

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

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



## Czech Heritage Prince & Princess Crowned *(Story on page 3)*

Volume 28 – Number 1 – March, 2003



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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 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and expire December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 Arlo Netolicky

Greetings:

Being the new president of the "CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION" I am looking forward to working with the board of directors, the executive officers and the membership of this organization.

I understand there are many activities and opportunities which are very exciting that I am looking forward to. There are many individuals on committees that do excellent work for the organization as well as the community. These committees are very important, necessary and are respected throughout the community.

In the year 2003 I am looking for an increase of membership. I would also like for the membership to contribute articles of Czech nature to our publication "NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ". I am looking for a great year ahead for all.

## Newsletter Volunteers

By Frank Novotny

A sincere thank you 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, Carol Bestricky, 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.



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

### **NOW! - Glass Behind the Iron Curtain**

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) opened *Glass Behind the Iron Curtain: Czech Design, 1948-1978*, on Sunday, February 23, 2003. This powerful exhibition is drawn from the permanent collection at The Corning Museum of Glass (CMoG) in Corning, New York, and will be displayed through September 28, 2003. The NCSML is the only place you can see this fantastic exhibition outside of New York State. See article on page 7.

### **3/1/03 - Czech School Chili Supper**

The annual Chili Supper fundraiser for the Czech School will be held in the St. Wenceslaus Church basement. The supper will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in March, March 1<sup>st</sup>, with serving from 5:00-7:00 PM. The donation for the meal is \$3.00, which includes Chili, crackers, rye bread, veggies, desert, and a drink. They also have a bake table where they sell donated bakery. Be sure to stop by after church services on Saturday evening.

### **3/7/03 - 2003 History and Culture Conference**

*The 20th Century in Retrospect: 1938-1948, The Decade of Turmoil*, at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Be sure to check out this conference with a truly international program. See article on page xx.

### **3/22/03 - St. Joseph's Day National Kolach Bake-Off**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual National Kolach Bake-off will be held at the Czech & Slovak Museum & Library 3/22/03. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: open kolaches with traditional fillings, closed kolaches with traditional fillings, and specialty kolaches. Public sampling is available, and a Peoples Choice Award will be presented.

### **3/23/03 - St. Joseph's Dance**

The Czech Heritage Foundation will host the annual St. Joseph's Day Dance on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 - 6:00 PM, at the Cedar Rapids Elks Lodge, 801 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Jim Busta and his band from Spring Grove, Minnesota will again entertain our guests. Food will be for sale by the Elks Lodge and there will be a bake sale by the Czech Heritage members. There will be door prizes and nice raffle items given out during the afternoon that are all part of the fund raising. This is the main fundraiser for the Czech Heritage's Scholarship and Homestay Programs. For the Homestay Program, students are selected each year and awarded a scholarship to spend one month in the Czech Republic.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be obtained from any Czech Heritage board member, or purchased at the door. If you have any questions, please call Frank & Barb Edmunds, 319-396-6851. COME AND ENJOY THE FUN!!!!!!

### **4/13/03 - Pageant Application Deadline**

Applications for the second annual Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant are due 4/13/03. See article on page 10.

### **5/16-18/03 - Houby Days**

The Czech Village Association's 26th Annual Czech Festival kicks off with a Taste of Czech and Slovak at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on Friday, May 16. The celebration continues on Saturday and Sunday with outstanding music, dancing, parades, activities, crafts, and demonstrations, not to mention the food. May pole dancing and the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant are part of the fun. For more information, call (319) 362-8500.

### **5/17/03 - Miss Czech & Slovak Iowa Pageant**

The Czech Heritage Foundation will again sponsor the annual Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant. The Iowa contest will be held in conjunction with the Houby Days celebration in Czech Village on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003. See article on page 10.

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## ***II. Cover Story:***

### **Czech Heritage Prince & Princess Crowned**

By Judy Serbousek

The new Czech Heritage Prince and Princess were crowned November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual NCSML Fall Dinner.

Cecelia Wolter of Cedar Rapids was crowned Czech Princess. Her parents are Bradley and Margret

Wolter. Conner Lewis, also of Cedar Rapids, was crowned Czech Prince. Conner's parents are Kenneth and Pam Lewis. Both Cecelia and Conner are freshmen at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids. Both of these students are fine representatives of the Czech community and will be wonderful spokespersons for the preservation and celebration of Czech heritage. Read the Essays they submitted as a part of their application for Czech Prince and Princess, and you will see that our youth are really becoming involved in celebrating and preserving our Czech heritage.





## Prince Application Essay

By Conner Lewis

Dedictvi a Tradicni



April 1911, was the date my great-grandfather came over from the Czech Republic. He left his family, his country and everything that he ever knew to come to a new life. I am the same age as he was

when he came, 15. The Czech heritage that he brought has affected my life, my travels, and will affect me in the future.

Most of my life is surrounded by Czech culture. One of my most favorite customs of the Czechs is the food. We eat roast duck on Christmas and it is so good. I also enjoy eating dumplings, garlic soup, and fried cheese. Another important aspect of my Czech heritage is the music. The music is polka and folk songs. Since I was a baby, I have known of the famous Czech composer, Dvorak. I have even been to one of the pianos where he played and to the house he lived in. Now I enjoy playing his music on the piano. When I go to Houby Days down in the Czech Village, I always enjoy dressing up in Czech costumes. They are an important part of all Czech life. When I was five, another very important part of my Czech life sprang up. That was when I started to go to Czech School. I went for 8 fun years and this year graduated and was allowed to sing a Czech song as a soloist. Of course one of the most important Czech parts of my life is my Babi. She still speaks fluent Czech and shares stories and folk customs with me.

