

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

**THREE PRESIDENTS VISIT THE NATIONAL
CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1995**



With permission from the Cedar Rapids Gazette
President Clinton and Senator Tom Harkin sample kolaches during unscheduled
stop at Sykora's Bakery after dedicating the National Czech & Slovak Museum. The
landmark bakery in Cedar Rapids' Czech Village is popular with area residents.

Volume 20 - Number 4 - December 1995



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OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. who pay their annual dues of \$3.00 per person per year receive Naše České Dědictví free. Dues are renewable on January 1 of each year and expire December 31. The newsletter which is mailed quarterly, serves to inform its members of its activities, people, and places. (Dues received in September apply to the following year for new members.)

Deadline for receiving articles for the March issue is February 23, 1996.

THANK YOU

Volunteers who helped with the September newsletter were: Margaret Ann Nove, Lisa Volesky, Vlasta Huston, Frank Edmunds, Frank Novotny and my husband, John. Even though we had a lot of good help, it took most of the day. Your help was appreciated.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I had to ask myself if I was dreaming or if it was really true. It was not a dream, It was the first time in Iowa's history we hosted three presidents at once. U.S. President Bill Clinton, Czech President Vaclav Havel, and Slovak President Michal Kovac came to Cedar Rapids and to Czech Village to the dedication of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on Saturday, October 21st.

When it became apparent the three presidents were coming, the museum wanted to complete unfinished projects.

I arrived early one morning and I saw a beehive of activities. I saw landscaping, a parking lot black-topped, three fifty foot flag poles erected, sidewalks poured, laying sod, planting flowers and shrubs and a new lighted sign installed that read NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY.

You could not talk to any staff, they were all on the phone. The first to arrive was the secret service with their brief cases and cellular phones. They made their headquarters in the new library that already has some shelving, some books, and a beautiful table and soft comfortable chairs.

The celebration and dedication activities started October 17th with luncheons, music, crafts, and banquets, Each day the excitement grew more intense. People were coming from all over the world.

All week the weather was balmy, but on Friday the hail accompanied the rain. The forecast for Saturday was for cold, overcast, but dry.

I awoke early Saturday morning, but I was so hyped up by the week's excitement I couldn't sleep. We ate a hearty breakfast and dressed warmly. It was breaking daylight and the crowd had started to gather when we arrived at Czech Village.

We formed 3 long lines and one by one we filed through security. The podium was on the east side of the museum. Dignitaries sat up front, VIP's in the next section and the other visitors stood huddled near by. The podium was high enough and the amphitheater-like setting made it possible for the estimated crowd of 7,000 to see and hear the three presidents

All three presidents' speeches were well received and touched our hearts. The crowd was enthusiastic, warm and friendly.

After the speeches, the three presidents toured the museum, dined and met briefly.

Before departing, President Clinton's motorcade drove through Czech Village. He got out of his limousine and walked to the shops.

Before departing, he walked into Sykora's Bakery. He shook hands, posed for pictures and yes, YOU GUESSED IT! He ordered and ate a cherry kolach and ordered an apple strudel for his wife.

The day ended with a parade and banquet.

Sunday was the grand finale. A banquet was held with more music, dancing, awards and recognitions, crowning a new prince and princess, toasts, and last but not least, music and dancing to Guy Lombardo.

It truly was an event leaving us with memories of historic proportions. Three presidents had visited our museum. They praised our ancestors who braved the journey to America and to those who are so proud of their culture and rich heritage.

Adeline L. Volesky

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

October was an exciting month. As you may be aware, Presidents Clinton, Havel, and Kovac presided over the dedication of the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library building on Saturday, October 21. The event was a fitting one. My congratulations and thanks to the staffers, volunteers, and helpers who had even a small part in the planning, preparations and completion of the events. Very well done!

The Cedar Rapids Gazette had extensive coverage and a special section allotted to just the museum dedication. One of the local TV stations, Channel 9 KCRG, did a video tape of the dedication called "Three Presidents — One City" of which I have ordered a copy (\$22.99).

It's a fine museum and library building. I understand a group from Omaha and Seattle will work on research, display design, and production of displays for the inside. As the components are all special, custom production significant money will be required for a result commensurate with the building.

One of the events that I enjoyed was the youth recognition night sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation. The past Student Ambassadors, Princesses and Princes were introduced and gave an update of their circumstances. After listening I am very proud of the fine young people who have been involved. They're educated, idealistic, and energetic. They're truly a fine group.

Museum dedication week was a huge success!
Na Shledanou, Dave Faltis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Your magazine is great. I really like it. I read page 5 (Sept. issue) that Dr. Eva Roubalova was instrumental in getting the last week in October a Czech week in Texas. An enclosed article, I read that Fayette County Judge Ed. Janecka conceived the idea and helped write the resolutions.

I think he should be mentioned also. Not just Eva R.

Thank you,
Evelyn Vecera

Dear Editor,

I just received the September issue of Naše České Dědictví. I enjoy reading about more Cedar Rapids history. On page 13 the 16th Ave. Industrial Club, the top row grocer Ed Buresh is actually Edward (Broz) Brush, uncle to Edward R. Kuba Sr. and my great uncle. Ed was in business with Joe Serovy in what is now Bartunek's Appliances. My father Ed Kuba has more facts.

Yours,
John A. Kuba
Helotes, Texas

Dear Friends

Hello, I'm interested in the country of Czechoslovakia and I would like to find some pen pals that write in English from there. I like to find people involved in sports, like tennis, diving, track and field, etc. I also would like to write to persons in the medical field. If you could help me I would appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Daniel W. Osborne

CORRECTION

The September issue inadvertently omitted the names of several former Czech school teachers that were deceased. The list should have included: Mary Tupec, Emil Tuma, Joseph Urban, Anna Vashek, John Vosmek, Marie Wokoun, Jaroslava Holubova Wheatly, Jaroslav Zivny and Marie Zivny.

— Editor

Dear Editor,

The latest copy of OUR CZECH HERITAGE was an especial delight for all the news regarding the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

Not too long ago you were kind enough to send an extra copy of OUR CZECH HERITAGE so I could share a copy with a friend in the Czech Republic.

Friend Milan Tauš' reply was recently received and I would like to share some thoughts with you. He asked you be commended for the excellent job you are doing. He wrote that he enjoyed the many interesting articles and that he is pleased to learn of the Foundation. He adds "I admire these people who remember their country."

