

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

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

## CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION AGAIN #1

Story on page 13



Clouds precede the award winning float.



Angels accompany twelve foot blue spruce decorated with dolls and snowflakes



Students from St. Matthew's school pitch-in as angels and cloud makers.

Volume 17 - Number 3 - Winter 1992





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# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is no finer organization anywhere! I am very proud to be a representative of our foundation, and am honored to have served as President for these last two years.

A couple of months ago, I was granted the opportunity of a lifetime. In October, I made a drastic career change when accepting the position of Development & Endowment Officer for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The Czech Fine Arts Foundation received over fifteen applicants for the position, and I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been entrusted with the responsibility of developing the new Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids. Upon its completion, I'll be writing grants full time and garnering support for its continued success through the building of a permanent endowment fund.

With my new position demanding so much time, I would not be able to devote the time and

energy required to preside over the Czech Heritage Foundation. For this reason I will not accept a presidential nomination for 1993. I still, however, plan to be involved and strongly support Czech Heritage Foundation activities and would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors, in a non-executive capacity.

Thank you for being so kind; for congratulating me on my successes, and especially for being understanding and patient with me when I've tripped and fallen. I am very grateful. Dekuji!!

John Rocarek

## CONVERSATIONAL CZECH

Beginning adult Czech language classes continue as the interest in our Czech heritage builds. More of you each year are planning trips to the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Classes begin on Monday, February 1st, and run through March 29th. The nine week informal course will be taught in the home of Wes and Olga Drahozal, [redacted]. Call [redacted] for details.

## THE TAMBURITZANS ARE COMING!

A company of 40 musicians, singers and dancers in a program of East European folk music and dances will perform on Saturday, March 13th at 7:30 p.m., at the Ottumwa High School Auditorium, Ottumwa, Iowa. The Duquesne University troupe from Pittsburgh puts on a fantastic show. Group rate bus tickets for the concert are available by calling Wes Drahozal, [redacted].

## IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Yearly membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. Please check your mailing label affixed to this issue. Above your name is the year in which your membership dues are paid. Please be as prompt as possible! Your Foundation depends on the support of its members to further advance the promotion of our Czech and Slovak heritage.



# CZECH IT OUT...

In our last issue we told you about the lion mishap on the bridge. Here's more on the story. First is a reprint from a *Cedar Rapids Gazette* letter to the editor, and second, a subsequent news article relating the original lion's fate.

## Lion hunter loose

In constantly checking the lions on the Bridge of Lions (Sixteenth Avenue), we discovered one of the lions was not sitting up as usual. Further examination revealed one of the lions had been destroyed. All that remained of the figure was a couple of inches above the lion's paws. The rest of the pieces apparently fell into the river.

Needless to say, many who travel the bridge and enjoy the lions were very upset to learn of the loss.

We fail to understand such destruction of a thing of beauty. For what reason was it destroyed? What satisfaction is there in such wanton destruction? In the final analysis, what does it accomplish?

Unfortunately, there are some in our city who do not respect the property of others.

Charles E. Krejci, treasurer  
Czech Heritage Foundation

## LION SCULPTURE FOUND

### Lifted from Cedar River

The Linn County Underwater Search & Recovery Team found a concrete sculpture of a lion Sunday in the Cedar River that vandals had pushed from the 16th Avenue bridge this summer.

Actually, the team tripped over the sculpture in chest-deep water as it prepared to dive for it below the bridge, team member John Fields said last night.

Fields said the dive team was using the hunt for the sculpture as its monthly training dive. The team recovered the lion largely intact and was also able to find a couple of legs that had been broken from the sculpture and five or six pieces of the pedestal upon which it sat. The sculpture was replaced this summer.

## GOOD AS NEW

Upon learning of the destruction of the lion, Marie Jadrnicek donated the cost of the lion replacement in memory of her husband Charles H. Jadrnicek. Charles was fond of the lions and enjoyed them a great deal.



A big, big thank you to Leo Ortner for offering his services to replace the lion on the bridge and seeing the project through to its completion. A request was made for the charges by the committee, and Leo told them there were no charges, he was making a donation to the foundation. Our thanks to Leo and his helpers for fixin' the bridge!

## NE SHLEDANOU

We say "Until we meet again" to Elaine Brejcha, who recently resigned from the Board of Directors of the Czech Heritage Foundation. Elaine plans to continue serving the Czech community whenever possible, but just found that she wasn't able to devote the number of hours to the foundation she would have liked. Elaine will be missed, but we know she won't be far away. In her own words, "The work that the Czech Heritage Foundation does plays a valuable role in the community and I am proud to be associated with it. I hope at a later time to become much more involved again." Na shledanou.



# letters to the editor

November 2, 1992

Dear Editor,

During the West Fest Celebration that is held on Labor Day each year in our city of West, Texas, many people came, even some exchange students.

While working in the cultural tent I met a couple who had brought with them an exchange student, and they inquired about the name, MATEJOU. I told them that I didn't know of anyone by that name in our area, but I asked for the boy's name and address and I said, "I'll see what I can do." He seemed somewhat disappointed, it looked like his soul left his heart.

Is it possible for you to print his name and address so if there is someone in the U.S. by that name they could write him? The family he is staying with is not Czech and do not speak the language.

It seemed as I conversed with him in Czech that his family is seeking relatives here. I do not know why but I think he was a little bit scared being in a foreign land alone.

