

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

Vol. 6, No. 2. Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations
June 1981 P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.



CALENDAR

KALENDAR

- June 21 Father's Day, Seminole Park. Czech Heritage Band plays.
- July 2 Czech Summer School ice - cream social 5:30 at the Hus Memorial Church. School Program at 7 p.m.
- July 7 Youth Orchestra from Amsterdam, Netherlands, free concert at 7:30 p.m., St. Paul's Methodist Church, Cedar Rapids. One young member gives a brief talk in Czech.
- July 12. Seminole Valley Park - special events of pioneer era. See displays of various groups. Czech Heritage Fdn. will have a booth.
- July 17 Czech Days at Traer Festival
- Aug. 1-2 Wilber, Nebraska Czech Days.
- Aug. 20 ANNUAL PICNIC, Czech Heritage and Fine Arts, Fdns. ZCJB Park, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 11- the 8th Annual Czech Days on
12-13 16th Ave., SW, in Czech Village
- Oct. 2-3 Yukon, Okla. Czech Days

ANNUAL PICNIC for all members and prospective members :

Date: August 20th, Thursday

Place: ZCJB Park, down river on the the River Rd.

Time: 6 p.m.

Bring table service and your favorite pot-luck contribution to share with others. Meat and coffee furnished.

Come and enjoy the social hour before and after the dinner. See our new miniature travelling museum in the form of the EDUCATIONAL KIT PROJECT on display in the pavilion..

A VISIT with PRESIDENT NOVOTNY

Vitám Vás! Greetings! Much to our amazement, 1981 has gone by so quickly and in fact is half gone! It has been a rewarding time and Mae and I have enjoyed working with all of you members. Our project, the "Czech Heritage Educational Kit" is nearing completion. We have received the fund from the Board of Supervisors. The Czech Museum has been relocated in the new building through the untiring efforts of many of our members. It is a project of which we are proud.

Our participation in Houby Days in May was rewarding both financially and getting to know more people.

This year, the Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations had a booth at the Ethnic Fair. It was a new venture and was highly successful. As Chairman of the project, I wish thank all of the wonderful cooperation of the people that were contacted to help. In fact, more folks offered to help than was expected! Thanks, again, for such fine cooperation makes projects worth - while.

Several other events are on our agenda for the remainder of 1981. I urge you all to participate and make 1981 a memorable year.

Frank W. Novotny, President
Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.

In 1942, Martha Griffith published her tribute to her community with THE HISTORY OF CZECHS IN CEDAR RAPIDS 1852-1942. All agree the record must be brought up-to-date - mere 40 yrs. to cover. WHO will undertake the task? Let us hear from you. . . .



IRS INFORMATION. It may be of interest to you to know that after almost two years of correspondence and telephone calls with the Internal Revenue Dept. we have received a "determination" from them that Czech Heritage Foundation is now exempt from Federal Income Tax.

Donors may deduct their contributions to our organization in making out their income tax. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers or gifts to Czech Heritage Foundation are deductible for Federal Estate and Gift Tax purposes. C.E.K.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU. There is interest in gathering and developing more materials for future projects and publications. Some suggestion to date are:

- (1) Folk sayings and mottoes
- (2) Brief but informative "minute" biographies of famous Czechs - the artists, musicians, craftsmen, poets, historians, athletes, architects, and even nobility of the past.
- (3) Pursue the idea of a "LOGO" that was suggested some time ago. Surely, there are artists among us who can design a "trademark" for us.

Please send us your suggestions for possible projects as well as your comments on the above ideas. COME FORTH AND LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE !!

UNIT I. opens like a book, the pages coming out of a case. Displays show Czech stamps, puppets, types of architecture, stories from story books in both Czech and English, pictures of clocks at Spillville and a story of Dvorak's visit.

UNIT II. case that opens like a book with a display of dolls, china, glassware, beads, ceramic ware, and other typical Czech items. The display is a miniature museum.

UNIT III. the one case with objects that can be handled and examined: a puppet, old woman winter, books, Christmas stockings and contents, other items and a plastic case in which the angel, devil and Svatý Mikuláš can be seen.

