

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

Radostné Vánoce a šťastný nový rok



Volume 23 - Number 4 - December 1998



Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 751, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406



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OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. who pay their annual dues of \$3.00 per person per year receive *Naše České Dědictví* free. Dues are renewable on January 1 of each year and expire December 31. 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.)

Deadline for receiving articles for the March issue is January 25, 1999.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who helped with the September issue were my husband John and Elmer and Mary Rose Sedlacek. Thank you for your help.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It's almost time to be thinking about next year. This will not be just another year, but one that closes the door on the 20th century and opens the door for the year 2000 and a new millennium. Fortunately we will have 365 days to prepare for the 21st century. I would say we are in the computer age. The doors have been thrown open for technology. For senior citizens that is a challenging thought.

I needed to call the phone company for repair service. From a long list of the phone company's numbers, I selected the number for repair service. A computer voice came on from out of town or even out of state. The computer announced if I live in the Northwest U.S. press key 1; if I live in the Southwest U.S. press key 2; If I live in the Central states press key 3. If I needed Spanish instructions press key 4. If I needed assistance press pound key. By then I needed assistance! A computerized voice then said to hold until my turn and I listened to music. Finally I spoke to a real person and gave them the necessary information. They assured it would be fixed in three days. All this took 20 minutes. I was wondering if this is technology at its best or worst. I have a hard time with all this progress, but children, even little ones thrive on it while I struggle.

Don't you just wonder about the 21st century?

Adeline L. Volesky
 Editor

BOOKS TO PALACKY UNIVERSITY

During the Czech school course of instruction this past summer at Wilson Middle School, we noticed a pile of discarded books. There were 38 seventh grade level books entitled AMERICAN ANTHOLOGY AND LITERATURE which were to be eliminated from the curriculums, either by shredding or warehouse storage. Knowing the need for such educational materials by teachers in the Czech Republic, we asked the Board of Education for the books and were able to rescue the three boxes.

The Federation of Czech Groups has undertaken as its Sesquicentennial challenge for the year 1999, the formation of a Sesquicentennial Educational Book Fund. The Federation is in the process of contacting all Czech Groups which are listed under the Federation for active assistance in this worthwhile Sesquicentennial project.

(Continued on page 5)

Cedar Rapids Mayor Lee Clancey Attends White House State Dinner

October 1998



To Whom It May Concern:
RE: The White House State
Dinner Mayor Clancey Attended

The invitation to attend the State Dinner to honor President Havel last month in Washington, DC was absolutely thrilling. I was so pleased to represent the citizens of Eastern Iowa and the Czech community, in particular. The dinner was a formal black tie event held at the White House.

The evening began at 7:30 p.m. in the Formal Dinner Room at the White House for 150 guests. Each guest proceeded through a receiving line to meet President and Mrs. Clinton, President Havel and Madame Havlova. The guests were escorted into the East Room where fifteen round tables of ten were set up for dinner. I had the great fortune to be seated with President Clinton, Madame Havlova, Henry Kissinger, Kurt Vonnegut, two congressmen and one senator. Dinner was lovely, with marvelous food and scintillating conversation. President Clinton suggested that each of us sign our menu cards for posterity. Consequently, I have a menu card with signatures from my interesting dinner partners.

Dinner was followed by a concert with music provided by Lou Reed, one of President Havel's favorite "underground" rock groups. After the concert, the guests danced to the Marine Corps band in the lobby. The guest list included dignitaries, politicians, and entertainers. It was a remarkable occasion and I was thrilled and honored to be part of that memorable evening.

Best regards,
Lee R. Clancey, Mayor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the card from Mr. Dvorak verifying that we will be receiving *Naše České Dědictví* magazine through Dec. 31, 2000! It seems weird to be writing 2000 when all of us have been using 19 for so long.

When we attended the Czech Seminar on Language and Culture at Doane College in Crete last year, we met a man who had a book titled "TALES FROM THE HEADLANDS" by Carl Brablec. It was published by Prescott Press, Roseville, Michigan. As far as we were able to determine, Prescott Press is no longer in business. I would like to purchase two of these books. Do you know where I can do so?

We appreciate any help you can give us on this matter. Please respond to this address: Casper Kasparian,

(Mother was Tomeckova)

Sincerely Yours
Casper Kasparian



Dear Editor,

On October 2, 1867, the ship Baltic docked in New York harbor with Franz and Eva Kramel. Coming with them from Rychnov nad Kněžnou in Bohemia were their three daughters, Maria age 14, Anna age 12, and Josephine age 9. They settled in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and eventually the three sisters married and raised their own families. Maria married Frank Horak and raised Joseph, Frank, Mary and Anna. Anna Paulina married William Fieseler and raised a daughter named Anna. Josephine married Frank J. Kouba and raised Frank J. Jr., Mary, known as Mamie, and Robert. This past summer the granddaughters of Josephine and Anna enjoyed meeting in Cedar Rapids, and were sorry that the great granddaughter of Maria, Kathy Bakken who lives in Decorah, could not join them. They enjoyed exchanging pictures and family history, and found it exciting that the descendants of the original three sisters could finally find each other. All three sisters are buried near each other in Oak Hill cemetery in Cedar Rapids. Both Kathy and JoFran Falcon enjoyed visiting Rychnov which is also the ancestral home of Cedar Rapids resident Max Naxera. The cousins shown in the picture from left to right are: Lois Hynek, Marie Koutny's daughter; Mary Kruse and her sister Joanna King, granddaughters of Anna Paulina; Marie Koutny and JoFran Falcon, granddaughters of Josephine.

Sincerely,
JoFran Falcon



BIOGRAPHY

Anna Osborn is hale and hardy at age 99. She was born September 6, 1899 to Joseph & Katrina Cerveny. Her parents came from Bohemia. The Cerveny family lived near the Cedar River at rural Ely, Iowa. The family consisted of Wesley, Frank, Lou, Bill, Anna, and half

brothers Joe and Mike and a half sister Mary. Anna attended a rural one room school with an enrollment of 12 children. On cold or stormy days only 3 might show up as children had long distances to walk. The students were allowed to sit by the pot bellied stove to keep warm.

