



Fourteen queens from throughout the US represented their states at the Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Pageant this summer in Wilber, NE. Pictured front row l-r: Cindy Syrovatka, South Dakota; Kristy Kleinhans, Wisconsin; Samantha Hlinicky, Oklahoma; Teresa Mahoney, Oregon. Second row l-r: Olivia Cada, Minnesota; Carrie Brown, Nebraska; Brianna Tichy, New Jersey; Christy Dowling, Kansas. Third row l-r: Valerie Smith, Missouri; Amanda De Hoedt, Iowa; Tanya Jech, Illinois; Olivia Buydos, Ohio. Fourth row l-r: Leilani Kurtak, Arizona; Sandy Ptak, 2009-2010 Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. & Alaska; Michelle Barak, Texas.

*Fall 2009*



## Contributors

Karen Lehmann, Wes and Olga Drahozal, Allie Wieneke, Holly Stepanek, Emma Lehmann, Robert Chadima, Amanda De-Hoedt, Joyce Netolicky, Marij Nejd, Leah Wilson and Leonard Pfeifer.

## Want to read more?

Subscriptions for *Our Czech Heritage* are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation receive the newsletter free of charge. Contributions may be sent anytime. Annual dues are \$10.00 and renewable on January 1 of each year and expire on December 31. Dues received today apply to the following year for new members.

## Check out our website

The Czech Heritage Foundation's newly updated website is something you have to see. Visit [www.czechheritagefoundation.org](http://www.czechheritagefoundation.org) anytime for all things Czech.

## Send us your stories

If there is anything you would like to see included in the next issue, please let me know. E-mail me at

or send articles to

. We accept articles on any topic so don't hesitate to submit. And as always, remember to share your copy with a friend or relative, or better yet send in a gift membership in their name!

# President's message

The primary mission of the Czech Heritage Foundation has NOT BEEN a desire to address the financial need for operations NOR KEEP in the forefront our desire for your obligation to support our mission. If it was all about the money, then you would find every issue pointed in that direction.

However, increasing costs and softening donations has again resulted in a need for \$10.00 dues in 2010. This is intended to do no more than offset rising operational costs for services that never seem to go down. On a personal note, our organization understands every member is facing these same increases with their living expenses.

So if you as a member of Czech Heritage can just keep plugging along in these tough times Czech Heritage can continue with current programs. Hopefully our organization as a "Czech Pride" and proud to be Czech can also expand our role of providing new and innovating projects of celebration.

Our goal and role in 2010 will be to put an end to the oppression that blocks our advancement. If we stop the "O"ppression, it will manifest a better impression and our future will be known as the Czech Heritage "Fun" dation and not some stuffy old Foundation.

Děkovat (Thanks)  
Leonard



Leonard Pfeifer

## Table of contents

President's Message.....	pg 2
St. Mikalůš Info.....	pg 3
Czech School Building.....	pg 4
Czech Plus Band.....	pg 6
Czech Heritage Singers.....	pg 7
CHF Prince/Princess Candidate.....	pg 8
Homestay.....	pg 9
Ice Harvesting History.....	pg 13
National Queen Pageant.....	pg 14
Education Kits .....	pg 13
Recipe.....	pg 15
Czechfest.....	pg 16
Kosek Bldg.....	pg 17
Světlušky.....	pg 18
Miss Czech-Slovak.....	pg 18
Join the Pride.....	pg 19
St. Mikulaš.....	pg 20



The Astronomical Clock in Prague.



# Saint Nicholas Day

(Den Svareho Mikulaš)

Saturday, Dec. 5th

Czech Village \* 10:00 am - 12:00



## FREE

### Kid's Activities Include:

- \* See St. Mikulaš emerge from mist of 13' Angel
- \* Meet St. Mikulaš, The Angel, and The Devil in person at St. Nicholas Headquarters 59 - 16th Ave. SW
- \* Free Christmas Stockings (While supplies last)
- \* Visit merchants and get your stockings filled with treats
- \* Drawing for 3 girl prizes and 3 boy prizes (Need not be present to win)
- \* Cookie Decorating & Hot Chocolate

## Bake Sale

10:00 am - Until gone!

59 - 16th Ave. SW

A neat, sweet way to support the Czech Heritage Foundation and Czech Village Association.

Only in Czech Village will children receive free Christmas stockings (while supplies last) and sign up to be in drawing for prizes. St. Mikulaš, Angel and Devil will also be at NCSML - Lindale 1:00-3:00.

Sponsored by Czech Heritage Foundation and Czech Village Association



# *The Old Czech School*

## *Fate of Historical Building Uncertain*

The Old Czech School Building has a rich history in Cedar Rapids, however, its future may not be as bright if Cedar Rapids decides to construct a dike through it.

Preserving the building's historical significance is what the Godwin family is diligently working towards. The Godwin's have a vested interest in the building located at 729 2nd St. SE because they have operated their catering business out of it since 1983.

"We're not Czech, but we have a great respect for the Czech culture," said Marshall Godwin co-owner along with his seven siblings of the family catering business. Godwin is working with the Iowa Preservation Alliance to get the building designated historically significant. "The New Bohemia District, one street over, has received Historical Designation so I don't see why the Czech School building shouldn't either. Right now our request is pending."

The paperwork has been completed to request the 1901 Czech School be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The report reads: The Czech School is locally significant to the education of Czech immigrant children and their American born offspring. Additionally, the building which housed the Kapoun Polehna Sausage Factory is significant as an example of the Czech influenced meat processing industry. The building is also significant as an example of Romanesque and Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revival/Classical Revival architecture.