My Czech heritage has been an important part in my life, so naturally I would want to go to the home land. My grandfather never made it back to his village, but I did. When I first went to the Czech Republic, it was still controlled by the communists. I remember very little of that trip. Since then I have been to the Czech Republic 8 or 9 times and I have seen many changes. I have been to a lot of the castles, and have seen many of the customs. It was also the first place I skied in real mountains. I love the sights, the sounds and mostly the people. I have many friends and new-found relatives.

Heritage is not only in the present and the past, but it is also in the future. My family and I will always eat Czech food and keep it as a family tradition. I hope to eat duck (kachna) on Christmas with my children and my

grandchildren. I hope to go back to the Czech Republic many times. I feel jealous because my parents are leaving for the Czech Republic in 3 days. I was really hoping to go. I will pass all of my stories and my family's stories of the homeland to my children. When I describe to my children what the Czech Republic was like in the years following the velvet revolution, I hope they will be able to better understand the country of their heritage. I will keep the family traditions sacred.

I feel very lucky to have such a direct tie to a special heritage. My Czech background has given me great food, wonderful music, interesting travel, and a goal and plan for the future. I hope that my great grandchildren remember that they are the direct result of how one young man of 15 had the courage to wish for a better life.

## Princess Application Essay

By Cecelia Lewis

In my life, my Czech heritage has always been important and made a difference in practically everything I've done. I've always been in love with something. I'm taken with the culture, the music, the arts, the literature, and the people. Fascinated by the



Czech community here in Cedar Rapids, by Czech Village, by the romance of Prague-the new Paris, by the earliest history that couldn't possibly be true, and by all the folk tales that maybe could. In here, together with all that, is a language, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful on earth.

I love the feeling of Czech words; and now that I'm taking Japanese as Washington High School I've discovered that whenever I speak in another language I have a Czech accent. My Japanese teacher wonders why I pronounce my T's peculiarly. However, I think the eight years of Czech School made me open to learning languages.

Another difference Czech School made in my life was that it made history one of the most interesting topics for me. It helped me to notice that every place has astonishing stories of things that really happened. If I hadn't known this, I wouldn't be taking AP World History as a freshman. If I hadn't read about the Velvet Revolution at Czech School, I never would have chosen



it as a topic for a National History Day documentary that I took on to state competition when I was in seventh grade.

I often use Japan and the Czech Republic as more unusual examples of how alike and still different places can be. I like finding examples of how Czechs have impacted Japan; my favorite is the influence of artist Alfons Mucha in Japanese pop culture.

In school, the activity I'm most involved in is playing trumpet in marching band. I plan on being in jazz band and want to join a Czech polka band, if I can find one that wants a trumpet player.

As for church, I'm a member of St. Ludmila's Catholic Church, where I am an altar server, attend Religious Education every Wednesday night, and this summer volunteered at Vacation Bible School. Religion is very important to me, but also essential is the community part of being part of my church. While going to a church named after a Czech doesn't really change what is taught at mass, it does involve more kolaches than if it wasn't, so it really does have something to do with my Czech heritage.

I am Czech on my mother's side of the family, and it is an important part of who we are. It's part of both my history and my life right now. They aren't really separate-the past and the present. They go into each other. The history has a far greater impact on life today than anyone understands, and we are part of history right now. But everyone on my mother's side was Czech, and that's my Czech heritage.

The thing I miss the most about my old house on the southwest side of Cedar Rapids is living within walking distance of Czech Village. It's the most remarkable place in the city. It's just as much fun on an ordinary day as it is when there's something big like Houby Days going on. The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library is fantastic; it's always a pleasure just to be there for research or for the fun of it. I try to be involved with Czech Village as often as I can, in parades or spending the day at the museum acting as an angel, but I hope to try to volunteer at the museum and in the area more.

In the future, I want to be more involved in the Czech Traditions of Iowa. I want to try to create more documentaries using subjects from Czech history. I want to get to know more people, because I learn so much from people. I plan on living in the Czech Republic someday, because there's so much to the country I need to see myself, not only as a tourist, but to really be a part as an inhabitant. Czech culture and history is something so amazing. The traditions, the customs, are something I want to be a part of too. That's why I've always wanted to be Czech Princess. To be part of something I love so much.

### III. Czech Language Corner:

#### **Lesson 9**

By Olga Drahozal



#### **Answers to your translation exercise from the last lesson:**

From CZECH	To ENGLISH
My mame nove mapy.	We have new maps.
Oni vidi (vy-dyee) [see] stare mostly (stah-reh maw-sty) [bridges].	They see (the) old bridges.
Vy mate modre auta.	You have blue autos.

From ENGLISH	To CZECH
Your new books are here.	Tvoje (or respectful plural Vase--) nove knihy jsou tady.
I see the big airplanes.	Ja vidim velke letadla.
She has large black dogs.	Ona ma velke cerne psi. (not pesi !)

