

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

Vol. 12 - No. 1  
March 1987

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



CALENDAR

1987  
MARCH

KALENDÁŘ

- 1 Sun. Hungarian Folk Ensemble, 3-5 p.m.  
Hancher Aud., Iowa City. p 2.
- 15 Sun. Annual St. Joseph's Dance, 5-9 p.m.  
Scholarship Fund. p. 2.
- 19 Thur. St. Joseph's Day Parade, 4:30  
Czech Village p. 7.
- 21 Sat. Annual Šibřinky, Sokol Hall,  
Main Floor. p. 10.

APRIL

- 5. Sun. Sokol "Akademia" 2 p.m. LaSalle  
High School Gym.
- 25 Sat. Pork Supper, Sokol Hall, 4:30-7 p.m.  
Social time and cards on Main Floor,  
Gym, after 5 p.m.

MAY

- 1 Fri. "Veselka", Czech Brass Band from  
Praha. Concert, Dancing.  
Ponderosa Ballroom. p. 2.
- 16-17 Sat., Sun. Houby Days, Czech  
Village. p. 7.
- 30-31 Sat., Sun. All City Ethnic Fair,  
Roundhouse, Czech Village. p. 2.

JUNE

- 12-14 Fri.-Sun. St. Ludmilas Kolach  
Festival p. 11.
- 15-16 Mon., Tues., Czech Days, Tabor, S.D.
- 19-20 Fri., Sat. Hey Days, Fairfax, IA.
- ~~26-27~~ Fri., Sat. Fun Days, Swisher, IA.
- 24-27 Wed., Sat. XX National Sokol Slet  
Washington, D.C.

JULY

- 4 Sat. Ely Days. Parade, booths, contests,  
food. Ely, IA.
- 17-19 Fri.-Sun. Czech Festival, Traer, IA.  
Parade, fun, games, food.
- 24-25 Fri., Sat. Beef Days, Solon, IA.  
Carnival, food, booths
- 25-26 Fri., Sat. "Czech Capital" of  
Kansas. Wilson, Kansas



AUGUST

- 2-3 Sat., Sun. Czech Festival, Wilber,  
Nebraska. p. 16.

VITAM VÁS! GREETINGS!

1986 has passed on to another year but we can look back on another satisfying year of achievements for Czech Heritage Foundation. It was a busy year and a good one of accomplishments. For sure, 1987 will be just as busy with your help and cooperation, I am sure it will surpass our expectations.

I was hoping that some one else would be writing this message but even though I was not present at our Annual Meeting, I am now serving another term as your President of the Foundation.

Both Mae and I are expecting another busy year ahead. With your continued help and cooperation we shall have an enjoyable time promoting our heritage with all three of our organizations. We'll try to keep you informed by our Newsletter of events and calling on you for helping on activities and projects. Our Sincere Thanks from Mae and me on behalf of the Czech Heritage Foundation.

THANK YOU ALL!

Frank W. Novotny

President Czech Heritage Fdn.

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If errors appear on the Calendar for months of June-Oct. please write editor at once so correction can be made in June issue of the Newsletter. Additional items are welcome. Mail to Czech Heritage Fdn., PO Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA. 52406

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SEPTEMBER

- 12-13 Sat., Sun. CZECH FESTIVAL, 14th  
Annual event, Czech Village, Cedar  
Rapids.

OCTOBER

- 3-4 Sat., Sun. CZECH DAYS, Yukon, Okla.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS 1987

President: Frank Novotny  
Vice President: Wes Drahozal  
Secretary: Janice Kralik  
Financial Secretary: Charles Vyskocil  
Treasurer: Charles E. Krejci  
Board: Nancy Barta, Florence Dvorak, Denver Dvorsky, Dennis Hrabak, Leona Kaplan, David Kralik, Robert Kouba, Emil Lamparek Emily Larkin, Esther and Wencil Lippert, Mae Novotny, Russell Novotny, Shirlee Peterson, John Rocarek, Evelyn Stejskal, Robert Stone, Blanche Trachta, Darlene Trachta, Bette and Ted Trefny, Adeline Volesky, Virginia Wilts.

P.S. Officers have now changed and I want to say "Congratulations" to the new officers, and "Thank You" to the past officers. from M.D., TX.

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MUSIC MUSIC  $\frac{2}{4}$  MUSIC MUSIC

"VESELKA" Czech Brass Band from Prague will be presented for your listening and dancing pleasure on May 1, Friday, from 8 p.m. to midnight. The group toured United States in the fall of 1986 and were in our area in August. They were well received and they would like to entertain you this spring. So, under the sponsorship of the Czech Heritage Fdn. of Cedar Rapids, the VESELKA will be at The Ponderosa Ballroom, Walford, Iowa. A concert of one hour will be followed by three hours for dancing. For more information on tickets, phone Frank W. Novotny, Pres. CHF., or write

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MUSIC, St. JOSEPH'S DAY. The 7th Annual St. Joseph's Day benefit dance sponsored by Czech Heritage Fdn. to raise funds for the "Experiment in International Living Project will be Sunday, March 15th. The students go to Czechoslovakia to live with host families for four weeks.

Do come and join us all for a social time, an evening of dancing and support this worthwhile project.

continued on next column

Come to Eagles Club, 202-7th Ave. S. E., in Cedar Rapids, 5 to 9 p.m. Door prizes, bake sale. Each of the five students going to Czechoslovakia will be presented and each is donating a prize for the fund raiser. At the door, tickets are \$3.50. For more information call or write to Frank W. Novotny; Note address in left column.

P.S. Any donations of bakery or otherwise will be appreciated. Thank you.

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FUNDING the INTERNATIONAL LIVING PROGRAM. Our Foundation has been informed by Mr. and Mrs. William Kupka of Chelsea, Iowa, that they are donating a hand-crafted wooden picture of a natural setting, 30" x 36", to be used in any way to help fund the project. We shall have it at the March 15th Dance. Our sincere THANKS to you both. It is people like this that make our organization what it is. F.W.N.