If the building is deemed historically significant Cedar Rapids couldn't level it to construct a dike, however they could move the entire building. If the city chose that option, they'd have to move it, intact, at their cost.

If you're interested in preserving the original Czech School Building please contact Marshall Godwin at and voice your concern.

### **History of Czech School Building**

In 1892 the organization called Damska Matice Skolska (Ladies School Board) was established. It consisted of Czech immigrant women who wanted their children

to learn the Czech language and history. By means of bazaars and programs the women built up a fund for the proposed Czech School Building.

Meanwhile, the organization supported Sunday classes for instruction in the Czech language and organized (in 1897) a library of children's books in the Czech language. In the summer of 1900 W.F. Severa guaranteed the furniture for all the schoolrooms and for the library. Then the Damska

Matice Skolska appointed a building committee and an active fund drive for more money added several hundred dollars to the funds already on hand.

The new Czech School was dedicated on Jan. 1, 1901 as the first building in the United States to be used exclusively for a Czech School.

There were two rooms on the first floor, each large enough to accommodate 54 pupils and one in the basement for younger children. On the second floor was a library.

After the dedication, the ladies of the Damska Matice Skolska continued to have bazaars in order to pay the debt on the structure. They also planned programs in memory of famous Czech leaders such as Pavlicek, Hus, Komensky, Klacel, Zofie Podlipska and American patriots such as Washington and Lincoln.



*In 1892 the Ladies School Board began raising money for construction of the Czech School building. In 1901 it was built at 729 2nd St. SE, Cedar Rapids. Photo circa 1901.*



# Old Czech School

*continued from page 4*

The school was non-sectarian and free. It was divided into three grades in each of which the pupils sang Czech songs, studied the history and geography of Bohemia, and learned how to write, read and speak the Czech language. In the early school girls were also taught, outside of the regular school hours, how to make lace, to knit and to embroider. Regular classes were conducted on Saturday and Sunday mornings and for five weeks during the summer. The building was also used by older girls for night school classes in the Czech language.

By 1951 enrollment had dropped and the building did not meet safety inspection so it was sold. Money from the sale of the school has funded scholarships to college-aged students of Czech descent since 1956.

## Old Czech School Becomes Sausage Plant

In 1951, after 50 years as a Czech School, work began to transform the building into the Kapoun and Polehna sausage factory and retail meat store. A new addition of brick, matched as closely as possible to the original red brick was built at the front corner to house the retail store and office. Another addition was built at the rear



*In 1951 Kapoun and Polehna purchased the Czech School building and converted it into a sausage plant.*

for the sausage plant kitchen, and a third addition was added at the Second St. front for storage, an elevator, and a ramped loading dock and night garage.

The basement was also occupied for the business. The second floor was remodeled into apartments.

The sausage factory closed in the 1980's and Polehna's moved to a smaller storefront in Czech Village. That business was destroyed by the flood of 2008 and has not reopened.

## Old Czech School Becomes Catering Business

In 1983 the Czech School building was purchased by the Godwin family: Ron, Marshall, Brian, Amy, Mark, Deborah, Henry and Katherine. The Godwins have been in the restaurant and catering business since the 1960's. For the past 24 years the Old Czech School building has served them well as a food prep and catering business for their five restaurants: Winifred's, Naso's, Xavier's, The Flamingo, and Vino's, and two caterings businesses: Winifred's Catering and Embassy Catering.

During the flood of 2008, the building sustained 11 feet of water. No structural damage was caused because the 1901 building was so well built. The Godwin's remodeled immediately and were back in business by November 2008.

The remodeling also includes two new Czech-themed restaurants. The first, to be called **C z e c h S c h o o l D e l i**, will be located in the front



*In 1983 the Godwin family purchased the building which has served them as a food prep area for their five restaurants and two catering businesses in Cedar Rapids. Two new restaurants are slated to open in the Czech School building soon.*

of the building where Polehna's storefront was. They hope people will take a step back in time and enjoy the deli which will be decorated with historical photos of the building, original brickwork, and the original safe. New flooring and windows have been installed and marble from the old Montrose Hotel was salvaged by the Godwin's and used as windowsills.

A second restaurant in the basement is also in the works. Intended as a lunch spot, a special feature of the restaurant will be the original limestone walls.

Neither restaurant is open yet, but both plan on serving traditional Czech favorites for eat-in or carry out. The catering business will continue in the back of the building.

Please help keep the Old Czech Building from being moved or leveled! Contact Marshall Godwin at [phone number] and find out what you can do.

*by Karen Lehmann*

*Historical excerpts courtesy of "The History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids," The Gazette, and Iowa Preservation Alliance.*



# Czech Plus Band Making Music for 31 Years

The Czech Plus Band, under the direction of Wes and Olga Drahozal, is a group of musicians dedicated to preserving and perpetuation of Czech band music in the Midwest. Both Wes and Olga come from a long line of Czech immigrants. These people came to this country with little in their hands but with the hope of finding a better life for themselves and for their children. The songs and music of their ancestors they kept deep within their hearts.

Formulated in 1978 with family members and a few friends, the Czech Plus Band has been an active part of all Czech Village activities ever since. The name Czech Plus was chosen for the band by the members themselves because of the cosmopolitan composition of the

group. Half are of Czech descent. The other members who share the love of Czech music are of Russian, German, English, Irish or Italian ancestry.

Czech Plus has been declared the official band for Czech Village and as such, the band is present at all flag raising ceremonies where it plays "The Star Spangled Banner" and the anthem of the Czech Republic as well as the anthem of Slovakia. They are the only Czech band in the United States to be able to perform this service.

At the official dedication and opening of the National Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids in October of 1995, the band had the distinct honor to play for President Bill Clinton, President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic and

President Michael Kovac of the Slovak Republic.