In the issue mailed to him, Edward and Marjorie NejdI were mentioned and, small world that it is, it also happens to be his mother's maiden name!

Then he shared a little story about the days following WWII. He was a lad of 15 at the time. His father had kept hidden a bottle of French cognac for a time when they could toast the end of the war and happier days ahead. Two days after the war had ended he and his father went through town shouting joyful greetings to the U.S. Army (9th Inf. 2nd Div) soldiers passing through. His father (who did not speak English) called out NAZDAR to three soldiers standing in a group. One of the soldiers replied (in Czech) "You said it like you were Czech." Much to his surprise the soldier's answer was. "Yes, I am Czech!" So his father took them home and they finished off the bottle of cognac sealing the victory together.

My friend Milan's thoughts were too special not to share.

Sincerely,

Violette Steinke

P.S. The 9th U.S. Infantry Division Regiment, was called Manchu Ass'n. (2nd Inf. Div). The Czechs called them Indians because they had Indian head designs on their sleeves. Wouldn't it be interesting if some of those "Indians" are still around and just happen to read about themselves in your publication? —Violette Steinke



Dear Editor,

I was very surprised to receive a Journal Czech Heritage Foundation with many interesting articles, really very nice.

I think you ought to know about the town of Rokycany in Czech Republic. It is the district town in slightly waved landscape beneath Brdy-mountains and array of historical and cultural landmarks. The historical and administrative centre of region is the ancient, royal town of Rokycany with 15,000 inhabitants, which reaches back to the 10th century. The centre of the town is a landmark protected area. The town is situated in West Bohemia 10 miles from Plzen to the capital of Czech Republic Praha. The area of Rokycany had been interested by demarcation line, where met two armies of anti-fascist coalition U.S Army and Army of Soviet Union. In last weeks of the World War II was allowed to General George S. Patton to go with his 3rd U.S. Army to liberate the West Bohemia, in spite of agreement of dominant influence of Rokycany, bearing the US Army symbols and words: TO OUR LIBERATORS OF THE 9th INF. REG. 2nd DIV. U.S. ARMY IN EVERLASTING MEMORY — May, 1945. The Department of Europe VFW decided in May 1990 to change the place for American Veterans Day Commemoration of 11th November from Paris to Rokycany. Since then American Veterans have been hosted by the town of Rokycany every year.

I send warm regards,

Milan Tauš

IN MEMORY

The Czech Heritage Foundation and the Czech community was saddened by the death of Dorothy Dlak Dvorak on October 14th. Dorothy was the wife of Lovell Dvorak, our financial secretary. Dorothy was a great supporter of Czech organizations and activities in Czech Heritage events, WFLA, and the Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids.

In spite of her recent illness, Dorothy hand pieced a red, white, and blue star quilt. She donated the quilt to the Czech Heritage Fd'n for a fund raiser. The women of the Hus Presbyterian volunteered to quilt it. Proceeds from the quilt went to the college scholarship fund. Dorothy was survived by her husband Lovell of Cedar Rapids, a daughter Judith and a granddaughter Jessica both of Odessa, Florida.

Our sympathy goes to the Dvorak family.

WE'LL NEVER FORGET

Early Sunday morning, May 6, 1945 tanks of Patton's 16th Armored Division rumbled into the town of Pilsen, sending the Nazi occupiers fleeing. For the next 40 years, the Communist government would reinterpret history saying Soviet Troops, not Americans, were the true liberators of Pilsen.

Jaroslav Peklo knows better. As a boy of 12, he woke on May 6 to Radio Free Pilsen announcing the city was free. Crowds gathered into the streets to meet the tanks.

The 16th Armored was a fresh unit. It fought only once. There were some German snipers in St. Bartholomew cathedral's belltower. The tank crews swung into action with their 50-caliber machine guns. The sniper fire was silenced and the victory celebration continued. That was the only time the division fought and that was on May 6th in Pilsen.

For the next seven months, five successive U.S. divisions occupied the beer-making town. Peklo not only remembers each individual unit, but knows their patches as well. On his jacket, he proudly wears a triangular crest pin of the 16th Armored Division and has been made an honorary member of its unit association. He regularly corresponds with vets from the unit and the 2nd Infantry Division (Indianhead).

It was the best time of Peklo's life because the city was full of American soldiers. They gave the children food and he ate with them for a month.

(by Ken Cauthern from VFW Newsletter)



Interior view of Slovan Americky Printing Office 1912. Located at 126 1st Ave. N.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This was the first Czech Newspaper (1869) in the United States.

A VERY HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPH

Most of you recognize this famous picture from World War II and also the place where it was taken. But you probably don't know the names of the soldiers in the photo.



It may be of interest to know that one of the U.S. soldiers in this group was

a Slovak, Michael Strank was born on the 10th of November 1919 in Jarabin in northern Slovakia near the Polish border. He was the son of Karel and Marta Strank who immigrated to the U.S. in 1921. The family settled in Conemaugh, PA, two miles northeast of Johnstown.

Michael enlisted in the Marines in 1939, and was assigned to basic training in New River, S.C. When the U.S. entered the war, he was a sergeant. He was sent to the Southern Pacific on the 8th of December 1941. He was awarded a Purple Heart for his bravery in fighting on Iwo Jima. Michael was one of the soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 28th Regiment 5 Division who planted the American flag on top of the 600 foot mountain, Surubachi Yama, on February 23, 1945.

Sergeant Michael Strank didn't live to see the end of the war. He was killed on March 1, 1945 while attacking an enemy position in the northern section of Iwo Jima. May he and all the war dead rest in peace. — *(From Sokol St.Louis Newsletter)*

VELVET REVOLUTION

Crowds gathered toward Slovak National Uprising Square. Streets were already littered with champagne bottles and more corks were popping. Shortly before midnight the crowd parted for a platoon of goose-stepping Slovak soldiers bearing the Slovak cross. Church bells and the distant boom of a cannon marked the birth of the new year and a new country. The republic's prime minister, Vladimir Meciar, mounted a small stage. "Slovakia is yours" he shouted, as a jubilant crowd of some 50,000 cheered approval. "The Slovaks have waited a thousand years for this night" said a lady in a fur coat. Not all Czechs and Slovaks reacted so enthusiastically to the dissolution of their country. "We're a sovereign nation now for better or worse" a Slovak said with a shrug. "At least the parting was peaceful, that's something." Recently they rejoiced in the same victory over 41 years of communist rule, a non-violence triumph led by intellectuals from both lands: The Velvet Revolution. Barely two years later, they had sued for a "velvet divorce." An economist in Prague said "The split is mad. All Europe is straining for unity and we are dividing ourselves in two. Slovakia, smaller, less developed will suffer the most." "Let them go," said a Czech bookseller. "It will avoid bloodshed. Look what happened to Yugoslavia." "The truth is, at one time 85% of the people — Czechs and Slovaks alike — were against the breakup. No referendum was ever held. It was the government in Bratislava that pushed Czechoslovakia over the brink," said a professional pollster in Prague. Rich in avantgarde art, literature and music, this part of the world gave birth to Dvorak, Smetana, Freud, Mendel, Rilke and Kafka. Here originated soft contact lenses and Bata shoes, as well as polka and Pilsner beer.