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HUNGARIAN STATE FOLK ENSEMBLE  
March 1, Sunday, Hancher Auditorium, Iowa City, 3 to 5 p.m. This issue of the Newsletter comes after the closing date for tickets for C.H.Fdn. Therefore, if interested, phone Hancher Ticket Office for information. A reception in the foyer of Hancher follows the program. FWN



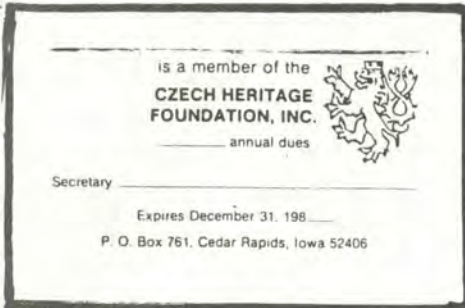
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All City ETHNIC FAIR. May 30-31. at the ROUNDHOUSE near Czech Village. Booths for approx. 9 Ethnic Groups. Food, gifts, handcrafts, books and other items. Sat. 2 to 10 p.m. On Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Continuous programs of music, ethnic dancers, music and fun. If you have visited the Ethnic Fair other years, you will come again, we know. If you have never been with us, COME!

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PUBLICATIONS. In 1977 the Foundation publication sales of ABC'S and the History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids, 1852-1942, Vol. I. totaled 341 books. By 1981, the sales of books MAILED totaled 1,381. By 1986 the total reached 1,548. The ABC'S continue to lead the list of sales. The number of books mailed in the last 10 years totals 10,760 which have been counted, packed and mailed by Charles H. Vyskocil. Then he does all of the bookkeeping and Iowa Sales Tax problems. Local sales to individuals and for resale at local stores, on Houby Days, Ethnic Fair, and Czech Festival in September, are not included in the above totals.

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MEMBERSHIPS in our Foundation numbered 1,140, as of January 1, 1987. We continue to grow. We extend our appreciation for your continued support. You often add a donation or make a contribution to the Scholarship Fund. Our modest dues are \$3.00/year. We have memberships which include families whose relatives live in widely separate states. The December report of new members lists 6 from the same family in 4 different states. A local member set up 10 memberships for her brothers and sisters.



Iowa has the largest number of members followed by California, Texas, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, New Jersey and Ohio. Imagine all of the time and energy it takes to fill orders for books, pick up mail at our P.O. Box, making out cards and trips to the P.O. and UPS.

You would never believe some of the requests for information that come to us. Usually they are serious, such as, the location of some villages, where to find this and that information. Not long ago a letter came from Paris, France. The young woman was working on a thesis. And how did she learn about the Foundation? The UNITED STATES EMBASSY in Paris had our name and address!

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We salute Charles H. Vyskocil, list him among the Honorable Mentioned, and extend our appreciation for the many years he has so willingly taken on these tasks.

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 "KITCHEN TALK": collected recipes from 1958-1983 from the Fraternal Herald and edited by Henrietta (Suzy) Shutt. She is known to many of you as our Editor (1962-1983) of the Fraternal Herald. The book has ...old Czech favorites... easy to read, and practical directions and measured ingredients." Price \$9.95 postpaid. Automatic Printing Co., 1613 Cumming Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68102. Excerpted from Fraternal Herald.

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DIAL THIS NUMBER: 369-6217. During the month of March, Teleconnect will be issuing new telephone directories to Cedar Rapids and surrounding area. In it will be a blue page having a description of Czech Village and information about the three organizations: The Czech Village Ass'n., Czech Heritage Fdn. and the Czech Fine Arts Fdn. All are working together to promote our Czech heritage. At the top of that blue page is the number 369-6217 which you can dial and listen to a recording of events happening at the Village. This is a 90 second message and it will be changed depending what is going on -- such as: St. Joseph's Day Parade, the benefit St. Joseph's Dance, the "Veselka" etc. The hours the Museum is open are on the blue sheet.

We are looking forward to this new way of advertising. The Czech Heritage Fdn. is happy to be able to finance this venture. When you get that new directory, please dial 369-6217 and find out what is going on in our Czech Village. We will appreciate hearing your comments after you have made a call!

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 Direct your correspondence to any officer or the editor to Czech Heritage Fdn. P.O.Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA. 52406.

HOMESTAY PROGRAM. Each year, students who are juniors in area high schools spend 4 weeks in Czechoslovakia under the co-sponsorship of the Experiment in International Living Program and Czech Heritage Fdn. For the first 3 years, three or more students were selected for the cultural exchange. This year we are pleased to announce that because of overwhelming support from businesses, fraternal organizations, and especially individual members, such as yourself, five students will be our Ambassadors to Czechoslovakia this summer. They are Brenda Buresh - Prairie, Jennifer Frye - Jefferson, Doug Krejci - Jefferson, Danica Novotny - Linn-Mar, and Martin Teplý - LaSalle. When asked to write a brief essay on why they wanted to become an ambassador some reasons were:

- a chance to travel to a foreign land,
- the opportunity to experience a different lifestyle,
- experience being away from home, and
- living with a Czech family.

One common reason shared by all five the opportunity to learn more about their Czech heritage.

J. R.

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ADULT CZECH CLASSES expand to two nights per week. With more than 40 enrolled, language classes are now on Monday and Thursday evenings, in Cedar Rapids. Olga Drahozal held the first class on Feb. 5, 1985. Since then, over 90 different students ranging from 16 to 60 in age have attended classes. Promote the "revival" of Czech language in your area! Czech Heritage Fdn. would be happy to answer any inquiries -- from organizing classes to the usage and availability of materials and textbooks. Keep the local dialect of your second language alive for future generations! Write to John Rocarek,

J. R.



CZECH WEATHER VANE SLOVAK

Select a small round-flat rock from shore of a body of water, Use yarn or colored string, tie it around the rock on four sides. Use some 4 to 4 1/2 inches to braid into a rope. Make a tassel at end. Hang from a nail outdoors so it swings free.



- It's raining, the rock will be wet.
- It's snowing, the rock will be white.
- It's moving, the wind is blowing.
- It's gone! there's been a rip-off. anon

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MORE ABOUT "JENUFA", Janáček's opera. The opera surfaces again, this time at Marseilles, France, December 1986.

