

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

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



“Město” Cedar Rapids před padesáti roky.

“City” Cedar Rapids fifty years ago in 1856.  
Pictures and stories on pages 7, 8, 9 and 10



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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 September issue is July 25, 1999.

## NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who helped with the March issue were Lydia Elias, Martha Divisek, and my husband John. We folded, taped, and labeled 1,125 copies going to most of the 50 states and countries of Brazil, Canada, England, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany. It is a big task, but we are pleased to serve you. Thanks to everyone.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Perhaps only a few readers have ever heard of ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD (ACWW) whose office is located in London, England. I have a life membership, so I have a personal interest.

It is a world wide organization that helps improve the living standards and lives of rural women. The U.S. Guilds have sent garden seeds, sewing and school supplies, and water pumps to rural depressed areas of the world.

When Czechoslovakia was a communist country rural Czech groups were interested in our organization, but they could not afford to pay the dues. At a national convention I attended, it was moved and seconded that the U.S. Guilds pay their dues from our own treasury to interested women in Czechoslovakia to help underwrite the organization.

The spring issue of my ACWW newsletter contains an article written by Zdenka Hajna. The Czech Women's Union will host the European Area Conference ACWW September 14-19. The women have chosen the charming town of Celakovice, about 20 kilometers from Prague. Delegates will have an ideal setting for their theme "Where is the Family Heading?" The pre-conference workshop will be held in Brno. The pre- and post conference tours include a visit to a lovely spa town and the capital, Praha, itself.

Dorothy Camp of Bryant, Iowa is a newly elected Area President of ACWW from the U.S.. Dorothy Camp, I, and three other rural women were inducted in 1980 in Des Moines into a participating organization.

I am confident the delegates will have an inspiring and enjoyable conference and a view of a lovely country with warm hospitality.

*Adeline Volesky*

## GENERAL GEORGE PATTON DECORATED

During his visit to the U.S. on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the Founding of the First Independent Czechoslovak State, Senate Chairman Petr Pithart presented the highest decoration, the Order of the White Lion, to General George Patton, the son of the U.S. general who helped liberate western Bohemia in 1945. The ceremony took place at Mr. Patton's farm near Boston. Reportedly, it was a big surprise for the general, who did not know that he would be decorated with an order awarded by Czech President Vaclav Havel.

*(from Czech the News)*



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## IN MEMORY

The Czech community was saddened by the death of Lovell Dvorak on May 16. Survivors include a daughter Judy and a granddaughter Jessica Dvorak Fuller, both of Odessa, Florida. His wife Dorothy died in 1995.

Lovell was a member of Hus Church, WFLA #262, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, and served as financial secretary for the Czech Heritage Fd'n. for many years.

NOTICE: Lovell kept records and addresses for *Naše České Dědictví* until the day of his death. We hope we have not missed any members from our mailing list. Lovell did an excellent and efficient job and he will be hard to replace. He will be missed.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As a reporter for the oldest Czech newspaper in the U.S., the DAILY SVORNOST in Chicago (1875-1957), I was in contact with a number of Iowans. I remember quite well my fellow philatelist Brother Tony Hromadka, enthusiastic "Sokol" and president of ZCBJ. I also knew Ted Hlubucek, the editor of CEDAR RAPIDSKE LISTY and director of the Czech radio program for many years. Last I heard, his son Ted Jr, a doctor, was living in Reno, Nevada.

Keep up the good work! All the best to your 150th anniversary. May Cedar Rapids remain the Czech Athens of America for a long time.

Nazdar,  
Tony Cifka  
Denver, CO

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## NATIONAL ANTHEMS

### American National Anthem

#### STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Oh! say, can you see,  
By the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed  
at the twilight's last gleaming?

Who's broad stripes and bright  
stars,

Through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched  
Were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's red glare,  
The bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night  
That our flag was still there.

Oh! say, does that star-spangled  
banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free  
And the home of the brave?

### Czech National Anthem

#### KDE DOMOV MŮJ

Kde domov můj, kde domov můj?

Voda hučí po lučinách;

Bory šumí po skalinách.

V sadě skví se jara květ.

Zemský raj to na pohled.

A to je ta krásná země,

Země česká, domov můj.

Země česká, domov můj.

### Slovak National Anthem

#### NAD TÁTROU JSA BLÝSKÁ

Nad Tátrou jsa blýska,

Hromy divo biju.

Nad Tátrou jsa blýska,

Hromy divo biju.

Zastav me ich bratia,

Ved sa,~ony ztratia,

Slovaci ožijú.

Zastav me ich, bratia,

Ved sa,~ ony ztratia,

Slovaci ožijú.





## BIOGRAPHY

Charles and Martha Krejci celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last December. They have many interesting recollections over the years.