I would appreciate whatever help you can give. His name and address is Igor Matejou, 48 Scenic Cr., Forney, Texas 75126. He comes originally from the village of Topolcany.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Polanskv

August 25, 1992

Dear Sirs:

I am researching my family history. My great grandfather, Frank J. Fisera, lived in Cedar Rapids at the turn of the century (about 1902). He was the editor of a newspaper (probably Bohemian).

I would like to know what paper was published in Cedar Rapids at that time that he might have worked on? I would also like to know if there are any copies available for viewing in either Cedar Rapids or elsewhere?

Frank died March 9, 1991 in Chicago, but I am hoping there might be an obituary in a Cedar Rapids paper that would list relatives in the area.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Eisenstein

November 10, 1992

Dear Editor:

We are seeking information on the Hussite hymn, "All ye who are warriors of God." Is there a version with an English translation which is still available in a recently published hymnal?

Sincerely,  
Edwin Harrington, Librarian  
Carversville Christian Church  
P.O. Box 26  
Carversville, PA 18913

*Editor's note: Help!*

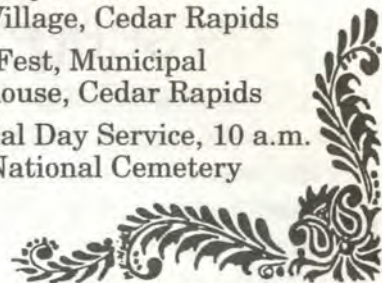
## GIVE A GIFT THAT LASTS ALL YEAR

Do you know someone, a friend or a relative, who isn't a member of Czech Heritage Foundation? Why not sign them up? All it takes is \$3.00 and the new member will receive this quarterly publication. Naše České Dědictví 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.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 28 Czech & Slovak Travel & Forum Update (below)
- March 20 St. Joseph's Celebration Parade, 1:00 p.m. Czech Village
- March 21 St. Joseph's Benefit Dance (Cz. Homestay Program) 1-5 p.m. Hofer's Ballroom, Walford, Iowa
- April 3 & 10 Easter Traditions 9:30-4:00 p.m. National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids
- April 24 Sokol Cedar Rapids Traditional Czech Pork Supper, Sokol Hall 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- May 14 Houby Days Festival thru 16 Czech Village, Cedar Rapids
- May 29 Ethnic Fest, Municipal Roundhouse, Cedar Rapids & 30
- May 31 Memorial Day Service, 10 a.m. Czech National Cemetery



## TRAVEL FORUM & UPDATE

Planning a trip to the Homeland? You won't want to miss this informative FREE presentation, specially conducted to assist you with your trip.

Presenters, will guide you through their recent experiences in the "Old Country" and there will be plenty of time for your questions. The Czech & Slovak Travel Forum & Update is sponsored by the Czech Fine Arts Foundation and will be held at Beams Auditorium in the Cedar Rapids Public Library from 1-5 p.m., Sunday, February 28th. See you there!



## MY HOMESTAY

By Stephanie Machacek

I would like to begin with a big "thank you" to the Czech Heritage Foundation for making my trip to Czechoslovakia possible.

We arrived in Chicago with stormy weather delaying our 5:00 p.m. flight until 3:00 a.m., the next morning. We were a bunch of tired campers, but somehow Dana kept us going, and we kept on going until we were almost in Montreal, then we slept. We almost slept through our stop to pickup more passengers there. From here on, it was smooth flying.

I remember thinking at this point that I had only thirteen hours to prepare for a month in Czechoslovakia. All of us (Ambassadors) had been preparing for some time, but to me, "this was the biggy!" My mind was now going over all those little important things I had learned to say, like, "Prosim, Jak se mate?, and Ahoy."

Then, before I knew it, we were over a huge group of houses that from the air looked like gingerbread houses. We arrived and got "ALL" of our luggage, just as I prayed for, then we met our host families. First Dana, then Janet, and finally I turned around and found mine.

I grabbed my Mumi and Segra. Segra (slang for big sister) was what my host brother, Peter, called my host sister, Lucie. I think my big hug may have shocked my host mother, Mrs. Bednarova, and her daughter, but after sitting for thirteen hours I was so happy to see that someone was there to welcome me and take me somewhere with seats softer than the seats on the airplane.

I had a shocking experience the next morning when my hair dryer exploded and my curling iron burnt all of my bangs. My parents were the first to know when I phoned them collect at 4:00 a.m. to inform them that my world had ended! I HAD NO CURLING IRON OR HAIRDRYER!! Well, the news of my ruined hair traveled fast and soon my entire family had called to tell me all about — "the bright side of burnt bangs."

Lucie came home later and so did my brother, Peter. I asked Lucie if she had a curling iron or hair dryer, and she did. The curling iron was an old one and had a "clamp to kill," but I survived the situation by humorously calling the contraption, "KILLER CURLING IRON."

From there the trip could only go up hill, and it did. We took a flying leap for Mountain McKinley and packed up to head off for Holland. It was a day and night drive on a bus filled with eighth graders, and I was "written in" as a chaperon alongside Mumi. We arrived in Holland at night and I was ready for a good night's sleep in a bed! The next four days consisted of a lot of walking and beautiful sightseeing. Even though Holland was gorgeous and there was a great deal to see, I missed Czechoslovakia and its ancient beauty. I had only spent three days in Prague before we were off to Holland, but there is something about Prague that really attaches a person to it. I also missed Babi, with her bright smile, her welcoming hug and pinch on the cheek.



