

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

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Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations
P. O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406



PRESIDENT NOVOTNY SPEAKS

VITĀM VĀS! GREETINGS! It seems as though it was only a few days ago that the deadline was given for the June issue of the newsletter. Here it is, time again for the fall issue. The summer has gone by so quickly but a lot has been accomplished.

Our EDUCATION KIT is finished and now we are receiving calls from schools and organizations who want to use it for programs. A new proposal has been submitted to the Linn County Board of Supervisors in regard to a grant for 1982.

Our Annual Picnic-a rewarding success. The event improves every year. The feeling of friendliness and belonging was evident. About 125 members and friends had a wonderful time.

The Fall Festival was earlier this month. Mae and I want to say our "Thanks" for the help that you members gave to the event.

Our family represented the Foundation in the Festival Parade. Our son, Russell, drove the convertible and Linda, our daughter-in-law, along with Sarah and Amy, Mae and I rode along. We threw gum and candy to a receptive crowd along the Avenue.

As our year draws to a close, we shall be looking ahead to 1982. By correcting some mistakes and taking suggestions of others, we can finish the tasks with a feeling of a job well done. THANKS to everyone for your help and cooperation - just a smile along the way does wonders.

Frank W. Novotny
President, C.H. Fdn.

REPORT on EDUCATIONAL KIT

The Committee of Nine responsible for the production of the UNITS met with the Committee appointed the Linn County Board of Supervisors who reviewed the completed project. The group was most receptive and positive in their comments; were interested in the information and appearance of the Units; and commented that we had remarkable results with the grant of \$1500. The Guide Books with information about the Units seemed to please them - saying it is better to have enough than to have too little about the exhibits. Questions and answers concluded the meeting as the visitors took time to examine the Units. A. V.

700 WERE AMONG THE MISSING!

The 4th Annual Picnic on August 20th at the ZCJB Park (a "County Club") found some 700 of our members absent! Frank Netolicky with his button accordion furnished music while the people were arriving and during the supper hour. Emil Lamparek with his accordion supplied dance music for the evening's program.

The grill masters were decked out in red-white striped aprons and CHEF caps - thanks to Eya Kouba's sewing skill and ingenuity in costume design!



HONORS to CHARLES H. VYSKOCIL

Our CONGRATULATIONS to Charles - for the honor conferred upon him by Yeshiva University. The Citation reads: Certificate of Merit, Presented to Charles H. Vyskocil in Recognition of assistance rendered to Language Resources III toward the goal of recognizing and fostering the languages of America. Awarded in appreciation of meritorious and dedicated performance. The certificate is signed by William G. Milam, Ph.D., Assistant Director and Joshua A. Fishman, Ph.D., Director. Yeshiva University is in New York City, founded 1886, with a faculty of 1200 and student enrolment of over 6800.

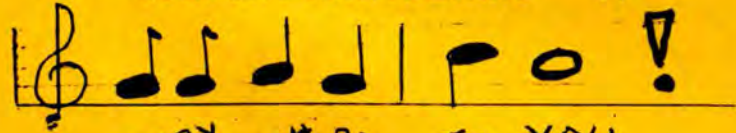
OUR PUBLICATIONS

Book sales continue to boom! Charles Vyskocil is in charge of mail orders and supplying local merchants. More than 800 copies were sold in June, July and August. The bulk of the sales were wholesale to groups having festivals, booth at a State Fair or a bazaar.

Our most popular item continues to be My Czech Word Book, ABC's. The 1981 books, ALBUM OF BOHEMIAN SONGS and MEET the CZECH LANGUAGE are selling well. Sales of THE CZECH BOOK by Pat Martin telling traditions, customs and recipes is moving along with others.

We are happy our publications enjoy such widespread publicity - it helps to encourage the "roots" of our family history and pride in our ancestral culture and heritage. With so much wholesale business we are not making much profit but after all, we are providing materials for groups interested in language, music and culture. Another publication is on the make and will see the light early in 1982.

99 ŠTASTNÝ NAROZENINY 99



Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

COME TO THE MUSEUM!

