

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

Vol. 7 - No. 2
June 1982

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



KALENDÁŘ

CALENDAR

June 5-6 Sat., Sun. All Cedar Rapids
ETHNIC FESTIVAL, Roundhouse. p. 6.
June 11-13, Fri. -Sun. KOLACH FESTIVAL
St. Ludmila's grounds. Carnival, food, games
contests, fun. Cedar Rapids.
June 18-19, Fri., Sat. "HEY" DAY, Fairfax.
Parade, carnival, games.
July 3, Sat., Swisher, Iowa. BARBECUE at
noon. Parade, dance, games, Legion Hall
and grounds.
July 4, Sun. FIREMEN'S BREAKFAST, Ely,
Iowa. 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Also parade
and fun.
July 23-24, Fri., Sat. BEEF DAYS, Solon,
Iowa. Midway, booths, fun, food.
Aug. 19, Thurs. ANNUAL PICNIC of Czech
and Fine Arts Foundations, ZCBJ Park.
Sept. 10-12, Fri. -Sun. 9th ANNUAL CZECH
FESTIVAL, Czech Village in Cedar Rapids.
p. 5.
Nov. 4, Thurs. All day BAZAAR, SOUP and
KOLACHES, Hus Memorial Presbyterian
Church. Cedar Rapids.
Dec. 4 Sv. MIKULAS DAY, Czech Village.

COME !! OUR 5th ANNUAL PICNIC

August 19, Thursday
Z. C. B. J. Park, 6 p.m.

Meat, buns and drinks furnished. Will be
POT LUCK SUPPER. Please bring your con-
tribution of some "goodie" and your table
service.

Would be SPECIAL and a SURPRISE if at
least 400 of you came to join the fun, food,
music and dancing! How that Pavilion would
rock and roll !!

This way for those of you who have
not been to the Z. C. B. J. Park: fol-
low C Street south from 16th Ave. S.W!
At the power plant turn left thru the
underpass and then turn right (no other way to



travel). . . cross small culvert and at first road
to left, (on east) and continue some 2 miles
to gate with Z. C. B. J. . . . follow lane to park
area. You'll like it there!

CZECH HISTORY DISPLAY

Would you like to see an original letter
of T. G. Masaryk, written in 1915 to Cedar
Rapids supporters of Czech independence?

Or would you enjoy a display of Czech
needlecraft?

How about viewing pictures of parades
and celebrations in Czech Village over the
past 75 years???

Also, you can see pictures of the evolu-
tion of Czech Village from 1900 to the present.

Or would you like to see Jansa's Silver
Cornet Band and others as they appeared in
the past?

Can you identify anyone in the Czech Home
Guard or the Americanization Class of 1905-
1906 at Matice Školská or the 50 year School
Class of 1932 ???

Well, have you ever seen the unique Bo-
hemian Tabernacle?

If any of these items interest you, then
you must see the display of "The Czechs in
Linn County" at the Museum. This is a new
project of the Czech Heritage Fdn. Chances
are you also have similar items in your pos-
session that could be shared with others. They
can, with the exception of needlecraft, be co-
pied so that you retain the original document or
picture. PLEASE call one of the committee
members without delay. We need everyone's
help to make this project truly outstanding.

Committee members are:

Dennis Hrabak	Russell Novotny
Evelyn Lamparek	Bob Stone
Frank W. Novotny	Marge Lala Stone

Adeline Volesky

SPRINGTIME 1982 - A VISIT TO CZECHY

Below you will read a part of a letter from our members who were in S. W. Czechy. One had been in the U.S. Army 2nd Division W. W. II. at the end of their combat trail, May 5, 1945. We are pleased to share the up-to-date conditions they found.

"In visiting our friends, we found that although they must continue to live a much suppressed life, they do have the basic necessities of life although most of the items except for bread and potatoes are quite scarce. They had not seen a banana for six months, no lettuce and fruits, except for apples which are also scarce, gasoline is \$2.40/gallon, autos, housing, furniture, building materials, clothing and meat are scarcity items and often they must wait weeks to months to attain them. No money can be taken out of the country and so foreign travel is near impossible beyond the Iron Curtain.