Vaclav Havel wrote plays for Prague's theater of the absurd. The plays were banned in the 1960's but he continued to circulate them by self-published manuscripts, with typewriter and dozen carbons. Translations of Havel's works opened in Vienna, Paris and New York. Threatened, interrogated, jailed, he kept on writing about the importance of "living the truth." Through his writing he became the conscience of the nation. In November 1989, students — later factory workers, began peaceful protests, some offering flowers to the riot police.

Soon Wenceslaus Square swelled with 300,000 demonstrators, and by year's end the Velvet Revolution had broken the communist govern-

ment. To the cry of "Havel na Hrad!" Havel to the castle! He was acclaimed president of Czechoslovakia. Less than three years later Havel resigned in response to the coming split, but returned to the castle in February this time as president of the new Czech Republic. Some have compared the Czech leader to Plato's ideal. Havel declared "I am neither philosopher nor king, just a playwright who had responsibility thrust upon him." President Havel's responsibilities are enormous. The country economically strapped, political institutions just merging, and its energies are divided by the split. Yet the lesson on Yugoslavia has not been lost on the Czechs, "I'm driven by hope," Havel said. "Despite the dangers, this is the best chance in a lifetime that Europe may break into a hotbed of peace."

Jaroslav Koran was elected first mayor of Prague. "Prague endured a thousand years of war and pestilence with hardly a scratch. But 41 years of communist neglect was hard on our city. Restoring property and ownership becomes complex as foreign investments arrive. Shell and Exxon plan strings of modern gas stations. K-Mart has purchased 13 stores. Volkswagen has bought into Skoda Automobile Works at Mlada Boleslav. Smaller entrepreneurs have changed the face of Prague.

An 80 year old man said "Look, I was born in Austro-Hungary. I grew up in Czechoslovakia, suffered from Germans, spent 40 years in a colony of Russia without ever leaving Prague. Now we are Czechs again, like we have been for thousands of years. What's so bad about that?"

National Geographic

by Thomas Abercrombie

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We have not had to raise the \$3.00 dues per year due to generous donations that are included with renewals.

Donations in July were received from: Sharon Curtis and Robert Shelden.

Donations in August were received from: Pat McCluskey, Bob Kapoun, Clarence Milota, Sharon Curtis, Libbie Navratil, and Bishop Emil A. Wcela.

Donations in September were received from: William V Cerny, Eleanor Elkington, Velma Flynn, Frank Kysilko, Marvin and Marie Melsha, Elizabeth Miller, John and Susan Rocarek, Carol Jean Smetana, Libby Spawr, Mary Svec.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity are appreciated.

UNSCHEDULED & UNPLANNED DAY IS HIGHLIGHT



Jansa's family farm

During the month of August, a group of 49 men from the Ceskomoravsky svaz zemědělských družstev (Czechmoravian Federation of Agricultural Society), accompanied by Secretary Ing. Jan Sedmidubský of Prague, came to Iowa State University in Ames. They were accompanied by an interpreter. As a side-trip and point of interest, they came by bus to Cedar Rapids to tour the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and the surrounding Czech community on Saturday.

Sunday, August 27 was a free and unscheduled day. The group attended mass and services at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids. One of the visitors was an organist and was delighted to be asked to play a hymn on the church organ. After the service, the group enjoyed a social visit. During this social visit, two farmer parishioners extended an invitation to visit their farms that afternoon.

Glen and Frances Buresh, of rural Ely, own and operate a family farm. The group witnessed the grain and cattle operation.

The next visit was to Leonard and Marge Jansa's family farm and hog operation. The Jansa's market 2000 hogs a year. After the tour of the farrow-to-finish hog operation and photo session, refreshments were served and many questions were answered.

As the visitors boarded their bus, they agreed their unscheduled and unplanned day turned out to be a highlight of their trip to Iowa.

PRESIDENT CLINTON HONORED THOMAS CECH

On October 18th, President honored Thomas Cech in Washington D.C. with the prestigious National Medal of Science. Cech, who is a professor of chemistry at the University of Colorado in Boulder, has already received the 1989 Nobel Prize for chemistry.

Cech has done research on ribonucleic acid enzymes to understand how RNA works in living beings.

Cech's great grandfather Petr was born in Studene near Kralovice County of Plzen. Petr Cech was born in 1857 and came to the United States with his mother at an early age.

In 1988, Thomas spoke at the 14th International Biochemical Congress and was on Czech TV.

His parents, Dr. Robert and Annette Cech, reside in Des Moines, Iowa.

Thomas grew up in Iowa City and graduated from City High. He graduated from Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa with honors.

He met Carol Martinson in college before their marriage. Carol graduated from Washington High School in Cedar Rapids where Carol's family still reside.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

The theme of the Czech Heritage float on Saturday afternoon through Czech Village was A TIME TO CELEBRATE. The float featured the famous 16th Ave. landmark, The Clock on the Avenue. It was selected to symbolize that now is the time to celebrate the dedication. The float featured a floral bed, bubbling water fountain spray and the "Three Geese of Czech Vanity" Ohwha, Tagoo and Seiam.

Czech ladies held floral sprays of red poppy, white daisy, blue corn silk flowers and golden wheat, making up the national bouquet of the Czech Republic.

The music which accompanied the float included Grand Entrance, opening musical score by Czech composer Antonin Dvorak. This dynamic 1883 composition entitled "Scherzo Capriccioso" opus 66, triumphantly proclaim Czech pride in the most classical way.

In an effort to showcase Czech Heritage as a "class act," dancers from the local Polka Club accompanied the float.





*Left to right — President M. Kovac, Slovakia;
President Bill Clinton, U.S.; President V. Havel,
Czech Republic.*

New Building Dedication Week

October 17-22, 1995

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

WHAT A WEEK AND - WHAT A FIVE YEARS!!

