



2010 Czech Fest in Wilber, NE



Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa "Little Sisters" Morgan Simoneau and Sarah Schirm take a break while at Czech Fest in Wilber, Nebraska this summer. These "Little Sisters" along with Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa, Beth Westlake, represented Iowa at the three day long event featuring parades, Czech food, music and dance, and the National Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Pageant. People from throughout the U.S. attend this annual event. ("Jak se mas" means "How are you?" in Czech.) Full story on pages 8 & 9.

Fall 2010

Editor

Karen Lehmann

or

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for *Our Czech Heritage* are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation receive the newsletter free of charge. Contributions may be sent anytime. Annual dues are \$10.00 and renewable on January 1 of each year and expire on December 31. Dues received today apply to the following year for new members.

Website

The Czech Heritage Foundation's newly updated website is something you have to see. Visit www.czech-heritagefoundation.org anytime for all things Czech.

Czech Trivia

The Solo brand is a Czech company. In 1889, 14-year-old John A. Sokol came to Chicago from Pilsen, Bohemia to seek a better position in life. Starting out as a grocery delivery boy, he learned the food business and in November 1895, at age 20, he opened his first grocery store at the corner of Polk and Paulina streets in Chicago. By 1902 he added three more stores.

In the 1920's Sokol introduced the Solo line of food products, which consisted mostly of cake and pastry fillings made from prunes and European-imported poppy seeds.

The Solo name became an instant success. Later the company expanded into dehydrated foods, imported spices and other Solo dessert fillings. In the 1950's the company added its distinctive musical note to Solo's logo.



President's Message



Lud Svoboda
CHF President

A need for people to get involved. Are we members or just lookers to be able to say I am a member of the Czech Heritage Foundation and have been since ! ! ! !.

Members truly need to step right up and pitch right in to get the job done. Members need to speak up and say yes we can do this and proceed to make things happen. Members are needed at the helm of different committees and groups to maintain a viable organization and let the community know we are of Czech or Slovak ancestry.

We need to explain to our children the pride of heritage. At the present time we are in need of young people to take an active part in the royal court of our heritage. We need candidates for our Prince and Princess Program.

It seems as though our children are enthusiastic when they once get into a program, it's just getting them there.

There are members that I can't give enough praise for the work they do with adults as well as the young people. They should not have to work with more than one group. We need some others to step forward and get involved.

We have an opportunity at Czech Heritage to make this organization a lifetime experience. First we have Czech School (Julie Weiderman), Czech Youth Music & Dance Ensemble called Světlušky, Czech Singers, and Publications (Donna Merkle) praise her! Prince & Princess Program and Newsletter (Karen Lehmann), Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa and Education Kits Committee (Zelda De Hoedt). Scholarship Committee (Lee Thornbloom), St. Joseph's Dance (Frank & Barb Edmunds). Then we have our two master artists: Egg & Christmas Ornament Painting (Marj Nejd) and we can't leave out our Master Float Designer and Decorator for the past 25 years (Leonard Pfeifer.)

These are all members that could use help. We always need extra help at activities such as Houby Days and other occasions like Amana, West Branch, Diversity Days, etc.

What do we do when they no longer can do it all?

I know I left someone out because there's too few people to do all of this and that's why I'm saying please step up and make a commitment to be a helper to at least one of these groups and perhaps even take over for awhile when some of the older members want to step down and relax and take in the program that they have been in the background with.



Miss Emeryson Faith Svoboda, fourth generation great-granddaughter of the President, Lud Svoboda.

Czech Youth Out & About

Heritage Tea Party



Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa, Beth Westlake of Coralville, Iowa attended a "Family Heritage Tea Party" at Maria's Tea Room, 59 - 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids on Saturday, Aug. 14. The event was sponsored by Guild members of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

Feather Basting Demonstration



Marge Stone, far left show Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa "Little Sisters" Sarah Schirm and Morgan Simoneau the art of feather basting. The event was sponsored by Guild members of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on Sept. 18.

Babi's Kitchen



CHF Royalty Megan Lehmann, Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa, Beth Westlake, and "Little Sister" Sarah Schirm attended "Babi's (Grandma's) Kitchen" at St. Ludmila's Social Hall, Cedar Rapids on Saturday, Oct. 23. They, along with about 100 others, learned the history behind kolace and how to make them. The event was sponsored by Guild members of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

UI Homecoming Parade



Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa royalty attended the UI Homecoming Parade Oct. 1 in Iowa City. Pictured l-r: Sarah Schirm, Beth Westlake, Morgan Simoneau. A special thank you to Deb Grant-Taylor (driver) of Iowa City and Jeremy Clapham of Lynch Ford Inc, Mt. Vernon for providing beautiful Mustangs used in the homecoming parade.

