

Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

UNION STATION



(Property of Georgiana Brejcha)

See Story on Page 10



NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. who pay their annual dues of \$3.00 per person per year receive *Naše České Dědictví* free. Dues are renewable on January 1 of each year and expire December 31. The newsletter which is mailed quarterly, serves to inform its members of its activities, people, and places. (Dues received in September apply to the following year for new members.)

Deadline for receiving articles for the September issue is July 26, 1996.

THANK YOU

Volunteers who helped with the March newsletter were: Leo and Irma Modracek, Emma Davidson and my husband John.

Due to an error, Wilma Benish's name was inadvertently omitted from the March 1st list of volunteers. We regret the omission. Thanks Wilma and to all who helped.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

My new membership last year was a gift from a dear second cousin in Iowa. I shall be ever grateful to her because both my husband and I enjoy your quarterly newsletter a great deal. While my husband is not of my heritage, he was stationed in Czechoslovakia at the end of World War II so has been interested in this impressive country.

The March issue was particularly exciting for it rekindled special memories of our trip to the Czech Republic in May. We were over there for almost a month and cherished every minute. My maiden name is Caslavka and visiting Caslav was thrilling beyond words. The article entitled "Napoleon in Moravia" reminded us of the time spent in this indescribable site. "Three Frozen Kings" was also meaningful because we were in Prague during this time frame, and it was definitely on the chilly side. Our wonderful guide, Michala, related this old Czech myth to us.

If you are not familiar with the book "The Three Golden Kings" by Peter Sis, I would recommend it wholeheartedly. A world-renowned artist, he brings to life the magic of Prague and its legends. (Doubleday 1994 - \$22.50) It is destined to become a classic of children's literature. The personal opinion of this 100% Czech senior citizen is that it is appropriate for "children" of all ages. Our copy was a present to my 96 year old mother!

I was so pleased with my gift membership in 1995 that it inspired me to order five for friends. Hopefully they will all renew. I am enclosing a donation for this worthy cause.

Sincerely

Ramona Caslavka Schmidt
 Leawood, Kansas 66206

CAN YOU HELP US?

I am seeking help from someone in the Cedar Rapids or surrounding community who has some postal experience. This knowledgeable person could join us for the mailing of *Naše České Dědictví* and give us their expertise on bulk mailings as required by the U.S. Post Office.

Mailings are held 4 times a year prior to March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. Call the editor: (319) 363-0441.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

After the celebration and dedication of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, I thought it would be a nice gesture to send complimentary copies of *Naše České Dědictví* (Dec. 1995) to each of the three presidents in attendance.

The following letter of acknowledgement from President Michal Kováč, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, was received in January 1996.



Kancelária prezidenta
Slovenskej republiky

odbor zahraničnej politiky

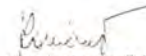
V Bratislave, dňa 22. januára 1996

Vážená pani Volesková,

dovoľte mi, aby som Vám v mene prezidenta republiky Michala Kováča poďakovala za časopis "Naše české dědictví", v ktorom sa píše o návšteve troch prezidentov v Cedar Rapids dňa 21. októbra 1995.

Pán prezident bol rád, že sa podujatie stretlo s tak veľkým záujmom a ohlasom. Otvorenie novej budovy Českého a slovenského múzea a knižnice bolo dobrou príležitosťou pozdraviť českých i slovenských krajanov žijúcich v Spojených štátoch amerických.

S pozdravom


Veronika Lombardini
Odbor zahraničnej politiky

In translation the message reads: Allow me, so that I may in the name of the president of the republic, Michal Kováč, thank you for the newsletter *Naše České Dědictví*, where you wrote about the three presidents in Cedar Rapids on October 1995.

Mr. president was happy at such an interesting celebration and meeting. The opening of the new building Czech & Slovak museum and library presented a good opportunity to greet the Czech & Slovak countrymen in the United States of America. Regards Veronika Lombardini.

A few days later, the following letter of acknowledgement was received from President Vaclav Havel, Prague, Czech Republic.



Kancelář prezidenta republiky
Odbor zahraniční politiky

Vážená paní Adélka Volesková
1801 - 60th Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-7213
USA

Praha 9. ledna 1996
KPR 9375/95

Vážená paní Volesková,

pan prezident mne požádal, abych Vám jeho jménem poděkoval za Váš dopis z prosince minulého roku.

Podzimní návštěva Vašeho města Cedar Rapids byla pro prezidenta Havla nezapomenutelným zážitkem. Velký podíl na tom měli i krajané, k nimž se také počítáte.

Pan prezident považuje záležitosti spojené s českými krajanmi žijícími v zahraničí za velmi důležité. Také proto Vám děkuje za výtisk časopisu *Naše české dědictví*.

S pozdravem



Pavel Seifter, ředitel
Odbor zahraniční politiky KPR

The translation of the message reads: Mr. president asked me, that I in his name, thank you for the newsletter from October of the past year.

The fall visit to your town Cedar Rapids for president Havel, was an unforgettable enjoyment. A lot of sharing by countrymen.

Mr. president appreciated the combined meeting with the Czech countrymen of great importance. Because of that I am thanking you for the printed newsletter *Naše České Dědictví*. Regards, V. Havel (Pavel Seifter)

The letter of acknowledgement from Prague had an incomplete and undeliverable address. The Cedar Rapids postal worker recognized the presidential emblem and official markings on the envelope and recognized the importance of the letter. With the help of a Czech postal worker and phone book, I received a call about a very special letter in the mail awaiting me. So as not to deface the envelope, the postal workers enclosed the special letter in a U.S. postal envelope with the complete address. I received the letter from Prague in perfect condition.

Last but not least, I received the following acknowledgement from the White House in Washington, D.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 25, 1996

Ms. Adeline L. Volesky
1801 60th Avenue, S.W.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-7213

Dear Adeline:

I appreciate your taking the time to write, and I want to thank you for the material you enclosed.

It's important to me that I hear the thoughts and experiences of people who care about the future of America and the world. Our nation faces many challenges as we prepare for the next century. I am seeking the most innovative approaches to address those challenges. Thank you for sharing your ideas with me.

Sincerely,



Shortly after receiving the above letter, I was at the museum and much to my surprise, I was presented with a 5-1/2 x 8 color photo of the President with the following "Best Wishes Adeline" and signed by Bill Clinton, from The White House.

Who could ask for more?

Adeline L. Volesky

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mrs. Volesky,

Greetings from Denver, Colorado. Just received the number 1-1996 issue of "Our Czech Heritage." Enjoyed it very much, so am renewing my membership with a small gift. Once an old Chicago newspaperman. I worked for a number of years on the daily "Svornost" which took over the *Cedar Rapidski Listy* in the middle 30's. Met Tony Hromadka, Ted Hlubecek, Mr. Naxera and quite a few other prominent Czech workers from your city "The Czech Athens". As a little boy, spent several years in Waverly, Iowa. My parents knew Mr. Severa, the Czech benefactor of Cedar Rapids.