#### **This lesson – Pronouns.**

Those are the little words that stand for he, she, it, they. But there is a whole class that is called "interrogative pronouns". They are:

who = kdo (kdaw)      what = co (tsaw)  
when = kdy (kdih)      where = kde (kdeh)  
why = proc (prawch)  
and we will add: because = proto ze (praw-thaw zheh)

#### **Translate:**

From CZECH	To ENGLISH
Kdo je to? To je on.	
Proc je tady? Nevim.	
Kde je ona? Ona neni tady.	
Co je to? To neni zvire.	
Kde je auto? Neni tady.	
Ja jsem tady protoze (praw-thaw-zehh) (because) ona tady neni.	

Look for the answers in our next issue!

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



### **Gail Naughton New NCSML President/CEO**

By : Jan Stoffer Tursi

The Board of Directors of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML) announced the appointment of Gail Naughton to the position of President/CEO of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML).



Naughton comes to the NCSML after 15 years at Clarke College in Dubuque, where she served as Vice President for Institutional Advancement. She also held leadership positions in public relations and development while at Clarke College. During her tenure, she was responsible for fund raising, public relations, marketing, communications, and publications. Naughton has a Bachelor of Science degree from Creighton University and has completed graduate coursework at the University of Nebraska and the University of Iowa.

"I became familiar with the Czech Republic and Slovakia when my husband, Dennis, was in business there in the 1990s," commented Naughton. "Now, I am honored to work with such a dynamic and exciting organization as the NCSML to celebrate the vibrant Czech and Slovak culture. It is important locally, nationally, and internationally to have institutions such as the NCSML who are attentive to our history and who recognize and remember those who made our country great."

"We are thrilled to have Gail on board and believe she will continue to develop the NCSML's role in the local and national Czech and Slovak communities," stated NCSML board chair Gene Mahacek.

Naughton replaces Dan Baldwin who left the president/ceo position at the NCSML in June of this year to become the current president/ceo of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is the leading United States museum collecting, preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting Czech and Slovak Culture. The NCSML is located at 30-16<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids. For more information, please call (319) 362-8500 or consult the web site at [WWW.NCSML.ORG](http://WWW.NCSML.ORG).

## **2003 History and Culture Conference**



### ***The Czech and Slovak 20<sup>th</sup> Century in Retrospect:***

#### ***The Decade of Turmoil, 1938-1948***

March 7-8, 2003 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This truly has become a world-class conference. I have included a list of all the major planned sessions so you can see the interesting topics and the quality of the presenters. Presenters include University professors from several US Universities, as well as from the Czech and Slovak Republics. First hand accounts will be provided by servicemen who lived through this "Decade of Turmoil", and even a schoolteacher, courier and an interpreter from Slovakia.

Scholars, authors, and individuals with first-person accounts offer intriguing presentations exploring the history and culture of the Czech and Slovak lands during and immediately after World War II. Topics include OSS in Slovakia, the Jewish and Roma experiences, liberation of Pilsen, Tiso trials, Lidice, government in exile, the Czech airmen, and others.

#### **Thursday, March 6, 2003**

**Pre-Conference Film Viewing:** "Dark Blue World" (2001). A compelling story about two Czech pilots who fly with the British Royal Air Force. Produced and directed by Academy Award winner Jan Sverák. Commentary provided by Dr. Pavel Cernoch, of Charles



University in Prague, and Nataša Durovicová, of The University of Iowa. In WFLA Heritage Hall at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML).

#### **Preliminary Schedule for Friday, March 7, 2003**

Welcome Address by Gail Naughton, President/CEO of The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

**Plenary Session: The Czech Lands During Nazi Occupation, 1939-1945.** Dr. Pavel Cernoch, Jean Monnet Center for European Studies Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague.

#### **Concurrent Sessions**

- A. *The Czech Economy in the Protectorate and World War II: Methods and Results of German Aggression.*, Dr. Karel Holbik, Professor Emeritus at Boston University and former Visiting Faculty Member at Harvard University.
- B. *The Slovak Question in the Documents of the Department of State in 1938-1945*, Mr. Roman Licko, Department of English & American Studies, Matej Bel University, Slovakia.

#### **Concurrent Sessions**

- C. *Meeting of Presidents: T.G. Masaryk and Edvard Beneš with Woodrow Wilson and F.D. Roosevelt.* Dr. Milan Hauner, Visiting Scholar, Department of History, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- D. *World War II: The Roma Experience.* Ms. Gwen Willems, Ph.D. candidate, University of Minnesota.
- E. *SS-3: The Assassination of Reinhard Heydrich (Operation Anthropoid)* a film by Jan Kaplan. Ms. Jerri Zbiral, Artist and Filmmaker.

#### **Concurrent Sessions**

- F. *The Sudeten German Question.* Dr. Radomir Luža, Professor Emeritus of History, Tulane University.
- G. *Airborne Fighters for Freedom – The Story of Czech Pilots Flying Against Hitler.* Dr. Pavel Cernoch, Jean Monnet Center for European Studies Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague.
- H. *In The Shadow of Memory: Legacies of Lidice – Film and Commentary.* Ms. Jerri Zbiral, Film Producer and Daughter of Lidice Survivor

#### **Preliminary Schedule for Saturday, March 8, 2003**

#### **Concurrent Sessions**

- I. *The OSS Tragedy in Slovakia.* Mr. Jim Downs, former U.S. Army counterintelligence agent and author of "WWII: OSS Tragedy in Slovakia."
- J. *The Personal Turmoil in the Life of Dr. Juraj Slávik-Neresnický and His Family During Two Exiles (1938-1948).* Mr. Juraj L. J. Slávik, Program Officer at Meridian International Center (retired), Son of Juraj Slávik-Neresnický.

