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# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

Vol. 15 - No. 1  
March 1990

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



## CALENDAR 1990 KALENDÁŘ

### MARCH

- 18 Sun. ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE (page 8)
- 24 & 25 S&S CELEBRATION OF CZECH FREEDOM (page 4)

### MAY

- 18 - 20 F-S HOUBY DAYS (page 2)
- 26 & 27 S&S ETHNIC FEST (page 2)

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MANY ARTICLES SUBMITTED and originally intended for publication in this issue will appear in future issues. The spectacular events in Czechoslovakia have made it necessary to make some last minute changes. It would be an impossible task to even "outline" the chain of events which our ancestral homeland has experienced these last few months.

The amount of change is staggering. The world's political map is constantly shifting. Turn-arounds have taken place in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia, and South Africa. Other countries continue in their struggle, such as Nicaragua and Lithuania. There are several other locations (hotspots), around the globe which are experiencing change also.

The Berlin Wall has crumbled and the Iron Curtain has dropped!

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Bud' dospět, nebo padnout, bud' všecko, nebo nic.  
Either attain or fall, either naught or all.

Sokol maxim

VÍTÁME VÁS - GREETINGS from Arizona. Believe it or not Mae and I are spending two weeks among friends and relatives in and around Phoenix, Arizona.

We have had rather an eventful trip so far. We were delayed in Denver most of the day due to snow and ice and then when we arrived at Sun City we have had cooler weather ever since. They all assure us that this is unusual. 'Have one more week to go and they're promising weather up to the seventies.

We are off to a good start in our heritage work. The annual meeting turned out to be a success. Thank you all for being interested in knowing what had transpired in 1989.

We have a busy year ahead, what with the St. Joseph's Dance on the 18th of March, the St. Joseph's Parade on March 24th, and then Houby Days in May. At Houby Days the Czech Heritage Fdn. will serve breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and participate in the parade on Sunday. Then a week later we will be involved with the Ethnic Fest.

John Rocarek helped to make up the different committees and assignments this year. I know with all of your wonderful cooperation we shall have a successful year.

There is more about future events in this issue, so enjoy reading it as you keep in touch with your organization.

Again, Mae and I wish to thank you for all your help. We are looking forward to working with you in 1990.

Frank W. Novotny, Pres.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 1990 ARE DUE NOW!  
Yearly membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

REMEMBERING

President Masaryk (1850-1937) was born one hundred forty years ago this month. Most of you know that he served his beloved country years before he was elected president (served 1918-1935). At age eighty-seven and in poor health, before he could complete his third seven year term, Masaryk was replaced by vice-President Beneš.

Not long after Masaryk retired in 1935, the Nazi armies moved into Czechoslovakia. Beneš had plenty of problems and was "somewhat incapacitated" until 1945. Following World War II he resumed office and died in 1948... Then a big change overcame Czechoslovakia. The Communist Party won the election and Gottwald became president...

Before Václav Havel took office, seldom were the names of Masaryk and Beneš mentioned. Is it possible that in the three generations since the Nazis took over and then the communists, the history books in school avoided those two heroes of the nation? One would often read in the U.S. news media that Czechoslovakia was one of Russia's most oppressed satellites. Most export products went to Russia and then when payment was received it was in rubles.

In 1968 "Prague Spring" came into being and the Slovak, Dubček tried to bring about "Hlasnost" (Russian Glasnost?). Soon Dubček was removed, and Russian tanks entered into the picture.

About two years ago Poland began its move towards democracy. Today, not only Poland, but Hungary, the Baltic States, and several others are moving towards democracy.

Now Havel comes on the scene. A well-known author whose works were prohibited for years in his own country, and a soldier of free speech who has spent time in prison. Havel says he was not trained to be a president. However, anyone who has been a political prisoner learns plenty about government and the wrong ways of government. Obtain a copy of Havel's speech before Congress (2-21-90), at your public library. You will marvel at his diplomatic language, not bitter, not domineering, but suggesting positive ideas for the future.

MMS

PRESIDENT HAVEL SPEAKS before our Congress! His one hour speech received two standing ovations, cheers and applause twenty-five times! A few excerpts: "...communism left a legacy of countless dead... and enormous suffering in Eastern Europe." "...the sooner the Soviet Union becomes a Democracy, the better it will be, not just for the Czechs and Slovaks, but for the whole world." "...I am firmly convinced (what has happened) is a historically irreversible process... and Europe will seek its own identity."

There isn't enough room in our newsletter to relate Havel's knowledge of history, government, trends, and the future. He suggested a future where defense budgets will shrink and environmental concerns will be of paramount concern. Referring to military spending cuts: "...The millions you give to the East today will soon return to you in the form of billions in savings."

MMS

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HOUBY DAYS!! HOUBY DAYS!! HOUBY DAYS!!

Three big days of entertainment! Carnival, race, flea market, houby contest, singing, dancing, non-stop food & fun. Come join us in Cedar Rapids on May 18th, 19th & 20th.

\* \* \* \* \*

ETHNIC FEST

Each year our group co-sponsors this special event. The celebration planned this year is going to be the best ever!!

Plan on attending May 26th & 27th. More crafts, food, and fun,

than ever before. Riverside Roundhouse, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. You won't want to miss it!

Look for the Czech Heritage Foundation booth. Stop by and enjoy our fine Czech pastries. They can't be beat!!



# Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.<sup>-3-</sup>

P.O. Box 5398

Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-5398

"Help preserve the past  
for the future"



The  
Friends  
Of  
The  
Museum

## Annual Membership

Individual	\$10
Family	\$25
Donors	\$26 - \$ 99
Sponsors	\$100 - \$249
Benefactors	\$250 - \$499
Patrons	\$500 and above

As a Friend, you will receive:

- A year's admission to the Museum
- Guest passes
- Museum Newsletter
- Discount of 10 percent in the Museum Gift Shop for purchases over \$50
- Invitations to special events at the Museum

The Museum is a non-profit organization and all contributions are tax deductible.

## CZECH IMMIGRANT HOME

The scope and size of the Museum collection was recently increased by the addition of a restored Czech Immigrant Home. This home presents the lifestyle of early Czech Immigrants who settled and helped to develop Cedar Rapids and the surrounding communities in the period of 1880-1900. More than 5,000 volunteer hours of labor went into this relocation and preservation project.

