

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

Vol. 15 - No. 4
Dec. 1990

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



CALENDAR 1991 KALENDÁŘ

JANUARY

- 7 Mon. CZECH LANGUAGE CLASSES begin in Cedar Rapids (page 10)
- 21 Mon. ANNUAL MEETING, Czech Heritage & Fine Arts Fdn.s 7:00 p.m. (page 1)

MARCH

- 17 Sun. ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE (page 14)
- 23 Sat. ST. JOSEPH'S DAY CELEBRATION Czech Village, Cedar Rapids

MAY

- 18 Sat. HOUBY DAYS FESTIVAL - 2 days,
19 Sun. Czech Village, Cedar Rapids

DVOŘÁK'S 150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

From February 14, to 20, 1991 (just after Mardi Gras), New Orleans will host "The Dvořák Sesquicentennial Festival and Conference In America," honoring the achievements of this great Czech composer and highlighting his relationship to the music of the United States. This will be the largest celebration of Czech music ever in the Western hemisphere, helping to inaugurate a new era in Czech-American cultural relations.

World-class artists will perform not only Dvořák's famous works (such as the "New World Symphony" and "Slavonic Dances") but also some of his many unknown pieces. Czech arts, crafts, and folk dancing will also be featured in special festival exhibits.

The festival is a project of the University of New Orleans in collaboration with Texas A & M, supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and other various groups. For more information write: The Dvořák Festival & Conference, University of New Orleans, Lakefront Campus, New Orleans, LA 70148 (504) 286-7206

VÍTÁM VÁS - GREETINGS

Here is the fourth edition of our newsletter, which means that 1990 is drawing to a close. We have had quite an eventful year and have participated in various events throughout the year.

The ambassadors have experienced Czechoslovakia and now anxiously await the opportunity to share their stories and pictures with you. Contact the Homestay Committee about making arrangements for speaking engagements. Grant recipients for the 1991 Homestay Program have been selected. Look for more information about the Experiment in International Living Homestay Program inside the newsletter.

I have appointed a nominating committee, responsible for finding candidates for the board and various positions. From the nominees directors and officers will be elected at our annual meeting on January 21st, at 7:00 p.m., at Asbury United Methodist Church, 336 27th Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The joint annual meeting of the Czech Heritage Foundation and the Czech Fine Arts Foundation is held each year on the third Monday in January.

You are all invited to attend and meet with your friends. After the business meeting, we invite you to enjoy refreshments during the social hour. Please bring some goodies to share with fellow members.

In my eleven years as your president I have had such wonderful cooperation from the membership. It was a joy to see a new project get started, and when help was needed, you were always there. We have gone such a long way in promoting our Czech Heritage, and still there is a long way to go. I guess it is an endless project. Mae and I urge you to keep up the good work!

Thanks for everything,

Frank W. Novotny, Pres.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA REVISITED

With some lucky twists of fate and with help from my friends at the Czech Heritage Foundation I was able to travel to Prague this past spring and live there for five weeks. The family that I stayed with was the very same that I lived with five years ago when participating in the Homestay Ambassador Program.

During my visit, I was shocked to see how different life in Czechoslovakia was without the influence of the Communist Party. I was also very fortunate to experience Prague Spring, the annual festival that commemorates Czech music. In addition, I witnessed first hand the festivities which took place during FREE Czech elections.

I learned so much and met many new friends. Thank you for your support and for allowing me to share my experiences with you in future issues of Naše České Dědictví.

Lisa Rose

LISA ROSE, a recent graduate of the University of Iowa, received \$1,000 after being commissioned in March by the Czech Heritage Foundation to investigate the changes in Czechoslovakia since her 1985 trip to that country. Miss Rose brought back numerous political posters and pamphlets, photos, etc... all of which she donated to the foundation. The report which she wrote will appear in serial form in the next several issues of our newsletter. She is also currently assisting with the production of the newsletter and on future issues will take on more responsibilities.

LYNETTE STEJSKAL, also a Czech Heritage Foundation Ambassador (1986), has been chosen to represent Mt. Mercy College (where she is in her freshman year), in a student exchange program. She will have the opportunity to study and teach English at Palačky University in Oloumoc, Czechoslovakia. She will be there next year from February to May. The Czech Heritage Foundation has presented her with \$500 towards her educational stay in exchange for her observations which will be shared in future issues (beginning in September '91), of Naše

České Dědictví.

After Miss Stejskal returns from school in Czechoslovakia, she plans to become involved in the organization of an active scholarship committee under the auspices of the Czech Heritage Foundation.