But they remain hopeful and somewhat cheerful in spite of these hazards...the older generation only must recall the days of tyranny and torture under Adolph Hitler to find some degree of 'a sigh of relief' ! They continue to yearn for news of America through the Voice of America and nearly all do have radios that can pick up these stations quite clearly.

They kept saying, 'Please come back, we need it for morale purposes'. It is a drab, solemn, gloomy, grave and conforming communistic life. So, I urge you members to continue writing the friends and/or relatives whenever you possibly can."...

CORRECTION, PLEASE

Please repair the error on page 4 of March 1982 issue of our newsletter. In right hand column: "SOME FIRSTS.." 1959 should have read 1859 and 1969 should have read 1869. Sorry !

Q. What am I to do, Doctor, every night I dream I am boxing?

Dr. Aha! In the morning, do you feel all beat up?

Ans. Not me but my husband does.

POMLASKY - SWITCHES

An old custom in the Provinces of Bohemia and Moravia was braiding several willow switches and tying red and white ribbons for streamers at the top. At Easter the boys and young men would ask a girl for a colored egg. If the girl did not give the lad an egg, he would playfully switch her! In return for the egg, the lad would give the girl a "goodie" in the shape of a heart made of marzipan on which was a colored picture and perhaps a paper lace edging. Today the switches are made of plastic!

At the summer village festival, a "POUT", the fancy marzipan cookies would be in the shape of a doll for the girls and a soldier for the boys. A colored picture would top the cookie. These along with other foods would be sold at booths or at the church festival.

R. B. P.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Gary Sojka who was honored May 22nd at the Coe College Alumni Award ceremony during Coe Commencement activities. Dr. Sojka graduated from Coe in 1962. In 1981 he became Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University, Bloomington. He majored in microbiology and biochemistry at Purdue University. He has been honored for excellence in teaching and named distinguished professor. He is the son of Marvin and Ruth Sojka. Marvin who died some years ago was a student at Wilson Junior High School in the late 1920's.

AND HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PAT MARTIN

recipient of the Iowa Press Women, Inc., award for best work during the year 1981 under the category "BOOKS-(non-fiction). 1st. Pat Martin, The CZECH BOOK (Recipes and Traditions.)" All First-place entries are sent to the National Federation of Press Women's communication contest. Winners will be announced June 12th. The convention is in Anaheim, Calif.





Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

10 - 16TH AVENUE S.W.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52404

MUSEUM NEWS

This spring, the Czech

Museum and Library started a new ap-

proach to preserving the cultural heritage of the Czechs through encouraging community participation. The following activities were a result of this new approach.

VISIT BY GRADES 1-6. On Friday, April 2nd, a total of 150 pupils from St. Ludmila's School came to visit the Museum and Library to learn about Easter and springtime customs in Czechoslovakia. One half of the visit was spent in the Museum. The classes were divided into groups of eight, among the six tour guides. Each child made a willow switch, complete with ribbons which they took home. The children learned about using natural ingredients to make dyes for Easter eggs: onions, coffee and green tea. . . . Once the Museum tour was completed, the tour guides took their groups to visit Czech Village. In the shops and stores the children saw how a business was carried on, viewed the merchandise, watched skilled workers at their trade and learned about materials used or on display. It was a fun day and a very educational one.

More special tours like this will be available in the future. If you know of someone who would be interested in these expanded-participant tours contact the Museum Curator, 362-8500.

EGG DECORATING. Marj NejdI spent Saturday, April 10th, at the Museum demonstrating egg painting. Marj is a real artist and gave very informative and interesting demonstrations all day long. Despite the bad weather, a hundred people showed up to watch Marj and tour the Museum.

