

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

Vol. 8 - No. 2  
June 1983

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



## CALENDAR

## KALENDÁŘ

- June 4-5 All C.R. ETHNIC CELEBRATION  
Riverside Roundhouse - in Czech  
Village. See p.3 for details.
- June 10-12 St. Ludmilas KOLACH FESTIVAL.  
Food, Fun. J Str. at 21st Ave.S.W.
- June 11-12 Bettendorf 20 NATIONAL GROUPS  
in Festival events.
- July 1 Czech Summer School ICE CREAM  
SOCIAL, 6 p.m. Hus Memorial  
Presbyterian Church, 29th Ave.,  
Schaeffer Drive S.W. School  
program after social hour.
- July 8-10 CZECHOSLOVAK FESTIVAL at  
Wyandotte, Mich., So. of Detroit,  
Yak Arena, 3rd and Eureka Road.  
Adm. \$2.50; Senior Citizens \$2.00.
- July 15-16 Annual CZECH FOLK FESTIVAL,  
Traer, Iowa.
- July 15-17 Many events at SEMINOLE  
VALLEY Park, Cedar Rapids.
- Aug. 18 Annual PICNIC, members-friends  
of Czech Heritage and Fine Arts  
Foundations, ZCJB Park.
- Aug. 20-21 CZECH DAYS, Protivin, Iowa.  
Fun, Food, Games, Polka Mass  
on Sun.
- Aug. 26-28 St. Jude's SWEET CORN Festi-  
val., Edgewood Rd., 1st Ave. N.W.
- Sept. 9-11 10th Annual CZECH FESTIVAL  
in the Village, 16th Ave. C Str.  
S.W., Cedar Rapids. (p.3)
- Sept. 26-29 NATIONAL FARM SHOW, Marion,  
Iowa.
- Nov. 18-20 HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR, Civic  
Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Nov. ?? The largest ETHNIC FAIR in the  
Midwest. McCormick Center,  
Chicago.
- Dec. 3 Sv. Mikuláš Day, Czech Village,  
Cedar Rapids.

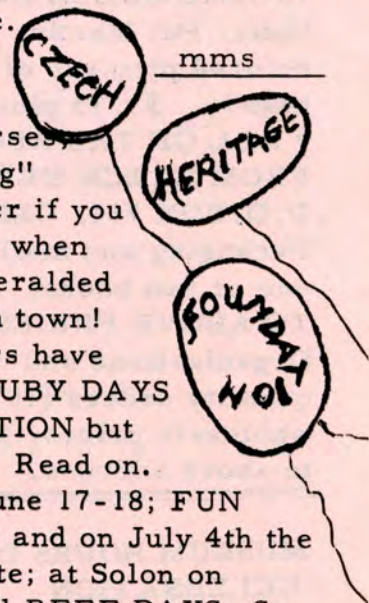
N.B. Museum closed June 25, Saturday for  
annual meeting of Northwest Regional Quad-  
rant, Iowa Local Museum Association.

THE MALL OF TWO FLAGS. Last fall  
on the Bandstand Mall the flag of the United  
States was raised on the new aluminum pole,  
the gift of the three Svoboda sisters in mem-  
ory of their parents. This year at Houby  
Days on May 14th, another flag pole awaited  
dedication and the flag of Czechoslovakia.  
The Color Guard from the American Legion  
did the honors of raising the flag of the  
United States as accordions played The Star  
Spangled Banner. Next the flag of Czecho-  
slovakia was raised as Kde Domov Muj  
(Where is my Home?) was played and sung.  
The new pole and flag are from the Czech  
Heritage Foundation as a memorial to those  
in whose names special donations have been  
made. Inscribed bronze plates are embed-  
ded at the base of the poles.  
Both flags survived the rain and drizzle at  
the hour of the event but waved and flut-  
tered briskly as the early afternoon weather  
cleared to bring a happy close to an event-  
ful day in Czech Village.

## PARADES--PARADES

No more "Hold your horses,  
the elephants are coming"  
which you will remember if you  
belong to the generation when  
those famous parades heralded  
that the BIG TOP was in town!  
Our Foundation members have  
had a busy spring at HOUBY DAYS  
and ETHNIC CELEBRATION but  
there is more to come. Read on.  
HEY DAY at Fairfax, June 17-18; FUN  
DAY in Swisher, July 2; and on July 4th the  
town of Ely will celebrate; at Solon on  
July 22, 23, their Annual BEEF DAYS. So  
jot the events on your calendar and plan to  
join in the fun.

