

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

Vol. 15 - No. 2
June 1990

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



VÍTÁME VÁS - GREETINGS

Half the year will be gone and we will be heading for the relaxing part of our year. Up to now there have been a lot of activities to keep us busy. A little relaxation will be welcome.

Houby Days on May 18-20 was a success with the rainy weather not dampening our spirits too much.

The Czech Heritage Foundation served breakfast as it has for the last two years. Thanks to your wonderful cooperation the work went well and was always under control. It took about twenty people for each three hour shift, so about eighty people worked together to supply a wonderful breakfast.

In addition to the breakfast we had the booth on the Avenue where we sold our publications. All in all a pretty fine weekend.

The Ethnic Fest at the Riverside Roundhouse came the following weekend in May. We sold pork patties, klobasy with kraut, coffee and kolaches, and pastry plates.

Thanks to your thoughtful donations of baked goods and willingness to volunteer to work the event, we had another successful Ethnic Fest.

Next we shall have our annual picnic at the Z.C.B.J. Park in August. Also, we may enter the local parades with our decorated float.

Mae and I wish to thank you all for your cooperation. Even if you can't help us with our projects we are thankful for your support. By being members of the finest Czech organization, you are supporting us!

Having over twelve hundred members is really saying something!

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon, and 'till then - take care.

FWN

CALENDAR

1990

KALENDÁŘ

JULY

13 Fri. CZECH SCHOOL ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Wilson Elementary 7:00 p.m.

AUGUST

14 Tues. CZECH HERITAGE ANNUAL PICNIC
Z.C.B.J. Park 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

8 Sat. HERITAGE DAY ON THE AVENUE
Czech Village (page 5)

OCTOBER

3 Wed. CONVERSATIONAL CZECH CLASS
7 - 9 p.m. (page 9)

Details in HOMESTAY PROGRAM
Sept. issue AMBASSADORS REPORT

DECEMBER

1 Sat. SV. MIKULÁŠ DAY
Czech Museum

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MAIL, MAIL, & MORE MAIL

Ever since Czechoslovakia's newfound freedom, letters have arrived daily from members and non-members alike, asking a multitude of questions. Some of the items we have been able to attend to, others, we have not.

The more difficult inquiries range from grant and scholarship requests for travel to the U.S. by Czech citizens, to advertisement submissions from Czech entrepreneurs who are now enjoying one of the luxuries of capitalism - the ability to freely create and disseminate "junk mail."

We apologize for the delay in

cont.

answering our mail. Normally we are able to handle the volume, either answering it ourselves or passing it on to a sister organization better suited to handle the matter. Lately however, we find ourselves in a quandary. There are several more requests than usual, and find they are much more difficult to answer. We wish we could fulfill every writer's desire, but cannot. More sorrowfully we are unable as well to find anyone that can.

Fortunately, there are times when we can help. Below are the names of individuals who wish to correspond with Americans of Czech descent. Your letters should be in English and are most welcome -

Hana Rimsova is a teacher and her husband a technical engineer. She has two children, ages fifteen and eleven. She learned to speak English many years ago and hasn't had much opportunity to use the language since 1968 when she did some interpreting. Hana would like to find someone to correspond with in the United States. Write: ing. Hana Rimsova,

Another teacher that lives in České Budějovice seeks a penpal: Věra Regulová,

Gabriela is a first year medical student who may visit Iowa in the summer of '91, and also is seeking a penpal to sharpen her English: Miss Gabriela Kartáková.

One young man writes- Dear Czech Heritage Fdn., My name is David Novak. I am from Czechoslovakia.

I want to ask you to make possible me correspond with American boy.

I'm eighteen, I live at Morava in Brno. I study 4th class of grammar school. I have learnt English for 4 years. I'm member of Czechbrothers Evengelical Church. I'm keen on music and computers. David Novak, nam.

One letter of special interest comes from Mrs. Dorothy Schaefer.

Excerpted below, she writes-

Dear Friends, I was until recently the Exec. Sec. of the North American Lily Soc., a large organization with members in many overseas countries. As a part of my work I had many contacts with our overseas members and have continued those contacts...

One of my contacts is with Miroslav Novotny of Czechoslovakia whom I sponsor as a member of the society. We correspond frequently, I send him plant material, literature, and other things to make life a little more interesting for him.

Now that Czechoslovakia has decided to be a democratic nation, Mr. Novotny, as well as many others of my acquaintances, find themselves with freedoms they have not enjoyed ever before in their lifetimes and some of their dreams stand a chance of being fulfilled. One of Mr. Novotny's dreams was for his daughter to travel outside their native land, learn the English language and see what the outside world is like.

His daughter, Jana, is twenty-six years old and her occupation is teaching piano to beginning students in a school. She knows some English and at present is studying diligently to learn more.

Mr. Novotny says she is an excellent cook and housekeeper and could work at those jobs as well as teach piano. She would like to come for perhaps a year and then return home. She is able to buy her own round trip ticket to our coast and I personally would be willing to pay her transportation the rest of the way and to help her financially while she is here if her earnings are inadequate to provide all her needs.

I had thought Jana would enjoy her stay so much more if she were with people who are acquainted with her country and her language. I understand that there are a number of people of Czech descent in and around Cedar Rapids.

If one of your member's family would be in a position to provide a home for Jana I'm sure it would prove to be a mutually rewarding experience.

Interested parties may write to me at [redacted] or call [redacted].



Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

10 - 16TH
 AVENUE S.W.
 CEDAR RAPIDS,
 IOWA 52404
 (319)362-8500

CEDAR RAPIDS' SECRET

The best-kept secret in Cedar Rapids is the Czech Museum, located at 10 - 16th Ave. S.W.

The museum got its start in 1978 in an old house on C Street S.W. It soon outgrew the four rooms, and a new building was needed.

A cement structure on the west bank of the Cedar River, near the Bridge of the Lions, was vacant. It could house the museum, but much work was needed. Volunteers from the Czech Fine Arts and Czech Heritage Foundations pitched in to remove the rubbish left by the previous tenant.

The old adage, "many hands make light work," is partially true. Many, many hands worked long and hard for several months to ready the building for safely housing the artifacts. It was a labor of love! Many new friendships were made and have lasted these last ten years.

If you were to tour the museum, you would see one of the largest collections of Czech costumes in the United States, the largest in the Midwest. There are forty Kroje from various areas of Czechoslovakia on display. The rarest one is made of fish scales.

It was owned by a fisherman's wife, and brought to the United States by a soldier who was returning home from World War II. It was given to the soldier to "take to America." The Germans were taking everything of value, so he brought back all he could carry.

Also on display is a Czech bible, printed in the 17th century, ruby glass, garnets, cut glass, painted eggs and porcelain, handmade laces and

embroidery, Czech dolls and numerous other articles.

The museum is supported entirely by donations, admissions, a radiothon, moneymaking projects, and the sale of Czech publications. Also sold are Czech Christmas tree ornaments and small items, like a feather pastry brush.

The Czech culture embraces art, literature and music. By nature, the Czech people are self-reliant, law-abiding and hard-working. A tour of this museum gives a glimpse of the Czech culture and of its people.

M. Krejci

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SUCCESSFUL RADIOTHON

A big "THANK YOU" for everyone who participated in this year's Radiothon June 17th at Sokol Park. The Czech Museum has donations still coming in. Your pledges are vital to the operation of the museum and most welcome!

Hope to see you soon. Our hours 'till November 15th are:
 Tuesday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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CULTURAL HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP

Mary Hudecek of Protivin, Iowa, is the recipient of the first Iowa Cultural Heritage Fellowship.

The \$1,000 award, given by the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Dept. of Cultural Affairs, recognizes Hudecek as Iowa's outstanding folk artist in 1989.

She has been a master artist in the Iowa Arts Council's Folk Arts Apprenticeship program since 1985.

Through her participation, she has passed on the skill of Czechoslovak Hardanger embroidery to three apprentices: Kathy Kuennen of Waucoma, Kim Soukup of Ridgeway, and Celestine Kriz of Cedar Rapids.

Cedar Rapids Gazette 6-3-90

FROM "A MEMORIAL ADDRESS - TOMÁŠ GARRIGUE MASARYK, APOSTLE OF DEMOCRACY"

October 7, 1937, at the Unitarian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Masaryk was born in 1850 in the Province of Bohemia. He became President of Czechoslovakia at the end of WWI and was elected three times to that office. He resigned in 1935 because of age and ill health.

Reprinted below are his observations on The United States -

Masaryk on America

It was my fourth visit to America. The first was when I followed Miss Garrigue in 1878; and I had been twice to lecture, in 1902 and 1907. So I have seen America grow from her pioneer days. Yes, I like America. Not that I like the countryside—our own is prettier. The American countryside is—how shall I put it?—it's like American fruit; it always seems to me that their fruit is somehow more bitter than ours, and that ours is sweeter and mellower to the taste. To the American farmer, equipped with machines, the soil is a factory, not an object of love as it is to our people.

What I like about America is the frankness of the people. Of course there are good and bad folk there, just as there are with us; but they are more frank about it. Your American racketeer is completely ruthless; he is frankly a plunderer without any ceremony; he does not screen himself behind moral or patriotic pretexts. The good ones are equally energetic on behalf of all they consider good, whether it be a humanitarian, religious, or cultural issue. They are more enterprisingly good than we. There is a pioneering element about it which is in keeping with their untamed soil.

The speed and scale of their industry does not surprise me. Since they have to supply goods to a hundred million of their people they have had to accustom themselves to producing on a large scale; it is the result of their vast dimensions. As for their capitalism, I don't see that it differs from ours: they have their millionaires in dollars as we have them in crowns; it is only that the scale is larger. People talk of the race for dollars, as if we were any better than they in that. Of course the difference is that in Europe the race is more for farthings than for dollars, and that we run it in a shamefaced way, as though we were cadging for a tip. In this respect Europe is less reckless but dirtier.

As for America being machine-ridden, machines have a good side as well as a bad, so have rationalization and things of that sort. If machines can take the place of man in rough and exhausting work, that is all to the good. One should think more of that and less of financial gain. The speed of American work was strange to me; I myself need what you might call a free margin, in any work I do, so that I can think the thing out in an orderly way. A Czech workman may be less quick, but he works well and accurately; quality ranks with us before quantity. The Americans have more respect for physical labor than we. Your American student goes harvesting in his vacation or works as a waiter; with us intellectual and especially academic culture is almost overrated. But in comparison with our people, the American workman is freer and has more elbow-room; if he is smart he will have his own Ford car and bungalow; on the other hand, there is no Socialism in our sense of the word.