In May, our Czech Museum and Library opened its doors in a new home. More than 2000 individuals contributed money to the fund raising project. More than 70 individuals contributed volunteer labor in cleaning up the new building, finishing the interior, painting the inside and outside of the structure, packing and moving the book collection and contents of the former Museum and setting up the displays in the new home. More than 1930 hours of volunteer labor accounted for the well done tasks.

HALL FOUNDATION GRANT TO THE MUSEUM

In the spring of 1981, the Czech Fine Arts Foundation applied for a grant from the Hall Foundation of Cedar Rapids. An organization is eligible for a grant after two years of successful on-going projects and activities. A grant provides for certain functions which are not usually supported by donations.

Late in May 1981, the Hall Foundation grant was awarded. These funds provide for expenses of professional and administrative services. The grant made possible the appointment of a trained curator and one assistant. The curator is Jana Fast, the assistant, Marie Trachta. Mrs. Trachta worked during the summer until her duties in the classroom began, so she now works as time permits.

One important task in operating a museum is to keep accurate records and statistics of purchases, donation and loans of artifacts. This information also provides complete data for insurance coverage and for grants the Museum and Library might apply at later dates. J. F.

MUSEUM NEEDS

The Museum needs listed below are for house-keeping tasks. If our readers would like to donate any of the items call the Museum any Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dial 362-8500. The "needs" are: step ladder of 6 to 8 ft., broom, card table, steam iron, ironing board, vacuum cleaner, hammer, pliers, screw drivers-large and small - Phillips and regular.

J. F.

TOWN SQUARE CLOCK TO CHIME

Two anonymous donors presented a total of \$17,000.00 to be used specifically for a clock and chimes for Czech Village. The aluminum cast clock stands 13 ft. 6 in. and has a face to the east and west. The dial has a diameter of 36 inches. A fund to insure and maintain the clock is planned. The clock will be installed early in October.

A VIEW OF THE FALL FESTIVAL

The Fall Festival is over and lots of hard work went into the Museum projects. To those who find fault, I can only say that it is impossible to anticipate everything. Many visitors from afar really enjoyed themselves and had many compliments.

The Museum was well attended with close to 800 visitors in three days. Jana Fast and crew did a magnificent job on displays. Special note was made of the beautiful "kroje" (the costumes) and the new displays and exhibits. To those of you who live close by -- come some Saturday when it isn't so crowded and really browse and enjoy the visual evidence of our own "special" heritage.

And to all of the guides, a special THANKS. Many of them remained for second shifts to help out. It was hard work and many were foot weary the day after but it was great fun and so worthwhile.

MLD

STATISTICS ON VISITORS

Since the first Museum opened in Sept. 1978, our more than 9400 visitors came from 50 states and 23 foreign lands. Since July 1, 1980 3400 visited the Museum. At convention times, Pat Martin, Village Coordinator, reports conducted tours range from 10 to 300 visitors.



MUSEUM DISPLAYS CHANGE

Even in the new and larger quarters, there is not enough space to exhibit all of the Museum artifacts at one time. Therefore, the layout of the Museum has been rearranged to accommodate recently donated display cases. For the Fall Festival many changes were made. New exhibits highlighted memorabilia of Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, scenes from the opera "Bartered Bride" on chinaware, dolls in costumes of various districts of Czechoslovakia and handwork. Ten framed lithographs which show the handwork of cabinet decoration hang on the wall of the balcony. The present arrangement with other changes will be in place through the winter season. Then again in the spring, changes will be made in displays.

JF

1981 SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED

Two organizations whose reason for being is to provide scholarships to students entering college, have announced the names of recipients of \$200 and \$250 awards.

SBOR MATICE ŠKOLSKÁ - The Czech Women's Educational Society - named six students to receive \$200 each: Sandra Zila and Ellen C. England, University of Iowa; Jean Sedlacek, Central College; Adam Miller, Cornell College; two renewals were for Linda Vyskocil, Kirkwood Comm. College and Carol Polasek, University of Iowa.