All the best in your important endeavor. Všeho nejlepšího

Nazdar
Tony Citka
Denver, Colorado

Dear Editor,

It was with great interest that I read "Napoleon in Moravia" in volume 21, No. 1 March 1996 of *Naše České Dědictví*. My interest in this began when I read a translation from French to English. My mother-in-law's maiden name was sometimes spelled as RAINET, REINET, and RAJNET. My mother-in-law corresponded with relatives in France when she lived in Dolni Dobrouc where she was born in 1895 and some of her male ancestors fought in the Napoleonic wars. There may have been other spellings of this name RAINET.

My own surname has been modified SPINDLER which dates back to at least 1798 in Dolni Dobrouc. Some of my grandfathers inserted the letter "D" as in SPINDLER when they came to America. Another example of spelling changes is: three brothers from Bohemia changed SISLER TO SCHISLER.

Thank you for the fine job you are doing.

Best regards,
Justin E. Spinler
Owatonna, MN 55060

Dear Editor,

I really enjoy the *Ceské Dědictví*, especially the article about the three presidents visiting here for the Czech Museum dedication. I like to read stories about the immigrants and early settlers in Cedar Rapids, also enjoy reading about people who had their business on 16th Ave, SW that were there when I was a child.

Thank you and your staff for a wonderful job you have done putting out this publication. Thanks again.

Frances Daly
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Czech Heritage Fd'ns

I am enclosing my membership fee for this year together with a small donation.

I really enjoy the newsletter. It is so "chuck full" of interesting information and I read it thoroughly. Kudos to the editor and contributors.

My ancestry is 100% Czech and have visited Czechoslovakia before it became the two countries of Czech Republic and Slovakia. In the summer of 1992 my sister and I spent a few days in the western part of the country. One of our nights was spent at a pensione (bed & breakfast) in northwest Budejovice. The proprietors were Petr & Paula Strelec, Sipkova 13, Ctyri Dvory, Ceske Budejovice 37005, Czech Republic.

Although we both have minimal Czech language skills and they had similar English skills, we had a wonderful stay. Petr drove us to a restaurant he had recommended and then picked us up again. The rest of the evening was spent "visiting" in their small back yard while he was shredding cucumbers (we couldn't figure out what he was preparing them for). The next morning they prepared for us a lovely breakfast and we had the feeling when we left that they hated to see us leave as we hated to leave.

This is an excellent example of entrepreneurship. They have a simple home but were excellent hosts. I would recommend that anyone visiting Budejovice make this one of their overnights. (And they might mention that two sisters, one from Iowa and Texas recommended their B&B.)

Again thanks for the excellent newsletter.

Celeste Johannes
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Editor,

First, a word about my delayed response to your letter.

On December 27 I left for Praha and did not return until Feb. 20. It was wonderful!

This evening I plan to attend a meeting at our Sokol and will check if we received a copy of *Naše České Dědictví*. I know that the director of our dance group, Pauline Baca, receives your publication and shares it with us.

In the small world department, I attended a ples of the Podšumavský Váneček at the Lucerna in Praha. There I recognized Vladimír Kovařík the dudák from Praha who entertained at the banquets. (In Cedar Rapids dedication) He told me he is trying to organize a group to tour the northern part of the U.S. in 1997 to include Cedar Rapids, Chicago, Cleveland and New York. I suggested he look into being at the Sokol Slet to be held in Chicago. At any rate, it was a real treat and surprise to run into him.

Taking part in the Museum dedication was a wonderful experience and we felt gratified in being able to participate.

With a sincere Nazdar
Dorothy (Kralová) Cummings
Broadview Hts., Ohio

(Story on page 8)

IOWA'S MOTHER OF THE YEAR



Sherlee Peterson has been chosen as Iowa's Mother of the Year. She was honored in her home town of Mt. Vernon, Iowa in April.

In early April, the Iowa Mother's Ass'n held a state meeting and celebration at the Holiday Inn in Des Moines to honor Sherlee.

April 23-26 Sherlee represented Iowa at the national meeting that was held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Sherlee and her husband Cliff have been married 47 years and have lived all their lives in the Mount Vernon, Iowa area.

Their children Shelly Dies of Burnsville, MN and Mary Berry of Falls Church, VA, are both sales managers. Scott Peterson of Mount Vernon is a lawyer. Victoria Ahlersdorf of Ashfield, MA is a Feldenkrais practitioner and an assistant trainee, and Payson Peterson of Piedmont, S. Dak. is a certified accountant. Daniel died in infancy.

They have 8 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren and 7 step-great grandchildren.

The judging for this honor was based on the nominee's philosophy of parenting, the success of her children, testimonials and community involvement.

Her statement of philosophy reads: "As a very young mother, I heard a child specialist say that a baby from the day it is born, must learn to be less dependent on parents." Maybe this is why all 5 children went on great adventures at young ages.

"Children must be given responsibilities to learn to be responsible. Mother has to see that families worship, work and play together in order to develop a family unit. God in his infinite wisdom put men and women on earth to parent the young and take care of the elderly. One must remember to count blessings that God has given us and not dwell on downers we are challenged with."

"Parents must make home a safe haven at all times. No matter what, home is a refuge with open arms of people who love unequivocally."

Sherlee is a member and a devout supporter of Czech Heritage Fd'n and has served on various committees. CONGRATULATIONS SHERLEE.

1886 BIDERMAN 1996

The September 1993 issue of *Naše České Dědictví* had a picture and biography of Emma Biderman. She had celebrated her 107th birthday that year. Emma was born April 3, 1886 at rural Ely to Joseph and Anna Cerny Erenberger, the same year the Statue of Liberty was dedicated.

She married Charles Biderman in 1908. She loved to garden and bake bread and kolaches.

Emma passed away March 15, 1996 after a brief illness. In three weeks she would have had her 110th birthday. Her eyes and hearing were failing but her mind was good.

She was survived by 5 children, 4 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

She was a member of the Ely Presbyterian Church and was buried at Rogers Grove Cemetery near Ely, Iowa.

Only a few Iowans reach that age.

ROGERS GROVE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Rogers Grove School of rural Ely, Iowa held a Christmas program Wednesday evening which was a delight to the large crowd which was assembled. The following children performed songs and recitations: Freddie Neiderheiser, Millie Koutney, Rose Bendar, Olga Topinka, Libbie Topinka, Rose Havlik, John Topinka, Anna Koutney, Joe Havlik, Carrie Topinka, Sylvia Boxa, Charley Kubec, Tillie Bednar, Libbie Koutney, Bessie Boxa, Morgan Neiderheiser, Rudolph Topinka, Libbie Havlik and Rudolph Vrba.

