my brother, Andrew, and our dog, Chewie. I am a freshman at Prairie High School. Besides being Prince for the Czech Heritage Foundation, I play football, wrestle, and work at the Johnson Avenue Dairy Queen. I am currently enrolled in the Engineering Technology program offered through Kirkwood at my high school. In my spare time, I am restoring (with my dad's help) a 1976 Chevy pickup.

*The following personal statements are from the Royal Attendants.*

**Andrea Cada - Royal Attendant**

Dobrý Den! My name is Andrea Cada and I am 13 years old. My parents are Jerry and Ida Cada. I have one



younger sister named Marissa. We live in Shueyville, Iowa. My family also includes two sets of Czech grandparents. Arlo and Joyce Netolicky are my mother's parents. The late Vaclav and Marie Cada are my father's parents and were both born and raised in the Czech Republic. They are the first generation of our Cada family to live in the United States.

I am in the 8th grade at Prairie Middle School. I am proud of my academic achievements which include being on the 'A' Honor Roll since 6th grade. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to take German in place of reading class this year. I chose this language because a lot of Czechs can speak German due to its close proximity to the Czech Republic. In addition, I am very active in Prairie Volleyball, playing on the school team and also playing in Prairie Club Volleyball. I have played the clarinet in the school band for over 3 years and I have been in the school choir for 3 years. Like most Czechs, I love music! My parents own the Johnson Avenue Dairy Queen in Cedar Rapids, Iowa so I keep busy working there during the summer.

I attended Czech school in the past and plan to attend again this year. Since 2004 I have attended the Memorial Day services at the Czech National Cemetery since that is where my Deda is buried. Last year I was on the Czech Heritage float in the 4th of July parade and also promoted Czech Heritage at the World International Ethnic Fest and helped in the information booth. I modeled my kroj in the World's Fashion show that day as well. I also attended the Czech egg decorating class at the Czech Museum with Master Folk Artist Marge Nejdls as the instructor. The past two years I have volunteered to help with the mailing of the Czech Heritage Newsletter, *Náze České Dedictví*. I have also begun to volunteer at the Czech Museum. I plan to be even more involved in learning and promoting my Czech heritage this year because I am understanding just how important my Czech heritage is to me.

**Kendra Kolthoff - Royal Attendant**

My parents are Jim and Stacy Kolthoff. I also have a brother Jeremy, who is a senior in high school.



My hobbies include, hanging out with my friends and boyfriend. I enjoy going shopping (like all the other teenage girls), watching movies, playing sports, and going out to eat with my two best friends when we're bored. I enjoy playing sports. I love being active. The sports that I'm involved in are volleyball, basketball, track, and softball. Right now I am currently involved in track. I get my Czech heritage from my great-grandparents and my grandparents. My grandparents Stan and Dorothy Ditch are really big in their Czech heritage, and I have been very grateful that they are passing it down to me. My grandparents have supported me in this opportunity to be part of the Royal Court.

**Sarah Sindelar - Royal Attendant**

Sindelars means shingler in Czech. I guess that means that my ancestors could have been



roofers in Prague. My parents, Kevin and Karen Sindelar, continue to help my brother Eric and I build on our Czech heritage through activities in school, church, community, and our family.

I am just completing my freshman year at Jefferson High School in Cedar Rapids. I am involved in orchestra, choir, Spanish Club, S.A.D.D. (Students against destructive decisions) and track. I ran a 400 meter relay at Drake Relays and anchored the sprint medley relay at the State Track Meet this spring. I play violin in the string symphony and fiddle club, and have taken a few harp lessons this year. This June, I will be going on a homestay in Spain with the Spanish Club.

I attended Czech School for nine summers from age five to fourteen. Cream Social, and also at the City Music Contest. I really remember the songs taught by Olga Drahozal and the Bon Bon games in Bessie Dugena's classroom. It was interesting to have teachers from the Czech Republic at Ceska Skola when I was older.