29 Years of C

(Taken from records written by Olga Drahozal, Past Chairperson)

This program sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation and the Heritage Foundation formulated a program under which boys and girls (middle school and high school) could compete for the title of Czech Heritage Prince and Princess.

The late Sylvia Rohlena was the chairperson, and the community supported the program but the program endured largely because of Sylvia's dedication.

The application forms were available at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library local school's counseling offices during the first week of October.



1981-1982
Jeff Donaghue & Lynne Nejdil



1982-1983
Angie Vlascek & Doug Nejdil



1983-1984
John Rohlena & Janelle Rohlena



1984-1985
David Hruska & Lynette Stejskel



1985-1986
Brenda Buresh & Tim Semelroth



1986-1987
Julie Vlascek & John Buresh



1987-1988
Todd Slezak & Dawn Buresh



1988-1989
Heidi Krejci & John Dostal



1989-1990
Brian Faltis & Janet Kopecky



1990-1991
Jeremy Dostal & Sarah Novotny



1991-1992
Tamara Chadima (No Prince)



1992-1993
Brian Stoklasa & Jessica Radl



1993-1994
Brad Dvorak & Amy Novotny



1994-1995
James Horak & Holly Upah

CHF Royalty

erson)

of Cedar Rapids, IA dates back to 1981 when the Czech Heritage girls of ages 13 and 14 (roughly freshmen or sophomores in high school) were crowned Prince and Princess.

The committee under her changed several times during the ensuing years, but the tradition has remained.

The ceremony is held at the Czech & Slovak Museum and Library and at the end of the year. On the application the candidates

Royalty History

Continued on page 8



1995-1996
Lisa Volesky &
Timon Modracek



1996-1997
Quentin Lewis & Debra Rigel



1997-1998
Brandon Hamous &
Stacia Krivanek



1998-1999
Katie Ziskovsky & Jesse Upah



1999-2000
Lydia Drahozal &
James Hamous



2000-2001
Matthew Samek &
Bridgett Samek



2001-2002
Erick Gervais &
Rachel Wobeter



2002-2003
Conner Lewis &
Cecelia Wolter



2003-2004
Elizabeth Samek &
Austin Vondracek



2004-2005
Jordan Uthoff &
Rachel Lehmann



2005-2006
Vickie Dostal & Austin Frerick



2006-2007
Jordan Netolicky &
Emma Lehmann



2007-2008
Ben Morrissey &
Sarah Sindelar



2008-2009
Andrea Cada & Joey Mark

Russ Novotny



Russ Novotny

by Dave Faltis

It is with a deep sadness that we commemorate the too young passing of our member Russ Novotny of cancer on September 23, 2010. Russ' parents were instrumental in starting the Czech Heritage Foundation and Russ was involved in many of the group's activities from an early age.

He was proud to be 100% Czech. He took photos for many Czech Heritage events such as: crowning royalty, concerts, dances, picnics and traveled to Wilber, NE to photograph events there.

He was proud that his daughters Sarah and Amy were involved and chosen to be Czech princesses and student ambassadors.

Russ was president, vice president, led Ethnic Fest for 20 years and was newsletter editor and on many committees.

Our condolences go out to Russell's family.

Patty Hikiji thanks CHF

To the members and board of the Czech Heritage Foundation I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thank you for the recognition accorded me at the reception hosted by the Museum Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on Tuesday, March 16, 2010.

My grandparents instilled an appreciation and love of my heritage at an early age. As a youngster, I was dressed by my maternal grandmother, in her national costume, to add "color" and an "ethnic flavor" to various community events.

Pat Martin, as the events coordinator for the Czech Village Association, extended the opportunity for cultural participation by involving me, and my children in the activities of Houby Days, the annual Fall Festival, and Den Svatého Mikuláše.

I must also credit Frank and Mae Novotny for encouraging me to become involved with the volunteer educational efforts of the Czech Heritage Foundation by participating in the "Czech Unity" presentations in the Cedar Rapids schools,

which were an important part of the elementary curriculum.

As a staff member of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, I was able to continue my close association with the board and members of the Czech Heritage Foundation in mutually developed and/or complementary activities, as both organizations pursued the goal of preserving and perpetuating Naše České Dědictví. The festivals, holiday parades, dances, ethnic display booths, school tours, "Parade of Kroje" presentations and Czech Heritage Singers performances are just a few of the activities and experiences that have given me such wonderful and enduring memories.

Thank you for your support (all I ever had to do was ask) and your freindship, and especially for the acknowledgement conveyed by the meaningful inscription on the plaque presented to me by Denver Dvorsky. My most sincere "děkuji vám mnohokrát!"

Patricia A. (Patty) Hikiji

Melvina Svec fondly remembered

We are so pleased to read of Melvina Svec in the Winter 2010 edition of the Czech Heritage publication!

The recognition and praise of her many years' contributions to Czech culture are well deserved.