UNIT IV. slides of a trip through Czechoslovakia showing cities, fields, crops, villages, crops, scenery, people, events etc.

Another set of slides show the special exhibit of Czechoslovak Glass, 1350-1980, which has been on loan to the Corning Glass Museum.

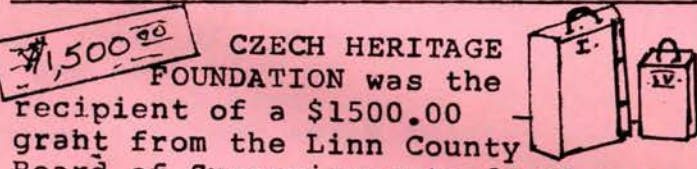
UNIT V. Music for piano and also a tape of band music for the folk dance, BESEDA - Sousedská, along with directions for the dance.

UNIT VI. Tapes of Czech Lessons, polka music, classical music, stories and other recordings.

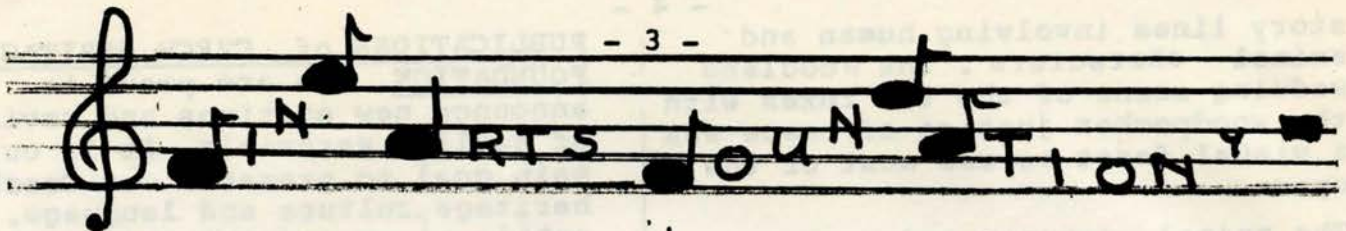
A GUIDE BOOKLET accompanies each Unit. The information in the guides should be read and studied before using the materials. This is an "educational-leading" project and so there might be more information than would be used for the group, for the situation, and purpose desired. So those who use the UNITS can be selective in choosing the materials.

Complete information regarding the UNITS or one UNIT will be available soon. Write us at our address: Czech Heritage Fdn., PO Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.

The Units will be on display at the Annual Picnic, August 20th at the Pavilion at ZCJB Park.

 CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION was the recipient of a \$1500.00 grant from the Linn County Board of Supervisors to develop a non-profit Historical Project. The Committee of nine has spent scores of hours on the project which is to be completed by June 30, 1981.

There are at present, SIX UNITS in the project called an EDUCATIONAL KIT ON CZECH HERITAGE. The UNITS will be available for use in Workshops, schools, groups. Also, some UNITS might be of interest to display at conventions, meetings and programs on Czech heritage, and studies about ethnic culture.



NEW MUSEUM NOW OCCUPIED! We have moved into the NEW Museum and had a formal opening on May 18th, Houby Days. The time has come for special "THANKS". We know it is so easy to unintentionally miss naming some of the people who helped, that we will make this general.

The first bouquet goes to those brave souls who started in October before the heat was installed. They cleaned, wired, hammered, sawed and eventually painted the interior of the Museum. These men and a few women worked without recompense, did a beautiful job. Our sincere "THANK YOU" goes to them. Our appreciation to the many merchants who donated materials or gave discounts. The florists "said it with flowers" and plants. Those who were movers, loaded and unloaded boxes, mannequins, shelving, more boxes and the furniture and then helped to unpack and arrange the displays. How could we have done without you all? Our "Many Thanks". . . Some worked until the wee hours to complete the tasks for the opening date.

A very special "THANKS" to Lester Sykora for the delicious bakery he provided for the April 26th showing. It gave the event the real Czech atmosphere!

The Museum could not function without the loyal support of our guides and the management of the "office".

