



# MOST THE BRIDGE

*News of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library*

WINTER 1995



Presidents Bill Clinton, Václav Havel, and Michal Kováč sign the Presidents Kiosk on October 21, 1995, formally dedicating the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

All members of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library are invited to attend the annual meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, January 15, 1996. The meeting will take place at the Museum & Library immediately following the annual meeting of the Czech Heritage Foundation. Everyone is invited to bring treats for the reception afterwards.

NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK  
MUSEUM & LIBRARY  
30 - 16th Ave SW

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-5904 USA  
Phone 319 362-8500 Fax 319 363-2209

Board of Directors

Rod Jiruska, President Robert Schaffer, 1st V.P.  
Leo Modracek, 2nd V.P. Ron Detweiler, Treasurer  
Thomas Paul Hruska, Past President/Board Chair  
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Milo Lanka

"MOST"

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is located at the west end of the Bridge of Lions in Czech Village. The Museum & Libray has an outstanding collection of national costumes and fully restored immigrant home. It demonstrates Old World arts and crafts, and celebrates ethnic customs and traditions. The Museum & Library serves to "bridge" the gap between the culture of Czech and Slovak homelands and the culture of the Americans of Czech and Slovak ancestry.

For those of European ancestry, a visit to the Museum & Library is like a walk across the "Most," that imaginary bridge that leads back to the land and culture of their ancestors.

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NEW INTERIM DIRECTOR NAMED

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has named Cedar Rapids native Eldon B. Pugh as Interim Executive Director.

Rod Jiruska, Museum & Library President, said Mr. Pugh replaces Alan Beach, who earlier this spring agreed to serve as Interim Executive Director through November. "Al Beach served us extremely well. His management skills were critical in the months leading up to our new building dedication," Jiruska said. "Now we're quite pleased that Eldon Pugh has agreed to this interim post as we continue our aggressive, nationwide search for a new full-time Executive Director."

Mr. Pugh retired in 1992, following 37 years with Amana Refrigeration Inc., where he was Vice President of International Sales.

A Coe College graduate, Mr. Pugh received the Grant Wood Red Cross Chapter Chairman's volunteer award for 1994. He currently serves as International Trade Coordinator in 29 Eastern Iowa countries for SCORE, and is Treasurer and Trustee of First Congregational Church of Cedar Rapids.

He and his wife Margaret live at 1579 Matterhorn Drive, NE, and have two adult children.

& &

CAST YOUR VOTE

The Board of Directors of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library have approved the following nominees to the Board of Directors:

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Thomas Hruska   | Robert Schaffer |
| Marjorie Nejdil | Lee Ann Ferry   |
| Robert Stone    | Dean Spina      |
| Milo Lanka      | Jim Novak       |
| Jim Novacek     | Virginia Wilts  |
| Janelle McClain | Cookie Vanous   |

The membership will vote on the above slate of nominees at the Annual Meeting to be held at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library 30 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa at 8:00 p.m., January 15, 1996. To vote, you must be personally present.

& &

## WHAT A WEEK - 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 Kováč. 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 man-hours to get the project to what you see today. What a beautiful building and surroundings! Many 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*

## WESTERN FRATERNAL LIFE ASSOCIATION

WFLA, a strong corporate partner, is sponsoring the Museum & Library's participation in Cityline.



Call Cityline at 319-363-7000 and simply punch in category number 5580. You will hear a recorded message, giving you up-to-date news of Museum & Library hours and current events. Also, historical facts are included to educate our listeners and assist to spread the word about our cherished Czech and Slovak heritage.



Reprints, 5 x 7's, and 8 x 10's can be ordered from any of the over 700 professionally taken shots by French Studios. Step into the Museum during regular business hours. Put your order in today!

V UPOMINKU "IN MEMORIUM"

Donations received for the months  
of October, November, & through  
December 20th.

For: Minnie Christey  
From: Mr. & Mrs. Paul Copp  
Lodge members of Owatonna #127

For: Cecilia Cook  
From: WFLA Davenport Lodge #201

For: Jeanne Kozik Gallo  
From: Ed and Anne Machacek  
Delmer and Mary Hocken  
Joseph and Libby Dalecky  
Marcus and Marjorie Pace

For: Joseph Imoehl  
From: Carl Landergott

For: Sally Kriz  
From: LaVerne Cecil  
Kathleen Wilson  
El Kahir Shrine Band  
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Mr and Mrs Joseph Kurka  
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Smocking Arts Guild of America  
Mr and Mrs Richard Nazette  
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Mr and Mrs Harry Jay Hograbe  
Leonard and Evelyn Karasek  
Ed and Marj Nejd  
Marvin and Hermina Rigel  
Donald and Margaret Ceynar  
Donald Kaplan  
Helen Lorenc  
Donald and Elsie Jelinek  
Harold and Gail Duracher