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CZECHOSLOVAK VIDEOS FOR RENT

Thanks to C.H. Fdn. member Steve Wencil in Owatonna, Minnesota, we have the following to share with you: V. Vanik, is in the VCR rental business. That isn't uncommon these days, but what makes Vanik's rental business special are the titles he makes available for his clients. No, not Gone with the Wind or Back To The Future, Part III - Vanik does have Televarieté podzim 1989, Jan Hus, and Divadlo Jāry Cimrmana. He also has hundreds more to choose from. His collection of Czech VCR tapes is growing all the time. Quality varies from excellent to fair. Rental fee is \$2.00 each or three tapes for \$5.00, and you get two weeks to view them. Vanik pays for the postage (USPS) one way, and you pay your postage when returning them. For a complete list of available titles write: V. Vanik.

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A SPECIAL EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

taken during the Czechoslovak revolution in November and December 1989 by Petr Zatloukal have found their way to Cedar Rapids. The showing premiered earlier this month in McAuley Gallery at Mt. Mercy College. From December 29th to January 10th, 1991, the collection can be viewed at C.S.P.S. Hall, 1103 3rd St. S.E. For hours and more information call The Drawing Legion at 364-1580.

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DOUBLE? TRIPLE? QUADRUPLE?

If every member of the Czech Heritage Foundation sent us the name of just one friend or relative, along with a check for \$3.00 (one years dues), we would double our membership and double our capabilities. Think about it!

NEW CZECH AND SLOVAK MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The Czech Heritage Foundation was asked by the Czech Fine Arts Foundation to send representatives to joint planning meetings. Discussion is centered around the building of a new museum and library. I appointed John Rocarek, Wes Drahozal, Duane Novotny, Russ Novotny, and myself, to serve on the committee. We have been meeting every Thursday for approximately two hours each evening, not to mention special meetings inbetween as they are called. It has been quite an obligation.

The joint committee has spent countless hours meeting with individuals from various professions, educating ourselves on the various aspects of the undertaking. Believe me when I say it gets very involved. As time goes on we will provide more information.

F.W. Novotny, Pres.
Czech Heritage Fdn.

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ORNAMENT FUNDRAISER

This year's fundraiser so far has proved better than ever. Hand-crafted Christmas ornaments, imported from Czechoslovakia, have proved to be popular gift items each year.

Each ornament is a work of art. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes, replicating birds, fruits, vegetables, musical instruments, etc. The pickle, according to folklore, brings good luck. The child who first finds the pickle on Christmas morning receives a present.

Sale proceeds support the Czech and Slovak Museum and Library.



VESELÉ VÁNOCE A
ŠTASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK!!!

CZECHS HONOR ANDY WARHOL

Art lovers in the town of Medzilaborce, Czechoslovakia, are busily preparing for the opening of a museum devoted to the life and work of Andy Warhol. The late author's parents emigrated to the United States from a nearby village. The museum founders say the link between Warhol and the old country is more about his lifestyle than his art. Excerpted from the Cedar Rapids Gazette 2/14/90

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SHIVE-HATTERY HONORED

The 16th Avenue Bridge of the Lions designed by Shive-Hattery Engineers and Architects Inc., received the Outstanding Civil Engineering Project Achievement Award for 1990 from the Iowa Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The award was presented in a ceremony at the Czech Museum on Tuesday, October 9th. Dedicated on July 17, 1989, the new \$1.47 million bridge includes eight concrete lions donated by the Czech Heritage Foundation. (Photo reprinted with permission of the Cedar Rapids Gazette)



Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

VOLUNTEER SURVEY FORM

THE MUSEUM IS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN THE PARTICIPATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN ITS MANY ENDEAVORS. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THROUGH THIS SURVEY, AND CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR AVAILABLE TIME AND PARTICULAR TALENTS AND ABILITIES TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUSEUM, ITS PROGRAMS, AND ITS FUNCTIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY. PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM AND MAIL IT TO:

CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY
PO BOX 5398
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406-5398

NAME _____ HOME PH. _____

ADDRESS _____ BUS. PH. _____

AGE CATEGORY: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL _____ GRADE _____

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE _____ GRADE/YEAR _____

HOMEMAKER _____ WORKING ADULT _____ RETIRED ADULT _____

INTEREST AREAS FOR MUSEUM DOCENTS (PLEASE CHECK ALL AREAS THAT APPLY)

MUSEUM TOUR GUIDE _____ CHILDREN'S TOUR GUIDE _____

GIFT SHOP SALES CLERK _____ ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWER _____