I remember many years of serving at the Czech School Chili Supper Fundraisers at St. Wenceslas Church. At my own church, St. Mark's Lutheran, I attend mission trips and high school small group, work in the nursery, and sew school bags for children in need around the world (I wonder if any will fall into the hands of a Czech speaking child?)

Houby Days is one of our favorite family outings in the spring. We go mushrooming, but have never found a morel big enough to enter in the Houby Day's Contest. In past years, I sang at the Czech and Slovak Museum and the Polka Band Shelter with the Czech School kids. This year at Houby Days I helped with puppet making at the NCSML, the

tractor pull, and also the children's parade.

When I was in elementary school, I competed in Sokol Gymnastics where my Dad is a coach. I began in the Tots program when I was two and continued for eight years.

In 4-H I used my Czech Heritage as the basis for several projects. In citizenship, I researched my Czech heritage and family history. I've talked with Grandpa Al Sindelar about our Czech ancestry. We can follow the family tree back to Prague. For my clothing project, I went to the NCSML to study Czech costuming. A few years ago, I went to the special exhibit on Czech kroje. I designed my own Czech kroje this spring. The black dress was handed down from my aunt, and I created a white blouse with puffed sleeves, and made a red apron with embroidery ribbon across the bottom. My favorite part of the costume was making the headpiece. It is constructed of white and red silk flowers.

When Great-Grandma Sindelar was still alive, she made Houska and Kolaches. Now we have to buy them from Sokol or Sykora's Bakery. Pork and Dumplings with sauerkraut are a favorite family dinner. Playing polka music on the radio from the Sunday Morning Czech Party is a simple tradition in our house. However, the time that our Czech Ancestry is most prevalent is during the holidays. Whether it is trying to make the lamb cake and slipcover eggs with plastic wrappers from the NCSML at Easter, or decorating the tree at Christmastime with wheat and blown glass ornaments, we always try to do something to remind us of our Czech past. Last year, I learned how to make some Czech paper ornaments at the Czech Museum. Although we don't put a carp in our bathtub at Christmastime like some Czechs still do (as we learned in Ceska Skola) we do try to keep other traditions alive.

I love the Czech language. I want to find a way to have a homestay in the Czech

Republic during one of my summer vacations. I loved hearing Bessie Dugena tell about her visits to Prague and the Czech Republic when we were in Ceska Skola. I want to see the changing of the guard at the castle, Charles Bridge, the Jewish Ghetto, a Czech glass factory, the clock in the square. I want to see all the things I've only heard stories of or read about in books. In the meantime, I enjoy being on the Czech Royal Court. I enjoy the many public appearances around Cedar Rapids to proudly promote our Czech heritage.

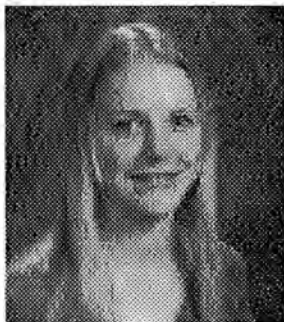
Na shledanou!

### III: Special Reports

## 2007 HOMESTAY AMBASSADORS ANNOUNCED

*The following are personal statements from the three students selected as the 2007 Czech Heritage Ambassadors.*

**Kate Strittmatter:** I am a 17 year-old junior at Monticello High School. At school, I am involved in Business Professionals of America, drama, golf, International Club, Jazz Band, and speech. I enjoy volunteering at my church, playing the violin, and have received the Wo-He-Lo medallion after eleven years in Camp Fire. I am in the process of completing the Silver Service Award for 300+ hours of community service. After high school, I plan to attend a four-year university. My parents are Nick and Anne Strittmater.