#### **Concurrent Sessions**

- K. *The Czech and Slovak Jewish Experience in World War II.* Dr. Gary Cohen, Director, Center for Austrian Studies, University of Minnesota.

- L. *The OSS and Downed US Airmen in Slovakia – First-Person Accounts* Richard Moulton, Member of Army Air Corps and author of "Tail End Charlie - in Ole #605", Retired Colonel Silas Crase, U.S. Army, Mrs. Maria Gulovich Liu, Slovak Schoolteacher, Courier and Interpreter who assisted OSS and SOE

#### **Concurrent Sessions**

- M. *Democrats, 1945-1948. The Struggle for Slovakia: Catholics, Communists,* Dr. James R. Felak, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Washington.
- N. *Czechoslovak Democracy. The Trial of Jozef Tiso and the Weaknesses of Postwar* Dr. Brad Abrams, Assistant Professor of Eastern European History, Columbia University.
- O. *The Liberation of Pilsen – First-Person Accounts from U.S. Servicemen.* Mr. Ed Baum, 69th Armored Infantry Battalion, 16th Armored Division of the Third Army, Dr. Louis Erbstein, Retired Colonel Louis Erbstein, 216 Armored Engineer Battalion, 16th Armored Division of the Third Army, Mr. Earl Ingram, Company L, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division

**Closing Plenary Session: World War Two and the Collapse of Czechoslovak Democracy.** Dr. Brad Abrams, Assistant Professor of Eastern European History, Columbia University.

**Keynote Speaker** (watch the NCSML web site for speaker announcement [www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org))

#### **Sunday, March 9, 2003:**

*Survival Stories From World War II* by Jerri Zbiral.  
Free Public Program

## **Glass Behind The Iron Curtain**

### **Special Exhibit**

### **In the Robert J. Petrik Exhibit Hall**

February 23, 2003 through September 28, 2003



From The Corning Museum of Glass

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) opens *Glass Behind the Iron Curtain: Czech Design, 1948-1978*, on Sunday, February 23, 2003, in the Robert J. Petrik Gallery. This powerful exhibition is drawn from the permanent collection at The Corning



Museum of Glass (CMoG) in Corning, New York, and will be displayed through September 28, 2003. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is the only place you can see this fantastic exhibition outside of New York State.



The exhibit explores glass design in Czechoslovakia during a time of limited artistic freedom. When the Communist Party gained control of Czechoslovakia in 1948, painters, sculptors, and graphic artists were closely monitored, and ran the risk of persecution for creating non-approved abstract art. Glass design, however, was largely overlooked. Artists working in glass were allowed to continue their activities relatively unhindered because glass was not considered a potentially subversive medium; some painters and sculptors migrated to the world of glass. This period in Czech glass is characterized by innovative designs that document an important "underground" stage in Czech abstract art that would otherwise be unknown. The exhibition not only adds to our knowledge of Czech glass and art, but provides an opportunity for research into another aspect of the many-faceted roles of abstract art in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



"Modern Czech glass is just now beginning to receive the recognition it deserves," said Tina Oldknow, curator at the CMoG. "Sealed off from the West for decades, with only intermittent periods of exposure, the work of Czech artists and designers from the third quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century can now be fully appreciated."

The special focus of this exhibition is an important suite of drawings from the 1950s through the 1970s, recently acquired by the Rakow Research Library of The Corning Museum of Glass, some of which served as the original sketches for the glass in the exhibition. Featured artists include Václav Cigler, Jirí Hancuba, Vladimír Kopecký, Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová, René Roubíček, and František Vízner, as well as Antonín Drobník, Bohumil Eliáš, Josef Hospodka, Pavel Hlava, Vladimír Jelinek, Jan Kotík, Věra Lišková, Adolf Matura, Ladislav Oliva, Václav Plátek, Miluše Roubícková, and Ludvíka Smrčková.

"The works featured in this exhibition document the remarkable artistic vision, energy, and courage of Czechoslovak artists," said Oldknow. "The artists worked under highly repressive conditions. To exhibit their work, they needed to cooperate with a political

regime that demanded that art follow the dictates of Socialist Realism, a strictly narrative, representational style used to depict politically-approved subject matter. To be true to themselves, they needed the ability to create what they wanted, free from the constraints of political ideologies. And, in glass, they found a way to do this."



*Glass Behind the Iron Curtain: Czech Design, 1948-1978* at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library follows a popular, extended showing at the Corning Museum of Glass and a highly successful preview at The Corning Gallery in New York City.

"The NCSML is excited about hosting such an important exhibition in Cedar Rapids," said NCSML curator Carmen Langel. "The Czechs have a long reputation for excellence in the glass field. To exhibit the works of the most celebrated 20<sup>th</sup> century Czech glass artists, such as Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová, is a great honor."

## ***V. Special Reports:***

### **Czech Heritage Board for 2003**

The Czech Heritage Foundation Board of Directors was elected at our Annual Meeting, January 20, 2003.

President	Arlo Netolicky
Vice President	Russ Novotny
Secretary	John Rocarek
Treasurer	Dennis Hrobak
Membership	Beula Dvorak

Directors-at-Large: Emma Davidson, Denver Dvorsky, Frank & Barb Edmunds, David Faltis, Fern Fackler, Jeanne Fee, Frank Novotny, Sherlee Peterson, Leonard Pfiefer, Laurie Robinson, Sylvia Rohlena, Judy Serbousek, Emil Velky, Adeline Volesky.