Throughout the years we spent a lot of time with Melvina, during our many visits to the Cedar Rapids area and also when she came to our

home here in Drake, North Dakota.

She talked about her experiences, travels to European countries, and presented many of her books to us, which we treasure.

Her study of genealogy brought to light the fact that she and my husband George are related - he is the son of George (Stancl) Stancel, who was first cousin to Melvina!

We loved her very much.

Orpha Stancel



Světlušky News

Světlušky, the Czech youth folk music and dance ensemble led by Donna and Guenter Merkle have been busy performing around the community this summer and fall.



Linn. Co. Fair	July 9
Class Reunion	Aug. 14
Farmer's Market	Sept. 18
Museum Guild Meeting	Oct. 2
Brookview Assisted Living	Oct. 23

Upcoming Performance:

Masopust in Protovin, IA Mar. 5



Světlušky at the downtown Cedar Rapids Farmer's Market on September 18.



Performing for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Guild meeting on Oct. 2. A tour group from Des Moines were also present in the audience.

Help Wanted

The Czech Heritage Foundation of Cedar Rapids is looking for a volunteer to take charge of its Home Stay program. This program offers qualifying students the opportunity to spend four weeks in the Czech Republic with a family during the summer.

We need someone to coordinate and manage all aspects of the program. Responsibilities would include, among other things, providing information packets to area schools, conducting interviews, and arranging for host families in the Czech Republic. The ability to speak Czech is not required. Access to e-mail is highly preferred.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Lud Svoboda at

or , or write to the Czech Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 8476, Cedar Rapids, IA 52408. We would like to fill this position by the start of 2011.

CHF Royalty

Continued from page 5



2010

Marissa Cada & Eric Sindelar

Beth Westlake Represents Iowa in National Miss Czech-Slovak Pageant

by Beth Westlake

August 7-9 I competed for the title of Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. The national pageant was held in Wilber, Nebraska at the annual Czech Days Festival. I was thrilled to represent Iowa as your queen. There were 13 state contestants (Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Oregon, Massachusetts, South Dakota and Nebraska). Meeting



Beth Westlake, Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa with "Little Sister" for the pageant, Elise Malone of Kansas City, MO.

girls from around the country was exciting. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to discuss differences and similarities in our family histories and heritage.

The weekend consisted of kroj modeling, private interviews, onstage interviews, talent competitions, two bandstand introductions and three parades. We were certainly kept busy with pageant activities and pictures at every step of the process.

My favorite part of the weekend was the time spent getting to know the other girls. It was fun watching the variety of talents and interesting to see the regional and personal differences in kroj. My goal for the weekend was to perform well so I could represent you well and so I didn't embarrass myself. I think I succeeded in achieving both goals. Although I didn't win anything at the pageant, it was still a wonderful experience I'll treasure for a lifetime.

Editors Note: We are currently accepting applications for 2011-2012 Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa candidates. Crowning occurs in May 2011 during Houby Days in Czech Village. If you know a young woman ages 18-26 who would be a good candidate see ad on page 18 for how to apply!

Royalty History

continued from page 5

explained why they were interested in being a Czech Prince/Princess for a year, to what extent did they have a Czech background, and in what Czech activities had they been involved. They indicated what they liked in school, what was their least favorite subject and in what extra-curricular activities they were involved. A committee then reviewed the applications and called the candidates for a private interview.

The form also explained the benefits and the duties of the Prince and Princess. The winning princess and prince used to be crowned at the Annual National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library Banquet sometime in the fall, a date which usually is near October, 28th, the anniversary of Independence Day of Czechoslovakia. The retiring monarchs took the crowns off their heads and crowned the new prince and princess, who were then awarded their royal sashes which bore the year of their reign. In addition, each was awarded a check for \$100.00 which went toward the purchase of a Czech

costume. The boy wore black slacks, white shirt and red vest any of which could be decorated or embroidered in the Czech motif. The girl had to arrange to have a kroj made for herself. Each also received a U.S. savings bond from a local bank.

The prince and princess were expected to participate in all Czech activities which were supported by the Czech Heritage Foundation such as riding on a Czech Heritage Float in the November Downtown Merchants' Holiday Parade, participating in the Svatý Mikuláš activities at the Museum and in Czech Village. In January they were introduced to the Czech community at the annual meeting of the Czech Heritage Foundation and the NCSML. They introduced their parents and presented an oral biography of themselves. In March they participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and St. Joseph's Day Parade. In May they were at the flag rais-

Royalty History

Continued on page 17

"Little Sisters" Enjoy Wilber, NE Czech Fest

Wilber: Hot, But Fun!

by Morgan Simoneau

First lets start out with how HOT it was outside. The parade was a lot of fun. People waved and welcomed us as we road in the parade. Then after the parade we had a little something to eat. Some "real" Czech food and we sat with Beth (Westlake) for a bit. Then we went for a long walk around town and took some photos. We went to the museum in town. Guess what we saw? Well, there were beautiful kroje! They were black, white, red a bunch of cool colors. There were even old maps of Czechoslovakia and other places. We liked it there. Thank you for letting us represent Cedar Rapids Czech Heritage Little Sisters.