(From the Cedar Rapids Republican newspaper dated December 31, 1908 and reprinted from the Linn Co. Historical Newsletter in the February 1996 issue.)

REMEMBERING 1945

August 3, 1945, the Bohemian Moravian Brethren celebrated their 50th year of occupancy at Rogers Grove near Ely, Iowa. Organized by Henry Rogers and his wife Fannie in 1844, the church was always open for free use to anyone of Christian faith. Rogers later gave the church to Baptists, called Dunkards, moving into the community. For 40 years the Dunkards used the church and on July 27, 1895, they sold it to the Czechs for \$100.

(Submitted by Jane Fisher - Linn Co. Hist. Society)

BIOGRAPHY



Georgiana Brejcha was born May 31, 1915 to Edward and Emma Vlch Hach in Cedar Rapids. She was born in an apartment above her grandfather's dining and drinking establishment on the corner of 14th Ave. and 2nd St. S.E. where the building still

stands today. You can see the name P. Hach, Georgiana's grandfather, and the date 1901 when it was built. Georgiana lived there until she was 3 years old.

They lived briefly on Mt. Vernon Ave. before moving to Bever Ave. Georgiana, age 5, and an only child, was close to her mother. Her mother walked her to school but by the time her mother reached home, Georgiana was sitting on the porch waiting for her.

At age 8, the next move was to an acreage on Wilson Ave. where Georgiana has fond memories. She rode with her grandparents to city market. They left at sunrise with the horse, Maude, pulling the wagon load of vegetables and flowers. Now that they were living on the southwest side of the city, Georgiana went to Czech School. Because both of her parents spoke Czech, it was her first language. There were few neighborhood children so Georgiana played with paper dolls and did small tasks.

Their next move was near Hayes School S.W. and closer to 16th Ave. Now Georgiana could run errands. She bought bread for 5¢ a loaf and soup bone with meat for 10¢.

Georgiana's mother died in 1937 and her father later remarried.

Georgiana married Frank Brejcha in 1937. He was born in Cedar Rapids to Joseph and Anna Pocholik Brejcha.

In 1944 Frank served his country for 2 years. When Frank returned home, they used their \$5,660 savings bonds to buy their first home on 8th Ave. S.W. that needed redecorating. It had so many layers of wallpaper they used a hose with a sprinkler to soak off the layers. After the home was refurbished, they held a celebration. The phonograph furnished the music for dancing. Pork, dumplings, and sauerkraut were served. They sold the house at a handsome profit and moved to Burch Ave. N.W. where sons Peter and Edward were born to them.

Georgiana is proud of her 45 years of volunteer service to the Red Cross. She started as a Gray Lady after the war. She is still active and serves in many areas.

After Georgiana graduated from Grant High School, she briefly attended Coe College.

It was not fashionable to be away from home after marriage and having a family, but Georgiana always had a hankering to complete her education. In 1977 her husband encouraged her to do so. She attended Kirkwood College and got her Teacher's Associate Degree. After her husband's death in 1980, it was her friends who encouraged her to go on. In 1983 she returned to Coe College and in 1985, at age 70, she received her American Studies Degree. It was the highlight of her life.

Georgiana's sons are both married and she has 3 grandsons.

Her philosophy in life is that God gave her abilities and she wants to give of herself in return. She has done that and has made the world a better place for it.



CHELSEA, IOWA

(Bill Kupka)

Chelsea, Iowa is a small town 36 miles west of Cedar Rapids, located on the banks of the Iowa River and on the original Lincoln Highway. Most of the three hundred plus residents are Czech.

Bill Kupka, a resident of Chelsea, and a handy wood worker, posted these attractive signs on each end of Chelsea. The HAPPY BIRTHDAY IOWA is in recognition of Iowa's sesquicentennial.

Bill and Helen Kupka celebrated their 55th Anniversary in February. They attend our Czech events and are members and devoted supporters of Czech Heritage Foundation.

REFLECTIONS OF MY GRANDFATHER

(By Georgiana Brejcha)

High on the face of a building on the north east corner of Second St. and Fourteenth Ave. southeast, are the letters P. HACH 1901. It stands as a tribute to a man I remember as a very special person, Deda, my grandfather. Peter Hach was born May 16, 1864, in Tama Co. Iowa, on a farm 5 miles north of Chelsea. He was one of 13 children born to Albert and Anna Hach. My great grandparents with 3 boys and 1 girl left Pilzen, Bohemia to immigrate to the United States in 1859 landing in Baltimore, MD. Their destination was a Kucera family in Belle Plaine, Iowa.

They lived with the Kucera family until my great grandparents purchased a timberland on which to build a log cabin. With the help of neighbors, they were able to start farming.

Grandfather Peter Hach spent his early days on the farm. Before they owned horses, oxen were used to do the work and haul grain to market. Coffee and flour were at a premium so it was necessary to roast barley and have it as a substitute for coffee. The closest mill was at Muscatine, Iowa which was 100 miles. The Hach's and Kucera's took their oxen and covered wagons loaded with rye, wheat, roasted barley and their traveling provisions. Their dogs provided protection. The caravan of oxen and wagons came through Cedar Rapids and forded the Cedar River. The trip took 3 weeks.

Grandfather Peter attended school only when he was not needed on the farm. He spoke very broken English and was often ridiculed by others. Grandfather became angry when a school mate called him "Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater". Grandfather threw the boy in a mud puddle and ended the episode. His schooling ended in the third grade.

In 1882 grandfather came to Cedar Rapids and received employment from a butcher, Joseph Hala. Then he gained employment on an old steam boat owned by Kozlovsky and Konigsmark. This boat did a big business in hauling wood and other articles on the Cedar River.

On May 20, 1884, Grandfather married Frantiska Skerik of Shueyville, Iowa. She was the daughter of immigrants from Chrodin, Bohemia. They had 7 children, Edward (my father), William, Libbie, Peter Jr., Alma, and Elgia. Frankie died in infancy.

After a few years of employment on the boat,

he became a partner in the implement business with a brother-in-law, Joseph Skerik, under the name of Skerik & Hach. In 1894 he sold his share of the business and operated a saloon on the south side of Second St. and Fourteenth Ave. S.E.

In 1896 he added a bottling business. He had purchased the northeast corner lot with two adjoining buildings on Second St. and Fourteenth Ave. S.E. in the late 1890's. By 1900 he wished to have his own building. Grandfather traveled to St. Louis to the distributors of Anheuser Busch to secure a loan for \$3,500.00. The loan was approved. The building was to house the business downstairs and the living quarters upstairs for my grandparents. This is the building that has the inscription at the top that still stands today. Later when my parents lived in the upstairs apartment, I was born there.