At the new Museum, many convention groups have come to visit. In one month's time, 28 states have been represented and the countries of Canada, Australia, Czechoslovakia, France, Republic of Panama, and Egypt.

We were indeed honored to have Rudolf Firkušný, Czech pianist, find time to stop by. We know he enjoyed the exhibits and was even somewhat surprised to see so many authentic items. So, to the guides, * THANK

YOU VERY MUCH". We know you are doing a great job because the visitors tell us so,

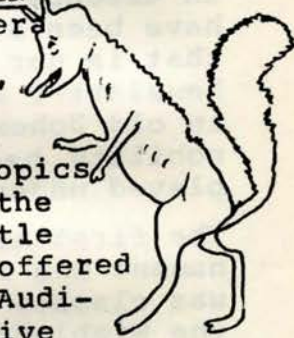
To Mor-America and Mr. Bill McCusker, we are especially grateful for his time given to us during their radio commercials on WMT. We reached thousands of people and were able to tell them about the Museum and Houby Days.

Since the opening, approximately 1500 visitors have come thru the doors. The combined efforts of the Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations, our dreams have come true. It is a wonderful feeling! !

Bob Schaffer, President
Czech Fine Arts Fdn.

THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN
Review of Janáček's Opera

A beautiful dragon fly, a cute frog, and the experience of a female fox were the unusual topics of conversation after the opera, "The Cunning Little Vixen". The opera was offered May land 3 at Hancher Auditorium to an appreciative audience which included people of Czech descent or interest from Cedar Rapids and surrounding area.



The opera, composed by Leoš Janáček, was first presented in Brno in 1924. The story of the opera is based on a novel which inspired a series of cartoons in a newspaper supplement in Czechoslovakia so the characters were quite familiar to the audiences who saw the opera in 1924. The original words were in the Lisen (Brno) dialect and the music captured its particular cadence as well.

The story of the opera is of a vixen cub, captured and kept by a forester. She escapes, meets a fox of her dreams, has a family, and is then killed by a poacher. Enhancing the opera are other

(continued on page 4)

story lines involving human and animal characters. The woodland wedding scene of the two foxes with the woodpecker justice of peace was a visual feast as was most of the opera.

The animal costumes and performances were extraordinary. To choose one favorite from amongst the realistic squirrels and rabbits, the shiny slow-moving beetle and drunken mosquito and others would have been impossible.

It was truly delightful to become acquainted with the work and background of Mr. Janáček and to have reaffirmed the knowledge that the Czechs are indeed talented people.

Fern Kaplan Fackler

SPORTS--More About Tennis ? In the present Wimbledon Tennis events, the Czech players are making their mark. Perhaps to some of us, tennis in Czechoslovakia might appear to have been a recent development ? But that is not so! Bob Kubik gave the Newsletter a write-up about tennis in old Bohemia. The courts of the nobility had tennis but it was played under different rules.

The first modern Czech tennis tournament was in 1878. Jaroslav Drobny was classed as a top player. He won the Wimbledon in 1973 at the age of 32! A Vera Sukova reached finals in 1962 in England.

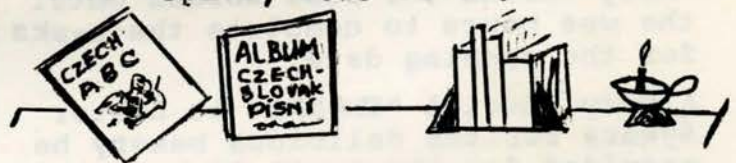
Most readers have read accounts of Czech tennis players on courts in Australia, France, United States and England and even Scotland. You most likely know or have seen Hana Mandlikova and/or Martina Navratilova, Ivan Lendl and Tomáš Šmíd. Players can keep 80% of earnings, 20% goes to the Czech government, and players are expected to give \$3000 to \$4000 to tennis federation, (unless they defect as did Navratilova). Reports tell that there are 650 tennis clubs in Czechoslovakia, 70,000 players. Regular tournaments are staged by the tennis federation for players of all ages and groups.