A long list of Czech Plus Band's impressive performances include presentations at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Wisconsin. At the Antonin Dvorak Festival in Spillville, Iowa in 1993, Czech Plus was the featured band. Recently it has performed as hosts for such ethnic groups as Slovak National Dance Ensemble, the Yugoslav Folk Dancers and the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra. Vaclav Neuimann, director of the Prague Philharmonic was especially impressed with the band's understanding and authentic presentation of Czech folk music.

Performing in costumes (kroje) patterned after the brass bands of Southern Bohemia, the Czech Plus Band has a library which is constantly being updated with new music from the Czech Republic, thanks to a contact in Prague, Ladislav Kubes. As a third generation Czech brass band director whose birthplace is in Ceske Budejovice, southern Czech Republic, Ladislav Kubes and several members of his band are permanent members of the pit orchestra at the National Theater of Prague in the Czech Republic. When Kubes' band, "Veselka" toured the United States in 1981, Czech Plus was honored to play at a pre-concert performance for "Veselka." Kubes and, in fact, all the members of "Veselka" were impressed with the authenticity of the music and the musicianship with which it was performed.



The Czech Plus Band pictured front row (l-r): Steve Hadish, Gina Perry, Leah Early, Cece Wolter, Cathy Swanson, Patty Cejka, Brad Wolter. Back row (l-r): Larry Modraceck, Chuck Dlask, Joe Early, Paul Drahos, Olga Drahozal, Wes Drahozal, Art Drahozal, Pete Drahozal, Tim King, Steve Schulte, Jack Hicks, and Walt Drahozal.

*photo courtesy of Czech Plus Band*

*continued on page 7*



# Czech Plus

*continued from page 6*

The young age of the enthusiastic players in Czech Plus was also duly noted. The friendship which followed resulted in Mr. Kubes sending the band many of his compositions and arrangements over the years.

The Czech Plus Band and Czech Heritage Singers have performed together at many Masses. The Czech Folk Hymn Mass differs from other so-called "polka masses." Commissioned by St. Ludmila's Church in 1987 to write a "polka mass" for their annual Kolach Days Festival, Olga Drahozal elected to use only

those hymns which had been sung in the Bohemian lands for over a century. The music of the authentic hymns was scored by Olga Drahozal to accommodate the band's ensemble and the original Czech verses were converted to English in a true and yet poetic translation. A select group of singers from the ranks of the Czech Heritage Singers directed by Olga Drahozal always sings the first verse in Czech. The congregation, using song sheets, joins in on the English verses. The Mass has been performed many times at St. Wenceslaus, St. Ludmila's, as well as a number of churches in the Midwest. Reverent and faithful to the spirit in which the hymns were originally written, the Czech Plus Folk

Hymn Mass has been accepted as liturgically correct.

In 1997 the Czech Plus Band was awarded the title of Ethnic Folk Artists by the Iowa Folk Arts Council. This was based on the authenticity of their costumes and the Czech music that is played.

The 14 member Czech Plus Band presents summer concerts regularly in the Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village. Prior to the flood of 2008 concerts were sponsored by the Czech Village Association. The 2009 summer concerts were sponsored by several lodges. Czech Plus Band donates all concert proceeds to the Czech Village Association to help

*continued on page 17*



## Czech Heritage Singers

*Est. 1981*



The Czech Heritage Singers were started in 1981 by the group's matriarch, Olga Drahozal, in order to keep the tradition and songs of their Czech forefathers alive.

Their first performance was at the first Homestay Program Benefit Dance held at the Elk's Club in 1981. The 15 member group volunteered their services.

They sing in the Czech language at special events such as Czech Museum events, senior citizen care facilities, and here and there for public enjoyment.

The gavel of leadership has been passed on as age sets in. Donna Merkle has taken over the piano from Olga Drahozal. Bernie Drahozal has taken over the duties of announcing songs and their origin. Everyone enjoys singing together and seeing the faces of people listening. You can tell they really enjoy it.



*Pictured (l-r): Bernie Drahozal, Michael Papich, Lud Svoboda, Fran Whitters, Marge Nejd, Helen Quass, Lenora Watson, Donna Merkle, and Milly Ortner. Piano accompaniment provided by Olga Drahozal. Not pictured: John Kostal, Patty Yelik, Karla Zahradnik, and Marie Cada.*





# CHF 2010



## Prince & Princess Candidates



*Zoe Wolter*

**Zoe Wolter** is the daughter of Bradley and Margaret Wolter of Cedar Rapids. She's a sophomore at Wash-

ington High School where she plays French horn in the wind symphony and mellophone in the marching band.

She is also very active in the Czech community. She's been on the CHF Royal Court, attended Czech School for eight years, and now volunteers each summer at Czech School in the Division 1 classroom.

Zoe is also active in her church community. She's a member of St. Ludmila's Parish.

Zoe's hobbies include taking Russian as a foreign language in school, being a member of the musical pit crew for school drama productions, crocheting, and working on Girl Scout achievement awards.



*Hannah Van Deusen*

**Hannah Van Deusen** is the daughter of Ray and Terri Van Deusen of Cedar Rapids.

She's a freshman through the Marion Home-school Association where she

is active in yearly theatre productions.

The violin is also a big part of Hannah's life. She enjoys entertaining at care centers and in groups from Preucil Music in Iowa City. She also dances to traditional Czech folk music with the Czech group Světlušky.

Hannah has supported her church and community by volunteering to work on a flooded home in Cedar Rapids.

Hannah's hobbies include working with children, cooking, baking, interior design, camping, and organizing garage sales.