Charles Krejci was born Sept. 5, 1909 to Anton "Tony"

and Bessie Klekar Krejci in Cedar Rapids. His father was born in Bohemia. Besides Charles, the family consisted of Wesley, Lucille (Bloom), Estella (Baxa), Mildred and Edwin. All are deceased. Charles attended Van Buren School and graduated from Grant High School. His first job was a waiter at the Little Bohemia Tavern where a full home cooked meal with dessert cost 25¢. No beer was sold during the prohibition. He had to share his pay with his mother to support the family. His father was killed when he was struck by a car. He played an accordion for additional income. He needed a more permanent job so he accepted a job at People's Bank (now Norwest) as a messenger. As a messenger, Charles rode his bike to pick up deposits. During the spring thaw he got wet from passing cars. He had to pedal home to get dry clothes. He disliked the task of cleaning ink wells. He witnessed the invention of the coffee break. During F. D. Roosevelt's presidency banks were ordered to collect gold held by the public. During World War II banks were in charge of policing the rationing system for sugar, gas, shoes, meat, tires and other commodities. It was such a large task bank employees ate sack lunches while they worked. When Charles was promoted to teller he learned that "banking hours" was a misleading statement. Getting the books was an arduous task causing him to miss a date to a New Year's eve dance. The depression was the most difficult banking era. People's Bank remained open until banks were reorganized. The flood waters of 1929 threatened the bank, but sand bags prevailed. Robberies were common in the 30's. Dillinger spent the night in the area and caused some concern. When the teller cages went out alarm systems went in. Charles welcomed the ball point pen. No more ink wells to clean!

Martha Krejci was born to Frank and Frances Loyka Koutny on Feb. 24, 1914. Both of her parents came from Bohemia. Martha's siblings Libbie (Dvorak) and Bessie (Andrus), Frank, Milo, Emma (Dvorak), and Frances (Woodward) are deceased. The Koutny family lived on a farm in rural Urbana, Iowa. Martha attended a one

room rural school where she learned to speak English. Martha's father died when she was 10 years old. Her mother worked hard and with persistence, she raised and educated the children reminding them to "learn all you can". Music was important and they all played instruments. Martha played a violin. Martha graduated from Urbana High School and attended Cedar Rapids Business College.

Martha remembers her childhood as a happy time. She played house and made mud pies. Most of the fun came in just "pretending". When pastures were short the children had to graze cattle on the roadside ditches. While the cattle grazed Martha made clover blossom wreaths, willow whistles, and watched the marshmallow clouds float by. She fished in the cattle tank that was stocked with fish from a near-by creek. Binder twines from oat shocks were retrieved from the straw stack to be used in many helpful ways on the farm.

To store food for the winter Koutnys had a stone cellar with a dirt floor under the dwelling. To get to the cellar you had to open a trap door from the outside, go down a few steps and open the cellar door to enter. The cellar would be stocked with potatoes, onions, carrots, cabbage, apples, kraut and canned fruits and vegetables. Flour, sugar and coffee were ordered in 50 pound bags. The coffee beans from Java contained a gift. Martha proudly shows her cream and sugar bowl.

Clothing was patched and repatched. Shoes were resoled for longer wear.

Charles and Martha met at a dance. They were married December 23, 1923 in Cedar Rapids during a holiday week-end so Charlie would not miss a day of work. These were lean years during the depression. Martha's mother served the wedding dinner. They did not go on a honeymoon because they did not own a car for thirteen years. They used public transportation to get around.

Some of the events the Krejcis enjoyed were the Sokol bazaars at the CSPS and ZCJB Halls that were family oriented. The Czechs donated many of the prizes, so it was not uncommon to see people walking home at night carrying their prize honking goose, clucking chicken or quacking duck that they had won. Charlie and Martha enjoy playing pinochle with friends.

Charles went through the ranks at the bank, retiring as vice president after 47 years of service. Martha keeps busy in volunteer work at St. Luke's and collects glass slippers. Charles has been on the Czech Heritage board since it began in 1974.

They have a daughter Ann and a son David whose wife Diane is also on the Czech Heritage board. They have two grandchildren, Heidi and Douglas Krejci.





## LITTLE BOHEMIA

Little Bohemia is a tavern in southeast Cedar Rapids just beyond the Bridge of Lions. This corner has a lot of Czech history. The date 1883 is clearly visible above the door just below the ornate facade. History of the building goes back to Vaclav Lessinger. The building served as a tailor shop and restaurant. The adjoining wooden building was Kudrna's drugstore.

Adolph Kalous operated Little Bohemia until 1977 when it was purchased by Leon Melsha. Jeff Melsha is the current operator. As you enter you will see some old mementos. First you will see the

Czech boy and girl mannequins dressed in Czech kroje (costumes). There are historic old pictures on the walls and beer signs for Hradecke pivo (beer), Pilsner and Zima.

Meals are served at tables covered with red checkered lunch cloths. The menu offers goulash over dumplings. A conversation piece is an antique wooden refrigerator that is still in use and the jukebox that plays 45 RPM records.

The building is now on the National Register of Historic Places.



*Interior of the Peoples Savings Bank, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*



## JANSA'S CEDAR RAPIDS BAND

The Jansa Band organized in 1900 and was composed of ten young men all under 21 years of age. The leader, Ben Jansa, who had played in a military band in Bohemia, directed his organization with military precision.