As Anna was growing up, it was necessary that the children learn responsibilities and contribute by working. To earn extra income the children walked to the near-by woods in the fall and picked walnuts, hickory nuts and hazel nuts to sell. Anna knew of an abandoned horseradish patch across the river. Cleaning and scraping the horseradish was no small task. It had to be done outdoors because the fumes burned the eyes. The horseradish was ground in a meat grinder. It was sold in little jars. The family raised a few pigs for home butchering. Fried down meat was packed in lard for later use. Hams and bacons were packed in a salt brine, then smoked in a smokehouse. Hickory wood was used in a fireplace and the smoke entered through a tunnel. Pig casings were carefully washed and used for sausage. A Czech recipe with spices and garlic was a family favorite. A sausage press was used to fill the casings. It was Anna's job to tie the string on each sausage. Lard drippings were used for home made laundry soap. A cement cave was used for storing fruits, cabbage and other vegetables for winter. The cave also served as a storm cellar. The family would take a lantern to the shelter during a storm but Anna took a feather tick to bury her head until the storm subsided.

In the fall when Anna helped husk corn, she would select some clean fluffy husks to refill the mattresses. She helped shock oats, and graze cows along the roadside ditches when pasture was scarce.

Christmas school programs were a tradition with skits and recitations. The holiday meal consisted of "houska" a braided sweet bread, and prune kolaches, Anna's favorite filling. For

Easter, eggs were dyed in onion skin colored water. On St. Joseph's Day Anna recalls she and a group of singers serenaded the Josephs in the neighborhood. The singers were given a treat, usually kolaches. She remembers Armistice Day Nov. 11, 1918 because it meant the war was over and her brothers Lou, Wes and Mike would be coming home.

The family attended barn dances and house parties. Music was furnished by local musicians on an accordion or mouth organ. That is how Anna met her husband Frank Trpkosh, They were married by Judge Lightner. The couple had two small children Alma Trpkosh Clymer and son George, when Frank was killed. She married Emil Chmelicek and moved to Cedar Rapids. They had one son Leonard. Anna worked at the meat packing plant and Peterson Bakery. After she moved to town she continued to be frugal. She picked up scrap wood from the rail road to heat the kitchen and sold rags and scrap iron to a dealer who drove through the neighborhood on a horse drawn cart calling "hadry a železo" (rags and iron).

Emil Chmelicek died in 1936. She then married Lee Osborn. He died in 1963. Anna is still living in the same house for 77 years. It is close to her church, St. Wenceslaus. She is also a member of ZCBJ.

Anna has 11 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren and 13 great great grandchildren A granddaughter, Joyce Kroffon is on hand to keep her company now.

Anna, whose hair is only partially gray, credits her longevity to hard work and good health. Her memory is great and she loves to reminisce to tell it like it was back then. She still has a horseradish plant in her back yard as a reminder of her childhood.



Drug Store, Ely, Iowa

SPECIAL LIBRARY FUND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Last year Czech Heritage Fd'n. initiated a two year fund drive to staff, equip, and organize the library in the new museum. We were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the State of Iowa that had to be matched. Last year we reached our goal and were very gratified by the response from our members.

This year is no different. We will, again, reach our goal through your generosity. We want to extend an invitation to everyone to see what a magnificent library you have helped to create.

As a result of the library's progress, many new acquisitions have been received. That keeps David Mulhena, our librarian, very busy organizing and cataloging. Dave and the Czech Heritage Fd'n. are grateful for your support. The following list is through September 20th. All donors names will be published in future issues NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ unless stated otherwise as an anonymous donor. Thank you for your support.

Donations received from Cedar Rapids were from: Marcella Anderson, C.W. Bartunek, Gerry Boots, Marie Cada, Leonard & Charlotte Chadima, Mildred Chadima, John Cimburek, Charles Dlask, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Flint, Rev. Karl Glovik, Don & Irene Hamous, Joseph Hostak, Ed & Joan Hemphill, Douglas Hladek, Mary Jepson, Rodney Jiruska, Celeste Zbornik Johannes, George & Louise Kalous, Eugene Kadlec, Edna Kint, Dave & Diane Krejci, Marie Emilie (Janecek) Krueger, Joseph & Mardella Kurka, Don & Barb Horak, Paul & Carol Kosek, Charles Krejci, Emil & Evelyn Lamparek, Edna Lenicek, Esther Lippert, Louis L. Melsha, Evelyn Mikulecky, Ruth Mitvalsky, Betty Jane Nemecek, Emil Novak, Frank Novotny, Pat & Marjorie Pace, Mary Ann Pochobradsky, Inez Popelka, Al & Jayne Peremsky, Evely Prior, Robert & Sylvia Rohlena, Wm. & Catherine Sheka, Vlasta Lorraine Snider, Iva Jean Soukup, Mr. & Mrs. John Stark, Mr. & Mrs. Milton Stefl, Lillian Syrový, Agnes Tichy, Agnes Tosh, Darlene Trachta, Dolores Travnicek, Jeanne Vlasek Tompkins, Lenora Watson, WFLA Lodge #262.

Donations received from other Iowa cities outside of Cedar Rapids are from: Ruth Archibald, JoAnn Chadima Bailey, George & Lillian Bazal, Don Ceynar, Helenka Claypool, Velma Vanicek Flynn, Rita Fuhrmeister, Julia & Arthur Heimann, Kim Ingwersen, Emily Larkin, Robert & Mildred Lenc Sr., Bonnie Liska, Beatrice Losenicky, Josephine Matizak, Arlene Netolicky,

Harold & Leona Poduska, Bennie & Vi Pospisil, Diane Roetlin, Elmer & Mary Rose Sedlacek, James & Martha Serbousek, Bob & Marge Stone, Agnes Vavra, Dorothy Vavricek, and Mr. & Mrs. Miles Volf.

