

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



Volume 16 - Number 3 Fall 1991



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Advisor John Rocarek



I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Goodfellow staff (particularly Bob); Erica Cichowski, Brian Faltis, Heidi Krejci (and their parents); John Rocarek; and Olga and Wes Drahozal for everything they've done to make this issue possible under the given time restraints.

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From the President

One of the many pleasures of presiding over an organization such as ours is the occasional opportunity to meet a prominent individual.

On Tuesday, July 23, my wife Sue, daughter Ann, and I visited the state capitol. Representing the Czech Heritage Foundation, we had the honor of introducing Libor Pragr and his family to our governor, Terry E. Branstad. Libor, his wife Veronika, and their baby, Barbora, enjoyed the pleasure of Governor Branstad's company in his spacious office. The discussion ranged from academics to rye bread and lasted for some time as the Governor shared experiences from his recent trade mission to Czechoslovakia where he visited a cooperative farm in Kutna Hora. The Governor was a very gracious host and, after thanking us repeatedly for the dozen kolaches we had brought, reminded us that he has a special fondness for Czechoslovaks, especially his wife, Christine.

Libor, an exchange student at Mt. Mercy College this spring, made a lasting impression on the Czech community in eastern Iowa. He spoke to groups in our area on a wide range of topics and made a hit with several of our younger citizens when he taught Czech language and history to the advanced level students at Czech Summer School. None of us will forget the play entitled "Popelka" (Cinderella) which the students performed at the Ice Cream Social. Libor translated the script, taught the children their lines, choreographed the acting and even created clever stage props. It was a night to remember!

Most recently, Libor has been employed by the Czech Fine Arts Foundation and has, in a very short span of time, single-handedly reorganized the library. Thousands of books, magazines, photographs and related archive materials have for years been collected and housed at the Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids. In six weeks Libor, alone, has tackled what it would have taken several of us six months to accomplish.

The first phase of the library and archives restructuring project is near completion. Space within the present facility is now being used to its fullest potential. Over 160 linear feet of new shelving have been added and a functioning reference library will be a reality within the next few months. There is still quite a bit that needs to be done but the foundation which Libor has laid from his efforts will be recognized for years to come. Thank you Libor for a job well done!

John Rocarek
President

GIVE A GIFT THAT LASTS ALL YEAR

Do you know someone, a friend or a relative, who isn't a member of the Czech Heritage Foundation? Why not sign them up? All it takes is \$3.00 and the new member will receive this quarterly publication. The Nase Ceske Dedictvi is overflowing with information about current events, news items, biographical studies and histories. Write to us at P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.

ARE YOU SEEKING INFORMATION ON SLAVIC LANGUAGES?

Slavica Publishers have a new catalog of 128 pages listing in detail the contents of grammar books in Polish, Slovak, Russian, Bulgarian, Old Church Slavic and Czech. The books include learning the language, continuing lessons and readings, and biographies of famous people in the field of literature. Also available are translations into English of works in Serbian, Czech, Bulgarian, Russian, and special texts in Albanian, Greek, and others. Texts about history are also available. For more information write:

Slavica Publishers, Inc.
P.O. Box 14388
Columbus, Ohio 43214

submitted by M. Melvina Svec

MAKE A FASHION STATEMENT!

The Shirt Shop in Czech Village features textile goods of all kinds. Especially worthy of noting are the T-shirts that have recently arrived with the replica of the famous St. Wenceslaus window on the front. Czech dictionaries and čitanky are also for sale.

submitted by Olga M. Drahozal

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Letters to the editor

Since the rebirth of democracy in Czechoslovakia, we have received hundreds of letters from individuals, companies, institutions and the like seeking assistance. Most are legitimate, worthwhile causes. Some seek information, some seek guidance, almost all are in need of financial help. While we are not in a position to offer financial assistance, it is necessary to recognize their plight. Below are examples of our most recent letters.

Dear Friends!

My name is Blanka Chrostkova. I live in Czechoslovakia in one of the large industrial towns--Ostrava. It is a great honour for me to be a member of the Czech Heritage Foundation. This membership was a gift from my penpal, Mr. Robert Janak from Beaumont who is a teacher as I am. Last summer, he visited our country and we began to exchange textbooks and other books. My pupils are very grateful to have nice English texts and pictures and I would like to do the same for you by sending the Czech Heritage Foundation some books for your pleasure.

I come from Great Britain and I attended Hinton Hall School. My parents were teachers there and it was the first Czechoslovak school opened during World War II. He fought as a soldier in France and later returned to the school to help after he was wounded. I remember my father telling me how happy the soldiers were to receive copies of Czech newspapers. I know all about their love for their mother tongue and I remember how the school staff wrote books in Czech about our national songs and nice dances such as "Beseda."

My parents and I moved to Czechoslovakia after the war. Their life was not easy, but they both died here with a great love for this land. I started to study the Czech language and music and thanks to my parents I have collected many nice books and songs.

I am proud of our young students because they started the Velvet Revolution and now our society is learning to live in democracy. It is not so simple as it seemed during the first few days after November 11, 1989. I am sure that our "bad times" are not here forever and the future shall be better for all of us.

If there is some way that I could help the Czech Heritage Foundation by sending any books or materials, I would be very happy. If someone from the CHF comes to Czechoslovakia, I would be glad to meet them. Wishing you all the best.

I remain,
Blanka Chrostkova

Dear Editor:

We have visited the Museum and found it very wonderful. The tour guide was a wonderful interpreter. Our grandfather, Frank Krall, arrived in America, possibly Milwaukee, WI, in the late 1870s or early 1880s. His wife was also from Czechoslovakia. My grandfather came here with five brothers because of the turmoil in the old country. We know where three brothers are but not the other two.