The dedication celebration of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library held over a six day period from October 17 through October 22, was something we'll never forget. What a proud and exciting time, highlighted by the three to four hour presence of Presidents Clinton, Havel and Kovac. I and others were thrilled to have had the opportunity to greet each of the Presidents at a reception held at the Museum.

There were literally hundreds of details, many of them at the "last minute," which had to be handled by the Staff, assisted by volunteers, in preparing for the dedication. However much work was begun in earnest over five years ago when planning for the \$2.6 million building was initiated. The planning committee, chaired by Steve Dolezal and later by Leora Zahorik, was composed of the following: Wes Drahozal, Patti Hikiji, Tom Hruska, Bob Stone, Frank Novotny, Russ Novotny, Duane Novotny, John Rocarek, Robert Schaffer and Leo Modracek.

Following the hundreds of hours of work laying the foundation for the project, the Building Committee Co-chaired by Tom Hruska and Leora Zahorik was responsible for overseeing the detailed design, awarding of contracts and start of construction. This committee was composed of the following persons: Tom Eckstrom, Ernest Kosek,

Leo Modracek, Frank Novotny, Russ Novotny and Robert Schaffer.

About 18 months ago I was appointed chairman of this committee and later added Frank Edmunds to the group. During this time the committee continued to work with the architects and contractors. Additional contracts were awarded for the parking lot, street lighting, sidewalks and landscaping. Involved were many joys, a few frustrations and needless to say, thousands of volunteer manhours to get the project to what you see today. What a beautiful building and surroundings! My thanks to all persons responsible. Without their effort, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library would not exist in its new facility.

We dedicate the facility to the memory of all Czech and Slovak immigrants who experienced an arduous journey to America, usually with nothing more than faith and hope. Under the umbrella of freedom, their hard work, determined independence and self sufficiency with solid family values, enabled them to become respected and proud American citizens. It was this realization that kept us motivated and involved in a "labor of love."

Leo Modracek

Chairman, New Building Committee



Preparations for the 3 presidents included positioning a sign by Nesper Sign Co. The NATIONAL & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY. It is a lighted sign.

Other preparations included sidewalks, sodding, landscaping and a parking lot.



On Tuesday October 17th the activities began. Vit Hořejs, a master puppeteer and storyteller who is known throughout the Czech and Slovak republic, used century old puppets and told the folk tale "WHITE DEER." He has performed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and in Spillville, Iowa two years ago.



One of the many activities located in the Hruska Hall was a quilt demonstration by the ladies from Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Other craft demonstrations were tatting, lace making, peroutky (feather basters) and egg decorating.



People visiting saw many authentic kroje (Czech costumes) being worn. A parade of costumes was held at a noon luncheon.

A narrator described the costumes in detail including the area they were from: Moravia, Slovakia and Czechy.



Bob Schaffer, member of the museum's executive committee, welcomes the guests to Czech Village in southwest Cedar Rapids.



Welcoming the crowd and distinguished guests to Cedar Rapids is Mayor Larry Serbousek.



Iowa's Governor Terry Branstad was on hand to welcome the three distinguished presidents and other guests to Iowa.



Many secret service men were the first to arrive. They approved the outdoor arena so the people could see and hear the dignitaries. There was planning and preparation.



More than 70 visiting journalists and a dozen from Iowa covered the three presidents visit.

Representatives were from the Czech News Agency, Slovak Press, Slovak Radio, Czech television, radio and newspapers, Voice of America, U.S. networks and others.



The day was overcast with a cold wind, but a crowd of 7,000 gathered around the carillon tower. The historical significance of the event was worth waiting for.



Michal Kovac, President of Slovakia was the first to speak.



Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic spoke next.



U.S. President Bill Clinton spoke last.

It was overcast and windy but many came at daybreak to get a good view of the three presidents and participate in an historical event.



This beautiful float "Our Heritage Runs Deep" represents the CSA Prokop Velky Svatopluk Czech Lodge of Cedar Rapids and Swisher, Iowa.

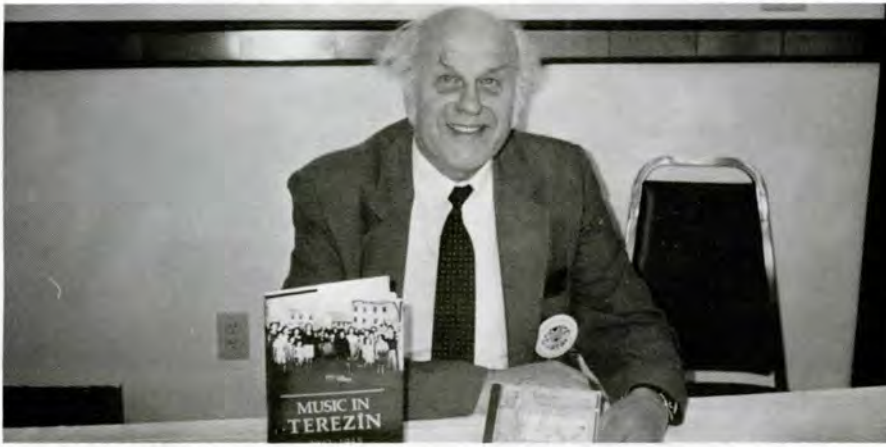
The large gold eagle and flags represents our heritage, but we are Americans.



The streets of Czech Village were bustling with activity.

Everyone who came to see and hear the presidents had to go through a security check.





The museum was open for tours on Sunday to viewers and to meet authors for book signing. Joza Karas came from Modrany. He is a professional musician playing a violin,

He visited a Czech war camp and retrieved some music. His book, "Music in Terezin," tells about the music in the camp.



Sunday was the grand finale with a banquet at Collins Plaza Hotel.

During the week, a series of noon luncheons and dinners were held in Heritage Hall in the museum. On Saturday, a formal black tie banquet was held at the Five Seasons Hotel

Photo at Collins Plaza Hotel



The Sokol Greater Cleveland Czech Folk Dancers entertained at Collins Plaza Hotel.

The dancers organized in 1972 and danced to audiences across the U.S. Four of the present 24 dance members are the original founders of the group.



The closing event following the banquet at Collins Plaza Hotel was the music and dancing to Guy Lombardo "The Sweetest Music This Side of Heaven."

Countless people remember the Big Band era and Guy Lombardo's closing song. And that is the way it all ended AULD LANG SYNE.

EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON'S SPEECH

... I am proud to stand here with these two presidents, each a pioneer and a patriot, each leading his nation through an epic transformation, each representing the promise of Europe's future and their presence today reflects our growing partnership as well as the deep roots of their people in the soil of Iowa.

I will never forget visiting Prague in January of 1994—the first time I had been there in 24 years—and walking across the magnificent Charles Bridge with President Havel. I remembered then all the young people I had met there a quarter-century before and how they longed for freedom that they now enjoy.

... Here in America's heartland, the heart of Europe beats loud and clear. Czech immigrants first came to Cedar Rapids in the middle of the 19th century. Soon, a little Bohemia had blossomed in the city where Czech culture flourished in journalism, music and drama.

Today that heritage is as vibrant as ever. One in five residents of Cedar Rapids is of Czech descent, including your mayor. There are eight major Czech-American organizations in this city, and through the Czech School, American children learn the language and traditions of their ancestors an ocean away.

Just a few steps from here, the shops of Czech Village are filled with authentic crafts and home cooking. I think it is fitting that in this celebration of American diversity we have a city which produces Quaker Oats and kolaches. ... The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library we are privileged to dedicate today is a wonderful tribute to two cultures and two peoples and to the contributions Czech and Slovak immigrants have made and continue to make our nation great.

In keeping with tradition, a dozen eggs have been added to the mortar of the cornerstone guaranteeing that the museum will serve the public as long and proudly as the Charles Bridge in Prague. To all who have played a part in creating this place, congratulations on your marvelous achievement.

The Czech and Slovak people who came to the United States helped us build our country. It's time to return the favor.

... President Havel, President Kovac, my fellow Americans, as we celebrate the opening of this marvelous museum, a moment to those who had faith in the American dream and who struggled to make it come true for themselves and their children, let us resolve to work together, for hope and opportunity for all who are reaching for their dreams.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

From the Cedar Rapids Gazette

EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENT HAVEL'S SPEECH

... When I traveled here to Cedar Rapids and pondered upon the meaning of this trip, I thought among other things, of a small train station not far from Prague, and a small train station not far from here. I recall the fate of a man who 100 years ago

made the journey between these two places. And I thought of the music which accompanied him as he went.

Some of you may have guessed that the stations are those of Nelahozeves, and of Spillville, Iowa and the man is Anton Dvorak.

Antonin Dvorak, as you know well, was neither the first nor the last Czech to undertake this kind of journey. At first hundreds and tens of thousands of Czech feet were treading the same pass, from the heart of Europe to the harbors on the East coast. From there to the center of the Midwest—Chicago—and farther on to Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Wisconsin and a number of other places.

The Czech & Slovak National Museum, whose opening we are celebrating here today, portrays this journey of our fellow countrymen with period photographs, artifacts and papers. It is and remains a memorial of their courage, their hard work, their readiness to overcome obstacles. And they believe in a future and in a higher providence. I am glad and I feel honored to be able to congratulate you today on the completion of this magnificent work.

... Perhaps this fact is best expressed in the motto of the state of Iowa: Our liberties we prize, and our rights we maintain. It is these words that guided the steps of the Czech travelers here to Iowa. They might as well have guided our steps on our journey.

Thank you.

From the Cedar Rapids Gazette

EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENT KOVAC'S SPEECH

... It is partly symbolic that three presidents meet in the museum of American Czechs and Slovaks. Presidents of the countries, which in spite of a number of differences, do share a lot. We share our common struggle for democracy and humanity, and also the fact that two small Central European nations have long-lasting positive relations to the United States, where part of their history took place.

... Most of our compatriots, who were chased to the world in thousands, found open arms here, in the United States. Our countrymen were always good American patriots and they actively flourished in their new homeland.

... The Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic, states of very close nations, arose from common state in a peaceful way, by negotiations. I am proud of this positive historic precedence.

... The National Czech & Slovak Museum has embraced positive examples from the past. I am convinced that we, today's politicians, as well as our successors, will not write the pages of our common history in dark colors.

This moment, the meeting of the three presidents of the three countries, could be one of the prerequisites confirming to the treasury of our common history. I wish that this contribution brings benefit to all of us; equally the Slovaks, the Czechs, the Americans as well as to nations of Europe.

Thank you for your attention.

From the Cedar Rapids Gazette

CHRISTMAS IN MASARYKTOWN, FLORIDA

In the country community of Masaryktown, Florida, where one-third of the population is of Czech descent, tradition is fleeting.

George and Anna Placko are one of a few couples left here who celebrate holiday the old Slovak way—a Christmas meal that's symbolic, superstitious and a lot of fun.

The room brightens when one person, usually a mother or grandmother, walks in holding a candle, its flickering shadow on the wall.

Anna holds oplatky, a paper thin wafer bearing the image of Jesus and Mary. Each person at the dinner table gets one. Most of it is dipped in honey and eaten, but the superstitious save a small part.

"Keeps death away," George explains. Hymns are sung in Slovak and a passage is read from a book of prayer.

The walnut ceremony comes next. Everyone cracks a walnut and looks inside. "If it's good inside, that means it's going to be a good year," George said.

They feast on homemade sausage, rice kielbasa and bowls of sauerkraut or plum soup. Cake with poppy seeds dipped in milk follows.

In the past, the Plackos, both 67, ate the traditional Slovak meal with as many as 30 people.

"This year, there will be just six people at the table," Anna said. The family has spread out across the country.

The couple immigrated separately. George sailed here before WWII. Anna came after. They brought the holiday celebration from their native Slovakia.

Today, the Plackos will attend a Lutheran church service, then visit George's brother for a traditional Slovakian holiday meal — roast duck, dumplings and sauerkraut.

Though the couple may lament the dwindling numbers who partake in the old celebration, the modern era has its advantages. George has videotaped the ceremony their parents and grandparents enjoyed so family and future generations can learn about it.

(From Tampa-Times Tribune Dec. 1994)

VESELÉ VÁNOCE



GOOD KING WENCESLAUS

The martyred Václav was canonized and is the only King-Saint to whom an altar is dedicated in St. Peter's at Rome. The statue of him, stride his mount, dominates Václavské Náměstí (Wenceslaus Square) in Prague. He is known as the patron Saint of Bohemia. Of greater importance, Saint Václav stands as a symbol of Czechoslovak unity and independence. This Bohemian King Václav is the Good King Wenceslaus who was immortalized by the well known English Christmas carol.