Donations received from other states were received from: AL-P Callahon; AZ - Elmer & Mildred Karasek, Kathleen Ward and James Heiduk; CA Tom Collins, Richard & Kathrin Hanson, Lillian Dusek Kirchvann, Musel Family, Bessie Sasek, and Frances Schluneger; CO - Adeline Mareš Stafford; FL - Len & Virg DeChicio, and Judy Nelson; ID Jeannette Hanket Wagner; IL - Robert Baumruk, Stanley & Blanche Bohatka, Joseph Cihlar, Mrs. Louise Klimer, Vivian Mizia, Mary Sherry, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vilim, and Gladys Wheeler; MD - JoFran & Jim Falcon, and Pam Shipp; MI - Anna Eisner and Bruce Janda; MN - Alice Hakel, Heritage Tours Mark Vasko Bigaouette, Norman Petrik, and Justin & Mary Spinler; MO - John & Margery Secl; NE - Debra Dahab; ND - Edith Hodny Lund and Tony Salonick; NY - Janice Gagliardi, and Bishop Emil Wcela; OH - Jim Repka, Liba Watson, and Rose Wolf; OR - Nelson & Lorita Havel; SD - Anna Gillings; TX Raymond J. Marek; UT - Alberta Panek Husch; WI - Jeanne Andre, Grace Flis, Ronald Keberle, Mary Robek and Mary Ann Tegen. (To be continued in next issues)

BOOKS TO POLACKY UNIVERSITY

(continued from page 2)

Three boxes of books have already been sent by surface mail at a cost to the Federation of some \$56.00. Our contact person is Hana Smidova and Dagmar Tosenovska at Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic. We are sure the books will be used by students in the educational department who are anxious to improve their use of the English language.

We have been given to understand that by the year 2000 there will be many new books purchased by the Cedar Rapids School Board to replace current books. We are primarily interested in English/American literature and English grammar. We are in contact with several people who will monitor this situation and keep us informed as other books become available.

If you are interested in this project and wish to contribute personally or in a memorial fashion, please send any contribution to: Pres. Michael Papich, Federation of Czech Groups,

O.D.

KOMENSKÝ

The Czechs have always been staunch believers and promoters of education. This desire dates back to the days of John Amos Comenius, or Komenský. He was born on March 28, 1592 in the village of Nivnice, Moravia. As an educational reformer, Komenský had in some respect, no equal. He was the first school reformer to carry out the principle of appealing to the senses. The result was a book "Visible World", which proved a favorite with young and old and was used for more than a century. He was also the first to demand that education should be extended to all and not be confined to a few. He was the first man to champion the cause for educational privileges for women that were extended for men. He promoted gymnastics in his educational plan.

Komenský was very industrious. He wrote 42 great works of which 31 were written in the Bohemian language. His political works were a source of trouble for him. During the period of anti-reformation Komenský then a bishop of the Bohemian Brethren, and a pronounced Bohemian patriot, had to leave his native Moravia. Even the U.S. offered him asylum. He died in Amsterdam in 1671 at age 80.

His birthday has been celebrated throughout the civilized world.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Czech Heritage Fd'n. has long recognized the need for college scholarships. Over a period of many years of fund raisers and donations 5 scholarships have been awarded. Only the interest can be used. In that way we can continue to make a difference in the lives of more students for years to come. Each of the following students received \$500.

Tamara Chadima is a student at San Jose University in San Jose, California. Her course of study is music with emphasis on flute performance. She currently works for Kindermusik and gives private flute lessons while attending school. Tamara is the daughter of George and Joanne Chadima, Fairfax, Iowa.

Brian Dvorak graduated from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa in May of 1998 with a major in Biology. He currently is a student at the School College of Podiatric Medicine. He realized the importance of foot and ankle mobility while working as a certified nurse aid in a long term care facility. Brian is the son of Robert and Beulla Dvorak, Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

Mandy Haster is a student at Northwestern College, St. Paul, Minnesota. Mandy is currently working towards an Elementary major with

emphasis on English. She also holds a performing arts editing position for the Scroll yearbook. Mandy is the daughter of Gary and Mary Haster.

Ryan Modracek attends the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa. He has completed the general education requirements with emphasis on business, and now a senior has entered the field of Marketing because he enjoys the aspects of group work and advertising. He is the son of Larry and Becky Modracek, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Amy Novotny is a student at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. Now a Junior she is working towards a Bachelor of Music Education. Amy sings in the 120 member world famous Hoosiers chorus and was selected as one of the group's 12 featured dancers. Amy is the daughter of Russell and Linda Novotny, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

All of the students have participated in Czech Heritage activities in one way or another, through their parents or grandparents.

THE CZECH ALPHABET

The Czech alphabet has 39 letters. Only in foreign words do some letters appear, such as g, w, x. Use the list below to help with the correct pronunciation of Czech words.

a	<u>a</u> bove	m	<u>m</u> e
á	<u>a</u> h	n	<u>n</u> o
b	<u>b</u> at	ň (nuh)	<u>c</u> anyon
c (ts)	<u>c</u> ats	o	<u>o</u> mit
č (ch)	<u>č</u> at	ó	<u>o</u> re
d	<u>d</u> og	p	<u>p</u> en
ď (juh)	<u>g</u> enuine	r	<u>r</u> ent
e (eh)	<u>m</u> et	ř (rzh)	<u>P</u> ershing
é (eh)	<u>l</u> edge	s	<u>s</u> o
ě	<u>y</u> et	š	<u>s</u> hip
f	<u>f</u> at	t	<u>t</u> en
g	<u>g</u> as	ť (tyh)	<u>t</u> ub
h	<u>h</u> am	u	<u>u</u> put
ch	<u>l</u> och	ú	<u>r</u> ude
i	<u>i</u> n	ů	<u>s</u> oon
í	<u>e</u> e	v	<u>v</u> ine
j	<u>y</u> es	y	<u>f</u> unny
k	<u>k</u> ey	ý (ee)	<u>m</u> eeet
l	<u>l</u> ate	z	<u>z</u> oo
		ž (zh)	<u>c</u> asual

(From "MY CZECH WORD BOOK ABC's", Text by Melvina Svec and published by the Czech Heritage Fd'n.)

A STRANGER IN OUR MIDST

On Sunday, September 27th, a stranger walked into St. Wenceslaus Church and attended 10:30 a.m. Mass. Not unusual you say? True. Coincidentally, it was the Mass of Centennial Celebration of the Catholic Workman's (Katolicky Delnik), Cadets of St. George Branch #45.

After Mass, he lingered around, camera ready, listening to the conversation of the people, and finally got the courage to say (in precise English) to our chief celebrant, Monsignor James Barta: "Since this is supposed to be a Czech National parish, does anyone here speak Czech?" Of course, you know into whose direction he was pushed.