Sarah Schirm and Morgan Simoneau at Wilber, Nebraska Czech Fest in August. The girls are 2010-2011 Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa "Little Sisters."

Favorite Memory: Wilber Museum

by Sarah Schirm

In August we traveled to Wilber, NE the Czech Capital of the U.S.A. It was a long trip, but worth it. In Wilber, we experienced the Czech culture everywhere we went. There were many shops that sold Czech items such as meats, kolaches and jewelry. We rode in a big parade and people from all over the country lined the streets. We visited the Hotel Wilber and Beth gave us a tour of where she stayed. They served traditional Czech food at the hotel. My favorite memory of Wilber is the museum. It was filled with all kinds of interesting Czech items. I also thought the air conditioned building was a great place to get out of the heat! I enjoyed representing the Czech Heritage Foundation at the Wilber Czech Festival.



Sarah Schirm and Morgan Simoneau represented the Czech Heritage Foundation by riding in our float at the Wilber festival. Lud and Loreen Svoboda drove the float in the parade.

American Gothic statues recovered

by Marj Nejd

In 2001 the public art project for Cedar Rapids was "Overalls All Over," an American Gothic happening. Twenty-nine life-size statues of Grant Wood's "American Gothics" were to be decorated by area artists. The Cedar Rapids Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Renaissance Group would install the statues around the city for the summer.

I was commissioned by the Czech & Slovak Museum to dress the pair. Wow! What a project. Ed made a wire underskirt for "her" so her skirt would billow out. We then proceeded to make the "kroj" and I painted all the designs that would normally be embroidered. We purchased boots for him and svičky for her. Next, the clothing would be dipped in this special hardening liquid and hung out to dry. (My clothes lines never were the same.) After fully dressed and complete



Pictured back row l-r: DeeAnn Nejd, "George", "Alice", Chuck Nejd, Marj Nejd. Front row l-r: Tom Nejd, Phill Nejd, Emily Nejd.

with accessories, they were taken streets. The title on the plaque read to a warehouse to be weather-treated before setting them out on the

American Gothic

Continued from page 17

Czech Village Mural Completed

by Donna Merkle

Sunday, August 22, 2010 marked the completion of one of two murals that will be placed at the edge of Czech Village and New Bohemia, like bookends bracketing that part of Cedar Rapids which is known for its Czech immigrant population. The mural depicts scenes that represent Czech Village as well as universal Czech themes: the iconic National Czech & Slovak Museum

Mural

Continued on page 19



Sesquicentennial Celebration in Spillville

by Barb Edmunds

Congratulations Spillville, Iowa and the St. Wenceslaus Church on your sesquicentennial celebration on September 3 - 5, 2010.

A bus from the Cedar Rapids National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Guild organization joined your 150th year celebration on Saturday, September 4. The weather was wonderful as we enjoyed the festivities, starting with the two hour parade which we had front row seats in our lawn chairs.

We were honored to have our new Mt. Mercy University students from the Czech Republic join us on this trip. Jana Karolova and Veronika Simonova will be at Mt. Mercy for this school year. They felt right at home, enjoying all of the Czech Heritage influence in this Spillville community. They enjoyed talking to many people who found out they were from the Czech Republic. Jana enjoyed picking up the candy as it was thrown to her by passing units in the parade.

The schedule of entertainment was great, as we had a hard time choosing what we wanted to see when. Some groups played in the beautiful St. Wenceslaus church, some in the Chihak Hall, Entertainment Tent, Convent Old Shool and the school gym. Other entertainment went on throughout the city.

We enjoyed the mother-daughter team from Brno. Mother Hana Bartosova played the church organ while her daughter, Iva Bartosova played the piano. It was so nice to hear this wonderful organ being played as it is the one that Antonín Dvořák played in the summer of



Happy 150th birthday St. Wenceslaus Church.



Pictured l-r: Veronika Simonova and Jana Simonova visiting with guests from Brno, Czech Republic who performed in the beautiful St. Wenceslaus church.

1893 when he was staying in this community. The St. Paul Czech & Slovak Folk Dancers were great and the Moravian Cultural Society Dancers from Illinois put on a great show.

The Czech & Slovak Sokol Minnesota put on a show that we enjoyed. It was fun to see Sokol members that we knew from the past. The Old Time Community Band

played in the outdoor tent which was very relaxing to sit and enjoy their music.

We hope you got to go and enjoy all that went on. If not, you missed a wonderful day with lots of hospitality and wonderful entertainment. We were all very tired as we road in the bus back to Cedar Rapids.

Thanks Spillville, Iowa and St. Wenceslaus Church for a great day!