Stephanie on koláč baking day!

I had not met my Czech grandfather yet, and had only seen Tati (Mr. Bednar) for a brief moment, so I was glad to get home and get to know the family. The night we returned, Děda (my grandfather) fixed a wonderful koláč, and wanted to see my pictures which Babi had already seen my first day in Czechoslovakia. We sat down and Lucie translated.

Each morning began with everyone gone, except Babi and Děda who lived downstairs in the family house. When Peter came home from school, and Lucie came home from work at the Moroccan Embassy, Lucie and I would take off touring. My favorite area was Charles Bridge. I loved all the



sidewalk vendors and the people singing everywhere. I also enjoyed the ice cream and pastry shop on the corner.



*Babi, Peter, Deda, Lucie, Mumi*

One afternoon, Babi came to get me, and in frantic sign language told me we needed to get home right away to pack for our next adventure, a trip to the cottage. The cottage was in a small village miles from Prague. We took a bus and a train to get there. Upon arriving, Lucie showed me around the cottage and gave me a tour of the village. Babi, Deda, and Lucie worked in the garden, and I helped pick strawberries. Babi takes great pride in this garden because it is much larger than her garden in Prague.

The three days spent at the cottage were relaxing, but then it was time to pack again and head back to Prague to begin the last stretch of my stay. It was during this last week and a half that I treated Lucie to a night at the theatre. We went to *Les Miserable*, and it was wonderful.

With time running out, all the Ambassadors wanted to get together, so we planned a girls' night out. It was great to talk non-stop, sharing all of our experiences with one-another, and we had so much fun. We decided we had to enjoy Prague at night. Prague is **THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY** by day, but at night it is simply breath-taking!

My sister, Kristin, was an Ambassador in 1990, and a special addition to my homestay was

when I met her Czechoslovak host family. They took me to their flat, prepared a wonderful meal, and treated me with great kindness.

I also met a friend of Kristin and Todd's (Todd Slezak was also an Ambassador in 1990). His name is Jakub, but he goes by Mickey. He is twenty-one, a school teacher and is also continuing his education. He would give us guided tours of Prague at night.

In closing, I'd like to share with you more about my host family. Mumi is a teacher of elementary students and an excellent cook.

Tati is an engineer and a very hard worker. I did not see him much because he worked and studied until very late at night.

Lucie speaks English fluently and is very well educated. She is studying to become an engineer also at St. Charles University.

Peter is in high school and a typical sixteen-year-old boy. He loves rock or punk music and liked discussing music with me.

Babi and Deda were extremely friendly and both kept my stomach full and my body plump. I would never even get near empty as long as Babi was around.



*Babi and Deda*

I had a wonderful trip and I wish I could describe each day, but I would need a whole book of paper because there is so much to tell.

Again, I thank the Czech Heritage Foundation, my parents, and everyone who made my trip possible. **THANK YOU!**



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## VILLAGE NEWS!

Despite the rain and cold temperatures, 573 children in costume made their way down 16th Avenue on Halloween. It is our hope to renew interest and activities in the Village by sponsoring more community events like this one in the future.

Sv. Mikuláš made his first appearance along with the Devil and Angel in the Cedar Rapids Holiday Parade, and received 2nd Place for Best Costume. This parade launched the Christmas season with thousands in attendance downtown and an estimated 30,000 TV viewers. Along with the beautiful Czech Heritage Foundation float, the Czechs were well represented.

On December 5th, Sv. Mikuláš Day, our Third Annual Cookie Walk took place. This year we called on individuals within all the Czech organizations for donations of baked goods. The response was overwhelming with over fifty bakers lined-up from various community groups. Over \$640 was raised to repair the island damaged last summer in a motor vehicle accident. Leftover cookies were donated to Greene Square Meals for the Homeless, Tanager Place, Catholic Worker House, and Johnson School. Many children from the Wellington Heights area go without such goodies at this time of year.

Again, Sv. Mikuláš, the Devil and the Angel greeted holiday shoppers. To add to the Christmas spirit, we were fortunate to have the Czech Heritage Singers on hand to serenade us. The museum sponsored the well-received puppet show at the C.S.P.S. and our area merchants were decked-out and ready to greet the holidays.

It's never too early to think about Houby Days! The two day event is scheduled for May 15th and 16th and preliminary plans are well under way. This year we will again be hosting the

colorful Moravian Cultural Society Dancers from Chicago, as well as a new participant, the Capitol City Choraliers from Lincoln, Nebraska. As plans become more concrete and the dates draw closer, more news will follow. But mark your calendars now for May 15th and 16th!

Besides festival planning and activities on the Avenue, we are busy networking and brainstorming on ways to "spruce-up" the Village. The Association and City Council have approved the hanging of permanent banners along the Avenue for color and continuity. Look for these sometime soon! We hope to have benches made in March to place along the street for our visitors and are investigating flower boxes, window painting and other ideas. Should you have any suggestions, please feel free to submit them. We are always open to new ideas.

Hope to see you in the Village!

Wendy Booker  
Czech Village Coordinator  
59 16th Avenue S.W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

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## NO FALL FESTIVAL?

There were events for visitors to enjoy on the weekend after Labor Day here in Cedar Rapids, but you're right — no Fall Festival on the Avenue. The Czech Fine Arts Foundation held their Radiothon and Fall harvest Dance that weekend, and both were very successful, but for the Village it was business as usual.

