



MOST

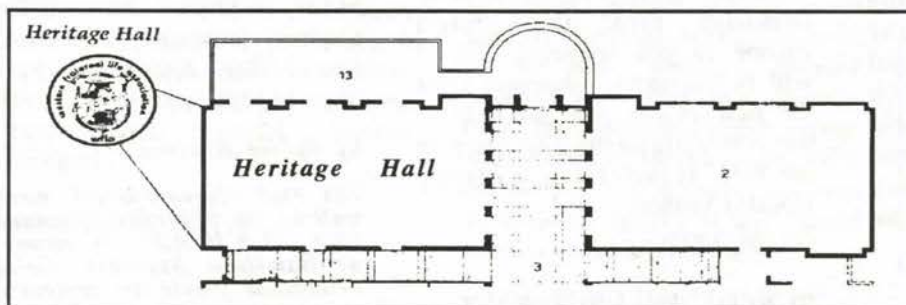
THE BRIDGE
FALL &
WINTER
1994

News of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

ABOUT TO MOVE

The new building is almost done. We are hoping that it will be finished by the middle of January, 1995. As I write this, the Heritage Hall is about 90% complete. There is a lot of excitement as we come close to the time that we can offer the Hall for use by the community. The Heritage Hall is going to be a very special meeting place. It is nearly 4000 square feet which is large than the old museum building! The room is set off by the beautiful mahogany stained oak doors and trim. The wood adds a warm feel to the room that you don't find in most meeting facilities. I know that people will enjoy this quality space for many reasons, one of which must be the view of the river from the terrace.

I think that anyone who has followed the progress of the new building knows about the Heritage Hall. But there is much more to the building than that. There is also a 3980 square foot exhibit hall. Plans are now being made for the construction of new exhibits. Central to our collection are the costumes which have been lovingly preserved at the museum. These costumes will be a focal point for the new exhibit. We will also highlight many of our other artifacts as well.



North East half of Museum & Library Floor Plan

Šťastný Nový Rok !

Happy New Year !



Many of your favorite objects will still be on display as well as others that have been in storage. Because of the amount of work involved with the development of new displays, we will move our old exhibits to the new building first, some time in February of 1995. Then we will work towards a date in October of 95 for the dedication of our new exhibits.

The staff is in for a real treat as well. Currently, all our office functions take place in a very small space above the exhibit hall of the old museum. At times there a five or six of us crammed together in this area. Its not much fun! In the new building, there will be two offices and a large work room where

we can prepare mailings and do other jobs that require more space. Beyond all this, we will have a new archival storage room where we can properly care for our collections.

If you liked our old gift shop, you'll love the new one. The new shop will have almost four times the space. With all this new room, we will be able to display our goods much better. We will also expand the offerings of the gift shop with new merchandise that represents the Czech and Slovak heritage.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will be ready to start this exciting move. We know how much we are looking forward to this move, and how much the Community is anticipating it as well. It will be a great way to start the new year.

By Raymond Shubinski



SO MUCH OF WHICH TO BE PROUD

Our new museum represents much more than just a beautiful building. Yes, we will have more room to spectacularly showcase the thousands of artifacts and native costumes that we have collected from over the years. And yes, we can expand and develop bigger and better exhibits, but there is so much more of which we can be proud.

This new museum is the culmination of years of hard work by dedicated members, volunteers and supporters – determined individuals with a vision of something grand and important far beyond mere bricks and mortar. The vision was to create a dynamic center for educational, cultural and social activities and programs that can be enjoyed by all people of all ages.

Majestically overlooking the Cedar River in the heart of Czech Village, you can see the physical results of this wonderful vision, but to fully realize all of it's glory and potential, you must go inside. You must become involved and interact with the spirit and joy intended by the visionaries.

