

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

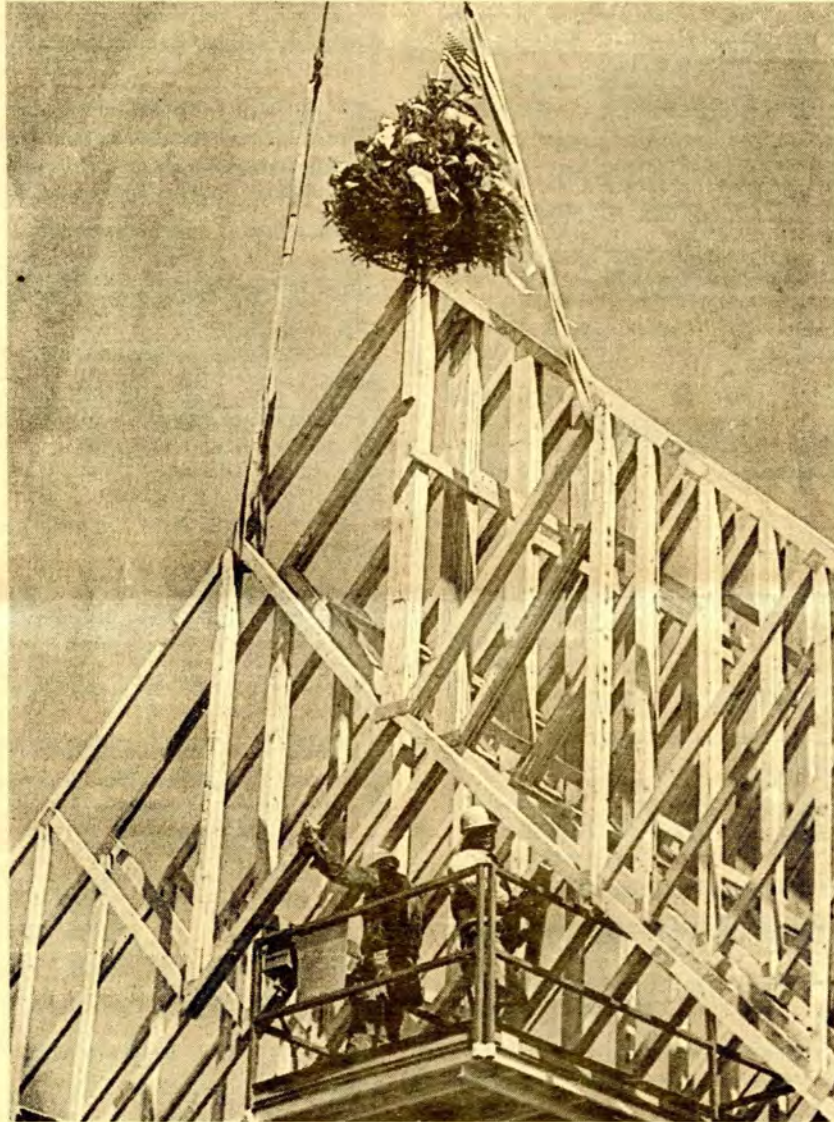
NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

TOPPING IT OFF



Gazette Photo by L. W. Ward. Photo with permission of Cedar Rapids Gazette

On Thursday, March 31, at 11:00 a.m. the Unzeitig Construction Co. secured the final roof truss as they "topped off" the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library under construction in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in Czech Village. The evergreen tree, adorned with a United States flag and red, white, and blue ribbons to represent flags of the United States, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, was attached to the truss as part of a traditional "topping off" ceremony. The facility will occupy 15,000 square feet and is expected to be completed in early 1995. (page 17)

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NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As the schools are dismissing for summer vacation, it causes me to reminisce. As I look back to my childhood days, I remember going to Czech School even though I grew up on a farm near the town of Western, Iowa.

When I was about 8 years old, my mother heard that Czech classes were held during the summer in the Buresh School at rural Ely near the Bohemian Moravian Church where Rev. Francis Pokorny was minister. He was also our teacher. Most of the students were older and members of the church studying catechism to become formal members of the church. The rest of the children came to read and write Czech and for some summer fun.

For youngsters like myself, it was a four mile walk down the road, so we took a more direct route across the field cutting the distance by half. We did not mind as there were many others walking with us.

School was held on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The older students recited in a group class, but the beginners like myself were called up individually. I sat on a chair next to Rev. Pokorny in his captain's chair in the front of the room. I read a page that was assigned to me the previous week.

As word got around about the classes, I remember there being 20-30 students present and not all were "students." Rev. Pokorny loved children and was too kind-hearted to discipline the mischievous ones.

I still have and treasure my book "Slabikář" with all its loose pages that are yellow and have fringed edges. (page 15) It is another reminder our parents wanted the three of us to be exposed to as much knowledge and heritage as possible.

Adeline L. Volesky

THANK YOU

Volunteers who helped with the March newsletter were Frank and Mae Novotny, Darlene Trachta and my husband, John Volesky.

Thank You. — Editor

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag was 100 years old in 1992. It first appeared September 8, 1892, in The Youth's Companion, and it is generally held that it was written by Francis Bellamy, an assistant editor. Revised in 1924, the pledge was officially adopted by the United States in 1942.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last weekend my wife, Chris, my sister, Joyce, and I had the good fortune to be able to visit Lincoln, Nebraska and see the museum exhibit "CZECHS IN NEBRASKA".

It is in a large room in the Nebraska Historical Society Museum dedicated to this one exhibit. The exhibit traces many of the facets of Czechs (mostly from Moravia) in Nebraska. The artifacts are very nicely displayed and very interesting. They show where many of the immigrants departed from and where they settled/congregated in Nebraska.

An interesting piece to me was a railroad ad aimed at attracting Czechs. It was in Czech and showed the results they could achieve from simple to grand living in just 6 years. The first year showed a sod hut, almost a hole in the ground. The second year showed a tiny cabin, then out-buildings and so forth until the sixth year showed the occupants living in a small mansion, hardly what one expects to see on a Nebraska farm.

Another part of the display showed that, like others, Czechs suffered prejudice and discrimination. At first they were "dumb" because they didn't know the language. Later as they quickly began to prosper from their energies there was jealousy at the results they were attaining.

There were numerous Czech newspapers in Nebraska. The Historical Society has them catalogued by town. An agricultural journal "Hospodar" is available on microfilm. The Society also has photographic and family correspondence collections.

The display traces the importance and history of fraternal organizations; ZCJB, CSPA etc. It includes stage curtains and backdrops like I remember in the ZCJB hall in Cedar Rapids when I was a boy.

Costumes and Czech literature are also featured in one section of the display. There were also pictures and samples of the tools used by the early settlers. Another part of the display was computer-based and dealt with the language. By moving a computer "mouse" you could move a pointer on the screen to words you wanted to hear pronounced in Czech - important words like kolach and knedliky.

I commend the Nebraska Historical Society for a very interesting and informative display. I encourage our readers to be sure and see it if they pass near Lincoln, Nebraska this summer. We made a special trip across Iowa and part of Nebraska and it was well worth it.

The Nebraska Historical Society is located at 1500 "R" St in Lincoln (ph. 402 471-4772). This display is slated to remain until Sept. or Oct. See it if possible!

Na Shledanou
Dave Faltis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Czech Heritage Fdn.:

Sorry about not sending in our dues earlier but we were wintering in Texas and just got home Sunday night about 9p.m.

Enjoyed reading Nase České Dedictví especially the March issue about Blanche Lamparek on page 13. The Rapp Dance Hall near Amana was my great grandmother's. My grandmother's maiden name was Vanourny and my mother's maiden name was Stritesky. I believe the Old Saloon building is still on the farm converted into a machine shed but my step-grandfather Svoboda and I tore the dance hall down in 1946 when I got home from service. I still have a vivid memory of the large building with its 2 vestibules and its dance band platform above the entrance way. It also had a board seating shelf around the whole inside perimeter.

Thanks for jogging my memory.

Robert Hejkal
Brooklyn, Ia.

P.S. By the way my great grandfather and great grandmother were burned out in the Chicago fire and they settled on some land where Coe College is. They then moved to the Amanas. He was a boot-maker by trade.