*from the History of Cedar Rapids*



## CEDAR RAPIDS SUITS ME CIGARS



*Betty Burianek, granddaughter of Joseph Burianek, holds cigar box.*

Joseph Burianek came to America from Bohemia as a young boy in the mid 1800's. As an adult, he became an entrepreneur in Cedar Rapids and became the owner of a cigar factory and the West Side Smoke Shop located on the south side of the 200 block of Third Avenue S.W. The building still stands today. The retail smoke shop was known as the "poor man's country club". The third avenue property had family living quarters upstairs and the retail store in front down-

stairs. The cigar factory was in the back as well as a work area where hired women removed the leafy portions from the stems. They were called tobacco strippers. Joseph patented a brand of cigars, which he named CEDAR RAPIDS SUITS ME CIGARS. The tobacco leaves were selected and shipped from Protivin, Iowa. A younger son E.J. Burianek was the company's traveling salesman.



This unusual glass is a "night light" from Bohemia. A wick was inserted into the stem which would go down into the bowl that contained a flammable liquid. It was used by Charles Burianek when he visited his grandparents, Joseph Burianeks.

Betty donated the cigar box and night light to the Nat'l Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.



## KOUBA'S CEDAR RAPIDS CZECH NATIONAL BAND 1869

In 1872 Frank Kouba, who was a very good musician, came to Cedar Rapids and organized a band of young men. It was called by several names, Kouba's National Band, The National Cornet Band and Orchestra, and the Bohemian Brass Band. It gained state recognition. During the 34 years of existence it played for rallies, State Fairs, elections, picnics, plays, and parades. (From the History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids)



## HISTORY OF CEDAR RAPIDS

The city is named after the Cedar River. Before 1838, the area was occupied by roving bands of Sac, Fox, Mesquakie and Winnebago Indians.

Osgood Shepard built a cabin near the river in 1838. William Stone staked a claim the same year. In 1841, N.B. Brown built a brush dam, harnessing the river, enabling industry to grow. In the summer of 1842 a steamboat "Maid of Iowa" ventured up the Cedar River, landing a small cargo at the settlement.

In 1852 boardwalks were made mandatory on First Street. The first Bohemians arrived, forerunners of a group which now comprise a good third of the city.

Today, Cedar Rapids is truly a city with a colorful personality of arched trees, fine homes, busy factories and people whose ancestors came principally from Czechoslovakia, Scotland, England, Ireland, and Germany, but who today are Americans in the finest and fullest meaning of that proud word.

*(From the Cedar Rapids 1956 Centennial Program Book)*



Chrám Páně sv. Václava v Cedar Rapids

*St. Wenceslaus Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

## WAY BACK THEN

Cedar Rapids is celebrating its 150th birthday this year. Cedar Rapids was incorporated in 1849 as a town. At that time nearly all the streets were beds of sand. There were few palatial homes, no sewerage system, electric lights, street cars or steam plant.

There were no government buildings, decent depots, few churches and schools, and the railroads had not yet reached the city.

But in 1899 there were twenty-four thousand residents in Cedar Rapids. Many changes had taken place during that fifty-year period of time. There were many prominent young business and professional men in active and successful pursuits, who contributed to this change and progress.

THE CEDAR RAPIDS EVENING GAZETTE dated Sat. Feb. 18, 1899 published a list of public spirited, energetic class of local citizens who had passed on and whose memories were cherished. Leading the list was Judge Greene, T. M. Sinclair, George Douglas and Sampson Bever.

Included in the list were many prominent Czech entrepreneurs who took part in the growth and progress of Cedar Rapids during that 50 year period. W. J. Koslovsky kept a hotel for many years across from the Opera House. E. Janish had a boarding house. T. Koenigsmark, Frank Stary, Joseph Rubek and John Skvor had restaurants. George Starry and F. Horak were engaged in a mercantile business. Anthony Dusil and V. Benesh were druggists. Anton Zvacek, W. J. Woitishak, Wencil Tomasek and F. Dvorak were cobblers. Frank Douba, Joseph Kvittek, and M. Dostal had meat markets. P. J. Kopecky was a Bohemian interpreter. Joseph Hrbek was a blacksmith, while Joseph Halek dealt in coal and lime.

John Stolba was a confectioner. Joseph Kroulik Sr. was the janitor of the CSPA Hall. Joseph Krcmar manufactured cigars. F. J. Pirkel was a teacher of music. Saffranek was a well known engineer. Fritz Bokorney was a stone contractor while W. Stepanek was a cabinet maker. Frank Zastera was a contractor. F. Mitvalsky was in real estate. J. E. Zahorik was on the school board and in the insurance business. George Kratochvil was a city physician. Rudolph Bednar was a grocer, Joseph Skerick, an implement dealer and Joseph Sosel, a city attorney for many years.

It is evident that the Czechs have contributed immensely in the growth and prosperity of Cedar Rapids.