I am very proud to be Czech and very inquisitive to find my roots. In visiting the Museum, I found the notation of Leo Boca regarding the publication of the Immigration Passenger list. My parents were Charles Krall and Barbara Massica Krall of Bohemia and my grandmother's maiden name was Mach. We would appreciate your help. I am an employee of the Minnesota Historical Society. Thank you.

A supporter of the Museum,
Pat Pendleton



TANEČNÍ CENTRUM UK PRAHA

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you in the hope that you may be able to help us in our time of crisis, either through your direct aid or through other contacts.

The Charles University Dance Center is the only contemporary dance school in Czechoslovakia. It was founded in the 1880's to foster the growth of modern dance in Czechoslovakia and now includes both a teaching center and a performing company... Although we are supported by Charles University in name, due to the severe economic problems our country is facing at this time, they are no longer able to give us financial support. Funding from the Ministries of Culture and Education have also been discontinued...

Your support will affect the future of dance in Czechoslovakia. Please, could you help us in this time of crisis? Our school year begins in September and we must secure the gymnasium before then. If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Dominika Borovansky
Administrative Assistant



Dear Sirs,

The expedition LEMURIA, which I am chief, is a group of young biologists (mainly students) preparing a five month expedition to Madagascar. Our main aim is a basic ecological research in Hatokaliotsy area and filming of three documentary films about madagascan nature. The Hatokaliotsy is an area which was proposed as protected area in 1956. But there was no research in this area yet. The Hatokaliotsy is extremely dry area and that's why its nature is unique. After thorough studying of special literature, we have elaborated a proposal of project Hatokaliotsy. We send you it if you have interest.

The budget of the expedition is \$27,000. We have only \$7000. We want to ask for your help. For realization of expedition we need still \$15,000 at least. If you can help us, don't hesitate to write us.

Sincerely,
Jiri Balek
Chief of the expedition

Nase Ceske Dedictvi wants to hear from YOU! We would like you to share with us and our readers any stories or bits of information you have regarding our Czech heritage. If you have any concerns, comments, or ideas we would like to hear those too.

Send letters to:

Nase Ceske Dedictvi- To the Editor
c/o The Czech Heritage Foundation
P.O. Box 761
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Letters will not be returned unless specified. Letters may be edited. Please include your name, address, and phone number.

CZECH IT OUT...

ZVIRATKA

Little Animals is just off the press. Learn the names and ideas of 19 different animals and their fun. Monkeys ride on camels, an ostrich and a zebra run a race, and a giraffe and a crocodile argue as to the right-of-way on the road as well as other unlikely situations. Translated by our own Melvina Svec. Copies of this children's book are available at the Czech and Slovak Museum, Sykora's Bakery, and from Mr. Elmer Netolicky at



KOMENSKY SOCIETY AWARDS FIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

President Robert Brown has announced the names of five high school seniors who will each receive \$400 scholarships from the Komensky Society. The 1991 winner of the Vlastenky Scholarship was awarded to Stacie L. Fatka of CR Kennedy who will be attending the University of Iowa. Regular scholarships were awarded to Heather Pratt of North Linn High School who will be attending Wartburg College, Scott L. Banyas of CR Lasalle, who will be attending Central College, Racelle Strabala of North Linn High, who will attend Mt. Mercy College, and Aimee Vogeler of Central City High School who will be attending Coe College. The recipients and their parents were guests of the Komensky Society at a picnic held in their honor on June 15 at Bever Park.

The purpose of the Komensky Society is to provide aid for the education of students of Czech or Slovak ancestry. To be eligible, students must graduate from a Linn County High School and must attend a college, university or other approved school in the state of Iowa. For more information please contact Robert J. Stone at

NOTES FROM THE CZECH HERITAGE SINGERS

After a busy summer of sharing their heritage by presenting their songs for various groups in and around Cedar Rapids, the Czech Heritage Singers climaxed their season by chartering a bus to attend Czech Days in Protivin, Iowa on August 18th. The Singers and Friends attended the Polka Mass at Holy Trinity Church as presented by Marc Frana and band, enjoyed the famous chicken and noodle dinner served at the Community Center, performed a concert at the Holy Trinity church, enjoyed the Czech songs of the Protivin Singers, sang a short concert and were joined by the Protivin Singers in a combined chorus of familiar melodies. A "Mystery Meal" was served to them at a private party at the Old World Inn in Spillville to end their trip. They returned home with a busload of happy memories.

The Czech Heritage Singers will be an important part of the Czech Village Fall Festival on Saturday, September 7th when they will sing for the opening ceremonies at the bandstand. They will be accompanied by the Czech Plus Band at 10:00 a.m. along with the students of the Czech School.

Fall plans for this group include participation in a program to dedicate Masaryk Memorial Park in cooperation with the Federation of Czech Groups on October 27. They will also be participating in an ecumenical song service at the Ely Presbyterian church in November.

submitted by Olga M. Drahozal

MASARYK MEMORIAL PARK

The Federation of Czech Groups has put into an active phase the reality of Masaryk Park. Located north of the Bridge of the Lions on the southeast side and running from 14th Avenue S.E. to 12th Avenue, it will feature a promenade with sidewalk. The sidewalk will feature the bronze advertising letters which the group was able to regain from the sidewalk on Third Street S.E. some time ago.