F. M. Novotny



PUBLICATIONS OF CZECH HERITAGE FDN.  
1983 Price List

1. MY CZECH WORD BOOK, ABC's, 26 pages Words in English and Czech, Text and illustrations. 5th printing, \$1.50 plus\*
2. ALBUM OF BOHEMIAN SONGS FOR PIANO "Album Českých Písni pro Piano". Fifty-one folk and patriotic songs of Cechs and Slovaks, 62 pages. Words on pages facing music which has both clefs. 2nd printing, \$3.50 plus\*
3. HISTORY OF CZECHS IN CEDAR RAPIDS, Vol. I., 1852-1942. Martha Griffith, 96 pages. \$2.00 plus\*
4. HISTORY OF CZECHS IN CEDAR RAPIDS, Vol. II., 1842-1982, compiled and edited by the Foundation. Same sequence of topics as in Vol. I. Vol. II has Index for both volumes. 112 pages. \$3.50 plus\*  
Note: If both Vol. I and Vol. II are purchased at the same time, total for books is \$5.00 plus mailing\*
5. POSTCARDS OF OLD CEDAR RAPIDS, 8 in sepia finish. Views of Czech Village at the turn of the century and other views. \$1.00 plus\*
6. MEET THE CECH LANGUAGE IN NATURE, HOME AND OUR HERITAGE, M. Melvina Svec, 2nd printing, 48 pages. \$2.50 plus\*
7. THE CZECH BOOK, Recipes and Traditions, Pat Martin. 64 pages. Stories and colored pictures of costumes, people and bakery. \$3.75 plus\*

\* ALL OF THE ABOVE MAY BE ORDERED FROM CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, P.O. BOX 761, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406. Packaging and mailing charges are 85¢ for one or two books. ADD MAILING CHARGE TO ABOVE PRICES.\*

Organizations and merchants interested in quantity orders (10 or more of one item) at wholesale prices, please write the Foundation to above address.

MUSEUM HOURS DURING ETHNIC CELEBRATION

Sat. June 4, 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Sun. June 5, noon to 5:00 p.m.

A GIFT OF HANDWORK. In the early 1900's Mary Laznicka took lessons in handwork in Czechy - crotchet, knitting and embroidery. She was born in Kamenná, Sedlište in 1890 and came to Cedar Rapids before World War I. She brought with her six special "samplers" of handwork she learned in school. In 1917 she was married to Louis Lacina. Eight different crotchet patterns are on a piece 3 1/2 by 13 inches. The background is solid with designs stitched on the base. Another piece, 3 1/2 by 13 in. has lacy open patterns in ten designs. A third piece is in knitting, 13 1/2 by 19 1/2 inches, has dainty designs of ten patterns done in fine thread, ecru color. All three "samplers" have crotchet edging.

Two samples of embroidery have a variety of designs. Nine different patterns of scalloped edging: pointed, rounded, double eyelet and others; the other piece has six styles of edging: triple scallops, eyelet, pointed, rounded and others.

The white sampler is 9 by 12 inches with a variety of styles of letters and designs in the center of the piece. The red and blue thread used on the off-white sampler 10 1/2 by 12 1/2 inches has half of the piece in the complete alphabet and the other half has flowers and some conventional designs in each corner. The alphabet is in fancy script style lettering.

A third sampler is 12 by 12 1/2 inches, on tan open-woven material with a fringe. A dark brown thread is used in a stitch, a dainty - fine cross-stitch. The alphabet and numbers take up one-half of the piece and then example of fancy work the other half.

And finally, a piece of red cloth, approx. 7 by 22 inches has 26 samples of crotchet patterns in sizes from a 8 inch square to a 2 inch long piece 1/2 inch wide. Designs include the pineapple, wagon wheels, fans and others with open work and some with rather closed patterns.

These samplers were made during the years of 1905-1907 when Mary was 15 to 17 years of age. They were treasured gifts from Mary Lacina to her neighbor and good friend, Mrs. Charles M. Nelson (Esther Ellsworth Nelson).