**Laura Sauer:** Hello! I'm Laura Sauer, I'm 17, and I am a junior at Marion High School. My family includes my dad and mom, Chris and Irene, and my sister, Jessica, who participated in the Czech Homestay Program three years



ago. I really enjoy music and drama/performing arts, and I like to keep involved at school. My activities include the fall musical, marching band, concert band, choir, chamber ensemble, both large-group and individual competitive speech, the spring play, thespians, youth group, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, bible study, show-choir, and jazz band, and I plan on playing soccer this spring. When I'm not busy with school or other activities, I like to hang out with my friends and family and practice my instruments.

I'm very grateful for this amazing opportunity, and I can't wait to spend a summer in the Czech Republic! I'm especially looking forward to participating in the Czech culture with a host family, and seeing all of the amazing castles, museums, cathedrals and architecture that the Czech Republic has to offer. Thank you for giving me this incredible opportunity to find out more about our heritage and our world.

**Austin Frerick:** Well, I first must start off by thanking everyone for this great opportunity that I have been granted. It truly is an honor and I hope to represent this community and all it stands for.



My name is Austin Frerick and I'm currently a junior at Thomas Jefferson High School. I have a younger brother who is a freshman and a younger sister currently enrolled in the second grade at St. Jude's Elementary. My mother, Katherine, is the manager at Starbucks in Target, and my father, Scott, works at Fleck Sales as a sales representative. They have been happily married for twenty years.

At school I participate in cross country, SADD, choir, track, and Westside Delegation. Outside of school I'm a member of the Gazette Youth Advisory Board, have been a speaker for the Iowa Workforce Development, and this spring will be an intern with the City of Cedar Rapids Planning Department. This is the career field that I'm currently looking at. I also recently switched from working at the 6th St SW HyVee Drug Store (formerly Wilson Ave) to Pei's Mandarin as a waiter.

Last year I was the Czech prince along with my princess, Vicki Dostal, and aided in Czech School last summer. I also was an intern at the NCSML this past summer. I also volunteer when my schedule allows. Czech School is something I greatly regret not attending when I was younger. Fortunately, my little sister has taken advantage of it and can't wait for it to come this year.

Again, thanks for this opportunity and it will be a pleasure representing this community.

#### **IV: National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library**

### **A Golden Prague Getaway: Winning the *BrewNost!* Raffle**

**By: Bob and Elaine Boes**



Bob and Elaine Boes at Elaine's grandmother's house in Javornice.

Experiencing the Czech Republic was a great adventure for Bob and Elaine Boes! After

winning the *BrewNost!* raffle last September, the dream trip became a reality on March 11, 2007. We were treated like royalty in the five-star hotel, Corinthia Towers, starting with a lovely buffet each morning. Imagine having five kinds of juices, three kinds of eggs, meats, rolls, and even kolaches to choose from each morning!



Bob Boes and daughter Melanie in front of St. Wenceslaus Statue.

Our daughter, Melanie, from Mankato met us in Prague, so we were able to tour together. Many of the sights in Prague are breathtaking and historical, with the ancient churches, St. Charles Bridge, Old Town Square, and many monuments and museums. We took a bus to Terezin, a Jewish concentration camp, which made that part of history come alive.

A highlight of our trip was going to Javornice, the village where my Grandma Jansa was born. We stood on the porch of the 300 year-old brick house where she grew up.

There was no road to the house, so we had to take a path out in the pasture. We met with three groups of cousins and had lunch at Vera and Bahous Pokorny's home. The Czech people are so hospitable and such good cooks! Half of their house is a barn where goats are raised.

The weather in Prague is beautiful, in the 60's when we were there. The pansies and tulips were blooming and bushes were in full bloom.



We want to thank the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Czech Airlines, and Corinthia Towers Hotel for making this trip possible. It was a great learning experience and a fantastic time!

*BrewNost! A Beer Tasting Along the Mighty Cedar River*, is an annual fundraiser to benefit the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Raffle tickets for the 2007 Golden Prague Getaway can be purchased for \$10 by calling the NCSML at (319) 362-8500. The drawing will take place at *BrewNost* on Friday, October 6th. Need not be present to win.