Vaclav Milacek, originally from Prague, Czech Republic, was traveling around the country in a car which he purchased from a used car lot in Edmonton, Canada, when he arrived there by air from Prague some time this spring. He had been teaching physical education at a school in Prague when Czechoslovakia regained its freedom from communism. Vaclav read an article in a Prague newspaper in which a state hospital in Saudi Arabia was advertising for the need of a teacher of physical education and/or recreational therapy for the employees. He applied and got the position and has been employed there ever since.

Having accrued a large number of days leave (not to mention money), Vaclav decided to travel and see the world. His excellent photographs attest to the beautiful scenery in Thailand, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Korea, China, Alaska, Canada, and the Northwest territory. His fascination with American Indians and Eskimos is evident in his portraits.

Vaclav enjoyed his short stay in Cedar Rapids. He took pictures of St. Wenceslaus Church as well as her sister church, St. Ludmila. He was fascinated by the tombstones in the Czech National Cemetery and St. John's Cemetery. He loved the things he saw in Czech Village and appreciated the beauty of our Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. He commented on the dedication of the people here of Czech descent who work so hard to perpetuate their Czech heritage.

Vaclav Milacek is at a crossroads in his life. Having only a sister and a couple of brothers in the Czech Republic, this wandering vagabond is not only foot-loose and fancy free, but also rootless. He's a man without a country. He's on his way somewhere, God knows where, and for a while, he was a "stranger in our midst".

Olga & Wes Drahozal

WHAT A COINCIDENCE!!!!

What started out to be an ordinary September day at the Nat'l. Czech & Slovak Museum & Library turned out to be quite unusual and rewarding for two couples. Gordon and Polly Sverck from Brochet, North Dakota completed their tour of the museum's gallery and signed their name in the guest book as they prepared to exit and visit the immigrant home. The very next couple to complete their tour of the gallery, also planned to visit the immigrant home. They stepped up to register in the guest book and lo and behold, they had the same name! Joe and Judy Sverck were from Olathe, Colorado and were not aware of each others existence. There are less than 20 Sverck's in the United States. The couples were surprised and overwhelmed to have met in such a far away place as Czech Village in Cedar Rapids at the museum.

Needless to say, they spent considerable time getting acquainted and tracing their family heritage. I am sure Gordon and Polly, Joe and Judy will always remember their visit to the Nat'l Czech & Slovak Museum & Library that connected them together on a sunny September day.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

On Sunday, October 11th the Cedar Rapids Noon Lions Club held an International Day at Kirkwood College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The current focus of Lions Club's activities is blindness prevention and vision assistance. Locally the Lions sponsor free glaucoma screening, vision checks, and they purchase eyeglasses for those in need. The Lions also collect used glasses for distribution in developing nations. This is the 80th anniversary of Lions Clubs International.

They hosted an international costume contest for children under the age of 12. Saddah Hadish, daughter of Mori and Steve Hadish of Cedar Rapids was the Czech representative. Saddah is five years old and modeled her grandmother's 65 year old authentic costume from Moravia.

The Czech Plus Band presented a program of Czech music with dancers Norb and Vera Banowetz and Larry Spina participating. Other ethnic groups performing were representatives from Scottish Highlands, East Indian classical dancers, Los Mexicanas Dance Troupe, Latin Dances and music by Kirkwood College students, along with a presentation by the International Club from Coe College, students who are attending Coe from various countries.

Submitted by Olga & Wes Drahozal



IMPORTED PIPES

BOHEMIAN CAKE MOLD—Makes a real "bábovka". Heavy cast aluminum which bakes beautifully. Size 10x4 inches. Complete with recipes and instructions.

PRICE: \$5.95

Bábovky aluminové pekou mnohem lépe nežli železné neb hliněné. Návod k pečení pošleme s každou formou.

IMPORTED CZECHOSLOVAKIAN PIPES — The best smoking pipes made. All have genuine briar bowls, cherry wood stems, with bone tips.

Všechny naše importované dýmky z Československa jsou briarové a s vyšňovou troubelí. Jsou velmi pěkně zpracované.

2021 Pipe No. 1—5 in. long **Price \$3.00**

2022 Pipe No. 2—6 in. long. **Price \$2.75**

2023 Pipe No. 2 (Longer)—10 in. long.
Price \$3.25

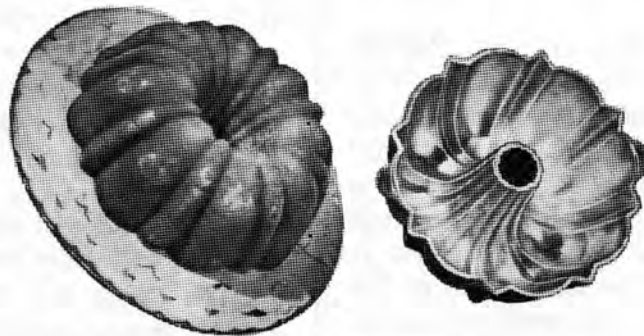
2024 Pipe No. 3—8 in. long. **Price \$3.50**

CZECH GREETING CARDS—We have on hand Czech greeting cards for the following occasions: Christmas, Easter, Birthday, Name Day, Get-Well, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day and St. Joseph Day.

Price: Christmas Cards 15¢ each

All others 20¢ each

České pozdravné lístky. Máme na skladě české pozdravné lístky k Vánocům, Velikonočům, k narozeninám, k jmeninám, ku dni matek, ku dni otců, k uzdravení, v útěchu, k výročí sňatku. Vaši čeští přátelé budou vám povděční za český pozdravný lístek! Mějte neustále zásobu po ruce. Cena pozdravných lístků k Vánocům a Velikonočům jest 15¢ za kus, všechny ostatní po 20 centech.



2029—BOHEMIAN CAKE MOLD — \$5.95

This is a page from a 1955 seed catalog. The National Seed & Importing Co. sold vegetable, flower, and herb seeds and herb teas. The address was: Station B Box 26, Omaha 5, Nebraska.

These imported items would have been great Christmas gifts.

OLD FASHIONED HOLIDAY

An old fashioned holiday tradition that comes alive each year on December 6 is that of Sv. Mikulas.