Czech History Tidbits

Dvořák turns 170 in 2011



Antonín Dvořák
(1841 - 1904)

Contrary to legend, Antonín Dvořák (September 8, 1841 - May 1, 1904) was not born in poverty. His father was an innkeeper and butcher, as well as an amateur musician. The father not only put no obstacles in the way of his son's pursuit of a musical career, he and his wife positively encouraged the boy. He learned the violin and finally was sent to the Prague Organ School, from which he emerged at age 18 as a trained organist and immediately plunged into the life of a working musician. He played in various dance bands, usually as a violist. One of his groups became the core of the Provisional Theater orchestra, the first Czech-language theater in Prague, and Dvořák was appointed principal violist. Around this time, he also began giving private piano lessons, eventually marrying one of his students.

Kolače - A Taste of the Old World

The most popular pastry of the Czech Republic is undoubtedly the kolače. The name of the pastry is from the word "kolo" which means round in Czech. The origin of the kolač is somewhat obscured. One version in the wealth of folklore of the old world is said to be true.

Maminka (Mommy) busy with her weekly task of baking bread, broke off a few pieces of dough with which she gave to her little daughter, Lebuse. The little cook made her dough into round flat cakes. Looking for some added flavor, she selected several plums from a bowl on a table and placed the fruit in the center of the dough. Lebuse's cake went into the oven alongside Maminka's loaves of bread.

Tatinek (Daddy) coming in from the fields, spied the bakery cooling. He selected the tart and popped it into his mouth. Little Lebuse clapped her hands and shouted with joy, "Tatinek, to je kolač!" (Daddy, that is a kolač!) The flavor was remembered, friends and neighbors learned of the tasty pastry. Soon the fame of the kolač spread throughout to become a favorite of people everywhere.

Excerpt from Nase Ceske Deditvi, Sept. 1990

History of Svatý Mikuláš in Czech Village

On St. Nicholas Day, children are visited by the traditionally dressed figure of St. Nicholas (Mikuláš,) who is accompanied by the Angel (Anđel), carrying her record book and pen, and the Devil (Cet), rattling his heavy chain. Each child, at each home, is asked by St. Nicholas if he or she has been good during the year. A favorable response is rewarded with candy,



fruit, or cookies from the Angel. An unfavorable response earns a lump of coal from the Devil. On this day gingerbread cookies are handed out, sometimes in the shape of St. Nicholas, the Angel, and the Devil, or in the form of hearts, birds, or other interesting shapes.

*Excerpt of Naše České Dědictví
Dec. 1989*

20th Anniversary of Czech Liberation

2010 marked the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. Czechoslovakia was under communist rule from 1945-1990.

Publications of Czech Heritage Foundation Price List

Books

Album of Bohemian Songs	\$6.50
Čtanka *	\$5.50
Květy myšlenek*	\$6.00
Meet the Čech Language	\$5.50
My Czech Word Book ABCs	\$6.50
(Coloring Book)	
Pohádky naši matinky s	\$5.50
tatínkovými obázkami*	
Povídka (Sayings)	\$6.00
Příслови (Proverbs)	\$6.00
Slovo - Summer 2009	\$12.00
Stručně dějiny národa českého	\$5.50
(Soft cover slightly discolored)*	
Zvířátká (Little Animals)	\$5.00

Newsletters of Naše České Dědictví

Summer 2010	\$5.00
Spring 2010	\$5.00
Winter 2010	\$5.00
Fall 2009	\$5.00
Summer 2009	\$5.00
Winter 2009	\$5.00
Fall 2008	\$5.00
Spring 2008	\$5.00
Winter 2008	\$5.00
Fall 2007	\$5.00

* In Czech only, no English translation.

Prices are good until **March 31, 2011**. A **20% discount** is available for quantities of 10 or more per item. Contact Donna Merkle at _____ or _____ for details and assistance. To avoid missing an issue of the newsletter in the future, please be sure that you maintain a current membership with CHF.

Please make your check payable to Czech Heritage Foundation and mail to:

Czech Heritage Foundation
P.O. Box 8476
Cedar Rapids, IA 52408

Fall Festival in Czech Village Oct. 16, 2010



Hayrack rides around the neighborhood were provided.



"Papa Balloon," Mark Garvey, provided his balloon artist services free to show his support of Czech Village.

2010 Old Prague Christmas Market in Czech Village

Friday, December 3

3:00 pm	Street 16th Ave closed from C Street to bridge.
3:00 - 4:30 pm	Vendors set up outdoor booths.
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Food and merchandise vendor booths open.
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Musical entertainment by local carolers, strolling madrigals, brass band, and Czech Heritage Singers.
6:00 pm	Lighting of the Christmas Tree at the Bandstand.