The carol narrates the kind deeds performed by the good king on the feast of Saint Stephen, which is celebrated on December 26. Legend has it that in the cold winter months, Saint Václav would cut wood in the forest and secretly carry it to the needy widows and orphans. His servant, Podivín, assisted him. The legend further relates that Podivín did not feel the cold when following in the saint's footprints.

Many Christmas carols are rich in legendary lore and "Good King Wenceslaus" is a typical example. This song was originally sung by those collecting alms for the poor during the Victorian times in England. The verses of the carol were arranged in dialogue form by John Mason Neale. The words originally appeared in a macaronic type of Latin, in this case Latin and German although the melody is that of an old spring carol, "Tempus Adest Floridum" (Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers).

Neale earned his place in history by blending the history of Bohemia, the music of Sweden and the verses of Victorian England to create one of the most beloved Christmas carols of all times.

PERNIK—GINGERBREAD

The history of gingerbread as we know it today, can be traced as early as the 14th century. It is perhaps the oldest sweet cake known in the world. It is said to have originated on the island of Rhodes in about 2800 B.C. It soon became famous and popular on the European continent as well. Chaucer refers to gingerbread in the 14th century English literature. At this time it became customary to make it into fanciful shapes representing men, birds, animals, and letters of the alphabet. Throughout the 16th century it was a custom to present gingerbread in honor of a special event, and possibly that is why it became part of the Christmas tradition.

THE LEGEND OF SAINT NICHOLAS

During the Christmas holidays we often reflect upon the many popular Christmas customs. One of the most popular legends that is celebrated by children throughout the world is the legend of Saint Nicholas.

According to the early manuscripts, St. Nicholas was born about 270 A.D. in Patara, Lycia. Lycia was a small country that extended along the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea and now is a part of present day Turkey.

As Christianity spread across the European continent, so did the legend of St. Nicholas. It was in France at the beginning of the 12th century that the custom of bringing gifts have originated. Nuns of the convent began the practice of leaving gifts secretly, at the homes of poor families with small children on St. Nicholas Eve, the fifth of December. These gifts were fruits, nuts, and oranges from Spain, which in those days were luxuries.

The custom spread quickly spread into other parts of Europe and was observed by the rich and poor alike. In the cities and villages of many countries, a street parade was held. This parade was led by a man representing the saint himself. He was mounted on a white horse, dressed in a red bishop's robe wearing the traditional mitred hat carrying a shepherd's crook. This custom is still observed in some European countries today. Saint Nicholas, the bearer of gifts, became the patron saint of the children throughout the world.

Saint Nicholas is also known around the world by names like Svatý Miluláš, San Nicola, Pere Noel, Sinterklass, Sonnerklass and Kriss Kringle are just a few names that he is known by in other countries. The final transformation into Santa Claus, as we here in the United States know him, was made at the hands of American writers and illustrators, especially Thomas Nast.

In Czechoslovakia, the tradition of Saint Nicholas (Svatý Miluláš) has always played an important role. The Christmas season begins on December 5th, and ends with a visit of the Three Kings (Tří Králů) on January 6th.

Legend has it that Saint Nicholas descends from heaven on a golden cord. He is accompanied by an angel in white and a devil dressed in black. The devil carries a switch and rattles a chain while the angel consults her book which list the names of all the good children. If the children know their prayers and behaved, they receive gifts of apples, nuts, gingerbread and candy. The devil, lurking in the background, stands ready to punish the mischievous children with his switch and distribute his gift of coal.

CHRISTMAS CRECHE

In Czechoslovakia the roots of the custom of the Christmas Creche dates back to the middle ages. In fact, the Christmas creche became not only a necessary part of the church, but they are also displayed in the homes. The carving of creches developed into an independent branch of creative folk art which still exists today. If you visited Czechoslovakia in December of 1968 you would have been able to visit a special exhibition of folk Christmas creches from various parts of the Republic displayed in Prague. It is indeed a pity that this exhibit is not repeated annually. The creches of Bohemia and Moravia and Slovakia reflect events in the daily lives of the people living in the towns, villages and agricultural areas. The work of the carvers reflect the world which was nearest and dearest to them.



CZECH CHRISTMAS CUISINE

What would Christmas be without the holiday festivities and bountiful cuisine? The perniks (gingerbread) have been baked and are aging in readiness for the festivities. The mouth watering aromatic fragrances emerging from the kitchen are tantalizing. Soon family and friends will be gathered for the feast, which on Christmas day is the traditional roast goose, dumplings and sweet-sour cabbage.

There are many dishes which are prepared only for Christmas Eve. Some could be omitted without the dinner losing its festive character but if you were to ask anyone in Czechoslovakia what food is absolutely essential, without hesitation everyone would answer that it is impossible to imagine a Christmas dinner without the carp,

On Christmas morning, cooks were preparing fish soup and "kapr na černo" (carp in a black sauce). This traditional dish is served with "Kuba s houbami" (barley and mushroom casserole). There is also a legend associated with Kuba. Partaking of the casserole will bring good luck throughout the coming year. Without these two traditional dishes, Christmas Eve would not be celebrated properly, regardless of all the other delicious foods prepared, such as home made kolačky, apple strudel, vanočka (Christmas braid) and the many sweets that the homemaker prepares, one housewife endeavoring to outshine the other, with their own secret recipes and culinary skills.

CZECH REPUBLIC YOUTH VISITS

by Diane Krejci

Marek Columby of the Czech Republic was a recent visitor in Cedar Rapids.

In 1987, Douglas Krejci was an ambassador of the Homestay program of the Czech Heritage Foundation. He lived with the Columby family for a month. The household consisted of three children and their mother. Marek was 17, Lucy was older and Susanna was younger. Douglas and Marek were very compatible. Now, Marek has one more year of college to be a teacher or interpreter. After college he must serve one year in the Czech army, then he can proceed to his chosen field. He speaks English fluently, and can converse in French, Russian and Italian.

His father was an officer in the Communist party but his mother refused to be a member of the party. His father was a Slovak and his mother was a Czech. The children did not choose Communism. Marek was quick to say, "I never was or will be a member of the party." He is concerned, however, that it will take probably two generations before Communist thinking people and those dedicated to the party will be put to rest.

Marek left Cedar Rapids on August 3 to visit his sister in Toronto, Canada. He was in Boston for a wedding of his sister Lucy. Lucy was attending Harvard on a scholarship and met her American husband. After a short stay in Canada Marek flew back to the Czech Republic.