Legend tells us Sv. Mikulas set foot upon the top of White Mountain having descended from Heaven on a golden rope. Sv. Mikulas is always seen accompanied by the Angel of Goodness and a Devil with a chain as he greets children in the many small villages. If the children were good they were rewarded with heavenly sweets and their names were recorded in the Good Book by the Angel. A bad child would receive a lesser reward like a lump of coal or a potato to signify that no child was forgotten. Naturally children were very well mannered in December.

Preparation in the home consisted of baking a "hoka", a sweet braided bread filled with nuts and raisins. Kolaches were filled with prunes, poppyseed, cottage cheese, and nuts. A roast goose was the centerpiece of the Christmas meal accompanied by liver dumplings, sauerkraut mushroom soup and cabbage dishes. "Bobolki" were little buns made from a yeast dough and sprinkled with ground poppyseed on top. They were served with the soup or with hot boiled milk. A fresh water carp was purchased well before the holiday and kept alive in a tub of fresh clean water until needed, much to the delight of the children. The carp was served with a black sauce made with blackberry jelly or preserves. The carp in Czechoslovakia are unlike American "scavenger fish". They are raised in lakes and fed a special diet.

Families decorated trees, attended church and went caroling. The Christmas season ended January 6 with a visit from the Three Kings.

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Dozinky, or the Fall Festival, was celebrated at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on Saturday October 24. Novelist and Essayist Jan Novak highlighted the event. Mr. Novak was born in the Czech Republic and came to the United States at age 16 after witnessing the end of Prague Spring. He has written a number of books. *COMMIES, CROOKS, GYPSIES, SPOOKS AND POETS* is his most recent work. It describes his return to his homeland after the Velvet Revolution and tells of his boyhood memories and changes since the fall of communism.

This was Mr. Novak's first trip to Cedar Rapids. He accepted the invitation because he knew of the strong Czech community and the historic dedication of the museum.

The Fall Dinner was also the lighting and dedication of the new chandelier in the Roman Hruska Hall. The chandelier was produced exclusively for the museum by Preciosa-Lustry in the Czech Republic. Funding for the chandelier was provided by long-time supporter Ms. Leora Zahorik, and her brother Edwin, in memory of their parents, Edwin & Lillian Zahorik.

(From the MOST)

GOOSETOWN

A once Czech settlement in Iowa City, Iowa became known as Goosetown. Bohemians in the 1870's fled their native land which was under the cruel rein of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The emigrants were too poor to bring many possessions, but they were filled with hope and skills and brought a wealth of customs and traditions. These qualities enabled them to survive and eventually prosper.

A community of some 3000 immigrants was formed in Johnson County. Their homes were styled like the homes they left behind for a new country and a new lease on life. The homes or cottages were single story with one or two rooms and an upper unfinished half-story for sleeping quarters. Some builders used a mud and fiber mixture to serve as insulation. By the 19th century the simple homes started to sport gables and porches with ornate railings.

The homes sat on large lots that were used for gardens for food that could feed a family of ten or more. Geese are very versatile birds. They feed on grass as well as grain. When butchered, it provided meat, the grease for cooking and medicinal purposes. The wing feathers became chimney sweepers. Other wing feathers were made into "perovtky" and used as pastry brushes. The down was used for feather beds in the cold unheated attic and for pillows. The geese were an economic and symbolic part of Bohemian life. The lots were fenced with picket fences. Out buildings consisted of a smokehouse, animal shelter, and privy.

This area now houses an archives at the Johnson County Historical Society. The photos and exhibits tell the story of Goosetown. The names Bohemia and Bohemians is used when the country was a part of the Austrian Empire ruled by the Hapsburg dynasty.

In 1918 Czechoslovakia became a new and free nation and the people are called Czechs.



Pauline Jasa, foreground, and Leona Poduska are making "perovtky" from goose feathers for the gift shop at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.



Left to right: Matt Fee, Vitek Spacil, Kate Hylmarova and Jeri Serbousek.

HOMESTAY STUDENTS TRIPS

By: Matthew Fee

My trip to the Czech Republic was one of extreme joy and wonder. I don't think I could have had a kinder, more generous family than the one I was put with. First off let me tell you a little bit about my host family.

My host family consisted of four members (just like my real family back here in the states). There was Jane, my host mother, who loved to cook, and cook, and cook some more and always made sure that I had eaten enough that I felt as if I would explode. Next was her husband, Vladimir, who I didn't get to see very much as he was a hard working man in a mechanics department of sorts. I never really got to know him all that well but he had a wonderful sense of humor, despite the fact that neither he nor his wife spoke any English. Then there was my oldest host brother Radek, who worked in a furniture store in the town center. He was very kind, and let me use his computer when I wanted to. His English was limited, but we still understood each other. Finally there was my host brother and friend, Vitek. Vitek was one of the nicest people I have ever meet. He was kind and generous, as well as funny and patient. He really took his time to learn all the English he could and tried to teach me a little Czech on the side.

Most of our conversations started out as so: "How you say..." and then whatever word he was trying to say to me. Many nights were spent walking along Charles Bridge or Wenceslaus Square looking at an English to Czech phrase book. If all else faded we'd simply write down what we meant and then let the other person look up the words and translate them.

Jeri and I also got to spend a lot of time together seeing the historical aspects of the Czech Republic. We went to Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, the Jewish Quarter and many other places that were magnificent to view. Besides the historical sites we also went to the Black Light Theater, which is a wonderful place to take in a show. I cannot describe it, it was so incredible.

In closing I'd like to thank the Czech Heritage Foundation for giving me this opportunity of a life time. You are all great people for letting a kid like myself get a chance like this. And also, to any one who is thinking of going to the Czech Republic, make sure you check out the John Lennon peace wall for me as it was under construction while I was there and I wanted a picture, yet never got one.

Thank you again,
Matthew J. Fee

My name is Jeri Serbousek and I am the daughter of James and Judy Serbousek. I am a senior at Prairie High School. I was one of two students chosen as a Czech ambassador to spend a month in the Czech Republic through the homestay program. The family I stayed with had a twenty-year-old daughter who spoke English very well, a twenty-five-year old son who spoke no English, the father spoke no English and the mother spoke very little English. This made it difficult at times, but as time went on my sister's English became better and the mother tried to speak as much English as she could. Their home was in Lahovice, a suburb of Prague, about a fifteen minute bus and metro ride to downtown Prague.