Honored guests at the dedication will include Right Honorable Ambassador to the United States from Czechoslovakia, Miroslav Houstecky and other Czech dignitaries. The Czech Heritage Singers, the Czech School and the Czech Plus Band will also participate in the ceremony on Sunday, October 27.

submitted by Ed Kuba

CZECH CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Classes in the Czech language for adults who have had some previous experience with the language will again be taught through the sponsorship of the Czech Heritage Foundation. Classes will resume September 9th at Kuba Hall on 1300 Second Street S.E. and will be conducted from 7-9 p.m. for 12 consecutive Mondays. The final class will be on November 25th and will consist of a pot luck supper, a speaker, and a slide presentation on the castle "Hradcany." The charge is \$6.00 for the session and pre-registration is encouraged. Call Olga Drahozal at for more information.

CZECH IT OUT...

CESKA SKOLA SINCE 1870

The 121st consecutive annual session of Czech School for students six to fourteen with post-graduate classes closed on July 12th at Wilson Middle School in Cedar Rapids with a program and the traditional ice cream social. An enrollment of 55 students representing 35 families was taught by Mrs. Bessie Dugena, Mrs. Olga Drahozal and Pan Ucitel Libor Pragr of Palacky University, Olomouc, Czechoslovakia.

New Citanky recently purchased by the school board from Chicago sources were introduced, much to the delight of both students and teachers. Although they have not been revised since the original printing of the 1920's and require a great deal of improvisation on the part of the teacher they are, nevertheless, an improvement over the old tattered editions of the past.

Modern teaching tools were implemented as students viewed a VCR presentation on Czechoslovak glass blowing techniques. An overhead opaque projector was utilized in the upper two grades as Mr. Pragr presented a pictorial history of early Bohemia, legends and kingdoms, with the aid of the comic strip technique.

Students went on a field trip to acquaint themselves with the historical St. Wenceslaus church where school board president, Edward R. Kuba, explained various points of interest. This climaxed a unit on King Wenceslaus which was taught by Mr. Pragr.

A visit to Czech Village followed as students were taken on a tour of the Czech and Slovak Museum thus reacquainting themselves with their own ethnic identity. A walking tour of Czech Village which included the 16th Avenue Meat Market, Sykora's Pekarna (bakery), Barta's Saddle and Leather Shop and Polehna's Meat Market proved to be very interesting. Students were made aware of the early immigrant's historical contributions to Cedar Rapids.

The program, which was presented at the end of the five week school session, included songs by the entire school assembly. The musical numbers were compositions by Czech composers or Czech folk songs. Also included was a dramatic presentation by the Third Division, under the direction of Mr. Pragr--"Popelka" (Cinderella).

Plans for next year include a field trip to Spillville, Iowa in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the arrival of the famous Czech composer, Antonin Dvorak, to the United States. Another innovation may be the inauguration of the first annual Parents-Grandparents Day at some time during the session.

The school board wishes to thank the president of the Parents-Teachers Association, Mrs. Betty Modracek and vice president, Carol Steiner, for their help this past year.

The students of the Czech School will be present at the opening ceremonies of the Fall Heritage Festival in Czech Village on Saturday, September 7th. They will assist with the flag raising ceremony at 10:00 a.m. at the bandstand. They will join the Cedar Rapids Heritage Singers in singing the Star Spangled Banner as well as the Czech and Slovak National Anthems. A short selection of Czech school songs will follow. Nazdar!

submitted by Olga M. Drahozal

SOKOL SERVES

Sokol Park was formally dedicated as part of the annual Houby Days celebration this spring. The little park is located just north of the Czech and Slovak Museum on the green belt. The weather was cool and threatening but the tiny band of young "zaci and zakyne" braved the temperatures and marched from in front of the bandstand on the Avenue of the Lions to the gazebo at Sokol Park to the stirring tune of "Lvi silou, z letem sokoli" (With lion's strength, with falcon's flight). The Czech Heritage Singers led the singing as Mayor Donald J. Canney and Parks Commissioner, David W. Kramer formally dedicated the park and cut the red ribbon. Allyson Gerber, president of the Board of Instructors and head instructor of women outlined the history of Sokol as it began in Czechoslovakia in the 1860's to the present as it exists here in the United States. After being outlawed by in Czechoslovakia by the communist system for many years, it was the first nationalistic organization to be re-activated in 1989 when Czechoslovakia regained its freedom. Nazdar, Sokolice a Sokolove!

submitted by Wes Drahozal



Photos by Amelia Youngblut

CZECH IT OUT...

PRAGUE MUSICIANS COMING TO CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Under the sponsorship of Sokol-Cedar Rapids, the Prazsti Muzikanti (Prague Musicians) will be making their only Iowa appearance in Cedar Rapids on Sunday, September 29th at the Elks Hall on 33rd Avenue S.W. They are the first Czechoslovak brass band to tour the United States under the free enterprise system since the advent of freedom in Czechoslovakia in 1989. Its members are professional musicians and members of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Theater Orchestra, comic opera and other renowned orchestras who got together to play Czech, Moravian and Slovak music. The orchestra consists of three vocalists and one technician plus the ten instrumentalists.

The band has been very successful in Europe having toured Germany, Austria and Italy with outstanding success. Their repertoire includes a mix of traditional and contemporary songs from Czechoslovakia.

Their program will consist of a one hour concert which will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be followed by a dance, concluding at 9:00 p.m. Their concert will be preceded by a welcoming concert by the Czech Plus Band which will be presented at 4:00 p.m. Tickets for the dance will be available at the door for \$10.00 each. Don't miss this "first", once only experience.

The group provides its own transportation by bus. To keep their expenses to a minimum, however, they would hope to stay with families for one or two nights. If you would like the opportunity to provide food and lodging for one or two nights in exchange for some memorable conversation with our Czechoslovak brothers and sisters, your generosity would be most appreciated. Please call Marj Nejdil at if you can help.

submitted by Wes Drahozal

CALLING ALL MIKULA BOOKS!