DEMONSTRATIONS. Starting in July, the Museum will be featuring demonstrations of crafts and skills that are rarely seen. There will be one day set aside for the activity. The date will be publicized. The session will be video-taped. For those unable to attend the demonstration on the day it is scheduled, the video-tape will be available for viewing. This program will be given once a month from July to December.

UNVEILING OF ORIGINAL WORK. An original study was drawn to commemorate the first anniversary of the Museum and Library in its new home. Rick Kasperek is a talented, contemporary artist who donated his time and expertise to the Museum by drawing a study of a young woman in national costume. The original hangs in the Museum. This is the first in a series of five works, each of which will be issued on successive anniversaries.

The national costume featured is an antique kroj from a region in Slovakia. The artist's model was Patty Konecny, of Konecny's Restaurant in Czech Village. Patty is Czech, and she has the classical lines of her proud heritage. This drawing is a study, not a portrait. In portraying Patty in this heirloom costume, the artist captured on paper, a quality of universal womanhood that is ageless.

The Czech Fine Arts Fdn. is proud to have sponsored such a fine work, one that is already getting recognition from the art community. Signed and numbered prints were available at the unveiling, May 2nd, with the donation going to the Museum. Prints are available for a \$20.00 donation. Write or call the Museum (362-8500) for more information.

(continued on page 4)

FEDERATION OF CZECH GROUPS announces: the "LYRA" Group from Chicago area at the Paramount Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. More details in September newsletter.

MUSEUM NEWS

JOAN MONDALE VISITS THE MUSEUM

on April 18th. During the years that her husband was Vice-President, she was the Honorary Chairman of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. She has an Art History background, and has worked as a volunteer tour guide at the National Gallery of Art. Whenever she travels she makes a point to visit museums all over the country. It is because of her extensive travel and promotion of the arts that she is often called "Joan of Art". Knowing that she has drawing power for the media, she is always willing to help promote local efforts and get them publicity. She feels that "We are often blind to beautiful things around us".

A reception was held in her honor at the Museum, with Directors from all three Boards invited (the Village, The Heritage and Fine Arts). A hand painted egg, made by Marj Nejdil was presented to Joan Mondale by the Prince and Princess.

INFORMATION NEEDED: Assistance of

our readers is requested in gathering the following information--

1. Museum Demonstrations: we would like to compile a list of people with special skills or crafts that are rarely seen today, but were once a part of life. If you or anyone you know has a skill that would be of interest, please call 362-8500 or 366-4937 and let us know.
2. If you, your friends or relatives know of Czech items (of Museum quality) that will be becoming available, let us know. Call phones listed above.
3. The Foundation, through the Museum collection, concentrates primarily on the origins of the Czechs. In conjunction with this, and for historical documentation, we are seeking information about Czechs and Slovaks who visited Iowa in the period of 1917-1925, and who went back to Czechoslovakia. If you have any information on this topic, please contact the Museum Curator, Jana Fast at 362-8500 or drop us a line at 10-16th Ave. S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404.

SUMMER HOURS AT MUSEUM will have expanded open hours, Monday through Friday, 2:00 to 4:00 each afternoon and Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

MUSEUM STATISTICS. During the two days of Houby Days weekend, more than 300 people visited the Museum. Total statistics from September 1978 to June 1982 show that more than 11,900 people visited the Museum. They came from all fifty states, D.C. and twenty-four foreign countries.

MUSEUM NEWS ITEMS ARE BY
Jana Fast, Curator, Museum.

BALCONY ADDITION. The Museum and Library collections continued to grow. In the spring of 1982, the Czech Fine Arts Fdn. Board of Directors made the decision to expand the usable space by adding a balcony on the west wall. During the remodeling, all fragile items were removed from the building, and were safeguarded in a separate locked facility under the supervision of our insurance carrier, Slavia Agencies. The cost of the remodeling was less than 10% of the cost of the total renovation a year ago.

