

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

Vol. 10 - No. 4
Dec. 1985

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

CALENDAR

1985

KALENDÁŘ

- Nov. 30 Sv. Mikuláš at Museum 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Dec. 1 The 2nd Annual Sv. MIKULÁŠ DANCE 4-9 p.m. See p. 3 for details.
- Dec. 2-6 A full week of special events at Czech Museum. See p. 3-4.

1986

- Jan. 20 ANNUAL MEETING OF CZECH HERITAGE & FINE ARTS FDNS. Place and time announced later.
- Feb. 12-26 Tour ST. PETERSBURG FOLK FAIR and other places enroute and in Florida. p. 6
- March Next issue of newsletter.

"DONATION"

On October 13th our Ambassadors to Czechoslovakia presented their slides and told of their experiences to our more than a hundred folks at the Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church. They had a wonderful presentation. The most exciting moment of the afternoon was when a gentleman asked to have the floor for a minute and asked me to come up front. Different ideas went through our minds wondering if something had gone wrong! He introduced himself as Milton Stefl, representing Lodge Prokop Velký, No. 137, CSA and handed me an envelope in which he had a donation to Czech Heritage Fdn. I was surprised and then he asked me to open the envelope. When I looked at the check, I was "flabbergasted". There was a check for \$5,000. I really don't know what I said and did. This I am doing in writing and it is sincere. No words can express our thanks to the Lodge and their Members for this very special donation. We shall place it in the Permanent Fund and it was suggested we use the income from the interest for our Scholarship Fund. So again, I will say in a simple way, THANK YOU. May this be a start for other donations to be used in our Czech projects. No donation is too small but what it is appreciated.

Frank W. Novotny, President

GREETINGS!
VITAM VAS!



It is hard to realize that this is the last issue of our quarterly newsletter for 1985. We have had some very interesting monthly meetings with very good attendance and participation. We are glad to see the continued interest in our Czech Heritage. Mae and I took a tour of Czechoslovakia in September. We were in Prague 5 days and made contact with two of the families who had hosted our student Ambassadors in 1984. We visited in their homes. Being able to speak the language was most helpful and made us realize how important it is to preserve our Czech heritage.

Other items report on THE DONATION and the Yugoslav Folk Ballet. I want to remind you about the Annual Meeting January 20, 1986, 3rd Monday. The Annual Fund Raiser for the Experiment in International Living will be at Eagles Club Room, Sunday, March 16, 1986. Looking forward to a wonderful '86 and many thanks for your cooperation in the past and future.

Na shledanou

Frank W. Novotny, President

A REMINDER

that annual dues to Czech Heritage Fdn. are due January 1, 1986. We trust that all of our members will renew their membership and enable us to continue with our work. We would like to point out that no officer or director of the Czech Heritage Fdn. receives any compensation and all money collected is used to cover cost of the newsletter and other functions and projects.

Dues are \$3.00 per year for an individual. If you have a relative or friend who is not a member, enroll them now.



Charles H. Vyskocil
Financial Secretary



Rohlena going to Germany... a big dream come true! In November 1984, I sent my application for the International 4-H Youth Experiment (IFYE). At the interview we were told to pack lightly... which sounded impossible... but later learned they were right. On June 18th I arrived in Washington, D.C., met the other 14 Ambassadors and discussed the details of the trip. June 20th off to the land of Weinerschnitzel!

After a day of orientation at Stuttgart, I met my family. I went expecting the unexpected... and things did happen like the time the cows got out of the barn and I got them back. Another time I took the family dog for a walk in the woods and was frightened when I saw a man with a gun but he was just a hunter. I met many new friends. Not knowing the language was no problem. The family made me feel most welcome. They were terrific--sister Martina, 17, brother Erwin, 25, and Mom and Dad. Dad and his brother farm some 100 acres raising crops and livestock: cows, pigs and chickens. Crops were corn (for fodder), oats, barley, wheat, alfalfa and sugar beets -- the tops eaten by the animals. The family was easy to live with and I felt most comfortable. One day I was sick and brother asked what people eat in America. I said, "7UP and crackers". Then I slept and when I awoke, found a tray with 7UP and crackers and a bouquet of flowers made up by Mom! They showed their love in many ways. The Schweiger Family live near the village of Hohenberg. The last week in Germany the 15 of us toured, climbed mountains and went swimming. We visited many beautiful castles and Christmas stores. Christmas towns are built inside the store. The shops have every kind of ornament and trees imaginable for sale. It would be wonderful if every young adult could have an experience similar to mine and visit other countries. This helped me to see things as they are, accept a broader view of things.

Janelle Rohlena, 1983 Czech Village Princess.



A truly appreciated GIFT for the Christmas Season is a membership in Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc. for only \$3.00, January 1 to December 31, 1986. A folded card, 3"x6" appears in miniature above. Send the dues and name and address to Czech Heritage Fdn., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.

A note from Czech Princess, Sept. 1984-1985. "This past year was very exciting for me. I enjoyed being a part of all the festivities as Czech Princess. It was a great honor for me and I would like to express my sincere thanks to: Czech Heritage Foundation, the Czech Fine Arts Foundation, 16th Avenue Czech Village Association and all who helped me in any way."

God Bless all of you and Wishing you Happy Holidays.