We are, once again, putting out the call for any copies of *Progressive Czech* by Bohumil Mikula. The latest copyright on these is 1963, but there has been no recent book put out on the market which can be compared to it. Written by a Czech-American who wrote the text to satisfy his requirements when he taught the language to the children of early Czech immigrants in the early 1920's, it approaches the language from the American-English aspect and is more flexible to our understanding of the Czech language. Please, if you have a copy of *Progressive Czech* lying around your house collecting dust, would you consider donating it to the Czech Heritage Foundation for use in our language classes? If not donating it outright, would you please consider loaning it for our use until we can come up with another method? Predem, dekujem Vam!

submitted by Olga M. Drahozal

From The Homeland

BUSCH MIGHT BUY CZECH BREWERY

Anheuser-Busch is thinking of investing in a European brewery as the company continues to press Budweiser into the international market for beer. In a report distributed to shareholders, a company executive says that Anheuser-Busch is negotiating with Budejuovicky-Budvar, the Czechoslovak brewery that holds the rights to the name Budweiser in Germany and Eastern Europe.

Industry analysts have speculated that Anheuser-Busch might buy all or part of Budvar, partly to get full legal right to the word Budweiser and partly to gain a highway into the lucrative European market. Budvar of Czechoslovakia makes a lager beer not greatly different from the American Budweiser, but on a far smaller scale.

submitted by John Secl of Oran, Missouri. Article was written by Robert Manor and excerpted from the May 19, 1991 issue of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

THE WORLD OF CZECHS AND SLOVAKS

A new publication has reached us from the Foreign Institute (Ceskoslovensky Ustav Zahranicni). It is entitled *The World of Czechs and Slovaks*.

The Foreign Institute was established in Czechoslovakia in 1920 at the suggestion of the first president of the newly formed republic, Tomas G. Masaryk. The institute's main purpose was to promote the continuing unification and support of all Czechs and Slovaks who had emigrated out of their motherland.

Its monthly publication, *Vlastanec* (The Patriot) served as a sounding board and center of information and assistance for those emigres.

Recently, the Foreign Institute has been able to return to those former ideals and purposes for which it was formed. The return of freedom to Czechoslovakia after a long period of Communist control means that the publication can once again take advantage of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. The new publication, *The World of Czechs and Slovaks*, is witness to that fact.

Unfortunately, it is all in the language of the Czechs and Slovaks. Nevertheless, with a little patience and perseverance, some of the articles can be understood. A sample issue of *The World of Czechs and Slovaks* is on display at the Czech and Slovak Museum.

submitted by Olga M. Drahozal

OUR YOUNG AMBASSADORS RETURN HOME

Each summer since 1984, the Czech Heritage Foundation has sponsored area high school students in the Experience in International Living cultural exchange. We are now seeking applicants for next summer's homestay.

To qualify, the student must be a junior during the 1991-92 academic year, be a resident of Cedar Rapids or surrounding area, and be of some Czech ancestry.

Ambassadors in the E.I.L. Homestay Program spend an entire month living with a host family in or near Prague, Czechoslovakia. In preparation for their journey, grant recipients attend Czech language classes and orientations. Upon their return, the ambassadors share their experiences with local civic and fraternal organizations. Applications for Homestay grants are now available by contacting Sherlee Peterson,

This year's Homestay Ambassadors, just back from four weeks in Czechoslovakia, are Erica Cichowski, Brian Faltis and Heidi Krejci. Each student brought home many memories and hope to return to Czechoslovakia in the future.

My homestay in Czechoslovakia was an experience that left me with memories I'll always cherish. I could never forget my first sight of Prague as we circled the city for



Erica and host mother, Hana

landing. The panorama was breathtaking--the red of the terra cotta rooftops, sprinkled among the hills and the green forests of the Czech countryside until we were within the boundaries of Prague, the gradually increasing until they formed continual rows of brilliant red. I felt as if I was landing in a fairyland. It was an impressive beginning.

Unfortunately, reality returned quickly when we learned that our luggage had not made the plane to New York. But this small inconvenience was soon forgotten in the excitement of meeting our families. I had tried to imagine what they would be like. Would we have similar interests? Would we like the same foods, etc? But upon

meeting my family, I realized that the only frustration was going to be the luggage barrier and that was a big one!

I had no idea how hard it is on a person when it is not possible to communicate. Hana, my Czech Mom, had spent fourteen months in Britain working as a nanny. But that had been twenty years ago and her English was not only British but it was also a little rusty. Hana is a divorced mother raising three children. She works at a company selling computer software to financial institutions. She works long hard hours at her job, often not getting home until 7 or 8 at night. The oldest of the kids is Michal, a 20 year old art student at the Art University in Prague. Michal's English is very limited, but his love of culture and especially the history and architecture of Prague so matched my own that we very quickly found a way to communicate. Martina is 16 years old and still attends high school. She was away attending a class for the first week of my visit but we made up for lost time. She loves science and hopes to go on to a career in medicine. I also had a 14 year old sister named Petra. Petra speaks about



Martina, Michal and Petra

the same amount of English as I speak Czech so we quickly resorted to hand signs and translations. We played charades continually. The charades themselves were often so funny that they became our entertainment. My family was eager to learn English so we all made great strides in the enlargement of our communication skills.

We spent three of the four weeks in Prague. I must admit that I fell in love with the beautiful architecture of Prague. We visited many castles, churches and towers. My family tried diligently to explain all the history behind each of these structures. I remember my astonishment and feelings of awe as we entered some of the churches. They were absolutely enormous. I didn't seem to be alone in my feelings. Tourists filed in and one by one would stop to stare at what was surrounding them. I spent a lot of time in churches just trying to absorb the beauty and mystic of it all. I was amazed that stone and marble could be so old yet so gorgeous.