Dear Editor:

First of all I want to compliment you on your fine newsletter which I have been receiving now for many years. It is very informative, and interesting to read about our great heritage. I only wish I was closer so I could take part in some of your activities, it seems to me you are a thriving organization there. Wonderful that you are preserving our Czech heritage, we need more of that! Thanks and do keep up the good work!

I'm enclosing my insights of my recent (July 1993) trip to the Czech Republic. It was a wonderful experience, words cannot adequately even describe it. After reading and enjoying other reports of other travelers to Czechoslovakia I decided to submit mine. I've enjoyed reading others who describe what they had seen there and it really is fun to read it being one has seen those places too.

Feel free to edit, perhaps change the report as you see fit. I thought I'd have it short, but it seemed there was so much to tell, therefore it became quite lengthy (page 6).

I hope to someday soon in the future visit your Czech Village and meet *some* of you faithful Czechs that are keeping our heritage alive!

Nazdar,
Editha A. (Hodny) Lund

P.S. I do like the "format" you now use for your newsletter.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF NEWPORT

After being in service for 108 years, the door closed for the final time in April 1994. Newport, Iowa is a township and a small town in Johnson County. It lies on the east bank of the Iowa River between Iowa City and Solon. The church is one mile west of the tiny village on highway #1.

By 1875 there were estimated to be 3,000 Bohemian people in Johnson County and Iowa City. Even before St. Mary's Church was built, a group of good Bohemian Catholic families already were holding Mass in one of the homes, the log cabin of James and Barbara Krall. Names were not recorded but the Krall, Shima, Mellecker, Dvorsky, Sedlacek, Meka, Kabela, Svatos, and Hudacek were all long time Bohemian residents of Newport.

On September 8, 1886 it was established as the Bohemian Township Church on land donated by James and Barbara and Joseph and Mary Krall for the sum of \$1.00 according to the recorded plat thereof (deed recorded 9-11-1886). The land also included space for a cemetery which has been an integral part of the church. The first burial was of Joannes Tesar. Mike Cilek, once a sexton never called himself a grave digger "just a builder of eternal homes." Early graves were marked with wooden crosses.

The first baptism is recorded as Ruzena Maria, daughter of Michaelis and Francisca Chudacek on December 5, 1886. The first two marriages were Franciscum Sedlacek and Anna Svec, January 24, and Thomann Dvorsky and Albertina Baker, February 2, 1887 under the pastorate of Rev. Joannes (John) Žlebčík. During its long history, the church has been known by several names. The record book at St. Wenceslaus Church in Iowa City reports the name was "Church of Blessed Virgin Mary of the Holy Rosary Congregation of Newport." In 1893, the records were transferred to St. Mary's to Solon. In March 1934, its name returned to St. Wenceslaus due to its rich Czechoslovakian heritage, but its members always called it St. Mary's of Newport.

The oldest life long parishioner Frank Shima served as altar boy until he got so tall one couldn't tell which was the priest or altar boy. Father Panoch gave the sermon in Czech and English.

The first priest to serve the church was Rev. Žlebčík who came from Davenport. It is assumed he came by rail to Morse which was 3 miles east of the Krall log cabin.

The Czech people probably have retained more of their culture than any other ethnic group in Johnson Co. Until the 1920's, sermons were still

being given half in Czech and half in English.

While the church and steeple were built in 1886, the bell was not added until 1891, presumably because of lack of funds. In preparation for the church's 100th anniversary June 22, 1986, members climbed into the belfry and did some research on the Church's history cast into the bell—all in Bohemian. Cast by H. Sluckstede & Co., St. Louis, Mo. Úctě sv Anděla Strázcé, Veljs Fr. Žlebčík, P. Jos. Kabel, P. Matěj Hudacék, P. Jan Dvorsky. It is assumed the bell was a gift of the three men and their families.

The bell, besides calling the worshippers to service, also tolled in death, the numbers of tolls indicating the age of the deceased. It also tolled in case of fire for assistance.

When the church was built it included the present organ a gift of the Burich-Hotka families. A balcony was added in 1915-16.

A tradition of the church was to hold a picnic in a timber across the road and a dance on a wooden sectionalized platform. On July 4, 1912 it was so cold it snowed so it was decided to have a yearly fund raising dinner at St. Mary's auditorium in Solon.

Some of the elder church members recall that in the earlier years up until 1925, the women and girls sat on one side of the church and the men and boys on the other. This was not church discipline, but a routine that developed with the ladies getting out of the carriages and the male members finding a place to tie the team and buggy.

Getting the church warm for Sunday in the winter took some "know how." The basement stove had to be started Saturday night, but care had to be exercised that it did not overheat. On more than one occasion it did get too hot and the candles were all drooped over. In summer, ladies brought big bouquets of flowers to decorate the altar and after the service the flowers were put on graves of loved ones.

Since the church closed, parishioners are going either to Iowa City or Solon but many precious memories are locked behind the closed doors.

EMMA BIDERMAN

In the September 1993 issue of Naše České Dědictví was an article about Emma Biderman who was 107 years of age. On April 3rd of this year she celebrated her 108th birthday. She formerly lived in the Ely area but has been a resident of Halmar the past three years. HAPPY BIRTHDAY EMMA.



ZENISHEKS CELEBRATED 70th ANNIVERSARY

Ernest and Alice Zenishek of rural Fairfax, Iowa, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on February 20th. Ernest, 96, was born near Solon, Iowa on January 10, 1898 to a farm family, Mary and Joe Zenishek. His brothers and sisters were: Beatrice (Zerbee), Agnes (Chadek), Ann (Dvorsky), Mae, John, Tony, and Fred. Ernest attended rural schools.

Alice, 94, was born February 2, 1900 to Mike and Antonie Dvorsky near Solon in Johnson County where the family lived on a farm. Her brothers and sisters were: Lou, Ed, Leo, Raymond, Albert, Matt, Joe, George, Blanche (Womocil), Agnes (Novotny) and Amelia who died in infancy. Alice attended rural schools and went on to attend Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls, Iowa and a summer session at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. She taught rural schools for three years.

Ernest and Alice met when they were asked to be attendants for a wedding. Alice had her eye on Ernest and she said she would be bridesmaid if Ernest was the best man. They were married February 20, 1924 at 8:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Solon with family in attendance at the church and family dinner which was held at the home of the bride's parents. Alice still has her dark blue wedding dress that was adorned with beads.

When Ernest arrived at the church on his wedding day, his Model T developed a wobbly front wheel so a friend offered to take it to a garage to have it fixed while the ceremony was in progress. A few days later, a gust of wind tore the side curtain off making travel in February a cold ride. Two weeks after the wedding they heard banging on the house siding and a chivevery was in progress. When they opened the door, the guests brought refreshments of hot dogs, bread and hot

coffee and the party was in full swing. Three children were born to them, Inez (Atwater), Harold, and Marge (Volesky).

The Zenisheks rented farms and almost gave up farming because they became discouraged when they were unable to purchase a farm. They moved seven times. Each farm they lived on was a family farm which was not for sale. They lived on a Buresh farm near the Cherry Valley School at rural Fairfax when they got a break. Alice's brother-in-law Ernest Womocil had good news. The Frank Tehel farm of 106 acres was for sale. They purchased it in 1938. They raised livestock and grain crops.

Alice recalls the story when corn was husked by hand. The wagon was pulled with horses. As she neared the road, the horses were prancing badly. A kind gentleman recognized the problem as a faulty harness hook-up. He stopped, got out and remedied the problem before anything serious happened. The horses settled down. To this day Alice wonders who the good samaritan was. Ernest's first tractor was a McCormick Deering. Ernest still has his walking plow as a remembrance of days gone by. The Zenisheks remember home butchering, filling and cleaning kerosene lamps and homemade lye soap made with drippings from fat.

In the winters of impassable roads, Ernest bedded the sled so the family could attend church. Now they wonder how their warm woolen clothing looked while they worshiped. As Ernest reminisces, he wishes he would have saved the old sled instead of recycling it into a feed bunk.