While my grandfather was engaged in the bottling and liquor business, he became well known to farmers because he had a large feed barn in connection with his business. The saloon had good food and friendly environment.

In his early years, grandfather was a member of the famous Kouba's Band. He always retained an interest in south-side affairs and was a member of many Czech lodges.

My grandfather arrived in Cedar Rapids shortly after the first Czechs came. The population of Cedar Rapids at the start of the Civil War was 1,600 and 8 families were Czech.

Czechs preferred to be home owners. Women worked as hard as men to achieve that goal. Many early settlers built homes on the east side of the Cedar River, as well as their businesses, as did my grandfather.

On June 30, 1927 Peter Hach died at the age of 63.



OLGA HAVLOVA - FIRST LADY

Prague—Olga Havlova, wife of Czech President Vaclav Havel, died at the age of 62 in Prague in January.

Havlova, who was born in Prague July 11, 1933, had a modest early career as communism tightened its grip, holding various jobs including being a shop assistant and accountant. She met Havel in Prague's Cafe Slavia, a haunt of Czech intellectuals in 1957 and married him seven years later. In 1968, the Soviet Union invaded the then Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring" reform movement, and Havel increasingly ran into trouble with the authorities.

Havel wrote more than 100 letters to his wife, most of them deep philosophical meditations from 1979 to 1982 while in jail for "subverting" the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Later published as "Letters to Olga" they showed that Havel listened to her suggestions and opinions. Olga was his first audience and critic for his plays.

After Havel led the 1989 "Velvet Revolution" which overthrew communism, she won the affection of the Czech people as a quiet and diligent lady who never courted publicity. With a minimum of fuss and fanfare, she set out creating the Goodwill Committee-Olga Havlova Foundation which helped poor or infirm Czechs.

Mrs. Havlova laid in state in Prague Castle in February. Thousands braved the sub-freezing temperatures to come and pay their last respects. She was buried in a private ceremony.

A personal letter of condolence was sent to President Vaclav Havel on behalf of the Czechoslovak National Council of America along with a donation to humanitarian organizations founded and supported by Mrs. Olga Havlova to perpetuate her memory.

(From the American Bulletin Jan.-Feb. 1996 issue)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Museum Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is embarking on a program to recognize the museum with a United States postage stamp.

The fact that presidents of three countries, namely President Clinton of the United States, President Havel of the Czech Republic and President Kovac of the Slovak Republic took part in the dedication of the museum, there is a possibility of being recognized by the Stamp Committee.

There are a great many requests received by the committee, about 40,000 a year, of which only 30 are recognized and considered. Therefore, we must make ourselves be heard.

Will you assist us by sending in your request? Don't put it off, do it NOW!

Mail to:

Citizens Advisory Stamp Committee
c/o United States Postal Service
475 L' Infant Plaza S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-2436

By Charles Krejci

CLEVELAND SOKOLS

(Editor—We never seem to get tired of stories about the visit of the three presidents. The following excerpts are from an article by Dorothy Cummings from the Sokol newsletters in Cleveland, Ohio and Houston, Texas.)

In early 1995, the Cleveland Czech Folk Dancers chose the up-coming dedication of the museum in Cedar Rapids to perform. Their official invitation arrived and plans began . . .

After a late departure and making connections in St. Louis for Cedar Rapids, a well built man wearing a "hearing aid" checked the First Class cabin and asked three passengers to move back to their assigned seats. Then two European-appearing men boarded, followed by three more athletic types, also wearing "hearing aids." It took all of three seconds to figure out somebody important was on board. The current edition of *PRAGUE POST* was whipped out, and sure enough, there on the front page was a picture of President Kovac of Slovakia. He was one of the two "Europeans." Then several other men with "hearing aids" boarded. Some were wearing a Slovak shield pin. A quiet "DOBRY DEN" drew a surprised response. Upon deplaning, a subdued "VITAME VAS" was answered by both the President and his aide with "DEKUJI."

Upon arrival at the Cedar Rapids hotel at 1 a.m. there were no instructions. Six a.m. the phone rang and it was Georgia Jencik from the Karlin bus section. Passes were waiting for us to attend the appearance of the three presidents attending, Clinton, Havel and Kovac.

Viewing space was at a premium. But fear naught, Sokols are resourceful. There were a few large boulders in the area. You've heard about getting a piece of the rock, well, that was the aim. We took turns climbing up to get a glimpse of the three presidents. Although it was brief, it was a thrill.

As a side trip, we had dinner reservations at the Barn restaurant in the Amana Colonies. And to top it off, our waitress had been born outside of Praha!

During all this time, one of our group looked like the secret service man with his "hearing aid," except his radio was tuned to the Indians/Braves ball game. (Incidentally, there were 94 Secret Service men staying in our hotel.)

We caused quite a stir when we arrived at the Collins Plaza in our costumes for the closing banquet. Our presentation was well received. The evening ended in the hotel lobby singing Czech folk songs which were played by the evening's other entertainers; a dudak (bagpiper) from Praha, a musician from Slovakia and the tuba player from the local Czech brass band.

SOKOL



The award winning Sokol Team from Cedar Rapids. On the far left is Rudolph Novak; United States representative to the Olympic Games in Paris, France 1912. Others left to right Vilém Hruška, Franta Filip, Václav Melša, Emil Kohout, and Boleslav Hašek.

The oldest civilization in the world—China, in Asia recognized the need for physical training as early as 400 B.C. Soon the Greeks realized the value of such training. Greece held the first athletic games. Every city in Greece had a gymnasium for exercise. The first recorded Olympic race was held in 776 B.C. The Greeks held Olympic races on the plains of Olympia in Elis.

It was John Amos Komensky, who was born March 28, 1592 in the village of Nivnice, Moravia who once said "A healthy soul is a healthy body." That statement became the basic rule of the Sokol movement.

Sokol is a gymnast organization with local societies. The Sokol movement not only stresses the physical development but also promotes patriotism and character development. Sokol was founded in 1862.

Gymnastic apparatus was introduced to Bohemia in 1842 in a gymnasium in Prague and had the first sports club. Its popularity grew very rapidly. By 1860 the gymnastic activity expanded to national, cultural and political activities. On February 16, 1862 the organization held its first assembly. The new organization accepted the name "SOKOL" (falcon) which expresses the qualities of the bird falcon as the highest ideal of the members.

There was some similarity with the German gymnastic organization, but the important difference is the German was basically military oriented.

Miloslav Tyrs, who was the first vice-president of the newly founded organization, noted that nations that are weak are not useful for mankind, and eventually disappear. It was even more important that small nations remain competitive in order to compete with bigger countries.

CEDAR RAPIDS SOKOLS

(This article appeared in the Cedar Rapids Gazette in April 1983.)