The fact that so-called Americanism is invading Europe does not matter. We have been "Europeanizing" America for several centuries, and they have the right to do the same. We become Americanized, but don't forget that America is getting more and more Europeanized. I have read that two million Americans come to Europe every year; if Europe has anything of value for their life, they take it back with them. When you read the most recent American authors you see how severely they judge the mistakes and platitudes of American life—I only wish our Czech authors were as frank about our mistakes! In future America and Europe must balance and compensate each other. In short, America furnished me with ample food for observation and study; I learnt there much, very much, of value.

ON HIS ACHIEVEMENT

You ask me what I consider as the culminating point of my life; I would say my election to the presidency and the fact that I am able to shoulder this burden as a great honor and an equally solemn duty. My personal satisfaction, if I may call it so, lies deeper; for as the head of the State I relinquish nothing that I believed in and loved as a penniless student, a carping critic, a reforming politician; occupying a position of power, I do not seek for myself any other moral law or relationship to my fellow men, to the nation, and the world than those which guided me before. I may say that office confirms and completes everything that I have believed, so that I have not needed to change one item of my faith in humanity and in democracy, in the search for truth, nor in the supreme moral and religious command to love men. I can still affirm from experience which I am continually acquiring that the same moral and ethical rule applies to the State, and those who administer it, as to the individual. This does not spring from satisfaction that through all my life, with its strange vicissitudes and changes, I have remained myself: it is more important that the human and social ideals which I confessed have endured and become acknowledged through all those trials. I can tell myself that in that incessant struggle for a better nation and people I was on the right side. That conviction is enough to make a man's life beautiful and happy.

Czech Village

Cedar Rapids, Iowa



SPECIAL SATURDAYS ON THE AVENUE

In an effort to increase activity on the Avenue the Czech Village Association is going to sponsor a series of special Saturday events.

July 21st - Merchant Sidewalk Sale
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A variety of items will be available, including specialty food booths. Live music at the bandstand.

August 11th - Ice Cream Social
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Plenty of your favorite Czech pastries, pies, and cakes. Live music at the bandstand. Join in the fun! All cake and pie donations gratefully accepted. Contact Elaine Brejcha at _____.

September 8th - Heritage Day
The tradition of the fall festival continues. For sixteen years the Czech Village Festival has been celebrated on the weekend following Labor Day. This year marks the seventeenth that the Avenue will come alive with music, food, and fun! The event has been shortened to one day, but watch for your favorite events non-the-less. There will be the crowning of the Czech Prince and Princess, the Pageant of Czech Costumes, and more.

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BANDSTAND RENOVATION

The local Carpenter's Union #308 is repairing the bandstand on the Avenue this summer free of charge. This will be just one of many community service projects that the local union will participate in.

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THIS WILL BE THE LAST ISSUE of Naše České Dědictví you will receive if dues for 1990 are not paid.

THE KAREL ČAPEK CENTENNIAL

In celebration of the centennial of Karel Čapek's birth, Garrigue Books is publishing three volumes of his best works, mostly in new English translations (Publication Date: March 15, 1990). We expect this publication to revive interest in Čapek's writings, which have almost been forgotten in the United States, with the exception of *R.U.R.* and *War with the Newts*. We think the books will also be of interest to those familiar with the originals, because they provide an opportunity to introduce Čapek to one's English-speaking friends and family.

The Books: *Toward the Radical Center: A Karel Čapek Reader* (cloth, \$23.95; paper, \$12.95, 418 pp.), edited by Peter Kussi, with a foreword by Arthur Miller, is a collection of Čapek's best plays, stories, *fejetony*, and drawings, including the first complete and correct translation of one of the most anthologized plays of the century, *R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)* (1920; the anthologized one is an adaptation), as well as new translations of *Věc Makropulos* and *Matka*, and Act II of *Ze Života hmyzu*. *War with the Newts* (paper, \$9.95, 240 pp.), in a new translation by Ewald Osers, is an anti-utopian satire that influenced English-speaking writers from Orwell to Vonnegut. And *Three Novels: Hordubal, Meteor, An Ordinary Life* (paper \$13.95, 480 pp.), translated by M. & R. Weatherall, is Čapek's trilogy of novels that share neither characters nor events, but rather approach the problem of knowing people—of mutual understanding—by means of various methods of storytelling. The title of the Reader comes from the way Čapek searched for the root, or radical center, of our contradictions and extremes, through a multiplicity of ideas and points of view. All three books are printed on acid-free paper. They can be ordered by mail (please add \$3 for shipping, no matter how many books are ordered) or by phone, or purchased at bookstores throughout the United States and Canada.

The Quotes:

God bless Catbird Press for calling the attention of Americans to a great writer of the past who speaks to the present in a voice brilliant, clear, honorable, blackly funny, and prophetic. —Kurt Vonnegut

It is time to read Čapek again for his insouciant laughter, and the anguish of human blindness that lies beneath it. . . . He is a joy to read—a wonderfully surprising teller of some fairly astonishing and unforgettable tales.

—Arthur Miller

As a story writer and essayist, Čapek belongs among authors of world stature.

—Josef Škvorecký

Imagine discovering the rich, warm humanity of a Dickens or a Gogol, and you have some idea of the impact of this selection from the work of Czechoslovakia's foremost twentieth-century writer.