We went on a day organized Grand Tour of Prague, where we visited the Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, Old Town, and Lesser town. The Prague Castle was very interesting and the Church at the Castle had very beautiful stained glass windows and statues. We also went outside of Prague a couple of days. We went to Karlstejn Castle, Karlovy Vary to the hot springs, Cesky Krumlov and to castles in the southern part of the Czech Republic. I also spent time seeing and shopping with my sister and time with my family.

One thing I noticed that was different in the Czech Republic was that they relied on public transportation. There was mostly one car per family. I told them that a lot of families in America have a couple of cars and that I had a car of my own. They thought that was odd. Another thing, the food didn't seem too much different than here but for meats. They basically had ham and chicken. They did have some American restaurants, McDonalds, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut and TGI Fridays, but when we would go to these places they thought it was expensive. If we changed it back to American dollars it was about the same or a little cheaper.

I would like to thank the Czech Heritage Foundation for giving me the opportunity to go to the Czech Republic and learn more about my culture. This trip was very meaningful to me and I learned a lot. Not only did I learn about my culture but I learned to appreciate what I have, especially my family. Thanks again.

"VINO" WINE

The Czechs are known for their beer but are just as proud of their wine. The wine country of Moravia is a region which had settlements in the Bronze Age in the Roman period. The favorable sloping hillsides and climate created very good conditions for agriculture and viticulture.

The first vineyards of Mušov in South Moravia were laid out at the time of Roman legions during the reign of Marcus Aurelius (161-180 AD). The oldest find of grape pips from the 7th and 8th centuries in the Czech land was made in the former fortified settlement of Mikulčice. The first written records about the cultivation of grapevines in South Moravia are from the 11th century.

The most impressive pressing sheds and wine cellars can be seen in Nechory near Prušánky, Belegrady near Velké Bilovice, Šidleny near Milotice and Plže in the Petrov area.

The oldest grape variety is the white wine locally called "chrupka" which was grown all over Europe during the Roman wars. Veltlin was a red grape. More recently the new varieties- André, Pálava and others are gaining in popularity.

In autumn the vineyards change colors. Gates of wine cellars are thrown open and rare fragrances waft over the countryside.

Without wine, Moravia would miss its fragrances, singing, dancing, hopes and dreams. Each glass of "vino" reflects the vintner's labor, skill, art, diligence and perseverance as well as his sorrows, setbacks and hard work.

CZECH BEERFEST

The first annual Czech Beer Festival - the only U.S. beer festival to showcase beers from the Czech Republic was held in Chicago in October. This inaugural fest provided the opportunity to sample over 15 Czech beers. Beer connoisseurs could taste beers that have never been available in the U.S. and certainly not under one roof.

Goose Island Brewpub hosted the festival. The brewpub served specially prepared Czech meals during the fest.

Admission was \$10 for unlimited sampling, souvenir glass, and a raffle ticket and a chance to win two round-trip tickets to Prague via Czech Airlines.

The fest was organized under the auspices of the Czech-American Chamber of Commerce for "anyone serious about beer.. A session on Czech brewing history was also held.

From Czech the News

ST. PROCOPIUS SCULPTURE

The church honors a Czech saint on July 14, that of St. Procopius (Prokop in Czech) who was born about 980 and died in 1053.

St. Procopius studied and was ordained in Prague. He was canonized by Pope Innocent III in 1204. He, along with Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Ludmila, Vaclav (Wenceslaus), St. John Nepomuk, Hedwig and Agnes are the patrons of Bohemia and Moravia.

An institution honoring St. Procopius is the Benedictine Abbey and University in Lisle, Illinois. When the abbey church and monastery was designed in 1967, the wall of the entry court was left blank to serve as a backdrop for a metal sculpture of St. Procopius but they could not afford the commission. The monks decided to have the sculpture in place to celebrate the buildings' 25th anniversary.

A committee selected Richard Hunt from a selection of well known sculptures. Welded in silicon bronze plates, the seven and a half foot and 500 pound figure of the abbey's patron saint stands on a platform with his arms extended in welcome. Behind him is an ensemble of symbolic shapes representing biographic references. The sculptural form on the left is a sprouting stump. The carpenter's square and open book refer to St. Procopius as the builder of the first Czech school of the arts and as a promoter of gospel books, psalter and other liturgical books especially for chant in the Slavonic language. Resembling antlers, the top of the form refers to the story of Duke Oldrich, who, while chasing a stag in the Sazava forest, discovered St. Procopius in a hermitage.

The dynamic movement of the figure of St. Procopius is most evident when viewed from the side or back. A strong plow form contrasts the simplified body of a saint. According to popular legend St. Procopius tied the devil with a chain, hitched him to a plow, spurred him on with a cross so that the devil plowed a ditch called "Čertová Brázda" (Devil's Furrow). In the sculpture's background is a landscape setting of the saint's monastery in Sazava, where buildings still exist today. Sazava is located about 40 miles southeast from Prague in today's Czech Republic.

(From St. Procopius News Review Aug. edition)

CZECH CELEBRATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

A series of events celebrating the 80th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia was held in Washington, D.C. in October. Here are some excerpts from messages and invitations from leaders.

Clinton- "Warm greetings to all those gathered in our nation's capital to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the founding of an independent Czechoslovak state. It is fitting that we celebrate this anniversary in Washington because it was here that the treaties that brought Czechoslovakia into being were signed here."

Havel- "Even though the nation of Czechoslovakia now belongs to the past, the Czech Republic still considers October 28, as its day of independence and celebrates it as a public holiday. During the celebration in Washington, there will be many cultural activities. In this way it will be possible for the Czech Republic to be presented as a country rich in culture."

Vondra - "The Czech Republic has come full circle, Czechs came to this country seeking liberty and pursuit of happiness. They willingly became part of the American melting pot, while still preserving their roots."

AN INVITATION RESULTS IN QUICK TRIP

(By Max Naxera)

What a surprise awaited me when I went through my mail on October 6, 1998! Included among the advertisements, bills, and a post card from a vacationing friend, was a large envelope. The return address read: Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. I'd never received anything from an embassy before.



