

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

Vol. 9 - No. 4  
Dec. 1984

Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations  
P. O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406



## CALENDAR

## KALENDÁŘ

- Dec. 1. Sat. Sv. MIKULÁŠ FESTIVAL in Czech Village and Museum. pp. 3 and 5 for details.
2. Sun. Sv. MIKULÁŠ FESTIVAL DANCE Eagles Club, 3-9 p.m., pp. 3 and 5 for details. Benefit of Museum.
- 1985
- Jan. 20. Mon. ANNUAL MEETING CZECH HERITAGE AND FINE ARTS FDNS. Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church Schaeffer Drive at 29th Ave. S. W. 7:30 p.m. Members may invite guests. Meeting and social hour.
- Mar. 24. St. JOSEPH'S DAY DANCE. Eagles Club. 3 to 9 p.m. Benefit of Heritage Scholarship Fund. More details in March issue.

**MEET THE ČECH LANGUAGE.** A two hour conversational Čech Language Course sponsored by the Czech Heritage Fdn., will be offered on Monday nights in Cedar Rapids beginning in January or February. Registrants must be at least 15 years of age and have a genuine interest in learning or re-learning the Čech language.

A nominal fee will be required to cover costs of materials and tuition for the 12 week course. Those interested should write to John Rocarek, [redacted]

[redacted], After 6 p.m. home phone: [redacted]

**AWAIT THE REPORTS** of your activities as a speaker, do-er, project participant etc. for the 1984 year. Please send the report before Jan. 14, 1985 to President Frank W. Novotny, [redacted]

Include total number of persons, type of activities, and remarks of interest in your experiences. **THANK YOU.**

## CZECH HEALTH HELP WANTED.

Wendy Thomson Tripp, a health care researcher with Dr. Toni T. Reimer of the University of Iowa College of Nursing, is compiling a list of persons of Czech descent willing to participate in a study comparing health practices of Czech middle-aged and elderly individuals. Very little is known about the range and frequency of self-care practices or the variance among different ethnic age groups.

This study, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, will be conducted from the Spring of 1985 to the Spring of 1986. The plan will involve 50 families who will keep a health calendar diary for one designated month. In order to assure some validity for the study, one member of the family unit must be 50% Czech (that is, have one parent who is of Czech descent only). There will be a \$25 participation payment to the families who will be chosen randomly from the compiled list by means of a computer.

Upon completion of the study, a report will be published and distributed to local health care agencies. This study will assist those agencies in providing better health services to ethnic groups whose medical problems often differ, as was explained by Wendy in her discussion of the project at the Czech Heritage Board meeting, November 13th. Results from the study will also appear in this newsletter.

If you are interested in participating or wish further information, please contact Wendy at [redacted] on Thursdays or call her Secretary COLLECT at [redacted] and Wendy will return your call.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

W. T. T.



GRANDMA'S APRON has brought forth a number of fond memories to our many members. One letter said, "My maternal grandmother wore an apron and used it in the exact same way. . . . When I was married, my mother-in-law used her apron in the same way. We even used it to carry baby ducks, in a rain to cover our heads and to carry fruits and vegetables from the garden".

\*\*\*\*\*

FAMILY MEMORIES. Husband Frank and his brother would help their father picking corn until the 5 minute bell rang at the country school. Then they'd grab their lunch buckets and run to school, a mile away! On Sundays it was a 7 mile ride to church so the children were tucked under blankets in the back of the buggy, come rain, snow, or cold.

When I was a young girl, Daddy taught me to harness a team of horses, then hitch them to a wagon and drive the team. I really was a "little grease monkey" because he wanted me to grease the plow or cultivator shovels when he came from the fields and also grease the wagon wheels.

Mother always made a new sunbonnet for me every summer and made me wear long sleeves so I would be "white" and not "burnt". Every August my Daddy's home town had a big carnival. I always had a new dress to wear, made from an old hand-me-down from an aunt.