LIBRARY HELPER _____ CLERICAL HELPER _____

MAINTENANCE _____ HOUSEKEEPING _____ EXTERIOR BUILDING _____ GROUNDS _____

ARTS/CRAFTS DEMONSTRATOR _____ SPECIFIC ART/CRAFT _____

SPECIAL MUSEUM EVENTS _____ DECORATING _____ REFRESHMENTS _____ SERVING _____

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS _____ FESTIVALS _____ CELEBRATIONS _____ PERFORMANCES _____

OTHER SUPPORTIVE INTERESTS _____ BAKING _____ SEWING _____ CARPENTRY _____ MUSIC _____

PHOTOGRAPHY _____ VIDEO-TAPING _____

DAYS & TIMES YOU ARE AVAILABLE _____

DO YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER ON: AN ON-CALL BASIS ___ A REGULARLY SCHEDULED BASIS ___

WHAT VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD? _____

SURVEY FORMS MAY ALSO BE DROPPED OFF, AT THE MUSEUM, DURING OUR OPEN HOURS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST.

PATRICIA A. HIKIJI, MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Czech Village Cedar Rapids, Iowa



SV. Mikuláš in

Czech Village

LEGEND OF SV. MIKULÁŠ (ST. NICHOLAS)

Beginning on December 6, the feast of Sv. Mikuláš, the following custom was enacted by the Czech people throughout the Christmas season until Christmas Eve.

A trio, Sv. Mikuláš, the devil and the angel, would stroll throughout the neighborhood. The devil and angel walked ahead, signaling the approach of Mikuláš, and the devil rattled his chain! Then, Sv. Mikuláš asked each child if he had said his prayers and if he had been good or bad. Those who said they had been good were given treats, while the angel recorded the proceedings in an elaborate book with the use of a quill pen. Then on Christmas Eve, according to the record kept by the angel, the children would receive nuts, candy, fruit and little gifts if they had been good...and a piece of coal or an old potato if they had not!

Sv. Mikuláš is one of the most venerated of all saints, and he was Bishop of Myra, Capitol of Lycia, an ancient province of Asia Minor, now Turkey. He was especially noted for his charity and, of course, was the first Santa Claus.

SV. MIKULÁŠ DAY was celebrated on the Avenue December 1st this year. Several children came to visit the saint and get their name in the angels registry, while parents enjoyed the First Annual Cookie Walk in the Village. Each year the event grows as more and more people participate. Children of all ages enjoyed the puppet show at the museum and the play sponsored by the Czech School, performed at Joens Bros. Interiors. The Czech Heritage Singers offered a fine afternoon performance.

FALL IS SPRUCE UP TIME

With the help of a grant, the Village renovated two area landmarks. The bandstand was refurbished and the clock tower boasts a new two-tier planter. Watch next spring for colorful flowers and blooming bushes at the clock tower and around the bandstand.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR '91?

Four events are planned on the Avenue next year:

St. Joseph's Day will be celebrated on March 23rd. Start working on your float entries now for the grand parade.

Houby Days will be a two day event, May 18th and 19th. Enjoy the carnival, breakfast, craft show, mushroom hunt, and annual 5K run.

18th Annual Fall Festival returns to two days this year with more events than ever before. Back, bigger and better, the festival will include the carnival, breakfast, lots of music, and crowning of the Czech Prince and Princess. Mark your calendars - Sept. 7th and 8th.

Sv. Mikuláš Day, December 7th, will include the Second Annual Cookie Walk and more special events to be announced.

THREE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Our Homestay Program Ambassadors for 1991 are: Erica Cichowski, Washington High School, daughter of Benjamin and Karen Cichowski, Cedar Rapids; Brian Faltis, College Community, son of Dave and Chris Faltis, Swisher; and Heidi Krejci, Jefferson High School, daughter of Dave and Diane Krejci, Cedar Rapids.

These exceptional students will begin Czech language classes in January and will attend several orientations to prepare themselves for their Experiment in International Living Homestay next summer. The three will spend four weeks in or near Prague, Czechoslovakia with a host family to experience the cultural exchange many of us have only dreamed about - the chance to live in Czechoslovakia. They will observe and experience the people and the countryside not as passing tourists, but as student ambassadors on a goodwill mission to renew cultural ties to "the old country." Upon their return, the ambassadors share their experiences with local civic, educational, and fraternal organizations.

Congratulations!!