The Zenisheks still live in their large stately farm house at rural Fairfax. Their son Harold, whose wife Caroline died in 1989, farms the land with his sons. Inez Atwater, whose husband Harold died in 1988, lives at rural Center Point. Marge Volesky and her husband Marvin live at rural Newhall. The Zenisheks have 15 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

When asked about their longevity, they both smile and say in unison "hard work" and both agree they would do it again. They have been blessed with good health. They enjoy good cuts of meat, lots of fresh fruits and vegetables which they still raise in their garden and orchard. Alice tends to some flowers around the house in summer while Ernest tends the garden. They love to share their surplus produce with friends who come to visit them.

In the winter Ernest carries wood for the kitchen stove for cooking and heat and he scooped the walk on the coldest day of the year while Alice was preparing to bake cookies even though her eyes are not as sharp as they once were.

PRAGUE REVISITED

It was my good fortune to have a wonderful two-weeks trip to Prague last July 1993. This trip certainly was a contrast compared to the trip I had there in July/August 1968. At that time the city looked grayish, a place of concern, apprehension and fear—with good reason, because shortly after that the Russians came in and took over. Then I found the people afraid to speak to me even though I could communicate with them fluently. But now this 1993 trip, what a difference! Such a contrast—the people eager to talk to me polite and anxious to help in every way.

It was such a great opportunity to make this trip because my granddaughter Deniz Ayaz of Eden Prairie, Minnesota was assigned to a six-weeks project at the Czech Technical University in the Computer Science Dept. in Prague. Deniz had just graduated in June '93 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a double major in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. This was a great opportunity for her to already start utilizing her Computer Science degree.

Deniz's mother, Dr. Kathleen M. Ayaz and I decided to spend the last two weeks with her while she finished up this work. What a delightful treat this was to come to this great place now when this country and its people have their freedom to pursue their lives and endeavors in whatever way they desire, after forty-one years of suppression.

As we saw it, Prague has a special blend of old and new architecture and life styles. The buildings are just magnificent and churches amazing. To us it appeared that we were seeing a country in rebirth, a country emerging again with new vitality and determination. We could see tremendous improvements, building construction every where, things being cleaned up, painted and beautified.

Prague is such a great city to experience so many things—like tasting the dark beer (pivo) at the U Fleku Beer Garden, and to hear the brass polka music and waltzes that I've known and loved since childhood. There is so much culture around you, the art galleries, museums, concerts and other events. We were thrilled to attend one of Mozart's operas "Cosi fan tutte" — also saw a Slovakian Folklore Revue. We enjoyed watching the "Astronomical Clock" on the Town Hall in the "Old Town Quarter." Sitting on benches at the St. Wenceslaus Square and eating Czech pastries, mainly kolaches, it was interesting to watch the people whether they are just standing around, selling, or with friends.

This atmosphere of excitement, peace and tranquility thrilled us.

It was truly an enchanting experience to browse through historic streets and shops of Prague's New Town and to walk many times over the 600 year old revered symbol of Prague, the Charles Bridge, with its promenade of sculptured saints. The view from the bridge was breath-taking, going to the other side of the Vltava River to "Mala Strana" and Hradcany Castle" with its gothic marvel — Saint Vitus Cathedral. Our shopping was great. We found the shops brimming with much sought for merchandise and friendly clerks, eager to serve you well. The beautiful crystal shops were a sight to behold! We will always treasure the beautiful crystal and porcelain pieces we bought and had shipped home.

We were lucky to be able to take a side trip. It was exciting for me to visit and see the areas where my ancestors came from. We went through the towns of Tabor, Bechyne, Pisek, Ceske Krumlov, Klatovy and others. We spent one night in Bechyne which was special being that name "Bechyne" was brought to North Dakota, and in that settlement of Bechyne was where my father's parents settled and took up land. The town of Pisek also was significant, that name too was brought to North Dakota and in this town my mother's parents settled. Pisek, Czechoslovakia was celebrating its 750th year in June '93, and a large delegation of people from Pisek, North Dakota traveled there for the celebration.

What an enlightening experience for me to see this great country with my daughter and granddaughter (as a 3 generation trip) now in this stage of awakening. This was a trip of a lifetime and I would encourage anyone who has a chance to go. I would love to go again. To my granddaughter Deniz, I feel indebted for her adventurous spirit in inspiring and promoting this great experience. She is employed as an Associate Engineer at Medtronics, Inc. of Minneapolis.

In closing I would like to say, "Yes, Czechoslovakia is that sleeping beauty that has now awakened from that long dark sleep." It is obvious that economic indicators in the Czech Republic are the envy of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. I'm very happy for all of the Czechs and proud to be of this heritage.

Edith A. (Hodny) Lund
Grand Forks, North Dakota

CZECH VISITOR

Barbara Grimmova, 31, is from Ostrava which is near the Polish border in the Czech Republic. She visited Emil and Alice Koval at rural Marion, Iowa.

Barbara has a small family, with no brothers or sisters. Her parents are divorced. Her mother worked in a Cultural Center and her grandmother is a retired teacher. Her father lives in Switzerland and is a successful and prosperous magazine publisher. Barbara is well educated having graduated from a university in Ostrava with a degree in Czech and history. She taught Czech and cooking to girls in a Christian School in the small city of Odry. She speaks fluent English and credits her teacher who in 1991 came from Washington D.C. to Czechoslovakia under the Organization of Democracy to teach the English language.

Even though she was only six years old, she vividly remembers the Russian tanks rumbling down the main thoroughfare of Ostrava. It was HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE! She recalls being frightened because her protective family were unable to answer her questions for the first time as to what will happen to them. It was so shocking she will remember it the rest of her life.

She is glad that era has ended, even though her country's new found freedom and economy are shaky at times. Everyone is not always happy with the growing pains, but is happy to be free. Freedom is an important feeling. She and her generation feel the importance of that freedom. She feels that Vaclav Havel is the best qualified man to lead her country and is doing well considering the obstacles to overcome and the enormity of the problems facing the new republic.

"You have a large country so you can expect large problems, but we are a small country," said Barbara.

As most other Czechs, she is sorry Slovakia sought to be a separate republic and hopes it will succeed financially. After all, the Slovaks are also their friends.

She has traveled extensively in Europe and Russia. She felt the time was ripe for Russia to free occupied territory because of Russia's own struggle for survival.

This is Barbara's second trip to the United States. She was surprised when she was here the first time how many people owned and lived in their own homes. She loves this country's food,

music, and life style. She didn't even complain about Iowa's severe winter. The only thing she dislikes, is sleeping between loose sheets. She would much rather have a featherbed nestled about her body than a loose sheet. Shredded wheat and fresh tomatoes do not excite her palate.

She is thankful to her relatives for arranging and financing her visit. Barbara has enjoyed visiting her English teacher in Washington D.C. and also other relatives near Baltimore, Maryland and in Wisconsin, but she has a particular fondness for Iowa and its Czech communities.

We hope she comes again but has developed a fear of flying. During one of her flights, an obsolete aircraft was forced to land in Ostrava due to fire. She was forced to escape down the emergency chute. There were no casualties or serious injuries, but Barbara received a gash on her arm. The plane was so old it had to be scrapped.

Colors in Czech Costumes

Up until the last century, people wore folk costumes. The Czech costumes were quite colorful, especially the costumes of children and young people. The particular combination of colors worn would depend on the regional tradition, the village tradition and, last but not least, on the symbolism of different colors. Colors had a sympathetic magic, which means that they were supposed to provide the object the symbol of which they were.

White was the symbol of cleanliness and purity. It was the color to be worn on holidays and important celebrations such as christenings and weddings.

Brown and black were colors associated with fertility. In the traditional costume the bride was to wear something brown or black so that the couple would have children.

Gold or yellow were colors denoting the sun, harvest, and, in general, riches.

Red was the color of happiness and life. Both yellow and red were also colors favored by brides.

Dark blue used to be the color of older people, widows and widowers, and the color of working clothes in general, because of the easy cleaning.

Green was associated with spring and summer, fertility and natural rebirth and renewal. Green was a color that young people would wear, as a symbol of long lasting youth and energy.

— *Mila Sasková-Pierce, Nebraska*
From Nas Svet

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Along with the new facelift for the Sykora Bakery in Czech Village, under the new proprietorship of Don and Sheila Janda, an old painting on the wall of the bakery is being restored after 64 years.