Bob and Ann Hejkal  
Patricia Matthews  
Vilma Nejd  
Wilfred and Evelyn Tlusty  
Dorothy Harrelson  
Char Les Klouda  
Margrette Guetzko  
Mr and Mrs Burton Butler  
Mary Valenta  
M. Sinclair  
Anton and Genevieve Titera  
Joseph Klinsky  
Ellen Kelley  
Don and Barbara Pulkrab  
Dorothy Roy  
Edmund and Irene Bontty  
Arnold and Marie Fields  
Leonard and Shirley Votroubek  
Milo and Alma Benesh  
Mary Barta  
Mildred Ortner  
Robert and Marilyn Zvacek  
Gary and Beverly Montague  
James and Carol Voss  
David and Mariilyn Popelka  
Wendy and George Rasmussen  
Robert and Solveig Ann Walstrom  
James and Yvonne Jonas  
Norman and Joanne Schanz  
Bernie and Nancy Shade  
Bernice Smith  
Camelot  
Judith Fields  
John Cimburek  
Dewayne and Debbie Fields  
Eleanor Tibbits  
Mr and Mrs George Chmelicek  
Mona Sonkens  
Kate Homire  
Lewis and Fay Peterson  
Clarence and Ramona Serbousek  
Joe and Esther Cerveny  
Don and Rose Smith  
Mr and Mrs Edward Suchan  
Milo and Lillian Vorel  
John and Zula Oujiri  
Mary Burgess  
Agnes Gilbert  
Dick and Ruth Hare  
Joe and Darlene Chmelicek

David and Janice Kralik  
Mr and Mrs Robert Heaverlo  
Mr and Mrs Merle Cooper  
Leonard and Marge Jansa  
Charles Pazour  
Jeanette Pityer  
Charles and Irene Vavra  
Chuck Vavra  
Mrs Milo Spina

For: Linda Kroupa  
From: Marcus and Marjorie Pace  
& Anna Mae  
Marj and Ed Nejd

For: Paul Alan Light  
From: Mr and Mrs Harold Davidson  
Mr and Mrs Don Hamous  
Mr and Mrs Duane Hindricks  
Frank Novotny  
Millie Ortner  
Mary Ann Pochobradsky  
Lucille Pazour  
Sharon and Sheryl Pazour  
Charles Pazour  
Mr and Mrs Stepan Pisha  
Libbie and David Packard  
Mr and Mrs Eldred Svoboda  
& family  
Mr and Mrs Roman Volesky  
Mana Zlatohlavek  
Vera Hanson  
Mr and Mrs Lumir Zahradnik  
WFLA Cedar Rapids Lodge #262  
Mr and Mrs Kenny Cook  
Martha Serbousek

For: Stanley Machacek  
From: Pauline Machacek  
Dorothy Ditch  
Marcus and Marj Pace  
Anna Mae Vanous

For: Clarence Butch Milato  
From: Federated Czech Groups

For: Richard Pecina  
From: Tom and Betty O'Brien  
Tom Goodfellow  
Howard and Lauren Morton

continued

Edward and Anne Mahacek  
 Carl and Iva Sagert  
 Ed and Pat McDermott  
 Margaret Kadlec  
 Frank Lupini  
 Bill and Sharon Bryant  
 John and Maryann Bock  
 John Crawford  
 Kermit Sheker  
 Ray and Elaine Buchmayer  
 Milo and Emma Pecina  
 Bessie Vesecky  
 Marj and Ed NejdI

*Consider a donation in lieu of flowers  
 as a way to commemorate a loved ones' passing.  
 To honor your heritage and remember a  
 family member or friend, please send your  
 donations to: National Czech & Slovak  
 Museum & Library, "In Memorium"  
 30 - 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids,  
 IA 52404-5904*

For: Lovirn Pogones  
 From: Marcella and Frank Talbert  
 Mrs Bernard Herzog  
 Dan Stursa  
 Mr and Mrs Calvin Spatenka  
 Mr and Mrs Paul Copp  
 LaVonne Meixner  
 Eleanor Anne Worke

For: Mary Prochaska  
 From: Pamella Anne Hughes  
 Tamara Sue Nesselhauf  
 Jean K.C. Mote  
 Jeri Patrick

For: Wilbur Pudil  
 From: Mr and Mrs John Volesky

For: Lester "Let" Riley  
 From: Leonard and Sheryl NejdI  
 Doug NejdI  
 Paul and Lynne Erger

For: Charles Robovsky  
 From: Federated Czech Groups

For: Rose Rudish  
 From: Mary Null

For: Helen Secl  
 From: Joan Axline

For: Adaline Stahle  
 From: Leo and Irma Modracek

For: Olga Staskal  
 From: Frank Novotny and Family

**HONOR**

For: Mr and Mrs Leonard Reyman  
 From: Mr and Mrs Robert Zvacek



Out braving the cold on Friday, October 20, was Coonrod Wrecker and Crane Service. They helped the United States Secret Service put the famous stage together that the dignitaries met on to speak the following morning. The service provided by Coonrod was donated to the Museum. Virgil was always there to help the Museum & Library. Nearly every non-profit benefitted from Virgil's generosity. We couldn't have done it without Coonrod. Virgil will be missed not only by the Museum staff and volunteers, but by the entire community.

**OOPS!**

Last quarter's volunteer list didn't include the names of the following hard-working individuals:

|                  |                |              |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Irma Modracek    | Bob Stone      | Mel Modracek |
| Lawrence Volesky | William Faltis | Jerry Haight |
| Bob Vanous       | Milo Lanka     | Tom Hruska   |

We're sorry, we goofed!

## MOTHER CALLED IT A "BRDA"

August Wasco of Brecksville, Ohio sent us instructions passed down from his mother on the fine art of carpet making. It might look easy, but judging from the "hints" and "tips" included with the directions, there's more to it than meets the eye.