ETHNIC CELEBRATION RIVERSIDE ROUNDHOUSE CZECH VILLAGE

Gospel music, kolaches, Danish and Greek pastries, green beer, pinatas, rosemaling, and MORE - music, and dancing, arts and crafts, exhibits and MORE featured by Cedar Rapids Blacks, Czechs, Danes, Greeks, Irish, Mexicans, Norwegians and "Americans" WHEN? Saturday, June 4 from 2 to 10 p.m. Sunday, June 5 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Advance ticket sales by above groups at \$1.00. Gate admission \$1.25 each day.

COLORFUL COSTUMES of ALL ETHNIC groups make a continuous Style Show for the two days and now -- How about Food etcetera?

MENUS            MENUS            MENUS

BLACKS: barbecued chicken, sweet potato pie (yummy), rice, red beans, black-eyed peas, okra, corn bread. Proceeds used for food baskets and scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

CZECHS: klobase, kolaches, sale of publications, art works, imports. Music by "Czech Plus Polka Band" and Boddicker "Czech Showcase" and by the heligonka artists Emil Lamparek and Frank Netolicky.

DANES: pastries, fruit soup, craft demonstrations and exhibits. Proceeds to Scholarship Fund of Danish Brotherhood Lodge 347.

GREEKS: serving souvlakia, gyro, coffee, pastries and imports. The OPA Dancers perform both days. Booth sponsored by St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.

IRISH: booth hosted by SaPaDaPaSo--free green beer at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Singers and Liz's Irish Troupe will present Irish folk dances.

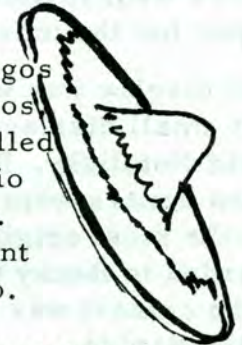
NORWEGIANS: booth sponsored by C.R. Sons of Norway, Restauration Lodge 548. Demonstrations of making lefsa, rosemaling, wood carving, selling imports. Proceeds go to "Skogjforden" -- the Norwegian language youth camp and to "Vinland Center" for the handicapped. The Hopp-Og-Spreet Folk Dancers

will demonstrate the traditional dances - of Norway. The members will wear costumes of one of the areas of Norway.



"AMERICAN" booth sponsored by Ambroz Arts Advisory Board of the C.R. Recreation Commission. The special FEATURE will be the "American Ball Park" with hot-dogs, lemonade and ice cream. Music by the J. J. Shenanigan Dixieland Band!

MEXICANS of the Los Amigos organization will serve tacos, enchiladas, a dessert - called bunuelos. Los Amigos Trio will provide entertainment. Colorful costumes represent different regions of Mexico.



The 1983 ETHNIC CELEBRATION is the 3rd at the Roundhouse. It sure will be bigger, better and livelier each year. You ALL COME!

The name of Pat Martin, Czech Village Coordinator, was omitted from the list of names of the Board Members and Officers in the March issue of the Newsletter. We regret the oversight. Pat supplies the news for this page.

CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

June 4 EVENTS start 2 p.m: ethnic dance groups, parade, singers, variety entertainment; 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. J. J. Shenanigan Dixieland Band.

June 5 EVENTS start 10 a.m. with strolling accordion players, music, singing, entertainment with Czech Plus Band from 7 to 9 p.m.

NATIONAL FARM SHOW. Last year the event was held in Indiana. This year it is Iowa's turn. Events at the Dostal Farm and others north of Marion, Iowa. Crowd of some 250,000 is expected to attend. All hotel and motel facilities within 50 miles of Cedar Rapids already reserved. What an adventure it will be to see and hear on news media.

RECORD ENTRIES OF HOUBY



Forty-five entries of houby were judged at the 1983 HOUBY DAYS competition in Czech Village May 14-15th. Winner of the trophy for the smallest houba was Ed Woods of Walker, Ia. Tallest houba honors went to Marian Renchen of Cedar Rapids. Largest mushroom honors went to Steve Hyde who also won the trophy for the most oddly-shaped houba.

Best display was won by Patty Konecny, Ely, best small display was entered by Doug and David Netolicky, Ely. Oddly-shaped small houba honors went to Eric Woods, Walker, and the most original display trophy was awarded to Becky Greinis of Ely. Best houba in the contest was entered by Loren Jansa of Cedar Rapids.