Nazdar, Lynette Stejskal

TIM SEMELROTH, CZECH PRINCE, Sept. 1985-1986 is 14 years old. In 8th grade at St. Pius X School. I am the son of Pat and Dick Semelroth. I have 2 brothers and a sister. My interests include computers, mountaineering, baking and camping. I am a member of Troop 42 and a Life Scout.

Tim Semelroth



Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

10 - 16TH AVENUE S.W. CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52404

MUSEUM CALENDAR

Many places to visit and shop for the Holiday Season

Nov. 12-Dec. 24 United State Bank, 129 16th Ave. S.W. Ornament Sale fund raiser for Museum. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 9-12 noon.

Nov. 13-14. IE Tower Lobby, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Ornament Sale

Nov. 15-Dec. 24. Banc Iowa Bldg. street level (former Killian Bldg.) Mon. Thurs. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m; Tues. Wed. & Fri. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., courtesy Banc Iowa Savings Bank.

Nov. 29-30, Banc Iowa Bldg. Marj NejdI paints personalized Christmas ornaments while you watch! Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Nov. 30 Museum hours 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sv. Mikuláš will be there 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Dec. 1 Sv. Mikuláš Dance, 4-9 p.m.

Dec. 2-6 Museum hours 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dec. 3-6 Demonstrations of Old World Arts and Crafts at Museum.

Dec. 3 Ornament sale at First Trust and Savings Bank, Ely, Iowa. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Peoples Bank and Trust Co., 3rd Ave. and 1st St. S.W., 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dec. 7 Puppet Show, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. at Museum Puppet Workshop for children. Tours and Demonstrations noon to 5 p.m. Sv. Mikuláš with the Angel and Devil 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.



MUSEUM HOURS

The Museum is open April 15 to Nov. 15, Tuesday thru Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and year-round on Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. plus

special activities above. Tours throughout the year may be made by calls to 362-5800 or 366-4937, Area code 319.

The sale of handpainted-blown glass Christmas tree ornaments imported from Czechoslovakia is a special fund raiser for the Museum. These ornaments are collectors items that are still made by hand, using the original molds from the 19th century. You will want them for your Christmas trees as well as gifts for others. As noted in the calendar at the left, the items will be available at the Banc Iowa Bldg. Folk artist Marj NejdI will decorate your ornaments while you wait and watch.

On November 30th the Museum will feature exhibits of Christmas customs of Czechoslovakia and the Cedar Rapids Czech Community at the turn of the century. Meet Sv. Mikuláš at the Museum 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

SV. MIKULÁŠ DANCE Dec. 1, 4 to 9 p.m. at Eagles Club, 202 - 7th Ave. S.E. Activities include Czech Plus Band, Beseda Dancers, Sv. Mikuláš, Czech bakery Christmas Angel and Devil and DOOR PRIZES!!!! Advance tickets \$3.00 at Museum and Czech Cottage, price at door \$3.50. Join us for an evening of Christmas fun at our 2nd Annual Dance event.

'Tis the season to be thinking of Christmas gifts and our Museum Gift Shop should be on your list of shopping places. Special Czech gifts include items made exclusively for the Museum. Shop Saturdays 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Hours Dec. 2-6 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Demonstrations of Old World Arts and Crafts each day at Museum Dec. 3-6: peroutky, gingerbread dough ornaments, corn-husk dolls, paper ornaments and centerpieces.

Continued p. 4

THREE CHRISTMAS TREES will be featured this year: a 10 foot tree with over 700 hand-blown glass ornaments and a tree decorated with handmade ornaments of dough, cloth, cornhusk and straw. In the Immigrant Home, a third tree will have early Cedar Rapids Czech Christmas tree decorations. Sv. Mikuláš, the Angel and Devil will be visiting 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on December 7th....

Jana Fast, Museum Curator

HISTORY OF MODERN SLOVAKIA, Josef Lettrich. 2nd ed., 1st ed. 1955. 330 pgs., F.A. Praeger, Inc., \$10 plus \$1.50 handling-postage. Order filled by Dr. Martin Kvetko, 83-45 Broadway, Elmhurst, New York, 11373. Topics include: early tribal history of Slavs, Magyars, under Hungary for 1000 years, WW I fought with Czechs for liberation, WW II with Hitler and the resistance movements.

From Minnesota Sokol SLOVO

J. Korbel, writer about 20th century Czechoslovakia says,

"In war - betrayal, invasion, occupation, persecution, domination, death. In peace - oppression."

FIRST KOLACH BAKE CONTEST in Caldwell, Texas, in September and 100 entrants showed off their products! Needless to say for a first ever, folks were truly overwhelmed. One of the speakers said, "Up to about 25 years ago, you were discriminated against if ... you were a Czech." (That was true in other places many, many years ago). The local group in Caldwell is planning to raise some \$1,000,000 to endow a chair of Czech at either Texas A & M at College Station. Caldwell is some 50 miles N.E. of Austin.



News item from Dorothy Gentry



In March 1985 issue newsletter, you read about the beer barrel tourist cabins near Praha. In August, the Austin (Texas) American Statesman had a picture of the camp!

BRICK HOBBY collection of 250 bricks?