This well known artist-painter and interior decorator, who originally did the painting in 1930, was my father Klement Kalous. Born in Kamenicka, Bohemia May 31, 1892 later residing in Zamberk, Bohemia, emigrated to America at the age of 21 in October 1913 on the vessel Maine. Somewhere along the line the name Klement was changed to Clement or "Clint".

In 1915 he married Anna Beneš. They had three sons Ronald, Robert C., and Leo and one daughter Libbie. At one time two of my brothers painted with my father until his untimely death at the age of 45. I am now the only survivor of the Kalous family proper.

In 1930, during the Depression, in the winter my father sought indoor work. As a regular customer of the Sykora Bakery on 16th Avenue S.W. in Cedar Rapids, an approach was made to Mr. Sykora (Lester's dad) about doing some redecorating. Mr Sykora replied "No money" to which my dad replied, "But I have four hungry children at home. I will take bakery instead of pay."

Today I still have a fondness for the bakery and I am a regular customer after all these years.

The original painting which was done directly on the wall, is presently being restored by Holly Wurtele, who has done restoration for 15 years. She came to Cedar Rapids from Arizona two years ago. Since this was done directly on the wall and exposed to heat and smoke, it caused considerable fading and peeling making the restoration difficult. With only a small photo to go by, taken in 1956, and the aid of a magnifying glass to go by, Holly has succeeded in making the restoration beautiful.

I am very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Janda for their appreciation of the sentimental value of the painting to have it restored, and Holly Wurtele for doing a superb job.

In just the few short years my father was with us, his paintings were numerous. His works are still in existence in many homes in Johnson and Linn Counties after all these years, a span of 57

years since his death in 1937. A house at rural Swisher, where Jerry Beneš once lived, has wall paintings. My aunt and uncle have a painting "The South Dakota Gold Mine." Another home in S.E. Cedar Rapids once owned by the Oujiri family still has wall decorations.

A large barn near Konigsmark once belonging to the Dolezal family has the head of a horse while a smaller barn has the painting of a head of cattle. The buildings and the parking lot next to them are now owned by the city and are located almost directly from the Armory and airport maintenance shops near the Cedar Rapids Airport.

My brother Ronald acquired a knack for painting from my father. One of Ronald's better known paintings was a winter scene of the Grand Tetons Mountains.

Since the article appeared in the Cedar Rapids Gazette about the restoration, I have received numerous calls about paintings of his with the name "C Kalous" painted on them.

My father was also a barber, photographer, and played an accordion at family parties.

By Libbie Langton

THX KXY

Have you ever wondered if your efforts are really important? How can one make a difference?

Xvxn though this typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxxcpt for this onx kxy. Thrxr arx 46 kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs a diffxrxncx. It's just onx kxy, prxtty insignifcixnt by itsxlf, yxt, I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxfxctly.

Somxtimxs it sxxms that an organization is somxwhat, likx my old typxwritxr: not all thx kxys arx working propxrlly. You say to yoursxlf, "I am only onx pxrson. I don't makx a diffxrxncx." But for any organization to bx xffxctivx, it nxxds thx participation of vxvry pxrson rlatxd to it.

So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson and that your xffort is not nxxdx, rxmxm-br thx typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I AM A KXY PXRSON AND MY CHAPT XR/COMMIT-TXX /ORGANIZATION DXPXNDS ON MX!"

CZECH HERITAGE'S CULTURE IN CEDAR RAPIDS

Vitám Vás! Cedar Rapids, Iowa is a city of some 110,000 population, 220 miles west of Chicago, the 2nd largest city in Iowa. Five to 15 miles to the south are the towns of Ely, Solon, Walford, Fairfax, and Swisher. Twenty-eight to 40 miles to the west are Belle Plaine, Chelsea, Tama, Clutier, Vining and Elberon. Some 110 miles to the north are Protivin and Spillville. All these towns are predominately Czech communities with active groups and churches participating in events that preserve our heritage and culture.

In 1839 the first settler built a log cabin by the Cedar River. A few Czechs arrived in the 1840's. More and more immigrants came with the largest numbers between 1870 to 1900. In 1860 the first census revealed 1,600 people, with 80 Czech families listed. They made up one third of the population.

When President Lincoln called for volunteers in the war, 18 young Czechs signed up. Of the 18 volunteers, 17 returned home after the conflict was over.

The first Czech settlement was on the southeast side part of the city. The meat packing plant offered jobs, St. Wenceslaus Church, the best example of Gothic style in the area, and the Hus Memorial Church met the needs of the area.

The social life of the community in the 1870's to early 1900's centered around lodges, dances at their halls, cultural events, parades, bazaars, Sibirinky, Sokol Physical Culture, several bands, one of which was Kouba's Nat'l. Band. After World War II many of the activities were dropped. The younger generation had different interests.

Today, little remains of the shops that were the hub of the community—bakery, dry goods store, meat market, drug store, shoes, millinery, Czech Library, 3 grocery stores, theater and bank. Restaurants and taverns continue. CSPA Hall and ZCBJ office building remain. The ZCBJ—now Western Fraternal Home office is located in the Northeast part of the city. The 1st Trust & Savings continues.

As the neighborhood changed, the southwest quadrant of the city became the Czech community. The Jan Hus Methodist Church had Czech services for many years. In 1958 it merged with Asbury Methodist Church in a new location. The Czech Reformed merged with Eden Church. Today St. Ludmilla, Hus Memorial Presbyterian, Sharon Methodist, Hope Lutheran have many Czech members as well as other nearby churches.

Then a wave of interest in Czech culture and

heritage arrived. The Cedar Rapids Arts Center set up a Czech Arts Festival opening on Czech Independence Day October 28, 1971. That day 14,000 came to view the exhibits. The display was on loan from local Czechs. The exhibit closed the last day of December. The Czech community went into action in less than 2 years.

The major shopping area had developed across the Cedar River, now called Czech Village.

In 1973, the Village undertook the project which included more parking, wider sidewalks, planting linden trees, renovating buildings, a clock with chimes, bandstand, and 2 flagpoles. One flies the U.S. flag and the other the Czech flag.

A variety of shops have changed over the years. Some of the merchants names include Barta, Sykora, Bartunek, Vondracek, Polehna, and Konecny.

At the east end of the Village is the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. More than 40 ethnic costumes, some over 100 years old, said to be one of the largest, if not the largest in the nation. Exhibits include colored glass, lace, embroidery, ceramics, and works of art. Visitors come from all 50 states and 47 foreign nations.

The Czech Heritage Foundation, The Village Ass'n and The Czech Fine Arts work together on community events—Houby Days, Ethnic Fest and Sv. Mikulas in December.

CZECH MAYORS OF CEDAR RAPIDS

Prominent Czechs have played an important role in public life in Cedar Rapids and Linn County. In addition to current Mayor Larry Serbousek, two other mayors W. H. Stepanek (1932-1934) and Milo J. Sedlacek (1952-55) have served the city.



This team of Czech immigrant laborers helped build the river walls for May's Island around 1912. Because cheap labor was needed for public projects, the city was often the first employer of many immigrants.

THREE CZECH ORGANIZATIONS

There is still some confusion about the three Czech organizations with similar names. They are Czech Heritage Fdn., Czech Fine Arts Fdn., and the Czech Village Assn. During the past 20 years the three organizations have cooperated in the promotion and preservation of our history and culture. (There are other Czech organizations in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but these three are the most referred to in our newsletter).

CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Czech Heritage Fdn. was organized May 17, 1973 in support of the 16th Avenue area merchants. The business district has now become known as "Czech Village." Czech Heritage grew in membership and influence over the years and became involved in other projects. One of them is the Homestay Program sending high school students to the Czech Republic where students live with a Czech family for a month. The sponsorship of various events throughout the year is perhaps the most visible to the public.

Many other activities are the result of hard work by members of Czech Heritage. They include adult Czech language classes, a traveling educational kit, co-sponsorship of the Ethnic Fest, the sponsoring of a Czech prince and princess, etc.

Czech Heritage Fdn. has members in most of the 50 states and the Czech Republic. They are kept informed of local activities as well as national events through a quarterly newsletter *Nase České Dedictví*.