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BUCHTA, plural: **BUCHTY**

definition: a poppy seed, prune or fruit filled biscuit



KOLÁČ, plural: **KOLÁČE**

definition: an open faced round tart with poppy seed or other filling



KOLÁČEK, plural: **KOLÁČKY**

definition: a smaller version of the KOLÁČ

Submitted by Steve Wencil, Owatonna, MN

Members are encouraged to share articles and news items with us. Please tell us the source of item if already published. Write to: John Rocarek,

THE CZECH HERITAGE SINGERS were invited to sing at the University of Iowa basketball game on November 6th when the Iowa team hosted the Czechoslovak National team. The group sang the Czech and Slovak national anthems before the game much to the obvious pleasure of the Czechoslovak boys. At halftime the Czech Heritage Singers presented a medley of Czech folk songs.

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PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH is the first U.S. president to visit Czechoslovakia while in office. His trip there in mid November was to seek support from the country of fifteen million for America's peace-seeking mission in the Middle East. Bush drew a comparison between Hussein of Iraq and Hitler, evoking the memory of Czechoslovakia's subjugation by the latter. Over one hundred thousand packed into St. Wenceslaus Square, Bush's largest audience to date, to listen to his speech. The speaker promised that "America will stand with you,"

referring to the U.S.'s involvement in helping Czechoslovakia overcome its economic hardships. While the extent of support from Havel and Czechoslovakia in Bush's Middle East campaign is yet to be determined, diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Czechoslovakia continue to strengthen.

President Bush received loud cheers when he announced his plans to return to Prague Masaryk's October 18, 1918 communique to President Woodrow Wilson outlining a declaration of independence and constitution for Czechoslovakia. The declaration, adopted by Czechoslovakia's provisional government in exile over seventy years ago, has been kept in the Library of Congress. The declaration is transcribed on the following page, taken from - THE CZECHOSLOVAK DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, A HISTORY OF THE DOCUMENT. This fascinating account of the events leading up to and during the writing of the document is required reading. Published by the Library of Congress - European Div. Washington D.C. 20540, 1985, by George J Kovtun, 59 p., softbound, ISBN# 0-8444-0479-9

*Declaration of Independence of the Czechoslovak Nation
by its Provisional Government*

At this grave moment, when the Hohenzollerns are offering peace in order to stop the victorious advance of the Allied armies and to prevent the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary and Turkey, and when the Habsburgs are promising the federalization of the Empire and autonomy to the dissatisfied nationalities committed to their rule, we, the Czechoslovak National Council, recognized by the Allied and American Governments as the Provisional Government of the Czechoslovak State and Nation, in complete accord with the declaration of the Czech Deputies made in Prague on January 6, 1918, and realizing that federalization, and still more, autonomy, mean nothing under a Habsburg dynasty, do hereby make and declare this our Declaration of Independence.

We do this because of our belief that no people should be forced to live under a sovereignty they do not recognize, and because of our knowledge and firm conviction that our nation cannot freely develop in a Habsburg mock-federation, which is only a new form of the denationalizing oppression under which we have suffered for the past three hundred years. We consider freedom to be the first pre-requisite for federalization, and believe that the free nations of Central and Eastern Europe may easily federate should they find it necessary.

We make this declaration on the basis of our historic and natural right. We have been an independent state since the seventh century; and, in 1526, as an independent state, consisting of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, we joined with Austria and Hungary in a defensive union against the Turkish danger. We have never voluntarily surrendered our rights as an independent state in this confederation. The Habsburgs broke their compact with our nation by illegally transgressing our rights and violating the Constitution of our state which they had pledged themselves to uphold, and we therefore refuse longer to remain a part of Austria-Hungary in any form.

We claim the right of Bohemia to be re-united with her Slovak brethren of Slovakia, once part of our national state, later torn from our national body, and fifty years ago incorporated in the Hungarian state of the Magyars, who, by their unspeakable violence and ruthless oppression of their subject races have lost all moral and human right to rule anybody but themselves.

The world knows the history of our struggle against the Habsburg oppression, intensified and systematized by the Austro-Hungarian Dualistic Compromise of 1867. This dualism is only a shameless organization of brute force and exploitation of the majority by the minority; it is a political conspiracy of the Germans and Magyars against our own as well as the

other Slav and the Latin nations of the Monarchy. The world knows the justice of our claims, which the Habsburgs themselves dared not deny. Francis Joseph, in the most solemn manner repeatedly recognized the sovereign rights of our nation. The German and Magyars opposed this recognition, and Austria-Hungary, bowing before the Pan-Germans, became a colony of Germany, and as her vanguard to the east, provoked the last Balkan conflict, as well as the present world-war, which was begun by the Habsburgs alone without the consent of the representatives of the people.