BARBARA DANIELS, soprano--a newcomer in "major opera houses in the world, was asked, "What is her overall goal?" She replied that it was not fair to herself to use Leona Rysanek to be one of the pinnacles... "to be in that shape... can pat yourself on the back -- you're the only one who does it and say, "Gee Whiz, I'm still here."

Singing in Čech as Kostelnička in "Jenufa" in San Francisco Opera, Rysanek was reported to be in "excellent voice... filled the War Memorial with blow torch temperatures... the tone was set for an evening of hysteria..." Gabriela Beňáčková as Jenufa made her local debut at the event.

Opera News

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# Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

## 1987 Officers and Board Members

represent all age groups ranging from 20 to 60 years of age, and from all walks

of life. They are: Pres. Robert Schaffer, V.P. Thomas Hruska, Sec. Marie Trachta and Zula Oujiri, Sec. Elsie Jelinek. Board members are: Arlene Boddicker, Elaine Brejcha, Georgiana Brejcha, Betty Buresh, Mary Daugherty, Jana Fast, Milan Fast, Dennis Hrabak, Rose Kopecky, Evelyn Lamparek, Carl Lander-gott, Leo Modracek, Irma Modracek, Vic Nax-era, Marj Nejd, Mae Novotny, Mildred Ortner, Jaroslava Wheatly, Julie Winkie.

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## CALENDAR 1987

### March

19 Thur. St. Joseph's Day, Museum hours noon to 5:00 p.m.

19 Thur. Seminar at Museum, noon to 6:00 p.m.

### April

14. Tues. Museum starts daily hours-- Tues.-Fri. 10-4; Sat. 9:30-4:00

11. Sat. Easter Festivities at Museum 9:30 - 4:00

18. Sat. Festivities at Museum - 9:30 - 4:00

### May

16. Sat. Houby Days - Museum hours 9:30 - 9:00

17. Sun. 9:30 - 5:00

30. Sat. Ethnic Festival, 8:30 - 6:00

31. Sun. Museum hours 10:00 - 3:00

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MAKE YOUR OWN COSTUME. On March 19th, a seminar at the Museum on "Planning and Making a Czech or Moravian or Slovak Folk Costume". Registration before the 19th is \$20.00; but \$25.00 the day of the seminar. Time: noon - 6:00 p.m. Topics include: se-lection and plan of costume by area and for men, women or children; selection of fabrics, trim and embroidery, and the details of putting

it all together. If you are seriously intere-sted in this project, for more information call or write the Museum, 10 - 16th Ave. S. W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 52404. (319) 362-8500. A tour of the Museum is included.

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## WANTED! GOOSE FEATHERS?

YES! The popular hand-craft-ed-best-ever-pastry brush made of goose feathers is sold at the Gift Shop at the Museum. The PEROUTKY makers are in need of FEATHERS. Please phone Pauline Jasa, if you know folks who might have goose feathers or where they might be obtained to keep those volunteer craft workers busy. . .



Peroutky are a popular item in the Gift Shop and the Mu-seum does not want to dis-appoint future purchasers! THANKS.

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SPECIAL EVENTS at EASTER on the two Saturdays, April 11 and 18, two artists, Marj Nejd and Vera Cousins, will demon-strate two different types of egg coloring from Czechoslovakia. Visiting youngsters will make their own willow switches and learn about Easter customs. Easter bakery will include "lamb" (made from dough) from recipe in "Czech Cuisine" will be featured as well as a "taste" of the "lamb"! Tours will include Easter Customs.

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MUSEUM GIFT SHOP has many items that are made solely for the Museum. A brochure lists some of the items available by mail or-der. For information, write The Museum Gift Shop, 10 - 16th Ave. S. W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404.



MUSEUM REPORT for 1986 tells it was a good year. More than 5,300 visitors enjoyed guided tours of the Museum restored Immigrant Home. Some tour groups toured Czech Village as well. About one-third of the visitors come in large groups and from all 50 states and 47 foreign countries. Largest numbers of visitors come from June through October. In 1986, we received more compliments about the Museum collection and quality of our guided tours than ever before. Our staff of tour guides is trained as our volunteers are also trained. A text was introduced in 1986 and has helped to standardize that information. Teen-age guides add to our volunteers. The Museum is very grateful to all of the volunteers who have made the Museum the attraction that it is.

Festivals and special events require volunteers as well, such as Easter Events and St. Nicholas (Sv. Mikuláš) in December. The December 1986 newsletter told of the puppets and original play about St. Nicholas, and the feather-stripping demonstration in the Immigrant Home. It was a busy and successful year and we look forward to 1987 with enthusiasm.

An analysis of our total 1986 receipts shows that most of our income came from three sources: donations at the door, the Gift Shop, sales and the Friends of the Museum Memberships. These totaled about 48% of the income. Grants supplied 18% and general donations amounted to 23%.

Your continued support is truly appreciated.

Jana Fast, Museum Curator

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WHAT'S IN A NAME? (Part 2.) Some names taken from the local telephone book listed below represent M-Z. On page 10 of the June '86 issue look for A-L.

Malý .....	small
Mikuláš .....	Nicholas
Němec .....	German
Novák .....	Newman
Novotný .....	"
Nový .....	new
Opatrný .....	cautious

Pánek .....	little gentleman
Panoš (Panosh)..	page
Paseka .....	clearing
Pátek .....	Friday
Pavlíček .....	little Paul
Pokorný .....	humble
Pospíšil .....	hurried
Růžička .....	little rose
Rybák .....	fisherman
Salát .....	salad
Sálat .....	radiate
Sedlák .....	farmer
Sirový .....	sulphuric
Skřivánek .....	skylark
Sládek .....	brewer
Suchý .....	dry
Svoboda .....	freedom
Teplý .....	warm
Tesař .....	carpenter
Tlustý .....	thick
Vánek .....	breeze
Vrba .....	willow
Uvádeč .....	usher
Zahradník .....	gardener
Zelený .....	green
Zeman .....	farmer

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HÁDANKY CO JE TO? RIDDLES

1. Malý domeček, plný koleček?  
(Small house, full of wheels)
2. Má to klobouček, jednu nožičku,  
pěkně si sedí v mechu v lesíčku.  
(Has a small hat, one leg, prettily  
sits on moss in the woods.)
3. Když mně přidávají, menší jsem,  
Když mně ubírají, větší jsem.  
(When (they) add to me, (I am) smaller  
(When they take away, (am) larger.)
4. Co činí husa stojíc na jedné noze?  
(What makes a goose stand on one leg?)
5. Proč u nás neprší nikdy dva dny po sobě?  
(Why at our place (it) never rains two  
days in a row) (after each other).
6. Mám dva pytle, do každého vejde hekto-  
litr žita. Jak je oba naplním jedním  
hektolitrem žita?  
(I have 2 sacks, into each fits a hekto-  
liter of rye. How (can) both (be)  
filled with that hektoliter?)