While here, Marek had a look at the Czech area, the rolling hills of Iowa, the Mississippi River and other points of interest. His visit to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library was a high point. He knew of the Minisalon exhibit but never expected to see it because it was banned in his country. Many of the artists were friends and some acquaintances. He has a real thirst for knowledge and is an avid reader. He was therefore, disappointed that the Czech books were not in the library but still in the attic.

Money is tight in the Republic. Marek was eager to work while in Cedar Rapids. Good fortune came his way. Douglas' neighbor asked if Marek would scrape and paint his house. He was overjoyed to do the job. He was compensated well for a job well done.

Marek left Cedar Rapids with money in his pocket, many new friends, and a determination to come back someday.

JOURNEY STARTED WITH PHONE CALL

by Chris Fee

I'd like to start off by saying thanks to the Czech Heritage Foundation for making this trip possible.

My journey all started with the phone call I got one night that said I was one of four chosen to visit the Czech Republic. I couldn't believe my ears. I was going overseas for one month without my parents or my brother . . . it was starting to look very enjoyable!

Monday, June 26, 1995

It all started early in the morning. I got up and left for Chicago with my mom and my grandmother. We got to Chicago's O'Hare Airport at about 2:30 or 3:00.

I checked in my bags, got my boarding pass, and headed off to the waiting area. We were in the waiting area for about an hour but with all the commotion it seemed like 10 minutes. When they called our flight we said our final goodbyes, then headed down the long corridor that led to gate 17 where our flight was.

Finally after waiting in the plane for almost 2 hours we were finally cleared for take off. The flight was a long one. I couldn't get in a comfortable position so I couldn't fall asleep through the whole flight.

After what seemed to be eternity, we heard the captain say that we would arrive shortly. The crowd was overjoyed to say the least.

Once we were off the plane, we went to get our baggage. After we got the baggage, we went through customs only to see 5 Czech students standing there to greet us. That was the beginning of a whole new dimension.

It took me a while to get settled in but after a couple of days I got set in a regular cycle of sight-seeing and shopping.

Communicating with my family was very limited. Michael, my host brother, was the only one who spoke English. So he translated everything that his parents said and everything I said also. It was kind of nice because the girls that went, and I met most everyday. That made easier to communicate.

I was starting to look forward to going home after the third week but then the time came to leave I almost felt like missing the flight, but I didn't.

When I got home the first thing I did was go and eat at "Kentucky Fried Chicken." Thanks again for helping make this trip possible, I had a wonderful time.

PARDON, DO YOU NEED ACCOMMODATIONS?

by Mandy Haster

"Pardon, do you need accommodations?" Approaches such as this constantly in train stations from hotel representatives made me realize how much of a gift from the Czech Heritage Foundation my trip to Prague was. A place to live, food to eat, and because the four of us were together for the majority of the month, five tour guides and translators and 9 friends.

No matter where you are, people are the same, causing me to find the biggest difference between Iowa and the Czech Republic to be the language and the fact that Iowa doesn't have exquisite monuments, castles, or cathedrals in every direction you look. Ironically, Chris, Joy and I lived fairly close to each other while Amy lived outside of Prague, but our siblings were all friends—causing us to see each other really every day.

Of all of us I think I was the luckiest a) because my family hosted a student ambassador (Carie Ciha) last year, so they weren't constantly questioning me about life in Iowa and b) my "sister" and both of her parents were fluent in English. Anna Ambrosová, also 17, was the sister that I never had for a month. I learned through her letters that her own English was a lot better than some Americans' while her mother, Zuzana was an English teacher, in a local high school and her father, Vladimír, was a translator for American and British newspapers. Once I arrived in Prague, I discovered that Anna and I were extremely different. She enjoyed taking risks and the wild nightlife, while I don't. Fortunately over the course of the month, she calmed down a little while I loosened up some and we compromised. Both of Anna's parents were very nice. We were gone a lot, so was her father, but whenever all of us would be home he would get the biggest kick out of discussing the meanings of several English slang phrases with me. I got to talk to Zuzana more often, with whom I had a lot in common since I am also interested in a teaching career. The slightest thing would be the highlight of the days. She developed the habit of watching me eat and saying "You're such a tiny person, yet you eat so much!"

Speaking of food, I liked it for the most part. I'm not sure if it was because Carrie had been their guinea pig the year before or because they're into health food, but the food I ate was a lot of the

same stuff we eat here—chicken, fish, pork, lots of vegetables and fruits, rice, potatoes—with a Czech twist: more caraway, peppers, cucumbers, etc. I did discover one new food over there that stuck in my mind: soy meat, a meat substitute made from soy beans. The type I had usually possessed the texture and flavor of beef and was usually in a gravy or mixed with vegetables, so if you hadn't been told it wasn't meat, you probably wouldn't have known the difference!

One thing that all of us enjoyed was the fact that we were all together. Not only did we have much more fun as a large group of friends, but we gave each other that much more support. (I never did get homesick.) It was even more fun in the fact that it gave them the excuse to do what they normally didn't get to, allowing us to not only see the usual sightseeing spots such as Hradcany and the Charles Bridge, but to visit a couple of family cottages, the picturesque southern town of Trebon, and off-the-beaten road places—including "Buffalo Bill's," the only Tex-Mex restaurant in the Czech Republic. It was so ironic that we found this restaurant, right in Prague, and our siblings had never heard of it or even had Mexican food.

Overall, this was a trip not to be forgotten. Anna and I are and will remain good friends and "sisters" for life and are planning on keeping close contact over time. We taught each other plenty, especially how to appreciate our own country more, and how beneficial a program such as this is and I thank the Czech Heritage Foundation for this.



L to R — Chris Fee, Amy Novotny, Joy Janda, Mandy Haster

CROWNING OF CZECH PRINCE AND PRINCESS



L-R: James Horak, Holly Upah, Lisa Volesky, Timon Modracek

Crowning of the new 1995-1996 Czech Prince and Princess took place Sunday Oct. 22 at the Collins Plaza Convention Center, during the closing event of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library dedication week.

Timon Modracek, from Cedar Rapids, a student at Jefferson High School was crowned Prince by James Horak. Timon is the son of Larry and Becky Modracek.

Lisa Volesky, student at Prairie High School was crowned by Holly Upah. Lisa is the daughter of Dennis and Debbie Volesky of rural Swisher, Iowa.