*Erin Pisarik*

**Erin Pisarik** is the daughter of Steve and Susan Pisarik of Mount Vernon. She's a sophomore at Mount Vernon High School

where she's active in cross country, basketball, track, marching band, jazz band, concert band, and color guard.

Outside of school she teaches Sunday School and ushers and serves at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mechanicsville.

She's also busy with Linn County 4-H. Projects she's shown at the fair include goats, bucket bottle calves, beef, horticulture, food & nutrition, photography, and visual arts.



*Megan Lehmann*

**Megan Lehmann** is the daughter of Steve and Karen Lehmann of Cedar Rapids. She's an 8th grader who attends Harding

Middle School where she plays clarinet in the band and is on the tennis team.

Megan has been active in the Czech community by attending Czech School, serving as a Czech Little Sister, and being a member of Světlušky, a Czech music and dance group.

Dance is a big part of Megan's life. She's been dancing with the CR Spirits for four years and is on the Stick Dance Team through her church.

Megan's hobbies include baking and bowling.



*Marissa Cada*

**Marissa Cada** is the daughter of Jerry and Ida Cada of Swisher. She attends Prairie 9th Grade Academy where she's an honor student,

a football cheerleader and a statistics manager for Prairie's wrestling team. She also plays volleyball for Rapid Spikers Volleyball Club.

Marissa was the first Little Sister for the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa





# *CH7 Homestay Program Sends Students to Prague*

## **Allie Wieneke**

The trip to the Czech Republic was an unforgettable experience of a lifetime.

During this trip, I had the privilege of seeing the remarkable, centuries-old architecture and culture the Czech Republic has to offer. Having seen the heritage of my ancestors, I now better understand why my great-grandparents always showed so much pride in their background.

Many things in the Czech Republic are like America such as stores, several foods, and even the names of most of the people. There were several things however that were different. The combination of the metro, the tram and the busses was how we got around Prague. Some of the foods they have are what we know the Czech Republic for, foods like schnitzel, dumplings, kolaches, and sauerkraut.

Despite how difficult it was to be away from home at times, I did really enjoy the trip. It was nice to experience a different country, where they live lives fairly different than what I am used to. I made many friends there and I hope to visit the Czech Republic again eventually. This trip has showed me that I like seeing what other cultures are like.

Thank you to the Czech Heritage Foundation for giving me this opportunity and making me more aware of not just my own heritage, but of how different other places can be. This program really opened my eyes to the world.



*Homestay students from Cedar Rapids prior to departing for Prague in June. Pictured l-r: Emma Lehmann daughter of Steve and Karen Lehmann of Cedar Rapids, Allie Wieneke daughter of Stephanie Parker and Joe Wieneke of Solon, and Holly Stepanek daughter of Tom and Sheila Stepanek of Cedar Rapids.*



*Homestay students from Prague stayed with host families in Cedar Rapids from mid-August to mid-September. Pictured l-r: Kristýna Keprtová, Natália Vítková, Michelle Matějková, and David Semler.*

## **Holly Stepanek**

The experience to go to Czech Republic was something I dreamed about ever since I was seven years old and attended Czech School for the first time.

I feel like my time in Prague was well spent. I learned so much and was able to expand a lot on the language when I was there. My host family thought it was adorable when I started singing old Czech songs.

I was able to learn a lot more of the language and was actually able to understand things sometimes. My host sister Natalia told her friends, "Don't gossip about her, she can understand!" The coolest part of my trip was that my host family lived 10 minutes away from the city center and I could walk there. We were able to go to the city center to buy things, explore, or go have a coffee.

The best thing was the sightseeing. Prague has so many old things and I couldn't believe that parts of the city were 1200 years

old! They have so many things like castles, unique buildings, and bridges that had been standing many years before the pilgrims even came to the USA. I also found everything in such good condition. I saw very little graffiti around and everything just seemed to be very beautiful. I found the red roofs everywhere especially charming and I thought it was unique how hilly the city was. My host sister Natalia said she missed the hills back home when she was visiting Iowa.

*continued on page 13*



# Days gone by

My family owned Hubbard Ice Company when I was a youngster. Granddad had entered the ice business back around 1901 or 02. I'm not certain how or why he did, but from then on his life, and the lives of all the rest of us in his extended family, centered on the demands of

zen ponds or rivers found some enterprising individual to harvest and store ice during the winter time for sale in the summer. In the village of Cedar Rapids the earliest ice business was that of Elias T. Hooper. He started harvesting ice on the Cedar, above the dam, after the Civil War.

perhaps he sold his interest, but in 1870 Hubbard joined Hooper and they proclaimed their company as Hooper and Hubbard. Hubbard was then 25 and Hooper 39.

The 1870s was a boom time in Cedar Rapids. The population had more than doubled from 6,000-12,000. The railroad had arrived in Cedar Rapids in 1869, T.M. Sinclair, who was 20 at the time, was sent to Cedar Rapids by his family in Ireland to found a hog packing plant in 1871. Robert Stuart and his father migrated to Cedar Rapids from Ontario to found the North Star Oatmeal Mill (that we now know as Quaker Oats) in 1873.

These new plants created an increased demand for labor in the small village and they also made opportunities for supportive businesses by enterprising individuals. You can imagine Hubbard as a brash young man about town who made it his business to know all the



*Harvesting ice on the Cedar River. Ice was cut upriver and then floated down a channel cut to lead to the base of the chute at the river bank.*

his company in the ice trade. There is an interesting tale to be told about ice as an industry and the people that harvested and sold ice right here in Cedar Rapids.