The Cedar Rapids Sokol organization has more than a century of gymnastics. Originally founded in Bohemia in 1862, the Sokol organization was envisioned as a physical, mental and moral training ground to prepare Czechs to lead their own country once the monarchy was overthrown.

The local Sokol organization was founded in 1873 with 29 members. Although membership was originally restricted to individuals with Czech ancestry, requirements were changed in later years to admit anyone interested in gymnastics.

At the height of local Sokol membership in the early part of this century, people came from around the Midwest to see Sokol exhibitions. One exhibition held July 4, 1911 drew an audience of 4,000 people from as far as Chicago.

The Sokol Hall Gymnasium, located at 417 Third St. S.E., has served as a center for preserving Czech traditions since it was opened in 1909.

Local Sokols also contributed volunteers and assistance to U.S. efforts in both world wars.

The name "Sokol" translates from Czech to "falcon". It was chosen for the organization to represent the swiftness and freedom sought by co-founders Dr. Miroslav Tyrs and Jindrich Fugner.



(Picture - Property of Mana Zlatohlavek)

Sokol Hall in Cedar Rapids as it looked in 1960. It still stands at 417 - 3rd St. S.E. The inscription in the upper left hand corner below the roof is Svatopluk Čech; middle panel below flag Fugner-Tyrš; and the right upper panel Klacel Havlíček. The left window panel Sokolovna, center window panel 1908 and left window panel Gymnasium. Today the eagle and flag pole are missing.

THE UNION STATION

Many Czech immigrants who came to Cedar Rapids in the late 1800's and early 1900's will remember the Union Station. After their ships docked at the various ports of entry, railroad travel was used to reach destinations. The Union Station was built in 1897 at a cost of \$225,000. It was located between 3rd Ave and 5th Ave. S.E. The sponsors were the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Co., the Burlington and Cedar Rapids, and the Northern Railroad Co.

The architect was Charles S. Frost from Chicago, Illinois and the contractor was A. H. Connor & Co. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It was a Gothic Revival style, patterned after Flemish Guild Halls. The station was 400 feet in length, 40 feet wide with a tower in the center standing 102 feet high. It was constructed of St. Louis hydraulic brick, trimmed in blue Bedford (Indiana) stone, with German Clay Tile roofing.

The Station contained Ticket Offices, News Stand, Lunchroom, Baggage Room, rooms for Conductors, Mail & Express Rooms and a Restaurant. The Waiting Room was 40 by 100 feet and 27 feet high, with richly stained woodwork and a fireplace at each end. Outside, on the west wall, a concrete angel was perched.

The Station was dedicated and opened on January 27, 1897 with a Dedication Program and Ball. Tickets were sold for 50¢. Legend has it that the celebration was the largest in the history of Cedar Rapids. In spite of the protests from local ministers, the station opened January 27, which was a Wednesday, the traditional prayer meeting night. To counter the ministers objections, the station's Promoters promised proceeds from the event to go local charities and staged a dinner party in the restaurant with dancing in the waiting room that lasted till dawn.

The train which carried the body of a dead President proved to be of interest to a great many Cedar Rapids residents. Warren G. Harding, 29th President of the U.S. died August 2, 1923 while in San Francisco, on his way home from a trip to Alaska. He was 57 years old. His funeral train passed through Cedar Rapids August 6. The train stopped at Union Station.

The City of Cedar Rapids purchased the building in 1961 at a cost of \$315,000 and it was demolished in July of that year after serving as a gateway to Cedar Rapids for 64 years to many Czech immigrants.

Information from Linn Co. Historical Society

ANYONE REMEMBER?



Do any of our readers remember or have information on this building? It is located at 1029 - 3rd St. S.E. across from the CSPS Hall or directly across from the street from the Brosh Funeral Home and parking lot. The name MATYK is written in the semi-circle in the upper center. It was suggested it was a dry goods store. The 1928 ad advertises remnant merchandise (Strizni zbozi) with a large selection at the lowest cost. All will be honestly served.

MATYK a SYN

1029 jižní 3. ulice vých.

Strizní zboží

ve velkém výběru
za nejlevnější
ceny.

Všem vám bude poctivě
poslouženo. 1928

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Donations received with subscriptions in January came from the following new memberships: Don Ceynar, Jan & Norm Eberle, Dianne Flugge, Dennis Horacek, James C. Shimek, Dagmar Wallace and Louis Zadnichek II.

Donations in January with renewals were from: Jeanne K. Andre, Lucian Andrie, Doris Beseda, Jeanne D. Burianek, Donald & Vera Conway, Kathryn Betlach Dankowski, Harold & Emma Davidson, Geraldine Dhooghe, Robert & Beula Dvorak, Frank & Barbara Edmunds, Arlene Erusha, Fern Fackler, Joyce Faltis, Edna Goodrow, Carol Grigson, Evelyn V. Hall, Donald & Dorothy Harrelson, Jackie Hess, Anna Mae Horak, Mildred Starek Jezek, Clementine Kinkor, Cyril Klimesh, Anthony C. Korvas, Emil & Evelyn Lamparek, Walter R. Liphardt, Esther Lippert, Rose Machovec, Evelyn Mikulecky, Edward & Marjorie Nejdil, Milton Nemec, Richard Netolicky, Wallace G. Oliva, Joseph Petrzela, Mary Ann Pochobradsky, Harold & Leona Poduska, Inez Popelka, Joanne Rayborn, John M. Repka, Marvin & Hermina Rigel, Sylvia & Robert Rohlena, Elmer & Mary Rose Sedlacek, Bernard Shanelec, Grace Soukup, Robert & Marjorie

Continued

Stone, Teri K. Thorpe, Charles F. Vavra, Emil Vellek, Mrs. Emil (Rose) Volesky, Frank & Ruth Volesky, Roman & Lottie Volesky, Charles & Lillian Vyskocil, Viola M. Young.

Donation only: Sokol Cedar Rapids.

Donations received with new memberships for February were from: Robin Kristufek and Robert J. Petrzelka.

Donations with renewals in February were from: Jean L. Blahnik, Joe & Esther Cervený, Elizabeth W. Dake, Carol Danek, Dorothy Davis, Margaret Davis, Stanley & Dorothy Ditch, Florence Dvorak, Louis Elias, Mrs. Ralph Evans, Vincent & Margaret Fiala, Gladys L. Haar, Camille Hubacek, Celeste Johannes, Alice Kadlec, Dorothy S. Kadlec, Eugene J. Kadlec, Bessie Kaloupek, Mildred Kucera, Donald R. Laue, Jarmilla H. McMullen, Leona E. Mihal, Ray Miller, Quinn & Kacy Novak, Clifford & Sherlee Peterson, Clara Pospisil, Rose A. Pospisil, Florence Ramsay, Kandy Jonas Rogers, Dwane J. Shalla, William L. Shebetka, Carol A. Stodola, and Phyllis Vesely.