CZECH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

In 1972 a group of businessmen met and decided to revive the original Czech spirit of the 16th Avenue Southwest shopping area. The association officially organized in 1975 with the primary purpose of giving a Czech atmosphere to "Czech Village."

Over the years, many of the store fronts have been altered giving them the appearance of old world buildings. A bandstand and clock tower are centered in the walking mall and ceramic plaques with the names of organizations and pioneer businessmen and families are set in walkways.

The association co-sponsors the festivals and other events that are of important to our Czech heritage and culture. The attractive appearance of Czech Village is due to the continuing work of its members.

CZECH FINE ARTS FOUNDATION

Czech Fine Arts was established in late 1974 to promote and preserve the Czech cultural arts. It participates in the festivals, Ethnic Fest and sponsors many fine arts events. The Czech Museum & Library, which was organized in 1978, started in a small rented house. The limited space soon became inadequate and a larger facility was rented from the city making space for a much larger display of costumes, cut glass, ruby glass, works of art, Czech handicraft, etc. Presently a much larger building is being constructed for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. It is anticipated the new building will be completed late this fall. The museum which has attained national recognition will be the largest ethnic museum in the United States. The new facility will be a source of pride for the Czech and Slovak community and bring tourism to Cedar Rapids.

An important feature that was very restricted in the present museum is the creation of an expanded library. The numerous books and pamphlets will be available for reading and research. The display area will be greatly expanded, making the museum and library an outstanding attraction.



This picture was taken March 9th of the construction of the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Czech Village in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The building on the right is the home of the present museum. After construction is complete, on the new structure, the old building will be demolished.

CZECH REPUBLIC SEEKS ADVICE FROM ISU

It didn't take the newly organized Czech Republic long to come to Ames, Iowa for advice. Czechoslovakia became two independent states, the Czech Republic and Slovakia on January 1, 1993. In March and October of that year, 12 representatives from the ag sector of the new Czech nation visited Iowa to learn about extension service.

Recently, Iowa State University visited the Czech Republic to further assist in establishing an Extension service modeled after ISU's.

Twenty workshops were presented to 20 Czech Ag education leaders. This Czech Extension program runs through the Ministry of Agriculture rather than the Czech Universities. The universities are thought of being somewhat elitist, only for the upper class.

The Czech Republic is returning the land to the original owners or their descendants. Most of the farms are too small to be economically feasible. Farmers from collective operations have only specialized knowledge, rather than a broad, general knowledge.

The ISU teams found visiting Czech farms was like turning the clock back 40 years.

Milk cows, hogs, and poultry are raised for meat. Oats, wheat and barley goes to the local brewery. Every town seem to have a brewery.

From Iowa Farmer Today

THAT'S THE FRIENDSHIP

Allow me please to introduce myself. My name is Jela Tvrdonova and I come from Nitra, which is a very old and historical town in Western Slovakia. I work at the Agronstitut-educational centre of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic and I am involved in the continuing education and extension. In 1992, Agronstitut Nitra commenced very good and useful cooperation with the Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa in the management education for agricultural specialists and managers. Our cooperation is realized through meetings of counterpart team consisting of Slovak and American experts. One of these meetings was held directly in Ames at the university and I was the lucky one because I was also a member of the team.

Except of very well prepared and valuable training program at Business College, we had also possibility to spend a few days with families of the Czech community of Cedar Rapids during the weekend. We appreciated very much the preparation and organization of our trip and the good job that the friends did in Ames. After coming back to Slovakia we remembered and told other people our nice journey experiences.

One year after my visit to Iowa, I have received a special gift. It was a pillow-blanket and also a very interesting journal — *Naše České Dědictví*," I have to say the latter one was the most valuable gift that I got. When I read articles I was recalling the memories of my marvellous days in Amana and especially on wonderful people who I met there.

Like a nice movie I saw before my eyes, my little story with beautiful person — Arlene Netolicky, who had hosted me at her home like being another daughter. She devoted her time, hospitality and never ending kindness to me. I had remembered how we prepared meals together, how she taught me to sew on her modern sewing machine, how we made new patterns with it, how we visited her children who gave me also their love. She took me to the very interesting and special club, where many older women from this Czech community are meeting with each other regularly, playing cards, enjoying and sharing their meals and talking about their lives. I appreciated very much this opportunity to be there together with them and I was really very impressed when they started to explain their Czech origin.

They remembered the birthplaces of their grandparents, they still use old Czech customs and keep very good cuisine. On the other hand I was a little bit disappointed that only few of them could speak their original language. I hope that home country will help them and their children to speak and to learn Czech again.

To be in Amana and to spend this time with Arlene was my strongest experience of Iowa visit. We met together with her and also with family Novotny later in my place and I hope we will see each other very soon in Amana again.

By Jela Tvrdownová

A CZECH IS NOT A BOHEMIE OR A BOHEMIAN

The word Bohemie is slang and it is unkind to call people of an ethnic group slang names. Some people think that a Bohemian is a free easy way a person lives, a gypsy or a careless way of being.

The Kingdom of Bohemia DID exist about 1,000 years ago and the Kingdom of Moravia before that period. Then when the Royal House of Hapsburg ruled the Austro-Hungarian Empire for almost 300 years, there was the Providence of Bohemia.

Some of the older generations in our community remember their life when they lived in the old empire. Some were soldiers, some farmed, others worked in factories and government jobs. Those people might refer to themselves as Bohemians and call their homeland Bohemia. Prior to WW 1, the word Bohemia was on maps, textbooks, politics and in speaking. Since 1918, the word Cech (Czech) has been used to refer to the country.

Who are the Cechs? They belong to the Slav speaking people of eastern Europe. The language of the Poles, Russians, Slovaks, Cechs, Moravians, Serbs, Croations, Dalmations, South Slavs, Bulgarians and others are closely related, but there are differences as well.

From where did the Cechs come from? In the years 400-500 A.D. waves of Slavs moved westward in Europe. Perhaps they wanted to avoid the Mongolian invasion first led by Attila, the Hun. The leader of the tribes, legend tells us, was Jan Cechus. So his followers called themselves Cechs. These Slavs have been in central Europe some 1,300 years.

Then who are the Boii and whence the word Boiohemie? In the days of Julius Caesar (BC) his armies defeated the Helvetians (who occupied what is now Switzerland) and their allies, the Boii, who lived in the upper Loire River Valley in S.E. Gaul (France). In the following centuries, the Boii moved into central Europe. Latin historians named the place Boii had settled as Boiohemie, (Bohemia) a designation which persisted for some 1,300 years or more. The Boii perhaps spoke the Celtic language whereas the Cechs spoke a Slovic language.

After World War I (1918) the two nations were formed from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. One was Czechoslovakia with the former providence of Moravia, Slovakia, Bohemia, part of Silesia and Ukraine (Ruthenia). To the south, the Yugoslovakia nation includes Serbia, Dalmatia, Croatia, Hercegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia. Thus Austria and Hungry completed

the division.

The Czechoslovak Republic lasted from 1918 to 1938 when the Nazi forces occupied the country until the close of WW II . Then in 1948 the government became communist. In 1968, a Slovak, Dubcek, tried to ease up on government regulations. The few months of this relaxation were called the "Prague Spring." It soon came to an end and Russian tanks rolled in to "save" the nation.

In October of 1989 as the Russian Empire was crumbling, Czechoslovakia regained its freedom called the "Velvet Revolution." Vaclav Havel is the current president.

In history books written hundreds of years ago in the land of Cechs, the word Bohemian never appears — the words are Cechy and Cech. Our grandmothers who lived in the former Providence of Bohemia, properly used the designation Cech. When people ask if you are a Czech or Bohemian you probably will answer "No, I am an American of Czech ancestry. My parents were born in Iowa."

CZECH AUTOMOBILES

The National Museum of Technology and Science is in the center of Prague. It has a small but extremely select collections of automobiles.

In the days when Czechoslovakia was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, it was heavily industrialized providing many makes of cars and some of the most eminent Germany auto engineers originated there. Hans (or Jan) Ledwinka was the one who stayed home. But expatriates included Ferdinan Porsche, and Hans Nilek (less well known than Porsche but chief engineer of Benz and the Mercedes Benz).

Laurin & Klement were outstanding Czech manufacturers and had their badges on their radiators. Laurin & Klement were taken over by the Skoda Armaments Co. and cars bearing that name are still built in the old works at Moravka Boreoslav.