KOMENSKY SOCIETY, Inc., awarded five scholarships of \$250 each: Philip Graham, math. major, Grinnell; Mary E. Zachar, Bus. Admin., Loras; Adam Miller, Bus.-Law, Cornell; Jon Scheer, elec. eng. State Univ. at Ames; Karen Hartwig, Communication & theater art, Univ. of Iowa.

Membership in KOMENSKY SOCIETY is open to those who are interested in supporting the scholarship fund. Dues are \$2.00 per year with any additional sums as a donation to the fund. Call Mrs. R.D. Brown (Fran) or Melvina Svec

GARLIC is an ALMOST CURE-ALL

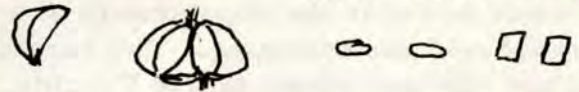
In many European countries garlic is a regular additive to foods. For centuries back to Roman times, garlic was a remedy for such ailments as cough, nausea, upset, sore throat, sniffles and so on. The clove has long been said to have "prophylactic" qualities. It is doubtful that doctors today carry garlic cloves in the little black bag!

At the University of Geneva, Switzerland, as far back as 1948, a certain type of high blood pressure responded to the use of garlic. The oil is the basis for some treatments. There is a tiny capsule, a perle, of garlic oil which is said to avoid the odor when used as a medication.

Have you ever noticed that you can get the garlic treatment by just being around others who flavor their food with garlic? It was suggested that the reason one does not catch sickness because of the odor of garlic eaters even tho you try to avoid them! Well, at least garlic might make a good laugh for some but not for others.

The above is neither a prescription or advice on using garlic.

JRK MLD MMS

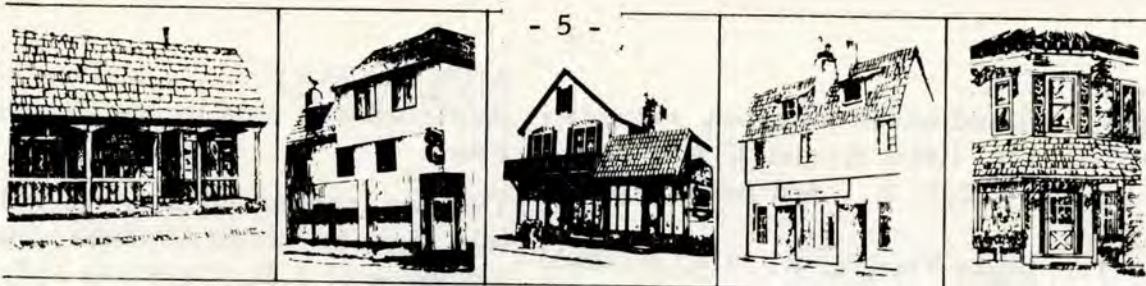


1892 MNOHO LET - Many Years
Headline in local newspaper 1892.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES were observed by Jan Barta Letovsky and Johanna Mrakotova Letovsky - and Antonin Sulek and Barbara Sladkova Sulek. Both couples were married in 1842; the Letovskys in Moravia, the Suleks in Czechy. In 1853 they set out for the New World, arriving in Boston after 85 days on a two-masted sailing ship. They braved the long journey to Johnson County, Iowa.

Many of our older members remember the first Czech newspaper in these parts, the "SLOVAN AMERICKY" which both men shared in its publication. A picture of that print shop is in the collection of OLDE CEDAR RAPIDS

(continued on page 6)



Czech Village

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

EVERYONE'S A WINNER!

Everyone's a WINNER at the Czech Festival... and this year there were as estimated 15,000 winners at the annual celebration!

Prince Jeff Donoghue and Princess Lynne Marie NejdI were crowned as the 1981 royalty of the event. Jeff is the son of Mary Ann Donoghue and Lynne Marie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard NejdI. Runners-up were Angela Vlassek and Doug NejdI. Other entries termed "all wonderful" by judging co-ordinator Frank Novotny, Czech Heritage Fdn. President, were: Mindy Barta, Julie Davis, Jacqueline Donoghue, Chris-Ann Hikiji, Denise Horak, Julia Lnenicka, Lisa Ann Lnenicka, Janelle Rohlena.