—Booklist

The Publisher: Catbird Press, under its Garrigue Books imprint, is the only American trade publisher that specializes in Czech literature in translation. Our imprint is named in honor of the American who has been most deeply involved in Czechoslovak culture: Charlotte Garrigue Masaryk, Czechoslovakia's first first lady. Garrigue Books' first publication, in April 1989, was Vladimír Páral's novel *Catapult*, translated by William Harkins.

ANNUAL CZECH GOULASH DAY & BAZAAR

St. Wenceslaus Church in Cedar Rapids, located at 510 16th Ave. S.E., will hold their annual celebration this year on Sunday, September 16th. The celebration begins with the traditional Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. Plenty of good food will be served, featuring Czech goulash, maidrites, cakes, pies, kolaches... the list goes on. There will be bingo, games for adults and children, a resale shop, crafts, and an auction in the evening. Bring the entire family!

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CRIMINAL ACTS

As 73,000 Soviet troops and their dependents prepare to leave Czechoslovakia, they are taking with them nearly everything that isn't nailed to the ground and some things that are in the ground - 15,000-gallon oil tanks, for instance.

To help clean up the mess, the Czechoslovak government has called in Martech, U.S.A., an Anchorage-based firm that has helped clean up the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Jaroslav Vlcek, Czechoslovakias's deputy environment minister, says no one knows how much waste the Soviets have left behind at the 132 bases they maintained in Czechoslovakia... All that is known so far is that the Soviets have polluted 5,000 to 8,000 square miles of Czechoslovakia.

The Soviets have left more than just oil behind. "Our biggest fear is that in some areas they've buried expired ammunition, chemicals and chemical weapons, and they made no maps of where they've left it," says Vlcek.

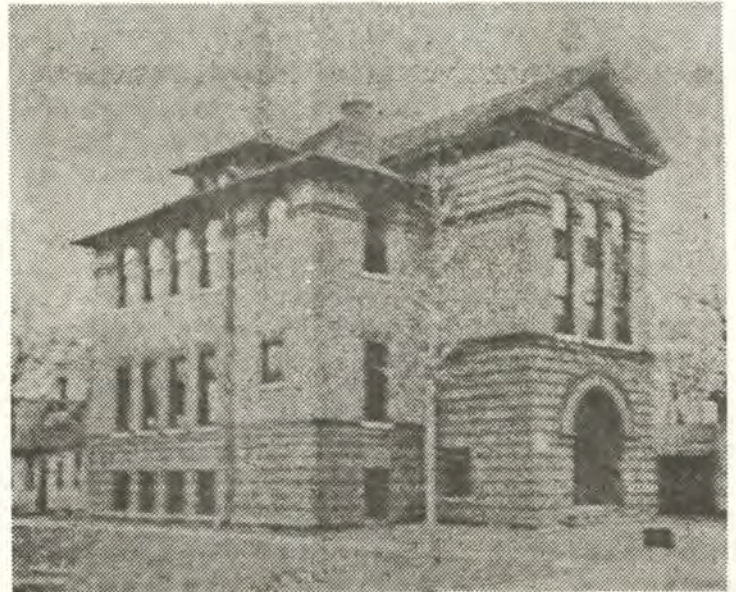
At a maintenance depot for tanks and armored personnel carriers in Frenstat, in northern Moravia, the Soviets emptied their 15,000-gallon fuel tanks onto the ground, then took the empty tanks home. Now, the ground water beneath the depot is covered with eight to ten inches of diesel oil, and the aquifer is so saturated with oil that when it rains local streams have an oil sheen on them.

Czechoslovaks and Soviets still have not decided who will pay for the cleanup.

Excerpted from U.S. News and World Report, May 28th, '90

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

Every year when the bell is rung on opening day of Czech School another milestone is reached. The tradition began again this year with the threshold of Wilson Elementary School in Cedar Rapids accepting teachers and students on June 11th. It is widely known that Czech School in Cedar Rapids has the distinction of being the oldest continually operated ethnic language institution in the United States. But why has Czech School survived all these years?



The Matice Skolska in Cedar Rapids was dedicated on January, 1, 1901, as the first building in the United States to be used exclusively for a Czech school.

It's not because of the location. While Wilson Elementary is a fine school and affords excellent accomodations, we must remember Czech School has been conducted at several locations in neighborhoods on both the east and west sides of Cedar Rapids over the years.

Maybe it's the Czech School Board, teachers, and students that are responsible; but then many have come and gone over the years. The Board has done fine job, and there's no doubt that the school bell has been passed to the right teachers since that first opening day in 1870. And the students- well you couldn't ask for a greater bunch of kids. The students of the past and present will be the board members and teachers of tommorrow. The same has held true for generations. Certainly no one individual can be given credit cont.

for the success of our Czech school in Cedar Rapids. How many generations are there in 120 years?

How then can the longevity of this institution be accounted for? In spite of all the changes from one location to another, and regardless of generations of board members, teachers and students, one thing remains constant. There is a single element which is as prevalent today as it was over a century ago - the love of our Czech heritage.

Our customs and traditions, history, and most importantly our



language are near and dear to us. The love of our Czech heritage is as strong today as it was in 1870. Many of us are fiercely proud of our ancestry, and show it. To as many others equally proud, it is something very private and personal, but non-the-less cherished.

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TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE

Thanks to the "Velvet Revolution" and Vaclav Havel's stirring speech to our congress in February being Czech is again fashionable. People the world over are finding out something we have all known for years. How many out there remember this saying? "There are two kinds of people on this earth. Those that are Czech, and those that wish they were."