For my second week, we packed the car and took trip to the western boundary of Czechoslovakia. There we spent a week in Grandma and Grandpa's mountain home. We were within hiking distance of Klingenthal, Germany, so on our second day we packed a lunch and set off. Unfortunately our trip to Germany was not as easy as it sounded. Along the way, we decided on a short cut and got lost. After some hours, we came upon a mountain brook which I fell into, only to find out that I was floating in the border between the two countries. This was definitely to be chalked up as another "new experience." Because of our unconventional route, we came out of the forest to find ourselves in a German farmer's back yard and we missed the custom station. Michal had to do some fast talking when we tried to return to Czechoslovakia.

To make things worse, the custom officers laughed at my passport picture. They thought my hair looked "funny!" The mountains were incredibly clean and peaceful and the solitude provided a great chance for me to really get to know my family. We had a wonderful time collecting wild flowers, making tea from herbs, playing cards, sharing traditions, laughing, drinking pivo and eating gummy bears from Iowa. Grandma and Grandpa were great.

I think it was at that point that I realized I had made friends for life. I will never forget the great times I had with these people. They accepted me with open arms and made me feel like a loved member of the family. I learned so much from this experience and only wish everyone could be as lucky as I.

Erica Cichowski

My experience in Czechoslovakia was one of the best things in my life. I had a lot of fun in one month but I wish I could have stayed longer.

I stayed with the Ponert family. My father, Jaroslav, was a biologist but he couldn't find a job in that area so he taught English instead. My mother, Zana, was born in Greece and she had to learn to speak Czech. She was a pediatrician. My brother, Jaroslav or Jerry, was a year younger than me. He had an older sister who was married so we didn't see much of her.



Brian's host family (left to right): Aunt, father Jaroslav, mother Zana, sister, her husband Jerry and Jaroslav

I thought it was interesting how the small shops were run. They mostly weren't open on Saturday and Sunday. They were also closed over the noon hour and they wouldn't open them for you.

My father liked plants and we went out and picked plants to make medicine soup. The plants I had in the soup usually helped with upset stomach and headaches. The taste of the plants was pretty good.

People over there were very interested in what it was like living in the U.S.A. They wanted to know about such things as colleges and schools, how many jobs there were and what types of jobs were available.

Overall, my whole trip was very fun and I made many friends over there. I have received two letters since I got back and I would like to go back again someday.

Brian Faltis

It's a chance of a lifetime." I first heard this phrase a year ago when I began to consider applying for the Homestay program. Now, a month after returning, I have a great appreciation for the lifetime of friends and memories the Czech Heritage scholarship opened up to me.

My Czech family was what made the difference between a good trip and a great trip. My family

consisted of my father, Francois, who was an engineer, my mother, Eve, who was a geography teacher in a secondary school, my fifteen-year-old brother Peter, and of



Host sister, Lucy

course, my sister, Lucy.

My parents spoke a little English but usually through hand signals we could understand each other fine. Peter spoke little English at first but improved. Lucy's English was excellent. She always translated everything for me. This didn't help me to improve my Czech at any quick rate, but I learned enough to get my message across.

Eve's parents lived on the first floor of our house, so Babi cooked most of our meals for us. Although she spoke little English, she knew one question that I almost got tired of hearing. "Heidi, are you hungry?" I was asked this question



First grade class in Prague

at least 12 times a day and it usually took several minutes to convince Grandma I wasn't hungry.



Heidi's host grandmother and mother

Along with my host family, I was also able to meet my real brother, Doug's, Czech host family from four years ago. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to meet the people that I had heard so much about. Doug's former host brother, Marek, is now 21 and was eager to hear all that had happened in the past four years. Of course, he asked many questions about the conflict in the Gulf and other political issues. Marek had a younger sister, Suzanne, who was my age and spoke a little English also. The three of us spent two afternoons together in Praha while Lucy worked.

Suzanne asked me to go to Bratislava to meet her father, and so after several conversations with

Lucy I went. There I met Suzanne's grandparents who, of course, fed me well!

After meeting all these people, I have a great desire to go back to Czechoslovakia. I have invited them all to visit Cedar Rapids although I doubt they will ever be able to take me up on my offer.



Heidi's host grandpa mowing the lawn

I would once again like to thank the Czech Heritage Foundation and everyone who donated money for this Homestay program. I am thankful for the chance to visit the Old Country and for a lifetime of friends and remembrances.

Heidi Krejci



Host family's home

In October the students will share their experiences with our community. Watch your local

KLEA'S VERSES

These poems were submitted by the son of the poet, Dr. Edvard C. Gerega of Moline, Illinois. His mother still lives in Czechoslovakia. We will feature Klea's work in future issues of NASE CESKE DEDICTVI.

Doma

Někde odněkud vypadají všechny hory stejně
někde odněkud vypadají všechny stromy stejně
i řeky jsou stejné
i nebe je stejné
ale někde přeci je jiné
to nebe
ta řeka
ten strom
ty hory
trošičku modřejší
trošičku krásnějši
trošičku prudčejši
a volají na tebe
jsi doma
jsi doma.

Někde odněkud vypadá krajina stejně
a přece stůl je tvrdší
a rakev dřevěnějši
tam doma
jen lidé jsou smutnějši
a já čekám za těmi horami
za těmi řekami
pod cizím nebem
na úsměv který se vrátí
na radost která přijde
na naději kterou posvěti spravedlnost.

1970

Postřehy

Postesknutí

Poslední den v září
naděje mi maří
deštivý.
Do procházek prší
na hlavu mi vrší
klobouk listoví
Není to jen shoda
všude samá voda
podzim marnivý.
Vezmu to jen zkrátka
zavřela se vrátka
slunné pohody.