Each year the Fall Festival was fairly well attended but for the past several years, the festival ran in the red. The Village Association decided to give the Festival a rest in '92. Does anyone have any ideas for a profitable festival in '93?



Czech Village

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

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## THE TRUTH UNVARNISHED!

Lillian Plotz Cach fondly remembers friends, family, and special events in her life in a very unique way. Her chronicles are rhythmical and varied, as she has thoughtfully memorialized those around her in poetry.

From the preface of her book, *THE TRUTH UNVARNISHED!*, Lillian shares some memories —

I was born in Oxford Junction, the fifth of eight children of Fred and Anna Ustohal Plotz. When I was four we moved to Cedar Rapids, on Mt. Vernon Ave. Later we moved to the *country*, on 44th Street, which is off Mt. Vernon Avenue. There, Papa built a little house—and a slaughter house where he butchered for himself—and for farmers in the country; Bertram, for instance. We went to Rosedale School, by Indian Creek, where at times real Indians would camp. Once, I remember, a real Indian in *feather-head-dress* galloped in and out of the yard—we were *sore* afraid.

Big sister "*baby-sat!!*" us young ones, while Mama helped Papa in the butcher shop. In town we started school at Tyler. I was glad I got to go to McKinley Jr. High, a brand new school, for half a grade, before going on to Washington High, from which I graduated in 1925. At McKinley, Grant Wood was the art teacher. In his class I filled in alphabet blocks - believe me, he had *my number!* (Going back, Jane Boyd was first grade teacher at Tyler, besides being the first school nurse in Cedar Rapids).

Later, after marriage, I graduated from Cedar Rapids Business College, where I used the first Remington Electric typewriter in Cedar Rapids.

Following are some poems from her book, *The Truth Unvarnished!*

Thank you Lillian for brightening our day!



## TO MY HUSBAND THOUGHTS IN ROSES

Accept these ROSES, dear — as a token,  
They are my THOUGHTS, which here shall be  
spoken:

One stands for MEMORIES: both sad and gay,  
The next rose holds all the LOVE in our day!  
Here is another — with petals so velvety —  
A symbol of HOPE and FAITH and CHARITY!  
Do you see this beauty with stem so long!  
Let us call this one our LIFE of song!  
We find still another — in all its glory!  
"LIVE FOR TOMORROW" — tells its sweet story.  
This beautiful rosebud — as its petals unfold  
Says, "WEALTH in HEALTH is more precious  
than gold!"  
The last rose of all — the most tender yet —  
For TRUE HAPPINESS speaks, "FORGIVE and  
FORGET!"  
These ROSES have SPOKEN to you, Sweetheart!  
Have told you the very deep THOUGHTS in my  
heart!

1935 - *The first verse I wrote . . .*

## THE CUP

The CUP—the symbol of treasures, untold  
From this day—down—to centuries, old.  
The CUP at the CROSS—these tidings instill:  
Not *My WILL*, be done—but—*THY WILL!!*  
There's the CUP of SADNESS, along life's way;  
And, the CUP of Gladness when we are gay!  
We take from the CUP of Tenderness—  
And stir. . . into the CUP of HAPPINESS!!  
At some time we SHARE—the CUP of DEEP  
SORROW—  
But—the CUP of FAITH—saves our tomorrow!  
When there are troubles we all must face—  
We often partake of the CUP of Grace!  
And—if in judgment we may err;  
The CUP of Forgiveness is always there!  
The CUP of Friendship must always be—  
The SHARING with others. . . that CUP of TEA!!  
The CUP of Truth, and the CUP of Love,  
Leads to: the CUP of JOY—bestowed from above!  
The CUP of Gratitude—be as it should—is,  
SHARING the CUP of our SISTERHOOD!!  
Many's the "CUPS of GOD's BLESSINGS"—  
untold,  
UNTO this DAY—from Centuries—old!!

- Praha Rebekah Lodge #5



## JUNE TIME

Much credit is given this month of June  
For producing the happy bride and groom!  
Who carry on in this great age,  
The very important state of marriage!

The bride, with her flowers, her billowing veils,  
The groom in his top-hat, white tie, and tails,  
Are joined together to the end of each life,  
To make for each other the best husband and  
wife!

In all the years through, they stood side by side,  
Happy this couple, who were once groom and  
bride,

For, in spite of black clouds, and stormy weather,  
They had each other—they stood together!

For—the test of true marriage—not sunshine and  
laughter—

But, in sorrow, despair, heartache, disaster!  
To be happy is easy when life is a song,  
To be happy, is marriage, when life seems all  
wrong!

For—without troubles or sadness, how could they  
know—

Of the joys supreme, at the end of the rainbow!  
To have! To hold! To share! To give!  
This, they must have, if marriage will live!

When they have grown so gracefully old,  
They live in sweet memories, so often foretold—  
By the Moon, the Stars, in the Heavens above,  
They have had marriage—a marriage of Love!

## VICTORY

Keep buying War Bonds—now's the time,  
If we'd preserve our Liberty:  
Or, Build a Bond by buying Stamps,  
They'll help "stamp" out this treachery!  
No matter how small the bit we do,  
It means we "Remember Pearl Harbor,"  
"Manila," too!