### V: Feature Story

## Tracking Ancestral Roots in the Czech Republic

By: Denver Dvorksy



Denver Dvorksy in the Czech Republic.

After thinking about it for years, I finally had the opportunity to visit the Czech Republic in September 2006. For a serious American-Cesky named Dvorksy this is one of life's memorable events. It included numerous sights and experiences which I will gladly relate to anyone who is remotely interested.

One day stands out in particular; when I finally got the chance to track down my specific roots. From early childhood, I heard from my father's family about how in 1867 my grandfather, Mike had traveled (actually carried in a basket) at age 1, from Bohemia to Newport township, Johnson

County, Iowa. There, his father bought land, became a wood cutter, started farming, and raised a family of twelve children. None of my aunts or uncles actually knew much about my family history in the Czech Republic. They could only say that the family had come from south of Prague and they were farmers. Fortunately, my sister, Mary Rae, developed a serious interest in genealogy and spent years developing a family history. She was able to identify ancestors back to the 1620's and numerous ancestral villages all of which were various distances south of Prague. Her work resulted in a bound book more than one-inch thick.

Armed with all this new information I set out to explore my family history with friends who are not Czech, but became remarkably interested as the expedition proceeded. As we were limited by time (6 days in the Czech Republic) I called on Tom and Marie Zahn who run P.A.T.H. Finders, a personal history tour company, to arrange a one-day auto tour of the most likely and recent villages. They furnished a mini-van and Sylvia, a driver/guide who spoke fine Anglicky. Sylvia was a history graduate of Charles University who specialized in genealogy.

Our foursome left early on a beautiful fall day to tour a total of four villages and Karlstejn Castle - probably the best preserved 13th Century castle in Europe.



Karlstejn Castle.

We stopped first at Radotin which is today a suburb of Prague, and slightly famous because it is Martina Navratilova's hometown. My great-

grandfather, Frantisek left from Radotin in 1867. They lived at #3 Radotin which was easy to find as house numbers in the villages are not geographic, but denote time and order of construction. Number 3 was on the main highway in the town center, and is pretty obvious as it is now the local sports-betting bar.



The place of Dvorsky's great-grandfather's residence, #3 Radotin.

The next village on the list was Zadni Treban where the listed house has disappeared with no recollection by the locals. Our guide spoke with several people and the proprietor of the only store, which we discovered sold good beer cheaper than water, as well as fine cold meat and cheese.

We moved on to LuΩec, where my great-grandfather Frantisek was born on April 1, 1810. Sure enough, #18 LuΩec still stands in good shape next to the town carp pond.

Sylvia queried the locals and found one older lady who remembered residents named Dvorsky but stated that non lived there now.

Our final stop on the return leg was Tachlovice, home of my great-great-great-grandfather, Jacob Dvorsky, born August 18, 1727. We soon discovered that the house has disappeared. Sylvia checked with the housekeeper at the local Catholic church and discovered that the house had stood next to the cemetery and had been torn down. We checked the cemetery and discovered a well-maintained gravesite showing Dvorskych on the stone.

We returned to Prague with the setting sun and



The "Dvorskych" gravesite in Tachlovice.

a profound sense of history. To cap the day we followed a tip and had dinner at a medieval restaurant named Usedmi Svabu on Nerudova Street, which was perhaps the best meal of the week. Apparently, some people ate well in the Middle Ages.

I could describe many additional scenes in Prague, but I would like to point out two sites that are not to be missed:

1. Zoo Praha - a world-class zoo with a great number of exotic and interesting animals. On a fall afternoon the crowd is not tourist: it's Czech families with kids. It offers a great feel.
2. Uflecku - a brew pub that has stood in the same place for over 400 years. It is the only place in Prague that I found great, original polka and waltz, along with a world-class dark beer and complimentary becharova. A fine combination!