Judges were Dave (Kralik) Franklin, of KCRG Radio's "Czech Party" and two veteran houby hunters, George Tichy and Dick Jones.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS! CONGRATULATIONS

to Evelyn Petrak Lamparek honored as the Linn County Farm Bureau Mother of the year... and to Glenn and Frances Buresh, RR 1, Ely, Iowa who are the "Honored Farm Family" by the Cedar Rapids-Marion Chamber of Commerce. They farm 620 Acres, raising livestock, with a corn-grass-corn-grass corn strip plan on contoured fields. Soy beans are the other main crop. The Bureshes follow 4H and school activities of their three children who attend College Community Schools and to Chris Novak, son of the Eugene Novaks of Marion. He attends ISU at Ames and is the President of the Iowa FFA. Thirty-five young people were running for the office. Only two survived personal interviews. He has made more than 20 speeches so far this spring between days he has no classes. Membership of state FFA is 13,000 state-wide.

The 10th ANNUAL CZECH FESTIVAL

A Czech of a GOOD TIME !

That's what is in store for visitors to the Czech Village Festival, Friday thru Sunday, Sept. 9, 10, 11, in Czech Village, Cedar Rapids.

Co-sponsored by Czech Village Association with Czech Heritage and Czech Fine Arts Foundations, the three-day event features music, dancing, fine food and folk arts, customs and contests, Midway rides, Parade and concessions. FUN for adults and children.

A Polka Fest and Beer Garden, Czech Bake-Off, continuous music and dancing, demonstrations of arts; also kolach eating, car fishing and skillet throwing contests!

An Embroidery Workshop will be held, a Village Flea Market; a Czech Prince and Princess will be named. The Czech Museum will be open all 3 days. Schedule of events available July 1st. For copy write to Festival Coordinator, 59 - 16th Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52404 or phone Pat Martin

P.M.

DRILL TEAM OBSERVES 50th ANNIVERSARY.

Fifty years ago, Josephine Letovsky Kuba suggested a women's DRILL TEAM of ZCJB (Western Bohemian Fraternal Lodge -- now Western Fraternal Life Ass'n.) be organized. Of 17 charter members, four are still active. Over the years the group traveled throughout the Midwest to attend installation of members and participate at conventions. During WW II refreshments were served to military men and women as trains passed through the city and Red Cross work and other efforts kept the group busy. Funds have been raised by a variety of activities to help support worthwhile community projects.

On May 14 the anniversary banquet was held at the Sheraton Hotel. "Our Helping Hands" continue to serve even though "Our Marching Feet" gave up some years ago. The history of the Drill Team is given in detail in Vol. II. 1942--1982 History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids.

### GIFT OF A RARE CZECH COSTUME

During World War II, John Vittingle was a member of the United States Army serving in Czechoslovakia. To learn what the Russians were doing, he dressed as a Czechoslovak citizen and mingled with the people. Meanwhile the Russians were confiscating every item that took their fancy. Many Czechs hide things of value or historical significance. Because John spoke Czech fluently, he was befriended by many Czechs. Some gave him things of value and asked him to send them out of the country - to Cedar Rapids since they knew there were Czechs there.

John shipped many items to his wife, Irene. One priceless item--complete costume (kroj) identified as "Blatsky Kroj, Bastyrky od Trebone". The kroj is 170 years old, very rare if at all obtainable. It consists of a cap with beaded headband, tie, blue velvet bodice and brown velvet apron decorated with fish scales (from carp) cut into various designs and sizes and sewn on the material with beads into beautiful flower patterns, a red skirt with original embroidered wide bands, an apron for the back of the dress, red stockings, a white triangular scarf, a white blouse, the yoke with colored beaded designs, the centers of which were cut out and faced with netting so designs could show through. The gold beads as were all of the beads fire-tempered. The headband had silver sequins, beads and some semi-precious stones in an artistic arrangement.

The original shoes had been black slippers but were lost so the sandals of canvas with wooden soles came with the costume. Because of the lack of leather during the war, these sandals had canvas straps. A unique hinge in the sole permitted the wearer to bend the toe part when walking.

The costume came from a collection at a museum near Plzeň and has been authenticated. Because fishing in local ponds and lakes is widespread, this type of costume is not limited to a single region or district.

The husband of the woman who wore this kroj was headmaster and supervisor and controlled a large lake near Trebon which is about

127 miles southwest of Plzen. He was highly respected and powerful as there was only one person above him who reported to royalty. Hence the design of the costume reflected the authority of fishmaster. Many peasants were allowed to fish in the lake to supplement their meager food supply. The fish scale designs on the costume represent the fish rights and various beads represent fish eggs.