Marie Vileta of Tama, Iowa, attends "swap brick meets" and also collects shoes (mostly slippers), some 1,025 pairs including miniatures from Korea, Greece and elsewhere. The brick that inspired her to collect others was rescued from the demolition of the IOOF HALL in Tama with the words on it "Tama Brick and Tile". The bricks collected are special in design, color and other ways.

Lucia Popp, celebrated Czech soprano, sings the part of Eva in the opera Die Meistersinger in Chicago in late November.

Victoria County CZECH HERITAGE SOCIETY of Victoria, Texas, has published Vol. 1. No. 1. 1985, Newsletter. The goals of the Society are preservation of History, Language, Culture and Heritage. Among the projects are workshops in geneology, a Tarok Tournament, dance, a raffle, children's program, language classes. Dues are \$10 per year with \$5 sent to State Society. WELCOME YOU ALL to the growing number of these societies, associations or foundations.

CHYTRÁ MĀŠA

Chytrá Māša, chytrá,
VÍ to každá kmotra,
VÍ to celá ulice
I kohout i slepice
VÍ to kocour Jermola
Dokonce to vím i já!

Clever Māša, clever,
Every godmother knows this
Everyone on the street knows
Even the rooster and hen
The tomcat Jermola knows
In the end, even I know.

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

SV MIKULAS (St. Nicholas) will be in CZECH VILLAGE

Nov. 30
and
Dec. 7

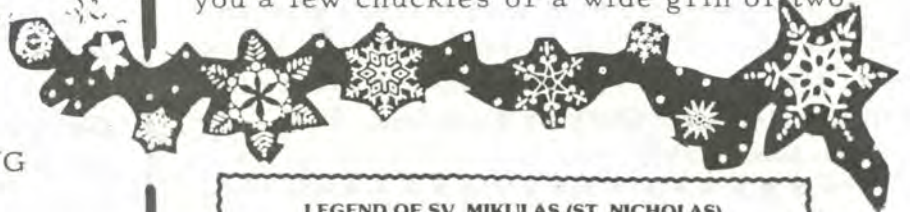


VĀNOČNÍ NOC

The Night
Before
Christmas



The traditional story in Czech and in English appeared in the Dec. 1981 newsletter. A somewhat more modern version was last December. However, both Czech stories have a slightly different "twist" to the story and will give you a few chuckles or a wide grin or two.



ENJOY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
in
UNIQUE AND HISTORIC
CZECH VILLAGE

Attractive and diverse shops and restaurants for browsing, shopping and relaxing. See map below for ample parking places, 204 unmetered spaces!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1985

LEGEND OF SV. MIKULAS (ST. NICHOLAS)

Beginning on December 6, the feast of Sv. Mikulas, the following custom was enacted by the Czech people throughout the Christmas season until Christmas Eve.

A trio, Sv. Mikulas, the devil and the angel, would stroll throughout the neighborhood. The devil and angel walked ahead, signaling the approach of Mikulas, and the devil rattled his chain! Then, Sv. Mikulas asked each child if he had said his prayers and if he had been good or bad. Those who said they had been good were given treats, while the angel recorded the proceedings in an elaborate book with the use of a quill pen. Then on Christmas Eve, according to the record kept by the angel, the children would receive nuts, candy, fruit and little gifts if they had been good...and a piece of coal or an old potato if they had not!

Sv. Mikulas is one of the most venerated of all saints, and he was Bishop of Myra, Capitol of Lycia, an ancient province of Asia Minor, now Turkey. He was especially noted for his charity and, of course, was the first Santa Claus.

SV MIKULAS WEEK IN CZECH VILLAGE
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30

CEDAR RAPIDS
DOWNTOWN



More than 200 unmetered parking spaces at Village Lots ★ starred on map.

Many tots and little folks assume that St. Nicholas is the same as Santa Claus so are surprised to see him in a costume unlike Santa. Note in the story above that Sv. Mikuláš really was a religious figure.



PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 3 FOR THE LIST OF EVENTS IN CZECH VILLAGE FOR THE COMING DAYS.

VESELÉ VĀNOCE A ŠTĀSTNÝ NOVÝ ROK

od OBCHODŮ V CZECH VILLAGE

Pat Martin, Village Coordinator

TOURS... TO ETHNIC FAIRS AND FESTIVALS... TO CENTRAL EUROPE
by BUS BOAT TRAIN PLANE SHIP

SPIFFS TRIP. Depart C.R. Feb. 12 Route via Vincennes, Nashville, (visit Country Music Museum), St. Petersburg 3rd day. Visit 11th Annual Folk Fair. Then Busch Gardens, Orlando for a day at Disney World or Epcot Center. Ft. Lauderdale to board cruise to Bahama Is. and Nassau. (All meals included). Visit St. Augustine, then to Atlanta, Louisville and C.R. on Feb. 26th. Cost \$895, per person, double occupancy. Fee includes: transportation, lodging, fees for Busch Gardens, Disney visit, Cruise, Derby dinner and few other items. If interested call Charter Coaches, C.R. (1-319-366-1835).

TOURS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1986... taking in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Some of our members enjoyed the 1985 trip with Cyril Klimesh as guest host. You will recall he wrote the story of Spillville, Iowa, under the title of THEY CAME TO THIS PLACE. Trip is May 3-19, 1986. Final payment March 19. Departure from Chicago and return, \$2,195 includes plane, train, bus, hotels and meals. Write Mr. Klimesh,

A trip in June is planned by the Weber Travel Agency of Berwyn. Details later.