The name Hans Ledwinka is inextricably linked with Nesselsdorf and Tatra and the museum exhibits form something of a monument to an engineer who is considered by many to be equal of his better known compatriot Ferdinand Porsche.

Ledwinka's chassis, especially the all independent tubular ones, were usually judged to handle better than Porsche's Austro-Darmlers.

Statistics for 1993 show that the Czech car maker Skoda sold approximately 22,200 cars in Turkey, 18,700 in Germany and 15,600 in Slovakia.

CHARLES UNIVERSITY, PRAGUE

Charles University in Prague was founded 646 years ago in 1343. Only the University of Rome is older. It was founded in 1303. The University of Vienna started in 1365 and Heidelberg in Germany in 1386.

PRAGUE VISITORS

For \$30 a night, visitors to Prague in the Czech Republic can book a room in the building where Communist secret police interrogated Vaclav Havel — now the president of the country — when he was a political prisoner.

Today, the building is a Franciscan nunnery that rents out rooms, but it retains its Cold War prison trappings 21 x 21 foot cells with bars on windows and steel doors. The major difference: Doors have handles on the inside.

LIDICE, JUNE 10, 1942

Lidice is a village in Czechoslovakia not far from Prague. On June 10, 1942, the village was completely wiped out on the order of the Nazis. The people of the village were accused of hiding the killers of Heydrich, a German official who had been killed. German soldiers entered Lidice and killed the adult males, sent the women to concentration camps and children to German institutions. The entire village was bulldozed to the ground. They even filmed the entire process.

This terrible atrocity roused profound indignation throughout the world. Towns renamed their communities. Lidice. Today there are a number of Lidice in various parts of the world. The site of the old village is a memorial, but alongside a new Lidice was built.

Czechoslovak Americans protested the destruction by erecting a monument to the martyrs just outside of Joliet, Illinois, in a village renamed Lidice. Today it is a part of Crest Hill, Illinois.

1907 JARMILA NOVOTNÁ 1994

Jarmila Novotná, a Czech born lyric soprano who sang major roles at the Metropolitan Opera from 1940 to 1956 died on Wednesday, February 9, at her home in Manhattan. She was 86. Her daughter, Jarmila Packard, said she died of natural causes.

Miss Novotná studied with Emmy Destinn and made her debut at the age of 17 with the Prague National Opera. She continued her studies in Milan, Italy and became a member of the Vienna State Opera. From 1933 to 1938 she sang opera and gave concerts in most of the major house in Europe. The Met invited her to sing in 1928, but

she did not want to be separated from her future husband, the Baron George Doubek, whom she married in 1931.

She arrived in New York in 1940, the day Hitler marched into Prague. She made her Metropolitan debut in "La Boheme." During the war years she recorded "Songs of Lidice" with piano accompaniment by Jan Masaryk.

President Masaryk died in 1948 and the loss of his protection led to the nationalization of the Doubek's 3,700 acre estate and castle.

Miss Novotná moved to New York from Vienna after her husband's death in 1981.

In addition to her daughter, she is survived by a son, George Doubek of Pound Ridge, N.Y. and five grandchildren.

VELVET REVOLUTION

The Czech Republic has moved to the forefront of emerging markets in Central and Eastern Europe.

Political stability, a balanced budget, large currency reserves and the lowest state debt among the former satellites helped the Czech economy in 1993.

The Czech Statistical Office report showed the private sector registered growth, trade rose 20 percent and had a \$196 million surplus, foreign investment increased and unemployment is 3.4 percent, among the lowest in Europe.

President Vaclav Havel and his Velvet Revolution which peacefully ousted the Communist rule in 1989, and amicably split with the Slovak Republic in January 1993, seem to be working.



Czech Female Writer Gets Place on New Currency

On the Czech Republic's new bills and coins, one of the country's most famous female writers has a note of her own. She is the 19th century Czech writer Bozena Nemcova, who penned three short stories, novels and fairy tales, mostly with romantic, humanistic themes.

Also featured on the Czech Republic's 50 crown is St. Agnes Ceska.

From Sokol St. Louis Newsletter

(Czech Village Assn. News)

Czech Plus Band

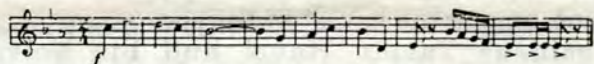
proudly presents...

Summer Concerts in the Czech Village Bandstand



2nd annual Concert Series

Friday June 3	Friday July 29
Friday June 17	Friday Aug. 12
Friday July 1	Friday Aug. 26
Friday July 15	Friday Sept. 9



All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

(rain date: Saturday after the scheduled date)



Czech Plus Band:

(since 1978)

16 years of authentic Czech
brass band music "plus" a
variety of other favorites.

"something for everyone"

Bring your lawnchairs and picnic baskets for
an evening of musical entertainment.

Czech Plus Band
Wesley J. Drahozal, Mgr.

DOANE COLLEGE

A wooded park-like campus, featuring a gently rolling terrain, nature trails, lakes and wildlife, provide the setting for this ethnic Elderhostel held in Crete, Nebraska, 30 minutes from Lincoln. Housing is air-conditioned Sheldon Hall close to dining room and classrooms. This program is enhanced by the locale's rich Czech Heritage. Plan to go to nearby Wilber, the nation's Czech capital, the weekend following Elderhostel for their annual Czech Festival.

Program charge: \$285

Date: July 31 to August 6

Topics: Past & Present

Politics and Current Affairs

Cultural Heritage

Address: Elderhostel

75 Federal St.

Boston, Maine 02110

Get application in early. Always over-subscribed.

CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES

The fourth genealogical/cultural conference will be held October 7-8, 1994. It will be hosted by the Wisconsin Czechs Inc. It will be held at the Best Western Downtowner at 321 South Washington, in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Conference events include:

- Two days of sessions
- Sales of books, maps, forms, T shirts
- Reception with Parade of Kroj (costumes)
- Special networking lunches
- Networking/hospitality area
- Saturday evening entertainment

Sessions topics to include:

- History of Immigrants in NW Wisconsin
- * Czechoslovak History
- US Sources for Czech & Slovak Research
- Fundamentals of Czech Language & Usage
- CGSI Library Resources
- Computers in Genealogy
- AND MORE!

For further information and conference registration forms (to be ready June 1) write to: Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, P.O. Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 5516-0225.

CZECH CATHOLIC UNION

The Czech Catholic Union of Cleveland, Ohio will hold a convention August 27th through August 30, 1994. It will be held in the Collins Plaza Hotel. For more information write Czech Catholic Union, 5349 Dolloff Rd., Cleveland, OH 44127.

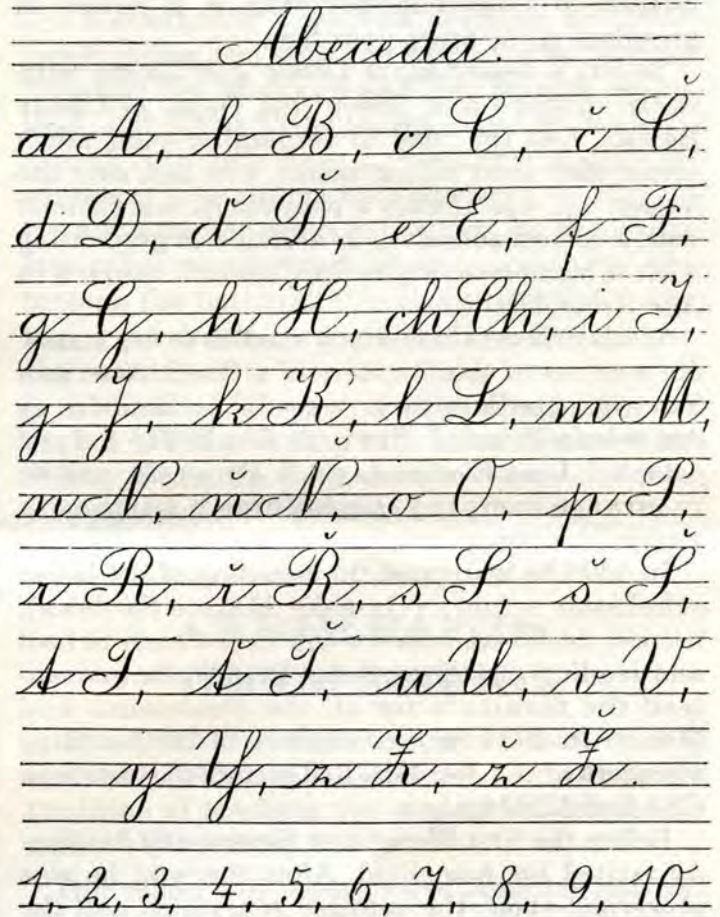
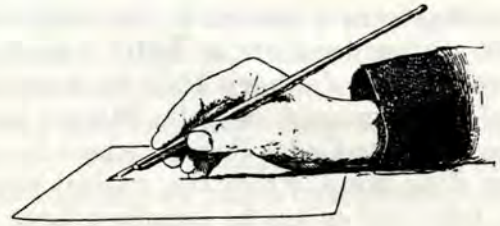
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Here is a continuation and partial listing of donations received. Most of them have been received enclosed with membership renewals. Lovell Dvorak, financial secretary notes that there were some weeks when donations exceeded dues. We thank you for your generosity.