1988

Dvořákovou písní

V Dvořákových sadech na lavičce
milenci si dají po hubičce
já však tu sedím sama
přikrytá novinama
odpočívám.
Za mnou slavný Dvořák
u paty má věnec
kolem hosté chodí
Čech, Angličan, Němec
na Dvořáka hledí vzhůru
jak on by kázal
nebeskému kůru
aby zapěli tu Novosvětskou
jako píseň českou
neboť tak to složil pro celý svět
by jeho národu mohli porozumět.

1988

Básně minula

Z básní je utkán koberec
koberec modlitební
a jak se schyluje den ke dni
dnes na něj klekám
bych vlákno po vláknu rozebrala.
Tenkrát jsem ty básně tkala
jako nitě zlaté.
Řekneš dnes
to bylo jedenkrát
děj se neopakuje
však básník dosud žije
a to rozhoduje.

1988

THE PENSIONERS

WILL THEY ENDURE ECONOMIC REFORM?

by Alexander Mitrofanov

photo: V. Pribyl

"We, the pensioners, albeit the weakest social group of the population, in majority support the economic reform because our life experience tells us that it is no longer possible to live at the expense of future generations. Sacrifices have to be made-- for our children to be better off, for society to be put on sounder foundations. We would like to live to see changes for the better and we therefore accept that the reform should be as speedy as possible, that the price liberalization was inevitable. However..." says Mrs. Milada Pokorna, spokesperson of the Union of Pensioners of the Czech Republic.

Pensioners make up roughly 22% of the total population of Czechoslovakia. In October 1990, the government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic issued a decree under which an adjustment was made of all pensions granted before 1988. The start of the economic reform in 1991 which is linked with the price liberalization and the rise in living costs does, however, have negative impact on all pensioners with low pensions.

The government, therefore, approved a mechanism that will raise pensions to a comparable level with the minimum wage guaranteed under the General Agreement concluded between the Government, the employees and the trade unions. Pensions will be raised if and when the average wage increase reaches five per cent or if and when living costs increase by at least ten per cent.

The said measures will apply while a new concept of social security is being drafted. It is expected to go into force in 1993.

All this seems to be plain sailing. The hitch? The first hitch is that price liberalization is running ahead of privatization. Thus, the production monopolies have not been broken, dictating astronomical prices which reflect poor management, high production costs and a vast administrative apparatus. Mrs. Milada Pokorna adds that the highest

price increases have affected basic foods such as milk and other dairy products, bread, meat, poultry, etc., for which the pensioner will spend most of his income. A considerable number of older pensioners are living below the subsistence level. A comparison of prices in State shops and in privately owned shops will show that prices are lower in privately owned shops. However, the latter are still rare and far apart, many inaccessible for the pensioner, especially in a big city or in bad weather.

"We are therefore asking the



Government," says Mrs. Pospisilova, "why it had not assessed the situation of the pensioners and why it had not timed the adjustment of their pensions to coincide with the start of the economic reform. To protect the older pensioner and to prevent him from hitting the poverty line."

The spokesperson for the Pensioners' Union alleges that in Czechoslovakia most pensioners have no demands on culture, travel or fashionable clothing. All they require is to have a home and food appropriate for their health state, which in many instances requires a diet of some sort. Prices of diet food have risen sky high as of January 1991 and where employed persons are entitled to a

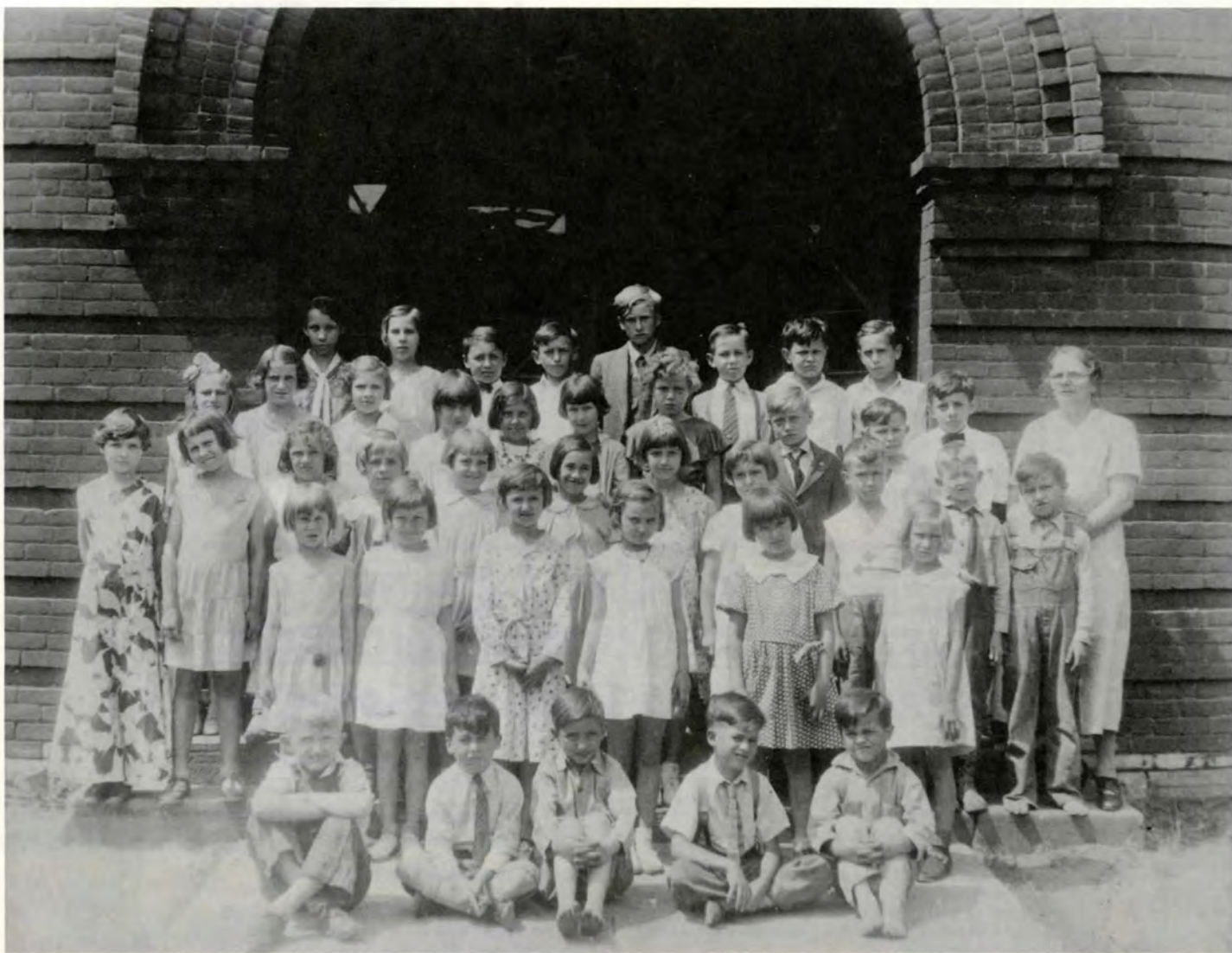
guaranteed minimum wage and allocations for lunches from employers but the pensioner who has worked his whole life is not entitled to any such benefits. It is true that the social departments of some local authorities can help the most needy by some form of benefits. However, most most older pensioners have no knowledge of this and would in any case be ashamed to "go begging" to the authorities.