UNDERSTANDING DIALECTS and variations in Slavic languages continues to be of interest. Vocabulary in one region or district such as Praha is not the same as in Moravia and even more so in Slovakia. The difference of a r, ř, s, š, c, č, ch gives an entirely different meaning. Is it any wonder a newcomer learning the English language (with American variations) has problems. Consider the pronunciation in the following examples and what vast difference the meanings can be: knight, night; doe, dough, do (music); be, bee, Bea as well as many meanings to the same word: can.

Continued in adjoining column

WINNIPEG FOLKORAMA. Aug. 1-7, '86. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, is the capital city and a community of many ethnic backgrounds. Once a year more than 30 groups representing as many nationalities turn their halls, churches, clubs and community centers into international pavilions. The festival is called "Winnipeg Folkorama". It is a celebration not to be missed. There is a parade, opening ceremonies featuring dancers, singers, music and floats. Among the ethnic groups visited are German, Scandinavian and Ukraine-Kiev pavilions. Included in the tour trip are a visit to a Mennonite Village where you see the experience and lifestyle of the 1800's, a variety of skills and handcraft items and foods. Then a tour of Winnipeg sightseeing, Museum of Man and Nature, Legislative Building, Cathedral and a cruise on the Red River. You can enjoy a Broadway Musical at Winnipeg's Rainbow Stage. A visit to English Country Gardens is included as well as a Sunday brunch plus thoroughbred horse racing! A stop in Duluth is included on the homebound trip. Cost \$329 per person. Arrangements and escort by Holiday Travel.

C. E. K.

Consider Chinese: Han is spoken by 90% of the people, yet it has 8 major dialects which differ in pronunciation plus local terms used in a region of isolated places in contrast with the crowded city communities. "Mandarin" language is the more standardized pronunciation. In the primary grades a pupil knows some 2000 to 3000 characters (not single letters but sort of "picture ideas"), some 8000 appear in newspapers and 10,000 are in general use. An English unabridged dictionary might have 550,000 words plus a few thousand illustrations.

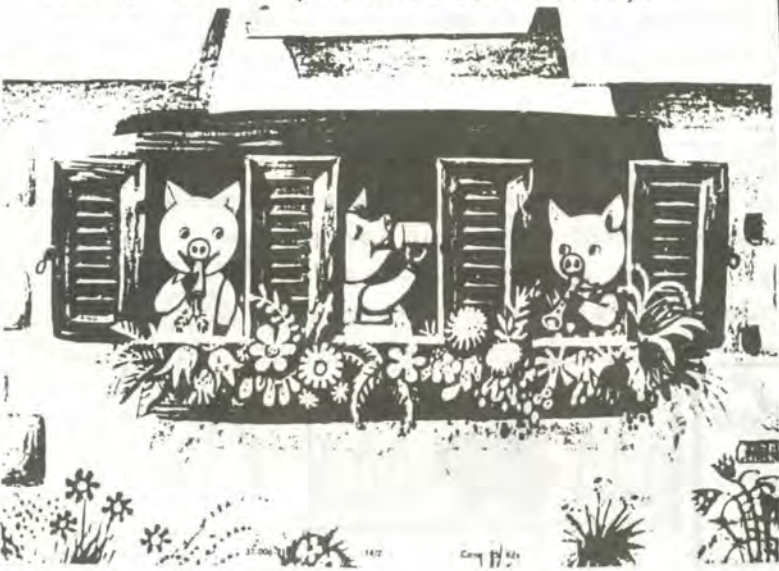


PRASÁTKA a VÍK



THE LITTLE PIGS AND THE WOLF

It was. It wasn't! Who today knows? But it was told to me by a wise old owl who saw with both her own eyes, so it must be true. Once there lived three little pink piggies. They ate together, they drank together and kept house together. One day these boys got the idea that they should build a house like people have. That would, for sure, be beautiful. They would have a roof over their heads so it would not rain on them, in winter they could heat the place, in summer open all the windows so it would be cool in the house. Around the home they would have a garden in which they would raise vegetables and flowers -- just imagine that luxury! But what kind of a house should they build? One piggy said, "from straw". A second said that he had seen a beautiful house made from wood. The third piggy would not listen -- "the best house is made of stone and who will be advised, will surely see that." In short good time, each was building his own idea, but there was much squabbling and anger.... From a colorful book with six pop-up pictures. Courtesy of Miss Irma Dovey.



DRIVE on the LEFT is still in order for traffic in Australia, Burma, China, Great Britain, Eire, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and several other nations.



Why drive on the right? One explanation is that the ancient Greeks, Egyptians and Romans drove their chariots on the left side of the road. Then along came Napoleon who wanted to do things differently. So French troops marched on the right side of the road. In the lands Napoleon conquered he mandated that traffic move on the right side of the road . . . Source: "Perspective" newsletter. Originally article appeared in a British Airways magazine.



HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS OF CZECH ANCESTRY



Stop at the Counselor's Office for a copy of the booklet on scholarships available in your community. College students (2-3-4 year) are eligible for loans from Council of Higher Education (Matice Vyššího Vzdělání). Application deadlines are usually by March or April 1, 1986.