## SEASONAL TRADITIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

A major goal of this Museum is to reinforce Czech cultural heritage by recognizing and preserving centuries-old skills which once were an integral part of the life of the people.

This has been accomplished by planning exhibits around seasonal traditions, and by sponsoring live demonstrations of such Old World arts and crafts as lace making, feather stripping, making peroutky, and decorating intricately patterned Easter eggs by batik dyeing, scratching and other techniques.

## 1990 CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

- St. Joseph's Day - March 24
- Easter Traditions & Demonstrations - April 7 & 14  
(Saturdays before Palm & Easter Sundays)
- Houby(Mushrooms)Days Spring Festival -  
May 18,19 & 20  
(Friday, Saturday & Sunday after Mother's Day)
- Ethnic Festival - May 26 & 27  
(Saturday & Sunday after Houby Days)
- St. Nicholas Day - December 1  
(First Saturday in December)

## TOURS

Guided tours are given during regular Museum hours, or by special arrangement. The Museum is open:

- April 15th to November 15th  
Tuesday thru Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Year-round on Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- A door donation is asked of visitors.

## SPECIAL TOURS

Arrangements can be made for group tours. Special interest tours are available. Combination tours of both the Museum and Czech Village are available. Please call 319/362-8500.

CELEBRATION OF CZECH FREEDOM  
MARCH 24TH AND 25TH, 1990

The Federation of Czech Groups in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is sponsoring the event in cooperation with the newly formed Steering Committee.

On Saturday, March 24th at 1:00 p.m. enjoy the Annual St. Joseph's Parade in the Village, and don't forget, each Saturday the Czech Museum is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Avenue will take on a festive air and to commemorate the occasion souvineer badges will be sold by the Federation of Czech Groups in several Czech Village shops. Red, white and blue ribbons identical to those worn on the lapels of the people in Czechoslovakia who took part in the "Velvet Revolution" will also be sold.

The celebration will continue Saturday evening with a dance at St. Wenceslaus Gym, 1230 5th St. S.E. from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Music will be provided by the Czech Plus Polka Band, who will feature new music direct from Czechoslovakia. Admission is \$3.00 at the door with the proceeds to support educational needs within Czechoslovakia. A light lunch will be served by the Catholic Workman Organizations of both St. Wenceslaus and St. Ludmila's churches.

On Sunday all area churches are being encouraged to have religious services of thanksgiving in an expression of gratitude for the bloodless "Velvet Revolution" which brought Czechoslovakia its freedom.

In the afternoon on Sunday the 25th, at Wilson School, 2301 J St. S.W. a program will be presented free to the public. Sokol Cedar Rapids will form the honor guard and present the American and the Czechoslovak flags. The Czech Heritage Singers, the Czech School Children and the Czech Plus Polka Band will play and sing the national anthems. Also, there will be a performance by Boddicker's "School of Music", and Leonard Pfeifer's "Navajo Night Stalkers" will present a very impressive number, "Go, My Son" in honor of Tim Pfeifer. Leonard's son, Tim, who is half Navajo and half Czech, was privileged last summer to be one of Czech Heritage Foundation's "Ambassadors of good will" to Czechoslovakia. Area residents who were in Czechoslovakia this last fall

during this very historic time will share with us their insights and observations. Our special guest speaker will be Ken Fuson, Des Moines staff reporter who was present in Czechoslovakia during the "Velvet Revolution". We are hoping to be honored with the presence of Cedar Rapids Mayor Don Canney and other dignitaries.

A reception for Mr. Fuson will be held in the school cafeteria after the program and kolaces and coffee will be served by the Hus Memorial and the Ely Presbyterian churches.

Come join us in a celebration of Czech Freedom!  
O. Drahozal

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR - CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA  
Dated: Wednesday, March 7, 1990

PROCLAMATION:

WHEREAS, The Federation of Czech Groups of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and the Steering Committee of all Cedar Rapids Czech Organizations are sponsoring a "Celebration of Czechoslovak Freedom;" and

WHEREAS, It is the purpose of this celebration to bring awareness to this community of the recent historical developments in Czechoslovakia; and

WHEREAS, One fourth of the Cedar Rapids community is deemed to be of Czechoslovak ancestry; and

WHEREAS, The principles of Freedom of Worship, Speech, Equality and Justice are a common need for all mankind; and

WHEREAS, The importance of the "Celebration of Czechoslovak Freedom" should be duly noted;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Donald J. Canney, Mayor of the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, do hereby proclaim March 24th and 25th, 1990, as

"CELEBRATION OF  
CZECHOSLOVAK FREEDOM DAYS"

in Cedar Rapids and urge all our residents to join with me in giving thanks for Czechoslovakia's newly found freedom.

# SVOBODNÁ ŠKOLA

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1990 No. 1 - VOL. 48

Published bi-monthly by the Bohemian Freethinking School Society  
SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BERWYN, ILLINOIS

(USPS 530-440)



## ZIMA

*Zima, zima už je tady,  
radosti je plno všady.* *Postavíme sněhuláky,  
bambulaté pajduláky.*

## THE BOHEMIAN FREETHINKING SCHOOL SOCIETY

publishes the Svobodná Škola bi-monthly. It's entirely in Czech and features stories for adults and children, historical pieces, and delightful illustrations. Yearly subscription - only \$5.00

ležela dívka provázem ke kmeni přivázaná. Zmlkla, zmořená voláním, žalem, a hlavu měla pochýlenou. Vlasy zplá rozpuštěné spívaly jí k ramenům, přes něž jí visel na řemeni jovecký roh. Volala a upěvně prosila, aby ji odvázali, osotčili, aby se nad ní smílovali.

Čturdá dojal přibou a hlasem spanie dívky zapomněl na všecko opatrnost, a osotně také. Hbitě skočil s koně, a vytáhl meč, přetřel, přetřel provazy a uvořil dívku. Setušil, že vlastně větra donesena zpráva proradnou ženou, že dnes ludy pojede na pražský hrad, a že vlasta rchystala vše, aby se nemohli navrátit, a že jí v tom slouží i ta spania dívka. Pout zhabena děkovala svroucě Čturdovi a pověděla, že se jmenuje Sárka, že je z Okohna, sladký kova dcera, že jí dívky z Děvina přepadly v haji, že jí spoutaly a vlekly na hrad, že s ní až sem došly, když se ozval z daleka dusot koní.