1981 MORE CHAMPIONS 1981

KOLACH-EATING CHAMP was Steve Kvidera, Clutier, who downed 28 luscious Sykora-baked kolaches in TWO MINUTES. Stan also won the Kolach-eating contest at this summer's Traer Czech Festival. Runners-up was David Axler, Traer; Lance Paulson, C.R., and Richard Arbuckle, Iowa City.

In the Youth Category the CHAMP was Mike Sabotta and runners-up were: Vince Sabotta, John Sabotta, Steve Myers, Aaron Bucklin, Lance Paulson, Jinny Ford and Nick Ford. The young people had a 30-second time limit.

SKILLET THROW Champs were: female--13 and under, Jinny Ford, 27'9"; ages 22--39, Cheryl NejdI, 42'9 1/2"; 40 and over, Diana Wells, 44' 1/2". Other female contenders were: Heidi Krejci, Tina Collum, Marj NejdI, Karen Volacek, Florence Dvorak, Martha Krejci, Claire Ahart, Sylvia Rohlena.

Male Skillet Throw Champs were: 13 and under, Jeff Rohlena, 38'9"; 14 to 21, John Dancker, 97'6 1/2"; 22 -- 39, Glenn Zebor, 102' 4"; 40 and over, Dave Solbert, 43'5".

(continued next column)

Other male contenders in skillet throw were Nick Ford, Tim Collum, Andy Ford, Scott Lind, John McPhail, Mike Stastny, S. Washington, Bob Zweigart, Mike Kolar and Jack Hansen.

**FISH
STORIES**

Largest carp in the contest which was held on Sunday, was caught by Rob Null. The carp was 18 3/4 inches long, weighed 3 1/4 pounds. The fish in the picture is the one that got away - free!



EAT, DRINK, and be MERRY!

Thousands of guests attended the Merchants Breakfasts, the Festival Beer Garden, joined the Parade in some 48 individual entries, and visited the Czech Museum and Library.

Pack your costumes away with care and we'll see you next Festival!

BAKE-OFF, the BEST EVER

Ribbons and prizes for 1981 Bake-Off CHAMPIONS were awarded to the following adults, 20 or over:

YEAST BREADS: 1st Marion Nullery, Byron, Illinois; 2nd-3rd, Emma Buresh, C.R., Honorable Mention, Lillian Zajicek, Solon.

KOLACHES: 1st tie by Mary Smoleny and Vicki Loomis, both of 2nd Mary Smoleny; 3rd Emma Buresh. Honorable mention, Angie Rohlena, C.R.

DESSERTS: 1st. Melvina Svec, C.R., 2nd Pravomila Geregova, Bettendorf; 3rd Vicki Loomis; Honorable mention, Mrs. Geregova.

SWEET ROLLS: 1st. Angie Rohlena; 2nd Sylvia Rohlena, 3rd. Martha Kubik, C.R., Honorable Mention, Vicki Loomis.

(continued next page)

BAKE OFF.

In the age group 19 and under category winners:

SWEET ROLLS: 1st, Heidi Krejci, C.R., 2nd Janelle Rohlena, C.R., 3rd Angie Vlasek, Ely.

DESSERTS: 1st. Julie Vlasek, C.R., 2nd. Janelle Rohlena; 3rd. Angie Vlasek, Ely.

KOLACHES: 1st. Mindy Barta, C.R., 2nd. Angie Vlasek; 3rd. Janelle Rohlena.

YEAST BREADS: 1st. Angie Vlasek.

RAFFLE - WINNER OF BEEF

Loree Howard, J Street S. W. was the lucky WINNER of the Beef Raffle!

CONGRATULATIONS, WINNER!

All Village News by PAT MARTIN, VILLAGE COORDINATOR

SPORTS "VERSATILE JOENS" Scott Joens, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Joens of Czech Village, is team leader this season at Prairie High Football. . . " a gifted athlete, blocks well, can catch the ball. . . " selected as the "Metro Prep of the Week", by the Gazette. .