PUBLICATIONS of CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION. We are proud to announce new editions and revisions of earlier materials. It is our main goal to preserve our Czech heritage, culture and language. Our publications are doing just that.

Here is the list as of May 1981 :

- *MY CZECH WORD BOOK, ABC's , popular with young and others. Now in its 5th printing. Almost 8000 have met the approval of the public!
- *HISTORY OF CZECHS IN CEDAR RAPIDS, 1852-1942., 96 pages.
- *POST CARDS OF OLD CEDAR RAPIDS (8).
- *MEET THE ČECH LANGUAGE, in NATURE, HOME and in NATURE. Revised, enlarged, 40 pages; vocabulary lists and sheet of exercises.
- *ALBUM OF BOHEMIAN SONGS for PIANO, "Album Českých Písni pro Piano"; of 60 pages with 50 folk and patriotic songs of Čechs and Slovaks. All of the stanzas and complete musical score.
- * The CZECH BOOK (see page 6)

Prices and mailing costs upon request. Discount rates on quantity orders of 10 or more copies of one item. Write Czech Heritage Fdn., P.O.Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.



WANTED! WANTED! not a Jesse James or a Dalton Brother - but we need to locate some wood carvers who can make toys after the style of those from Czechy and Slovakia. We do know of two such craftsmen and we are sure that others must be in our part of Iowa. Let us hear from you and soon! Send information to our PO Box 761 Czech Heritage Fdn., Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52406.

There is a 500 at the INDY for cars but more than 500 visitors called at the new Museum during Houby Days. The count is always under the real number because many people do not register in our Guest Book.

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1981 CZECH VILLAGE FESTIVAL
 8th Annual SLAVNOST, Sept. 11-13
 OBŽINKY - HARVEST HOME
 Přijítí ! Všichni! Come! You All!

co-sponsored by Czech Village Association and Czech Heritage Foundation. Czech music, dancing, folk arts, customs, foods, with clowns, concessions, Midway rides, fun!



Contests will include the Czech Bake-Off, Rope Pull, Kolach-Eating, Carp Fishing, Skillet Throw. The Festival Beer Garden on Saturday and Sunday features the Folk Fest with the Jolly Bohemians, Czech Heritage Band, Frank Lundak and the Polka Windups, and Lyle Bever and the Brass

Always favorites are the Boddicker Czech Ethnic Musicians and Folk Dancers. Those young people performed in May of this year at Carnegie Hall, New York City! Also the local Beseda Dancers entertain in a series of authentic folk dances in their brilliant and beautiful costumes.

The Czech Heritage Parade is another big attraction with dozens of entries. Kolach breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday are served by the merchants. Street Antique Shows and Folk Arts and Crafts are always popular. The new Czech Museum at 10 - 16th Ave. SW. opened in May. The present display carries a special array of authentic costumes, glass, and hand carved and hand embroidered items and many other new displays.

HERE'S NEWS of CZECH VILLAGE

MAY is the month of festivals and tour groups to visit Czech Village. On May 1 State-wide LIONS CONVENTION brought 600 visitors in the Village for an evening of Czech food, music, and fun. The month closed with the Village involved in a regional convention of the ABWA, The American Business Women's Association. Other groups were Postmaster's Convention, school groups from Monmouth, C.R. Squaw Creek, Anamosa, Iowa City; 4H Club from Conroy, Farm Bureau group from Sharon.



Czech Village Association, Inc.
 59 16th Ave. S.W.
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

THOSE HAPPY HOUBY DAYS



May 17-18 marked the 4th Annual Houby Days attracting more mushrooms lovers than ever before! The Village Association and Fine Arts Foundation co-hosted the event.