August has been making carpets now for years and he says making them brings back memories of his youth. "Using the Brda to make carpets is fun, good exercise and a wonderful way to get rid of old clothes. Carpets made with the brda are made very tight and therefore long-lasting. Brdas can be made in different widths depending on the size of the carpet desired."



"My mother's brda was almost four feet wide. She made carpets big enough to cover much of the floor. In mining towns there was no wall-to-wall carpeting. I made several for our own use. We particularly enjoy using the smaller one, 24" wide (like the one pictured), to make up special carpets that can be used as wall hangings. Our Christmas carpet is fantastic as is our Slovak carpet using the colors of the Slovak flag."



August remembers a simpler time when carpet making was a social event everyone loved, except the youngsters who had to help. "It was great exercise, great therapy, and saved the family much money... there was no greater satisfaction than to have a family picnic/carpet making experience. In the mining town of Hostetter, Pennsylvania, carpet making was done at a neighbors. Four posts were set firmly in the ground about twelve to fourteen feet apart lengthwise and about forty-two inches apart in width. The tenant of the home placed long sturdy benches at the sides of the loom area. While two women made carpets, others could sit and cut up clothes and chit-chat while waiting their turn on the brda. Many women cut up the clothes during the winter months. My mother would sit and cut, and cut, and cut, always with a smile. It had to be the memories that were brought out."

Editor's note: We asked August to send us information about this lost art and he eagerly obliged. If you would like a copy of August's detailed instructions, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Museum & Library and ask for Wasco's Carpet Recipe. August's hope is that the tradition will live on. Ours is too. Want to give it a try?

### Looking for That Perfect Gift?

Shop at the Museum Store. You'll find

- hand painted eggs
- imported ceramics, glassware & chandeliers
- glass-blown tree ornaments
- country wheat art
- unique Czech train set

& much, much more...

9:30 to 4 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday



Corporate Meetings • Weddings • Reunions  
Receptions • Anniversaries • Birthdays

### Heritage Hall

CALL NOW TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS!

**362-8500**





## THE CHOIR OF OSTRAVA

### "MUSIC JOINS AND DOESN'T KNOW BORDERS"

On Friday, December 1, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's WFLA Heritage Hall was donned with the graceful voices of the Choir of Ostrava, from the Czech Republic. The group arrived from Chicago, where their first journey through the midwestern United States began.

The fifty-five choir members were gracious guests. Of course, the good old fashion hospitality of not only Cedar Rapids residents, but hosts from rural areas and all the way into Iowa City, made it quite easy for their guests to be pleased.

The Choir arrived in Cedar Rapids, Thursday, in the early evening. Through some trials and tribulations, in particular the language barrier, the choir finally managed to settle into their respective homes. Most stayed with Museum & Library patrons. Others were guests of local motels. During the next six days, they traveled the area from West Branch to Spillville, in northern Iowa, to sing and do some touring. Some of their stops to sing included: Spillville, Ely Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids, and of course, their voices rang out from the Museum & Library.

The choir has performed outside the USA in Italy, Germany, France, Poland, and other European countries. "Music joins and doesn't know borders" is the official motto of the choir, reflecting on the fact that music is enjoyed by people all over the world.

Their program features pieces by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Bedřich Smetana, and Antonín Dvořák. The City of Ostrava Choir is under the direction of Josef Kubenka, also the conductor of Ostrava Theater. Kubenka, who joined the choir in 1992, brought with him new ideas and new music to the choir. They now perform not only national and folk songs, but also classical compositions.

### VOLUNTEER AWARD BANQUET

On Wednesday, December 11, 1995, The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library celebrated the dedication of volunteers. The top 54 volunteers were recognized and given rewards for their recorded hours. The chosen were based on a criteria of recorded hours of 20 for the months of either October or November, or 40 hours for the year of 1995. The reward was an 8 x 10 photo of the historic moment that the three Presidents - Clinton, Havel, and Kováč - signed the Dedication Kiosk in the Roman L. Hruska Hall on that magical day, October 21, 1995.

The party was a complete success, beginning with a dinner, catered by St. Lukes/Marriot. The event organizer, Sheryl Nejdil, brought in Wilson Middle School's Swing Choir for entertainment, under the direction of Carol Borschel. This was the Choir's first performance outside the school.

Volunteers who received the honors are:

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Fran Brown        | Frank Edmunds          |
| Barb Edmunds      | Sister Christine Elias |
| Joanne Ferguson   | Betty Hass             |
| Fran Johnson      | Helene Kane            |
| Rose Miller       | Iona Mittvalsky        |
| Edward Nejdil     | Marjorie Nejdil        |
| Sheryl Nejdil     | Mildred Ortner         |
| Zula Oujiri       | Marge Pace             |
| Pat Pace          | Sherlee Peterson       |
| Leona Poduska     | Inez Popelka           |
| Anne Reif         | Hermina Rigel          |
| Marlene Schrimper | Bob Stone              |
| Marge Stone       | Barbara Sherman        |
| Jeanne Tompkins   | Dolores Travnicek      |
| Betty Truesdell   | Marilyn Tucker         |
| Dolores Usher     | Frank Novotny          |
| Vera Matejka      | Karen Nesheim          |
| Viola Zahradnik   | Lydia Elias            |
| Betty Petrzalek   | Tom Hruska             |
| Rose Kopecky      | Lenore Watson          |
| E. Ann Kloubec    | Milo Lanka             |
| Mana Zlatohlavek  | Stan Kosek             |
| Rod Jiruska       | Bob Schaffer           |
| Leo Modracek      | Evelyn Lamparek        |
| Adeline Volesky   | Betty Stepanek         |
| Rollie Raim       | Wanda Koutny           |

Once again, thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library during 1995, and let's keep it going through the coming year. We need your continued support to make the Museum & Library even more successful in the future!