Among other childhood tasks was carding wool but I never learned to use the spinning wheel. Also learned to embroider, tat, crochet, and sew at a very young age.

Memories of Thanksgiving and Christmas are happy ones. I remember the old threshing machine run by steam--the horses and hay wagons loaded with bundles which had to be tossed into the machine head first. The threshing crews were treated to a glass of home-made grape wine.

I would never want things to be any different than what they have been!

Mrs. Darleen Dobrovolny  
Waterville, Kansas

CAN YOU GUESS? what country and what factory is making more than a score of nuclear power plants to be constructed in 4 European countries? Answer: in Czechoslovakia, the Škoda Konzeran is building these plants for 3 neighbors and itself. (World Press, Nov. 1984, p. 51). Most of us think of Škoda building railway equipment, tractors, tanks, ordnance but now Škoda is in the forefront of huge turbines and nuclear power plants. **TIMES SURE HAVE CHANGED.**

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM HERE AND THERE

The 9th Czech Festival in May was in Fort Bend County, TEXAS Fairgrounds said to be the **BIGGEST AND BEST FAIR IN TEXAS.** Some of the features were: food, beverages, bingo, continuous music, dancing, arts and crafts, fireworks display and special events for children, a kolach bake-off, prizes for antique and new quilts and a carnival. Featured entertainers were a Polish band, Czech dancers, cloggers, choruses, brass bands. No parking charges, admission \$2.00. Now we know of Czech Festivals from the Canadian to Mexican borders.

E. V.

Beautiful as it is and thronged as its streets are, **PRAGUE** seems a "city of resignation. Consumer goods seem plentiful but not of high quality, the best are exported. . . This ancient and beautiful city is living proof that human asperations survive the centuries. . . . "What at 40 to 50 years?" a Czech asked. "When they write about the 20th Century 200 years from now, they may give the whole Soviet era only a few paragraphs."

N. Y. Times News Service

LANGUAGES IN INDIA. Little wonder that communication is a problem in India. More than 1600 languages are recognized. Hindi is spoken by 50% of the people, Urdu, a Moslem tongue, spoken by 10%. Hindi is the official national language. English is considered an "associate" official language.







# Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

10 - 16TH AVENUE S.W. CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52404

## MUSEUM HOURS

From now until April 15, 1985, the Museum will be open on Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Special arrangements for tours are always available by calling (319) 362-8500.

## TREASURED DONATION TO MUSEUM.

In October, the Czech Museum was presented with a 300 year old cap, worn by a married woman as a part of her kroj (costume), was a gift of Mrs. Cornelia Prucha Maticka of Peoria, Illinois, given in memory of her husband, Bohuslav. It is the oldest documented piece of clothing the museum owns. The Museum is proud to state that the family visited all other Czech Museums in the United States and chose the Czech Museum of Cedar Rapids as the final depository for this very special antique.

STATISTICS. This has been the busiest year for the Museum. To date, over 22,000 visitors have toured our Museum since it first opened in September 1978. This year, alone, 4,500 visitors have already toured the Museum.

RESTORATION OF AN EARLY IMMIGRANT HOME. This two-year project of restoring an early Czech immigrant home is progressing very well. Thousands of volunteer hours have been donated to this project and is nearing completion. Watch for the special opening that will be announced in the near future.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2ND at EAGLES HALL

A colorful event will take place on the above date. A Sv. Mikuláš dance will be at Eagles Club, 202 Seventh Ave. S. E., from 3:30 to 9:00 p.m. TWO POLKA Bands will entertain: Arlene Boddicker and her Polka Dots and the Czech Plus under the direction of Drahozals. In addition, the Beseda Dancers

and Boddicker Showcase will perform. Sv. Mikuláš, the Christmas Devil and Angel will pay a visit! Another treat will be the sale of delicious--traditional Christmas baked goodies. Advance tickets are \$3 available at Boddicker School of Music, 92 - 16th Ave. S. W., and at Czech Museum, 10 - 16th Ave. S. W. Tickets purchased at the door \$3.50. AND there will be DOOR PRIZES!