"Pustily mne, nechaly, ale tak svázaly, že jsem se nemohla hnouti. A jako na posměch, zavěsily mně ten roh, abych si, spoutaná, o pomoc zatroubila. Nadobu medoviny, abych se ještě více soužila žízni."

Ukazala na velkou láhev s medovinou, v trávě jí u nohou. A již se zase rozplakala, uzkoně prosila, aby jí tu sladky nenechávali, když jí osvobodil, aby jí vzal k otci, prve nežli by se zase ty zběsile ženy a panny vtruly.

Čturdá usednul vedle ní, těžil jí, že tak učini, a podal jí láhev, aby se posílila po tom strachu a utrpení. Pila a dala také jemu piti. Zatím jeho druhové seděli s koni, uvázali je opodál, sami pak ulehli u nich ve stínu, aby se zchládili. Byl poslední čas. Nic se nehnuo, sotva že se museli mluvit ovařenou mýstinou. Mužům z čeledi vstala se včelka, spanek na ně set.

vstříhl meč, již se na ně bojovnice sesypaly a bití je a bodaly do nich -



Čturdá chtěl k druhům. Nežli však sebral v trávě svůj meč, shlukly se dívky a ženy kolem něho, a nežli se zbrani mohli po nich rovehnouti, padl poválen na zemi. A tu ho svázaly, i ležel v poutech tam, kde před chvílí z nich vyprostil. Vlastinu důvěrnici. Marne zuřil, marne jí křel a běs, na ni volal, aby jí zrostali za ten přis-

## -5- WE HEAR FROM A GOOD FRIEND

Every now and then we receive a letter from one of our members. Sometimes it's a request for information. Sometimes it's friendly advice on how we could improve the newsletter (keep these coming, I'm still learning!). Then, there are the times when we get a letter from a member who is just "Czeching in" with us -

12/18/89 Dear Friends,

Enclosed you will find my check for the annual membership dues for my wife Margery, and for myself.

We always enjoy receiving and reading *Nase Ceske Dedicvi*. For me, the September issue had a special interest. The article pertaining to Joseph Lada, Jaroslav Hasek and the bumbling Good Soldier Svejk. I've had the pleasure of visiting, and imbibing in a few beers and delicious potato pancakes served at Hasek's and Svejk's favorite haunt, U Kalicha, a tavern which is located at Na bojisti 12 in Nove Mesto in Praha.

I also have the English translation of Hasek's book and a copy of the Czech book. The English copy is incomplete, ending when Hasek died in 1923, but the Czech copy's ending was ghost written by Karel Vanek. I also have a portion of the book on tape which was read and recorded by some prominent Czech actors...

As for Josef Lada, his illustrations are familiar to me also. One of my cousins sent me a collection of Lada's Easter illustrations.

I might also recommend another tavern to visit if anyone is about to visit Praha. It is called U Fleku and is located in Nove Mesto at Kremencova 9. This tavern was established shortly after Columbus' voyage to America. It is well known for serving black beer.

But U Kalicha is my favorite watering hole in Praha and the decor is Josef Lada...

One other place a future traveler to Czechoslovakia should visit is the cemetery in the village of Lany. It is the final resting place of T.G. Masaryk, his wife Charlotte, and his son Jan. Lany is west of Praha, perhaps twenty-six miles. Their burial plot is beautifully kept.

Keep up the good work. Sincerely,  
John Secl, Oran, Missouri

To subscribe contact: Mildred Kongel, 1406 Maple Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402-1251

WOODROW WILSON RECOGNIZED

It is appropriate that the Czechoslovak Celebration of Freedom Program scheduled in Cedar Rapids for March 25th (page 6) be held at Wilson School. Many do not realize the important role which President Wilson played in the establishment of Czechoslovakia's first democratic state in 1918. While many governments were sympathetic to Czechoslovakia's pursuit of freedom, the United States, under the leadership of President Wilson, recognized Masaryk's provisional government in exile and assisted in giving the fledgling government a fresh start. As a matter of fact, the Declaration of Independence of Czechoslovakia was proclaimed in Washington on October 18, 1918, ten days before it was made public in Prague. President Wilson was also instrumental in procuring for the new European country millions of dollars in badly needed loans. Masaryk later stated that no country did as much as the United States in the first world war and no leader did as much as President Wilson to advance the cause of Czechs and Slovaks toward their independence.

\* \* \* \* \*

TO HÁČEK OR NOT TO HÁČEK?

That is the question.

Have you ever wondered why in some of our newsletter articles diacritical marks ( ˇ / • ) are used over Czech words and then at other times they are not? Here's why. When an article is submitted and chosen for publication it is printed, for the most part, the way we receive it. Editorial privilege allows us to correct the occasionally misspelled word and to clean-up those severe grammatical errors. There are times however, that by making corrections, the article's content is excessively altered to the degree that it becomes unrecognizable as the author's work. Also, concerning diacritical marks particularly, correct usage with proper names is sometimes hard to determine. If the article's author left out the háček, it is printed as submitted.

As a rule, if one of the editors write an article we try to be consistent. If the proper name belongs to a Czech it would appear as "Ročárek." If the proper name belongs

-6- to an American of Czech ancestry it would appear as "Rocarek."

\* \* \* \* \*

A MESSAGE FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The task of trying to deliver a complete history of Czechoslovakia's last few months would be monumental. Even an attempt to put the events into some kind of historical or philosophical perspective would be extremely difficult. We have been sent copies of several letters that our members have received from their friends and relatives in Czechoslovakia. Unfortunately due to space limitations we are unable to print them all. The following letter was sent to one of our members and in turn we are sharing it with you. It is offered to you exactly as we received it. No effort to correct it was made. Quite honestly, it is fine just the way it is. See if you don't agree.

Prague Dec. 10, 1989

Sorry I write so late, I'm not a good writer of letters at all. I remember you and I think of you very often but I must say it's a great "ceremony" for me to sit at the table and write a letter in English. But now I must brag of a special American dictionary which I've got lately, so it's a pleasure for me to write.

First I must tell you we all are healthy, merry and very happy because a new period of our history (of Czechoslovakia) is beginning. (You may have heard about "merry" or "tender" revolution or "a revolution of children" from your TV?) If not I'll tell you about it now: It started on the 17th of November - the date which had been declared as the International Students' Day to the memory of a Czech student Jan Opletal who had been killed by the German fascists (Gestapo) in 1938 during the demonstration against the Nazistic occupation of Bohemia and Moravia. (Then all the Czech universities were closed, in January 1939 the World War II started.)