*(Taken from the Genealogical Society of Linn Co. Feb. 1999 issue . Permission granted)*

As the city celebrates, the Czech community hopes to continue giving with its rich culture as it has done so many years in the past.



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## LET ME EXPLAIN!

Why are these Czech celebration pictures dated 1906 and 1956 when Cedar Rapids was founded and chartered in 1849?

The reason is because the city rewrote the charter in 1856, so the semi-centennial in 1906 and the centennial in 1956 were in accordance with the second charter.

This year, 1999, Cedar Rapids is celebrating its sesquicentennial, but in accordance with the original charter of 1849. Thus the confusion. *(researched by Bob Drahozal)*

**1856**  
**CESKO - AMERICKY**  
**DEN**  
**14 JUNE 1906**  
**SEMI-CENTENNIAL**  
**CEDAR RAPIDS, IA**  
*(Reading on Rock)*



*Photo from National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Property of WFLA.*

### **CZECH DEN (Czech Day)**

In 1906 the Czechs were asked to participate in a city wide celebration of 50 years of growth and progress. They reciprocated in a big way. They declare June 14 as Czech Day.

#### **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

##### **Morning**

- 5 a.m. - 10 a.m. Congregate  
6 a.m. 21 strokes on anvil  
Wake up music  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Welcome and band music  
Emil Pazdera presiding at  
laying of the Memorial Rock  
in Riverside Park  
Speech by Josef Mekota  
Raising American Flag  
Star Spangled Banner

##### **Afternoon**

- Procession & introduction of dignitaries  
Concert — Kouba Band  
Speech — Bohumil Šimek  
Speech — Mayor A. H. Connor & keys to the city  
Sokol — Drill, B. Trefny instructor  
Songs — Catholic School  
Speech — Florian Svrdlík  
Drill — Catholic Cadets  
Music  
Speech — L. J. Palda  
Czech National Anthem  
Song — “America” by school children  
Peoples celebration & entertainment

##### **Evening**

- CSPS Hall — Play  
Catholic School play  
Many special events



# HISTORICAL PLAQUE DEDICATION AT RIVERSIDE PARK 1956



## GROUP PICTURE

*Left to right: Libby Packard & daughter Mary, Mary Chalupnik, Viki Polehna, Hermina Rigel, Frances Dusek, Helen Kopecek, Mary Machacek and Angela Nejd.*

## PLAQUE

On this 6th day of June 1956, the delegates representing 30 Czech-American societies, gather here in gratitude to commemorate the centennial of the city of Cedar Rapids and to pay homage to the citizens of Czech descent who had a great share in the building of this city.

In their honor, an American flag was raised and this plaque attached to this memorial.



*Girls are Libby Peterzelka, Carol Drahozal and Nancy Drahozal.*

Photo of Parade Float and Women's Chorus in Costume (property of Western Fraternal Association). Loaned by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### Saturday, June 16, 1956 — 3:00 p.m.

National Anthem	Prof. Frank Kubina Conductor
Invocation	Rev. Zdenek Pauk
Flag Raising	
Dedication of Plaque	Joseph Mekota
Acceptance of Plaque	Don Parks Parks Commissioner
Benediction	Father A. Chihak

### Afternoon & Evening

Information Booth	
Eating & Refreshments	— ZCBI & CSA Booths
Centennial Gifts	— Street Fair Booths
Entertainment	— ZCBI & CSA Ballrooms free

### Sunday, June 17, 1956 — Morning

8:00	Czech Mass in St. Wenceslaus Church
10:00	Pilgrimage to Czech Nat'l & St. John's Cemeteries
11:00	Rehearsal at Kingston Stadium

### KINGSTON STADIUM 1:30 P.M.

Nat'l Anthem	Municipal Band
Pledge to flag	Boy Scouts
March	Band
Welcome	M. L. Hromadka
Address	Senator B. B. Hickenlooper
March	Band
Concert	

### Part II

"Polka"	Cedar Rapids Sokol Girls
Calisthenics	Small Boys, Small Girls
Special	St. Louis Sokols
"LYRA"	Song by Chicago Singers
Address	Charles Prchal
"Mazurka"	Chicago Dancers
Calisthenics	Men & Junior Sokols
Address	Senator Roman Hruska
"Polka"	Chicago Dancers
Special	Omaha, NE Sokols
Sokols	Chicago District
"Beseda"	Local & Guest Dancers
Calisthenics	Sokol Men & Womer.
"Waltz"	Chicago Dancers





**Dramatický klub Česká Lípa.  
Bohemian Catholic Dramatic Society, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.**

FRANK MYŠÁK	JOSEPH PROCHÁSKA	FRANK ŠEBETKA	JOS. YANDL
FRANK MAROUŠEK	FRANK ZOBEL	FRANK DVORÁK	JOS. PADOUR
JOHN VLÁŠEK	JOHN HYNEK	JOSEPH PISÁŘIK	
	WENCIL NACHÁZEL	JOSEPH W. LEŠINGER	
MISS ANNIE JAŠA	MISS ESTHER HRONÍK	Mrs. JOSEPH W. LEŠINGER	Mrs. AGNES HÁJEK
MISS BESSIE DVORÁK	Mrs. WENCIL KRÉMERAK	MISS AGNES HORÁK	



**JOSEPH SEROVY AND FAMILY.**  
Mr. Serovy, dealer in groceries and meats. Born in Bohemia 1853; came to county 1865. Mrs. Serovy born in Iowa City 1858.