## **Hooper and Hubbard Ice Business 1870-1882**

The easiest method to collect a supply of ice from Mother Nature is to harvest the rivers, ponds and lakes. Individuals and small cooperative communities did so for centuries. In America the ice industry thrived in New England. The industry followed the western migration across the northern lands.

Every community that had fro-

tanner in Oswego, New York who had founded the leather firm in Oswego. My guess is that Hubbard was sent west to continue the firm in fresh territory. We don't know why Hubbard left the leather business,

Charles P. Hubbard arrived in Cedar Rapids in March of 1866 as a 20-year-old clerk in a leather store. Hubbard's father was a



*An endless conveyer ran through a tunnel under the road and up the side of the ice warehouse. As each layer was completed in the icehouse the conveyer was raised so that another layer could be placed on top. Hay was used to keep the layers from knitting together. Sawdust filled the walls as insulation.*



## *Harvesting Ice From the Cedar River was big business*

important people of the small community. Hooper and Hubbard had luckily timed their start up company at the beginning of the boom.

### **Ice Harvesting on Cedar River 1870-1882**

Ice was so vitally important to the community that the ice trade nearly assumed the status of a public utility. The Gazette reported in 1886, "The weather remains cold and the ice harvest is great. It is a boon for poor working men and it is plain that an ice crop is about as essential as a corn crop."

The ice harvest would employ nearly every man and team in town. Gazette stories of the ice harvest report that some 650 men were needed over 10 days to two weeks to make the harvest. Men were paid \$1.00 per day and a man with a team \$1.50. There were no electric saws and no gasoline engines. The entire harvest was made by muscle power--scoring the ice in the river, breaking it free, floating it to the take-out chute, pulling it to the ice house and hauling the ice up ramps to be layered into place in the ice houses.

The harvest was not without its dangers. This story is from the Gazette of January 12, 1894: "Many curious sights are seen on the river. A too adventurous horse slips into the river off the glossy ice. Three or four men rush to him and the moment his head comes up a noose is thrown over it, on to his neck

and he is choked. Oddly enough this causes his body to be inflated. He is pulled to the edge of the ice and a plank slipped under him; everybody pulls away and presto! He stands on solid ice shaking himself in a moment."

My granddad told me he never lost a horse on the river. If the horse did break through the ice granddad, after he got the animal back on the ice, would pour a quart of whisky into him then run him to Ellis Park and back before returning him to his stall in the barn.



*Ice was delivered by horse and wagon.*

### **Hooper and Hubbard Split 1882**

In 1882 after twelve years of joint operation Hubbard, then 37 years old to Hooper's 51, acquired Hooper's interest in the firm. It may be that Hubbard sensed a future conflict with Hooper's son Walter that could best be resolved by separation of their interests sooner rather than later. From then on Hubbard dominated the ice business in Cedar Rapids. However, Hooper and his

son continued to harvest ice on their own.

During the winter of 1882-1883 Hubbard harvested 15,180 tons of ice. Hooper also kept busy contracting with T.M. Sinclair to harvest 24,000 tons on the west side of the river and 45,000 tons on the east side for the packing plant. E.H. Taylor, another ice man put up 3,000 tons for his own ice business. A town of 12,000 people thus harvested about 100,000 tons of ice to sustain its population and businesses.

### **Privately Owned Ice Houses 1847-1870s**

Wealthy families sometimes had their own ice storage. The Ely family lived during the 1850's in a white clapboard cottage on Second Avenue, about where Ginsberg's Jewelry store was located. They had their own private ice supply. Let me quote John S. Ely as he recalled that ice pit: "The barn was on the alley about 40 feet from the rear of the house, with a cow shed on the west side. The privy and pigpen were on the east side of the barn, and adjoining them was the v shaped vat where the ashes were stored, later to be leached for lye for making soap. Adjoining the leaching vat was the ice house, wholly below the surface of the ground with only the roof showing. In it were stored the blocks of ice hauled from the river and covered with sawdust for use in the summer.

*continued on page 14*



# *Amanda DeHoudt represents Iowa in national Miss Czech-Slovak Pageant*



*Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Amanda De Hoedt is pictured at Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Pageant in Wilber, NE with "Little Sister" Taryn Pospisil of Wilber.*

This was a special year in Wilber, Nebraska. Fourteen young women had come from across the country to represent their communities, states, and their heritage in the annual Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. pageant. Not only was this the greatest participation that the pageant has had since states were allowed to have only one representative (in the past they could have two), but nearly half of the girls were returning competitors, bringing the competition to a new level.

I was one of those returning queens. In 2004, at the age of 15, I was crowned Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa for the first time. Going to Wilber was an amazing experience that challenged me in many ways. The experience gave me pride, self-confidence, and a greater appreciation of my community.

This May I was thrilled to be chosen to represent Iowa in Wilber for the second time. I had a new kroj constructed, worked to make my talent more interactive and engaging, and scrutinized my kroj description and essay questions.

At the national level there were many beautiful authentic and reconstructed kroje, an incredible variety of talents, and everyone played a vital role in their

communities. Each girl was there for the right reasons: to represent her culture and state, and we were all able to connect and bond through our shared interests.

The night ended with Brianna Tichy from New Jersey being crowned as the new Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. queen with 1st runner-up being Teresa Mahoney from Oregon and 2nd runner-up being Carrie Brown of Nebraska. While I didn't go home with a prize that evening, I went home satisfied that I represented Iowa well by being someone who is dedicated and interested in her heritage and community.