## CZECH IT OUT!

Dr. Stanislav Kavka is teaching during the 1996 academic year at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri. He is a visiting professor from Ostrava University in the Czech Republic.

While in the U.S., Dr. Kavka has had the opportunity to visit quite a bit of the Midwest, and in doing so he has become a regular patron of the Museum & Library. He has organized mini-courses in Czech language and culture in Missouri, and for one of his short courses scheduled in February, he will bring Missourians to Cedar Rapids for a tour of the Museum & Library and Czech Village.

On February 21, at 7pm, Dr Kavka will present a mini-course at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. In it, the Dr. will discuss Czech language, culture of the Moravian area surrounding Ostrava, and educational exchanges developing between our two countries.

## "FROM THE NEW WORLD"

Join us at the Museum & Library after the Symphony on February 17, for coffee and kolače. Featured Czech composers at the Masterworks event are Antonín Dvořák and Leoš Janáček. The reception is free to members.

Patrons who purchase their ticket for the performance and tell the Symphony box office they are supporters of the Museum & Library, will help raise money for the organization. A percentage of each ticket purchased will come directly to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

The last time Cedar Rapids Symphony held an event of this type for the benefit of the Museum & Library, we raised over \$300. Here is your chance to support two great organizations and enjoy great music and refreshments in the bargain. Mark your calendar!

## SPECIAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Two new exhibit items have been added to the Museum & Library collection. Local artist Leonard Pfeifer, creator of award winning floats for several years, donated a unique hand crafted sculpture of Sv. Mikuláš, the Angel and Devil. The colorful work captures the essence of one of the most popular of this season's holiday traditions.

Joza Karas, donated two beautiful Christmas creches. Both are from the city of Třebíč in the Czech Republic and are excellent turn of the century

examples of hand crafted artistry. Joza tells us it was common for the creches to be pains-takenly manufactured piece by piece over the life of the owner. The Baby Jesus and manger were traditionally done first, and other pieces added each year as a remembrance of the holy occasion. Stan Kosek built and donated the base used to display the largest of the creches, and also worked diligently to setup the exhibit.

## NEW HOURS

**The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is now open year 'round!** In the past, the winter months immediately following Christmas were slow and the Museum & Library closed to the public for tours except on Saturdays.

With the new facility up and running, and traffic exceeding expectations, expanded hours have been implemented. Over 15,000 visited us in 1995, and nine group tours have already been scheduled for January, 1996.

During the Christmas holiday, the Museum & library opened on Sundays and this met with very favorable reviews. The Museum & Library is now closed on Sundays routinely, but will open again on that day, during festivals and peak periods.

## DEDICATION WEEK

Photos on the following pages remind us of the special time we all shared in October when the Museum & Library was formally dedicated.

Dedication Week was a huge success because of the immense volunteer effort and dedication of all of our supporters.

Expenses for the week-long event totaled over \$100,000 and thanks to the many sponsors and participants, the majority of these expenses were met without digging too deep into the operational account. There is still a great need for funds to assist with paying for the President's visit. Staging, signs, and printing costs, to name a few, mounted up. Your tax deductible contribution made toward these expenses will help to insure programs in 1996 won't be cut for lack of funding. Please send your donation to: National Czech & Slovak Museum & library, 30 - 16th Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-5904. Let us know you want your contribution to help pay for the President's visit. We've received donations for this purpose from \$50 to \$5,000. Any amount is deeply appreciated. Thank you for your continued support!





The opening event of Building Dedication Week consisted of a movie matinee in the afternoon, featuring "My Sweet Little Village," on Tuesday, October 17. In the afternoon, the entire student body of Wilson Elementary School enjoyed the marionette puppet performances, featuring Vit Horejs of the Czechoslovak - American Marionette Theater of New York. Pictured above, puppeteers take bows after the evening performance at the Museum & Library. Adults and children alike enjoyed the group's performance of "The White Doe."



Česka Škola (Czech School) celebrated its 125th birthday on Wednesday, in Heritage Hall. Former teachers, and students, received special invitations to the commemoration. The Czech Plus Band provided music, and the class of 1995 presented the play "Our Czech School."

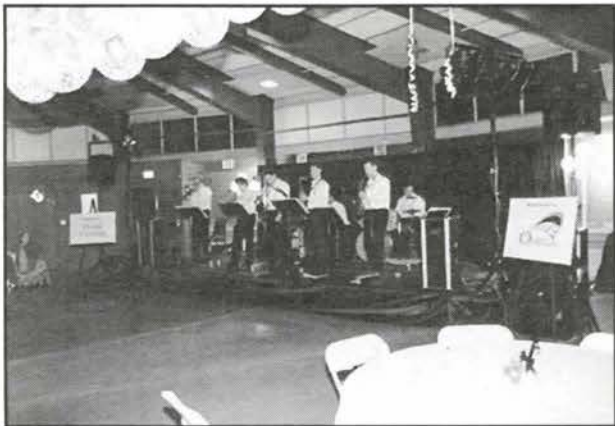


Theme luncheons were held October 18, 19, and 20, to commemorate the Slovak, Czech and other European cultures. The first, a Slovak luncheon, featured bobbin lace demonstrations and was catered by Zindricks Czech Restaurant. The Irish Folk Harpists stole the show on Thursday, with international cuisine offered by Jenny's. Dostal Catering served the Czech Cuisine Luncheon on Friday, with the Parade of Costumes being featured.