**TICHY & SKVOR.**  
Druggists.



**Členové řádu Karel IV. č. 77, Č. S. P. S.  
Members of Karel IV. No. 77, C. S. P. S., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Dec. 1906.**

V. DLASK	JOSEPH VAVRA	VÁCLAV MILER	VÁCLAV PRAŠIL
		A. MATYK	JOSEPH JANDA
CHAS. PRAŠIL	KAREL NOVÁK	FRANK PŘÍVRATSKÝ	FRANK STEFAN
JOSEPH TEPLÝ	JOHN TLUSTÝ	VÁCLAV SLEZÁK	JOSEPH LOPOUR
FRANK BARTA	JOSEPH MIŠKA	VÁCLAV ŘEBEC	



## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know the world's largest sports arena is the Strahov Stadium in Prague? It is the size of 6 soccer fields or 80 tennis courts combined. The stadium was built in the 1920's and can seat 115,000 spectators. It was built for Sokol exhibitions, which were held every 5 years with participants from around the world. It was built to host the Olympic Games, but it never happened. Strahov is falling in disrepair. Since 1989, it has hosted rock concerts, religious conventions and a mass by Pope John II in 1995 during his visit.

Did you know the Howitzer cannon drew its name from the Czech "Houfnice", the weapon used by Czech warriors in the 15th century?

Did you know that the term "dollar" goes back to 1519, to the western region of the present day Czech Republic? The owner of local silver mines minted his own coins calling them "Joachimsthaler Groschew" or "Thaler" for short.

## SKODA

Skoda Automobilova, the Czech unit of Volkswagen saw its profit surge by 92% in 1998 but it has to scale back its output plans for 1999 - 2000 due to slower growth in Western Europe and the collapse of the Russian market. Western Europe became Skoda's key market. The heavy giant, Skoda Plzen, indicated it will have to dismiss 1,500 workers by the end of the year.

*(From Czech the News)*



**JOHN VOSMEK**  
Merchant Tailor. Library Trustee.  
Born in Bohemia, 1845; came to county,  
1867.



**REV. VACLAV HLAVATY**  
Pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian  
Church. Born in Bohemia 1863; came  
to county 1890



**CHARLES L. SIMON**  
Member firm Joseph Simon & Son.  
Born in Cedar Rapids 1878

## HERB SEEDS — Semena Léčivých Bylin

### AROMATIC, MEDICINAL and KITCHEN

Herbs belong in every home garden. They not only have a beautiful ornamental appearance but are useful medically, can be used as teas, or as flavoring in cooking. Refer to our list of dried herbs in the front part of this catalog for descriptions and benefits gained from individual herbs.

219 Sweet Marjoram—Marjánka .....	25¢	218 Lavender—Lavendula .....	25¢
661 Sweet Rosemary—Rozmarina .....	25¢	221 Rue—Routa .....	25¢
228 Chamomile—Heřmáněk .....	25¢	222 Sage—Šalvěj lékařská .....	20¢
223 Thyme Winter—Mateřídouška .....	25¢	131 Chives—Pažitka, Šnitlík .....	25¢
212 Anise—Anýz .....	20¢	161 Okra—Gumbo .....	20¢
213 Sweet Basil—Bazalka .....	25¢	168 Dill—Kopr .....	20¢
214 Coriander—Koriandr .....	20¢	226 Catnip, Catmint—Šanta kočičí .....	20¢
230 Saffron—Šafrán .....	25¢	231 Caraway—Kmín .....	20¢
216 Fennel—Fenykl .....	20¢	232 Poppy—Mák záračný .....	25¢

*From the 1958 catalog from the National Seed & Importing Co. of Omaha, Nebraska*



## FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM

The immediate prelude to World War II was the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Nazi Germany in March 1939. That period also saw the destruction of the Czech army, but soldiers did not lose self confidence.

Czech soldiers found refuge in Poland. In 1939 the Polish government gave permission to Czech pilots and military specialists to join the ranks of the Polish army. Two days after Poland was attacked on Sept. 3, 1939, Polish President Moscicki issued a decree for the formation of a legion in Poland for the 900 Czechs and Slovaks. Following the fall of Poland, Czech troops left for the Soviet Union and France.

In France the 1st Czech Infantry Division was formed and took part in the defense of France. The division numbered 11,000 men. About 170 Czech pilots were involved in the French Air Force. After the French capitulation in June 1940 by Nazi Germany, soldiers and pilots moved to Britain.

In the years 1940 to 1944, a Czech armored brigade was formed in Britain. The opportunity for its deployment came after the landing of the allies in Normandy June 1944. In September the unit was transferred to French territory where it participated in the defense of the port of Dunkerque in May 1945.