FOLK DANCES of CZECHOSLOVAKIA will interest many groups searching for the music, directions, diagrams and information about 3 Czechoslovak Beseda Dances: Czech, Moravian and Slovak. Price \$13.85 includes postage and handling. Write SOKOL Greater Cleveland, Czech Folk Dances, 3487 Dorset Drive, Brooklyn Heights, Ohio 44131. Source: American Sokol. Oct. 1985.



Po - d k e , po - vim žes - na
BESEDA - Sousedská

CZECHS RECEIVE WARM WELCOME. Some years ago when a member of one of our Olympic Teams attended the Games, he made friends with athletes from other countries. Several times two met again and again at such events. Letters were less frequent. However, "Pat" met the Czech again and again. Both of the last two times the Czech implied that he and his family would like to come to America. Finally with the help of another defector, the Czech and his family went on one of the government tours to another country. One day on the tour, the family made it to an American Embassy in a city in Europe. Their credentials and papers were in order. They spent 2 months in a refugee camp improving their English and awaiting arrangements over here. By then, "Pat" was the sponsor and had made the necessary arrangements. The Czech family arrived by plane, were met by "Pat" and his family. On arriving at the city of some 30,000 population which is now home, the newcomer was presented the "Keys to the City" by the mayor. "Pat" explained that "This (key) unlocks the hearts of all of the people in the town" The community provided ever so many "needs" to start a home. Since the Czech was an expert in his chosen field, he has had less of a problem adjusting. The teen-age daughter had her first chocolate chip ice-cream cone at high school. Class-mates brought a back-pack with school supplies and a scarf in school colors. The Czech observed there were so few police, only 15 -- where he now lives. He remarked that in Czechoslovakia the police force would number some 500 in a place that size. Our Best Wishes to the Czechs and "Thank You" to the community spirit of the city. News of the above event came from 2 different members (from 2 different newspapers) living some 400 miles apart!

WHO'S WHO IN THE WORLD includes the name of Miss Angela Svoboda in recognition of her achievements in the Office Of Education Teacher/Coordinator at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids. A plaque with the citation of her special contributions to education was presented to her recently. It is just a year ago now that she was the recipient of an award in WHO'S WHO IN THE MIDWEST. The Svoboda Family contributions to our Czech Community appeared in the September 1982 and June and December 1984 issues of our Newsletter.

ST. BARBARA, KUTNÁ HORA, CZECHY.



"One of the richest Czech Gothic church structures." One never ceases to marvel at the details of the architecture and design of these churches, many of which were built some 500-600 years ago. The facade of St. Barbara is rather plain and unadorned. The flying buttresses and details at the rear of the church as shown in the picture are elaborate in design.

THE TALE OF A LION'S TAIL

At long last, the tail of the lion, on the logo at the top of page 1, is the real Czech design. The symbol of a lion is common in many coat-of-arms and symbols of heraldry among European royalty and nobility. For us in United States, the EAGLE is our emblem (and not the wild turkey as Benjamin Franklin once suggested).



NATIONAL FOLK BALLET OF YUGOSLAVIA - 9

Many months ago we started to plan for our trip on October 19th to enjoy the Folk Dancers at Ames. We did go and saw a beautiful performance. Mae and I took charge of the arrangements and as usual we said "Never again". but then trips are always fun!

With 88 people going, we had 2 buses, leaving C.R. at 4 p.m., stopping at Marshalltown at Perkins where we had made arrangements. With extra help the service was excellent, as was the food. We arrived at Stevens Hall at 7:30 p.m. and at 8 the performance started, lasting 2 hours. About 12:15 a.m. we arrived in C.R.

The program was fantastic. There were some 14 changes in costumes which represented the different "republics" and regions of Yugoslavia. The pitter-patter rythm of their feet was likened to a "typewriter in action". One must see and hear them to truly appreciate their artistry. The musicians were masters at changing the tempo and rythm as the dance numbers changed.

Mae and Frank W. Novotny

CZECH CLASSES for BEGINNERS. A 2 hour conversational Czech language course, sponsored by Czech Heritage Fdn. will be offered on Monday nights in Cedar Rapids beginning February, 1986. Special emphasis will be on words and phrases for the traveler. Registrants must be at least 15 years of age. A nominal fee will cover costs of materials and tuition for the 12 weeks course. Those interested should write to John Rocarek,

or phone after

6 p.m.,

MEMBERSHIP in CZECH HERITAGE FDN.

is open to all who are interested. Invitations are not needed.

Dues are a modest \$3.00 per person Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Donations help Memorial and Scholarship Funds (and budget). Send your application to us at P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia., 52406. Write for a list of our publications and leaflet: WHO are WE? WHAT do we DO? WHEN do we MEET? WHAT is in it for ME?

CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL BASKETBALL

Team met University of Iowa Team Nov. 13 at Iowa City. Altho the Czechs had been in USA before, this was the first trip to the Midwest. Their schedule included Vanderbilt, Wisconsin, Kansas, Indiana, Michigan State, Iowa with Purdue and Kentucky prior to departure on Nov. 17th. The 12 men on the team were accompanied by the coach, director and physician. The score? Czechs 59, Iowa 78.