Here, participants of the Parade of Costumes during Friday's Czech Cuisine Luncheon, show their authentic costumes (kroje), representing the Czech and Slovak nations.

Reprints, 5 x 7's, and 8 x 10's can be ordered from any of the over 700 professionally taken shots by French Studios - step into the Museum during regular business hours. Put your order in today!



Beautiful jazz sounds rang out from the Roundhouse on Friday, October 20, compliments of both the Locust Street Boys (pictured) based out of Davenport, and Davis, Daugherty, and McPartland, a popular trio from Cedar Rapids. The Roundhouse, filled with bright lights and beautiful decorations, also held the aroma of yummy delicacies provided by Dostal Catering. Folks were able to sit back and enjoy their favorite songs, or dance the night away.



The Ambassador's Reception was held at the Five Season's Center Arena on Saturday evening. A wide variety of entertainment was provided for the guests. The gala was produced and directed by Clay Bergren of Differentiation Strategies. Event planning and coordination was done by Mark Spielman with ESI. Marvin Smejkal of Sound Concepts, and Wayne Anderson with Images Productions provided sound and filming for the event. They combined their talents to produce an elegant and serene evening of festivities, which included performances by Violinist Joza Karas, multi-talented Viliam Měško from Slovakia, Czech bagpipe player Vladimír Kovářik, St. Paul Czechoslovak Folk Dancers, Moravian Cultural Society Dancers from Chicago, and a performance by the Czech School children.



The book signing, which was held in WFLA Heritage Hall on Sunday, October 22, featured books by authors known the world over. Josef Škvorecký and his wife Zdenka Salivarova, Pat Martin, Joan Liffing-Zug, Clarence Andrews, Gustav Murin, Joza Karas, Leona Choy, Juanita J (Zeman) Loren, and Pravomila Geregova "Klea." The ten diverse writers discussed their works with patrons during the four hour session. Here, Pat Martin signs one of her works on Czech and Slovak culture.



The parade, even after being postponed twice, enjoyed a large audience Saturday afternoon. Local CSA lodges, Prokop Velky (Cedar Rapids) and Svatopluk Cech (Swisher) pulled together to create a real winner.



One of the traveling exhibits in the Museum's Exhibit Hall that opened just in time for Dedication, is the folk art collection of Michael Fath's. His pieces are a collection of his grandfather's carvings, coming to us all the way from Columbus, Ohio. The works titled, "Albert Krehlik Folk Art - A Social Comment," depict Krehlik's attitudes and concerns towards issues in society, such as politics, war, and alcoholism. The pieces, made from tree roots, dried mushrooms and whatever was available, originate from the early 1900's. Here, Fath is sharing with visitors personal insight into his grandfather's work.



The Homestay Ambassadors and the Prince and Princesses were recognized in the celebration on Friday, October 20. The "Salute to Youth" program and dinner was held in the WFLA Heritage Hall, at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Frank Novotny, Vice-President of the Czech Heritage Foundation introduces 1995 Prince and Princess James Horak and Holly Upah.



"The John Vlasin & Mary Tabor Memorial Exhibit - Early 20th Century Czechoslovak Art Glass" is a collection of hand-made pieces on loan from their son, Ray Vlasin of East Lansing, Michigan. The work in this traveling exhibit ranges from the years of 1918 to 1945. It includes rare items such as royal dux, bird-bud vases, and porcelain vases. Here, Presidents Clinton, Havel, and Kovac, accompanied by United Nations Ambassador, Madeleine Albright enjoy the exhibit tour conducted by Museum & Library Vice President Robert Schaffer (not shown).



During the Presidents' visit, there were gifts exchanged between dignitaries and museum officials. Pictured here is Sheryl Nejd, Visitor Services Manager, with gifts received by Presidents Havel and Kováč. The atlas of Slovakia was a treasure given to the Museum & Library by President Michal Kováč. The hand crafted leaded crystal vase was exclusively created for the Museum & Library in the Czech Republic and was presented by President Havel. Both Presidents also donated books to be used in the new Library. In turn, each of the three Presidents received "Dedication Week" hats and T-shirts and hand painted eggs designed by local artist Marjorie Nejd.

## ELDERHOSTEL

One patron writes- "I am wondering why you (Museum & Library) don't consider establishing an annual Elderhostel class on the Czech and Slovak Heritage?"

The writer makes a great case as he describes the merit of having educational sections on such subjects as politics, art and culture, and holding the classes preceding a festival "so that when the class is completed there is the festival to attend."

"The classes generally last one week, with registration on a Sunday afternoon, classes and side trips during the week and completion with breakfast on Saturday morning. Classes, meals and motel accommodations are included in the package."

We'd like to hear from you. Write to us with your thoughts. If there is enough interest, we may try to organize Czech/Slovak Elderhostel in Cedar Rapids. It could include side trips to other Czech communities in our vicinity and lectures and discussions lead by visiting local scholars.