Inside the envelope was a post card sized reproduction picturing an ocean liner with the address and information that Joseph Pastor is Czech secretary for Hamburg-American steamship transportation. The reverse side was an invitation to attend the opening reception of the new exhibit "Czech Emigration to the U.S.A.: 1848-1918" to be held at the Embassy of the Czech Republic at 7:00 pm on October 14, 1998.

Although I had been home less than 2 weeks from a European trip (including a week in the Czech Republic), my curiosity was aroused. Next day my travel agent and I worked out the flight and railroad transportation details. With my tour book, I made hotel reservations.

I was delighted to learn that my friend of perhaps ten years, Dr. Ivan Dubovicky, was now Counselor of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington D.C. It has been over two years since my last visit with him, his wife, and two daughters in their home in Prague. I knew at that time he was in some kind of diplomatic relations work for the Czech government in Praha. In my mind it was a very simple matter: If Ivan could invite me to something that would interest me, then surely I could attend it. This was the background to an unexpected 3 nights in D.C. and 4 nights in New York City.

On Monday October 12, my flight of less than 5 hours got me to Washington D.C. For the next 2 days I was a pure tourist. I walked a lot and saw a lot. The views of our capital city from the top of the Old Post Office Building tower are splendid. Although I couldn't get a ticket to the Van Gogh exhibit, the rest of the National Museum of Art was open to view. I saw dozens of famous masterpieces. This is a treasure house of inestimable value. And free!

I took the Capitol tour, walked past the White House, length of the mall, past the Washington monument, Smithsonian and paused respectfully in the Lincoln Memorial, toured Woodrow Wilson's home, thrill to the beauty of the National Cathedral, and- Oh Yes! I found the Czech Embassy. As luck would have it, I even met Ivan outside the embassy grounds for an extra visit.

Architecturally the Czech Embassy looks new and has very modern lines. Inside the front doors the large vestibule is hung with perhaps a dozen copies of Alphonse Mucha's famous posters. Beyond the vestibule is a large room partially subdivided where the exhibit was hung and the reception took place. Dr. Dubovicky presided as host introducing Ambassador Vondra and Professor Opatrny, each of whose speeches were brief and interesting. The rest of the evening was for viewing the exhibit, visiting and making acquaintances, and partaking in Czech-style hors d'oeuvres, unlimited Pilsner Urquell beer, and various wines or soft drinks. (The Pilsner Urquell provided the "goodies")

The exhibition itself was not too exciting, but this was to be expected. Most items were black-and-white photocopies of steamship lines posters and promotional materials, ship's manifests, few pictures, passports, exit visas, and other documents our ancestors had to provide when leaving this portion of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

It was my pleasure to have about a 10 minute talk with Ivan Dubovicky, wife, and daughters and shake hands with Ambassador Vondra, who well remembered his visit to Cedar Rapids. I visited with Prof. Josef Opatrny. Yes, he is a distant relative to our Charles Opatrny.

(continued)

Of special interest to me was the architect's drawing of what our Cedar Rapids Matice Skolska would look like when completed. This picture was included in the exhibition to show how the Czech emigrants attempted to perpetuate their Czech heritage and to pass it on to their children in this new world. I regretted to inform Ivan, that while the building still stands, it was added on to and modified into a meat business .

I enjoyed my "Embassy Evening" and the 4 Broadway shows and sights of New York before returning home.

This is a good place to "check off" because the Czech connection has ended, but in 1913, Patrick and Rosa Naxera with their children Miloslav (17), Hermina (15), and George (12), my father from Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Providence of Bohemia, came through Ellis Island, on their way to a new home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa U.S.A.

CZECH DAYS — EXPERIENCING MY HERITAGE

Imagine a community in which all the children own kroje (Czech costumes) and almost everyone knows the polka.

Moje jméno je Stasia Krivanek. I was the 1997-98 Czech Princess for our area. This past summer the Czech Heritage Fd'n. gave me the wonderful opportunity to compete in the Nat'l Czech & Slovak Queen Pageant.

The first weekend of August each year hundreds of people gather in the small Czech/Slovak community of Wilber, Nebraska to participate in all of its festivities. The citizens of the community are so devoted to the celebration of their culture that volunteers instead of employees work free in local stores and restaurants the entire weekend.

I learned much about my heritage while in Wilber. Not only did I learn new and interesting things from other state Czech and Slovak queens competing in the National Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant, but I also participated in the culture by watching plays, Czech church service, visiting a Czech nursing home, adopting a little Czech sister, eating only Czech foods and dancing in street polkas.

I also met a lot of people. I had the fantastic opportunity to meet the founders of Czech Days. He was amazed to hear that I knew some Czech. He thought it was neat that we, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, had a Czech school. I met some really neat people and observed interesting activities. Within the first two hours in Wilber I was stunned to see a group of high school boys in kroje riding in a truck with folk music blaring from their speakers. That definitely was something I'd never seen in Iowa.

The reason I'm writing this article is to once again thank Czech Heritage Fd'n. for sponsoring me in the pageant and to encourage others to enter the pageant and attend Czech Days. It's really worth the trip.



Katie Ziskovsky

NEW CZECH PRINCE & PRINCESS

A Czech Heritage Fd'n. sponsored event is the selection and crowning of a Czech Prince and Princess.

The Fall Dinner included the annual tradition of crowning the new 1998-1999 prince and princess.

Stasia Krivanek, past reigning princess crowned Katie Ziskovsky, 16, for the coming year. She is the daughter of Duane & Ann Ziskovsky, rural Swisher. She attends Prairie High School,

Brandon Hamous is the past prince and Jesse Upah 14, is the son of Jeffery and Denise Upah. Jesse attends Jefferson High School. (Photo unavailable)

Each received a savings bond and a Czech costume.

The new royalty will preside over various events in the Czech community and other invited events.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Here is a list of names of people who sent a donation with their renewals or new memberships to the Czech Heritage Fd'n.

For July: donations with new memberships were received from Carol Burns, Susan Cherney, Ron & Peg Detweiler, John & Nancy Horak, Robert & Janis Kazimour. Donations received with renewals from Julia Heimann, Norman Kallaus, and Elizabeth Priban.

For August: donations received with new memberships from Ernest Jansa, Susan Lucas, and Betty J. Perkins. Donations received with renewals were from Norbert & Vera Banowetz, Frank Kysilko, and Leonard Pfeifer.