Saturday, December 4

9:00 am - 8:00 pm	Food and merchandise vendor booths open.
9:00 am - 8:00 pm	Musical entertainment by local carolers, strolling madrigals, brass band and Czech Heritage Singers.
9:30 am	NCSML Guild Cookie Walk at St. Wenceslaus Church.
9:00 am - 7:00 pm	Horse drawn wagon rides.
10:00 am - 12:00 Noon	The Czech Heritage Foundation's Svatý Mikuláš, Angel, and Cert (Devil) stroll the Avenue going to Kuncí Mall where there will be hot chocolate and cookies. Svatý Mikuláš will give the children Christmas stockings donated by the Czech Village. Children will take their stockings up and down 16th Avenue to collect candy and treats from the merchants.
10:00 am - 12:00 Noon	Bake Sale at Joens Brothers sponsored by Czech Heritage Foundation.

Czech Christmas Customs and Superstitions

Christmas Carp

A few days before Christmas carp become available in Prague so that families can prepare the traditional dish of carp for the Christmas meal. These carp, sold from barrels, are purchased live. Some families keep carp in the bathtub until they are ready to prepare the fish.

Money & Wealth

Fish scales should be placed under Christmas dinner plates or under the tablecloth to bring wealth to the house. Carrying a fish scale in a wallet all year will ensure that money will not run out.

Marriage

On December 4, St. Barbora's Day, an unmarried girl is supposed to cut a twig off of a cherry tree and put it in water. If the twig blooms by Christmas Eve, the girl will marry within a year.



Carp are a traditional Christmas dish in Czech Republic.

Fresh Apple Cake with Caramel Glaze

Recipe of Karen Lehmann

CAKE:

- ¼ cup cinnamon-sugar mixture (for dusting cake pan)
- 4 apples, chopped small
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup canola oil
- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon



GLAZE

- 2 tablespoons butter
- ½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk

1. Preheat oven to 350°; grease a bundt pan or tube pan and coat with cinnamon-sugar mixture.
2. Mix apples, eggs and oil with an electric mixer.
3. Add the flour, sugar, baking soda and cinnamon; mix well.
4. Pour into pan and bake about 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
5. Allow cake to cool in pan for at least 10 minutes; invert onto a cake plate.
6. To prepare Glaze; combine butter, brown sugar and milk in a medium saucepan, bring to a boil and cook for 1 minute.
7. Spoon over cake, allow to cool before serving.

Museum Guild Cookie Walk

The Museum Guild will host their 12th Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 4 at the St. Wenceslaus Church gymnasium, 1230 5th St. SE, from 9:30 am - noon or until all cookies are sold. Shoppers can buy fancy and traditional holiday cookies by the pound prepared by Czech & Slovak bakers. All proceeds benefit NCSML Museum Guild. Parking is available in lots accessed via 15th and 17th Avenues SW.

NCSML News

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has secured the property on which the new museum and library will be built and finalized the design of the building. October 2010 the NCSML will host a groundbreaking to officially kick-off the construction phase of recovery.

The proposed building will accommodate: an enlarged library, a large permanent exhibition space, two temporary exhibition galleries, a classroom, an auditorium, an expanded Museum Store, a multifunctional hall, a back-of-house workshop, and administrative offices and meeting space. There will also be an underground parking garage positioning the building three feet above the 2008 flood level.

*Excerpt from MOST, the NCSML newsletter
Fall 2010*

Czech Heritage Partnership in Protovin, IA Upcoming Events

Christmas Concert, December 18, 2010 featuring four hands piano with Du Huang, Xiao Hu and a local Children's Choir.

The 5th Annual Masopust, March 5, 2011 - A full day of music, food and fun - Czech Mardi Gras

Waterloo/Cedar Falls Symphony Concert, April 8, 2011 featuring Dvořák and Janacek.

For more information go to: www.czechheritagepartnership.org.

CHF & Czech Village Sponsored Breakfast

The Czech Heritage Foundation and Czech Village Association sponsored a Pancake and Egg Breakfast Saturday, Oct. 16 at the Fall Festival in Czech Village. Breakfast was served 7-11 under the Red Baron Big Top tent on 16th Avenue SW. The breakfast included scrambled eggs, sausage links, pancakes and button mushrooms. Kolaches were available for extra.

by Bob Chadima

The historic Cherry Building at 329 10th Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids has become known in recent years as a center of creative entrepreneurs and artists. It is a place where they both practice their crafts and develop their businesses. Appropriately the building also marks the northern boundary of Cedar Rapids' Bohemian Commercial Historic District. At its prime, a hundred years and more ago, the factories and warehouses of this district provided employment for Czech and Slovak immigrants seeking better lives in America. It was natural then that the area would become the commercial and social heart for Cedar Rapids' citizens of Czech heritage. The ZCBI, CSCP, First Trust and Cherry Buildings are the dominant structures of the district still remaining in place. Along with the National Czech and Slovak Museum at the southern end of the district these buildings now provide the framework on which a resurgence of Czech and Slovak heritage is being rebuilt in eastern Iowa.