### **Katherina Machovcova Teaches Czech School**

By Arlo Netolicky

The Czech School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is held every summer, where students ages 5 to 14 years of age come to learn the Czech language. It is an exciting place to be in the summer. The classes were held this year from June 10 through July 12 at Wilson Middle School at 2301 Wilson Ave. SW.



This past year was an exciting year because they had Katherina

Machovcova from the Czech Republic come to help teach the students the Czech language. She arrived in the USA on June 6 and left to go back to the Czech Republic on July 17. She had



a class of fifteen students most of the time. We were able to observe her working with the students. The students were put in-groups of five. Each group was given cut out letters and the students put the letters together to make a word. They had to write the word in Czech on a sheet of paper and if possible make more than a one word combination. There was also Bingo where the students had to call out the English word in Czech. The students had fun doing these activities. We were there during the activity time. In the mornings was the study time, followed by music, and then the activity time.



Katherina Machovcova was raised in Podebrady, which is 30 miles east of Prague in the Czech Republic. She has two brothers and no sisters. She is taking up Psychology at the Masaryk University in Brno. She does not know for sure what she wants to do after college. If she decides to teach it will be college age students. She has a cousin, Rita Gervais, living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. By corresponding with her and several others, she learned about the Czech School and was excited about coming to help teach. She has a cousin in the Czech Republic that would like to come back with her and possibly teach. Next year they would both like to come and stay longer if possible so they can see more of the USA.

The children in the Czech Republic are much the same as the children here. The schools do not have any dress codes. Sometimes they will tell the students they cannot wear jeans or shorts but that is about the only requirements. A foreign language is required in the Czech Republic and the students usually take English or

German. In the fifth grade one foreign language is required in school and this is the same by finals in High School.

To get into college you must have a foreign language. It is very hard to get into college so many good students are turned down each year because there is not enough room for them in the colleges. To get into college you must complete a college form and an essay or test. If accepted you must have a written resume and interview. The state schools are free. There are private schools but these you have to pay. The private schools were established after 1989. The Czech Republic is working on a way to make the students pay for schooling but in the mean time it will be hard to get into college.

The Government in the Czech Republic is somewhat different from the USA. There is a President, Government, and Parliament with two chambers (House of Representatives and Senate). Then there are local municipalities, which are voted in election and partly there are just hired people to do administrative stuff.

There are not as many cars, most people use the public transportation. Shopping is done more in the middle of the cities and the malls are more for weekend shopping.

She liked the USA and said the people in Cedar Rapids, Iowa are friendly and helpful. She does not want to come to the USA to live but likes visiting here and she plans on coming again. She left to go home on July 17 after school was out for the summer. We want to thank her for coming and helping. The students and the staff at the Czech School will miss her, as well as everyone else that got to know her while she visited us in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

## Report on the Czech School for Children, Summer of 2002

By Olga Drahozal

With forty-eight students representing 30 families, the Summer School of Czech for Children closed its 132nd year of continuous education. Eight students were awarded graduation diplomas: They were Megan Beer, Emily Bryant, Jake Bryant, Allison Flaherty, Brian Gervais, Connor Lewis, Carrie Schmitz and Cecelia Wolter. These students had each attended Czech School for a minimum of 5 or a maximum of 9 years attendance.

Miss Lisa Volesky, Miss Czech-Slovak USA of 2001-2002, visited our school and told us of her interesting experiences during her reign. She brought some souvenirs from her recent trip to the Czech Republic. Miss Bridget Samek (former Czech Heritage Princess) also visited Division 3 and told of her experiences as one of the four students who spent a month in the Czech Republic, courtesy of the Czech Heritage Home-Stay program.



The first division of children aged 5-7 made work books which reflected the extent of what their teacher, Mrs. Bessie Dugena, had been teaching this year. The alphabet had been learned, they learned to 100, they learned the names for the colors, and the names of many animals.

The second division, students aged 7- 10, were taught by Miss Katka Machovcova from the Czech Republic who was assisted by Barb Edmunds. They learned new songs, and poems. They also studied about the Czech artist, Josef Lada.

Olga Drahozal taught the third division, students aged 11 to 14. They studied Czech history from the time Grandfather Cech led his people to the land later known as Bohemia to 1630. The students learned to read and translate some simple Czech stories. The students also developed several games using nouns on cards by following the guidelines of Old Maid, Go Fish and Blackout Bingo. In preparation for their trek to the Czech National Cemetery they learned the ordinal numbers (první= first; druhý or druhá or druhé= second in masculine, feminine and neuter). At the cemetery they were assigned certain sections, and searched for names to do "rubbings". They also were assigned names to which they could relate such as: Franta Malý [small], Mary Horáková [from the mountain--hora], Karel Zelený [green] and Jaroslav Sedláček [farmer]. At this time I want to thank Mr. Fred Anthony who was of tremendous help with this very worthwhile trip.

The Ceska Skola students appeared as part of the Czech Plus concert on July 5th at the National Czech and Slovak Museum gardens, where they sang several of the Czech School Songs and learned to dance the Chicken Dance, the Butterfly and the old Czech School favorite, Sla Nanyňka do Zeli. Thanks to Norb and Vera Banowetz and Larry and Arlene Spina, polka dancers extraordinaire, for teaching the students the fun of Czech folk dancing.