Robert Baumruk, Rose Berry, Philip Bicak, Jean Blahnik, Bob Blecha, Sylvia Brown, Joe & Esther Cerveny, Leonard & Charlotte Chadima, Frank & Barb Edmunds, Anna Eisner, Mrs. Ralph Evans, JoFran & James Falcon, David & Chrystal Faltis, Della Flider, Edna Goodrow, Evelyn Hall, Helen Hammond, Camille Hubacek, Grace Johnson, Alice Kadlec, Dorothy Kadlec, Leona Kaplan, E. J. Kubicek, Walter Liphardt, Rose Machovec, Rose Marek, Josephine Matizak, Betsy McCalley, Jaromila McMullen, Victor Jr. & Georgianna Marek, Blanche Masek, Louis Melsha, Lillian Miller, Ray Miller, Leo & Irma Modracek, Virginia Muir, Musil Family, Mary B. Nejd, Cliff & Lucille Netolicky, Robert E. Novotny, John & Zula Oujiri, Leonard Pfeifer, Mary Ann Pochobradsky, Harold & Leona Poduska, Debra Polacek, Rose Polehna, Edward & Inez Popelka, James Repka, John Repka, Frank Schovanec, Ed & Erma Schuch, Irvin Sebelik, Olga Sedenka, Bernard Shanelec, Robert Shelden, Robert M. Skala, Grace Soukup, Cedar Rapids Sokol, Helen Stevens, David & Kaye Stoklasa, Emil & Alice Terbl, Fred Ullman, Frank Valenta, Anton Vanicek, Robert & Irma Vanourny, Agnes Vavra, Charles Vavra, Evelyn Vecera, Emil Vellek, Marie Vileta, Frances Vilim, Frank & Ruth Volesky, Roman & Lottie Volesky, John F. Vondra, Charles & Lillian Vyskocil, Julia Wadden, Catherine Warnecke, Bishop Emil A. Wcela, Frank A. Winkler, Stanley Winters, Connie Wubbena, Mrs. Viola Young, Mrs. Robert Zach, Elsie Zajaczkowski.

(to be continued next issue)

THE CZECH ALPHABET FROM THE SLABIKAR



NAMES OF THE MONTHS tell you what is going on in NATURE.

January	<u>leden</u>	lead-ehn	month of <u>ice</u>
February	<u>unor</u>	oo-nor	winter on the wane
March	<u>březen</u>	breh-zhen	<u>birch</u> tree sap flowing
April	<u>duben</u>	doob-en	<u>oak</u> leaves in bud
May	<u>květen</u>	kvyet-en	month of <u>flowers</u>
June	<u>červen</u>	chair-vehn	crops start to <u>red</u> (ripen)
July	<u>červec</u>	chair-ven ets	<u>more ripening</u> of crops
August	<u>srpen</u>	sirp-en	<u>sickle</u> , used to harvest crops
September	<u>září</u>	zah-rzi	<u>heather</u> in bloom
October	<u>říjen</u>	rzee-en	<u>bellowing</u> of the stag
November	<u>listopad</u>	list-o-pud	<u>leaves drop</u>
December	<u>prosinec</u>	proh-seen-ets	month of <u>supplication</u>

VACLAV FRANTISEK SEVERA

Vaclav Frantisek Severa was born Sept. 3, 1853 in the village of Chrudim. As a 15 year old lad he came in 1868 to the US to visit his older sister. Not wanting to be a burden to her, he worked by day and studied by night to fulfill his education and intellect. On January 1877 he accepted the place of a pharmacist in Belle Plaine, Iowa. In 1880 he moved to Cedar Rapids, where he opened his own drug store. From the modest output of syrups, teas, and salves he became a large manufacturer of "home remedies" with W. F. Severa as president of the prosperous firm.

Severa's descendants Lumir and Zulina with their spouses and Josephine Dusil of Cedar Rapids, had the road to accomplishment much easier than their father. Lumir, who took over the leadership, was already a pharmacist and chemist with a college education in addition to graduating with a bachelors degree in Classical courses in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Wesley Severa has many credits to his name. He was one of the founders of a Czech American Savings Bank which was later known as American Trust & Savings Bank. He helped establish Iowa Electric Light & Power Co. and an insurance company. He became a partner in numerous enterprises.

In 1892 he instigated the founding of the ladies scholastic society (Damské Matice Skolska), helped create and direct the first Czech School and reading society in Cedar Rapids. He guaranteed the furniture for all the classrooms and library. In 1934 Severa was one of the founding members of the Jan Hus Lodge and was active in CSA and ZCBJ Lodges.

Before the first World War, Severa and his family visited his homeland. After the war, he was concerned about the younger generation and the orphans of the legionnaires. Like Masaryk, he was concerned about the role and rights of women so he organized a drive for funds for an orphanage, the first was built in Brno. He called for support in America and Cedar Rapids. One dollar would buy 10 bricks. Severa himself donated 2.5 million Kc.

He wrote, "My days are numbered, I wish I could have achieved more." He passed away March 1938 at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. At the funeral, Rev. Bren spoke in Czech and Rev. M. L. Welke in English at the Hus Church services. He considered himself a sincere Czech, proud of his parentage and tried to fulfill the aims of Komensky and Karel Havlicek.

taken from Nedelne Lidove Noviny



HELP!! TEXAS READERS

This picture postcard identifies this as St. Mary's Church in Praha, Texas. It was established in 1855 for the Czech people in South Central Texas. Information states the Parish has the distinction of observing August 15 with an all day celebration regardless the day of the week. (This is the only parish in the U.S. with such a custom.) The celebration is called "Prazka Pout" (Home-Coming).

A memorial service is held on the Sunday preceding All Veterans Day to honor the war heroes. Veterans, civic and religious organizations participate in the service held at 11:00 a.m. in the Praha Cemetery. Praha is located just south of I-10 & US 90. From San Antonio go through Flatonia then to Praha, on to Schulenburg and Huston.

(Editor's note—My map did not show Praha in that area but a town of Moravia. Can some of our Texas readers tell us about Praha, Texas?)

CZECH BUTTONS

In the period of 1910-1920, Czechoslovakia produced round clear-glass buttons which had a colored glass design embedded in them. This type included Victorian hand blown buttons. A small quantity of the buttons are still manufactured. They had an eye shank on the bottom for attaching.



My name is Carrie Lynn Ciha and I am the Czech Ambassador this year. I attend Marion High School where I am currently a junior. I'm the co-editor of the Marion Yearbook, the Quill, and I'm involved in Nat'l Honor Society, Students Against Drugs and Alcohol, Thespians, and the Cross Country and Boys Track Manager.

My hobbies include reading, writing, bowling, shopping, and spending time with my family, friends, and my boyfriend.