Donations only were received from: Frank & Barbara Edmunds, Fern Fackler and Edward & Marjorie Nejdí.

Donations for March from new members are: John & Frances Feiereisen, and Lenora Watson.

Donations received with renewals are from: Gladys V. Aldridge, Kenneth & Florence Allen, Pauline Baca, Norbert & Vera Banowetz, Sharon Benesh, Irma R. Binko, Sylvia Brown, Tony Cifka, Sandra Clayton, Tom Collins, Christine Coverly, Elsie Kozler Day, Clifford & Margaret DeFore, Frank Detert, Rose Dryml, Vernon Flint, Alice Hakel, Helen Hammond, Karen Hindenach, Mrs. Emil Hubert, Olga M. Huston, Leonard Jansa, Janet L. Jeffries, Allen & Ramona Kilberger, Joseph W. Klinsky, Mary M. Klopp, Irene Konecny, Mildred Koncel, John L. Kopecky, Alton Krikava, Charles Kurka, Ken Lastufka, Bonnie Liska, Edith Lund, Franklin Lundak, Raymond J. Marek, Rose Marek, Geraldine Michalek, Leo & Irma Modracek, Lumear & Margaret Netolicky, Dorothy Ann Niebes, Zula Oujiri, JoAnn Peterson, Frances Schluneger, Frank Schovanec, Ramona Caslavka Schmidt, Marlene Schrimper, Betty M. Sedlacek, Martha & James Serbousek, Steve & Pamela J. Shipp, Lorraine Snider, George Stancel, Evelyn Stuckly, Mary Svec, Anton Vanicek, Frances J. Vilim, Miles J. Volf, Bishop Emil A. Wcela, Stanley B. Winters, Robert Zenisek and Mary Zezula.

Donation only from: Harold & Emma Davidson.

ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE "MEMORIES"

In the last edition of "the Newsletter," I had written an article about our St. Joseph's Dance which was to be held March 10th at the P-3 Retiree's Hall.

At this time I would like to give you a summary of that wonderful Sunday afternoon. The weather cooperated with us and we had a wonderful attendance. Mike Lassick and his Rhythmaires provided us with a nice assortment of music from polkas, waltzes, fox trots and even hokey pokey. Whether you wish to dance or listen the music was great.

You were all so generous in bringing items for the Bake Sale and also turning around and buying bakery to take home.

We served a light lunch along with coffee and soft drinks which brought in a nice return.

As for the door prizes, many of you donated items and a special thank you to Ernie Kopecky for contacting merchants for prizes. The five students going to the Czech Republic each donated a nice gift to be raffled off and, along with some of the larger items, we had 11 prizes that brought in a nice amount to add to our fund raiser.

Last but not least I want to express a sincere thank you to Evelyn Stejskal, who sold 87 tickets and collected over \$1,000.00 in ticket sales and donations. We need more people like Evelyn when it comes to fund raisers.

The purpose of the dance was to be our fund raiser for our Homestay Program whereby we send students to the Czech Republic for a 30 day stay with a host family. We are in the process of establishing a scholarship program where we hope to award cash scholarships to deserving students.

Again, in behalf of the Czech Heritage, I wish to thank each and everyone of you who helped make the day perfect. Members of the Guild, the WFLA and the Edmunds and Sherry Bower who all helped. By the way we had right at \$1,200.00 for each program.

By Frank Novotny & the Committee

SUMMER CZECH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

June 10th to July 12th, 1996

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Ages: 6-12

Location: Wilson Middle School

Cost: \$10.00 per child or \$15.00 per family

This summer marks the 126th consecutive year of Czech School for children in Cedar Rapids. Students will become acquainted with the language, music, art, geography and history of the Czech Republic through experiences which include guest folk artists, speakers, slides and video presentations. They will be learning folk tunes and folk dances which capture the spirit and character of the Czech people.

A cultural field trip is planned in mid-session.

A program in the Wilson School Auditorium on July 12th at 7:00 p.m. will culminate the course. An ice cream social in the school cafeteria will follow.

CALL OLGA DRAHOZAL AT



Co napsali v americkém časopise Our Czech Heritage o významu Rokycan
Ceské dědictví ve Spojených státech

"CZECH HERITAGE IN THE UNITED STATES" is the headline in the January 25, 1996 newspaper in the village of Rokycany.

Violette Steinke of Sorrento, Florida sent Milan Taus, of the Czech Republic, the December issue of *Naše České Dědictví*. Milan wanted to inform his countrymen about our active organization and the activities during the dedication of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

Milan wrote an article that was published in the newspaper *ROKYCANSKO*. It is a fairly long article that describes the five years of planning the museum to the dedication as detailed by Leo Modracek. He accounts the Czech Heritage Foundation as a very active group that promote their activities and publish a newsletter *OUR CZECH HERITAGE* with Adeline Volesky as editor. He tells about the visit of the three presidents.

The remainder of this newspaper article repeats Violette Steinke's and Milan's article (page 4) in the Czech language about the end of World War II and the Rokycany celebration ending the war and celebrating the victory.

(Thank you Milan Taus for letting the people in your country know about us and to Violette Steinke for sending us the clipping.)

CZECH HERITAGE AWARD IN TEXAS



We received information from Texas that William (Bill) Soucek of Houston, Texas was awarded the Annual Czech Heritage Society Award for 1995. Mr. Soucek is known for his sincere interest in his Czech heritage, teaching about the Czech people, culture, and traditions and about their significance to Texas and

America. He is the one in his community who explains the background and reasons for various organizations, Sokol, and other related issues including history and Czech cuisine.

Bill Soucek contributed articles and poems to various publications including the *VESTNIK*, *NASINEC*, *SOKOL NEWS*, and *HOSPODAR*. He provides translations, taught Czech classes in colleges and University of Houston. In 1975 and 1982 he took groups of students to Charles University in Prague.

Mr. Soucek graduated from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa and moved to Houston where he was hired as an educator in 1927.

He became involved with Czech organizations at a very young age having been in the Sokol in Iowa City from ages 4 to 18 and in the CSPPS from ages 4 to 22. In addition, he was a member of the Czech Theater-Drama Club in Iowa City starring twice monthly in a Czech language traveling theater. His early dramatic training is still evident in his ability to tell stories with wit and spontaneity even though he had his 90th birthday Dec. 1, 1995.

In appreciation for his dedication to the preservation of the Czech Heritage and especially the Czech language, The Czech Heritage Society of Texas presented the 1995 award to Bill Soucek.