For September: donations received with new memberships were from Richard Cinert, Bessie Dochterman, Arthur Drahozal; David, Crystal, Brian & Matthew Faltis; Leo Jindrich, Evelyn Kleppe, Joseph Kubicek, Mary Robek, Kandy Jonas Rogers, George Stancel, Earl Stepanek, Jim & Karen Vlasek, and Violette Steinke.

If you are considering renewing your membership for 1999 you might consider a membership for two year to the year 2000. It is easy to forget to renew until you no longer receive the newsletter. Notice your mailing label for expiration date.

ČESKÁ ŠKOLA — CZECH SCHOOL



Front row: Helen Durek, Lillian Kos, Olga Sindelar, Vlasta Chytry, Eliska Wernerova (she was here from Czechoslovakia visiting a relative for just this one summer), Marcella Schleichert, (Martha (?) and Lois (?)).

Second row: Joe Chmelicek, Robert Kapoun, Helen Travnicek, Vera Valenta, Prof. Jindrich Jambor, Henrietta "Buddy" Kubik, Marian Suma, Libbie Kulhavy and Joe Sykora.

Third row: Robert Stodola, Edward Kloubec, Helen Sykora, Esther Spryncl, Libuse Cerveny, Mildred Mahring, Louis Jedlicka, Leonard Sankot, Lillian Dusek, Eleanor Stepanek, George Lanka Johnny Kral, and Bernard Friedl.

Photograph taken by Mike H. Sindelar, July 10, 1936.

All of the students are identified except Martha (?) and Lois (?), front row, far right. Can any of our readers provide the last names of these students.

Olga Drahozal

A COOKBOOK DEDICATED

In 1994 the Czech Heritage Fd'n. made preparations to publish a Czech cookbook. Mae Novotny was chairman of the project. Over 100 recipes were collected when Mae was diagnosed with terminal cancer. The book was put on hold and the recipes were saved.

Now the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Guild felt a need to complete the project and dedicate the book to Mae. Additional recipes were added to the original collection. A committee spent considerable time checking the accuracy of the ingredients, pan sizes, oven temperatures, and serving sizes. The book is dispersed with sayings and proverbs. Art work is by Marj Nejd.

Books are \$12 if purchased locally. The price is \$16 for mailing to cover cost of mailing and handling. Checks and requests should be made and sent to Beula Dvorak, 206 Candlestick Dr, Mt. Vernon, IA 52314.

CZECH HERITAGE SINGERS

The Czech Heritage Singers were invited by the St. Luke's Hospital Auxiliary to sing at the Five Seasons Center as part of the annual "Festival of Trees" celebration in November. The singers have compiled an impressive program of Czech Christmas Carols which have been translated to English. The singers are available to perform at private parties in the area. Call (319) 364-0540 for bookings.

Charlie and Martha Krejci will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on December 20, 1998 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids. You are invited to the open house. Plan to greet Charlie and Martha and enjoy light Czech desserts with them. There will be entertainment at 2:00 p.m. No gifts, please.

Membership Application

Please check the proper item: Renewal ___ New ___ Gift ___

Name(s) Ms., Mr., Mrs. _____

Address _____ Zip + 4 _____

Make check payable and mail to :

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



Membership dues \$ _____ Donation \$ _____ Gift Membership \$ _____

Why not consider a gift membership for someone special? Your dues and generous donations help to fund several worthwhile endeavors such as Czech Prince and Princess sponsorship, financial support for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, adult Czech language classes, the Homestay Program, along with publishing the quarterly Naše České Dědictví, and other numerous publications. The list of Czech Heritage projects goes on and on.

We appreciate your continued support. With your help we can carry on with projects, activities, and goals to preserve our heritage and culture. **THANK YOU! Na shledanou!**

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 
- December 2.....Learn at Lunch — Museum 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
Stained Glass & Lace by Ray & Dorothy Snitil
- December 5.....Sv. Mikulas Day
Czech Village & Museum
- December 8.....Czech Heritage Meeting
7:30 Museum
Bring refreshments
- December 12.....Stories, Tales, Legends, & Lore
10:00 a.m. Museum Library, free
- January 18Czech Heritage Annual Meeting
7:30 p.m. Museum
Bring refreshments
- February 9.....Czech Heritage Fd'n. Meeting
7:30 p.m. Museum
- March 14.....St. Joseph's Day Dance
PT Hall 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- March 19.....St. Joseph's Day
- 

1999 TOURS TO CZECH & SLOVAK REPUBLICS

Tours are hosted by Mark-Bigaouette. Tour includes Round-trip airfare from Cedar Rapids to Kosice, Slovakia, and Prague back to Cedar Rapids. Small superior hotels, each room with private bath. Two full meals daily. Lots of entertainment, surprises, and unique places visited. Early sign-up discount. Call 651/426-1222 or toll free 1-888/427-8687 or National Czech & Slovak Museum (319) 362-8500.



Everybody Needs a Laugh

- Dumbwaiter - one who asks if the children want dessert
- Family planning - the art of spacing children the proper distance apart to keep you on the edge of financial disaster
- Feedback - the result when the baby does not appreciate strained carrots
- Full name - what you call your child when you are mad at him
- Grandparents - the people who think your children are wonderful, even though they're sure you're not raising them right
- Hearsay - what toddlers do when someone says a naughty work
- Independent - how we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say
- Ow - one of the first words spoken by children with older siblings
- Show off - a child who is more talented than yours
- Top bunk - where you shouldn't put a child wearing Superman jammies
- Whodunit - none of the kids who live in your house

HIS NAME AT THE TOP

I had the nicest Christmas list,
The longest one in town,
Till Daddy looked at it and said,
"you'll have to cut it down."

I knew that what he said was true
Beyond the faintest doubt,
But was amazed to hear him say,
"You've left your best Friend out."

And so I scanned my list again
And said "Oh, that's not true!"
But Daddy said, "His name's not there
That Friend who died for you."

And then I clearly understood,
'Twas Jesus that he meant;
For Him who should come first of all
I hadn't planned a cent.

I'd made a Christmas birthday list,
And left the Savior out!
But, Oh, it didn't take me long
To change the list about.

And tho' I've had to drop some names
Of folks I like a lot,
My Lord must have the most—because
His name is at the top!