I am really excited about this opportunity to go and learn about another culture and traditions. I hope to learn much about the country and its culture.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF SCOTT BOOTS

The December 1993 issue of *Náš Český Dědictví* had an article about a fellow Czech who had a fatal blood disease. Scott Boots' last hope for a cure was a blood marrow transplant. Researchers have identified a new tissue compatibility antigen to Scott's white blood cells that have been traced to his Czech bloodlines. Scott's mother was 100% Czech. 120 local donors came to Czech Village in response to the call and 80 donors responded on a national level, however, a match was unsuccessful. We are saddened that Scott Boots died April 28. He was the son of Vernon and Marie Baxa Boots of Mechanicsville, Iowa, where he was laid to rest.

He knew if there was not a match for him, he would be helping others by making a list of donors and blood types available for them.

TREE TOPPING OF MUSEUM

Fine Arts News

No, that is not a Christmas tree. It is a custom when a building is being erected and the last rafter in the point of the roof is put in place, a tree is fastened in place as a climax to the efforts of getting the building built. We, the Czech Heritage Fd'n. and the Fine Arts, along with the building committee, were so pleased with the progress of our new building we had a tree topping ceremony on Thursday morning, March 31.

An evergreen tree was donated by Cedar Landscaping and with the help of Mae Novotny, Irma and Leo Modracek and Tom Hruska, we fastened a U.S. flag to the top and smaller Czech and Slovak Republic flags below them. Using red white and blue ribbon, we made bows and streamers and attached them to the tree. At 11 a.m. the last rafter was hoisted into place with the tree topping the building. It was a wonderful feeling seeing our dream coming true. If you haven't seen the building, it is very impressive even though it is not finished. The tree is stripped of all the needle but is still standing with some streamers and dignity, while the flags wave a welcome to those who pass by. (cover picture)

F. W. Novotny, Building Comm.

CEDAR RAPIDS CZECH SCHOOL

The Czech School had their 1st class in 1870 and now 124 years later we are carrying on the tradition of teaching our youngsters the fundamentals of speaking Czech.

Our school will begin classes June 6th and continue for 5 weeks until July 8th. Our classes run for 3 hours each day in the morning and we have three teachers namely Bessie Dugena, Olga Drahozal and Leona Poduska. We have been having about 50 students in attendance. This year our educational trip will be to Pella, Iowa on the 27th of June.

On the evening of July 8th (Friday evening) the students will put on a program followed by an ice cream social. We feel we have a very rewarding project and if anyone is interested in additional information, they are urged to contact any of the teachers or myself.

Frank Novotny
Board of Director

SPRING DANCE

Czech Heritage News

In the last issue of our newsletter, I informed you about our forthcoming fund raiser for the Home Stay Program. It was held in place of our St. Joseph's Dance. Being it was the 10th of April, we ended up with a nice afternoon and we had a nice crowd at Hofer's Ballroom in Walford, Iowa. The Czech Plus Polka Band provided the music that is suitable for dancing and listening. Ernie Kopecky and myself spent time contacting local businesses for door prizes. Thank you, Ernie. We had about 70 door prizes that were enjoyed by those attending. The student, Carrie Lynn Ciha, was introduced as was the Czech Prince and Princess, Brad Dvorak and Amy Novotny. Amy was attending a music contest and was unable to be present.

Thanks to all who contributed to the bake sale. It was a success. It was an enjoyable afternoon. After expenses, a nice profit was made to send Carrie Lynn to the Czech Republic.

Thanks again, Frank Novotny

CZECH HERITAGE ANNUAL PICNIC

The Czech Heritage Fd'ns annual picnic will be held August 9, 6:00 p.m. at ZCJB park with a potluck meal. The Heritage Foundation will furnish the meat and pop. Bring your own dishes. We hope you will mark this on your calendar and join us as we always have an enjoyable evening. A short meeting is held and everyone is invited to attend. Hope to see you there.

Frank Novotny (Committee)

A GREAT CZECH POET

Svatopluk Cech was born on Feb. 21, 1846 in the family of an estate manager in Ostredok in southeastern Bohemia. Cech's birthplace, even though a village, has its beginning in the XIV century, when it belonged to the nearby fortress of the knights from Ostredok. Because of his father's transfers Svatoopluk spent his early youth also at Liten close to the city of Beroun, and in Vrane, located at the very historical town of Slany.

After his basic schooling in these localities, young Svatoopluk entered the Gymnasium at Litomerice. This ancient episcopal city is located at the Labe (Elbe River) in Ceske Stredohori (Czech Middle Mountain Range).

After a year there, Cech transferred to the Piarist Fathers Gymnasium in Prague, where, after his graduation, he enrolled in 1865 in the Faculty of Law at the University. Svatoopluk Cech already had begun to write verse at Prague's Gymnasium, and in 1864 he won a prize for a poem published in a provincial journal. He practiced law, first in Slany, then in Prague, from 1872 to 1878, when he abandoned it for literature and editorial work, a double career which lasted most of his life.

Although he avoided public life and all honors, he was extremely popular and his sudden death on Feb. 22, 1908 was an occasion for national mourning. (Interesting fact: Cech was born on Feb. 21 and he died on Feb. 22, 62 years later.)

*—C.S.A Journal
from Posel*



COMING EVENTS



May 28-29	Ethnic Fest, C.R. Roundhouse
June 3	Czech Village Concert 7 p.m.
June 6	Czech School at Wilson Jr. High
June 14	Czech Heritage Fdn. Board Meeting Asbury Church 7:30 p.m.
June 17	Czech Village Concert 7 p.m.
June 27	Czech School trip to Pella
July 1	Czech Village Concert 7 p.m.
July 8	Czech School Program & Ice Cream Social
July 12	Czech Heritage Fdn. Board Meeting Asbury Church 7:30 p.m.
July 15	Czech Village Concert 7 p.m.

July 29	Czech Village Concert 7 p.m.
July 31	Doane College, Nebraska
August 9	Czech Heritage Fdn. Annual Picnic ZCJB Park 6 p.m.
August 12	Czech Village Concert 7 p.m.
August 26	Czech Village Concert 7 p.m.
August 27-30	Czech Catholic Union Convention, Collins Plaza Hotel, Cedar Rapids
September 9	Czech Village Concert 7 p.m.
September 18	St. Wenceslaus Goulash Festival
October 7-8	Genealogical Conference, Green Bay Wisconsin
October 28	Dedication of Masaryk Park

Membership Application

Please check the proper item: Renewal ___ New ___ Gift ___

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

Address _____ Zip + 4 _____ - _____

Make check payable and mail to :

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

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

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

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

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

DEAR SUPPORTERS:

In July of last year, members of the Czech Heritage Foundation were mailed a letter by President Dave Faltis regarding the opportunity to donate to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library New Building Fund.

We wish to thank the 161 families of the Czech Heritage Foundation who pledged over \$31,500 in support of the project.

Members continue to call the museum office to say they wish to contribute, but no longer have the information that was sent to them. For those who wish to make a pledge at this time, have their name (or that of a loved one) honored in the new facility, and assist in building this national landmark, please fill out the following form and mail it today.

Thank you for your kind donation.

John Rocarek, Development Director



Yes, I want to help complete the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

Please accept my generous gift for the building fund of:

- \$300, my name will be honored on a special plaque displayed in the new museum and library.
- \$100, my additional pledge of \$200 over the next two years will allow my name to be honored on a special plaque displayed in the new museum and library.
- \$50 \$ (other) _____

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like more information regarding memorial gifts honoring my family.

Please Make Your Tax Deductible Donation Payable to:

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
 P.O. Box 5398
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-5398



\$2,600,000 goal

\$2,400,000 committed

Send your gift today to help finish this landmark facility.

Join the list of over
 700 contributors . . .
 Make a difference!

Or Call in your pledge today 362-0257

CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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Ah, Vaclav, You Were Born Too Soon

Ah, Vaclav, you were born too soon
before the Lilacs bloomed.
Your playwrights's stage artificial;
you actors, "acting,"
each capable of coloring the scale
of emotions; their words uttered,
so often, at oblique angles
to the audience and
in artificial light.

You, Havel, know as all playwrights
that such staging; such methods
can transport an audience
to foreign fields, recognizable;
native fields, knowable, and when
the play is grounded in behaviours,
"old hat" to those who peruse the bible,
it can touch the watcher-listener
carry one, directly, to a world that is;
can be; perhaps once was;
ah, Vaclav, you were born too soon
before the Lilacs bloomed.

J. L. Kubicek