Charles E. Krejci, Mr. and Mrs. John Volesky, on behalf of Czech Heritage Fdn., visited at Iowa Hall with the 3 men. The team was resting and sleeping that afternoon as they had a rather full schedule to cover so many games in a short time. The visit was enjoyed by the group and of course many watched the TV that evening. Following the playing of the Star Spangled Banner by the University Band, the Czech National Anthem, Kde Domov Můj was heard. Chris Ann Hikiji (her grandmother, Ludmila Jakubčik) had attended Czech Summer School in Cedar Rapids and so knew the words to Kde Domov Můj and she loved being able to sing the words as the music played. Chris Ann is a sophomore at the university.

C. E. K., A. J. V., M. L. D.



In Midwest CORN BELT we have an interest in the crops and its uses. Here are some facts: 1 bushel of corn produces: 31 1/2 lbs. starch, 12.4 lbs. of 21% protein gluten feed, 3 lbs. of 60% protein gluten meal, 1.5 lbs. corn oil. This is on the weight of 48.4 lbs. of "corn dry base".

Note contrast in USE OF CORN

	1985	1975
Feed	48%	62%
Export	25	22
Industrial		
Processing	14	7
Carry over	13	9

National Corn Growers Association

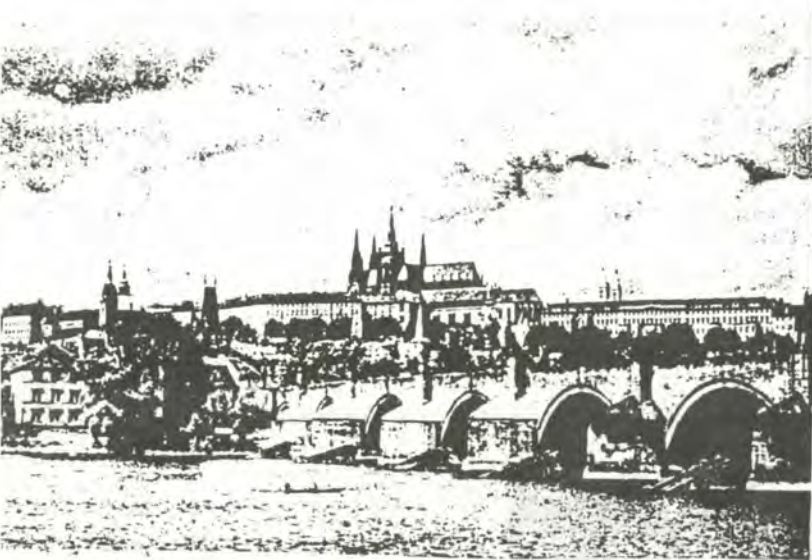


CHARLES BRIDGE (Karlův most) one of the most decorated bridges in Europe is named after Charles IV, (Karel IV) 1316-79, who reigned as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and King of Bohemia, 1346-78. Peter Parler, not yet 30 years of age, had been in Praha to complete the construction of St. Vitus Cathedral -- which to Czechs is comparable to Westminster Abbey in London in its use. He then took on the task of the construction of the bridge, 1357. The bridge, supported by 16 pillars, is about 2000 ft. long and about 33 ft. wide.

On the Malá Strana are two towers. The smaller tower dates back to the stone Queen Judith Bridge in mid 1200's. The taller tower is similar to the other tower at the east end of the bridge (1464). The archway connecting the 2 towers was built in 1411.

In the 1600-1700's, thirty religious statues were set upon the pedestals. The bridge had been the scene of wars and serious encounters in the Middle Ages.

No longer open to vehicular traffic, the bridge is a popular place for a stroll on a sunny day. A look to the far horizons in each direction from which the river emerges from the south and then northward to watch the rolling waters vanish as they eventually join the Labe (Elbe, Ger.) near Menlik. The eye can span the Castle Heights (Hradčany), the domes and spires of churches, the churches, the activities along the river banks and to the south view the Národní Divadlo (National Theater).



What a contrast to the famous London Bridge that did not exactly fall down but burn. Built across the Thames River in 983 of wood, it caught on fire in 1100 and used until 1700. Many heads which rolled off the guillotine were hung at either end of the bridge! Until the mid 1700's London Bridge was the only bridge crossing over the Thames in London. In 1824, the new London Bridge was built of granite and lasted until 1968. The five arches and all were dismantled, each piece numbered and shipped to Havasu City, Arizona, on the Colorado River across from California and within sight of the Mohave Mts. What a tourist attraction to see London Bridge over a bay of Lake Havasu!

Hello! My name is BRENDA BURESH and very honored to be the CZECH PRINCESS for Sept. 1985-'86. I am a sophomore at Prairie High School and am 15 years old. At school I am in the School Spirit Club and Student Council. At church I'm in the Church Youth Group and Choir. My parents are Mr. and Mrs. Dale Buresh. We live 3 miles northwest of Ely. I have one sister. In summer I am active in 4-H and belong to Putnam Slick Chick 4-H Club. I learn things for my future use. My 4 pets are: a horse, Beaver that I show; a dog, Lassie and a bird, Bunker. My Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Buresh and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Koutny, all of Ely, Iowa. Baking is one hobby I enjoy. Both grandmothers are excellent Czech cooks and that's why I love to go to their homes to eat. I never go away hungry! I really love being the Czech Princess and hope to meet a lot of people.