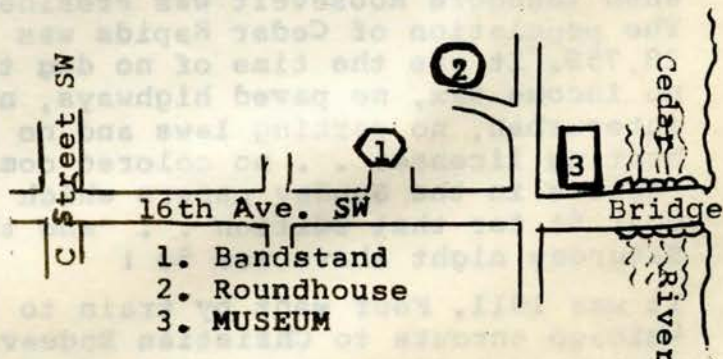
As "you-all know", mushrooming has long been popular with Czechs! Hunting mushrooms is a "sport". There are houby jokes, secret places to find morels, and wonderful ways to prepare the delicacies.

Mushroom breakfasts were served by the merchants. Trophies were awarded for the largest, smallest, tallest, most oddly shaped mushrooms. Music was featured continuously. Czech arts were demonstrated. A 5000 metre race was held in the rain! The newly located Czech Museum attracted more than 500 visitors. This 1981 event was bigger and better than ever. Thousands of visitors enjoyed the Avenue and events.

The ETHNIC CELEBRATION - a FIRST in 1981 was held the last week-end in May at the Riverside Roundhouse in Czech Village. Featured were local ethnic groups: Greeks, Germans, Norwegians, Czechs, and the "Americans" along with Boddicker School of Music Young Musicians who represented various ethnic groups.

(continued on page 6)

Pat Martin contributed Village News.



The event included the ethnic music of each group, their dances, foods fun, and imports of crafts. The sponsors hope that the festival will become an annual event as well as to include more ethnic groups in the future according to Pat Martin, the Village Coordinator.

The Festival grew out of the efforts of the Ambroz Advisory Board of the C.R. Recreation Commission that the ethnic customs and foods are popular in our community. Three co-sponsors were the Ambroz Board of Directors, Czech Village Association, and the St. John the Baptist Hellenic Orthodox Church.

Participants were the Greeks from St. John's Church, Germans from the Amana Heritage Society and Amana Artists Guild, Czechs from Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations, and the Norwegians from the Sons of Norway, the C.R. Recreation Commission as "Americans" and the Young Musicians from Boddickers.

P.M.

The CZECH BOOK : RECIPES and TRADITIONS, compiled by Czech Village Co-ordinator, Pat Martin, and published by Penfield Press, has sold some 6000 copies since its May 1st release date. The Czech Heritage Fdn. is selling the book @\$3.75 plus postage and handling. If you want a copy, autographed, contact the Czech Heritage Fdn., PO Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia 52406



P.M.

IN THE DAYS OF TEDDY ROOSEVELT and TRAINS to the EASTERN SEABOARD !

The Vavra Brothers started in grocery business on 16th Avenue SW in 1905 - when Theodore Roosevelt was President. The population of Cedar Rapids was 28,759. It was the time of no dog tags no income tax, no paved highways, no interurban, no parking laws and no hunting license. . . no colored comic funnies in the Sunday papers which cost 5¢ for that edition . . and the Saturday night shave was 5¢ !

It was 1911. Four went by train to Chicago enroute to Christian Endeavor meetings in Atlantic City. Changed trains in Chicago, and on to Detroit.

Thence we took a lake steamer to Buffalo and by train to New York City ,and to Atlantic City. At one of the meetings President Taft spoke.

On our return home, we stopped in New York to visit the Bronx Park Zoo, Coney Island. Had a meal of coffee, eggs, biscuit for 17¢ and it tasted good! Took Hudson River steamer upriver to Albany where we took train to Buffalo ,then to Chicago and home to Cedar Rapids.

In June 1943 Farm News called for volunteers to do farm work as needed because of the war effort. Some 500 to 600 were expected to volunteer.

from diary of Mr. William Vavra by courtesy of Mrs. Wm. Vavra .

ROOTS OF CZECH HERITAGE (concl.)

Altho the CSPS and old ZCBJ buildings no longer serve their original uses, they were the main centers of Czech group activities for more than 50 years. Times have changed and we no longer have the pleasure of locally produced dramatic or humorous plays. But twice a year, Jim Cada arranges for local groups to go by bus to Berwyn on a Sunday to attend a play in the Czech language.