We cannot and will not continue to live under the rule—direct or indirect—of the violators of Belgium, France, and Serbia, the would-be murderers of Russia and Rumania, the murderers of tens of thousands of civilians and soldiers of our blood, and the accomplices in numberless unspeakable crimes committed in this war against humanity by the two degenerate and irresponsible dynasties. We will not remain a part of a State which has no justification for existence, and which, refusing to accept the fundamental principles of modern world-organization, remains only an artificial and immoral political structure, hindering every movement toward democratic and social progress. The Habsburg dynasty, weighed down by a huge inheritance of error and crime, is a perpetual menace to the peace of the world, and we deem it our duty toward humanity and civilization to aid in bringing about its downfall and destruction.

We reject the sacrilegious assertion that the power of the Habsburg and Hohenzollern dynasties is of divine origin; we refuse to recognize the divine right of kings. Our nation elected the Habsburgs to the throne of Bohemia of its own free will and by the same right deposes them. We hereby declare the Habsburg dynasty unworthy of leading our nation, and deny all of their claims to rule the Czechoslovak Land, which we here and now declare shall henceforth be a free and independent people and nation.

We accept and shall adhere to the ideals of modern democracy, as they have been the ideals of our nation for centuries. We accept the American principles as laid down by President Wilson: the principles of liberated mankind—of the actual equality of nations—and of governments deriving all their just powers from the consent of the governed. We, the nation of Comenius, cannot but accept these principles expressed in the American Declaration of Independence, the principles of Lincoln, and of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. For these principles our nation shed its blood in the memorable Hussite Wars five hundred years ago, for these same principles, be-

side her Allies in Russia, Italy, and France, our nation is shedding its blood today.

We shall outline only the main principles of the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Nation; the final decision as to the Constitution itself falls to the legally chosen representatives of the liberated and united people.

The Czechoslovak State shall be a republic. In constant endeavor for progress it will guarantee complete freedom of conscience, religion and science, literature and art, speech, the press and the right of assembly and petition. The Church shall be separated from the state. Our democracy shall rest on universal suffrage; women shall be placed on an equal footing with men, politically, socially, and culturally. The rights of the minority shall be safeguarded by proportional representation; national minorities shall enjoy equal rights. The government shall be parliamentary in form and shall recognize the principles of initiative and referendum. The standing army will be replaced by militia.

The Czechoslovak Nation will carry out far-reaching social and economic reforms; the large estates will be redeemed for home colonization, patents of nobility will be abolished. Our nation will assume its part of the Austro-Hungarian pre-war debt;—the debts for this war we leave to those who incurred them.

In its foreign policy the Czechoslovak Nation will accept its full share of responsibility in the reorganization of Eastern Europe. It accepts fully the democratic and social principle of nationalism and subscribes to the doctrine that all covenants and treaties shall be entered into openly and frankly without secret diplomacy.

Our constitution shall provide an efficient, rational, and just government, which will exclude all special privileges and prohibit class legislation.

Democracy has defeated theocratic autocracy. Militarism is overcome,—democracy is victorious;—on the basis of democracy mankind will be reorganized. The forces of darkness have served the victory of light,—the longed-for age of humanity is dawning.

We believe in democracy, we believe in liberty,—and liberty evermore.

Given in Paris, on the eighteenth day of October 1918.

Professor Thomas G. Masaryk, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

General Dr. Milan R. Stefanik, Minister of National Defense.

Dr. Edward Benes, Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Interior.

THE TAMA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY has been in existence for almost fifty years. Over the past nearly five decades several projects have been tackled, but in recent history none so grand in scale as the preservation and restoration of an extremely rare local treasure.

Located in Otter Creek Township on an isolated plot in a cornfield sat a tired old house. At first glance it appeared rather modern in appearance; no different than any other of the



thousand old farm homes which dot the Iowa countryside. Just another old farmhouse that had outlived its usefulness and was ready to be leveled by a bulldozer so that more corn could be put in. But this home was different. Luckily, Charles Balloun, the home's owner, and a handful of concerned local historians recognized the difference between an old rundown farmhouse and an authentic immigrant log cabin.

The "Old Kremenak Place" was deserted long ago. Located one mile west of Vining, it graced the Tama County countryside for well over one hundred years. Its importance in documenting the history of early immigrant life in the nineteenth century was well hidden behind twentieth century lap siding and asphalt singles. The Kremenak family owned the property from 1876 to 1916 on which the cabin has stood, and a professional in the field of historical log cabin renovation has authenticated the structure as an excellent example of a Bohemian immigrant home from the mid 1800s. Brian Betteridge, renovation

consultant on the project, points to several unique features of the cabin which tell him without a doubt that Bohemian immigrants were the original builders. The sixteen by twenty-eight foot structure has dovetailed joints on the logs and special curves in the wood on the overhang and rafters. Its one and a half stories was crafted from hand-hewed logs and sat on a hand-hewed limestone foundation. Each log was numbered with roman numerals, a common practice of the time, so that in the event of a move, the home could be dis-assembled and later put back together with relative ease.