At the program at Wilson auditorium on Friday evening, July 12<sup>th</sup>, the students showcased what they had learned. Division 1 presented "A Day in Czech School", Division 2 brought down the house with a dramatization of a song, "Mela Babicka, Ctyři Jablicka" (My Grandma had four red apples), while Division 3 presented a short play:

"Once There Were Seven Children". The play was written especially for the students by Olga Drahozal, and it was directed by (cousin) Bernie Drahozal, who played the part of the grandfather.



The program was followed by the customary ice cream social in the Wilson School cafeterias. Dekuji Vam to all who contributed to the success of our 132nd continuous year of summer school of Czech for Children.

The students and faculty of the Summer Czech School for Children want to express our sincere sympathy to one of our teachers, Mrs. Dugena, upon the death of her husband, Lumir Herman. He was always supportive of our Czech school endeavors and will be greatly missed.

## Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant

By Adeline Volesky

The Czech Heritage Foundation will again sponsor the annual Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant. The Iowa contest will be held in conjunction with the Houby Days celebration in Czech Village on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003.



The pageant committee is looking for women 16-26 who possess "dignity, charm and talent". The selected entrant will represent her Czech Slovak ancestry in her state and be eligible to compete in the national contest in Wilber, Nebraska. The Iowa winner will receive a \$500 scholarship, jeweled crown, flowers, gifts, and her entry fee will be paid to the national pageant. She will appear in parades and make numerous public appearances.

Contestants must:

- Be between the ages of 16 and 26 as of 9/1/03
- Be single, never married, and cannot have children
- Be of partial Czech, Slovak, Moravian, or Selesian descent



- Appear in authentic or Americanized costume
- Participate in talent, interview, costume modeling, and introductions
- Submit entry forms by April 13, 2003

Potential candidates wishing further information or application forms should contact:

Miss Czech Slovak Iowa  
Adeline Volesky

Or call Deb Volesky at



**2002-2003 Queens Court**  
Left to right - Jeri Serbousek,  
Katie Ziskovsky (Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2002),  
Sarah Spina, and  
Lisa Volesky (Miss Czech Slovak USA 2001)

## **VI. Historic Perspectives:**

### **140 Year Anniversary of SOKOL Organization**

From the "2002 Czech Calendar", Prague,  
Translated by Charles Opatrny

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** When Charles Opatrny first saw this article written in Czech and published in Prague, he felt that many persons in the Czech community might be interested in reading it in English. After receiving the editor's approval, he translated it and submitted it to us for our publication. Charles tells us that the Czech editor he dealt with is also interested in reprinting articles from this newsletter in their periodical, "Czech Dialogue". Charles would translate any such articles from "Nase Ceske Dedicvi" into Czech for them.

In the fall of 1861, Dr. Miroslav Tyrs heard about some endeavors of founding of a Czech-German athletic club of gymnastics. At that time, it also came about that upon his mutual consolation with Jindrich Fuegner and Gregor brothers (Eduard and Julius), they decided to found only Czech athletic club, with patriotic subtitles. Tyrs elaborated the first wording of the statutes, which were

after some adjustments, approved by Dr. Julius Gregor. He then submitted them on Dec. 17, 1861, to the authorities for approval. The purpose of this organization was to educate citizens for the Czech nation's free future, based on both physical efficiency and moral strength. Besides, its main aim was also to attain that the Czechs be unrelenting, determined, and courageous.

The afore-said authors had to wait for their statutes' approved until Jan. 27, 1862. Only then could they carry out the club's foundation. Its name was: "Prague Gymnastic Association" (later on completed by a word "SOKOL"). The Czech community accepted this with great enthusiasm. According to the detailed statutes, the club's goal was to share the gymnastics together. Also, it asserted that excursions, singing, and fencing be collectively undertaken as well.



At first, the preparatory committee had to agree on the chief magistrate. That was not an easy matter because of the opinion differences. One part suggested the Czech nobleman, Thurn-Taxis, while the group around Tyrs proposed Jindrich Fuegner. The latter had a disadvantage as he was less known in the Czech community, and besides, he didn't speak Czech well. After all, Taxis decided it himself by proclaiming that he would step aside in favor of Fuegner. Thus, Fuegner became the first chief magistrate, while Tyrs became his adjutant.

Fuegner assumed his duties enthusiastically. Along with Tyrs, they elaborated all the details regarding the club's contents and organization like securing the building for their activity, and writing out a competition for the association's flag as well as festive costumes to be used for upcoming athletic performances. Right from the beginning, they enforced democratic principles, and required from all members to address themselves by "brate" (brother), and "sestro" (sister). The association's flag was created on June 1, 1862 by the famous Czech painter Joseph Manes. It was then handed over to flag-bearers by the godmother of Karolina Svetla (a famous Czech woman writer). Also, the men's Sokol costume was made on the basis of Joseph Mane's proposals. The red shirt was used, as a reminder of the Italian patriot Garibaldi, as part of the costume. It was based on the requirement of the chief magistrate Fuegner. Unfortunately, the latter died on November 15, 1865, and the whole load of responsibility was completely transferred upon Tyrs. This was for him too much, and he died tragically after a longer illness on August 8, 1884 in Oetz, Tirol (Austria) due to a nerve disease... SOKOL has proved its viability four times, surmounting the hardship-years of 1918, 1945, 1968 and 1990!!!