And, while our hearts are crying,  
For brave boys, fighting—yes,—and dying!  
The least that we at home can do, is:  
Keep buying Bonds to "Keep Them Flying!"  
If we're to win supremacy in air, on land, and sea;  
If we're to save Democracy—for posterity—  
Then, all the Bonds we can, we'll buy,  
Then—not without the help of God,  
We'll march! And sail! And fly! —on to  
VICTORY!!!

- WWII

## OUTLOOK

By Peter S. Green

### C THE NEW EUROPE

**U ONE BECOMES TWO.** Unlike the violent splintering of Yugoslavia, the New Year's Day breakup of Czechoslovakia into two countries resembles a friendly divorce. Instead of soldiers, it's teams of lawyers, accountants and bookkeepers who are tending the formation of Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Among the issues:

**R ■ Currency.** Both nations will use the Czech koruna until midsummer, when new coins and bills are expected. One problem is that the Slovaks have the only mint and the Czechs the only printing press.

**R ■ Flag.** Slovakia embraced its traditional banner with a Slovak seal, but the Czechs have broken an agreement and adopted the old Czechoslovak flag as their own.

**E ■ Anthem.** Czechoslovakia's national anthem, a fusion of a Slovak folk song and a Czech hymn, is being split in half. The Slovaks are keeping the lively part. The Czechs retain the slower, more stately portion.

**T ■ Military.** Slovakia will get half of the old Air Force's MiG-29s — but only after it builds radar and runways to handle them.

**■ Secrets.** Slovakia wants its share of the secret police files in Prague archives. Files are being passed on, sources say, but are first being run through Czech copying machines.

**■ Names.** Slovakia kept its maiden name. The Czechs yearn for something catchier than Czech Republic.

Then there's the question of how to divide Czechoslovakia's rich trove of black humor. One wag suggested giving punch lines to one side and the rest of the jokes to the other.

Reprinted from *U.S. News & World Report*, January 11, 1993

## E V E N T S



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## A TRUE EXCHANGE

For years our foundation has sent area high school students of Czech descent to Czechoslovakia for a month-long Homestay. There, our Ambassadors have learned about life in a different culture by living with a host family. Our Homestay Program has sometimes been referred to as a youth exchange program, but since its inception in 1984 it has been one-sided. The Communist government wouldn't allow students out of Czechoslovakia to come to the United States to participate in our program. We tried. But now that barriers have been torn down (Nov. 89) and freedom reigns in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, we can right a terrible wrong.

We are proud to announce the creation of a true "Exchange Program." In December, the Board of Directors voted to create a new program in an effort to build on the fine work we have done over the years. We are still in the planning stages, but with formal recognition by the Board, it won't be long before we will realize a true exchange.

This is all possible through the fine effort of our member, Rudolph Jansa, of Peoria, Illinois. Mr. Jansa built formal ties with the town of Uhersky Brod which will act as our Homestay counterpart in the "Old Country." The details have yet to be worked out, but one thing for sure — we will all benefit from this new program, as we have from our initial Homestay Program. Students coming to live with our American families will share their "once in a lifetime" experiences with us and then will promote world peace and understanding when they return to their country to share with family and friends what they have learned. It is a win, win program, but before we go any further, we need your help.

Our Ambassadors have always been awarded a partial grant to cover expenses, and they raised whatever balance was required to pay for the Homestay. Our Czech and Slovak (Ambassador) counterparts will not be able to raise large sums of money. To make the program a success, we will need your help. Please send in your donations to this, our newest project. You will be making a real difference in some young persons life. Designate your funds by making your check payable to Czech Heritage Fdn. Exchange Program, and send to your Foundation's address, P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406. You'll be glad you did!

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## A DAY WITH SUSANNA

*By Martha H. Krejci*

Nineteen year old Susanna Columby of Czechoslovakia had been chosen by her college to attend a conference in Washington, D.C. She extended her Visa so as to spend 10 days in the Dave Krejci home. In 1987 Douglas Krejci, my grandson, had been a guest in the Columby home. He had been an ambassador of the Czech Heritage Foundation,

My day with Susanna was to be a day of "look and learn". It began at 10:00 AM. Our first stop was Ellis Park. The many acres of green space; a city built on all sides and a river in its midst was more than she could comprehend. "Space in Prague is scarce, very scarce" she said. "Who owns the park?"

Our next stop was to be Witwers, a Senior Citizens Center, but first I parked the car in the 3rd Avenue parkade on the 3rd level. We took the skywalk to the street below. "Unbelievable," she repeated over and over. "Who owns it?" At the Witwer Center we were met by the director. She explained in detail the purpose of the Center; but Susanna wanted to know how it was funded, and "Did I Pay to go there?" Carol invited us to visit the rooms and stay as long as we liked. The quilting room and the gift shop were favorites. Everyone was friendly and eager to show their handcraft. Susanna liked the respect shown to her.

The next stop was the Goodwill Store in downtown Cedar Rapids. She was speechless seeing all the clothes. The lady at the desk explained the meaning and purpose of the Goodwill organization. After looking around, we thanked the lady and left. "Does Goodwill own the building?"

A Kodak exhibit was at the Museum of Arts so that was to be our next stop. Susanna walked fast and took long strides. Soon I began to huff and puff and asked her to slow up a bit. "I'm so sorry," she said. "Back home I walk everywhere and I'm always in a hurry." She took my arm and we strolled toward the Museum. The green park along the railroad tracks and Green Square left her wondering "who owns the space" and "who pays for the upkeep?" The Kodak exhibit was not impressive to her, but it was sensational to me. She told me she didn't understand photography. She didn't own a camera.