Mrs. Vittingle, in donating the kroj, stated that she would prefer it to be displayed at the Museum for people to enjoy than to have it remain in some attic disintegrating.

More than words can say, we are forever grateful and indebted to Irene Vittingle for this valuable gift. Even though she is not of Czech descent, she wanted the donation to be made in the memory of her husband, John, who was a Czech.

Charles E. Krejci

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## Fine Arts

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FINE ARTS FDN. BOARD MEMBERS, Names of several members were unintentionally omitted in the March issue of the newsletter. We regret the oversight. Please add these names to the list: Alma Turechek, Emil and Evelyn Lamparek, Carl F. Volesky, Jaroslava Wheatley and Leora Zahorik.

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### SUMMER HOURS AT THE MUSEUM.

Beginning Tuesday, June 7th the Museum will be open during the week as well as on Saturdays until mid-October:

Tuesday - Thursday, 12:30 to 3:00 p. m.

Saturdays - 9:30 a. m. to 4:00 p. m.

Extra hours will be posted for Czech Festival in September and the Christmas season.

Group tours may be arranged for other times by phoning 319/362-8500 or 366-4937.

Mrs. William Valenta was born Dec. 31, 1891 in Prestavlký nad Orlice, a village of 35 families on the estate of a wealthy nobleman. He lived in a castle at Kostelec nad Orlice. Orlice is a river which flows into the Labe (Elbe) at Hradec Králové. He owned the 3 villages where the field and mill workers lived and had other villages near his castle.

Each villager had a garden to raise vegetables and fruits. In the orchards of the owner were patches of strawberries, currants and grapes; fruit trees of peaches, plums, pears and cherries. The manager of the village and fields lived in a large house with a belfry on the roof. The bell would toll at 6 a. m., noon and 6 p. m. to let workers know the time to go to work and go home.

Crops included corn, oats, barley, wheat and rye. Sugar beets took up the largest field areas. Grasses and clover were cut for hay. Oxen worked the fields. Horses were hitched to a shaft, fastened to a wheel outside the mill. This turning of the wheel moved the gears of wheels inside the mill where grain was ground. Cows were also on the estates.

Above the mill was a pond--the water fed the mill race. At special times--such as Christmas -- the gates were lowered to drain the pond and the carp were caught and distributed to the villagers.

When Anna was 2 years of age, she went to live with her grandparents who had a large house. Grandfather took care of the 2 room local school and was somewhat of a school officer. At home there were to be 3 brothers and 2 sisters as time passed. When she was age 6 it was time to start school so her father came for her on a Sunday and classes started on Monday.

The school of two rooms was common in small villages. In those days of the Hapsburg Dynasty of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the state religion was Roman Catholic so classes had such instruction.

At age 9 and 10, she and many other children made hair nets every Thursday when there was no school so the children could work. They took a piece of rye bread from home for lunch.

The nets were made from "combings" saved by women who had long hair. The children had a board with nails set in a pattern. The head of the nail was on the underside and the pointed end where they tied the knots which made it easy to pull the finished net off the nail!

At age 12 she had a permit to work in the sugarbeet fields, using a hoe to chop weeds and loosen the soil. She was responsible for a certain number of rows of plants. If some plants died or the seed did not germinate, she went to the nursery to get young plants and replant. Extra money was earned by picking insects--a sort of cut worm, yellow and hard. At her waist she had a belt to which was attached a small bottle in which to drop the insects. It was fun to get that bottle filled. It gave her extra money and also saved replanting. Her education was completed at age 14 when she went to work in a factory making thread. Huge bales of cotton were brought to the factory which was a converted mill. The workers would leave their homes on Sunday afternoon to walk about an hour to the factory to be ready to work Monday morning. They brought food from home and a woman overseer would heat the kettle of food to be ready for their noon meal. On Saturday mornings the workers cleaned the machinery and tidied up the work area and walked home in the afternoon.

After 2 years of service in the factory she entered the employ of a wealthy and kind family in Pardubice. The family had once lived in United States and had 3 sons born in USA. The help included a maid, cook, and a gardener. Anna's tasks were the cleaning and polishing shoes, many odd jobs, going for fresh hot rolls at the bakery for breakfast. (This is still a common practice to see at 6 a. m. people returning from the bakery with rolls in a string bag). Around 9 p. m. she would go for beer for the master. Since it was late and there was a park to walk through the cook went along. Another of Anna's tasks was to chase the turkeys off the roofs of the buildings where they usually chose to roost. She also tended the ducks, geese, chickens and 2 pigs. At the time of World War I, the family lost everything but Anna was in Iowa by then.