On November 17, 1989 all Prague students marched peacefully through the streets of Prague to the Opletal's Street to put the flowers there in a park to the memory of 1938. But the police was affraid of slogans which

cont.

were written on transparents and also cried by people such as: "Freedom," "Real Democracy," "We don't want the government of one party" (the Kommunist Party of CSSR), "Resignation of those who are responsible for the crisis in Czechoslovakia" and so on. The policemen brutally took action against the students who gave them flowers, sang "We shall overcome" and the national anthem. Many students were hurt.

On the next day we started the student strike and the artists joined in. We had to announce new information to people of other towns in CSSR. (it wasn't easy, because at the beginning printing, TV and radio desinformed people - it was in the hands of kommunist Party) After a few days all the students and artists in CSSR were in a strike and we were also supported by workers. All the institutes and factories wrote their declarations which denounced the brutal act of policemen and had some demands similar to those of students and to those of "OBCANSKE FORUM" ( a non political organization which was formed by clever people of independent initiatives).

Our main demands included

- to create the Parliment Committee (board) with students and men from "OBCANSKE FORUM" to examine the act of police on the 17th of November, to find those who are responsible for it and to punish them
- to stop the government of the Kommunist Party, to damage the power of the only party of CSSR, to create a new government with new men of many parties equally represented (new parties are being founded) and to have free elections soon
- the resignation of our President, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of Kommunist Party of CSSR, and many others who are responsible for the crisis in Czechoslovakia.
- to give amnesty to all political prisoners
- to have freedom of gathering, associating, of printing and information.

OBCANSKE FORUM also organized everyday demmonstrations on the main squares of all the towns of CSSR which were also soon broadcasted by TV. The General Strike of the 27th of November was successful, today - on the 10th of

7- December - the Day of Human Rights - we can celebrate the historical day for our country - new government came into existance; people of OBCANSKE FORUM are represented there too. Our constitution has been changed a lot, I can say all our demands came into existance except for the punishment of those who were responsible for the 17th. (The Board is still working).

This is why we have very happy and merry Christmas time with artists and singers who were "forbidden," Christmas with freedom with the hope of better days without communism, with the real democracy.

I think this is the main information I wanted to write you about, I'll inform you about some other events in our country in some next letter and I'll also write you st. about me and my family.

I'm looking forward to your letter very much - so, please, write me soon back!

Have also a beautiful Christmas time!

With love,

Consider sending us photocopies of letters you have received from friends and relatives in "the old country." Many others have. These letters will be deposited in our archives. Years from now these letters will be priceless artifacts, and as an educational tool, they will provide important documentation to students of Czechoslovak history. Forward your correspondence to: John Rocarek, 1821 J St. S.W., Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

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#### FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

Minnesota's largest ethnic celebration is scheduled for April 27th - 29th. Minnesota's Czech community will be amongst the seventy-five ethnic groups participating. You'll experience folk art demonstrations, int'l bazaar, cultural exhibits, lively folk dance performances, and forty-eight cafes featuring worldwide cuisine. The event is held annually at the St. Paul Civic Center and sponsored by the Int'l Institute of Minnesota. For more information write the institute at 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108 or call (612) 647-0191.

SOKOL CALENDAR

American Sokol Convention  
April 28th - Ft. Worth, Texas

Czechoslovak Sokol Abroad  
VII Slet  
July 5th-8th - Paris, France



\* \* \* \* \*

EVEN THE EXPERTS WERE SURPRISED

Unbelievable! Unexplainable!  
Unimaginable! Even authorities on the subject of European politics and government were caught off guard. Few if any anticipated the events in Europe we have witnessed. Consider the following statement excerpted from a publication dated April, 1989 -  
"...there seems little prospect that Czechoslovakia will emerge from the thrall imposed on it by the East in 1948, and again in 1968, or that anything resembling the Prague Spring will occur in the near future.

\* \* \* \* \*

HOW CAN I HELP?

The work of rebuilding Czechoslovakia from the ground up will be a major undertaking. Supplies are short, and everything is in demand from books to telephones, medical supplies to typewriters. The need is great.

We have received several requests for information from both members and non-members concerning how, during this difficult period in Czechoslovakia, they may either obtain assistance or render assistance. While our organization does not directly participate in such activities, we offer the following organizations' addresses to those who would like more information on how they might help:

Ambassador Rita Klimova, Czechoslovak Embassy, 3900 Linnean Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005; Federation of Czech Groups, % Edward Kuba, Pres.

American Sokol Organization, 6424 West Cermak Rd., Berwyn, IL 60402; Czechoslovak Nat'l Council of America, 2137 S. Lombard Ave. Room 202, Cicero, IL 60650; Czech Catholic Union, 5349 Dolloff Road, Cleveland, OH 44127.

Enjoy the Marc Frana Band on March 18th, from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the new Elk's Hall at 801 33rd Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The band will feature Old-time, Country, and a variety of other musical favorites.

Advance tickets (\$3.00) are available from Czech Heritage Foundation board members. Admission at the door is \$3.50

There will be door prizes and a bake sale.

Money raised will support the foundation's Experiment in Int'l Living Homestay Program. This year will mark the sixth year that our organization has sent Cedar Rapids area highschool students to spend a month with a host family in Czechoslovakia.

Twenty-three fine young men and women make up the Homestay Program's alumni. Our two new ambassadors for 1990, Kristin Machacek and Todd Slezak, will make the trip this summer.

The Homestay Program has revitalized our organization by involving our Czech community's youth. These young people are our foundation's future. To find out more about how you can help, write: Sherlee Peterson, Homestay Program Chairman,

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ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

The traditional St. Joseph's Day is March 19th, two days after St. Patrick's Day. On March 24th, the following Saturday, Czech Village will officially recognize the "wearing of the red." The celebration will begin with the annual parade at 1:00 p.m. The parade will form on 2nd St. S.E. near 13th Ave. To participate in the parade contact Joe Vondracek at

. All entries are welcome.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE NEED FOR AN ARCHIVES IS REAL, not imaginary! We are constantly sent items of interest from members that should and must be made accessible. Information and knowledge that isn't shared is worthless! Items currently being sent to us are being stored and cared for, but there is presently no adequate space for cataloging, shelving, and most importantly,

cont.



displaying and sharing these artifacts.