Some call them **BRIEFS** but we'll call them **SHORTS**-items that tell all in short space.

1. **KOLACHES, KOLACHES, WHO MAKES THEM?** We have frequent requests for names of people who can make **DOZENS** and **DOZENS** of those delicacies. **PLEASE** let us have your name, phone number, address, so we can inform folks who want to order large amounts for special events. Send info. to our PO box 761, C.R. 52406.

2. Our offices get some astonishing requests for information and it keeps us on our toes and P.O. busy. Most recent request? "Where in Indiana can I buy a poppyseed grinder?" That is a true story. .ask Charlie Vyskocil. . also **WHERE** to purchase books we do not sell!!!! **AND**

3. Help to locate graves of relatives who lived in area in late 1800's and in what cemetery they are buried. .

4. **Wanted--**If you have books, leaflets or materials that we might consider for publication, and the items are in the area of **PUBLIC DOMAIN**, let us hear from you. Share those precious items of our culture and heritage with others. .

ANNIVERSARY. Post cards published and sold by our Czech Heritage Fdn.

Two descendents of those families live in this vicinity: John A. Kuba, the great-great grandson of J.B. Letovsky and A. Sulek, and Ellen Sulek Kepler, great-great granddaughter of A. Sulek.

V. B. Fajmon

SHINER, TEXAS, SHINES! brighter than Houston. Here are the facts: Shiner is about 100 miles west of Houston, population around 2000. Shiner's population is 75% of 2nd and 3rd generation German and Czech immigrants, "who could not speak English. So these students had to learn the language themselves since bilingual assistance in Texas is Spanish."

A letter to the Houston newspaper pointed out the differences in education between small towns and big cities. Houston educators thought they had a better record than small towns. Shiner students scored better on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skill in 1981. Some of the 3rd graders in Shiner scored 17 months above the national norm whereas Houston students were one month above the national norm. Hurrah for Iowa Test of Basic Skills! Do you know about the tests? Of course they were developed at the University at Iowa City.

Evelyn Vecera
Bellaire, Texas

This fall issue is later than usual because the Festival was a week later than usual-- hence it meant news was later coming to the desk, typist and printer. . . . and then addressing hundreds (with help, Thanks to you who do the job) and bundling after sorting by zip codes, states, etc. etc. . .

NOVEMBER 1st. Sunday. DIVADLO, Sokol Hall, Berwyn. Bus departs C.R. at 7 a.m. . For information about costs, etc. call Jim Cada (office or at home, .) There is a MORAVIAN DAY event Sept. 27, Union Hall at 55th and La Grange near Berwyn but this will be rather late news for most of you.

1890-1911 EXERPTS from the DIARY of Frank Stepanek. To save space, only the year and month will be listed.**

1890. Feb. Cost to drill well \$91. Bricks \$48, labor \$25, pump \$18.

1891. Jan. Terrible blizzard

March. Lumber to make wagon box cost \$3.75, paint and hardware 50.

May. Dress shoes cost \$3.95

June. Suit from tailor cost \$10. Bought harvesting machine and rake in Toledo for \$20.

Nov. First snowfall of season. Corn crop of 8 loads off 40 acres.

1892. March. Temperature 62°. Following week fierce winds, snow, 10°.

April. Snow and electric storm.

May. Snow the 20th, temperature 36°.

June. Bought new buggy for \$97. Harness at Traer cost \$39.

Sept. Built brooder house for \$14.

1893. March. Built barn: labor \$16.25, lumber \$141.25, Hardware and delivery \$21.85, paint \$4.90.

April. End of month had a week of rain.

June. Installed lightning rods on house, cost \$20. Few days later Pete's cow killed by lightning.

July. Harvested barley.

Nov. 47 loads of corn from 40 acres.

1894. Jan. Watch from Chicago \$10.50.

Feb. Moved to Traer. Bought house \$1350.

March. Traer post office burned down.

May. Mrs. Poduska bought 80 acres for \$2500. Livery stable burned.

July. North side of Traer burned down.