Anna's girl friend was to marry and gave up her job. So Anna went to Trutnov, a larger place not far from the Polish border (some 4 1/2 miles). These were happy times because the Sokols were active, put on plays (dívadla) and fun entertainment. A chaperone always accompanied the young women to evening events.

Anna saved her money and by age 22 was ready to come to America. She packed a trunk and one piece of luggage and went to Bremen, Germany. Her passage was on the "Barbarossa". However, it was overbooked and so there was a delay of 1 1/2 days. She was transferred to the "Kronprinz Wilhelm," a faster ship, and departed Europe on May 20, 1913, never to return.

She saw the Statue of Liberty and arrived at Ellis Island. She travelled 2nd class at a fare of 205 crowns (about \$42.00). The baggage was not examined but the usual physical exam by a doctor gave her a clean bill of health! (Often immigrants were returned to Europe if they did not pass health exams). The newcomers were helped to have money exchanged and given a box lunch for the train trip to Chicago. She had a badge with her name and destination: Traer, Iowa!

She remained in Traer with friends for a short time and came to Cedar Rapids to be a "domestic" - doing housework - and maid service in two different homes. She attended night school Americanization classes at old Washington High School where Mr. John Stepan was in charge. For many years he was devoted to the project.

Now it happened that a young man, William Valenta, was also in those Americanization classes. He was a skilled carpenter with a certificate saying he had served 3 years as an apprentice in Czechy and was qualified with having completed the work by submitting a drawing of a house plan with specifications on scale of 1:50 meters. And so William and Anna were married April 27, 1914.

At the time he worked for the well-known Williams and Hunting Sash and Door Co. at 1st Street S.W. where some of the City Street Dept. offices and Maintenance Shops are now located. After a few years, he opened his own

business, the South Side Sash and Door Co., on A Street S.W. just south of the 14-16th Avenue bridge. He retired at age 72 and died in 1973.

Mrs. Valenta was a charter member of Sbor Dámská Matice Školská, active in the Sokols for over 50 years and participated in the national SOKOL Slet (field meet) in Chicago in 1926. She is a 50 year member of Western Fraternal Life Association. Both Mr. and Mrs. Valenta were active in Sokol Camp. He was a member of the Čtenářský Spolek - Reading Society - and sang in the men's chorus. During World War I, Mrs. Valenta actively participated with the Czech Women's Club doing Red Cross work and again during World War II made surgical dressings.

Mrs. Valenta maintains her own home. The garden and flowers are her hobby. Neighbors marvel at her energy and work around the yard. She enjoys visits with her son who lives in Maryland and the daughter who lives here. The families and grandchildren are a joy to her. She follows their activities with great interest and pride.

Compiled from conversations with Mrs. Valenta and her daughter, Vera, by the editor of the newsletter.

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KAREL HUŠA, long time member of our Czech Heritage Fdn., has been commissioned to do an orchestral work for the New York Philharmonic whose conductor is Zubin Mehta. The premier of the composition will be during the 1984-85 season at Lincoln Center. Prof. Husa spent part of the 1982-83 season conducting several midwestern university orchestras as well as presenting lectures. His works often feature unusual combinations of instruments as well as themes. He is associated with the Ithaca College and Cornell University at Ithaca, N. Y.

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CZECH SUMMER SCHOOL marks 113th year. Classes start June 6th at 8:30 a.m., Grant Elementary School, J Street at Outlook Drive S.W. Tuition is \$2.00 per pupil; if more than one from same family it is \$1.00 for others. For early registration phone 396-2693 or 362-6873.

A CZECH FAMILY PIONEERS IOWA FARMLAND

JOSEPH CERVENY was born October 1843 in the Plzen District of the Province of Bohemia, Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1857 he came to United States and for three years worked as a farmhand in Johnson County. He then sent for his parents, Wencil and Mary Cervený and four sisters. Three years later his three brothers came to join the family who had settled on a farm.