By the autumn of 1940 the Czechoslovak Eastern Infantry Battalion, which was formed in Palestine, was ordered to boost the garrison of the fort in the North African town of Tobruk.

Czechoslovak troops were also involved in the Soviet Union. On July 15, 1942 the 1st Czechoslovak Field Battalion started training in the Ural Mountains. In March 1943, this battalion was sent to defend the Russian village of Sokolovo, near Kharkov. Despite overwhelming Nazi superiority the Czechs managed to stop the Germans. In October 1944 Czech troops fighting alongside the Soviet army succeeded in crossing the Carpathian Mountains to their Nazi occupied homeland. The Czech troops had been waiting for that day for many years.

Czech troops and pilots took part in many battles and played an important role in the war wherever it was deployed.

*From Czechoslovak Life Oct. 1989 O.D.*

## WHO IS ST. JOSEPH???

Czechs think "red" every March 19th on St. Joseph's Day. It is a Czech version of St. Patrick's Day. Joseph is a very common Czech name, so the villages capitalized on the opportunity to have a celebration and honor the Josephs. It has little or no religious significance.

On March 17 the Irish have a big St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Cedar Rapids. Czech Village does not want to be outdone, so a big



*St. Joseph's day Parade in Czech Village.  
Czech Princess Katie Ziskovsky and  
Czech Prince Jesse Upah.*

parade is held in Czech Village in honor of St. Joseph. This year it was a warm beautiful sunny day with 75 parade entries. Many of the green St. Patrick's Day entries quickly changed to red and much to everyone's delight, participated in Czech Village parade and celebration. The first prize winning trophy went to the Czech Heritage float designed and built by board member Leonard Pfeifer. The extremely large crowd stayed around to hear Czech music, savor kolaches, dine on klobasy and sauerkraut, and drink red beer.

The celebration does not stop there. The Czech Heritage Fd'n. held its annual St. Joseph's Day dance on March 14th. It is our fund raiser for the Homestay and College Scholarship Programs. The dance was held in the P.T. Retirees Hall in Cedar Rapids. It was well attended and many gifts and prizes were awarded.

We want to thank and acknowledge the donors and their contributions. Our youth are the benefactors and we hope that our youth will perpetuate our Czech heritage.

Donations were received from: Hy Vee Stores, Cedar Memorial & Turners Funeral Homes, Murdoch Funeral Homes, Brosh Funeral Homes, Papich-Kuba Funeral Homes, Roland Wilbert Vault Co., Jiruska Enterprises, Iowa Valley Monument, Novak Miller Monument, Carver-Ace Hardware Wilson Ave., Stalker Electric, Hawkeye Seed Co., Cedar Landscaping, Stejskal Flower Shop, Drug Town Wilson Ave., Helen Kupka, Chelsea, Ia., Mid-Continent Bottling, Polehna Market, Ann & Emil Vellick, Frank Novotny, A & W Root Beer, Bozenka's, Joens Brothers, Saddle Shop, Al Zindricks, Headquarters, Sykora Bakery, Wiley Car Wash, Pierson's Flower Shop, Ace Hardware, Larry & Arlene Spina, Bruegger's Bagels, D & V Industrial, Nat'l Czech & Slovak Museum, Frank & Barb Edmonds, Darlene Trachta, Marilyn Pasker, Czech Cottage, John & Adeline Volesky, Merle Norman Cosmetics, Emil & Evelyn Lamparek, Davidson Auto Shop and Feather Shop; Donors to the Bake Sale.

We want to say thank you to all the donors and give them the recognition they deserve.

"Dekujem Vam".



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Czech Heritage Fd'n. must once again praise and compliment our readers for their generous donations included with their memberships. There have been many postal increases through the years but the January 1999 increase affected the non-profit bulk mailing category the hardest with a substantial increase. After some discussion the board once again decided not to raise the dues because of your generosity, and because the purpose of our organization is to perpetuate our heritage, inform our members and to be affordable to anyone who has a desire to belong. We hope that with this decision, our membership continues to grow steadily.

In January, a new member John Saylor sent a donation with his membership.