We crossed the street at the crosswalk to the parkade and took the elevator to the 3rd level to get the car. As we drove out, she wanted to know, who owns the structure. "you paid to use it, didn't you?" she said. "Are there any free parking spaces?"

We drove east on First Avenue. She asked about the apartment complexes. "Are they owned by the city, state or privately?" "What is a Condo," she asked.

Open spaces were mind-boggling to her. I drove into Cedar Memorial Cemetery and stopped by Swan Lake. "This is a cemetery?" she exclaimed. We talked to the swans they were happy to see us. The cemetery was beautifully dotted with flowers. We examined the vase on the markers. "One vase makes everyone so equal, doesn't it?" she said. "Does the city own the cemetery, too?"

Our lunch stop was the Maidrite in Marion. It's a fun place and very informal. The manager talked to Susanna about his Czech heritage. She enjoyed his chatter. Susanna ate heartily. She liked the slivered french fried onions. The fruit pie was delicious, too. A McDonald hamburger in Prague cost \$8.00. Her family can't afford to go there. Near the cashier's desk at the Maidrite is a large map of the United States. People from other states are asked to put a colored pin at their location. Susanna asked for a slip of paper and a pin. She printed Czechoslovakia on the paper and pinned it east of the U.S. in the blue area.

My sister resides at Northbrook Manor and I wanted Susanna to meet her. We walked quickly and quietly to the entrance, then through the double doors that lead into the dining/recreation room. Susanna stopped and stared. "This is a care center? It's so clean! Who owns it?"

We went to my sister's room. Libbie and Susanna were friends immediately. She wheeled my sister through the halls speaking to the patients and talking Czech to ladies who spoke Czech. The facilities were beyond anything she had seen or read about. The lounge with books, TV, and a fireplace, the stainless kitchen, the hydraulic chair in the bathroom and the laundry room was overwhelming. Again, "who owns it? City or state?"

From Libbie's window, we watched the kitchen help carry black bags to the dumpster. "What are they doing?" she asked. Libbie explained. After each meal the waste is bagged and taken to the

dumpster. It goes to the dump. Susanna's chin dropped. "Why don't they feed it to the animals or poultry? Such waste!"

By now it was 3:30 PM and time for goodbyes. Susanna thanked Libbie for being a friend. She gave her a peck on the cheek. We left. As we drove home I asked, "How are the sick and elderly cared for in Czechoslovakia?" Sadly she said, "They stay with their family, if possible, or they live in the old castles." I was sorry I asked .

Susanna spoke and wrote very good English. She was extremely grateful. "Thank You" was the #1 word in her vocabulary. She smiled and thanked everyone who talked to us. She asked me if I knew all the people who speak and smile. "Not really," I said, "but we Americans are friendly people."

It was difficult for her to understand our freedom because for 18 years of her 19 years, she had lived under Communism. She was free — but very anxious about her future.

"My College was free under the old rule. Will it be now?" "I have no money for tuition," she said. "Will my Mother's rent be raised if a capitalist buys the building? What will we do if Mother should lose her job — there is no welfare in Prague?"

I had answered her questions about Cedar Rapids as best I could, but to attempt an answer was impossible, so I wished her a bright future in her free country.

I asked her what she will tell her family and friends about Cedar Rapids. She thought a few minutes and said, "I will tell them about the green spaces in the city, the many luxuries, the conveniences, the cars and the friendly people that speak and smile.

In 1987, Douglas lived in the Columby home for 4 weeks. The 4 room flat housed Doug's brother, two sisters and his mother. They sacrificed a bedroom for him, he ate their food, they showed him the city, the countryside and entertained friends and relatives to show off the young man from America.

I ask myself, under similar conditions, would I have been as generous? I am most grateful to the Columby family for giving as much of themselves to host my grandson.

*Editor's note: What can Susanna expect in the future?*





## BIG SECRET?

Why hasn't there been more publicity regarding the new \$2.1 million National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library? Some have said they feel as if they have been left in the dark. We're sorry. Believe us, there's no secrets and absolutely no mystery.

The Czech Fine Arts Foundation has systematically planned the entire project from start to finish, taking great care to "DO THE JOB RIGHT." Even though the Building & Planning Committee has worked on this effort for several months now, we are still at the "start." Yes, even though we have raised more than half of the money, in cash and pledges, we are still at the beginning. We still have hundreds of Czech and Slovak families to contact. If we haven't called on you, it isn't because we feel your contribution is unimportant, it is because WE HAVE THOUSANDS YET TO CONTACT!!

Please be patient and remember, this is a National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. We have attracted support from all over the United States and the world. There are over three million individuals in the United States which claim Czech and/or Slovak ancestry according to census figures.

The important thing to remember is this. We are working hard to preserve and promote your Czech

and Slovak heritage. Please save your dollars, and when the time comes and you are asked to contribute, give generously. There has never been a more important project undertaken in our Czech/Slovak Community nationwide. You will be proud of this great achievement. It will be a lasting tribute to our heritage, OUR CZECH HERITAGE.

Still skeptical? Construction is scheduled to begin this year and we should be moved in before January 1, 1995. See you at the groundbreaking this fall.