Someone must help these people. The Pensioners' Union intends to be that institution and it is therefore enforcing the further valorization of old-age pensions, possibly the introduction of advance payments for future adjustments because it takes months before such measures take effect.

"It is the duty of the Union of Pensioners of the Czech Republic," says Mrs. Pokorna, "to find out how older pensioners can get allowances for food and other life needs from the authorities and to inform the pensioners of such possibilities. We have to press the respective authorities to set up low cost catering for older pensioners to provide them with at least one warm meal a day. We have to see to it that pensioners have access to affordable spa treatment, etc. This is but a minute fraction of what we shall do for our members in the future."

Czechoslovak pensioners are not completely helpless facing the conditions of a radical economic reform. They are provided for in ministerial decrees. They have an organization which is partner and opponet of the State. The situation such as it is can be negatively affected by consequences of the economic reform whose range and scale is anyone's guess. However, Czechoslovakia has committed itself to returning among the world's civilized countries. The level of civilization is measured by the country's attitude towards the young, the weak, the old and the poor. No matter what the economic situation, this is a principle not to be forgotten.

Taken from the May 1991 issue of Czechoslovak Life, Orbis Publishers, Editorial Office 46, Vinohradska, Prague 2



ARE THESE FAMILIAR FACES TO YOU?

This the Winter Term of the Cedar Rapids Czech School of 1932-33 and the teacher is Mrs. Marie A Zivney. If you know the names of any of these folks, or perhaps one of these folks happens to be you, please let us know! It would be a shame for these lovely young faces to go unidentified. Write us at P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 52406.

Photo courtesy of the teacher's son, Jaroslav Zivney.

Czech Festivals

18th Annual Czech Village Festival

CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY
OPEN SATURDAY 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(319) 362-8500

Saturday and Sunday
September 7 & 8, 1991
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

*Two days of Czech music, food
gaiety and old fashioned fun!!*

*Co-sponsored by Czech Village Association
Czech Heritage Foundation, and
Czech Fine Arts Foundation*

16th Ave. in Czech Village will be closed
to vehicular traffic on Saturday, Sept 7,
from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday,
Sept. 8, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CZECH MASS
at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church
Saturday, Sept. 7 at 6 pm in the evening
and Sunday, Sept. 8 at 10:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7

- 7 to 11 am - BREAKFAST FOR VISITORS**
Sponsored by the St. Ludmila's Booster Club.
Scrambled eggs with ham & fried potatoes,
white bread, kolach, coffee or milk.
- 8 to 11 am - EMIL LAMPAREK** playing his
accordion at the Breakfast Tent.
- 8 am to 8 pm - VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW &
COLLECTIBLES** - More than 50 booths.
- 9 am - REGISTRATION BEGINS for the CZECH
BAKE-OFF CONTEST.** Judging begins at
11 am - winners announced at 2 pm.
- 10 am - AMERICAN & CZECH FLAG RAISING
CEREMONIES** at Bandstand. Veterans of
Foreign Wars, Czech Heritage Foundation, and
Czech Heritage Singers.
- 1 pm - SOKOL TUMBLERS PERFORM.**
- 1 to 10 pm - "GAMES"** at the Festival Tent.