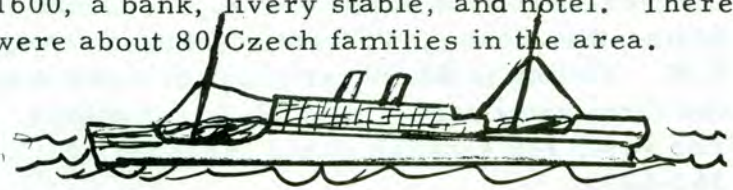
Joseph and one of his brothers cut down trees in the nearby woods, squared them off and built the house that is still standing. Plaster was used to fill spaces between the logs and to cover the inside walls. Joseph worked for the Jacobs Brewery in Cedar Rapids.

Grandfather Wencil Cervený brought enough money with him from Bohemia to buy a 120 acre farm. He also gave \$175.00 to any young couple starting out so they could buy a team of horses, harness, plow, harrow and a cultivator. He charged no interest and would say, "Son, pay me back when you can." Very little ever came back.

Grandfather was a good farmer and advisor. He learned to farm his first two years. He advised many people and those who listened and followed his advice made good. Others who came to America thought money was here without work. In the Chicago Library, Wencil Cervený's name is in the Blue Book - a register of prominent people who helped pioneer settlers.

Katherine Shilhanek was born in 1844 in Bohemia and came to America in 1857 to Racine, Wisconsin, and later to Cedar Rapids. (Both cities were major centers for immigrant arrivals.) Here she did housework of Judge and Mrs. Greene and family on Mound Farm. After some three years she went to live with the Wencil Cervenýs' on their farm for about a year and a half.

In 1860 Cedar Rapids had a population of some 1600, a bank, livery stable, and hotel. There were about 80 Czech families in the area.



Joseph and Katherine Shilhanek were married in 1863 and his father (Wencil) gave the newlyweds 80 acres which later became the C. Cuhel farm. Father had a three room house built for them. Two years later, the couple sold the place and bought the homestead farm of 120 acres. To this union were born thirteen children: Anna and Josephine- twins, Barbara, Mary, Frances, Rosie, Joseph, Emma, Vaclav, Agnes, John, Frank and Julia.

The farm was 10 miles south of Cedar Rapids, Fairfax Township, on the Johnson County Line. The land was covered with native prairie grasses. There were no bridges. Roads were paths in the sod cover. There was enough timber to supply lumber and fuel. Corn was not salable nor was oats. Corn was 7¢ per bu., oats 3¢ per bu. Hogs were herded to Clinton. The drovers stopped at travelers' inns to rest and sleep. Where the ground was soft or boggy hogs often mired and had to be hauled out. At streams hogs crossed on their own! From Clinton the hogs were shipped to markets on Mississippi river boats.

Sales were not in cash but barter. Hogs sold for \$2.50 each. Coffee cost \$2.50 per lb., sugar 50¢ per lb. Trade was in necessities such as bolts of yard goods, shoes, nails, hardware. Usually trousers and coats were made by women folks. Once a year coffee and sugar were purchased for holiday "goodies". Entertainment was a neighborhood dance or company for Sunday dinner. Money was scarce. Interest on loans was as high as 30%. Enough food was raised in the garden and "put up" for winter. Corn was ground into meal and cooked for breakfast with a "dollup" of molasses made from the farm crop of sorghum cane. Barley was parched in the oven and ground for coffee. One cow roamed on the prairie but came home to the sound of the "horn flute". Everybody's cow recognized the family flute for the "home call".

In the early 1860's wandering carpenters came by, staying with the family while



CZECH FAMILY PIONEERS. they made chairs, picture frames, furniture and whatever repairs were needed. At Cervenys' they made a hand hewn table and Mr. and Mrs. chairs--the larger one for Mister, father, and a smaller one for mother. One of the chairs is in the home of great-granddaughter, Joyce Anderson.

In 1892 they started building a larger house. With 12 carpenters busy, another table was needed. A large table was purchased for \$7.50 and 12 chairs at 25¢ each. With so many people at the table, Julia sat on her mother's lap and Frank sat on father's lap. John and Joe also sat at the table but Rosie, Emma, Wes and Agnes were on benches behind the family.

Before the extra chairs were purchased, there was one rocker which Agnes bought for her mother. Company sat on the chairs and rocker, others sat on the two beds in the living room, the children sat on the woodbox, cob basket and stove apron. Before sister Rosie's wedding in the spring of 1893, Mother bought six parlor chairs with cane seats at \$1.75 each and a rocker at \$2.25.