Brenda Buresh



In the 1930's when the Czech Fine Arts Society was active and had programs, Nancy Finnigan (later Mrs. Rolin Beard) read a paper on CZECH ARTISTS at the Feb. 23, 1938 meeting. Nancy was a well known local portrait painter. Landscapes, still life and murals were also her areas of interpretation. Nancy graduated from old Washington High School in 1919 and later attended the Chicago Art Institute. She spent her later years in Apache Junction, Arizona.

CZECH ARTISTS

During the 14th century Bohemia was one of the leading countries of Europe. Charles IV (1316-1378) as King of Bohemia made it the art center by inviting distinguished painters, sculptors and architects to come to the country. The Prague School of Painting ranked well with the art of Northern Italy. Most of the paintings at this time were decorations for churches and the castles of the nobles.

THEODORE OF PRAGUE (1348) is the first we hear about. He was a court painter for Charles IV and was head of the celebrated Guild of Prague Painters, founded by the King. Of his paintings, there are two figures of saints in the Library at the University of Prague. There are 125 of the original 132 pictures of saints that hang in the chapel of the Holy Cross where priceless treasures were kept in the famous Karlštejn Castle some 20 miles from Prague. Among the painters associated with Theodore were Kunz and Nicholas Wurmser.



The Karlštejn Castle

All artistic activity ceased during the religious wars in the 15th and 16th centuries. Most of the art works that survived the wars were sold at auctions by Joseph II (1741-1790) in his desire to smother all national feeling. But songs and hymnals of the days of religious expansion were overlooked. They were

decorated with drawings and paintings, miniatures and illuminations perfect in their delicacy and thoroughly artistic. Many of these were preserved by the simple peasant folks and were the chief stimulus to keeping alive the national spirit out of which grew national art.

In the upper strata of the Germanized society, the sense for the old Bohemian culture was being lost. But the Bohemian and Slovak people lived in their reminiscences, wore their national dress, decorated their homes with exquisite embroideries, surrounded themselves with their original national style furniture, painted Easter eggs and made toys for children, steeped their whole lives in the poesy which had its source in their good and honest souls.

While the people were developing this national ornamental art, the Arts Academy in Prague was under the direction of the Germans whose art was more formal and without enthusiasm. It was more of a trade than an art. Religious painting was boiled down to commercial religious pictures and the landscapes were more imaginative than real and employed a mechanical theory of combination of colors.

Modern Bohemian art began with the Bohemian revival at the start of the 19th century. Three or four painters aroused an interest in the revival of art and founded the Patriotic Society of the Friends of Art out of which grew a gallery and a school of painting. The men in charge imitated the art of Germany. When rivalry began after 1848, a new society was formed. The members studied Bohemian history and collected objects of art. Another group, Umělecká Beseda (Artists Society) was organized. They instituted at Prague an annual exposition of the chief work of Bohemian

and foreign artists after the fashion of the Salon in Paris. Immediately results of these expositions began to show. Artists of skill and good taste developed, bringing out the works of Hellich, Maneš, Javůrek, Čermák, Jedlička, Ženíšek, Aleš, Pinka, Brožek, Purkyně and Svoboda. Most of these were historical painters and were influenced by the romantic movement.

JOSEF MANEŠ (1820-1887) was a student of nature and a great lyric artist. He loved the strong, manly peasant-types of his people. His most distinguished work is a cycle of paintings "The Life on a Lord's Estate". Perhaps his greatest is the world famous "Horologe" which consists of twelve illustrations, inspired by the joyous and honest life of the Bohemian peasant folk. These paintings are in the historical Court House in Prague. Maneš was the greatest painter of his age and country but was unappreciated and unrecognized in his day. He had the misfortune to be fifty years ahead of his generation. However, now he is called the Father of Czech painting and an association of painters is called Maneš.

FRANTIŠEK ŽENIŠEK (1849-?) did decorative art, legendary scenes, as well as historical painting and fantastic composition. He aimed as did Maneš, to enoble and embellish his subjects.

MIKULÁŠ ALEŠ (1852-1913) appreciated all that was best in the common people, and gave it enthusiastic expression in his art. He came from the poor southeast part of the Province of Bohemia and is the most beloved of Bohemian artists. His work can be classed as typically Bohemian. He worked with pen and pencil illustrating thousands of native songs, proverbs, sayings, folk tales, and hundreds of Bohemian books which are typical of the nation's spirit. He illustrated great literary works--both fiction and historical--and in his illustrations depicted the past of the people in a direct and simple way that gripped the heart. His sketches of children, soldiers, cows, horses and the joys of child-life are very familiar to every Bohemian child.

HANS SCHWAIGER (1854-1912) whose mother was Dutch spent some of his years in Holland. He was a lover of nature and liked to paint landscapes in southern Bohemia. He had a great understanding of the soul of the common people. Schwaiger's art is rugged, energetic, and full of strength.

JAROSLAV PANUŠKA (1872 - ?) created wonder works of imagination: haunted mills, witches, strong men, robber and peasant huts in the woods, ruined fairy castles illustrate famous childrens stories.

JOŽA UPRKA (1861-1940) who became disgusted with the artificiality of city life and returned to the good peasantry. He painted them as he found them, at work in the fields, in church, on the landscape, picturing them always in happy colors. He has made a great impression in the world of European world of art, and is very popular in his own country.