REMEMBERING CZECH SCHOOL

After we had moved to Cedar Rapids in 1919, my mother, Marie A. Zivney, began teaching a Czech class. In the winter session there were two classes in the two large classrooms of the Czech School building. Mother taught what we may call the first grade and Mr. Fiala taught the second grade. The summer sessions of six weeks were also held there. The students attending the summer sessions were usually greater in number and necessitated using the classroom on the ground floor (actually the basement) for a third class.

For a while I may have been a member of mother's class, but I remember more clearly being in Mr. Fiala's class. Mr. Fiala was also a violin teacher and during the music hour he would accompany us on his violin as we sang. Sometimes both classes would gather in one classroom for singing together, especially if we were rehearsing for a program which would be presented in the auditorium on the upper floor. There would be the Christmas program and also one at the end of the winter-spring session. Individual students would memorize poems or prose pieces and present them with appropriate dramatic gestures. There would also be group singing and possibly a playlet. Many of the Czech School students in later years



Marie A. Zivney and class - 1923

appeared in plays presented by the Ochoťnické Družstvo.

Mr. Fiala soon retired and Mr. T.B. cont.

Hlubucek began teaching the upper class. When I began studying violin, my first violin lessons were with Mr. Fiala. After I began to be sufficiently proficient, my mother had me accompany her class on my violin. Later when I began teaching a Czech class, I continued to play the violin as accompaniment during the music hour.

As I mentioned, the students attended summer sessions in greater numbers than in the winter. At the urging of parents living in southwest Cedar Rapids to have classes held on their side of the river, arrangements were made to hold classes in the Hayes School during the summer. The first year this was done may be 1926, the date of the photograph below:



Marie A. Zivney and class - 1926

Article and class photos from 1923 and 1926 courtesy of author, Jaroslav Zivney. Mr. Zivney also sent other class photos from his mother's collection, along with photos depicting players from the Ochoťnické Družstvo (Volunteer Dramatic Society).

In our next Naše Čecké Dědictví we'll share these priceless photos taken of the cast of "Naše Anči Ráda Tančí", which was presented on September 30, 1928 at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

JAROSLAV E. ZIVNEY continued teaching Czech classes for several years until leaving Cedar Rapids in 1936 to study Czech at the University of Texas in Austin. Leaving the army after the war, he returned to Austin in 1946 to continue his studies and to teach

-8- Czech once again. Mr. Zivney received a Ph.D. in 1952 at the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1956 moved to Washington D.C. There he worked as a language specialist in the Foreign Documents Division of the Central Intelligence Agency. He has been retired for several years now and currently resides in Virginia.

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ENROLLMENT ON THE RISE!

Over fifty students are attending Czech School this summer in Cedar Rapids. More than half are attending for the first time. The increase in students is due in part to the growing awareness of our Czech heritage in this area brought on by the recent political events in Czechoslovakia. Another factor is the increased promotional activities by the Czech School Board.

The children will participate from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. each weekday until Friday, July, 13th, when they will share their songs and recitations at the Annual Ice Cream Social. Social tickets will be available from the students or call Edward Kuba at

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EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING

Our two Homestay Program Ambassadors have just left for their month-long stay in Czechoslovakia. Kristin Machacek, daughter of David and Marcia Machacek of Alburnett, Iowa and Todd Slezak, son of Wayne and Judith Slezak of Swisher, Iowa are the first ambassadors to enter a free Czechoslovakia. We wish them the best of luck in their journey and wait anxiously for their return. If you are interested in having a past ambassador speak at your next organization's get-together, or would like to hear about Kristin and Todd's homestay experience upon their return, please write to: Homestay Program Committee, P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

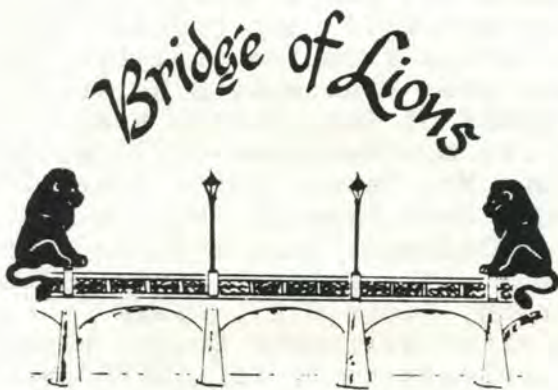
If you haven't sent in your membership dues for 1990, please do so immediately! Yearly membership runs from January 1st to December 31st.

CONVERSATIONAL CZECH language classes sponsored by the Czech Heritage Fdn. will resume in the fall on Wednesday, October 3rd. Some prior knowledge of the language is required. Olga Drahozal will be teaching the informal eight week course. For details contact her at . Call and register today, you'll be glad you did!

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ENGINEERING AWARD

Shive-Hattery of Cedar Rapids received an honorable mention award in the annual engineering excellence competition sponsored by the Consulting Engineers of Iowa. The local engineering firm was awarded the honor for their replacement design of the 16th Avenue Bridge (Bridge of the Lions).



On July 15th of last year Cedar Rapids area residents dedicated the new "Bridge of the Lions" in style. Well over two thousand were on hand for the ribbon-cutting and program that followed. Record numbers enjoyed the parade in the afternoon and dance that evening.