Thirty-one-year-old John G. Cherry immigrated to Iowa from Didington, England, in 1869 to join his brother Joseph, a farmer at Troy Mills. John began his life in America operating a general store in Troy Mills. Three years later, in 1872, Mary Ann Miles, sister to Joseph's wife Susan, also immigrated to Troy Mills. Brothers had married sisters when Mary Ann and John were wed in Cedar Rapids in 1872. In 1877, four years and three children later, John took employment as a butter maker at a creamery in Walker — one of the first creameries in the state. In 1879 he removed to Cedar Rapids to be the chief butter maker

at the Morin Company.

While working for Morin his genius led him to design a can that both insulated the milk and prevented it from churning into butter while being transported from the farm. Once Cherry had patented his invention Morin demanded Cherry turn over part interest of his sales or give up his job. Mary Ann's response was, "We were able to get along before working for Morin — and we will be able to get along without them!" John resigned as chief butter maker and then started production of his patented can in the barn behind their home. The J. G. Cherry Company was formed shortly later in 1880. As Cherry developed new products for the dairy industry his business grew. He built his first factory building at 411 10th Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids. After J. G.'s death in 1899 the continued development of the business by his sons led to construction in 1911 of a second, larger building adjacent to the first. In 1919 the

Company constructed its third, and the only surviving, "Cherry Building" at 329 10th Avenue SE. It is this building which today is the center of so much creative entrepreneurial activity.

Architecturally the building is significant in its own right. Its utilitarian design contains elements of both the Commercial Style and Prairie School Styles. Perhaps the most handsome masonry feature are the cornice and parapet. The building is an excellent example of heavy timber post and beam construction once common for factories in this country. The beams are 11"x17" timbers, the joists are 3"x12" planks set inches on center. The floors are oak and maple laid over 2"x6" sub flooring. Where possible, ceilings have been left open to reveal the details of construction to visitors. The building is in excellent structural condition, and remains one of the few of its type of construction still standing.

History of Ch



The historic Cherry Building located at 329 10th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids was built in 1919. It was the third and only surviving Cherry Building. It, and the two other Cherry Buildings were manufacturing plants that made products for the dairy transportation industry.

Cherry Building

In the late 1940s manufacturing operations of the Cherry-Burrell Company (today known as Evergreen Packaging) moved to its new plant at 2400 6th St. SW, Cedar Rapids. The Building was then leased to Collins Radio Company for the following twenty years. After Collins' occupancy the once grand old building slowly suffered neglect for eight years until Bob Chadima purchased it in 1976 and began the slow, step by step rehabilitation of the structure. Chadima first housed his industrial supply business on the first floor. Rather than let the second and third floors lie unused he solicited his first tenants.

The great open space of each floor allowed flexibility for new tenants to lay out their floor plans just as they wished. Large windows flood the interior with light. Skylights on the roof floor were particularly attractive to artists, photographers and designers. As word spread among local entrepreneurs and artists of the synergistic advantages of studios in the Cherry Building, more people were led to lease space. Today the Cherry Building houses an eclectic mix of energetic and creative talent. The initiative and foresight of these adventuresome people led a cadre to group together to promote their arts and to attract others to join. They came to call themselves "New Bohemians." Today the whole area of south 3rd St. has become known as New Bohemia, or simply "New Bo." Businesses such as Legion Arts, Parlor City, Chrome Horse, the National Czech and Slovak



John G. Cherry 1838-1899, founder of the Cherry-Burrell Company which today is known as Evergreen Packaging.

Museum and building owners of New Bohemia and Czech Village, as they rebuild from the damage of the flood, are creating a district that soon will be the center of popular culture and entertainment for Cedar Rapids in the next few years.

The monstrous flood of June '08 poured its waters to a height of seven feet on the first floor of the Cherry Building. Walls, floors, equipment; everything the waters touched, was destroyed. Scores of dedicated volunteers labored seven days a week to remove debris and clean the building before the upper floor tenants could return to their work place. The damage is now nearly completely repaired. Regretfully, some tenants were unable to return. New faces have replaced those tenants who were unable to return after the flood. The Cherry Building has survived the flood and it remains a center for artists and creative entre-

preneurs in New Bohemia.

American Gothic

Continued from page 10

"A Work In Prague - Dress - Artist Marjorie Nejdll."

My granddaughter, Emily, named the couple Alice & George. After bravely weathering the summer (and vandalism) under the clock tower, Ernie Buresh purchased them to stand tall in his Village Bank at 3rd St. SE. There Alice & George stood until the flood. I was told the ceiling fell in on them.