Answers to riddles on page 14



**CZECH VILLAGE 1987 OFFICERS**  
 and BOARD members  
 President:  
 Lester Sykora  
 Vice-President:  
 Patty Konecny  
 Secretary:  
 Virginia Wilts

Treasurer: Ray Snitil; Ass't. Treasurer: Dennis Hrabak. Members of the Board are: Richard Barta, Rick Bartunek, Ernie Hlas, Kris Jones, Paul Novak, Frank Novotny, Dr. Alan Robb, Lumir Vondracek.

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**CZECH VILLAGE EVENTS 1987**  
 May 16-17: Sat., Sun. HOUBY DAYS  
 30-31: Sat., Sun. ETHNIC FAIR  
 Sept. 12-13: Sat. - Sun. 14th Annual CZECH FESTIVAL, Czech Village  
 Dec. 5, Sat. St. NICHOLAS DAY  
 More information about the last 2 items in the June issue of the Newsletter.

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**ST. JOSEPH'S DAY EVENTS.** Don your favorite RED outfits and enjoy the Day in Czech Village. Special shopping attractions will greet you.

**PARADE** at 4:30 p.m. at this time because school will be out for the day. "I Love a Czech" badges free to all attending. Czech Museum open from noon til 5:00 p.m. Village shops will feature red bread, red beer, discounts on red items and other attractions for this community event.

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St. Joseph's Day has its roots in parts of the former Province of Bohemia and is celebrated in Cedar Rapids Czech community on the feast day of St. Joseph. In Czechoslovakia, it was the custom for villagers to stroll from house to house, shop to shop, on this occasion, to greet their neighbors in what was often the first real social outing after the long winter.

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News items reported by Czech Village Coordinator, Elaine Brejcha.

**TRAVEL & TOUR EXHIBITS.** For a 2 day event, Jan. 31-Feb. 1, in Des Moines, the C.R. Convention Bureau invited the Czech Village Coordinator, Elaine Brejcha, and the Czech Prince, John Buresh, and Czech Princess, Julie Vlasek, to attend the convention. The Prince and Princess, in Czech costumes, talked with the convention visitors, handed out flyers about the Village, Museum and Czech Heritage Fdn. The Chamber of Commerce delegates had a booth display. As a result of participating in the event, a tour group is booked for Houby Days in Czech Village.

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**9th ANNUAL HOUBY DAYS** will again sponsor a contest for the smallest, largest, tallest, most oddly shaped, best display and most creative display of mushrooms. Registration of entries will be Saturday, May 16, at 11 a.m. at the Bandstand; judging at 1 p.m.

Mushrooms will be on menus at Village restaurants and Sykora Bakery. The traditional scrambled egg and mushroom breakfast will be co-hosted by the St. Ludmila Parish Booster Club and Czech Village Ass'n. Breakfast \$3 per plate. Czech music and the dancers from the Boddicker School of Music Showcase, Accordionaires, Accordion Aces, Peanuts and Jets, will entertain. Then the Czech Heritage Band, Czech Polka Plus Band, Emil Lamparek and his Heligonka, and Leonard Reyman's Polka Band will also perform at the Bandstand from time to time.

On Sunday the Sokol Tumblers will perform at 1 p.m. at the Bandstand. Special Czech folk arts such as quilting and egg decorating will be Sunday afternoon at Joens Brothers Interiors. The 5000 meter race, under the direction of the C.R. Recreation Dept. will start at 10 a.m. On both days the Frey Amusements run the carnival events. The FLEA MARKET of more than 50 booths will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday; on Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more details about schedule of events, registration for 5000 m. race, write Elaine Brejcha, Village Coordinator, 59-16th Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404.

CZECHING IN comes from Texas which has just completed celebrating its sesquicentennial.

In the beginning, in 1901, with the gusher at Spindletop near Beaumont, the rich oil lands were withering away by 1986. Now the area has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. Adjoining Louisiana has been crippled by faltering oil prices. As editor of a small-town newspaper, Country Chronicle, with over 3,000 circulation, from Mauriceville, Texas, my most rewarding job is "Memory Lane" column.

Recently I interviewed the oldest citizen, Ronie Powell, of Deweyville. She celebrated her 100th birthday with a party and Grand Marshall of the Homecoming Parade. Although the stories differ from those told to me by Babi and Dēda about farming 100 years ago in Iowa -- this is rice country -- the traditions, devotion to the land, the hardships, and determination remain the same. In the oil boom days, the mud roads were covered with wooden planks in the rainy season so the "wild catters" could reach their rigs. Here the annual rainfall is 57 inches or more. The wild rigs would "blow" not being capped as they are today. These wooden rigs still dot the countryside, for a few remain. The metal rigs are frequent along the highways and roadsides.

This midwestern girl read about these things in history books but never dreamed I'd ever meet anyone who lived through that era.

Threshing machines for rice were as celebrated as in Iowa. Several of my story-subjects glowed as they told me of threshing days before modern machines were available. I thought back to the stories told by Babi, how threshing time meant a lot of busy activity on the farm, feeding the neighbors who worked together from morning until night. Mother's pictures of my grandparent's farm in Chelsea, Iowa, shows everyone enjoying the coolness of the oak trees that shaded the front of the white farm house.