DONATIONS. On behalf of the Czech Fine Arts Fdn., I would like to ask for your continued support. We are preserving and displaying our ever-growing collection of beautiful artifacts and books. The Museum and Library is a community effort. But we need your help to keep it going and growing. All donations are tax deductible. Please address your donations to: Czech Fine Arts Foundation, c/o Elsie Jelinek, Treasurer,

With the direct support of the Czech Community we can continue in our efforts.

Robert P. Schaffer
President

To save for the "rainy day" is not very helpful because all you can buy is a small umbrella.

COMING! ETHNIC CELEBRATION COMING!

Two Day Festival June 5 and 6
Riverside Roundhouse

Join the folks to see the events at the Farmer's Market--the Riverside Roundhouse--just south of the 14th Ave. Bridge. Get acquainted with the ethnic groups in our community.

Ethnic Celebration will feature music and dancing, foods, arts and crafts, demonstrations, displays and traditions of the Blacks, Czechs, Danish, Greeks, Irish, Mexicans, Norwegians and Vietnamese of the area. All Celebration participants will be in costume. Representing non-profit groups and organizations, these hosts and hostesses will be happy to discuss their heritages with the public, according to Jane Nelson, Festival Manager.

Guests will be able to sample a variety of ethnic foods, beverages, music, crafts and imported items. Hours will be Saturday, June 5, 2:00 to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 6, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$1.25 at the gate entrance. Advance tickets at \$1.00 each are available now from members of the following non-profit groups and organizations: NAACP-Black Women's Civic Organization, Danish Brotherhood in America, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, SaPaDaSo, Los Amigos, Sons of Norway, Vietnamese Mutual Fellowship, Czech Heritage Foundation and Czech Fine Arts.

REPORTS ON HOUBY DAYS

Prize houby, or mushrooms, won trophies for the following houby hunters during the Houby Days Festival in Czech Village, May 15-16th. Smallest Houba, Eric Woods, Walker; Tallest Houba, Jeff McClun, Cedar Rapids; Largest Houba, Richard Fleming, Central City; Best Large Display, Patty Konecny, Ely; Best Small Display, Mary Pavlicek, Ely; Most oddly-Shaped Large Houba, Dan Buchanan, Toddville; Most Oddly-Shaped Small Houba, Patty Konecny; Most Original Display, Eddie Woods, Walker; Best Houba in Show, J. Bordwhite, Cedar Rapids.

Czech Village Association, Inc.

59 16th Ave. S.W.,

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404



CZECH VILLAGE FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 10, 11, 12 Czech Village on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. THREE DAYS of Czech music, food, gaiety and old fashioned fun! Remember the Merchant's breakfasts--meet friends and EAT! Co-Sponsored by Czech Village Association with Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations, the 9th Annual Celebration will feature a Festival Polka Fest and Beer Garden, Czech Bake-Off, continuous music, dancing and demonstrations of Czech fine and folk arts and a variety of contests.

PŘIJDTE VŠECHNY ! YA' ALL COME!

NEW THIS YEAR will be a three-day WORKSHOP ON CZECH EMBROIDERY! to be taught at Festival Headquarters all three days. Mary Hudeček of Protivin, Iowa, an accomplished artist of Czech stitchery, will conduct the course which will be open to 12 participants in the three morning sessions and to 12 participants in the three afternoon sessions. Registration information about the course may be directed to Sally Kriz (Mrs. Vern) Her telephone is

CONTEST FOR ROYALTY

A contest for a new Czech Princess and Prince will be held, a Czech Heritage parade staged, and a Street.Antique Show and Sidewalk Bazaar of Folk Arts and Crafts will be expanded this year.