P.A.T.H. Finders provides genealogy research for those seeking to expand their family tree, or locate relatives, and ancestral tours to help you visit the places where your ancestors once lived. They can also obtain digital copies of archival documents and historic maps, as well as providing photography or videotaping of your family reunion, translation of old letters and documents, booking of lodging and cultural events, and photography of ancestral towns and villages.

For more information on P.A.T.H. (Personal

Ancestral Tours & History) Finders contact Tom and Marie Zahn at (360) 450-5959 or visit their website at [www.pathfinders.cz/](http://www.pathfinders.cz/)

Or mail:

P.A.T.H. Finders

2225 Crestline Blvd

Olympia, WA 98502

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## Born Poor into Life of Rich Accomplishment

*This is an original article from the Iowa State University Alumni newsletter in Spring 2004.*



From left to right: Joanne, Wendy, and Ernie Buresh.

Ernie Buresh was born in Linn County near a wide spot in the road known as Western. His parents were Joe and Emma Stanek Buresh. He had a brother, Lester and he has a sister, Joan. His father was a farmer and had an implement store in Western, Iowa.

Ernie first attended a country school, then enrolled at Shueyville High School for three years. His senior year was at Wilson High School in Cedar Rapids because it offered math courses he thought might help him make the jump to higher education. Not exactly a math genius, by his own confession, Ernie worked hard to get through all of his math courses that final year.

His parents were poor farmers, so many of Ernie's life decisions were based on economics.

His first year of college was in civil engineering at Rutgers University in New Jersey, while serving in the Army. After being discharged, Ernie enrolled at Iowa State University. Asked why he chose Iowa State, he responds, "The GI Bill": Iowa State was a good fit for a "farm kid" and he had the backing of the government.

Ernie was initially interested in architecture. However, once here, Iowa State changed the architecture program from four years to five, and Ernie felt he couldn't afford the extra year. Once again, financial considerations drove a change in majors, and Ernie entered the program in agricultural engineering.

While at Iowa State, Ernie says, he "worked his tail off" -especially in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics. It didn't seem to him, he adds, that his buddies at other schools had to study quite as hard as he did to make the grade. Ernie admits that he wasn't particularly outgoing while on campus, and in fact was rather a "number." Nor did he become very active in extracurricular activities, as he spent most weekends at home working on the farm - again, a circumstance driven by financial concerns.

After earning his degree in 1948, Ernie decided that one way to address those financial pressures was to go where the money was, and over the course of the next decade he gradually moved from engineering into banking. In 1957 he acquired a law degree from the University of Iowa, then a degree from the University of Wisconsin's School of Banking in 1966. Over his career he has owned and directed a number of small banks in Eastern Iowa, as well as being active in civic affairs both in his community and the state.

Ernie has served as a director of the Hall-Perrine Foundation and a life director of St. Luke's Hospital, both in Cedar Rapids, as well as a life trustee of Cornell College in Mount Vernon. He was also chairman of the Terrace Hill Commission in Des Moines. Ernie maintains close ties with the University of Iowa, including

membership in the UI President's Club and a life membership in the UI Alumni Association. He is a lifetime honorary director of the University of Iowa Foundation and chairman of the Carver Hawkeye Arena National Committee and has served the Iowa Endowment 2000 both regionally and nationally.



Buresh with Petr Kolar, Ambassador of the Czech Republic.

Ernie still reports to the office everyday. His key advice for students is to be financially responsible and to avoid overextending their resources by an over-reliance on credit - a philosophy expressed in a book Ernie is writing titled *The Advantages of Being Born Poor*.

Ernie Buresh married Joanne Paulsen on November 24, 1949. They have two daughters, Dr. Wendy Buresh and Sandra Buresh. Ernie is a member and great supporter of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and the Czech community.