*Building & Planning Committee Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.*

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## AMBASSADOR PROGRAM UPDATE

Each Ambassador had an interesting story to tell this year of their 1992 Homestay experience in Czechoslovakia. We only had room for Stephanie's in this issue. Look for Sarah, Janet, and Dana's, in upcoming issues.

Three bright and talented students have been awarded \$1,000 grants for the 1993 Homestay Program. They are Brian Dvorak, son of Bob and Beulah Dvorak; Tamara Chadima, daughter of George and Joanne Chadima, and Jamie Serbousek, son of James and Judy Serbousek.

Mark your calendars. Sunday, March 21st from 1-5 p.m. Dave Franklin and the Party Time Band will play at our Annual St. Joseph's Day Benefit Dance. See you out in Walford at Hofer's Ballroom, and don't forget your dancin' shoes.

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## 100th ANNIVERSARY

Sbor Dámská Matice Školská (Ladies' Educational Society) celebrated the occasion of their first hundred years at a ceremony on October 11, 1992 at Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids. One might think that an organization that has been around this long would be just about ready to call it quits, but on the contrary. The Fellowship Hall was full, hours were spent reminiscing, a beautiful buffet supper was served, and the members of this fine group are looking ahead to another successful century of achievement. Over eighty college students have received education grants since 1956. Keep up the good work girls!



## TOP HONORS IN CEDAR RAPIDS HOLIDAY PARADE

Once again the Czech Heritage Foundation is recognized for its excellence. Leonard Pfeifer puts his heart and soul, and pocketbook, into our foundation's parade entry each year and each year we come out on top.

We won in the Best Float category and also for Best Use of Costume. For those of you who missed it on that brisk Saturday morning in November —

The theme featured one important prelude to the real reason for the season. "The Angel of God Declared unto Mary and She Conceived." The float entitled, "First Christmas in Heaven" was based on the notion that there was a pre-conceived celebration in Heaven to that important event on December 25th. Leonard relates, "This celebration by the Angels was based on the pre-birth announcement of Christ. Mankind has celebrated this blessed event every year since, but one can only imagine that the first celebration, the pre-conceived celebration was more beautiful than any individual or organization on Earth can recreate."

"The float featured seven Angels in preparation of the Halls of Heaven for celebration of the Baby Christ Child unto Earth. An additional 32 Angels alongside the float prepare their final steps to dance forth on heavenly clouds to announce to the world that the King of Kings has begun his journey among the world of mortals."

The award-winning float, measured eight by twenty-five feet and represented a most humble adaption to what the mind conceives as the original celebration.

## CONFUSED?

You have a right to be. There were only two other issues of Naše České Dědictví in 1992, (Vol. 17, No. 1, Spring) and (Vol. 17, No. 2, Summer/Fall). I am extremely sorry for the inconvenience this has caused. Granted, the newsletter is still a bargain, and it expands and gets better as our Foundation grows, but "We need to get it out on time!" Bet you can guess what my New Year's resolution is. Here's to getting back on track in '93.

## ALEXANDER DUBČEK DIES



*Mayday Parade, 1968*

Alexander Dubček, the former Czechoslovak leader whose failed attempt to bring "socialism with a human face" to his nation, died November 7th at the age of seventy.

Dubček died in Prague's Na Homolce Hospital from internal injuries suffered during a car accident on September 1st. His condition never improved and over the two month period Dubček slipped in and out of consciousness.

On August 21, 1968, a Soviet-led invasion of five Warsaw Pact states crushed Dubček's reformation toward what he called "the third way" — a partnership between capitalism and socialism. He was pushed into obscurity following the short-lived "Prague Spring" and after twenty years in political exile, Dubček was again called to serve his people.

On November 24, 1989, Alexander Dubček appeared on a balcony overlooking Wenceslas Square with Václav Havel at his side. In the dark below the crowd of hundreds of thousands cheered, DUBČEK! DUBČEK! By the end of 1989, Dubček was appointed Chairman of the Federal Assembly. In Hradčany Castle overlooking Prague, it was Dubček's honor to propose one candidate for the Presidency of Czechoslovakia — Václav Havel. And so, in Havel's words, history began again for Czechoslovakia



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## SNAPSHOT FROM THE PAST

Are you pictured here? If you are, write us and tell us about the event. We know it was a Czech School singing group, and that the photo was taken in the early 20's. Help us out!



This photo comes from the archives but originally rested in the photo album of one of our members. In an effort to preserve our Czech heritage and to hopefully bring back fond memories, each issue Nase České Dedictví will include a snapshot from the past. If you have a photo to share (originals are returned to owners unharmed after use), contact John Rocarek,



## Membership Application

Please check the proper item: Renewal\_\_\_ New\_\_\_ Member\_\_\_ Gift\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**

### OUR NEW PRINCE AND PRINCESS FOR 1993

My name is Jessica Radl. I am a sixteen year old junior at Jefferson High School. At Jefferson I has been involved in color guard and International. I have served as representative of my home room.

After high school I intend to go to college. I plan to pursue a career as a high school teacher or counselor.

Most of my time spent when not in school is taken up by activities at Sokol Cedar Rapids. In addition to taking classes in compulsory and rhythmic gymnastics, I have also been an assistant teacher for tots, beginner, and intermediates. This year I will be head teacher for a beginners class. I have represented Sokol at regional and international competition in Indiana and Toronto. I am looking forward to representing Sokol Cedar Rapids in Prague in 1994.

During my free time I enjoy spending time with my friends, or curling up with a good book.