Buttons and t-shirts commemorating the event are still available, but in limited supply. Stop in at J.V. Truck Shine, 1223 3rd St. S.E. to buy your souvineer items at **DRASTICALLY REDUCED PRICES.**

While we're on the subject of the bridge - It was only fitting that the mascot for the new structure, protecting the approaches right and left, be the lion. The strong and powerful big cat for centuries has represented Czechoslovakia well. The eight stately lions which adorn the bridge not only serve as guardians, but also as a reminder to all that the

-9- Czech people, like the lion, are strong and powerful. No other creature in the animal kingdom could have even come close for use as a mascot.

There was one possible alternative that came to mind, however. No, not the stallion, nor a falcon, but a fish. Not just any fish mind you. When I mentioned this to Chuck Jungman,, he said he'd see what he could do...



MOST...SHEŠNAČT ULICE.

PHOTO SESSION- PAN SRACHKEY'S ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE.

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"SORRY I'M LATE!"

Due to unavoidable delays this issue of our newsletter didn't get sent out until the last week in June. Because we utilize Third Class Presort some of our out-of-town members will receive their copies late. I apologize for any inconvenience this has created.

IT'S ALL SYSTEMS GO

At the June Czech Heritage Foundation board meeting the directors voted to pledge \$7,500. to get the foundation's newest project off the ground. A Czechoslovak Archives and Cultural Center has been in demand for some time in Cedar Rapids, and now will soon become a reality.

The facility will serve several functions but its foremost purpose will be to help our foundation educate the public, both Czechs and non-Czechs, while preserving our Czech heritage and cultural history. The Czechs, not only in Eastern Iowa but everywhere, have a tremendous image problem. The problem is- WE DON'T HAVE AN IMAGE. We are all very proud of our Czech heritage and of the accomplishments that the Czechs in our area and throughout the world have made. So why not share the knowledge of these accomplishments with others. How many would be surprised to find out that the concept of kindergarten was first developed by a Czech?; or that two of our nation's first astronauts share our slavic ancestry? Czech doctors, lawyers, artists, scientists, businessmen and women, educators, and politicians have made important contributions worldwide. Here in the midwest the Czech farmers have kept our nation and the world from hunger.

The Czechs have been in this part of Iowa for over one hundred and thirty years. Our forefathers made this area what it is today, ("Cedar Rapids is one of the ten best cities in the U.S. in which to live", according to March, 1990 issue of PARENTING MAGAZINE) and yet there are still many in our area who have little or no knowledge of what we are or who we are. To make matters worse, there are generations of Cedar Rapidians who are of Czech descent and don't even know it! Several are vaguely aware of their origin but have little or no knowledge of Czech culture and tradition. We still have time to reverse this tragedy, but it will take a lot of hard work and committment.

The project is a massive one, and will take several months of planning and developement. Features will include:

- *Special genealogy section with translating services.
- *Exhibits ranging from famous Czechs

in history to photo essays of current events.

- *Extensive materials in English, including translated works of Czech authors.
- *Provide a clearinghouse for information and inquiries.
- *Music and audio visual library.

The Archives and Cultural Center will reflect the pride which we have in our Czech ancestry and create an image that will both promote and preserve our Czech heritage for generations to come.

If you would like to help us with this project please contact: John Rocarek, Committee Chairman,

KOMENSKY SOCIETY AWARDS SIX SCHOLARSHIPS

President Robert J. Stone has announced the names of six high school seniors who will each receive \$400. scholarships from the society. The winners are: Vlastenky Scholarship to Kari Mysak of Springville H.S. attending Northwestern College; Beth Carlson, Mt. Vernon H.S., Central College; Jeff Pisarik, Marion H.S., Central College; Lori Popelar, North Linn H.S., Mt. Mercy College; Timothy Semelroth, Regis H.S., Drake University; Elizabeth Sharp, Kennedy H.S., University of Northern Iowa.

The purpose of the Komensky Society is to provide aid for the education of students of Czechoslovak ancestry. To be eligible students must graduate from a high school in Linn County, Iowa and attend a college, university or other approved school in the state of Iowa.

WHERE THE SKY STAYS DARK

Only now, as democratic revolutions take hold, is the full extent of Eastern Europe's stunning ecological disaster emerging. Flying over Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany on an otherwise clear day, one can see whole valleys enveloped in a heavy blue haze from the belching smokestacks that disfigure the landscape. Littered across the East bloc, obsolete and unsafe nuclear reactors are decaying, each threatening a reprise of the 1986 Chernobyl accident. The Danube River
cont.

and Baltic Sea are deadly sumps. Many lakes and streams are fishless, forests are dying, and blackened cities are decorated with pollution-eroded sculpture.

The pervasive grime does more than degrade the quality of life; it cripples and shortens the lives of human beings... Children in northern Bohemia, the heart of Czechoslovakia's industrial region, are taken out of the area for up to a month each year as a health measure.

In the triangle comprising southern Poland and northern Czechoslovakia, which is covered by a permanent cloud of emissions from factories and power plants, residents complain that the air is so bad that washed clothes turn dirty before they can dry on the line.

Smoke from burning coal and car exhausts contains carbon monoxide, a host of carcinogens and sulfur dioxide, which helps form the acid rain that is withering Europe's once lush forests... Pine forests along the Czechoslovak-East German border have been defoliated by acid rain. Some 32,400 hectares (80,000 acres) of Czechoslovakia's forest have been lost and 50% of its drinking water tainted. Excerpted from TIME, May 28, 1990

NO LONGER LAME DUCK

Vaclav Havel's Civic Forum and its sister political party in Slovakia, Public Against Violence, won the vast majority of seats in the Federal Assembly in free elections held earlier this month.