1899. Feb. Cold, 26° below zero. Later, at meeting St. Wenceslaus Church.

1900. Jan. Bought the grocery store, \$900.

Aug. Bought farm for \$4400.

1901. Jan. Exchanged store for farm near Pipestone, Minn.; store inventory \$3700. Farm cost \$6000. Last of month sold Iowa farm \$48.35 per acre for \$5790. Bought complete new cornet \$130.80.

June. Bought Minnesota farm, 340 acres for \$10,000.

July. Hot, 102° in shade.

Sept. President McKinley shot on 6th, died on 14th, buried on 19th.

1902. Jan. Bought cigar store in Elgin, Ia. together with Joseph Bureanek. Later in month, Jan Kubelik, famous violinist played in Cedar Rapids.

1902. May. Hailstorm broke 96 windows in school house. Next day local Depot burned down. Two days later went to market to buy tobacco supplies for cigars.

Sept. Sold house in Traer for \$1400. Return on harvested crop of wheat \$230.02; on corn and pasture, \$105.

1903. July. Hailstorm destroyed all crops on Minnesota farm.

1906. July. Built barn on Minn. farm and painted grain bin.

Aug. Repaired barn on Traer farm and built a grain bin.

1908. Bought home in Woodstock, Minn. for \$950.

Dec. Sold cigar store to Jos. Barvenek and son. Inventory \$1508 and credit on books \$1313.

At harvest had 117 bu. wheat, sold for 77¢ bu. for \$90.80.

1909. March. Moved to Woodstock from Elgin, cost \$120.

Oct. Bought 125 sheep in St. Paul.

1911. Jan. Blizzard 18° below zero. Two days later, more blizzard at -32°.

At the close of the diary, were some remedies for livestock such as--recipe for constipated calves, sore and skinned legs of horse, and pig cholera... People's Remedies were for children's eruptions (yeast, milk, honey, flour to make a paste), salve for eczema, swollen muscles, sore eyes, etc. If you read the ingredients, you would say "UGH"... no Thank you!

** Frank Stepanek was the father of Lenora Stepanek Lundquist (Mrs. Oscar), Frances Stepanek Andrle (Mrs. Charles), and Erwin (Bud) Stepanek. The three just listed had two half-brothers, Joseph and Adolph Stepanek.

* As the days, weeks and months of another year jet along, we have lost some *
* of our long-time members. We are remembering them in our thoughts and *
* extend to their families our sympathy *
* at the loss of loved ones. . . . *



MEMBERSHIP. We have lost some 100 members and of course they will not be reading this because they received the March issue and none since. To make up for the loss, how about inviting some relative, neighbor or friend to become a member? Some people seem to think that they have to be INVITED to join or maybe should be invited. How about a GIFT MEMBERSHIP for a birthday, or a holiday gift? The Wisconsin group of 46 came by bus to our Festival. They have over 600 members in their 3 years and ALL members reside in Wisconsin!

EDUCATIONAL KIT.

If you are interested in having any of the UNITS of the EDUCATIONAL KIT for a PROGRAM in an organization to which you belong, either you or the program chairman could write:

Czech Heritage Fdn., Educational Kit, PO Box 761, C.R., 52406. We will send you the reservation form and the complete list of contents of the UNITS.

If more convenient to phone, dial 364-6402, or 365-0868 for information and reservation forms of UNITS.

WHAT ARE WE NOT DOING that you would suggest we DO? We have the Annual Meeting (January) and Annual Picnic (August). Should we have at least two more per year with speakers, programs, entertainment? How many of you are interested in learning to dance the Beseda Sousedská? How many would like to read Czech plays, no performances or stage shows. Write your suggestions to us at PO Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.

That elusive LOGO has not yet come home to roost. The LOGO should be a sort of "trademark" or symbol of an organization to be used on stationery, envelopes, publications, programs. It could even be developed as a "patch" for jackets, sweaters, and T shirts.

There ARE folks out there in our membership who have a flair for design. Look about you at examples others have and design one for us! Deadline for submission of your art work will be November 1, 1981. Phone or write us if you want more details or directions.

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