For example: The Czechoslovak Ministry of Information published an eight page newspaper for the benefit of American servicemen stationed in Czechoslovakia in 1945.

The Czechoslovak government wanted to acquaint the liberating forces with their country's history, customs and traditions. The servicemen had seen their country at its worst and now the government wanted to share with their liberators the best from the "Heart of Europe."

Stories in the publication ranged from "Dvořák in the States," "The Golem," and "The Slovak Robin Hood Janošik," to descriptive articles concerning plans being formulated by the newly freed Czechoslovak government.

The first and only issue of Truth Prevails - ALLIANCE dated October 5th,

Truth Prevails  
**ALLIANCE**

No. 1, Vol. 1 Published by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Information Prague, October 20, 1945

**Newscast**

The high spot of last week's events was the U.S.-Czechoslovak military ceremony in Prague Thursday last. For the first time in history, American Army units entered the capital of Czechoslovakia. Driving 50 miles beyond the demarcation line, U.S. light armored cars, trucks and jeeps, trailed a veritable GI invasion of Prague. In-marching at city limous. GI's marched town-wide led on by their snowdrop Arm-and and cheered by the crowd on the sidewalks. They lined up at the ancient town hall of Prague together with units of the first Czechoslovak Armored Corps and were welcomed by Dr. Edvard Benes, the President. Military standards were exchanged as tokens of the sparkling friendship forged in the war against the common enemy. "Our people," said President Benes, "appreciate very highly the presence of the American Army on Czechoslovak soil and



It was with a great deal of pleasure that I received the news that the Ministry of Information will publish a newspaper for American soldiers temporarily stationed in Czechoslovakia. The publication will do much to break down the last barrier between the Czechs and Americans—the barrier of language. It will now be possible for American soldiers to learn directly from the Czech people the news of their country, their plans for the future, and their progress toward their goals.

A free and frank exchange of news and information has always been the foundation for a lasting friendship among nations. This is particularly true in this instance, for sometime in the future Czechoslovakia will send to America thousands of Ambassadors of good-will for their country; the American soldiers stationed in Czechoslovakia.

Since our arrival in Czechoslovakia, the Czech people have treated us with a warm-hearted friendship. They have taken us into their homes and to their places of culture and entertainment. Although the ravages of war, and the occupation by the forces of Nazism had taken much from them, they offered the Americans the best available in their country. Such friendship and unselfish treatment will bear fruit in the years to come in the relations between the Czechoslovak Republic and the United States of America.

Maj. Gen. Ernest N. Harmon

Mr. Vladimír Hruban, Ambassador to the United States; Mr. Jan Pospisil, Minister plenipotentiary, and Colonel-General Karel Hudec and J. Hora. The memorial will be part of the new village of Lidice to be built by the Czechoslovak Government. Plans for the village were formulated by Mr. Leopold Amsard, Dean of the Columbian University School of Architecture in New York City and Dr. Josef Kalenda, representative of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Public Works. In a message to the Committee the President of Czechoslovakia said: "The Lidice memorial will be a beautiful tribute and I sincerely wish it may be created in order that the martyrdom of Lidice will be remembered for ever in the history of mankind."

Earlier this month Representative Mark Stan of Nebraska spoke of the lasting love between the United States and Czechoslovakia at a meeting in Washington commemorating the eight anniversary of the death of T. J. MAAARYK. He quoted Mar-



ryk as saying that individual nations are to a great extent creators of their own future and that in this regard it is the idealists who always win. "These words," continued Mr. Stefan, "are today both a summary of the war we have all just fought and won, and a prophecy for the nation's future. Czechoslovakia, ever faithful with her great liberator during the war, she fought valiantly for the ideal for which MAAARYK fought during his life long. There is no doubt that Czechoslovakia will keep faith with her great leader in the coming years of peace, she will cleave to the principles of democracy which MAAARYK was so staunch a champion. Czechoslovakia and the United States have always been the friends of democracy in the world but in the actual practice of democracy MAAARYK was a true friend and ally. He was loved by the American people, his strong bonds which he helped forge between our two nations long endure."

-9- in Czechoslovakia, but students of government, war and politics,

# American Literature in Czechoslovakia

THOUSANDS of miles of land and sea separate Czechoslovakia from America and here are not many Czechoslovaks who could afford to visit America. And yet it cannot be said that the people of Czechoslovakia do not know America or the Americans, for they have, on the contrary, acquired a considerable knowledge of both country and people from American literature.

For a long, long time both old and modern American literature has been closely followed and diligently translated in Czechoslovakia, and it is certain that the latest works of American authors will be translated, too, now that contact with America has been renewed. The people of Czechoslovakia are well acquainted with James Fenimore Cooper and Edgar Allan Poe; all Czech poets love the rugged verse of that herald of Democracy, Walt Whitman, dead for over half a century. Perhaps we can divulge the fact that one of our greatest Czech writers is soon to publish a novel for which he drew his material from the famous book by William Hickling Prescott, "The History of the Conquest of Peru".

We have a whole series of translations of the older works of American literature, the most outstanding being perhaps those of Mark Twain, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville and many others. But we have even more translations of contemporary American authors, for they combine three great qualities which make them particularly attractive to Czechoslovak readers: a strong element of adventure, a sense of humor and, above all, courage for keen criticism of present-day society.

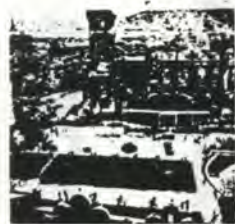
The works of Jack London have always been a source of enjoyment for both old and young and will continue to be so. His biography by Irving Stone, "Sailor on Horseback", was also translated and highly appreciated by all. The strong element of adventure is to be found in books founded on fact, for example in "Alone" by the explorer, Richard E. Byrd, and again in historical novels such as "Gone with the Wind" by Margaret Mitchell, "North-West Passage" by Kenneth Roberts and the works of Dos Passos and Pearl Buck. The same powerful adventurous spirit even pervades works of a scientific and social character. What grand tales of adventure are such books as "The Microbe Hunters" and "Men against Death" by Paul de Kruif, or again the book by Upton Sinclair about the "Flower King" and his fight for the perfection of the "horseless carriage".