ADOLPH KAŠPAR (1877- ?) followed the footsteps of Maneš and Aleš. His German education did not crush his Bohemian-Slovak spirit. His paintings and sketches show his background. He illustrated songs and books. The exquisite illustrations for the famous story "Babička" are as famous and worthy as the book.

MAX ŠVABINSKY (1873 - ?) was a professor at the Academy of Arts in Prague. He is possibly the best portrait painter the country has produced. His portraits mirror the souls and character of the men represented. He has painted a whole line of the country's great men: Reiger, Masaryk, Aleš, Maneš, Neruda and many others. Švabinsky has been acknowledged by the European art world.

ANTONÍN SLAVÍČEK (1878-1910) was perhaps the greatest landscape painter. He had become the master of Czech impressionism. His talent was original and he owed hardly anything to foreign influences. His pictures were pure impressions of a scene, intoxicated with air and light. They attracted wide attention for their beauty and rich color.

JAROSLAV SPILLER (18-- ?) made the Chod people his special study. He lived and worked amongst them during the early part of this century.

Another artist whose recognition came years too late was ALFONS MUCHA, (1860-1938) born some 12 miles S. W. of Brno, at Ivančice, Moravia. "His mother tied a necktie necklace of crayons about his neck so he could draw whenever he wanted."

A teacher at a Brno Gymnasium (High School) advised Mucha to concentrate on drawing. From 1878-81 he was a painter for an opera firm in Vienna. He returned to Moravia and had jobs in two castles, decorating the interiors. Count Kheum-Belari recognized Mucha's talent and paid Mucha's way at the Art Academy in Munich. After 2 years Mucha went to Paris where he became known as a painter of a "new decorative art style". His creative works in posters, fabrics and ornaments brought him Awards in 1900 at World's Fair in Paris!

In 1904 he finally agreed to come to United States. He painted portraits of famous people and taught art classes. Although his earnings were large, but inadequate, his ideas were large, too.

A painting, one of three of Saints Methodius and Cyril, hangs on the south wall of St. John Nepomenec Catholic Church in Pisek, N.D. The Pisek Community donated "100 gold pieces for Mucha to buy materials and 200 crowns for shipping expenses." The total value was \$1000, a large sum at the time.



The above information courtesy of Faith Chyle Knutson, Pisek, N.D. who was author of "PAINTING BY ALFONS MUCHA GRACES PISEK, N.D. CHURCH." (1979)...

Editor's note: Refer to the Sept. 1984 issue of the newsletter for more about Mucha, the massive painting of the "SLAVONIC EPOPEE", how saved (?) during Nazi Occupation, and other interesting items about Mucha and his works.

Route to Pisek. Take US #2 west out of Grand Forks, N.D. 26 miles; turn north (right) on N.D. #18, 28 miles. Turn west (left) County Rd. #15, 4 miles to Pisek. In town, turn south (left) to find church. Return to #15, turn west (left), in a few miles you see many sand hills, likely glacial in origin. The word pisek means sand.

"FAUST'S HOUSE" in Praha is #C.P. 502-503-11 in Vyšehradská, built in the late 1300's. In the next 600 years, the house was occupied by a pharmacist-chemist-mechanical engineer who created moving figurines and experimented with explosives. In 1757 during the Seven Years War a Prussian Artillery cannon-ball tore a hole from the roof to the basement... In World War II, an American plane dropped a bomb which fell to the basement. No explosion! In 1946 when the house was repaired, seven mummified cats were found in the foundation. Why there? It was a belief in the 1300's that cats protected a house from harm. The "Faust House" is an office building for the Pharmaceutical Industry.

The reader will recall that the opera scores of FAUST and ROMEO AND JULIET are two of the most successful operas by Gounod. FAUST'S first performance was in Paris, 1859 and in London and New York, 1863.

There really was a Dr. Johann Faust (1480? - 1540?) a magician and astrologer. Early Red Seal Victor records and on stage the following singers had lead parts from 1890's to about 1920 in the opera Faust at the Metropolitan in New York City: Caruso, Scotti, McCormick, Journet, Louise Homer, Geraldine Farrar, Nellie Melba and others.

Sources: Měna Machovský Zlatohlávek and excerpted from St. Louis SOKOL Newsletter and other sources.

GAME of TAROK -- HISTORY

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Have you ever wondered about the game some of the older generation had played -- TAROK - ? The game had its origin in Italy in the middle of the 15th century (the 1440's). Later in France it was called "Le Jeu de Tarots". It found its way to Austria and became very popular..... The cards show folkloristic scenes from all parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. When people migrated to the United States from European countries, they brought along the "Tarok" game in the 19th century (1800's). To this day TAROK is very much alive in various Czech and Moravian communities throughout the state of Texas.

The deck of cards consists of 4 suits: spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs (16); ace, 2, 3, 4 in hearts and diamonds (8); 7, 8, 9, 10 in spades and clubs (8) and the škeez (1) and 21 cards with indoor or outdoor scenes, numbered 1-21 or I-XXI. (21) - making a total deck of 54 cards. The "škeez" leads all other Taroks.



Cards courtesy of Mrs. Mary Chmelicek. Information from Marjorie Matula, editor of new Victoria County (Texas) Czech Heritage Society Newsletter and Secretary, Joe Pustka of Victoria.

CZECH HERITAGE FDN.

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