Now that the national pageant is over I'm turning my focus to local and state cultural events to increase awareness of our Czech community. I'm excited for what the rest of the year will bring, and I'm already excited to pass on my title to another young woman who's life will be changed by taking part in this program. **If you know someone who would be great for this position, please visit [www.czechheritagefoundation.org](http://www.czechheritagefoundation.org) for more information about the Iowa pageant!**



*Pictured l-r: Wilber, NE "Little Sisters" flank outgoing national queen Sandy Ptak of Alaska and new national queen Brianna Tichy of New Jersey.*



*Amanda De Hoedt models her kroj.*



*by Amanda DeHoedt  
photos by Russ DeHoedt*



# *We Need Your Help!*

## **EDUCATION KITS**

The Education Kits that belonged to the Czech Heritage Foundation were lost in the flood. We are still in need of the following items:

1. A case to display the items. Something like a small trunk. It can be made of lightweight wood that can be easily carried.
2. Czech glass
3. Kroje (Men, Women, Boys or Girls)
4. Czech dolls
5. Morean (Old Lady Winter)
6. Pomlaska (Willow switch used at Easter time)
7. Czech money
8. Garnet jewelry
9. Books and the ABC book
10. Moravian or Slovakian maps
11. Small Slovak flag
12. Written pamphlets or articles about the garnet mines, automobiles, bicycles, concentration camps, glassmaking
13. Postcards
14. Bobbin lace and tools
15. Cooking items
16. Toys and puppets
17. Written pamphlets or books about the different holidays.
18. Written articles about the symbolic animals.

We use these kits at Diversity Days sponsored by area schools, colleges and businesses. We would like to get these kits together as soon as possible. We have many requests asking us to provide presentations about the Czech culture. We need to work fast to get at least one kit put together for use.

The Education Kit Committee would like to thank the people that have come forward with contributions to the kits already. We have a painted egg, cookbook, maps of Prague, information and pictures of Prague, some music, a male Czech doll, small Czech flag and American flag. As you can see the items are coming in, but not as fast as I thought they would.

We need your help! If you have anything you think we could use please contact: Joyce Netolicky, email:  
or Karen Lehmann, email:  
mchsi.com or write: Czech Heritage Foundation, Education Kit Committee, P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-0761

*by Joyce Netolicky*

## *Homestay*

*continued from page 9*

There were a couple things I found out that I don't think a lot of people might realize about Prague and Czech Republic. I think when people picture the country, they picture lots of poor people, dirty cities, and pickpockets running rampant through the metro. I didn't experience this in Prague or Brno at all. It seemed to me that the attitude people had was much more relaxed than here, and that was a change for me.

My dream has finally come true and I got to live the big city life for a month. I really enjoyed myself. I am so lucky that I was able to go to Prague. I took away memories, experiences, and friendships that I will remember forever. It really did change my life.

### **Emma Lehmann**

My trip to the Czech Republic is one that I will truly never forget. I learned so much and bonded so closely with all of the people I met.

I would like to thank, first and foremost, the Czech Heritage Foundation for making this dream come true. Never did I think that I would be a continent away, without my family, experiencing life at such a young age.

I know that on both ends of the exchange, all of the participants were able to learn about a different culture and see through the eyes of another culture. And so, it is with this idea, that I say affirmatively that I will remain friends with all of the people involved, for the rest of my life.



# The ice business

*continued from page 11*

There were a number of such ice houses in the village, but I recall that ours was in great demand in the summer and its use quite generously shared with neighbors. Ice was considered a great luxury, there being no public ice house. Now just stop and think of what Mr. Ely has said - the ice was packed in sawdust in a pit in sandy soil only a few feet from the barn, the pigpen, the cow shed and the privy. Ice water, anyone?

## Artificial Ice Making Comes to CR Early 1900's

In the southern U.S. ice had been made artificially as early as the 1850's. They were experimental, dangerous, and inefficient, but those experimental contraptions were harbingers of the machines yet to come in the next decades.

The Sinclair Packing plant installed the first artificial ice plant in Cedar Rapids at the turn of the twentieth century. Hubbard followed Sinclair's lead by building his block ice plant around 1915. Hubbard's artificial plant could manufacture 60 tons per day which was not enough to meet the demand so ice continued to be harvested from the river.

Over the next 30 years a number of firms contested for the growing ice market. Besides Hooper and Hubbard, John Huggins, Taylor and Davis, J.R. Martin, T.E. Sleight and, of course, the Chadima Brothers were at one time or another in the business.

### Chadima Ice Business

My granddad started his ice harvesting business in the late 1890s.

The winter of 1921-1922 saw a failure of the ice harvest on the river. My grandfather, who had only the river as a source of ice, suffered a nervous breakdown as a result of the ice failure. I'm sure that it was as a result of the harvest failure that the following summer Chadima Brothers and Hubbard merged into a single company. By 1929 it was obvious that the split ownership would no longer work. My grandfather and his four sons then bought out the interest of the other owners. Granddad signed the purchase



*The lady of the house would hang an ice card in her front window as a signal to the ice man that she needed ice delivered. She would orient the card so that the amount she wanted was on top.*

agreement, specifying payment in gold bonds two weeks before the stock market collapsed on Black Thursday in October of 1929. My poor granddad in 1929 did not have the lucky timing that C.P. Hubbard had enjoyed with Hooper in 1870. Granddad stared into an economic crash in 1929 while Hubbard sailed into Cedar Rapids' greatest boom in 1870. Our last harvest from the river was made in 1929.

**Chadima Brothers Operated  
Hubbard Ice Company  
1898-2007**

As a boy in the late 1930's to early 1940's I loved being near the activity and men at the ice house. I watched the blacksmith at his forge shape and weld the braces for the ice truck bodies. I helped Jerry Jasa, the carpenter build the ice truck bodies. Jerry's older brother Joe claimed dominion over the ice cubing machine however I fed the block ice into the crusher and then bagged the crushed ice by size - egg, pea and snow. I helped Clarence, the truck mechanic, as he replaced bearings and pistons in the truck engines.