The American authors best known in Czechoslovakia for their criticism of society are Dreiser, Upton Sinclair, Sinclair Lewis and John Steinbeck. Their works are not merely read, they are studied. They show us the face of America. It is the courage of the Americans to point out the faults in social conditions and to be open in their criticism that appeals to their Czechoslovak readers. It was known here that Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" even caused steps to be taken by the American Congress and we even managed to get the book published here during the German occupation. As soon as America entered the war, it was confiscated, but for that reason all the more cherished and carefully concealed in thousands of private libraries. Soon it will appear in a new edition along with translations of other works by Steinbeck.

American literature has a long-standing tradition in Czechoslovakia. Now it will be cultivated with still greater interest, for again we shall seek to find in it the true face of America, one of the great victorious powers, a young land and people from whom the youth of Europe expects much. It will be followed with greater attention perhaps than the speeches of politicians and rightly so, for poets and, above all, novelists are the sensitive seismographs of the present and the prophets of the future.

journalism, and even students of American literature.

Mr. John Joseff of Manassas, Virginia kindly sent us a photocopy of this rare treasure. It is uncertain cont.



will strengthen in the future this friendship which was so happily established with the great American Democracy in the best of world peace." In the afternoon at the MAAARYK stadium, a capacity crowd of over 40,000 witnessed an exciting game between the Piperno of the 94th Div. and the survivors of XXIV Corps. It was a most unusual show for Czech sports fans; however, they indulged most in listening to the American Army band which entertained them during the intermission. And a wonder when they let go in "Hold That 'Guns". In the evening the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Ladislav Václav Dvořák of the 4th Armored Div. struck a more sombre note at the Smetana Hall.

On the other side of the Atlantic the Lidice Memorial Committee is raising one and a half million dollars as a gift of the American people to the people of Czechoslovakia to erect a memorial to the murdered population of Lidice. The Committee announced that a Lidice memorial in the

1945 contains a wealth of information. A wealth of information to a variety of students, not just those interested

if distribution of this first issue even took place, therefore it is unknown how many copies are in existence.

This is only one example of the kind of treasures which gather dust in our attics and basements. Isn't it time for a concerted effort on the part of our organization to establish an archives and cultural center?

\* \* \* \* \*

CHILI SUPPER

Chili was served piping hot along with rye bread and a desert to the many supporters who bought a ticket to the annual event which benefits Summer Czech School for the children. Supper was served from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. on March 3rd, at Kuba Hall in Cedar Rapids. We sincerely wish to thank all who assisted in the project.

Now is the time to be recruiting for Czech School participants. Teaching this year will be Olga Drahozal and Patricia Hikiji. Bessie Dugena will teach this summer, filling in for Mildred Peshek who regrets not being able to return this year because of other committments.

\* \* \* \* \*

FRENSTAT, Czechoslovakia (AP) — A brass band struck up the "Internationale" on Monday as the Red Army began leaving Czechoslovakia 22 years after it arrived to crush a reform movement.

Karel Micek of the Civic Forum said the presence of Soviet troops had meant "empty shelves in stores, polluted water, an occasional fight in the pub and a reminder that we are not a free country."

Twenty-two Soviet T-62 tanks loaded on flatcars left the northern town of Frenstat, beginning a negotiated, three-stage pullout of the 73,500 Soviet military personnel, slated for completion next year.

A second train, laden with 33 armored vehicles, left a few hours later from the Domasov and Bystrici station near a Red Army base at Libava in eastern Czechoslovakia.

It is the first time the Kremlin has removed its soldiers from the territory of a Warsaw Pact ally.

Hungary is near agreement with the Soviets on a similar accord, but no deals have been struck with Poland and East Germany, the other Soviet allies in Europe that are hosts to Red Army troops.

Soviet soldiers remained in Czechoslovakia after a Warsaw Pact invasion crushed the reformist "Prague Spring" of 1968. They entered Hungary in 1956 to put down an anti-Stalinist uprising.

Before the withdrawal began, the Soviet Union had 1,220 tanks, 2,505 armored vehicles, 77 combat aircraft and 146 helicopters in Czechoslovakia, in addition to the 73,500 soldiers.

The official news agency CTK said Deputy Foreign Minister Evzen Vacek told a parliamentary committee the pullout will be complet by June 30, 1991.



AP photo

A Czech railman gives the signal "Go" for the first train leaving with Soviet tanks stationed in the Czechoslovak region of North Moravia Monday afternoon.

The Cedar Rapids Gazette, Tues., Feb. 27, 1990  
Reprinted with permission/Cedar Rapids Gazette

**Soviet troops begin leaving Czechoslovakia**

CZECHS WHO MIGRATED TO THIS COUNTRY

many years ago were usually considered an industrious, hardworking people. They took what employment was available and labored long hours to establish themselves and become a part of the citizenry. But they also knew how to enjoy themselves. If entertainment and recreation were not readily available, they created their own.

I learned this at a very young age when in our little north Iowa town of Mitchell, a group of Czech families established Z.C.B.J. Lodge Mitchell No. 228 in July 1931. There were fifty-six adults and thirty-one juvenile members at the time.

These were deep depression days and money was scarce. Laborers at that time, if they were lucky to have a job, put in ten-hour days, six days a week, at ten to fifteen cents an hour. Farmland was productive but the sale price of harvested crops very low.

The lodge members put forth effort and ingenuity even though hampered by lack of funds. They bought an old weatherbeaten structure in the center of this little town and proceeded to transform it into Mitchell Lodge Hall. The interior was cluttered and dirty with cobwebs everywhere, but after many hours of sweeping, scrubbing, painting and waxing, there emerged a large clean interior with a raised stage at one end complete with wings and rolldown curtain.

I like to think it was the stage and drop curtain that prompted some member to say, "Let's put on a play!" Eventually a number of plays in the Czech language were successfully staged in the lodge hall.

There were no "trained" actors but that didn't stop a group from sending away for scripts of plays from a Czech publisher (possibly in Omaha?). A core of enthusiastic would-be actors and actresses accepted various roles. When they had learned their lines, rehearsals were held at the hall after evening chores were over. These rehearsals were anticipated with some pleasure, providing a few hours of fellowship that broke up the workaday routine.