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## A Lifetime of Music

By: Leonard Reyman

Now that I think about it, why would a nine year-old want to play an accordion? The only reason I can think of is because my parents let me play with an old, beat-up, button-box as a child. I remember seeing my first accordion at Hiltbruners when I was nine and really wanted it. The rest is history; from the twelve-bass to the eighty-bass, to a one-hundred and twenty

bass, to an electric cordovox, to the last midi-accordion over the last seventy years.



Siblings Arlene Boddicker and Leonard Reyman

My sister Arlene took up the accordion at a younger age, shortly after I did, and went on to teach accordion. At first she didn't like to play, and was more or less forced to practice and play. In later years it became the greatest joy in her life.

Arlene began her accordion career at the age of 4. In 1946 she started her teaching career with three students and a year later, had one hundred and ten students. In 1948 Arlene and her husband, Jerry established the Boddicker School of Music. They enrolled over 1000 students and maintained a staff of over 60 employees. After 50 years of teaching, Arlene and Jerry moved to Rapid City, South Dakota, where their son Marc resided. Shortly after Jerry's death, Arlene moved to Arizona near her daughter, Michelle. She now resides in Encino, California with her son Michael and his family.

I always enjoyed playing and playing with a group. During high school, I formed a dance band in which I played the tenor sax and my sister played the accordion. Later I played in three different bands and in 1947 I organized my own band which played together for fifty years from 1947 - 2002. The band was an avocation. My musicians all worked day jobs in Cedar Rapids while my wife, Arlene and I worked a diversified farm with poultry, cattle, purebred Duroc breeding stock operation. There were times when things were hectic, with too

many dance jobs, plus farming, plus raising four sons, Ron, Russ, Randy and Ryan. Two of the boys are professional musicians. Russ plays and teaches piano and voice in the Quad Cities. Randy plays trumpet and teaches at Milliken University in Decatur, Illinois. Randy's son and daughter are pursuing music careers also.

In 1985 the group was retiring from their day jobs so we decided to sell the livestock and rent the cropland. I took my five-piece band (wives included) and went to south Texas where we spent 15 seasons from 1985 - 2001 playing four nights per week for four months at the big resorts every winter. There we got acquainted with people from all over the U.S. and Canada. That opened up the opportunity to play anniversary dances for couples in Texas, Illinois, Wyoming, and Canada. The most remarkable part of the band was that most of the musicians stayed with the band for many years, and because of that they were very compatible. Frank Netherton played the piano one weekend and then played with the band for seventeen years. George Dlask played the trumpet, Glenn Merritt, Elmer Kotaska and Red Frame played the drums, Dave Sedlacek played the trumpet, and Don Rinehart played the guitar. Most of the guys played twenty years or more. Joe Chmelicek who played tenor sax and clarinet played with the band at least fifty years. He was my anchorman, and when he passed away, so did the band. The band is history. So now what?

Arlene and I drove to Las Vegas to an International Accordion Convention in 2001 and I got the idea to start an accordion club. After Dave Rasdal published an article about it in the Cedar Rapids Gazette, I received immediate phone calls from all over, from people I had never heard of. In a year-and-a-half we had 45 members. Most of these people played as teenagers, put the accordion in the closet, and forgot about it. A couple ladies hadn't played for sixty years - they are now having fun playing in a group, entertaining themselves and others. Several are former students of the Boddicker School of Music. We send out a monthly

newsletter to all members, some of which pay dues simply to receive the newsletter. Now four years later, we are playing all over Iowa with as many as ten engagements in a month for the band, plus groups playing other engagements.

My wife, Arlene and I thoroughly enjoy being a part of this group. Some of the members we knew earlier in life and some we had never met. They are truly a congenial and fun group. I have been blessed through all the years with the great musicians and great friends in the band and in the Iowa Accordion Club.