Several months of planning and hard work by the Tama County Historical Society has brought the project to the successful completion of Phase One. On Thursday, October 18th, the cabin, donated to the society by Charles Balloun, was moved to its new location behind the Tama County Museum at 200 North Broadway in Toledo.

The project has had its share of ups and downs; but as project coordinator, Bev Vesely is quick to point out, the committee has enjoyed far more ups than downs. "Funding is by far the biggest problem we have right now," Bev tells us. "But we are confident that we will be able to move forward."

Phase One may be completed, now that the Bohemian immigrant home is situated at its new location, but the project has only just begun. Sure, the committee can rest comfortably



Cedar Rapids Gazette photo (10/19/90) by Dave Rasdal reprinted by permission

cont.

knowing that the log home is no longer in any danger of being lost or



Lap siding attached long after original construction added years to the life of the structure's hand hewed log walls by affording protection from wind and rain.

forgotten, but other dangers still exist. Until properly reconditioned, the weather and other natural elements pose a real threat to the structure.

The next phase of the project must be completed under the close supervision of an expert in the field. Any work done on the structure must compliment the overall nature of the preservation project and be completed within guidelines dictated by history. This is where Brian Betteridge comes in. Betteridge has left his mark as an accomplished craftsman-historian worldwide. His latest renovations have included a one hundred and fifty year old log cabin in Illinois, and an extensive overseas project which took him to Norway. There he rebuilt, piece by piece, a century old barn moved to that country from Highlandville, Iowa. Locally, Betteridge is known for his outstanding preservation work at the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, and the

extensive renovation work he's done in Spillville at the Bily Clock Museum and St. Wenceslaus Church.

Betteridge has consulted with the Tama County Historical Society from the very beginning. The farther along the project gets, the more intense his involvement.

Bev Vesely and the Log Cabin Committee were fairly sure that Bohemian immigrants had constructed the home, but it was Betteridge and his over fifteen years of experience which positively identified the structure and attributed the log home's unique architecture to that of the immigrant Bohemian. Learning of this, the Czech Heritage Foundation took an immediate interest. The Board of Directors voted to support this fine project and sent a \$100. check to the Tama County Historical Society. We also urge individual members to contribute to this very worthy cause. Several thousand dollars will be spent before completion, and with only one fourth of the project in, donations right now are in very great demand.



After the exterior is completely renovated, preservation of the interior will begin. Plans are to design and furnish the home inside with donated furniture and artifacts from a century ago.

cont.

Fundraising activities are in full swing. The Historical Society has begun by selling \$20 sweatshirts and \$10 t-shirts with a cabin drawn on the front. To send in your donation, obtain more project information, or to find out more about the availability of the Cabin Shirts, write to Bev Vesely, Tama County Historical Society, 200 North Broadway St., P.O. Box 84, Toledo, IA 52342, or call Tues.-Sat. 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., (515) 484-6767

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Conversational Czech

TIRED OF SHOVELING SNOW?

Don't let winter get you down. Put down that shovel and have some fun! Conversational Czech language classes for both beginners and advanced students will begin in January. The two hour, twelve week classes are sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation and held at Kuba Hall, 1300 2nd St. S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Beginners class will be held on Monday evenings from 7-9 p.m., starting January 7th. Advanced class will meet on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 p.m., starting January 8th. A nominal fee will cover the cost of materials and tuition for the course taught by Olga Drahozal. For more information you may contact her at .

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SLAVNOST - A CELEBRATION OF PEOPLE

Sokol groups from around the country have been invited to be a part of the XXI Sokol USA Slet & Intl' Gymnastics Festival in Indianapolis, June 26-29, 1991. Gymnastics, rythmics, volleyball, and the grand finale (Slet calisthenics), will bring everyone together again on the Sokol field.

"The XXI Slet is dedicated to all

Sokols who have risked their lives against oppression, especially to those who have done so in this most recent dramatic event in Czechoslovakia (the Velvet Revolution), and to those who daily sacrifice their own individual gain in promoting the ideals of Miroslav Tyrš and Jindřich Fugner." (Excerpted from Sokol USA)

Watch for more information regarding this exciting event in future issues of Naše České Dědictví.