It would not have been unusual to visit a certain farm family on a Sunday afternoon and hear the sounds of a raging argument as husband and

wife chased one another through the house. Not to worry. They had the lead roles in the current play and were simply learning their lines. Also, a role could be rehearsed aloud while guiding a horse-drawn cultivator through the cornfield. The horses didn't seem to mind.

One play that was presented featured a picket fence running down the center of the stage, indicating the division of two properties. On one side of the fence was a tree with branches extending over onto the other side. On the tip of one of these branches hung a large pear, the only fruit on the tree. During a heated discussion, with both landowners claiming the fruit, the local vamp Fifi Hrazánek strolled on stage and picked the pear, much to the delight of the audience.

Another play was "Kam Nemuže Čert, Nastrčí Bábu" (Where the Devil Can't Go, He sends the Old Lady). I remember this title because my mother played the old woman. Once even I had a very small part in a play, with my mother drilling me in the correct pronunciation of the Czech words I was to speak on stage.

The plays were so successful that the cast "went on the road" with them, giving performances at other Czech lodges in the area. I particularly remember going to Protivin, Iowa, and Owatonna, Minnesota.

There came a day when the younger members of the lodge asked, "Why can't we put on a play in English?" A number of weeks later a cast of young adults and teenagers gave the community "Happy Valley." It was a thrill to peek from behind the curtain on opening night and see not only lodge members in the audience but also a group of teachers and classmates from the local consolidated school.

Presentation of these plays, together with many Saturday night dances (usually with a three-piece band), eventually brought in the money to pay for the lodge building.

Lodge activities provided needed entertainment for the people. At the time there were a few radios and some families had wind-up Victrolas with a small collection of operatic music and pop tunes of the 1920s, but that was all. There was no movie house and

cont.

no central meeting place except for a community church. Mitchell Lodge was a center for members and families to gather, and other ethnic groups in the area welcomed the opportunity to attend the Saturday dances.

Today we are overwhelmed with choices for diversion, entertainment and recreation, but some sixty years ago I know that Czechs, at least in rural areas, often created their own activities. Mrs. F. Vilim

\* \* \* \* \*

THE CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS . . . .

DON'T MISS IT!

A CULTURAL/GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE SATURDAY MAY 19, 1990

FEATURED TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

KROI (NATIVE COSTUMES) FROM SLOVAKIA, MORAVIA, AND BOHEMIA; INTRODUCTION TO CZECH & SLOVAK LANGUAGE, CULTURE, FOLK CUSTOMS; AND GLIMPSES OF PRESENT DAY CZECHOSLOVAKIA THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR SPEAKERS.

LOCATION: EDINA COMMUNITY CENTER 5701 NORMANDALE ROAD EDINA, MINNESOTA

TIME: 8:00 A.M. REGISTRATION 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M. SESSIONS HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE



FEATURED SPEAKERS:

JOHN H. MARVIN - MADISON, WISCONSIN INSTRUCTOR ON AUTHENTIC CZECHOSLOVAK EMBROIDERY. MEMBER CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS & SCIENCES (SVUJ). ADVOCATE FOR REBIRTH OF CZECH PRIDE. SPEAKER, NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE, 1989.

HELENE B. CINCBOX - ROCHESTER, NEW YORK HAS PUBLISHED NUMEROUS ARTICLES ON "TREASURES OF SLOVAKIA". LET HER IDENTIFY YOUR FAMILY ORIGIN THROUGH YOUR HEIRLOOMS. SEE HER COLLECTION OF SLIDES WHICH REVEAL WEAVING, EMBROIDERY, MOTIFS, LACE, FOLK ART, TRAVEL, CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:

M. MELVINA SVEC - CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA HAS SPENT A LIFETIME HELPING PRESERVE TRADITION, CULTURE, & LANGUAGE. VOLUNTEER CZECH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR, CEDAR RAPIDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. MEMBER CZECH HERITAGE & FINE ARTS FOUNDATIONS. AUTHOR OF MY CZECH WORD BOOK ABC.

PLUS OTHER SPEAKERS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION MATERIALS, WRITE AFTER MARCH 1, 1990 TO:

CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY P.O. BOX 16225 ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55116

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TRAVEL-STUDY WORKSHOP

See France, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. Visit the Spartakiada in Prague and the Sokol Slet in Paris. The trip is from June 22nd to July 9th and conducted by the Int'l Education Office at Slippery Rock Univ. Most participants are tourists and not college students making the trip for the credit hours. Write: Mr. Stephen J. Banjak, Phys. Ed. Dept., Slippery Rock Univ., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1326

Sokol Minnesota Slovo Jan. '90

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

I was delighted to see mention of the translated Civil War letters (Dec. '89 issue) of John Pospishil and Company K. 22nd Infantry. My great-great-grandfather, Joseph Horak, was in that regiment, so now I have a more complete account of where he went, including steamboat to Florida, then Virginia, Washington D.C., then to Georgia and return via Baltimore during the war at the time of Lincoln. One of Joseph Horak's daughters was Kathryn L. Horak (Katie), a farm girl raised near what's now the Cedar Rapids airport. She was my great grandmother on my father's side, after whom I was named.

The Chadima family (Thomas and Anna) apparently immigrated right after that war, in 1866, to Cedar Rapids. Joseph Chadima, son of Thomas, later married Katie Horak and they started Chadima Ice and Fuel there in about 1900, which later became Hubbard Ice and Fuel. Their kids were Harry, Lester, Willard and George. Hubbard Ice is now run by Glenn and Jack Chadima, at 1st St. S.W. along the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids. In early days, ice was hauled from the river by horse teams with ropes and lifted into the warehouse by pulleys for cold storage, then carted to homes by wagon in large blocks. Now it's sold already packaged, crushed or cubed.

I would encourage people of Czech ancestry to look for original documents of land acquisitions or family papers like journals or diaries in Czech, and then try to have them translated. Many times families have this information but can't read the language and don't know what treasures they may be harboring.

Case in point: my great grandfather Joseph Hajek, an attorney from Tabor, Bohemia, and later a Czech newspaper editor in Chicago and Cedar Rapids, wrote three books in Czech which are a compilation of speeches he gave at weddings and funerals. Apparently he was licensed for public speaking by the Czech people.

His books are kept in the Czech museum library in Chicago and my family has a few copies as well, but my modern family can't read them because they haven't been translated. cont.