HOUBY DAYS SPORTS EVENTS. The 5000-Meter race (3 miles) on Sunday in Czech Village: Fastest runner in 19-29 age group-Tim Skopec, 15 min. 46 seconds. Other winners were: 13-15 age, both female and male: Sara Joens 25:08 and Scott Middleton,

17:47; in 16-18 age group, Lisa Naxera, 24:10 and Paul Skopec, 16:48; in 19-29 age group Margie Stangl, 21:37 and Skopec the overall winner; in 30-39 age group, Sharon Mefferd, 22:29 and Joe Baumert, 17:45; in 40-49 age group, Jan Naxera, 22:56 and Al Siemering, 17:21; age 50 and over, Lore Yoder, 24:13 and Al Brown 20:55. Winners in the 100-yard dash following the 5000-Meter were Raymond Hays at 10:32 seconds, Sara Joens, 10:38 sec.

CZECH VILLAGE NEWS ITEMS by Pat Martin,
Village Coordinator

KCRG AIRS HOUBY DAYS !

Were you listening to KCRG radio or were in the woods looking for the HOUBY? From May 9th to 16th there were 132 radio spots on the air to tell all about HOUBY DAYS! In addition as a public service announcement of KCRG, the Sunday Morning program of May 16th came from the big tent on the grounds in Czech Village. KCRG donates the time and engineering and DAVE FRANKLIN Kralik donates his time and talent as M.C. The entire Sunday program is gratis. Tune in for free and enjoy yourself!

AND MORE CONGRATULATIONS

The POLKA CLUB OF IOWA made the first awards this year to its HALL of FAME: To DAVID FRANKLIN Kralik for Music Promotion and to SYL MALEK for Band Leader of The Malek Fishermen, Garner, Iowa.

A SALUTATION

We salute MARJ NEJDL for the artistic design you see on p. 3 of this issue! She not only has native talent but her study at the Chicago Art Institute enhances the skill and creativity of her work. Altho her hobby is decorating eggs with designs to suit the seasons, her professional art work is in the field of commercial design.

A special "Thank You" to the contributors of this issue and to Marie Wokoun and James Cada for their help.

WELCOME TO AMERICAN FORCES
LIBERATION CEREMONY

---, Czechoslovakia
May 5, 1945

Dear Friends and Comrades from America:

We welcome you all most frankly in our beloved country and our small village of --- as well.

You have come to us from abroad, from the U.S.A., England, France, Germany and now to Czechoslovakia in order to rescue us. For six years we have suffered under the German masters who destroyed our best men in concentration camps; grabbed our towns and villages and our mother Prague is damaged also.

They killed a lot of our children and women and intended to down us all fully. But, it has not happened and shall not, only by means of your coming here to help us. We thank you very,very much for it.

After you go back home please carry out our frank greetings to all of yours. We are thankful for them too, for all you have done for us at this crucial time.

Now may I say, "Vive U.S.A., Vive U.S.S.R., Vive England, Vive President Truman, Marshall Stalin and Prime Minister Winston Churchill!" Also, "Vive our President, Dr. Eduard Benes!"

But now you may entertain yourself as nice as possible among us and we shall wish you many happy and pleasant returns home. So, now let us all sing together the National Anthem of both nations, Czechoslovakia and the United States of America.

Good Luck!
-----, Mayor
--- Czechoslovakia

P.S. A distant cousin of the Mayor is one of our members. The Mayor found the above item among his memorabilia. The speech was delivered to the U.S. Armed Forces personnel and local citizens at the City Hall on May 5, 1945. The mayor is age 75 this year. He enjoys playing his violin and visiting his grandchildren. He reads, paints and enjoys travelling.



CZECH INGENUITY

At the left is part of a mosaic that was designed for a "logo". Many of you have seen the famous Pražský Orelj - the astronomical clock as part of the

tower of the Old Town Hall. Inside the vestibule on the ceiling is a most beautiful mosaic, part of which is formed by the emblem of Praha. At the left is a very small part of the design, showing the gates to the city.

The Nazis ordered the mosaic destroyed at the time of their occupation of Czechoslovakia. The mosaic disappeared. After the war was over the mosaic magically appeared!

The Czechs had not destroyed it but merely plastered over it and once again revealed the treasure when it was safe to do so. Clever!!! (and one might add the Czechs have subtle ways in language expressions as well).