This photo taken October 3, 1995 shows the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Cornerstone Committee reviewing and selecting items to be placed in the time capsule.

Rear left to right: Charles H. Vyskocil, Stanley M. Kosek, Charles E. Krejci, Edward R. Kuba and Frank W. Novotny. Front left to right: Evelyn Lamparek and M. Melvina Svec.

## WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Several have asked about the contents of the time capsule. The committee did a great job finding items to include in the copper cask. Materials received after the capsule was soldered shut became a

permanent part of the archive collection. Here is the complete list of contents:

October 21, 1995

### CORNERSTONE TIME CAPSULE - INVENTORY

The following is a list of the items sealed in the time capsule that was placed on October 21, 1995 behind the cornerstone of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

1. Cornerstone committee greeting.
2. Masonic Grand Lodge of Iowa officials and cornerstone laying program.
3. Flags of the United States of America, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and State of Iowa.
4. Copy of the dedication invitations sent to the heads-of-state, Presidents Clinton, Havel and Kovac.
5. List of the State of Iowa and City of Cedar Rapids elected officials.
6. Cedar Rapids informational booklet, centennial booklet and medallion.
7. List of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Board of Directors, new building and planning committee, capital campaign task force, national advisory committee, architect, building consultant and general contractor.
8. Membership list of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.
9. List of the Western Fraternal Life Association (WFLA) officers and lodges. Formerly Z.C.B.J.
10. List of the Czech & Slovak American Fraternal (CSA) officers and lodges. Formerly C.S.P.S.
11. List of additional Czech & Slovak organizations.
12. Brochures and pamphlets used by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.
13. Video and booklet promotion of the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.
14. Newspaper and magazine articles concerning the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and the Czech & Slovak culture in the Cedar Rapids area.
15. Photographs and pictures concerning the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and the Czech and Slovak culture in the Cedar Rapids area.
16. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library publication "MOST" (The Bridge).
17. The Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc. publication "NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ" (Our Czech Heritage).
18. An American/Czech dictionary.
19. A ceramic hedgehog figurine (ježek) good luck symbol.
20. United States coin set.
21. Sokol Gymnastic Association centennial 1873 - 1973 coin and booklet.
22. List of Czech village merchants early 1900.
23. Bridge of Lions, Cedar Rapids, Ia. dedication packet and certificate.
24. Masaryk Park, Cedar Rapids, Ia. dedication packet and certificate.
25. Czech Village badges.
26. Z.C.B.J. badge and ribbon.
27. Czech costumed girl doll and corn husk doll.
28. Czech clothing buttons.
29. Slovak "Modra" dish and egg holder.
30. Decorated hen egg.
31. Czech and Slovak handwork: tatting, netting and embroidery pieces.
32. National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library medallion.
33. Booklets on Czech & Slovak history.
34. St. Wenceslaus Church centennial booklet
35. St. Ludmilla Church directory and booklet.
36. Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church directory and booklet.
37. Czech Bible, dtd. 1904.
38. Czech scarf used to wrap the contents of the capsule.

## CORNERSTONE LAYING CEREMONY

Many things have changed in the last several years. Five years ago, the Czech & Slovak Museum was located around the corner, in a small building. This building provided space for a congested exhibit, a small gift shop, and a cracker-box sized business office. Although the facility was crowded, it was our home, and the anticipated home for the foreseeable future.

The museum was then asked to dialogue with the Linn County Historical Museum about future plans for both museums. Dr. Malcolm Peel from the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation recognized that both museums were stagnated in their development plans. Representatives from the two groups met for a period of approximately six months to discuss the construction of a joint museum facility. These talks eventually fell apart when the two museums could not agree on a common site for the facility.

The Board of Directors of the National Czech & Slovak Museum decided to investigate the possibilities of constructing a new facility on our own. Mr. Felix Gula, an exhibit planner with many museums and several world fair pavillions to his credit, was engaged to help the museum. Mr. Gula prepared a building design and a proposal for a world-class exhibit. With his plans in hand, we went to the Hall Foundation to make a presentation. The Hall-Perrine Foundation awarded us a grant that served as the seed money for a 2.6 million dollar fund raising campaign.

In the meantime, Senator Charles Grassley went to work supporting the Czech & Slovak Museum's bid for national recognition. The name of the "National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library" was read into the Congressional Record on July 2, 1992.

As the fund raising campaign neared its goal, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library took a very large step forward. A contract was signed for the construction of a new facility with over 16,000 square feet of space. On Saturday, October 28, 1993, a Groundbreaking Ceremony was held to commence the spectacular building we see here today. This event was attended by ambassadors from the Czech and Slovak embassies, the Governor, the Mayor, and other dignitaries. This Saturday event had particular significance as this was the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of Czechoslovakia following World War I.

Construction started the week after the groundbreaking ceremony. Unzeitig Construction

Company began work on the building under the supervision of local architect Leo Peiffer. The weather cooperated and construction was able to continue through the winter months. By spring time, much of the framing was complete, and the masonry exterior was started. The building was completely enclosed by the time that cold weather arrived in the fall of 1994. Detailed interior work continued and the museum was able to obtain a temporary occupancy permit. The museum moved from the old building and opened to the public in March of this year.

Last month, the museum was honored to host the Presidents of three countries during our building dedication. Presidents Bill Clinton from the United States, Václav Havel from the Czech Republic, and Michal Kováč from the Slovak Republic were all in attendance that Saturday morning, October 21, 1995.