He also wrote journals and poems, and a few poems have been translated by Jerry Cincara. I recently discovered the Chicago Historical Society does have some Czech newspapers translated into English, since that was quite a hub for immigrating Czechs.

Also, I recently discovered, upon interviewing Vicky Polehna (Mrs. Martin Polehna) in Cedar Rapids, that the man who officiated at their wedding was J. Hajek, my great grandfather. Vicky remembers an ancestor of mine I never met.

If anyone has translated writings of Czech women in English, I would be very interested to obtain excerpts or information about them.

Kathryn L. Chadima

Kathryn Chadima is a graduate student in journalism and mass communication at the Univ. of Iowa. Currently she is working on her master's project; the theme of which reflects her interest in her Czech heritage - "How the role of Czech women has changed from the old country to current times." Readers with stories and reminiscences to share are encouraged to contact Miss Chadima. Areas of interest include geese raising, feather-stripping, cooking, sewing and needlepoint, costumes, dance, etc... It is hoped excerpts from her thesis will appear in one of our future issues.

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\*\*\*\*\*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Millions the world over set aside March 2, 1990, to recognize this annual event sponsored by Church Women United. This year's services held special meaning to area worshipers as the occasion was co-sponsored and written by the Christian Women of Czechoslovakia. The theme - "A Better Tomorrow - Justice For All." The Czech Heritage Singers, under the direction of Olga Drahozal, offered a very special musical presentation during the service at Salem United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids.

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DUES TIME IS HERE AGAIN! Dues remain at only \$3.00 per person per year. Don't delay. Why not consider a gift membership for someone for Christmas? Your dues and generous donations help to fund several worthwhile endeavors, among them: Czech Prince and Princess sponsorship, financial support to the Czech Museum, adult Czech language classes, Homestay Program, along with publishing the quarterly Naše České Dědictví and other numerous publications.

Please check proper item: Renewal  New Member  Gift Membership

Name(s) Ms., Mr., Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable  
and mail to: Czech Heritage Fdn., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Membership Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

We appreciate your continued support. With your help we can carry on with projects, activities, and goals to preserve our heritage and culture. THANK YOU!  
Na shledanou !

PRELIMINARY PLANS for the new park in Southeast Cedar Rapids were unveiled on February 27th at the Steering Committee meeting. The park, adjacent to the new Bridge of the Lions, will feature the sidewalk advertising which for years could be found in front of the old CSPA and ZCBA Halls in Cedar Rapids. The old sidewalk advertising (inlaid in brass and tile), in danger of being lost to the ravages of progress were rescued thanks to a joint effort by thoughtful City Planners and members of the Czech community.

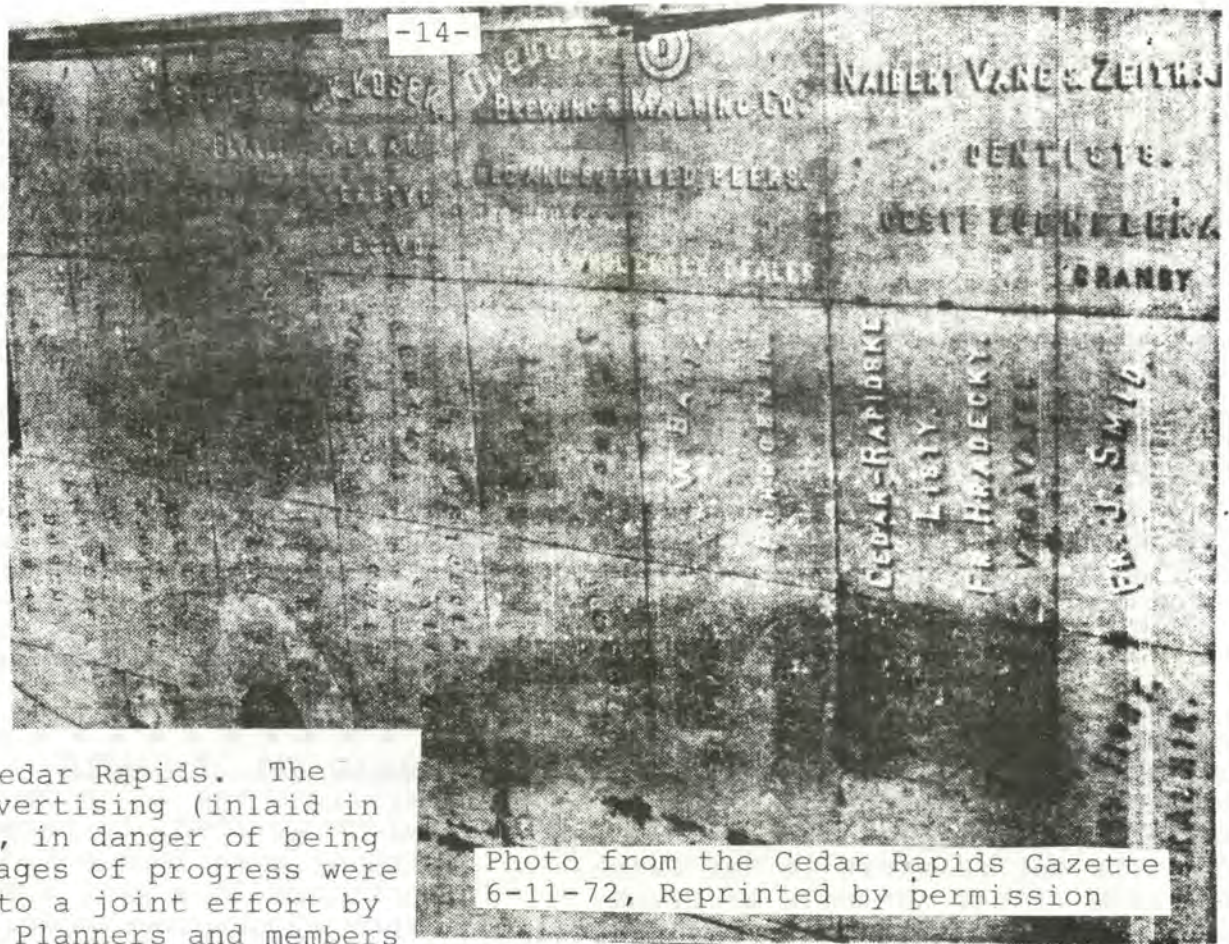


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