By becoming a member of the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library, you can join in the excitement and help perpetuate the vision of a major historical center of national and international significance. As a member, you can help ensure the viability of an important resource for education and cultural understanding. Through membership, you can help maintain the newest eastern Iowa landmark as an important cultural, social and economic asset.

We are very proud of our new building. However, it is only a home for the many wonderful opportunities it will provide to the entire community. We hope you will support, with pride, this national treasure. Please, become a member today.

By Ann Bergren, Development Director



Gift Shop

AHOJ ! November & December have been very busy at the Museum Gift Shop. We opened an off site location at Westdale Mall November 1st. I would like to thank all of the volunteers for their support and many long hours during those two months. A very special Thank You to DeeAnn for her help everyday.

I would like to take this time also to thank those who participated in the Sv. Mikulas Day celebration. The demonstrations were a very nice attraction, along with the Czech Heritage Singers, Brass Ensemble & Eulenspiegel Puppet Theater. Thank you also to the Angel, Devil, and of course SV.MIKULAS. I have heard tell that the gingerbread cookies were a nice treat! Thanks, Diane.

We have received our new shipment of Czech, Moravian, & Slovak dolls. Also, beautiful ceramics from the Chodovia Domazlice area. Don't forget anyone on your shopping list. I will be calling on volunteers after the first of the year for help in the relocating of the Gift Shop to our New Home. Have a Happy Holiday Season.
Na shledanou.

By Sheryl Nejd, Gift Shop Mgr.

MUSEUM GUILD

As the new year approaches we anticipate many new activities and events taking place as we further develop our individual talents as volunteers and provide service to our Czech community.

Our November meeting included an informative presentation and tour by Sister Rose Mary about the history of St. Wenselaus Church. In December, Sykora Bakery provided a program on Holiday Breads and a demonstration making Vanocka. Many members are tour guides for the museum and are helping at the Christmas gift shop in Westdale Mall.

At this time, By-Laws are being written, Committees have been appointed, and programs planned for 1995. Our membership is growing and we would like to include anyone interested in Czech/Moravian/Slovak culture and has a desire to give 20 hours of service to the guild per year. Business meetings are held the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM followed by refreshments and a program at the Hamilton Business College, 1924 D Street SW, until further notice when the museum opens. For more information, please feel free to call any officer or committee chairman as follows: President Sylvia Rohlena, Vice President Maridee Dugger, Secretary Betty Hass, and Treasurer Terri Spahn. Committee Chair persons include: Barb Edmunds, Marilyn Tucker, Millie Ortner, Marge Stone, Delores Travnicek, Fer Fackler, Rose Miller, Karen Vlasek, and Sheryl Nejd.

by *Sylvia Rohlena*

The next Museum Guild meeting will be on Saturday, January 7, 1995, at 9:30 A.M., in room 115 at Hamilton Business College. Interested guests are welcome.

GARNETS

One of the best known and most visible parts of the national dress from the Czech and Slovak Republics is garnet jewelry. Today, many women of Czech and Slovak descent have a piece of heirloom garnet jewelry that holds many memories. Garnets were a favorite semi-precious gemstone of the Victorians. For many years it had fallen out of favor but has made a real comeback in the last few years. Garnet is also the birthstone for January.

One the interesting features of garnets is that it comes in a number of different colors. They range from yellow, green, orange, red, pink, violet and brown, never in blue. Garnets have been found in locations around the world. Once, years ago, a pocket of fine garnets was found under Broadway and 65th Street in New York City!

The use of garnets goes back much farther than 19th century jewelry making, however. In classical times, red garnets were highly prized. 2000 years ago garnets were not cut the same way we do today with a "gem" cut. They cut en cabochon and were called carbuncles. In fact this name was applied to any transparent red stone.

The Romans were very fond of garnets and used them extensively. I have a number of 2000 year old Roman garnet beads that have been used in modern jewelry. It's hard to know where they came from, but it is possible that these ancient garnets came from what would become Bohemia.