The quality books which once were a part of the collection of the Čtenářský Spolek (Reading Society) were added to the Slavic library collection at the University of Chicago Libraries.

The writer was active in the social-cultural activities in the period 1920-1940. There was interest in music, folk dancing, plays, readings and programs. In those days the Czechs were well represented in local, county, and state government as well as on school boards, many professions and businesses and in industry. The Czech language was heard in many shops and stores on 16th Ave. SW as well as 3rd St. SE. and at some downtown department stores, hardware, clothing and drug-stores.

T.B. Hlubucek (mms)

Some books in our Museum-Library collection tell of early settlers. It was from one such volume (in English) that the story of beloved Rev. Francis Kun is told.

Have you often wondered how it happens that the small Presbyterian Church of Ely, Iowa, has such a devoted following and this has been so for over 100 years. Today the congregation includes folks from not only Ely but Solon, Swisher, Fairfax, Western, Shueyville, and the Cedar Rapids area!

In Moravia in 1825 was born a Francis Kun. He came from a long line of ministers. His grandfather, a Count in Hungary, went to Bohemia and Moravia "to preach the word". Prior to that the Protestants had been kept underground and some were persecuted. Young Francis Kun was dedicated to the Ministry as a youth. He attended colleges and seminaries in Austria, Hungary. He could use the languages of Greek, German, Czech, Latin and Hungarian. Later he spoke twelve languages!

In 1849 Francis Kun was ordained. He ministered for six years and then became a vicar.

In 1856 at the age of 31, he came to America. The voyage took nine weeks. He settled in Tama and took up farming. At the time he spoke no English. However, a neighbor, also a newcomer, shared costs of work, they helped each other. All the field work was heavy labor and Francis was unaccustomed to that kind of work.

He married in 1857. The log cabin built for the newlyweds was 8 x 10 feet. There were no roads and he walked the 40 miles to Cedar Rapids to the mill to obtain flour.

Iowa had been a state for six years by then. The Catholics had churches as early as 1833, the Methodists by 1837 and then Presbyterian also about that time.

It was an opportunity to serve the people in the Tama area. He spoke German, Czech and some English. The church was built in a wooded area. Then two invitations came to him to preach: in Caledonia, Minnesota, or Western-Ely Iowa. He chose the Ely-Western area which had a congregation of 5 families.

The original Church still stands, some 2 miles west of Ely. The appearance has changed because of additions and improvements. The original part of the Church dates 1867.

The denomination was the Reformed Church of Moravia. By 1860, Rev. Kun made yearly trips to Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin to preach to groups and carry on missionary work. As a result of this travel, ten church groups were organized. He was responsible for seeing that Czech ministers came to America to serve the new and growing congregations. Many a time in snow and whatever the weather, and at times, on foot, he went to Tama once a month to conduct services.

His payment per year at Ely was \$60.00 and that was a big undertaking for so small a congregation. In addition he received 74 bu. wheat rated at 80¢ bu., 18 bu. rye at 40¢ bu., 85 bu. corn at 40¢ bu., and 25 bu. potatoes at 50¢ bu. for a total of \$248.70. so the grand total annual income from the ministry as \$496.70.

There were nine children. He worked the fields during the day and took the chair of classical studies at Western College. Altho his salary was larger at the College, he resigned after two years.

He is considered the patriarch of Czech missionaries. He died Jan.6,1894. He is buried in the church cemetery up the hill from the church. It is reported that more than 1000 people attended his funeral.

He is best remembered as "self-sacrificing, humble, learned, and compassionate".

* * * * *

Among our library books are copies of POSTILLA (also spelled Postila) written by Rev.Kun. The volumes are collections of sermons for Sundays and special Holy Days during the year.

PLEASE NOTE: If you hear "members" say that they did not receive the summer issue of the Newsletter, please have them phone 393-6107 or 364-6402. We will check to see if it was an oversight or perhaps the dues have not been paid for 1981.

Thank you...CHV..MMS..

CZECH HERITAGE FDN.

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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