One summer my job was to ride with each of the drivers in order to catalog each ice route. Cedar Rapids was then a town of about 50,000 and we ran 27 ice routes. I rode with each driver over his daily route and recorded each stop; where the ice card was hung in the window, where the ice box was and whether the customer paid cash or had purchased a coupon book.

That was the summer I learned how to handle ice tongs, how to load the truck so that the ice cakes would neither hit each other and crack or lie so close together that the cakes knit together, and how to carry ice without straining my back. And often I got to drive the truck. The drivers had their fun with me too. I remember a three story house on J Street Southwest on the top of the hill at Wilson Avenue. The driver told me I could make the delivery. Now I ask you, would you like to carry 75 pounds of ice up a hill and three flights of stairs? But I wasn't about to let him know that the boss's kid couldn't do the job.

Many of the ice men liked their beer and whiskey. Since the men

*continued on page 15*



## *Raised Yeast Bread Dumplings* *from Ed & Marj Nejd*

1 pkg. yeast	1 T. cooking oil
1 t. sugar	1 T. salt
1 c. warm water	4-5 c. flour
1 c. warm milk	4 slices of toast that have
2 eggs	been cubed

1. In large bowl combine 1 pkg. yeast (if cold house use a little more yeast) 1t. sugar, with 1 c. warm water and 1 c. warm milk. Let stand to let yeast work.
2. In large 8 quart kettle have water boiling to a good rolling boil.
3. In a large bowl beat 2 large eggs. Add 1 T. cooking oil and 1 T. salt or less.
4. Gradually stir in 4-5 cups flour. Stop beating when the dough leaves side of bowl. Cover and let rise one

hour or until about double.

5. Turn dough on to floured board and knead in 4 slices of bread that has been toasted and cubed. Make dough into 5 loaves. Let rise additional 30 min.

6. In the 8 qt. kettle that is boiling, turn burner temperature to 3 ½ and leave for cooking. Drop loaf into water and cover. **DO NOT OPEN LID.** Cook for 7 minutes.

7. Take loaf out and put on towel. Poke with fork 3-4 times. Turn over and repeat. Cut slices when hot with a heavy thread. Note: 2 loaves can be cooked together if the pan is big enough around for them to rise and cook. Serving variations: Serve with gravy, make into toast, make into French toast, or cube, brown, and mix with eggs, ham, salami, and bacon as an omelet.



## *The ice business* *continued from page 14*

were paid on the weight of ice they sold they didn't waste time. It was a quick gulp and then back to the truck. You also sped through your delivery. You would just bang on the screen door, yell, "Ice Man!" put the ice in the ice box in the kitchen and pick up the coupon or wait for the lady of the house to bring your 25 cents.

### **1956-1965**

After I left the Navy in 1956 I found that the ice business was still great fun. We made our own vending stations and were able to place them in many small towns in eastern Iowa as the local ice companies went out of business. We delivered ice to our stations as far east as Clinton and as far south as Washington. We supplied all the cooling for the packing plant at Postville a hundred

miles north of Cedar Rapids. When urban renewal took out the ice plant in Des Moines, we delivered semi-loads to the local ice man. We learned one lesson about delivering ice over long distances the hard way. An overweight fine could easily be more than the load of ice was worth.

By using spare freezer space we were able to manufacture pallet loads of crushed and cubed ice during the winter for next summer's delivery. And we found unusual uses for ice. The atomic plant at Palo, for instance used huge amounts of ice. It was mixed into the concrete in order to speed the curing of the concrete. Perhaps you have noticed the lions at the entry to the Masonic Library. Those stone lions weighed tons and were difficult to handle. When it came time to put the lions in place each stone was placed on blocks of ice so that it would be guided into position slowly and easily as the ice melted from underneath.

### **Conclusion**

After WWII our 27 ice routes shrank to two. The electric refrigerator took our business away from us. My poor mother, I think, was just about the last wife in Cedar Rapids to get an electric refrigerator. That was in 1954.

If I left the ice business to my cousins in 1965. The ice business since then has faded away to practically nothing. The exciting ice business that I knew as a boy is long gone and never to come again. I enjoyed my teen years growing up in the ice business and I have a great store of frozen memories of those days at the ice house.

*by Robert Chadima*







*U.S. Congressman Dave Loebsack buys kolaches at Czech Fest.*



*Czech Heritage Foundation Royalty had fun visiting 16th Avenue businesses and participating in all the activities during Czech Fest.*



*Dancing to live accordion music at Al's Red Frog.*



*Many vendors were on The Avenue.*



*Tasty kolaches at Sykora Bakery.*



*At Ernie's Tavern.*



*Face painting at Village Hair Design.*



*At George Joens Interiors.*



*Czech Fest*

*Oct. 24*

*Czech Village*



*Maria's Tea Room hosts a sorority lunch.*



*Hayrack rides through Czech Village neighborhood.*



*A hardware store is now located in 2 Star Detective Agency Building.*



*Balloon animals at The Bohemia Cafe.*



*Admiring glassware at the Czech Cottage.*



*Music provided by Red Baron on The Avenue.*



*photos by Russ DeHoedt*



# Candidates

*continued from page 8*

queen contestant. She's attended Czech School and volunteered as a classroom helper for her cousin Jana who came over from the Czech Republic to teach.

She's participated in Czech Diversity Days in Green Square Park, Houby Days, has ridden in CHF floats, attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Masopust Festival in Protovin, Iowa and attended Nebraska's Czech Queen Pageant.