Havel and his band of revolutionaries now have the monumental task of rebuilding Czechoslovakia from the bottom up. Certainly not an easy proposition considering the years of economic stagnation the country has suffered.

Civic Forum, leaving most of its key ministers in place from the present government, is likely to bid for a coalition with the Christian Democrats in order to form as broad-based a government as possible. Such a move, Civic Forum's leaders believe, will be needed in order to pass into law the economic reforms so desperately needed for the vital reconstruction of their fledgling country.

The most surprising thing about the recent election in Czechoslovakia wasn't that the Civic Forum Party gathered the most votes, that was to

11- be expected. But when it was reported that 96% of the country's registered voters went to the polls, people stood up and took notice. When was the last time that many voters turned-out here in the U.S.? My guess would be approximately two hundred years ago.



AP photo

Czechs wearing U.S. Army uniforms ride in replicas of World War II military vehicles during a celebration of the liberation of Pilsen by American troops.

Czechs mark liberation by U.S. troops

PILSEN, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Thousands of Czechs joined U.S. veterans Saturday for a sun-kissed streetfest in the first celebration ever of the liberation of this beer-brewing city by American troops in World War II.

Pubs were turned into imitations of Wild West saloons, and youths with American Army paraphernalia rode the streets on vintage Harley-Davidson motorcycles inherited from their parents.

Up to 150,000 visitors were expected to descend on Pilsen, a city of 130,000, today, when President Vaclav Havel and U.S. Ambassador Shirley Temple Black were to preside over the close of the two-day celebration.

Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army liberated Pilsen on May 6, 1945.

By agreement with the Soviets, American troops came to a halt at a demarcation line cutting southwest through Czech territory, leaving the Red Army to conquer the Czechoslovak capital of Prague.

"Boy, everybody wanted to go on to Prague and get it over with," said Cpl. Ross Johnston, 75, an attorney from Zanesville, Ohio. "But we had to stop here, wait for two weeks and then we were pulled out."

The Communists barred any commemoration of the U.S. liberation of about 3,600 miles of Czechoslovak territory and marked May 5 as a day of liberation by Soviet troops.

Six months after Czechoslovakia's peaceful revolution in December, however, the atmosphere in this grim industrial city had changed remarkably.

American flags adorned the former bastions of Communist officials, and scores of U.S. veterans were in town for the celebration.

Tens of thousands of people turned out Saturday morning to see the ceremonial inauguration of a monument to the 2nd Infantry Division on Pilsen's downtown Republic Square.

Those who lived long enough to see the return of Patton's men still remember the postwar atmosphere.

"It felt so right that our town was freed from the Nazis by a western army," Frantisek Kotva, a pensioner, mused over a mug of the city's famous beer.

"We all loved the GIs, but then we had to forget about them for a long time," he said, alluding to the four decades of Communist suppression that followed.

Reprinted with permission by the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Sunday, 5/6/90

PRAGUE REBORN

Twelve pages of Prague's history, culture, and offerings grace the May 1990 issue of TRAVEL HOLIDAY magazine.

The article written by Pete Hamill with photos courtesy of Antonin Kratochvil is a "must read" for anyone planning a trip to this beautiful city.

HISTORY OF THE CZECHS IN CEDAR RAPIDS

* Vol. I, on pages 88 & 89 tells us of the annual bazaars that were held to aid our Czech brothers and sisters back home during WWI -

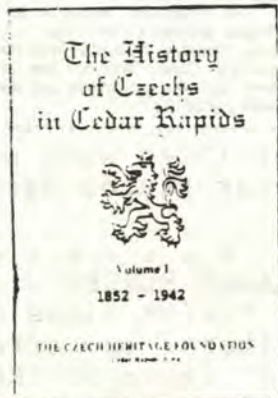
"At the same time that the Vcelky was at work, the Bohemian National Alliance was active in securing contributions for the Czech war fund. The chief source of revenue was the bazaars which were held in Cedar Rapids, as in other cities with a Czech population, during the fall of 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1918. All of the Czech organizations of the city, both Catholic and Protestant, participated in these bazaars which were held in the C.S.P.S. Hall. In 1915 the profits were \$2,392.50, in 1916 they were \$1,257.55, and in 1917, \$10,800. The amount of money raised at the 1917 bazaar was exceeded only by the amounts raised at the Czech bazaars in Chicago and New York."

"Each Sunday during the months of September and October, 1918, from twenty to forty cars of workers, known as The Flying Squadron, solicited goods and money in Cedar Rapids and the surrounding area. Contributions included such things as a wagonload of corn, live pigs, geese, chickens, cows, rabbits, vegetables, a bicycle, a colt, two forty acres tracts of land, and a piece of real estate in Cedar Rapids. Perishables were sold at once and other products were stored until the week of the bazaar. It was planned for the last week in October but, due to the influenza epidemic, it was postponed until Thanksgiving week."