## Sv. MIKULÁŠ FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Events for this December 1st week-end have been expanded so there is something of special interest to both youngsters and adults: Saturday, Dec. 1.

Sv. Mikuláš and Czech Christmas Customs at THE CZECH MUSEUM all day.

9:30-10:30 a.m. Puppet Show for children, ages 4 and over. (Admission 50¢)

11:00-5:00 p.m. Guided tours of Museum and Craft Demonstrations

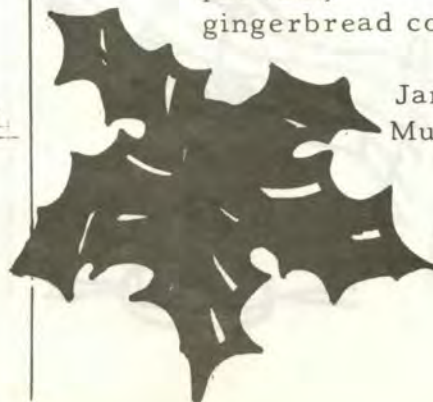
Museum tours will include:

- 10 foot Christmas tree decorated with over 700 glass blown ornaments.
- 5 foot tree decorated with hand-made ornaments of dough, cloth, cornhusks and straw.

## DEMONSTRATIONS of making

- cornhusk dolls
- dough ornaments
- paper ornaments
- peroutky
- gingerbread cookies

Jana Fast  
Museum Curator





ASTRONAUT CERNIN had a collection of 33 medallions commemorating the 11 Apollo Space Project. None has walked on the moon since he did. Cernin, of Slovak ancestry, found his home had been ransacked. Robbers found the hidden treasures and made off with them.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! If you find errors in this newsletter, please consider that they appear for the benefit of those readers who always look for them. We try to print something for everybody.

The Senior Voice E. F. E.  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

NOTE: Altho we find errors in every issue, Alas! you all are very understanding of such oversights. THANKS.

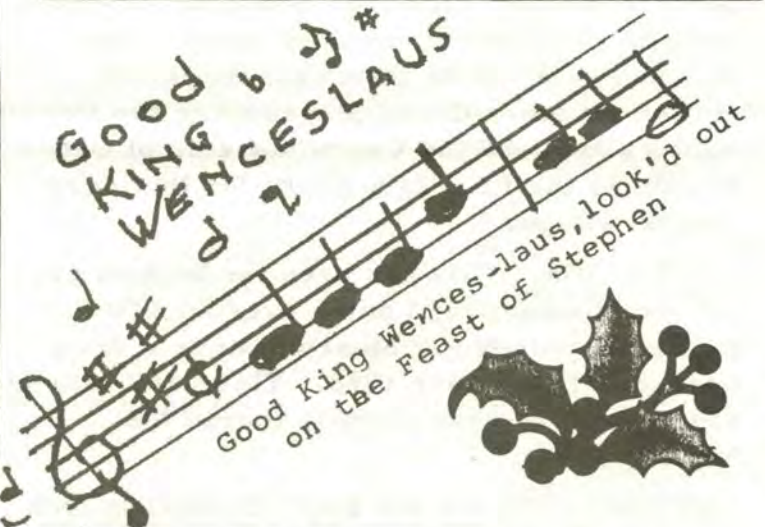
HONORED COE STUDENT, Georgiana Hach Brejcha, member of Czech Heritage Fdn. was recognized for contributions by women who "blend continuing education with responsibilities to home, family and community". Georgiana enrolled at Coe the first time in 1934.

Our CONGRATULATIONS

Marie Jedlitzka (1887-1982) known on concert and opera as Maria Jeritza, was a soprano and a favorite of Richard Strauss. His last composition was a kind of "rose" to her, entitled "Malvern". The manuscript was never published. The copy was found recently in the estate of Jeritza. The song will be auctioned off this December by Sotheby's, London.