Like the midwestern farmer, these rugged Texans homesteaded this area by clearing the thickets and pine trees, raising Brahmas

(zebu), and harvesting rice. The people have many elements against them even

though they have no cold weather to battle. Water shortage, sickness, heat, isolation from neighbors, transportation on mud roads were but a few of their problems.



I attended the Senior Citizens Annual Christmas Banquet in honor of these people in this tiny community. I chatted with all my past friends from the "Memory Lane" column. They were so happy as we listened to the music in the little Elementary School play, "I'll be Home for Christmas". I was thinking of my own folks of the 100 years in Iowa. Following the program we visited, took pictures, and later I wrote about the event for next week's paper.

One issue of the Country Chronicle was devoted to Czechoslovakian Christmas and customs along with some Czech recipes and artwork. The response was great. By now the officers in the Foundation have changed. "Congratulations" to the new officers and "Thank You" to the past officers. Good luck to all! I'll be home this summer and once again enjoy the Avenue, Polehna's, Sykora's, and Czech Cottage being some of the major stops. See you in July!

Adapted from a letter from

Mary Drahos, Vidor, TX.

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Dear Reader: If you have never read the story "MY ANTONIA" by novelist Willa Cather, you will find it one of those books you cannot lay aside. It is the story of 3 generations of a Czech immigrant family in Nebraska from their arrival up to WW I.

mms





**THE SOD HOUSE.** On April 18, 1854, Josef Francl and 3 German companions left Wisconsin with ox teams and headed for California. The plan was to find gold or other wealth and send for their families to join them. They followed the usual military road from Dubuque to Iowa City, on westward to Marengo and Newton. Their provisions included: 250 lbs. of hardtack, 150 lbs. of ham, 50 lbs. of butter, 50 lbs. of sugar, 30 lbs. of coffee, 10 qts. of vinegar, 20 lbs. of dry beans, and 10 lbs. of dry peas.

Tools, chains, saws, axes and so on were in the wagons. They were fortified with 20 lbs. of gunpowder and 40 lbs. of lead shot. At Fort Des Moines they rested and refreshed themselves. As they continued westward, Iowa farmers were as much as 20-30 miles apart. One terrifying night they sighted a prairie fire!

Early in June they arrived in Council Bluffs, a town of some 6000 population. They had travelled 600 miles. A ferry took them across the wide Missouri River. . . In California, Francl was disillusioned and returned to Wisconsin where he taught music for a few years. . . . Later the family emigrated to Nebraska where there were several settlements of Czech families.



**A SOD SHANTY** on a tree-less prairie in Nebraska often sheltered a Czech immigrant and his family.

Before the days of Shelter Belts - those rows of trees planted in the 1930's from the Dakotas to Texas - sod was the building material in the places trees were scarce. Some folks lived in caves along a river bank. It is said that the sod house was naturally air-conditioned, warm in winter (except for drafty floors) and cool in

summer. Sometimes animals would get on the roof to eat the grassy growth! It was said that the Czech settlers worked the hardest and lived on less than did others. The work ethic was important to most folks. Czechs also stressed the importance of education for their children -- it was something no one could take from them.

The HOMESTEAD LAW of 1854 provided a settler with 160 A. and after 6 months living on it could buy the land for \$1.25/A. Within a few years changes were made in the laws, one of which introduced TIMBER CLAIM ACT, 1873, if settlers would plant 10 acres of trees and care for them for 8 years.

Excerpted in part from the Tama NEWS-HERALD, the column "From Out of the Past", by Marie Vileta, Tama, IA.

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**TO BUILD SOD HOUSE IN IOWA.** . . From the 1850's to 1880's sod was used in parts of Iowa for homes, schools, churches and even taverns. In 1862 ". . . aspiring land-owners could claim a quarter section of public land, pay \$10 filing fee, live on it 5 years, building improvements, including a roof, door, floor, and windows. Fall was the best time to build. The grass was tough and roots woody. Sod was cut 4-6 inches thick, 1-1 1/2 ft. wide and 2-3 ft. long. Sod from an acre could be enough for a house 12 ft. x 14 ft. built in a week. Kossuth and Palo Alto Counties are developing a Sod House Project. One will be built at West Bend, next to the county one-room schoolhouse. The sod will be taken from near the overpass on Highway 18 bt. Emmetsburg and Ruthven. The building of the sod house will be late August. A. V.

from Iowa CONSERVATIONIST 7/86

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UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN PRAHA.

A niece, who is on the staff of Congressman Leach in Washington, D. C. recently phoned to inform me that she was sending a young couple from her office who wanted to tour Czech Village and talk to some of the Czech people. Both are lawyers, and have been appointed to our United States Embassy in Praha for a tour of duty for 3 1/2 years. Both are taking a course in Czech language from a tutor. I was privileged to have them as guests and presented to them (with the compliments of Czech Heritage Fdn.) all of our publications and materials to which I had access. Needless to say, they were overwhelmed and appreciative. We took a tour of the Czech Museum and then stopped to visit the Saddle Shop where we had an interesting visit with George Barta. From there we went to Sykora's Bakery but Lester was not in. Then on to Czech Cottage where we had a good visit with Jitka Schaffer. She also answered their questions about Czechoslovakia and the Embassy.

We had lunch at Garden Villa during which we had a lengthy conversation. I answered any questions they had to the best of my ability. They intend to take all our publications to Prague. Both are eager to be good representatives of the United States and desire to make a good impression on Czech people. They have issued an invitation to anyone visiting Czechoslovakia, to contact them. They are thrilled to have the opportunity to serve our government at the Embassy.

They would like to entertain our Young Ambassadors when the group go to Czechoslovakia, but unfortunately, their tour of duty does not start until Sept. 1, 1987.

Both were born and raised in Iowa and graduated from law school. I think it is a distinct privilege to have two Iowans on the staff at the United States Embassy in Prague.