## ZCJB Park Sold

By Frank Novotny



The ZCJB Park near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was built in 1939, by volunteers from the various local ZCJB Lodges. It was often the site for fraternal activities such as Sunday picnics. Years ago, it provided for dancing with a wooden dance floor. Horseshoes were regularly available, and for a time it even had an outdoor bowling lane. Current Lodges found it difficult to get fraternal volunteer help to keep the park up. Therefore, the Park was offered for sale. Cabin owners who had rented space from the Park for their cabins have purchased the property.

## VII. Feature Stories:

### Liberation of Rokycany by American Forces in May of 1945

Translation of a March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002 article, Rokycansko newspaper from Rokycany, Czech Republic.

**NOTE:** Following is an article written by Milan Taus from the Rokycansko newspaper, Rokycany Czech Republic. The article reports celebrating the anniversary of the liberation of Rokycany by American Forces in May, 1945. Since 1990, this celebration has occurred on a yearly basis, in cooperation with the American VFW. Veterans come each November for this celebration. Milan has helped coordinate the event and has been named a Forwardsman by the VFW. Milan's desire in presenting this article to us, is to remind us of the deep connection our countries have, and how history has brought our nations closer together. It is an important reminder, not only to Readers, but also to those in politics, including the Mayor and City Council members.

Please note the reference in the second paragraph below to our Czech Museum, our Czech School, and this very newsletter!

In Rokycany, Czech Republic, by the city hall in Masaryk Square, a monument stands that is dedicated to the American Forces that liberated Rokycany, on May 7<sup>th</sup> 1945. The monument honors the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment/2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the US Army. This was the demarcation line where the US Army had to stop its

march to Prague. A large cross was also raised, by the town church, to honor those who sacrificed their lives as they fought for freedom, liberty and peace. The cross was dedicated on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American entry into Rokycany.

The United States has many reminders of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic. As early as June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1906, a Czech-American day was established that celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of a parish in Cedar Rapids Iowa. **Today, they have a Czech Museum and Czech school. The memory of the Czech Republic also remains firm with the magazine "Nase Ceske Dedicvi".**

To honor President T.G. Masaryk, the US Post Office issued a postage stamp with his likeness on it in 1960. It was named "Champion of Liberty" and on it was a picture of the medal he received in 1933.

This year a greater honor will be bestowed on the Czech Republic. A new statue of T.G. Masaryk will be erected in Washington D.C., in a prestigious place in front of the World Bank. The statue will be unveiled this year during a visit by Czech President Vaclav Havel. The expected cost of the statue, installation and maintenance is expected to be ten million crowns, and each contributors name will be listed in an official register at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington D.C. The President of the United States, George W. Bush, gave his approval and full support to this project. In his speech, he stated that he was reminded of the Czech and Slovak immigrants who helped build this great country.

We are, as we were in the first half of the last century, a meaningful partner with the United States. The citizens of Rokycany confirmed this in 1990 by celebrating the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of their town and the cost of democracy, and are reminded of this annually as they celebrate Veterans Day. Freedom for everyone comes at a high price, and there is no tolerance for selfishness and abuse, which have no place in a democracy. The principles of democracy, provide everyone the same rights without distinction. Those were the ideals of T.G. Masaryk, and he is remembered and honored for those ideals in America.

## Excerpts from a Soldier's Diary

By Wesley Becicka

**EDITORS NOTE:** Wesley Becicka was born on February 4, 1913 to Tom and Essie Bulicek on a farm east of Ely, Iowa. He graduated from Roger's Grove School in 1927. Wesley served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division during World War II, and spent 14 months overseas in a Tank Battalion. After his service and tour of duty he returned home and married Agnes Cervený. Agnes died January 14, 1992. Wesley is now a resident of Cedar Rapids.



In the following excerpts from Wesley's diary, he covers his entire tour of duty and the end of World War II. Be sure to note the section where he was in Czechoslovakia.

Uncle Sam has sent his Greetings which meant being drafted to serve in the army at age 30. That meant a big change at this time of my life to serve my country during World War II.



Had physical at Camp Dodge near Des Moines, Iowa. Left home March 18, 1943 from Cedar Rapids, Iowa by bus. That began a new and different experience of seeing the outside world. There were changes and adjustments in the farming operation for my parents to make by my leaving.

Left Camp Dodge by troop train with draftees for Kansas City, Kansas. Made a stop here to change the locomotive on the train. Stayed on train 1 day. Left by train to Shreveport, LA. Transferred to North Camp Polk. Took basic training. Spent 3 months there.

Trained on rifles, machine guns, and rocket launchers. Was also on maneuvers at North Polk. Rained a lot and all equipment was getting stuck in the mud. Spent Christmas 1943 here. Had good dinner of turkey. Was snowing and we were outside. Also went to Texas for maneuvers. Went back to South Polk January 14, 1944. Was there when D-Day was declared. Went on several more trips to Texas for a week. That was a vacation from all the training. We could do whatever we wanted and we did.

Was on the move again to Birmingham, Alabama by troop train. Any movement was always accomplished during nighttime so enemy would not know about troop movements. Went through Florida along the east coast. Had a pretty good idea we would be sent over seas. Saw the Capital in Washington D.C.