MUSIC AT THE BANDSTAND

- 9 am to Noon - CZECH PLUS BAND**
- Noon to 2 pm - BUTTON ACCORDION SHOWCASE**
Co-sponsored by Czech Artists Band.
- 2 to 5 p.m. - CZECH ARTISTS BAND**
- Music at Black Deer Restaurant**
(Saturday)
- 1:30 to 4:30 pm - CZECH PLUS BAND** sponsored
by Czech Village Merchants
- 6 - 10 p.m. - FLASH BACK BAND**

SUNDAY, SEPT. 8

- 7 to 11 am - BREAKFAST FOR VISITORS**
(Same as Saturday)
- 8 to 11 am - ELMER NETOLICKY & IRMA BINKO**
playing at the Breakfast Tent.
- 9 am to 5 pm - VILLAGE CRAFT FAIR**
- 10 am - CROWNING OF THE CZECH PRINCE
AND PRINCESS** at the Bandstand and Czech
School Graduation Ceremony.
- 11 am - CZECH HERITAGE PARADE** highlighting
our ethnic history. Line up at 2nd St. S.E.
between 12th & 14th Ave.
- 1 pm - NON-COMPETITIVE PAGEANT OF
CZECH COSTUMES**
- 1 to 5 pm - "GAMES"** at Festival Tent.

MUSIC AT THE BANDSTAND

- 9 am to Noon - CZECH HERITAGE BAND**
- Noon to 1 p.m. - "KEYED UP"**
- 2 to 5 p.m. - PARTY TIME BAND** with DAVE
FRANKLIN
- Music at Black Deer Restaurant**
- Noon to 3 pm - CZECH PLUS BAND** sponsored
by Czech Village Merchants.

FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS
NEXT TO BANDSTAND
FOR INFORMATION CALL 319-362-2846



FESTIVAL BOOYA PICNIC

ETHNIC
FOOD

LIVE
MUSIC



PROGRAM

BAZAAR

SEPT. 15

SUNDAY

12:00 NOON TO 6:00 PM

HIGHLAND PARK - ST. PAUL

BETWEEN FORT ROAD (W. 7th STREET) AND SNELLING AVE. ON MONTREAL

ETHNIC FOOD

BOOYA - KLOBASA - KOLACE HOTDOGS - PRASKY- CANDY
JATERNICE, GRILLED SAUSAGE, POPCORN, and MORE
BEER - POP

PROGRAM

ST. PAUL CZECHOSLOVAK DANCERS
SPEAKERS-ENTERTAINMENT- RAFFLE-GAMES-SINGERS
SOUVENIERS BUTTONS-BOOKS-T'SHIRTS- GIFTS

BICYCLE GIVE AWAY

FOR CHILDREN UNDER 15

WITH ADULT WEARING A CZECHOSLOVAK DAY BUTTON

PUBLIC INVITED - NO ADMISSION
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA

SPONSORED BY-SOKOL MINNESOTA AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNITY

ANNUAL GOULASH DAY

The Annual Goulash Day will be held at St. Wenceslaus church September 15th. Czech goulash will be served all day. Be sure to attend the Czech Polka Mass at 9:30 a.m. featuring the Czech Plus Band. There will also be games for the children and lots of family fun!

submitted by Diane Drahos

The 2nd Cultural/Genealogical Conference

October 18 - 19, 1991

Location

Earl Brown Conference Center
University of Minnesota
St. Paul Campus
St. Paul, Minnesota

Time:

Registration - 8:00 a.m.
Sessions - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Some of the Planned Sessions
Include:**

- Historical Czechoslovak Records Available through the Latter Day Saints Family History Center
- Slovak Genealogical Research Tips
- Advanced Czechoslovak Genealogy
- Understanding Your Ancestors Through Their Music
- Czechoslovakia's Archives
- Historical Migrations of Germanic People into Czechoslovakia

Also included are workshops on beginning genealogy, beginning Kroje, (folk costumes), Helene Cincebeaux's Kroje exhibit, Open House at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library and the Immigration History Research Center, Host Reception at the Historic CSPS Hall, and a featured performance by the Czechoslovakian Folk Dance Group of St. Paul.

For more information please write to The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 16225, St. Paul, Minnesota 55116.



CZECH HERITAGE FDN.

P O Box 761
Cedar Rapids IA 52406

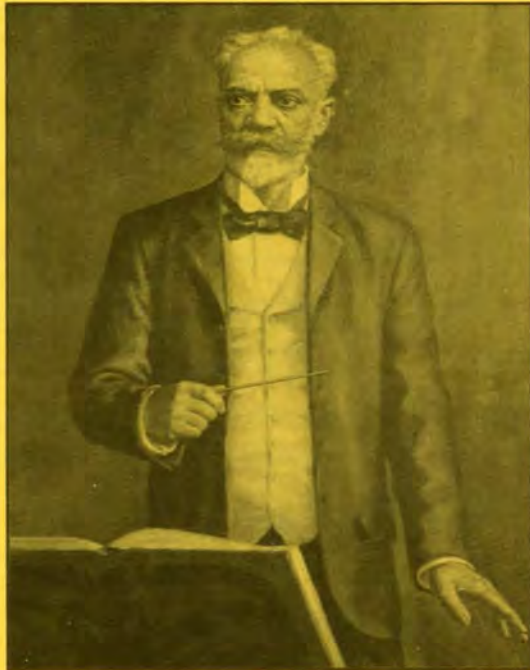
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ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK YEAR

1841—1991

ON SUPRAPHON RECORDS



SUPRAPHON

Palackého 1, 112 99 Praha
Phone: 26 81 41, Fax: 26 25 62
Czechoslovakia

HONORING ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK'S 150TH BIRTHDAY IN SPILLVILLE

Antonin Dvorak's 150th birthday will be commemorated in Spillville on Sept. 8 in St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. The historic church is the site where the renowned composer played the organ at daily Mass when he and his family were among Spillville inhabitants in the summer of 1893.

The event is being sponsored by the Spillville Historic Action Group (S.H.A.G.) and will serve as a fund-raiser for the International Dvorak Music Festival in 1993. For more information, write S.H.A.G., Dvorak Birthday Celebration, P.O. Box 35, Spillville, Iowa 52168.