*Submitted by Marjorie Matula
 Victoria, Texas*

BLAHA -HEJL MEMORIAL IN TEXAS

The Blaha-Hejl Memorial Award of Texas went to Augustin Haidusek on Nov. 18, 1995. Haidusek was a pioneer Czech immigrant born in Missi, Moravia in 1856. He founded Dubina, the first Czech-Moravian Settlement in Texas.

Mr. Haidusek learned to speak English, and became a teacher, journalist, scholar, and statesman. He served in the Confederate Army from 1864-1865. In 1870 he was admitted to the Texas Bar, the first Czech in the United States to earn such an honor.

He served in legislature, first Czech mayor of a Texas city and a judge. He established and served as editor of the Czech newspaper the *SVOBODA*. He served as director of the Texas A & M University and a bank president.

Mr. Haidusek died in 1929 at the age of 84, having represented and served his fellow Czechs and Texans more than any other contemporary.

A granddaughter and half-brother were able to attend the recognition.

A monument has been erected near Hostyn, Texas to Mr. Haidusek's memory and accomplishments.

(Submitted by Marjorie Matula, Victoria, Texas)

BOHEMIAN MUSIC

(From the Cedar Rapids Sunday Republican June 10, 1906)

(From the Linn Co. Historical Society)

BANDS

Among the common people of Bohemia, music, songs, and dancing, accompany all festivals. The Bohemian Kubeliks, Ondriceks, Kocians, Dvoraks and many other men of note, have gone uninterruptedly on making the world admire the Bohemian brand of music which they are able to furnish. It matters not what walk of life, there is sure to be in every family some member who can play on some instrument or other. Hence it is not to be wondered at, that musical organizations among the Bohemian people are much more common than among their fellow brothers of other nationalities.

It was in 1870, the year that the old Bohemian reading hall was being erected, that a number of young Bohemian men of the city decided to make up a brass band which would materially assist in the celebration of the opening of the hall. This brass band consisted of the following: Vaclav Charipar, Thomas Karlik and Frank Zbanek clarinets; Joseph Podhajsky, cornet; M. Charipar, Fr. Dvorak and V. Doubrovsky altos; Frank Kubice baritone; Ant. Sternad bass; V. Kabat and John Bata on drums. The band officiated at the dedication exercise. At first they were beset with offers for music for many gatherings but for some reason disbanded.

The only other similar association is the "American Coronet Band". In 1871 Fr. Kouba, who was then living in Iowa City, came to Cedar Rapids with the Bohemian Band of the state capitol city and gave a concert here for the benefit of the Chicago fire sufferers. Mr. Kouba moved to Cedar Rapids the following year and shortly after his arrival he organized the first regular Bohemian Band of the city. The "boys" were Frank Kouba, John Hala, Jos Svab, Frank Soukup, John Vilder, Louis Stanek, John Cejka, Fr. Kremar, and Chas. Polansky. Ed Swem took their picture in their fine new uniforms which together with the fine quality of music they furnished, won them many compliments at the state fair which was held in Cedar Rapids that summer.

The band was increased a number of times and continued to make friends everywhere. It was the old reliable at the firemen's tournaments, political conventions, and gatherings. No public event in the past 36 years has been complete without the Bohemian National Band. It played when Wm. J. Bryan, Theo. Roosevelt, Wm. McKinley, Gen. Logan and other celebrities visited the city.

The present personnel of the Bohemian National Band is as follows: conductor-Jacob Schmidt; manager and clarinet - F. J. Kouba Sr; cornets - Ben Jansa, Stanley Vesley, Fr. Hronik,

E. E. McClhaney, Jos. Hronik; clarinets - Enos Richardson, Louis Pacek, Anthony Broulik, Jos. Ulch; piccolo - Jos. Hiksa; saxophone - Fr. Kouba Jr., Jos. Binko, John Hesse; altos - Jos. Sindlar, Jos. Dvorak, Joe Kucera; trombone - Fr. Smith; euphonium - Fr. Bohac; baritone - Fr. Smith; bass - John Kolar, Fr. Hurka, Ed Hach, Ben Benish; drums - Wm. Cristl and Bed. Zbanek,

BOHEMIAN NATIONAL BAND 1872



1. F. Kouba, 2. J. Hala, 3. J. Swab, 4. F. Soukup,
5. J. Vilder, 6. L. Stanek, 7. C. Cejka, 8. F. Kremar,
9. C. Polansky

ORCHESTRAS

There are numerous Bohemian orchestras in the city among them being Perkil's, Konigsmark's, Mare's and Dvorak's which number from five to fifteen members each. Prof. J. Tlapa is probably the oldest Bohemian music teacher in the city. He was for several years director of the Opera House orchestra and later had an orchestra of his own, but he now only devotes himself entirely to his classes.

There are in the city about ten music teachers (on the piano, cello and violin) of the Bohemian nationality.

John Mokrejs, who resided here up to two years ago, when he accepted the position of director of the Virgil Music School in New York City, was a capable musician and a composer of considerable note having published a large number of successful works.

The Opera House Orchestra which is accounted one of the best musical organizations in the state is almost entirely composed of Bohemian musicians, the following on the Opera House list are: Joseph Hiksa, B. Jansa, F. Kouba, J. Kolar, J. Lesinger, Stanley Vesely, and Henry Loufek.



VISITING PRAGUE

Since the fall of communism in 1989, Prague is back on the map for tourists. Before the Velvet Revolution, tour buses didn't cross the border.

The once-forbidden city is now a regular stop for tour groups traveling through eastern Europe. Prague is still cheaper to visit than the capital cities of western Europe, and the Czechs have come a long way in raising the quality of hospitality and accommodations for visitors.

Tourists can pick from a growing range of hotels. Many visitors are met at the train station by Czechs or foreigners offering their entire apartment for the price of a hotel bunkbed.

Visitors won't have major problems speaking the language. Many Czechs speak English and instructions are commonly in German.

As tourists, Americans are in the minority when you compare to Germans, Italians, French, and Belgians. Prague is growing in popularity as the country proves its civic and economic stability.

Many visitors prefer the fall or winter months because of the number of tourists in summer, which can be overwhelming from April to September. To avoid long lines, higher prices and no air-conditioning, it is wise to brave the colder winter months and have a more intimate visit in Prague. Some castles are still open in October and winter opera is in full swing.

It is said that in Prague the new rich are the taxi drivers and waitresses.

Of all east European capitals, Prague has been the most powerful magnet.