They will preside over various events in the Czech community and statewide for the coming year.

DOROTHY'S QUILT

Last spring an article was printed about the quilt that Dorothy Dvorak donated as a fund raiser for our new scholarship program. I set my goal to sell \$1,000.00 worth of tickets and thanks to all of you we sold over \$1,250.00 worth.

The lucky name was drawn Sunday evening at Collins Plaza and the lucky winner was Kay Archibald from California. After checking her out with a telephone call, I had an interesting visit with Kay. It seems that Kay (Katerine Pesek) Archibald is a sister of our Gus Pesek here in Cedar Rapids and she grew up with Dorothy. When she visited Cedar Rapids in September, Gus took her to visit Dorothy and Lowell. Dorothy gave Kay some scrap material to take home with her to California.

To make a long story short, Kay decided to donate the quilt and pillows to the museum in memory of Dorothy. Perhaps it will be in the immigrant home for all to enjoy. I have turned the quilt over and it has been accepted. What a wonderful ending!

Frank W. Novotny

"SALUTE TO YOUTH"

During the Dedication Week of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, the Czech Heritage Foundation and the Western Fraternal Life Ass'n (WFLA) were asked to co-host a program on Friday night, October 20th. Frank and Barb Edmonds and myself (Frank Novotny) from the CHF and Sherry Bowers from WFLA worked out a "Salute to Youth" program for the evening.

A letter was written and copies made and sent out by Sherry to the 54 people included in our Homestay Program and Czech Prince and Princess. They were each offered two complimentary tickets if they responded to Novotny by the 16th. I had 29 responses which I thought was very good.

Friday evening the Czech Heritage Singers, under the direction of Olga Drahozal, provided entertainment prior to our meal. Rev. Robert David, of the 1st Presbyterian Church near Ely, gave us our blessing and we served a delicious meal catered by Connie's Catering to 221 people.

After the meal, I welcomed all and introduced Roman Hruska, former Senator from Nebraska, who gave a very enlightening talk to all of us and when asked what age he was, he didn't hesitate to say 91 years. What a gentleman. Also Branislav Lichardus, Ambassador to the Embassy of the Slovak Republic was introduced, but he was called out of the room in the meantime. Charles Vyskocil, former National President of WFLA was also introduced.

Following, I went down the line from 1984 when the Homestay was started up to the present and asked each ambassador to come and say a few words to the group. What a fine group of young men and women came up and how proud we were that we had chosen them to represent us in Czechoslovakia.

I also did the same for the Princes and Princesses.

It was a wonderful, relaxed and friendly evening and to close the event a standing ovation was given for the group and the wonderful evening.

Thanks to all who in any way contributed to our efforts.

Frank Novotny for Committee

Frank and Barb Edmonds, Sherry Bowers.

ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE

It seems that time rolls on and it is time to make plans for our fund raiser for our two scholarships — "The Homestay Program" and "The New Regular College Scholarship."

We have made arrangements and so mark your calendars for March 10th, 1996, 2:00-6:00 P.M. to come and join us in an afternoon of fun and sociability at the Local P-3 Retiree's Inc. Hall located at the east end of the Bridge of Lions or across from Massaryk Park at 116 - 14th Ave. S.E.

Music will be furnished by Mike Lasack and his Rhythm-Aires. There will be a bake sale, lunch and door prizes.

Come and join us for our Annual St. Joseph's Dance.

Frank W. Novotny & Committee

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 *Naše České Dědictví*, 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

"ANNA NAPRSTEK NO. 24"

(from Linn County Historical Society)

Lodge Anna Naprstek No. 24, named after a prominent woman philanthropist in Bohemia, was organized March 9, 1884. The difficulties of organizing a woman's society were far greater twenty-two years ago than they are at the present, when "women's clubs" are quite the common thing. The "Anna Naprstek" was the first woman's society formed in Cedar Rapids and hence its charter members may be regarded as "Pioneers in the woman's club movement among Bohemian women. The charter members were the following:

T. O. Paldora, Johanna Egermeier, Josephine Egermeier, Josephine Langr, Marie Stanek, Marie Vojtechovsky, Dorothy Hasek, Sidonia Zahonik, Abr Weingartl, Josephine Koubora, Johanna Kocourek, Magdalena Hasek, Anna Zbanek, Anna Vosmek, Marie Sustr, Marie Visa, Anna Langer, Anna Coenen, Anna Bevesora, Anna Svanda, Abr Janda, Rosalie Kozlovsky, Marie Drabek, Marie Soukup, Cath Ebermeier, Josephine Zbanek, Theresa Jasan, Anna Hurkova, Anna Nedbal, Marie Sedlacek, Marie Dvorak, Emma Egermeir, Josephine Hula, Josephine Severa and Emma Pospisil.

The lodge has assisted in many noble and useful undertakings.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sv. Mikulas Day - Czech Village.....December 2
- Czech Heritage Fd'n. meetingDecember 12
at the Czech Museum 7:30 p.m.
- Annual MeetingJanuary 15, 1996
Czech Museum 7:00 p.m.
- Czech Heritage Fd'n. DanceMarch 10, 1996
P-3 Retirees Hall 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- St. Joseph's DayMarch 19, 1996
- St. Joseph's Day ParadeMarch 23, 1996
Czech Village





HOW TO TELL WHEN YOU ARE GETTING OLD

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work,
Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
You get winded playing chess.
Your children begin to look middle aged,
You're still chasing women but can't remember why.
Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.
You know all the answers, but nobody asks you the questions.
You look forward to a dull evening.
Your favorite part of the newspaper is "25 years ago today."
You turn off the lights for economic rather than romantic reasons.
You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
You stop looking forward to your next birthday.
After painting the town red, you have to rest a long time before applying the second coat.
Dialing long distance wears you out.
The best part of the day is gone when the alarm goes off.
Your back goes out more than you do.
Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when a pretty girl goes by.

The little gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife.
You sink your teeth in a steak and they stay there.
You regret all those mistakes resisting temptation.
You feel like the night before and you haven't been anywhere.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AND THE MUSEUM

This year in order for you to do your Christmas shopping, the museum will have new hours. Starting November 18, the museum will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 to 8:00 p.m. Starting Sunday, November 19th, the museum will be open on Sunday with hours from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Closed on Monday.

The gift shop has a large assortment of glass, books, and especially the ever popular Christmas tree ornaments.

The museum and gift shop are located at 30 - 16th Avenue S.W. next to the Bridge of Lions in Czech Village.