Today's ceremony was originally planned as part of the building dedication. As last minute plans were being altered to accommodate the visiting Presidents, the cornerstone laying was moved to later in the day's activities. Due to a prior commitment for the Grand Lodge of Iowa A.F. and A.M., the ceremony was further postponed to November 18, 1995.

I thank the Grand Lodge and its members for participating in today's ceremony. For those of us that are closely associated with the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, this is an event that we will remember for many years.

May the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library exist and thrive for many decades to the enjoyment of our children, our grandchildren, and the many generations to follow.

*Address by Tom Hruska, Chairman of the Board  
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library*

## DEFERRED GIFTS

By remembering the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in your will, you are protecting and preserving your heritage in a very special way. Deferred gifts through bequests or life-income trusts offer many advantages for contributors who wish to provide future support to the Museum & library. For information on how both your heirs and the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library benefit, call John Rocarek, Development Director, today at 362-8500.

## ORDER YOUR PHOTOS BY MAIL

French Studios took professional colored photographs during the entire Dedication Week celebration. For those of you living out of town, or if you just can't find the time to stop in and see the picture albums from the event, send us a note with a check for \$2.50 to cover the cost of postage and handling and we'll send you black & white photocopies of the contact sheets, and an order blank. There are over seven hundred photos to choose from. 3 1/2" x 5" reprints are \$1.50, 5 x 7's are \$6 and 8 x 10's are \$16. There is a small additional fee for postage and handling. Great memories!



Paul Wieck, Master of Ceremonies for the Cornerstone Laying, delivers a speech to the crowd, regarding the meaning of the ceremony.



The cornerstone, containing a time capsule filled with memorabilia, is put into place in the Museum & Library by two members of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F.& A.M.

## KUBA ADDRESSES CROWD IN CZECH AT CORNERSTONE LAYING



Dobrý Den Vítáme Vás.

Čtení předsedo, Četa Zedanařů: Rytířská služba Kolombovi: vážení krajane. Je slušné a patřičné pár slov českém jazyku. Dnešní pomatný obrady jsou splnění snů mnoho krajanů České, Moravské, a Slovenského původu. Dnešní zasazení základního kamenu naše krásné muzeum a knihovnu, dává na jevo celé veřejnosti že jsme hrdý našeho narodu, a záchranu děditsví, a zivotopisu v Cedar Rapids. Minulý měsíc jsme privítali předsedové třech narodu, což byla velká reklama pro naši osadu. Uznáváme práci vykonaná dobrovolníku: spolků, a občanů který obětovali čas a peníze aby dokonali uskutečnost této krásné budovy. Dnes vše pracovníci v podniku mohou být hrdý na výsledku jejich trpělivosti a snahu. Jmenem Sdružení Českých Spolků 'Serdecně Díky'. Při dnešní obradách bělek vejce byl smíchani s maltou, aby to bylo pevně a drželo na věky.

*Edward R. Kuba Sr.*

"Good day and welcome. Mr. Chairman Hruska, Order of Masons: Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, and dear friends. It is fitting and proper that we have a few words in Czech with this ceremony. Today's memorable observance is the fulfilment of many dreams of the people of Czech, Moravian, and Slovak descent. Today's setting of the Cornerstone of our beautiful Museum & Library, is proof that we are proud of our heritage and the preservation of it in Cedar Rapids history. Last month we hosted the Presidents of three nations. This was a great honor for our city. We must acknowledge the effort of all the volunteers, lodges, and individuals that provided untold hours, materials, and money so that this beautiful building would be a reality. Today all the workers on this project can stand proud as they view the results of their patience and zeal. On behalf of the Federation of Czech Groups, we say 'thank you.' The white of an egg was mixed into the mortar used here today so that it would be sturdy, strong, and last forever."

*Address by Edward R. Kuba Sr.*

-14- *President of the Federation of Czech Groups*

## LIMITED NUMBER OF SPACES AVAILABLE!

Annual support for the Museum & Library comes from memberships to the organization. There are several levels of membership and benefits vary depending on the amount of your annual contribution.

There is another way that you can contribute to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and be permanently recognized for your donation. There are still a few spaces left on the Presidents Dedication Kiosk. For a short time, contributors may still add their name to the Kiosk the three Presidents signed on October 21, 1995 (see cover photo). Your donation, or the donation of your lodge, organization, or society in the amount of \$300 or more will allow for this permanent recognition.

Call John Rocarek at the Museum & Library for more information on how you may participate in honoring your family, lodge, organization, or remembering a loved one by contributing to the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

## HOW CAN WE HELP?

When people learned of the meeting of three Presidents in Cedar Rapids, many came to the rescue. Winston Addis, Vice President of City University, Bellevue, Washington, in the Office of Development was one of these.

Anxious to learn more about the Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Dr. Addis telephoned and in the space of twenty minutes we had struck some very common ground. Both institutions are deeply interested in education, both with close ties to Slovakia. City University has over 14,000 students worldwide, with over 1,000 in the Slovak Republic. The university maintains institutions in several European countries and supports the new Slovak Independent University in Trencin.

Dr. Addis brought three distinguished guests to the dedication of the new facility in October; Jan Rebro, Slovak Manager of City University in Bratislava, Dr. Alena Lackova, President of Slovak Independent University in Trencin, and the honorable mayor of Trencin, Jozef Ziska. Mayor Ziska presented Museum & Library representatives with materials for the library and archives area. The three Slovak visitors commented on how surprised and pleased they were to learn of the Museum & Library and the extent to which we labor to pay tribute to our ethnic heritage.