(Sub. by Julia Tschopp from Rocky Mt. News)

HOMESTAY VISIT

(Written by Joy Janda, a 1995 Homestay student in 1995)

The thoughts of spending four weeks in the Czech Republic seemed like a dream. It was more than I had ever hoped for. We did everything from touring Prague to going to nearby villages and towns spending time with our new "families." We spent the first two weeks in Prague. We toured through many castles, cathedrals, and the two squares. We walked along the Charles' Bridge and saw the Vltava River. It was all absolutely amazing. It was almost unbelievable that I was able to see things as beautiful as these. We also took our first night tour of Prague. As we were walking, we took a moment to watch a lady singing opera off a side

street. Then, we walked along the bridge to be greeted by things like a man juggling fire and street musicians singing about insects. We also could stand and just admire how beautiful Prague really is. Then, we made our way back to Prague Castle. We were hoping to get pictures of the cathedral with its beautiful lights on. Right as we got there, they turned off the lights. It was funny. Then we all walked back and went to bed after a quick call home and a very long day.

While in Prague, we also visited many art museums and gardens. We also had the chance to take a day trip to Karlovy Vary. This was extremely special to me because on our way we had a chance to stop at Lidice. This is where my relatives are from. Our new "sisters and brother" showed and told us such wonderful things, by going alone you would never get these little insights. We also visited their last day of school. It was very short. It might have lasted half an hour. It was fun to see how different their schooling is compared to ours.

Then, we got to visit our cottages. The first was that of Amy's sisters. We stayed with their grandmother and grandfather. We spent the weekend swimming. Their grandmother made so much wonderful food. We had a wonderful time there. Next, we headed to Mandy's sister's cottage. This was in Stare Splavy. We spent the next six days there. We went to the beach and relaxed every day. It was fun. We all got to spend time together just being ourselves. Then, that next and final week we just visited Trebon for several days. It was also a beautiful town. We toured the town and spent time on their beaches with grass. The last few days we went back into Prague. We basically just finished up our last minute sight-seeing and shopping.

During our time there we also got to go to the movie theater twice. We all learned, also, how to walk for long periods of time, sometimes carrying heavy bags with us. I think that we learned the hard way what a "short walk" really was. We also had to wait several times for the trains, and maybe having ice cream or having a water fight. While living in America you begin to take many things for granted, like your car, ice, television, just to name a few. Even going without them for four weeks you learn to appreciate them much more.

I enjoyed my stay in the Czech Republic and wouldn't have traded it for anything. I am thankful for the people I spent time with as well. Not only making five new friends over there, but I became close to three others there. We all shared something that not many others get the chance to do. It was absolutely amazing. There was only one problem on my trip, it ended much too soon!

I would also like to thank the Czech Heritage for the chance that I had. I learned so much about my heritage and had many new experiences. Again, thank you very much.

Membership Application

Please check the proper item: Renewal____ New____ Gift____

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

Address _____ Zip + 4 _____ - _____

Make check payable and mail to :

Czech Heritage Foundation., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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

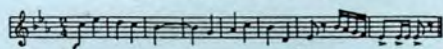
Why not consider a gift membership for someone special? Your dues and generous donations help to fund several worthwhile endeavors such as Czech Prince and Princess sponsorship, financial support for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, adult Czech language classes, the Homestay Program, along with publishing the quarterly Naše České Dědictví, and other numerous publications. The list of Czech Heritage projects goes on and on.

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! Na shledanou!**

Please renew today! A Bargain at \$3.00 per year

Fourth  Annual

Concert Series



All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

(NO RAIN DATE)

Fri. May 17 ----- Pre-Houby Days
Fri. May 24 ----- Ethnic Fest Opener
Fri. June 7 ----- Guest Artist
Fri. June 28 ----- Freedom Festival
(on the steps of the Czech / Slovak Museum)



Fri. July 5 ---- Iowa Sesquicentennial Special
Fri. July 19 ----- Guest Artist
Fri. Aug. 2 ---- Request Night in Masaryk Park
Fri. Aug. 16 ----- Czech Heritage Singers
Fri. Aug. 30 ----- Guest Artist
Fri. Sept. 6 ----- KmochFest / Grande Finale

Czech Plus Band:(since 1978)-
over 18 years of authentic Czech brass music

- Official Band of the Czech Village in Cedar Rapids, IA
- Official Band: National Czech / Slovak Museum & Library

Czech Plus Band / Wesley J. Drahozal, Mgr.
28 - 25th Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-4149
(319) 364-0540

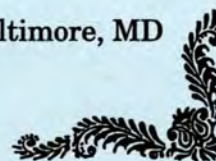


CALENDAR FOR LOCAL EVENTS

June 10.....Czech Summer School
June 7, 8, 9.....St. Ludmila's Kolach Festival
June 11.....Czech Heritage Board Meeting
July 9.....Czech Heritage Board Meeting
July 12.....Czech School Ice Cream Social
August 13.....Czech Heritage Picnic at ZCBBJ Park 6:00 p.m.

CALENDAR FOR NATIONAL EVENTS

June 9-12.....Minnesota Conference (page 16)
September 8.....Czech Festival, St. Paul, Highland Park, MN
Phone (612) 920-5949
September 14.....1,000 years of Czech History at Old Salem NC
to March 1997 Phone (910) 721-7300
September 8-11.....2nd Annual Polka Fest, Las Vegas, NV
Phone (402) 894-1330
October 13.....Czech & Slovak Festival near Baltimore, MD



CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

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Searching for your roots? Experienced people will do genealogical research for you. Will arrange visits to your family's place of origin. Will do personalized tours with new sixteen passenger diesel microbus. Contact Pavel Vild, Lu Well Corp. Malesicka 1 Plzen, Czech Republic.

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HISTORY OF CZECHS IN AMERICA

Jan Habenicht, a Chicago doctor did extensive research. The material was originally published in sections in the Hlas newspaper. In 1910 it was published in book form. The original book was written entirely in Czech. The book, because of its historical and genealogical value was selected as the first of Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l's research projects. The society commissioned Miroslav Koudelka of Olomouc, Czech Republic to translate the book from Czech to English. This book is unlike others dealing with Czech immigration and history in that it contains not only well known Czech persons, but many of the early common immigrants with their town of birth.

For information on ordering this 600 page hard cover book contact: Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l, P.O. Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116-0225.

FEEFHS CONVENTION

Federation of East European Family Societies will hold their International convention on East and Central European Genealogy at the Thunderbird Hotel and Convention Center located at 2201 E 78th St. (I-494 & 24th Ave) Minneapolis (Bloomington), Minnesota from June 8 to 12, 1996.

MORAVIAN EMIGRANT DATA BASE

A research project to chronicle the emigrants from Moravia is under way. We presently have 3,000 Moravian immigrants identified. The data base includes family surnames, villages of origins, birth date, places where they settled in the U.S. etc.

We welcome data from your family or other sources concerning emigrants from the Moravian Lands. Let's build something for all fellow Moravians. Please contact: Moravian Heritage Society, 31910 RD 160, Visalia, CA 93292. (209) 798-1490

Submitted by Tom Hrnecirik