Their names are: James and Elizabeth Chrisinger and their present address is:

After October 1, 1987, their address will be Jim Chrisinger,

Charles E. Krejci

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JUNGMANN SQUARE in Prague is the site of the Laterna Magika Theater at one corner and shops all around the area. The Square itself has a statue of Josef Jungmann, known as the 19th century writer and lexicographer, busy compiling dictionaries. Restoration of the buildings seems to be a never-ending task. Scaffolding fences the Tyl Theater undergoing repairs. Before too long, it will again be the home of Mozart's operas as it has been for more than 200 years!

excerpted in part from Travel & Leisure Magazine.

J. R.

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SMETANA MUSEUM in Praha. Some say that Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884) is Czechoslovakia's greatest national hero. The beauty of the hills, the valleys, mountains and lowlands are depicted in his music of "Má Vlast" (My native country) and The Vltava (Gr. Moldau) River which bisects the capital city. The baroque palace on the north bank of the river between the National Theater and Charles Bridge houses not only one of Smetana's pianos but many of his writings, such as posters, autographs, musical scores. Since German was the official language of the Empire, it is said his command of Čech was not always grammatically correct. (Alas--many of us could join him in that skill.) Recorded compositions of Smetana's can be heard throughout the museum. Smetana's first wife died of tuberculosis at a young age. He remarried later. Smetana was Conductor of the National Theater Orchestra. In the years 1861-71, Dvořák was in the viola section. There is a Dvořák Museum in Praha in the New Town area.

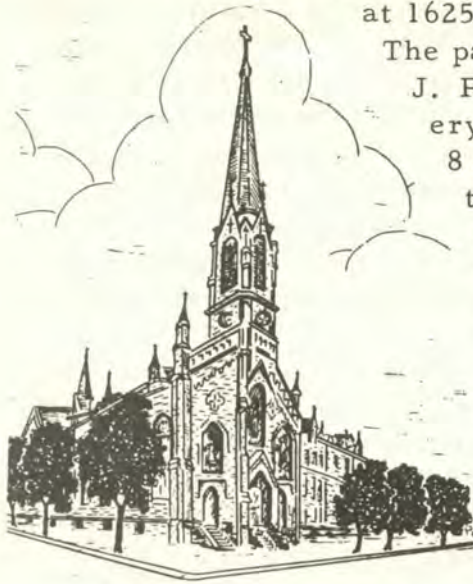
ŠIBŘINKY, Annual Masquerade Ball, Sokol Hall, MAIN FLOOR, 417 - 3rd St. S. W., Cedar Rapids, March 21, 8:30 - 12:30 Saturday evening. The Jolly Bohemians will provide the music. Refreshments available. Prizes for costumes. Enjoy your evening. It is not as late as you think!

FIRST CZECH CATHOLIC CHURCH in the NEW WORLD is in St. Louis, Missouri, St.

John Nepomuk is located at 1625 South 11th St.

The pastor is Joseph J. Portuchek. Every Sunday at the 8 o'clock Mass, the congregation enjoys singing in Czech.

St. John Nepomuk was born about 1340 in Pomuk (Now is Nepomuk) near Plzen. He rose to be vicar general of the Archbishop of



Praha.

Excerpted in part from Minnesota Sokol SLOVO. Picture from POSEL of Cleveland. J. R.

It might be of interest to the reader to know that St. John Nepomuk was canonized in 1727. He was living during the reign of 2 kings of Bohemia, John of Luxemburg who married the 2nd daughter of King Wenceslaus, Elizabeth -- and Charles IV, King of the Empire.

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Cesta do školy

Cestička do školy přes louku,  
po poli, cestička do školy ušlapaná!  
Když jsem tě šlapával, někdy jsem  
plakával, sněhem jsi bývala zasypaná.

PATH TO SCHOOL

Little path to school over the meadow, across fields, little path to school well trod!  
When I trod on you, sometimes I cried (you were) covered with snow.

BARTERED BRIDE opera presented by U of I School of Fine Arts, July, 1950!

This most popular opera, set in the 1850's, was the result of the Music and Drama Departments combining their talents. Students, faculty, and invited soloists took part in the leading roles. The Sokol Beseda Dance Group from Cedar Rapids took part in the scene when the circus came to the village and in other scenes as well.

*SUI To Present "The Bartered Bride"*



When the University of Iowa presents "The Bartered Bride" this week, Czech folk dances will be performed by the Cedar Rapids young people shown above. From the left: Vic Naxera, Hermine Netolicky, George Naxera, Jr., Martha Pesek, Mana Zlatohlavet, Bob Klinsky, Vera Machovsky and Paul Jerabek, Jr.

The circus performers included clowns, a weight lifter, barker, siren dancer, "sword" swallower, and others. The opera was presented for 3 days at the 12th Annual Fine Arts Festival. It would really be SOMETHING if a revival of such events happened again! Any suggestions?

Mrs. Vickie Sedlacek (Mrs. Robert) had the lead role of Marie, The Bartered Bride, in the second performance. The reporter wrote, "...outstanding qualities were her diction and a soprano strong enough to defy the lack of accoustics in the auditorium (McBride). She brought added vivacity and energy to the role of Marie."

from Daily Iowan, 7/25/50

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ST. LUDMILA KOLACH FESTIVAL, food, fun, booths, games, rides, carnival. 21st Ave., 'C' Street S. W., Cedar Rapids. Always a popular event.

Československý

# svět

1987, annual booklet,  
is the Kalendář of 205  
pages, 6 1/2 x 9 inches,

published in Praha, with page after page of colored pictures. As is the custom in that type of publication, p.2 has a calendar for LEDEN and in the same narrow column below is JANUÁR. The dates are listed and after each is the first name of a man or woman with each list being different. A colored photo of a landscape, street scene or village fills most of that page. The facing page (odd numbered) at the right may tell about people, places, or events and many other topics. The 1987 issue has drawings rather than photos, signed by the artist, ALES, dated 1901! The sketches are similar to B-W drawings in our December Newsletter on pages 13 and 14. Some names under LEDEN are: Zora, Drahošlav, Velma, Vladislav . . . . for JANUÁR are: Antonin, Malvina, Ernest, and Vincent. Some names appear again in other months and different days!