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EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Czech Heritage Foundation directors met two very interesting individuals at the November board meeting. Dr. James Grove, English professor at Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids had the opportunity last year to attend Palačky University in Olomouc on a Fullbright Scholarship. He was in Czechoslovakia during the "Velvet Revolution," witnessing and experiencing the events alongside the Czech students.

Dr. Grove introduced to the directors, Jiri Bareš from Moravia. Bareš is attending Mt. Mercy College studying English, American literature and government. He is in his fourth year of studies and will be a teacher when he returns to Czechoslovakia.

Bareš told us about his experiences at the university during the "Velvet Revolution." Information fed to the public during the early stages of the conflict by government controlled radio and television stations could not be believed. Universities in the country were connected by students in automobiles who hand carried mimeo-graphed information which could be trusted.

Please consider inviting Mr. Bareš into your home for an afternoon or evening. He's thousands of miles from home and could probably use some good old-fashioned Czech Heritage Foundation hospitality. In exchange for a home-cooked meal you would have the opportunity to hear first hand about the events of the last twelve to fourteen months in Czechoslovakia. Jiři can be reached by calling Mt. Mercy College, 363-8213 Ext. 414. Isn't it time to make a new acquaintance?
O. Drahozal

OPEN MARKET MEANS OPEN PROFITS

Smart businesses are seeking a piece of the new European open market. Its a slow process, but for companies with international business savvy thousands, even millions, can and will be made. General Electric did it, U. S. West just closed a deal, and many more U.S. companies are getting in line. Even the Germans are getting in on the action in Czechoslovakia. Volkswagen has paid an estimated \$5 billion for the Czech carmaker Skoda. Just how big is the Czechoslovak market? Real big!! Below is a reprint of an advertisement for a recruiting firm -

ASSIGNMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Chemonics International is recruiting for Czechoslovakian-American consultants who are interested in doing short- or long- term assignments in Czechoslovakia for projects with the U.S. Agency for International Development and the World Bank. Chemonics has provided technical assistance to developing countries since 1975. If you have experience in the technical areas listed below and are interested in working in Czechoslovakia, please send your resume to:

Puri Tan
East Europe Recruitment
Chemonics International
2000 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

We are recruiting for experts in the following fields:
Private sector development and privatization; banking and finance; corporate and international law; small enterprises development; agribusiness management; agriculture machinery and equipment; agriculture technology; food processing and technology; cattle, dairy, piggery, and poultry production; fisheries production and canning; leather goods; wood products (such as furniture); and oilseed processing.

Reprinting of the above advertisement does not constitute either endorsement or support by the Czech Heritage Foundation for Chemonics International.

JUST DROP US A LINE

In our last issue we published a letter from one of our members asking where they could find Czech music records and tapes. We have three sources to share with our members at this time:

J & P Czech Record Sales, 1055 Saunders Ave., Lincoln, NE 68521-2372, Several hundred titles available. If they don't have it, chances are it hasn't been recorded. Where else could you buy the tape, Packing House Five, by the Jaternice Makers? Regional and international favorites. Write for their catalog today.

Apon, P.O. Box 131, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10017, Several titles imported from Czechoslovakia.

F. Pancner Inc., , Many, many items to choose from. Since 1913.



ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY

The proposal endorsed in June by the Czech Heritage Foundation board of directors for the creation of an Archives and Cultural Center was withdrawn at the October meeting. John Rocarek, committee chairman, supported the measure to table the Czech Heritage Foundation project in light of plans to include an archives and cultural center in the Czech Fine Arts Foundation's proposed new facility. In the meantime, Rocarek has been appointed Acting Manager of Library and Archives at the present museum facility.

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VESELÉ VÁNOCE A ŠTASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK!

NEW MAIL ORDER ITEMS AVAILABLE

Czech Village Stationery, featuring the village storefronts pictured below. Fifty sheets in each 6" x 9" tablet. Special sale price of \$1.25 each.*



Trnitá Cesta (The Thorny Road) Poetry in the Czech language by Božena Dvořáková/Špačková. Published by K-Line, soft-bound, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", 46 pages, \$4.00 each.*

Write to Czech Heritage Fdn. %Elmer Netolicky,

Make checks payable to the Czech Heritage Fdn. *Please add \$1.50 postage for quantities of three or less. Merchants and organizations may inquire for wholesale prices on quantities of ten or more of the same item. Prices subject to change.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 1991 ARE DUE NOW!
Yearly membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Czech Tales

ONE SPECIAL EVENING last month over eight hundred individuals, young and old alike, were treated to the Old Creamery Theatre Company's production of "Czech Tales." On Tuesday, November 20th, Wilson Elementary schoolchildren were granted a unique classroom performance, and later that evening their parents and members of the community enjoyed a special presentation in the school auditorium.