My grandfather, Richard Radl, grew up in the Czech part of Cicero. When he started school, he spoke only Czech, and therefor endured a lot of teasing from his non-Czech peers. As is often the case with people who learn English as a second language, used the the language better than many of those people who speak English as a first language. He wrote books and articles, he was also a state legislature, and a speaker. When he was in the legislature, he gave up-dates on the radio. I am as much proud of my grandfather as I am my Czech heritage, so I am proud to represent my Czech community as Czech princess.

I am looking forward to representing the foundation in upcoming events next year. I was very enthused when I found out I was chosen Czech Prince.

My name is Brian Stoklasa, and I am fourteen years old. I attend Washington High School in Cedar Rapids and plan to go on to college after graduation and enter the engineering field.

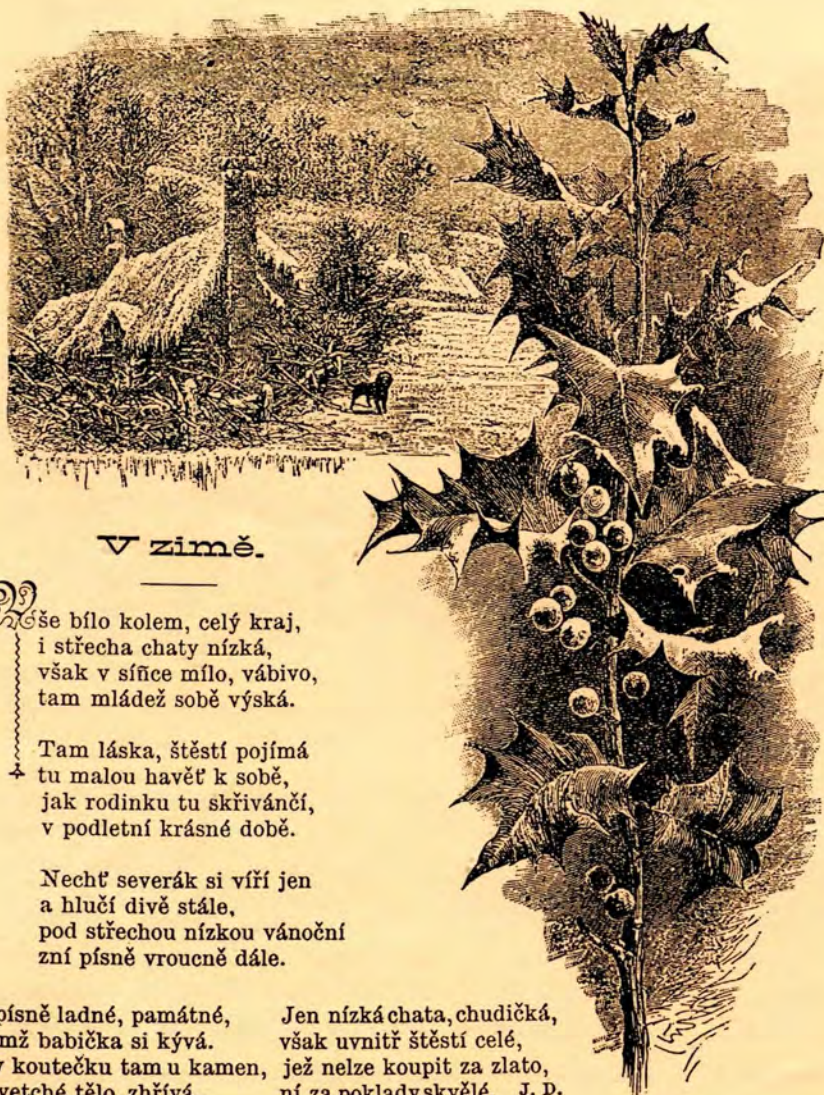
I am very proud of my Czech heritage and again wish to thank the Czech Heritage Foundation for giving me this rare opportunity.



CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

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### V zimě.

Šešlo bylo kolem, celý kraj,  
i střecha chaty nízká,  
však v síňce mílo, vábivo,  
tam mládež sobě výská.

Tam láska, štěstí pojímá  
tu malou havěť k sobě,  
jak rodinku tu skrívání,  
v podletní krásné době.

Necht' severák si víří jen  
a hlučí divě stále,  
pod střechem nízkou vánoční  
zní písně vroucně dále.

Ty písně ladné, památné,  
k nimž babička si kývá.  
Jež v koutečku tam u kamen,  
své vetché tělo zhrívá.

Jen nízká chata, chudičká,  
však uvnitř štěstí celé,  
jež nelze koupit za zlato,  
ní za poklady skvělé. J. D.

## IN WINTER

All around is white, the whole surrounding,  
even the low roof of the cottage,  
but inside the atmosphere is pleasant,  
alluring,  
there the youth is shouting with joy.

There love and happiness embraces  
those little children inside  
as a family of little skylarks,  
in a beautiful summer time.

Let the north wind whirl outside  
and let it keep roaring wild,  
under the low roof Christmas carols  
continue their warm sound.

Those carols harmonious, memorable,  
to those grandmother is nodding.  
She is in the corner by the wood stove,  
warming her frail body.

Though the cottage is low, poor,  
but inside is all happiness,  
which nobody can buy with gold,  
nor for shining treasures.

*From December 23, 1885 issue of KVĚTY  
AMERICKE, Omaha, Nebraska.  
Translation courtesy of Marie Čada.*