Inside the cover in 1987 issue is a list of 12 "anniversaries" of special events dating back some 115 years ago and less. For example, 85 years in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA, was founded the "Matice vyššího vzdělání" - the Council of Higher Education -- well known for the loans to college students (interest free) and grants of \$500 to \$1000 to graduate students. The office is now in Brookfield, Ill., 60513. P. O. Box is #136.

Even though you may not be a rapid reader of Czech, you will find many articles of interest. N. B. The mark thus - over the é and ě is rather new because in the text the letters do have the "ˇ" or háček mark!

mms

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DID YOU KNOW THAT Prague, Czechoslovakia and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada are some 50° north latitude -- meaning some 3,540 miles north of the equator. One is swept by numbing Arctic winds in winter, the other sheltered by the mountain ranges along the northern borderlands. And so, winter average temperature for D. J. F. for Winnipeg is 4° F., Prague 31° F. The summer J. J. A. average about 65° F. . . . .

The average precipitation in the 3 winter months is about the same for both cities 2.6 inches; for the same 3 summer months approx. 7.7 inches. The annual average total is 19 inches for Prague and 20 inches for Winnipeg! Recall the differences in crops, field sizes, and patterns! One is on the edge of the Prairies in North America, the other hemmed in by mountains and uplands in Central Europe. One more fact, Prague is 662 ft. above sea level, and 720 ft. for Winnipeg.

Another combination of interest is Cairo, Egypt, and New Orleans, La., both at 30° N. Lat. The former on the edge of the vast deserts of North Africa has TRACE rainfall per year. New Orleans has 61 inches rainfall.

mms

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FROM PRINCESS TO POLITICS Czech Princess (1983-84), Janelle Rohlena, serves as a Page to the Chief Clerk during the present session of the House, State Legislature of Iowa. She comes home week-ends to exchange her "home work" and pick up new assignments for her classes at Prairie High School, where she is a senior. Janelle became interested in politics when the family visited Washington, D. C. and they toured the Capitol. In 1985 she was a delegate to the International 4 H Youth Experiment, held in Germany. She plans to major in International Relations in college. Another Page is Cindy Boland of Fairfax, also a senior at Prairie High School. She is a Page in the Senate in Des Moines. Two Pages from Cedar Rapids are Amy Blouin and Todd Griffith. Eight others from this part of Iowa are: Owen Winder of Iowa City, Nancy Maroushek of Calmar, Valerie Young of Traer, David Caraway of Maquoketa, Lisa Bries of St. Olaf, and Rhonda Klingman of Volga. Our CONGRATULATIONS to these representatives and Best Wishes!

mms

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LEDEN	KVĚTEN	ZÁŘÍ
ÚNOR	ČERVEN	ŘÍJEN
BŘEZEN	ČERVENEC	LISTOPAD
DUBEN	SRPEN	PROSINEC

SOME CZECH-AMERICAN CULTURAL LEADERS OF THE PAST.

A rich source of first hand information on the American activity of composer Antonín Dvořák, including his summer vacation in Spillville, Iowa, during 1893, is found in the scattered writings of his right-hand man, and recognized violinist, Joseph Kovářík.

Kovářík's father was a choir master and teacher at St. Wenceslaus Church established in 1863. He belonged to that rare breed of Czech-American intellectuals who, as graduates of Bohemia's normal schools, were invited by the early settlers to teach their children. The need of such men was urgent. Every ethnic-American community, including the Czech, was haunted by the spectre of family cultural divisiveness. The parents early discovered that their tested Old World values, traditions, idiom, and social behavior were unpalatable to their offsprings due to their new or environmental way of life. The fact that their apparent sense of anachronism tended to inspire the children to delinquency and in serious cases even devious conduct. The parents counteracted the peril by resorting to formal education. Both church-going and churchless established local systems of education, the churchless in the headquarters of their fraternal lodges, the Protestants in the Sunday School, and the Catholics in separate parish buildings. The first two were part-time or supplementary schools, teaching Czech and Bohemia's history, folklore, and traditions. The third, or Catholic, was a day school, whose instruction was given in English and Czech.

The elder Kovářík found his place in the third. Up to about 1900, a fair number of his vocational counterparts was officiating in the Czech parish schools of the states. Some of the group established an enviable reputation as cultural leaders.

Geringer at Chicago's first church, St. Wenceslaus, or Petru at St. Procopius Abbey Church, for example, were widely known for their musicianship. At the pre-Civil war Czech Church of St. John in St. Louis, where at one time Negro slaves sat in special pews, Stankovsky as solo organist and choir and

orchestral conductor earned a regional reputation.

Kovářík in Spillville became widely known by the "happenstance" of Dvořák's vacation. The great master is said to have possessed the soul and personal simplicity of a child. He was virtually a daily attendant at Mass and at once usurped for himself the right to accompany choir and congregation on the organ. Spillville by his own admission, turned out to be most restful and refreshing place of his three year American engagement as the Director of the National Conservatory of Music in America.

At Spillville, he wrote two significant pieces of chamber music but not the "New World Symphony" as some filiopietists of the town would like to believe. That was composed in New York.

But what of Czech-America's early intellectual elite-- teachers, and choir masters? By 1900 their numbers fell far too short of meeting the vast influx of Czech immigrant children, banging for admission on the school doors of the parishes. That emergency had to be met by teaching nuns whom several religious Orders were hurriedly preparing for what was a new development in their charitable and educational ministries. When the new century began, the choir masters were almost all confined to their organ lofts, yet, as cultural leaders, they were too precious to lose. New outlets were found for them as coaches of parish dramatic clubs, library administrators, directors of discussion groups, and planners of annual ethnic and religious festivals. Their careers came to an end with the Anglicization of parishes by 1940, when, in the manner of other facets of ethnic life, their vocation, too, succumbed to American pragmatic mentality and values.

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Dr. Chada was Head of Dept. of History at former Chicago Teachers College, now the State University of Chicago. His specialty was European History. He was born in the Pilsen Dist. of Chicago. Now retired, he lives in Miami.

AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC is new. Four issues appeared in 1986. One of the articles tells of the nation's microchip industry. Lumir Svoboda left Czechoslovakia in 1968 and settled in Australia. Today, he is "senior technology engineer" at the AWA Microelectronics, Ltd. The articles in this new magazine feature Australia, New Zealand, nearby islands, and what those "down-under" folks are doing such as flying balloons over the Himalaya Mts. -- highest altitude ever reached by balloons, about the birds, with gorgeous colored pictures and small maps to show the location of the places. Other articles tell of searching for the treasure on ships sunken off the coasts as far back as the 1600's... and about the "Out-back", Newcastle coal mines and steel mills, power plants, trek to the South Pole, and thousands of penguins on Macquarie Is. You should see the picture of the "Tasman Tiger" (extinct?) said to be the "largest carnivorous marsupial" in recent times. It has a wolf-like face and jaw, stripes on its back from its neck to part way on the tail with the stripes longest on the rump. The tail looks like that of the kangaroo! Curiously enough, the creature is a marsupial, like the opossum, koala, kangaroo -- with the pouch for its young. mms

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HONOR VUK STEFANOVIĆ KARADŽIĆ on the 250th anniversary of his birth, the "great Serbian ethnographer, linguist, and collector of oral narrative tradition". Six scholars from Zagreb, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Novi Sad, and Ljubljana along with six from Cleveland State, Kansas, Missouri, San Francisco, Harvard, and Utah will participate in the International Symposium on March 21-25, 1987, at the University of Missouri at Columbia, Mo. No fees to attend. For room reservations and program write to John Miles Foley, Center for Studies in Oral Tradition, Dept. of English, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO., 65211 (1-314-882-6066). Reduced room rate is \$41 for single and \$48 for double occupancy. Columbia is west of St. Louis and east of Kansas City on Int. 70. Flights, from local airport to St. Louis and Kansas City, are available.

ROBOT NAMED KAREL. College Professor Mark Fishman teaches computer science at a college in St. Petersburg, Fla. He named the robot he invented KAREL in honor of our famous author, Karel Čapek. The word first appeared in 1921 in Čapek's play R.U.R. The characters are mechanical slaves. (It is said that Japan's industries have more robots than any other country). ROBOT is one of the few words taken directly from Czech. Look up the word in your dictionary. Item sent from St. Petersburg by Eleanor Pohorsky Elkington.

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SWALLOWS on St. JOSEPH'S DAY is about the date they arrive from the southern lands at the Mission at San Juan Capistrano, California. At the time, the city sponsors a "Fiesta de las Golondrinas-Festival of the Swallows". For two weeks the community of Orange County recreates the history of its past with booths, exhibits, a parade, 10 km. race and entertainment.



from HORIZON, The Magazine of the Arts, p. 61, issue of Jan. - Feb., 1987.

Notice the square tail "w" for white, "r" for rusty red, black for wings and back except for the dots which are "w". The bird is some 5 to 6 inches in length. Report of seeing the bird was in 1772 at Hudson Bay. In 1815 Audubon saw the bird in Kentucky. Overall, they range from southern Alaska, western Canada, most of United States except the S. E. states and on into Mexico. mms

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- Answer to Riddles on page 6.
1. clock
  2. Mushroom
  3. ditch
  4. other leg is lifted
  5. between the days is a night
  6. place filled sack inside the empty sack



### SLEPIČKA a KOHOUTEK

Byla jedna slepička, a ta dobala zrníčka  
Vykutala hnízdečko a snesla tam vajíčko  
a křičela "Kokokodák".

A kohoutek odpověděl, "Kykyryhý!  
Šel bych se podívat, nemám kdy."

### The HEN and ROOSTER

Once there was a little hen who pecked  
the grain. She scratched out a nest and  
laid a little egg and yelled "Kokokodák".  
A rooster replied "Kykyryhý" I'd come  
look, but I haven't time."

PUBLICATION COSTS continue to increase, but for the present, the 1986 prices will remain. In the meantime, we have absorbed the costs and kept the prices at a minimum. It is likely an increase in prices of our publications will be necessary on later printings.

### HERITAGE BANNERS were unveiled at

the Annual Meeting of the Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations in January 1987. These colorful banners will be seen in parades, on the flats and at festivals. The white (or gold) lion on red background is for Čechy; the white cross on red background with mountains upholding the double cross; for Slovensko; the checkered eagle on a blue background is Morava.



### IMPORTANT NOTICE

### PLEASE READ AT ONCE

IF you have PAID the annual dues of \$3.00 per person for 1987, you have received your membership card. If you have NOT PAID, then this will be the LAST ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER.

Sorry and note, we do not send statements. That is costly. We welcome your renewal of membership at this time and please make out the check to Czech Heritage Fdn., mail to P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA. 52406

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ new \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Donations and Gift memberships are always welcome! Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Gift memberships are acknowledged with a special card sent to the person. The newsletter went to press Feb. 17 so if you mailed your dues in the meantime, you will receive your membership card soon. Thank you.

Na shledanou! "Till we meet again"

MORAVIAN BRETHREN. The beginning of this group was in the 1400's who were followers of Jan Hus. Komenský (1592-1617) was the last Bishop of the Moravian Church in the Province of Bohemia. This church had followers throughout Bohemia and Moravia. At the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire under the Hapsburgs, the official State Church was the Roman Catholic. Some of the Brethren moved to Germany. It might be noted that German was the official language in the Austrian Provinces and Hungarian in others which Slovakia was one. By 1741 some German Brethren moved to Pennsylvania where today they remain prominent in the cities of Bethlehem, Nazareth and Lititz.

In 1766, Moravian Brethren settled in Old Salem, N.C. In 1948, some of the citizens realized that the Moravian culture and heritage were fast losing their identity. Over \$12,500,000 has been raised by donations! Some 130 year old buildings have been acquired, some renovated, residents occupy some houses, museums have different kinds of artifacts and collections. One visualizes Old Salem as almost a Williamsburg, Virginia!

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SEEKING A CZECH QUEEN. A new and special feature at the Wilber, Nebraska, CZECH FESTIVAL, August 1-2, will be the crowning of a Miss American Czech Queen! One per state is planned. The event takes place at 7 p.m. Sunday.

**CZECH HERITAGE FDN.**  
 P O Box 761  
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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