Donations with renewals were received from: Kenneth Allen, Jeanne Andre, Elizabeth Bedell, Laddie & Mary Lou Bruha, Jeanne Burianek, Gerald Caslavka, Mary Cejka, Leonard & Charlotte Chadima, Helenka Claypool, Tom Collins, Martha Cropper, Sharon Curtis, Carol Danek, Kathryn Dankowski, Paul Davis, Betty Dempnock, Bessie Dochterman, Florence Dose, Denver Dvorsky, Frank & Barbara Edmunds, Sister Christine Elias, Ralph Evans, Gladys Faiman, Leslie Farmer, Della Flider, Richard & Kathrin Hanson, Mrs. Edward Hanzlik, Alma Helmer, Anna Mae Horak, Camille Hubacek, Olga Huston, Marie Jadrnicek, Rudolph Jansa, Marilyn Jensen, Mary Jepson, Celeste Johannes, Eugene Kadlec, Leo Kansky, Mrs. Garry Kenworthy, Barbara Kolsto, Mildred Koncel, E. J. Kubicek, Mildred Kucera, Alois Langasek, Millicent Lasslo-Meeks, Walter Liphardt, Richard Louvar, Erma Miskimen, Lillian Miller, Patricia Moloney, George Naxera, Edward & Marjorie Nejd, Mrs. Otto Nichols, Emil L. Novak, Wallace Oliva, Judy Ostrander, Zula Oujiri, Allan & Jane Peremsky, Richard & Betty Petrzalek, Mary Ann Pochobradsky, David & Malinda Poduska, Ernest Pokorny, Elizabeth Priban, James Repka, Marvin & Hermina Rigel, Marjorie Ruzicka, Ramona Caslavka Schmidt, Joseph Secl, Elmer & Mary Rose Sedlacek, Donald & Dorothy Sirowy, Ronald Skorepa, Vlasta Lorraine Snider, Grace Soukup, Elsie Sova, Larry & Arlene Spina, Linda Starek, Agnes Tosh, Darlene Trachta, Delores Usher, Anton Vanicek, Charles Vavra, Emil Vellek, Cheryl Vocelka, Liba Watson, and Amelia Youngblut.

Donations with new memberships for February were from: Robert Hruska and Judith Prevratil.

Donations with renewals were from: Harold Adams, Elizabeth Becicka, Irma Binko, Donald & Vera Conway, Harold & Emma Davidson, Stanley & Dorothy Ditch, Fern Fackler, Grace Flis, Carol Grigson, Marcella Hahn, Donald & Dorothy Harrelson, Janet Jeffries, Mildred Starek Jezek, Clementine Kinkor, John & Elizabeth Krall, Joseph & Mardella Kurka, Eva Paleckova, Leona & Harold Poduska, Don & Barb Pulkrab, Robert & Sylvia Rohlena, Lillian Schminke, James & Martha Serbousek, Carol Stodola, Phyllis Vesely Frank & Ruth Volesky, Gladys Wheeler, and Virginia Wilts.

March was a month of many new members and renewals. Donations from new members were from: Bill Dlouhy, Annalou Johnson, and Ann Opatik.

Donations with renewals were from: Ruth Archibald, Wilma Benish, R. S. Bezdeny, Carol Burns, Ernest Cajka, Tony Cifka, Joseph Cihlar, Elizabeth Dake, Elsie Day, John Doehler, Edward Drahozal, Bessie Dugena, Representative Ro Foege, Linda Giardina, Agnes Gilbert, Edna Goodrow, Helen Hammond, Nelson Havel, Lillian Kolar Heckers, R. E. Hejkal, Marge Holets, Janice Horak, Joe Hostak, Don & Gladys Hruby, Edwin Hynek, Leonard Jansa, David Jiruska, Chuck & Ginny Jungman, Alice Kadlec, Robert & Janis Kazimour, Joanna King, Mary Klopp, Elsie Ann Kloubec, A. J. & Hanna Koby, Joseph & Dorothy Krivanek, Charles Kurka, Mary Lawrence, Richard Long, Doris Looney, Beatrice Losenicky, Franklin Lundak, Wilma McCurdy, Jarmila McMullen, Josephine Matizak, Mrs. Louis Melsha, Ellen Neal, Sylvia Neitderhisar, Duane Nesetril, Richard Netolicky, Charles Opatrny, Catherine Pfeifer, Jan Podzimek, Inez Popelka, Bennie Pospisil, Rose Pospisil, Evelyn Prior, Arlene Raila, Tony Salonick, Ella Samek, Bessie Sasek, Betty Sedlacek, Judy Serbousek, Frances Schluneger, Frank Schovanec, William Shebetka, Catherine Sheka, Mary Sherry, Steve & Pamela Shipp, Robert Skalicky, Mary Ann Tegen, Alice Terbl, Mary Tichy, Josephine Tisl, Beatrice Trachta, Lori Tracy, Betty Truesdell, Marie Vanous, Evelyn Vecera, Edward & Beverly Vesely, Charles & Lillian Vyskocil, Stanley Winters and Aldrich Zobac.

Donations only were from: Czech & Slovak Club, FoFran Falcon, Julia Hlavacka, Susan Husch, Joyce Faltis thru Union Pacific, Paul Ptacek, Helen Quass, Lenora Watson, and Karla Zahradnik.



## SUMMER CZECH SCHOOL

This year summer Czech school, held at Wilson Middle School, begins a week later than usual. The dates are June 14 to July 16, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The cost for the five week session is \$15.00 per child or \$25.00 per family. The field trip will be a visit to the Norwegian Vesterheim Museum in Decorah.