You can imagine my surprised wonderment when I received a phone call telling me that the statues are now standing in a corner at Parlor City Pub & Eatery, 1125 3rd St. SE, Cedar Rapids. Poor Alice & George look pretty much flood battered but still standing.

Royalty History

Continued from page 8

ing ceremony during Houby Days and the Memorial Day Service at the Czech National Cemetery. June found them riding on a float in the Freedom Fest Parade, and in July they led the opening ceremonies of the Annual Czech School Program at Wilson Middle School. In October they attended the annual banquet and resigned their year of reign.

Karen Lehmann took over the Prince & Princess Program in 2008 from retiring Olga Drahozal. Now interested applicants can go online at czechheritagefoundation.org to get information and an application.

*The Cedar Rapids Czech Heritage Foundation
announces its search for*

Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2011-2012



2010-2011

*Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa
Beth Westlake*

Could This Be You?

- * *Candidates must 18 to 26 years of age with a Czech, Slovak, Moravian, or Silesian heritage.*
- * *Candidates must be a resident of Iowa.*
- * *Contestants will compete at the Annual Houby Days Czech Festival in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in four categories: private interview, talent, costume modeling, and public interview.*

Winner will receive jeweled crown, sash, flowers, scholarship, gifts, and sponsorship to the Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska.

National winners may receive trophies, scholarships, savings bonds, flowers, gifts, a trip to the Czech Republic, and paid tuition to Florida Gulf Coast University

*For more information and to apply visit:
www.czechheritagefoundation.org*

Grandmother's Apron



Grandmother's clothes made little impression on me as a child - except her apron. It's uses were unlimited. The apron made a basket when she gathered eggs and if there were fluffy chicks to be carried to the back porch during a cold spell, they made the trip peeping contentedly in Grandma's apron. When these chicks grew to henhood and pecked and scratched in Grandma's flower garden, she merely flapped her apron at them and they ran squawking to the chicken yard. I can see her yet tossing cracked corn from her apron to the hungry flock.

The chips and kindling needed to start fires in the big black iron range were carried in Grandma's apron. Peas, string beans, lettuce, radishes, carrots, apples and peaches all found they way to the kitchen in Grandma's "carry-all."

To men working in the fields, the apron waved aloft was the signal to "Come to dinner." At threshing time, Grandma hovered about the long table passing aromatic dishes and flipping the big apron at pesky flies.

When children came to visit, the apron was ready to dry childish tears. If the little ones were shy, the apron made a good hiding place if a stranger appeared unexpectedly.

The apron was used countless times to stroke a perspiring brow as Grandma bent over the hot wood stove or hoed the garden under a blistering sun. In chilly weather, Grandma wrapped the friendly apron around her arms when she hurried on an outside errand or lingered at the door with a departing guest.

Hastily and a bit slyly, the apron dusted tables and chairs when company was seen coming down the lane. And in the evening when the day's work was done - Grandma shed her garment of many uses and dropped it over the canary's cage.

*Excerpt from Truman Trojan newsletter
Truman Elementary School
Cedar Rapids 1984*

Do you have an "I Remember" story? We'd love to hear from you.

Membership Form



Who? Who? Whooo?

YOU!

MEMBERSHIP is reached the 474 mark! And now we are striving to double that. YOU can help by giving a gift membership, especially to those "Who" have everything . . . except the pleasure of cultivating and enjoying their heritage.

As a due paying member of Czech Heritage Foundation (dues are \$10.00 per person for one year, Jan. 1 - Dec. 31.) you receive four issues of this newsletter, Naše České Dědictví. Each issue contains Czech news, culture and history. Please make checks payable to Czech Heritage Foundation.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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_____ New Member

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Mail form and check to:

Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 8476
Cedar Rapids, IA 52408

Mural

Continued from page 10

& Library, the clock tower, a local folk artist with her painted eggs, an accordion player, Czech princess, and youth dressed in their kroje.

Some murals are painted directly on walls, but this 8 x 24 foot project used 3 aluminum composite panels which were attached to the brick building known locally as Bartunek's Appliance. Walldogs, a group of sign painters who paint murals throughout the country, sketched the outline of the painting onto the panels. Local volunteers, working in two-hour shifts over 3 days, did the painting using a water-based paint that should last about 10 years. Think of this as a huge paint-by-number activity! No artistic talent was required, just a desire to be part of history in the making.

The second mural is planned for the spring and will be installed in the New Bohemia District, an arts and cultural district undergoing revitalization and streetscaping on the east side of the Cedar River. It is hoped that the two murals will unify the Czech Village/New Bohemia Main Street District which spans both sides of the river. Both areas played a significant role in the settlement of Czech immigrants in Cedar Rapids.



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PRAGUE'S CHRISTMAS MARKET



Old Town Prague's Christmas Market is a major event every December, and it gets more popular every year. Visitors can shop, sample traditional foods of the Czech Republic, take carriage rides, and enjoy a calendar of cultural events.