When the Roman Empire

collapsed around 400 A.D., Germanic tribes became much more influential. One effect was to spread Germanic fashions throughout Western Europe.

A dominant technique of decoration was to do inlay with garnets. Garnets had a long history of use and German jewelers increasingly exploited its properties. One technique was to split the garnets into thin sheets and back them with gold foil. Then the garnets would appear blood red. At its most spectacular, garnet inlay covered the whole surface of a piece of jewelry, contained in a carpet-like arrangement of cell work. The power and prestige of the owner was conspicuous not only in the sheer weight and splendor of the precious metal but also by the number of garnets in the piece.

The history of Bohemian garnets goes far back into the past. There are records of the use of garnets that go back to the time of Charles IV in the fourteenth century. They were used throughout the Gothic period. Its admirers included the great connoisseur of art, the Emperor Rudolph II. He had a collection of garnets that included one that was the size of a pigeon's egg. That garnet now adorns the Order of the Golden Fleece exhibited in the treasure house in Dresden, Germany. During the Baroque period, the popularity of the Bohemian garnets spread to be used on liturgical articles as well as personal jewelry. Jewelry adorned with Bohemian garnets have been worn by English queens and Russian Tsarinas. In 1878, Bohemian garnets won exceptional success at the World Jewelry Exhibition of Paris.

From a semi-precious stone aspect, the Bohemian garnet is characterized by its deep red color, but also by the ease with which it can be cut. Today there is an active craft of cutting these stones in the Czech Republic, in the town of Turnov, where in the nineteenth century the oldest specialized school in Europe originated and which exists to this day.

The garnet can claim many fine qualities which have helped to bring this traditional Bohemian stone back to popularity.

By Raymond Shubinski

Genuine Bohemian Garnet Jewelry



Courtesy of Robert & Jitka Schaeffer
Czech Cottage

V upomínku "In Memorium"

From August through December, 1994, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library received monetary donations in memory of the following individuals:

For: Rose Cincara

From: Lillian R. Murray

For: Tillie Conway

From: M/M Leonard Kint

M/M Ernie Buresh

M/M Hal Schaefer

M/M Bill King

J.A. Pickart

For: Phyllis Franklin

From: M/M Ernie Buresh

For: Clara Hlavaty

From: Allan, Shirley, Corey Bridge

M/M Louie Jedlicka

Todd & Rebecca Bridge

Justus & Mabel Simon

Cedar Lodge # 7 WFLA

Mae Gardner

Nina Babor

Dorothy Greer

For: Victoria Hruska

From: M/M Jim Risser

M/M Ronald Trowbridge

Carol Kutak

Janet Kuncel

M/M Milan Brezacek

Mary Chudomelka

Bohemian Cafe Co. Inc.

Richard Cotner

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L. Jo Stehlik

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M/M James Denney

B.G. Peterson

Lary Uebner

Don Sievers

Lee Mayhan

M/M E.J. L. Rozoypal

Tom Karologos

Elberta Cohen

Henrietta Shutt

Virginia Henningson

Vern & Jo Poole

M/M Stanley Hastelo

For: Iliam Klima

From: M/M Roland Raim

LaDonna Hora

For: Paul Light

From: M/M Ernie Buresh

M/M Ed Nejd

For: Hattie Loeblein

From: M/M Joel Leider

For: Dr. Jan Micka

From: Mrs. Matilda Micka

For: Amelia Novotny

From: Dorothy Krivanek

M/M J.A. Pickart

For: Mae Novotny

From: M/M Leonard Nejd

NOTICE!

The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library will hold its annual Meeting at the Asbury Church, 336 27th Avenue SW, at 7:00 pm on January 16th. Please attend this meeting for exciting news about the new museum.