We are indebted to Dick and Libbie (Fikejs) Caldwell, members of the Foundation, who live in Arlington Heights, Illinois, for this true story. "Thank you".

FAMOUS ČAPEK FAMILIES

Karel Čapek, the writer, and his brother, Josef, an artist painter, are well known by most Czechs. There is another Čapek, NORBERT ČAPEK, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia in 1922. He was arrested in 1941 at the time of Nazi occupation taken to the death camp at Dachau and died the following year. In July there will be a commemoration service at Dachau, West Germany, the 40th year of his death. Capek's daughter, the Rev. Bohdana Haspl, a Czech Unitarian minister, is expected to take part in a service to be held in Prague. After this event, the tour group from United States will continue to Dachau for the service there.



AMERIKÁN NÁRODNÍ KALENDÁŘ 1957

80th Year, Geringer Press, Chicago.
Last issue printed in Czech language.

The KALENDÁŘ was an almanac type of publication, colored cover, 224 pages. Every month had a page at the first of the volume. The days were in a vertical column. Opposite each date were the names of saints, one column for the Catholic saint and to the right the Protestant name for that day. At the far right was a column for special events for the month or a common saying: A foggy January brings a wet spring; March 18th St. Joseph's Day; June-about mid-month, end of spring and start of summer, the longest day. In September-end of summer, days shorten and nights lengthen.....

The booklet has poems, short stories, jokes, pictures, e.g.: Mamie Eisenhower, Natural Bridge, Va., Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford, Sr., church in Independence where Margaret Truman was married to Clifton Daniels!

Short stories and articles take most of the space. Some titles include: Travels in Peking, China, Czech Legionnaires in the Sahara, Gold Rush to California, Report of Czechs living in America. After 25 years a Visit to Czechy, and two short stories entitled The Gypsy and Allenda.

The jokes give one chuckles and are a "homey" type -- not at another's expense:

- #1. That is a long letter you have.
- #2. It is 17 pages long, from Leony.
- #1. And what does he write to you?
- #2. He writes that when we meet, he will tell me everything.

He. For you, Annie, I'd rather go to Hades.

She. Oh! Go on! but you didn't want to go with me to the jeweler.

Dr. When you sleep at night is your mouth open?

Ans. I don't know but tonight when I sleep, I'll be careful to notice.

Father: Karl, what do you do when a woman gets on the tram and no place for her to sit?

Karl: Act as if I am asleep.

The following is a translation of a letter which appeared in a recent issue of the Czech newspaper, the "HLASATEL", published in Chicago with a circulation of 90,000 for the daily and weekly editions.

LIFE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT
"RUSKÉHO MEDVĚDA"
IN A LAND WHICH AT ONE TIME WAS
ABOUNDING IN HONEY AND HONEYCOMB

Letter from Czechoslovakia

Our January weather was bad with heavy frosts and much snow, such as we cannot remember. We had to heat a lot but fuel is short and very expensive.

For several weeks we have had a great increase in the cost of meat usually from 50% higher and veal up 135%. It appears as if we will get a small piece of meat for a Sunday

meal. There were a few crowns (15¢) added but there is no increase in the pay of labor. In fact, just the opposite. Some prices for 1 kg. (kilogram = 2 lbs. 3 ounces) are: beef rib \$6.90, pork \$9.00, veal cutlet \$9.00, neck \$6.45, poultry \$4.50, carp \$3.00, liver \$6.00, ham \$15.00, salami \$9.00. Gasoline is \$8.50 for 3.8 gallons.

Figure it up, how many hours we must work for 1 kg. when average pay is 10 crowns (\$1.50) per hour. That is only the beginning. The rest will be increased as one advances. They say it takes longer to elevate one's life style which we do not understand when it takes one hour of work to pay for 3 ounces of ham.

And it is no comparison with what a worker in America buys with his average pay.

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

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