Next stop was Camp Kilmer, New Jersey by troop train. Took 3 days. Obtained 1 day pass to New York. Walked through Harlem at night. Walked in the middle of the street to be safe in the dark. People were staring out of their windows. Got to ride the subway.

Boarded a ferryboat. Took us to a ship for embarkation. Was a British ship built before WW I. Saw the Statue of Liberty early in the morning upon leaving for Europe. Was in a 45 ship convoy. An aircraft carrier was behind loaded with planes. We were surrounded by destroyers to be on the lookout for submarines.

Halfway on the ocean tip, the ships divide. Some went to France with heavy equipment destined for The Bulge.

The rest went to England waiting for war equipment from the states. Went north between Ireland and England. Took a month. Spent Christmas 1945 in England. Weather was foggy. Spent 3 days in London. Saw Westminster Abbey and Big Ben, and museums. V-bombs were being dropped on England from Germany destroying what they could.

LST was loaded to cross the English Channel with war equipment to Cherbourg, France. Was snowy. Slept in the snow in sleeping bag. Had C Rations for food. Patton was there with his army. Fought in The Bulge. Went to Holland and Belgium. Headed for the Rhine River. Was foggy for 3 days. Lost all but 4 tanks to the German army. The fog cleared and B-17 bombers came from England to bomb inside Germany. B47 Thunderbolts cleaned out German army. Lots of American casualties.

Went to rest camp for 2 weeks. Crossed Rhine River bridge treadways to Elbe River. Went to Holberstadt and back toward the Rhine.

German army weakening. Hitler has concentration camps before and during the war throughout Germany. People barely alive from starvation. Eventually many died. Stench from the bodies is indescribable. Atrocities against the Jews.

Was in the town of Klatovy, which is in the western part of Czechoslovakia. Was not aware there was a relative living there. It was the daughter of dad's half brother. Did not realize it until I came home that dad communicated with her by letters. The country is poor. Life is dull and the people unhappy under German domination. Pilsen has a tank factory. German SS troupes shot the Czechs and buried them. They were later reburied into family plots near Prague. Spent 5 months in Domazlice.

Germany is losing the war. Shortage of fuel a factor. Hitler ends his life.

Katlienberg has a wine factory. Went there to celebrate the end of the war. Commander had a party. Plenty of hard liquor to celebrate. No fraternizing with the opposite sex or would get in trouble during and after the war.

Occupational forces prevented uprisings and riots.

Went on freight train to LeHarve, France. Drew numbers. Sailed on Berry ship 7 days to New York.





## Masaryk Memorial Park and Statue Dedication

Excerpts Reprinted with Permission of the American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR)



The T.G. Masaryk Memorial Park and Statue unveiling and dedication ceremony took place on the afternoon of September 19. The newly created T.G. Masaryk Park is located on Massachusetts Avenue near Dupont Circle at the beginning of "Embassy Row." Czech Republic

President Václav Havel, Former Slovak President Michael Kováč, the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright and U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic Craig Stapleton were all participants in the dedication program. The U.S. Navy Band performed the Czech, Slovak, and U.S. anthems as well as some of President Masaryk's favorite songs, Tece, Voda, Tece and Ach, Synku.

T.G. Masaryk once again stands in the city he often visited, lifting our vision to the ideals he so zealously pursued. In a time of particular strife, terror and bloodshed, the statue should remind us of President Masaryk's commitment to freedom, democracy, human rights and peace, and of his conviction that those ideals transcend time, geography, ethnicity and language. The statue will also be a reminder of President Masaryk's personal testimony that a single individual can carry the torch of those ideals high enough for all to see and follow.

As is usual for memorials in Washington, no Federal funds are provided. While sufficient funds were raised to install the statue and pedestal, much more is needed to complete the park. If you would like to contribute to help complete this project, contact:

American Friends of the Czech Republic  
2801 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
Phone: 202.338.1548 Fax 202.338.8182

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**Donations With Membership Applications** - The following graciously included additional donations with their membership applications.

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**Czech Heritage Foundation., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406**

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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**

## 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.net/> - 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

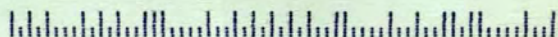


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## Calendar of Events

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Mar. 1 **Czech School Chili Supper** – St. Wenceslaus Church, Cedar Rapids, 5-7:00 PM  
7-8 **2003 History & Culture Conference** – NCSML, Cedar Rapids  
11 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:30 PM  
22 **St. Joseph's Day National Kolach Bake-off** – NCSML  
23 **St. Joseph's Day Dance** – Elk's Lodge, Cedar Rapids, 2-6:00 PM

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Apr. 8 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** - NCHML, 7:30 PM  
13 **Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Applications due**

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May 5 (tentative) **Sokol Pork & Dumpling Dinner** – SOKOL Building, Cedar Rapids  
13 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** - NCSML, 7:30 PM  
16 **Summer Concert** – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 7-8:30 PM  
16-17 **Houby Days** – Czech Village, Cedar Rapids  
17 **Miss Czech & Slovak Iowa Pageant**, NCSML  
23 **Summer Concert** – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 7-8:30 PM

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June 6 **Summer Concert** – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 7-8:30 PM  
10 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** - NCSML, 7:30 PM  
20 **Summer Concert** – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 7-8:30 PM

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July 4 **Summer Concert** – NCSML Gardens, Cedar Rapids, 2:00 PM  
8 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML  
18 **Summer Concert** – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 7-8:30 PM