M/M Ed Nejd
M/M Chuck Nejd
Pauline & Venda Jaso
M/M Ernie Buresh
Barb Sherman
Thara Smith
M/M Glenn Selzea
Vlasta Fajmon
Fairfax State Savings Bank
M/M Carl Landergott
M/M Don Hass
Dorothy Krivanek
Richard Fry Family
D.C. Newhaus

For: Ella Pochobradsky

From: Lodge 7 ZCBJ

For: Leo Rigel

From: M/M Sidney Montross

M/M Stan Ditch

M/M Robert Rohlena

M/M James Scrivani

M/M Arthur E. Barta

Barb Sherman

M/M Ernie Buresh

M/M Marvin Rigel

Elin LStepanek

M/M Carl Landergott

Leora Zahorik

M/M Geo Dlask

M/M Ed Nejd

For: Emil Rohlena

From: M/M Ernie Buresh

For: Velma Sonka

From: C.W. Sonka

M/M Ernie Buresh

M/M Ed Nejd

For: Anton Sykora

From: Lodge 7 WFLA

For: Frank Sysel

From: Helen Kupka

For: Ted Trefny

From: Federation of Czech Groups

M/M Ed Nejd

Renata Hruska

For: Anton J. Yesecky

From: Bessie Vesecky

For: Lavona Zamastil

From: M/M Ernie Buresh

NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY 1995 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Terms expire...nominated for another 3 year term.

KALENDÁŘ

January 16

Annual Meeting with Czech Heritage Foundation

January 16 - February 28
Move administrative offices, temporary exhibits and gift shop into new museum

March 7

Public Tours can begin

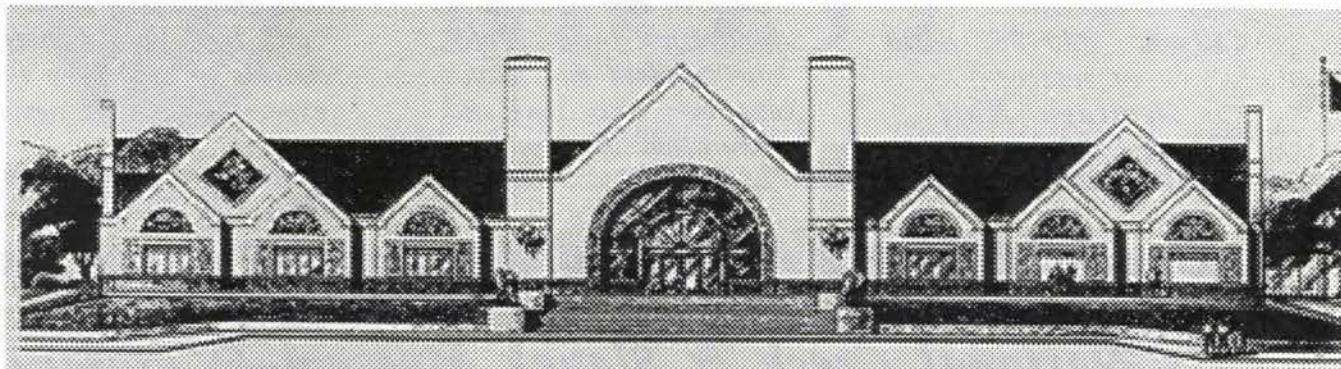
March 19

St. Joseph Day Activities

Newsletter Editor ... Terri L. Spahn



Become a Member of the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



Benefits of Membership

Student & Individual (Basic Membership):

- A vote in the Board of Directors Election
- Receipt of the Museum's Quarterly Newsletter
- Free Admission during regular hours

Family Membership:

- Basic Membership privileges
- 10% off Gift Shop purchases (minimum purchase \$10)

Contributing Membership:

- Basic Membership privileges
- 2 guest passes
- 10% off Gift Shop purchases (minimum purchase \$10)

Sustaining Membership:

- Basic Membership privileges
- 4 guest passes
- 10% off Gift Shop purchases (minimum purchase \$10)
- Invitation to a special reception

Patron Membership:

- Basic Membership privileges
- 4 guest passes
- 10% off Gift Shop purchases (minimum purchase \$10)
- Invitation to special reception
- Invitation to Exhibit Preview

Benefactor Membership:

- Basic Membership privileges
- 10 guest passes
- 15% off Gift Shop purchases (minimum purchase \$10)
- Invitation to special reception
- Invitation to Exhibit Preview
- Listing in the Annual Report of Museum's Major Contributors
- Name listed on Special plaque in the Museum's Great Hall
- Invitation to Benefactor's Brunch
- 10% discount on use of Heritage Hall

Director's Circle Membership:

- All of the above, plus
- Private tour of an exhibition with Director
- Invitation to Director's Circle Annual Brunch
- Special Gift from the Museum Gift shop
- 15% discount on use of Heritage Hall

Please clip and return the bottom portion to:

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, P.O. Box 5398, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-5398

I/we want to be a member and invest in the future of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

A check for \$ _____, payable to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, is enclosed.

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$ 50	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Director's Circle	\$2000
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500		

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

If you wish to donate to the new building fund or the endowment fund, in addition to your membership, please check here. We'll send you additional information.

I would like to volunteer, please contact me.

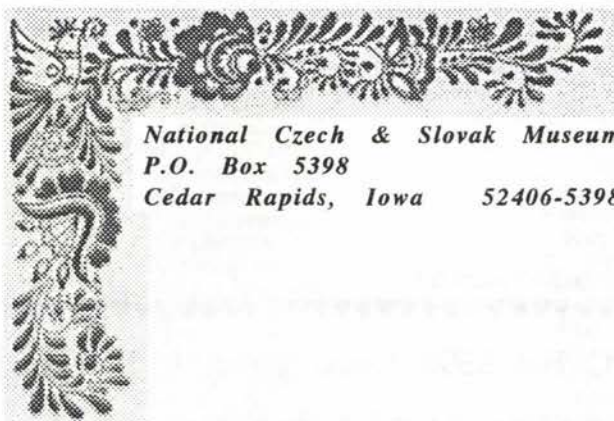
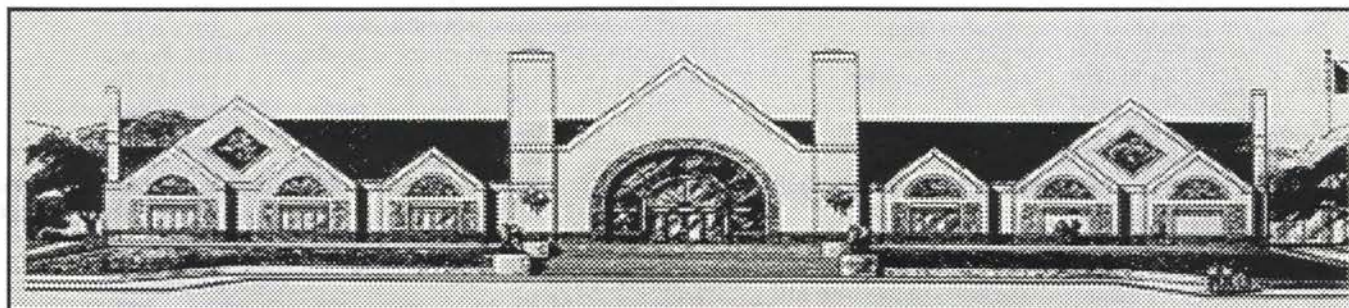
Contributions are tax deductible to the extent authorized by law.

"Like none other in the nation"
Call now **319-362-8500**
to reserve
Heritage Hall
for your event.

Banquet room for two hundred and fifty ... Auditorium capacity of four hundred and fifty. Rates vary with time and duration of event.

At your special event enjoy the river view terrace and treat your friends, relatives or associates to an experience they'll never forget!

Overlooking the river is Cedar Rapids' finest rental hall, uniquely set in the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.



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