The Old Creamery Theatre Company, with its home in Garrison, Iowa, has toured for each of the past nineteen years with an original story theatre production, featuring material from many different cultures and traditions. This year's theme, folktales from Czechoslovakia, has proven to be quite popular. Since the show's opening last April, the cast has visited over forty elementary and



middle schools across Iowa, and to date more than 18,000 have enjoyed "Czech Tales."

November 20th's free performance

cont.

was sponsored by the Czech School Board and affiliated Czech organizations, Wilson Elementary School and P.T.A., several fraternal lodges and local businesses. Major funding was provided by Target Stores.

This very special celebration was dedicated to the Cedar Rapids Community School Board and Executive Cabinet, Wilson Elementary School administrators, educators and staff, for their support of Czech Summer School each year.

The Czech School Board wishes to thank the thirty-plus volunteers who made the evening such a huge success, each organization which assisted, and a special thanks to The Old Creamery Theatre Company.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended the evening performance, and to offer my sympathies to those who were unable. Not only did you miss a great performance by Eastern Iowa's foremost acting troupe, you also missed the featured music of the Czech Heritage Singers; not to mention the delicious kolače served during the reception following.

Edward Kuba, Pres.
Czech School Board

"LARGO DESOLATO"

Dows Theater on the Coe College Campus in Cedar Rapids hosted that college's production of Havel's classic, November 9th through the 17th. Four performances of Largo Desolato were featured and according to Michael E. Pufall, assistant professor of theatre arts and director of the production, this was the first time Havel's play has been staged in this area.

Václav Havel, Czechoslovakia's president and leading playwright, wrote the play during a time when in his country Communist oppression was at an all time high. As in many of the Czech president's plays, Largo Desolato is not a play merely for the entertainment and amusement of the audience. It educates and at times even frustrates the viewer. The play's underlying statements provoke thought and keeps you mesmerized, once you become caught up in the central figure's plight. Havel's message to the audience rings out loud and clear. Living within the confines of Communism has a maddening effect on man.

The Czech Fine Arts Foundation featured an educational exhibit each night of the performance.

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DUES TIME IS HERE!!! Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. Dues remain at only \$3.00 per person per year. Don't delay. Why not consider a gift membership for someone. Your dues and generous donations fund several worthwhile endeavors, among them: financial support to the Czech Museum, adult Czech language classes, Homestay Program, along with publishing the quarterly Naše České Dědictví and other numerous publications. The list of projects goes on...

Please check proper item: Renewel___ New member___ Gift membership

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

Address _____ Zip _____

Make check payable
and mail to: Czech Heritage Fdn., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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

We appreciate your continued support. With your help we can continue to grow and fund your foundation's projects and activities. Thank you!

S ÚCTOU ČESKOSLOVENSKA REPUBLICICE

The Cedar Rapids Beethoven Club is making a study of Czech Music and customs at each of its meetings using the central theme, "A Tribute to Czechoslovakia."

A paper on some phase of the subject and compositions by Czech composers are presented at each meeting.

Meetings are at McKinley School, 620 10th St. S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at 10:00 a.m., the first and third Thursdays of each month.

The club invites anyone interested in these meetings to attend free of charge.

Jan. 17 - Prague as a Cultural Center, Part II (Part I held Dec.6), Feb. 7 - Czech Classical Dance, Feb. 21 - Creators of Opera, March 7 - Czech Performers, March 21 - Czech Composers, April 4 - Czech Music in Iowa, Part I, May 2 - Czech Music in Iowa, Part II

Submitted by Alma Turechek

ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE

Enjoy lively Czech music on Sunday, March 17th, at the Elk's Hall at 801 33rd Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Advanced tickets will be available from Czech Heritage Foundation board members. There will be door prizes and a bake sale. Watch for more details in our next issue.

Money raised will support the foundation's Experiment in International Living Homestay Program. This will be the seventh year that our organization has sent Cedar Rapids area highschool students to spend a month with a host family in Czechoslovakia. The Czech Heritage Foundation has sponsored twenty-five young men and women in that time, three more will make the trip in 1991.

The Homestay Program has revitalized our organization by involving the youth within our Czech community. These young people are our foundation's future. To find out more about how you can help, write: Sherlee Peterson, Homestay Program Chairman,

CZECH HERITAGE FDN.

P. O. Box 761
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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10 16th Ave. S.W.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404