"In the meantime, the liberation of

* * * * *

* The History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids, Vol. I 1852-1942 is a chronicle in English of persons, places, organizations and events. Complete with over 200 footnotes. By Martha Griffith. Red cover, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", 96 pages. It's interesting reading and can be yours for \$3.50 by writing to: Elmer Netolicky,



Czechoslovakia and the signing of the armistice added new zest to the occasion which lasted seven days. Czech bands and orchestras played every day. Everything imaginable was sold at booths and at one end of the hall were two paddle wheels where potatoes, livestock, live fowl, and rabbits were raffled off. Chances on the real estate were sold at one dollar a chance. On the evening preceeding Thanksgiving Day, a dinner was served with jitrnici as a special treat. Goods not sold at the bazaar were afterwards disposed of from a store on Sixteenth Avenue. The bazaar of 1918 netted \$30,200."

Plans are underway for "Bazaar 1990." The Federation of Czech Groups are considering a bazaar in October, with the proceeds going toward the reconstruction effort in Czechoslovakia. Let's show them our support!

The "Celebration of Czech Freedom" held on March 25th in Cedar Rapids was a huge success. Over \$2,000 was collected and forwarded to the Czechoslovak National Council of America in Chicago.

* * * * *

THE CNCA has established a relief fund for the specific purpose of helping our fellow countrymen in the areas of health, education, welfare, and communication.

HEALTH - There is a critical shortage of prescription drugs, medical supplies and equipment.

EDUCATION - Books and materials are in demand to teach the Czechs how to operate a free market economy, and live in one successfully.

The only history books on the shelves currently are those which preach the Communist Doctrine, which are full of Marxist propaganda and lies.

WELFARE - Hundreds of political prisoners have been recently released and are trying to rebuild their lives. Their families suffered privation and are in great need. These brave individuals were never guilty of any crime. They were being held prisoners by a government which did not offer freedom of speech, freedom of religion, or freedom to live in a democratic society. When they spoke out in favor of these basic human rights they were incarcerated.

COMMUNICATION - This area may possibly be the most vital. To insure that Czechoslovakia remains an open and democratic society it is imperative that truthful information can be readily available to the public. For decades printing presses, copiers, fax machines, and computers were a restricted commodity. The schools and universities are in desperate need of these articles.

To contribute to the relief fund send your check to: "Americans for Czechoslovakia Fund" 2137 South Lombard Ave. Room 202, Cicero, IL 60650. The Czechoslovak National Council of America opened up the account with \$5,000 and have pledged an additional \$15,000 from their own treasury. Every dollar counts. Send your donation in today!

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

I've had the pleasure of being the editor of the Naše České Dědictví since June of 1987 when Melvina Svec retired from the position.

It has been a very rewarding experience and I have learned a great deal. I had never edited a newsletter before and had it not been for the superb training I received from Melvina, it would have been a real "trial by fire." Thanks to her, the learning process and transition went very smoothly.

As much as I enjoy editing the newsletter and the challenge it presents, it's time for me to move on to a different project. Chairing the Archives and Cultural Center committee will demand more and more attention as we proceed, and if I continue in both capacities I won't be able to do justice to either project.

If you are interested in editing the newsletter, or know of someone who might be, give me a call. I will gladly train my replacement and assist

Please check proper item: Renewal 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 carry on with projects, activities, and goals to preserve our heritage and culture. THANK YOU!

-13- them on upcoming issues. For more information call after 5:00 p.m.

John Rocarek

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Months of bickering between the Czechs and the Slovaks came to a close recently when Parliament approved a new version of Czechoslovakia's official name. The positive landslide vote eased the growing tensions which had threatened to further separate the two republics. The new name "Czech and Slovak Federative Republic," won out over Czecho-Slovak Republic, The Federation of Czecho-Slovakia, and even Czechoslovak Federative Republic.

The two groups had a difference of opinion when it came to whether or not the name of their new country should be hyphenated. Both groups however agreed that the word "Socialist" had to go!

Disfavor between the two ethnic groups have existed for years. This wasn't the first time that the hyphenation issue was brought up. More on this subject in the next issue of Naše České Dědictví.

16TH ANNUAL CZECH FOLK FEST

Traer, Iowa, July 20th & 21st. Free gate admission! Fun begins on 6:00 p.m. Friday and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. Polka bands, bingo, carnival, antique show, arts & crafts, concessions, fresh baked kolaches & more! Sponsored by the Traer Lions Club, 700 Elm St., Traer, IA 50675

'89 - '90 ?

Check the mailing label affixed to this issue. Is your name and address correct? If not please let us know. Above your name is a date. If your label reads 89, it's time for you to renew your membership for 1990.



PAN SROUBEK'S SECRET CARP SMOKING RECIPE!

Sokol gymnasts from Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota met in Cedar Rapids this year for their annual three day Slet. The Western District program on the 15th, 16th, and 17th of June consisted of competitions, award ceremonies, and a victory dance. Culminating the event was an exhibition at Regis High School. Group calisthenics, gymnastic routines, and performances by the Czech Heritage Singers, Czech Heritage Dancers, and the Czech Plus Band were featured.

Arlene Boddicker and Boddicker's Czech Showcase were also on hand and offered a very special performance.

SOKOL PARK DEDICATION RAINED OUT

On June 16th, nasty weather cancelled what promised to be a grand occasion. Heavy rain postponed the event at the site of the newly named park in Cedar Rapids. Sokol Park is a portion of the greenbelt area along the Cedar River, adjacent to the Czech Museum near the Riverside Roundhouse. Tentative plans are for the dedication to be held in September in conjunction with the Heritage Day Festival.

CZECH HERITAGE FDN.
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