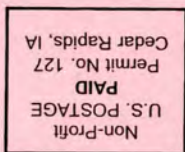
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### **Czech Republic European Center of Innovation**

*The following is an excerpt from a CzechInvest advertisement, an Investment and Business Development Agency.*

Do you wear contact lenses? Do you sweeten your tea or coffee with sugar cubes? Do you have a lightning rod on your house? If yes, then you are using some of the many Czech inventions. The Czechs are naturally innovative and the Czech Republic, while comparatively small, has always been big on ambition and creativity and has thereby given the world an amazing number of ideas. This can be attributed to a long commitment to education and a rich industrial history which, after democratic and free-market reforms in the early 1990s, rendered the country as a European center of innovation, research and development and technological entrepreneurship.

Based on a solid foundation of traditional industries, new businesses were built in the early 20th century: namely the automotive industry (Czech Republic has been making cars since 1895), electrical engineering (first power plant in the Czech Republic was built in 1888 in Prague) and also the production of arms (Czech guns have become legendary and are still preferred by many hunters, sport shooters as well as police forces around the world today).



CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.  
P.O. Box 761  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

## Calendar of Events:

**Friday, June 1** - Czech Plus Band in Kosek Bandstand 7 p.m.

**Saturday, June 2** - Red Cedar Chamber Music Concert. NCSML. 7p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Student tickets are \$8. Call 319-362-8500 for tickets. For more information, call (319) 377-8028.

**Friday, June 8:** Leonard Reyman's Iowa Accordion Club. At the 16th Avenue Bandstand. 7 p.m.

**Monday, June 11** Cedar Rapids Czech School starts.

**Tuesday, June 12** - Czech Heritage Foundation meeting at the NCSML. 7 p.m.

**Thursday and Friday, June 14 and 15** - *It's Showtime!* Tea and Tour. NCSML. Fee and advanced registration required.

**Friday, June 15** - Czech Plus Band in Kosek Bandstand 7 p.m.

**Saturday, June 23:** UpBeat! Concert Series presents Marion Big Band. 2 p.m. NCSML Garden. Free.

**Saturday, June 23:** New Bohemia Neighborhood Tour. \$5 nonmembers, \$4 members or with Freedom Festival button. To register, call (319) 362-8500. Meet in NCSML Garden. Freedom Festival Event. 6 p.m.

**Friday, June 29** - Czech Plus Band in Kosek Bandstand 7 p.m.

**Saturday, June 30:** New Bohemia Neighborhood Tour. \$5 nonmembers, \$4 members or with Freedom Festival button. To register, call (319) 362-8500. Meet in NCSML Garden. Freedom Festival Event. 11 a.m.

**Wednesday, July 4** - Czech Plus Band in NCSML Garden. 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 10** - Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting at the NCSML. 7 p.m.

**Friday, July 13** - Czech Plus Band in Kosek Bandstand. 7 p.m.

**Friday, July 13** - Czech School Ice Cream Social. Wilson Middle School. 7 p.m.

**Saturday, July 14:** UpBeat! Concert Series presents Leonard Reyman's Accordion Club. Hruska Grand Hall. 2 p.m. Free.

**Wednesday, July 18:** UpBeat! Concert Series presents the Cedar Rapids Municipal Band. Sokol Park. 7:30 p.m. Free.

**Friday, July 20:** Czech Village Concert Series. Leonard Reyman's Iowa Accordion Club. At the 16th Avenue Bandstand. 7 p.m.

**Friday, July 27** - Czech Plus Band in Kosek Bandstand 7 p.m.

**Friday, July 27:** Emil Viklicky Live! Jazz in Grand Hall. 7 p.m. Tickets \$8.00 in advance, \$10 at the door.

**Friday, August 3 - Sunday, August 5** - Miss Czech Slovak USA Festival in Wilber, Nebraska.

**Tuesday, August 14** Czech Heritage Foundation meeting and potluck at the NCSML. 6 p.m. Open to all members and friends.

**Friday, August 17** - Leonard Reyman's Accordion Band at Kosek Bandstand. 7 p.m.

**Saturday, August 25** - Leonard Reyman's Accordion Band at NCSML Garden. 2 p.m.