There will be a program and ice cream social on Thursday, July 15th. We invite any interested child aged 5 through 13 years of age to come and enjoy the Czech language and culture. For information call Olga Drahozal

## TOUR

A tour is being planned from Cedar Rapids to the annual Nebraska Czech Festival in Wilber. A deluxe motorcoach will leave on August 6, with a stop in Elkhorn, Iowa with 2 nights lodging in Lincoln, Nebraska. August 7 will be spent in Wilber at the festival. On the trip home the 8th, stops will be made at the Strategic Air Command and Boys Town in Omaha. Reservations due by June 30, 1999. For further information or reservations call Shirley Rosencrans . Tour cost per person starts at \$229 per quad.

## CELEBRATE YOUR HERITAGE

"Celebrate Your Heritage" will be the theme of a national Czechoslovak genealogical/cultural conference to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska on October 13-16 at the Cornhusker Hotel. The conference will be sponsored by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI).

The CGSI will be a four day event featuring speakers on topics relating to Czech heritage. There will be on site library, sales room, ethnic music, dance performances, bus tours and other special events.

For more information call (612) 595-7799 or check CGSI's website at <http://members.aol.com/cgsi>.

## DISCOVERY TRAIL

Do you know how Cedar Lake was formed? What happened to the rubble after the Douglas Starch Works blew up? Find out and much more.

Linn Co. Trails Ass'n. is planning a sesquicentennial event that will lead you on a trail that gives the history of the area. On Saturday, June 5, starting at 12:30 with a sack lunch at Cedar Lake, you can take a hike around Cedar Lake led by Dale Todd, Cedar Rapids Parks Commissioner. For information contact: Sandy Colton

Cedar Rapids' own

## Czech Plus Band

### 1999 Summer Concert Series

authentic Czech music in the Czech Village



All concerts Friday 7 - 8:30 p.m.

In Kosek Bandstand in Czech Village except where noted \*  
In the event of inclement weather (rain or heat), concerts will be re-scheduled the following Friday.

May 7 ----- Kosek Bandstand Dedication  
May 21 ----- Spring Concert  
June 4 ----- Sesquicentennial Concert (Masaryk Pk.)\*  
June 18 ----- Czech School Students  
July 2 ----- Freedom Fest Concert at N.C.S. Museum \*



July 16 ----- "Old Tyme" Concert  
July 30 ----- at Sokol Park \*  
Aug. 13 ----- Czech Dancers  
Aug. 27 ----- "Little Pluses"  
Sep. 10 ----- Czech Heritage Singers

### Czech Plus Band:(since 1978)- "21 Years of Quality Music"

- Official Band of the Czech Village in Cedar Rapids  
- Acclaimed Ethnic Folk Artists by the Iowa Arts Council

Czech Plus Band / Wesley J. Drahozal, Mgr.  
28 - 25th Ave. SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-4149  
(319) 364-0540

web: <http://members.aol.com/czechplus>

email: [czechplus@aol.com](mailto:czechplus@aol.com)





## 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

- 
- June 4.....Band Concert, Kosek Bandstand 7:00 p.m.
  - June 8.....Czech Heritage Board Meeting  
Museum 7:30 p.m.
  - June 11, 12, 13.....Kolach Festival, St. Ludmila's Church
  - June 14.....Summer Czech School Wilson Middle School
  - June 16.....Learn at Lunch "Abeceda" by Patty Hikiji  
Museum 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., free
  - June 18.....Band Concert, Kosek Bandstand 7:00 p.m.
  - July 2.....Band Concert, Museum 7:00 p.m.
  - July 13.....Czech Heritage Board Meeting  
Museum 7:30 p.m.
  - July 15.....Czech School Program & Ice Cream Social  
Wilson Middle School 7:00 p.m.
  - July 16.....Band Concert, Kosek Bandstand 7:00 p.m.
  - July 30.....Band Concert, Sokol Park 7:00 p.m.
  - August 6.....National Czech Festival, Wilber, Nebraska
  - August 10.....Picnic & Czech Heritage Board Meeting  
ZCJB Park 6:30 p.m.
  - August 13.....Band Concert, Kosek Bandstand 7:00 p.m.
  - August 27.....Band Concert, Kosek Bandstand 7:00 p.m.
  - September 10.....Band Concert, Kosek Bandstand 7:00 p.m.
  - September 14.....Czech Heritage Board Meeting  
Museum 7:30 p.m.
  - October 13-16.....Genealogical Conference  
Lincoln, Nebraska
- 

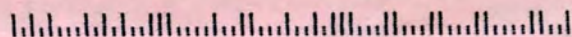


CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. Box 761  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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## I'M FINE

There is nothing whatever the matter with me.  
I'm just as healthy as I can be,  
I have arthritis in both my knees,  
And when I talk, it's with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

My teeth will eventually have to come out,  
And my diet I hate to think about,  
I'm overweight and can't get thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,  
Or I wouldn't be able to walk on the street.  
Sleep is denied me night after night,  
And every morning I'm quite a sight.  
My memory's failing — my head's in a spin,  
I'm practically living on aspirin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is, as this tale we unfold,  
That for you and me who are growing old,  
It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin  
Than to let others know the shape we're in.

— author unknown

*Submitted by Olga Drahozal*