Being Czech, food is a big part of her life. She volunteered at the Czech Museum cookie walk and

also was a demonstrator for Babi's Kitchen, sharing her recipe for Czech Sugar Cookies. She enjoys cooking and is interested in trying new Czech recipes.



*Eric Sindelar*

## PRINCE CANDIDATE

**Eric Sindelar** is the son of Kevin and Karen Sindelar of Cedar Rapids. He attends Taft Middle School where he is active in show choir, band, orchestra, chess club, mock trial, tennis and soccer.

Eric is also active in the Cedar

Rapids Czech community. He belongs to Světlušky where he plays viola, dances and sings; Sokol Gymnastics, has attended Czech School for several summers, and has appeared in kroj on several CHF sponsored floats.

Other interests include 4-H where he incorporates his Czech heritage into leadership, citizenship and music projects.

Private interviews will be held Saturday, Nov. 7. An introduction ceremony of the new Prince, Princess and the Royal Court for 2010 will be held at the CHF Annual Business Meeting in January.

# Czech Plus

*continued from page 7*

defray costs of ongoing improvements incurred due to the flood.

The concerts are attended by enthusiastic audiences from the Midwest. The concerts were established in an effort to renew a custom of long ago when concerts in the local parks would often play old Czech melodies. The Czech Heritage Singers is a group which joins Czech Plus sometimes. Occasionally, the audience is invited to sing along and enjoy the songs of their common ancestry. Czech School students, ages 6-13, perform once each summer with the Czech Plus Band during the Czech School Program & Ice Cream Social.

Equally at home in a park, on a concert stage, at a dance or at a mass, Czech Plus is pledged to promote the ethnic heritage of authentic Czech music in Iowa.

*by Wesley and Olga Drahozal*

## Kosek Building Dedication

*Pictured Czech Heritage Foundation Prince Joey Mark and Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Little Sisters Abby Frerrick and Cassie Lehmann help NCSML CEO Gail Naughton unveil the Kosek Building.*

*The Kosek Building on 16th*

*Avenue in the Czech Village was dedicated as the new home of a major exhibition of the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library.*

*The exhibition plans to open in early 2010 and will become a*



*permanent installation on The Avenue. For more information, call (319) 362-8500 or visit the museum's web site: [www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org).*

*by Leah Wilson, NCSML*



# Did you know . . . ?

*The Cedar Rapids Czech Heritage Foundation  
announces its search for*

## *Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2010-2011*



*2009-2010*

*Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa  
Amanda De Hoedt.*

### *Could This Be You?*

- \* Candidates must 18 to 26 years of age with a Czech, Slovak, Moravian, or Silesian heritage.
- \* Candidates must be a resident of Iowa.
- \* Contestants will compete at the annual Houby Days Czech Festival in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in four categories: private interview, talent, costume modeling, and public interview.

*Winner will receive jeweled crown, sash, flowers, scholarship, gifts, and sponsorship to the Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant in Wilber, Nebraska.*

*National winners may receive trophies, scholarships, savings bonds, flowers, gifts, a trip to the Czech Republic, and paid tuition to Florida Gulf Coast University.*

*For more information and to apply visit:  
[www.czechheritagefoundation.org](http://www.czechheritagefoundation.org)*

## *Světlušky*



*We are now able to accept  
tax deductible donations!*

*Svetluský is a Czech Folk Music ensemble consisting of area youngsters ages 8-18 who play their own instruments and dance to traditional Czech folk music.*

### **Upcoming Appearances:**

**Dec. 2 - CSA Christmas Party  
Elks Lodge. Private event.**

**Dec. 5 - 12:30 pm & 2:00 pm  
NCSML at Lindale classroom.  
4444 1st Ave. SE. Free.**

*Tax deductible donations can be sent to:*

**Světlušky, Inc.  
7708 Sandhurst Dr. NW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405**





*Do you know someone  
who would enjoy this  
newsletter?*

For a \$10 annual membership fee to the Czech Heritage  
Foundation you can receive four issues of  
*Naše České Dědictví (Our Czech Heritage)*

Encourage them to join now!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

New Member: ☐ Returning Member: ☐

Membership dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is \$10.00 per year and is tax deductible.

Donations are tax deductible and are used to continue Czech Heritage Foundation programs.  
Please note that any amount given beyond the annual membership fee will be considered a donation  
unless specifically noted.

Please contact me regarding:

- ☐ Including the foundation in my/our will.
- ☐ The tax advantages of donating stock.
- ☐ Gifts to honor or in memory of friends and family members.

*Your dues and generous donations fund: Czech Prince and Princess, Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa, the  
Scholarship Programs, the Homestay Program along with providing for the publishing of Naše  
České Dědictví, as well as other productions of the Czech Heritage Foundation*

Mail form and check to: Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.



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

Non-Profit  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 127  
Cedar Rapids, IA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

52403\$2818 C044



## *Sv. Mikulaš Day Dec. 5 in Czech Village*



*Pictured l-r: Emily Nejd, Chuck Nejd, and Christopher Serbousek.*

Sv. Mikulaš, The Angel and The Devil will be in Czech Village Sat., Dec. 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Svatý Mikulaš will emerge from within the mist of billowy clouds. As he sets foot in the Historic Cedar Rapids Czech Village, his quest begins in search of Cert (the Devil) to bind him in chains. Once Cert has been bound in chains Sv. Mikulaš, Anděl (Angel) and Cert will visit each of the shop owners.

Their journey continues as they arrive at St. Nicholas Headquarters located at 59 16th Ave. S.W. This is when Cert must submit to the findings of a bad child by rewarding this bad child with a lump of coal or brambory (potatoes.) The Angel will reward good children with a treat of candy and write their name in a book.

See full page ad on page 3 for further details.