Indians roamed the countryside in those days. They would beg in Czech because they had come from the towns of Tama, Chelsea, had learned a few words. They asked for mouka (flour), cukr (sugar), vejce (eggs) and they held sacks in which to put the items. There were wolves, too, which killed pigs, chickens and calves.

Corn was planted by hand, oats was broadcast as were rye, wheat and barley. Then the field would be cultivated and harrowed. When the grain was ripe, father would cut it with a scythe and mother raked and tied the sheaves into bundles. Flails were used to thresh the grain. In the mid-1890's the binder came into use and the steam-engine powered the threshing machine. Trading was in Iowa City because the railroad arrived there before it did in Cedar Rapids.

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The above story of Joseph and Katherine Cervenys family was compiled from records handwritten in 1966 by their daughter, Julia Cervenys Petrak. The material was loaned to the newsletter from granddaughter, Evelyn Petrak

Lamparek (Mrs. Emil Lamparek). The updated section which follows was written by her.

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Grandfather Joseph and grandmother, Katherine, retired in 1907 to a smaller acreage and smaller house across the road from the home place. Grandfather was a very large man. At family gatherings we grandchildren stood in awe of him. However, he was very kind and gentle and as was the custom the grandchildren always got some candy. On Friday, February 20, 1920, while shopping in Cedar Rapids with son Frank, grandfather had a heart attack at age 76. He was survived by his wife, Katherine, all 13 children, 49 grandchildren and a number of great grandchildren. The services were held in the family home. Grandmother followed him in about two years. The family plot is at Czech National Cemetery in Cedar Rapids.

The first of the children to pass on was Anna Cervenys Castek, age 66, from cancer. The youngest, my mother, Julia Cervenys Petrak, had a heart attack at age 92. She is the author of the first part of the family story. Three of the Cervenys married into the Petrak family line.

The descendents of Wencil Cervenys, my great grandfather, were many and by now have scattered far and wide. Except for the few who chose to stay close to Cedar Rapids, we have lost track of many of them.

The original farmstead of Joseph Cervenys was 120 acres south of Fairfax is now one of Iowa's Century Farms. A great grandson, Dennis Cervenys and his wife, Janet, and their two sons, Steven and Michael, own and operate the farm. This Iowa farm has been owned and operated by the same family for 120 years and the family have a Certificate of Honor attesting the fact. Dennis and Janet have remodeled the old family residence without changing its appearance. Many of the original farm buildings are still standing.

Evelyn Petrak Lamparek  
1983

THE ABC's of CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**A**ctivities in which the Czech Heritage Foundation takes part are: **B**us trips to cities and nearby states to attend Ethnic Festivals, **C**ostumes worn to conventions and special events identify our group, **D**ig up facts to all kinds of inquiries that come to us, **E**thnic Fair at the Roundhouse--the Farmer's Market--in early June at Riverside Park in Cedar Rapids, **F**estival in Czech Village on week-end after Labor Day in September, **G**ive unlimited volunteer time and effort to projects, **H**obby Days in Czech Village in May--the week-end following Mother's Day, **I**nvite all interested persons to become members, **J**ourney far and wide to give programs on Czech heritage and culture, **K**its on loan -- three miniature museum displays and other items, **L**anguage aids in a booklet "Meet the Cech Language", **M**arch 19th is St. Joseph's Day in Czech Village, a day for fun and frolic, **N**ews-letter is issued four times a year, **O**rders for **P**ublications keep Charles H. V. busy with mailing packages, **Q** is not in the Čech alphabet unless it is a foreign word, **R**eadings fairytales from Czechoslovakia in Czech and translated into English makes for happiness, **S**lides on 2 carousels give you a tour of Czechoslovakia available with Guide Book and also "Songs of Bohemia for the Piano" with Čech words and both clefs of music, **T**apes of "Lessons in Čech" and tapes with polka, waltz and classical music by Czech composers, Guide books for national folk dance "Beseda" with sheet music and taped music, **U** is one of the few letters that appears as u, ú, ů, and **V** is for Vaclav whose name is spelled Wenceslaus, the Good King, whereas **W** and **X** appear in foreign words or the transposing of "w" for "v" in spelling of Vaclav for Wencil; Alexandria, **Y** usually occurs in foreign words or at the end of Czech words as hladký (smooth); and **Z** and **Ž** have many, many, many more words in the Czech dictionary than in an English dictionary.

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