City University co-sponsored the booksigning during Dedication Week. Their generous donation defrayed the costs of advertising and promotion.

## ZITHER CLUB

Dalibor was the name of the first known organized Czech zither club in Chicago. Its first officers were Celestyn Hurt, Vladimir Reindl, Karel Styler, and Josef Hronik. The group's premier concert was given on May 19, 1889, and over the years, interest would sometimes grow dramatically and at other times, dwindle. It is unknown how long the Dalibor Club existed. As late as the 1960's a different group, the Chicago Zither Club, met in Aldine Hall in Chicago.

*Info from Zither Newsletter of USA  
Winter 1992 issue*

Editor's note: If you remember any zitherists in your family, or know of Czech or Slovak zither players from the past, let us know. Is this a part of our ethnic musical heritage we have lost?

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Czech Heritage Foundation<br>Annual Meeting<br>Nat'l Czech & Slovak M&L  | Jan. 15, 7pm                                 |
| National Czech & Slovak<br>Museum & Library<br>Annual Meeting<br>Nat'l Czech & Slovak M&L  | Jan. 15, 8pm                                 |
| C.R. Symphony Reception<br>Roman L. Hruska Grand Hall<br>Nat'l Czech & Slovak M&L  | Feb. 17, (following<br>Symphony performance) |
| Lecture & Discussion:<br>Prof. Stanislav Kavka<br>Introduction to language &<br>Culture of the Czech Republic<br>Nat'l Czech & Slovak M&L                                | Feb. 21, 7pm                                 |
| Czech School Chili Supper<br>Kuba's Annex, 2nd St. SE  | March 2, 4-7pm                               |
| Czech Heritage Foundation<br>Homestay Fund Raising Dance<br>P-3 Hall, 116 14th Ave. SE<br>Music by Mike Lasack & his<br>Rhythm-Aires. Bake sale,<br>lunch & door prizes. | March 10, 2-6pm                              |
| St. Joseph's Day   | March 19                                     |
| St. Joseph's Day Parade<br>Czech Village   | March 23, 11am                               |
| Komensky Lecture & Exhibit<br>Nat'l Czech & Slovak M&L   | April 17, 7pm                                |

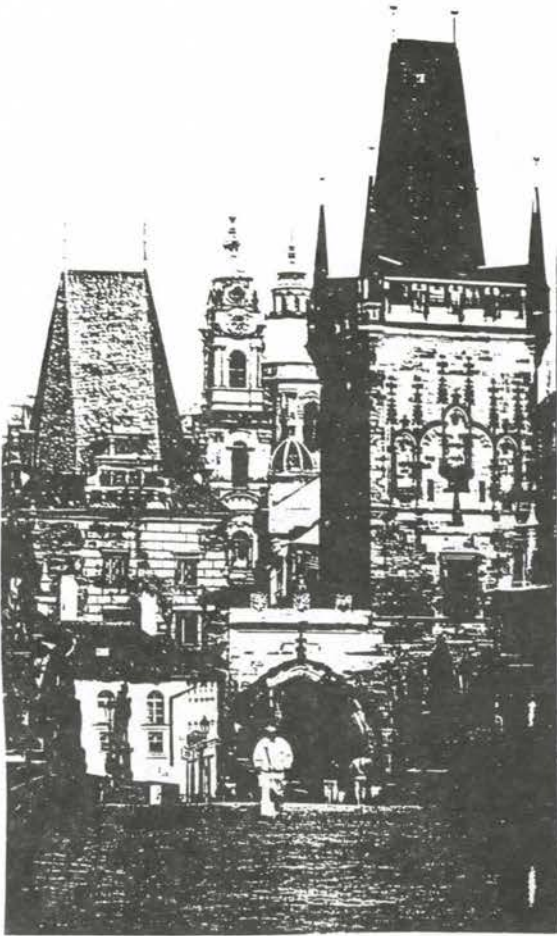
What? - An informational meeting  
When? - Tuesday, January 16, 1996 7pm  
Where? - National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library  
Who? - All interested/potential travelers  
Why? - For some facts and complimentary refreshments  
How? - Be There!!!

Choose the charming Czech Republic for your next vacation experience. It has castles, cathedrals, cottages, countryside vistas and city views that will impress not only the first-time visitor, but also the well-seasoned adventurer.

This inclusive travel package covers round-trip travel from Cedar Rapids to Prague, flight on Czechoslovak Airlines, superior-tourist to first-class hotels (all with private bath/toilets), and private coach for touring. Also included in the fully escorted tour are airport transfers, special Welcome and Farewell Banquets, plus many meals. Vin Ward (of Travel Advisors) will be the accompanying travel consultant and **Max Naxera** will be the group escort.

A partial list of places and things you'll experience: Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, Old Town, Karlštejn Castle, Karlovy Vary, Pilsner Brewery, Holy Mountain, Hluboka Castle, Český Krumlov, the Šumava, Konopiště Castle, St. Barbara Cathedral, and the Třebechovice "Bethlehem." You will return from this trip with scores of treasured memories.

Come to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on Tuesday, January 16, 1996, at 7 pm, to get all the facts. Your reward will be more than just the cup of coffee and fresh kolach.



*National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library*

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