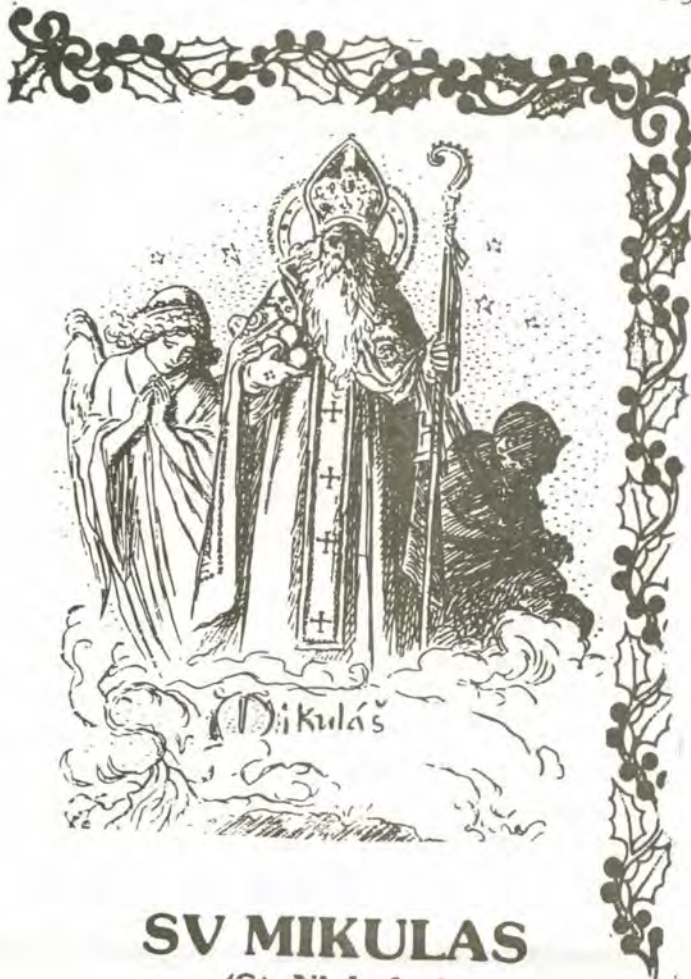


PRESIDENT BENEŠ REMEMBERED. Two months ago an article on "Great People Who Have Known Me" listed Eduard Beneš, FDR, JFK, Churchill, DeGaulle, Indra Ghandi, Ho Chin Minh and Golda Meir. The author, David Schoenbrun, news analyst and former chief of CBS News, met Beneš when Czechoslovakia was already within the grasp of the Communists. Beneš died the following year. In effect, Schoenbrun said that he was honored to have met the President "one of the historic figures of Europe and he only a "lowly reporter". Beneš replied, "Come, come, young man, don't make yourself so small, you're not so big." This remark stayed with Schoenbrun through the years as he observed... "that many leaders thought they were bigger than they were; others pretended to be smaller... the very biggest were always most genuinely modest." ....



JUDGES ACCORDION EVENTS For the third time, Mrs. Arlene Boddicker was appointed as Accordion Adjudicator representing the United States at the Coupe Mondiale International Accordion Competition which was held in Folkstone, England, United Kgd. October 17-21, 1984. In 1974 she judged at Stockholm, Sweden; in 1982 at Hamburg, Germany. Currently she is President of the Accordion Teachers' Guild, International. CONGRATULATIONS! a well deserved recognition.





**SV MIKULAS**  
 (St. Nicholas)  
 will be in  
**CZECH**  
**VILLAGE**

**Saturday**  
**December 1, 1984**  
**9:30 - 5 p.m.**

Sv. MIKULÁŠ FESTIVAL DANCE, Dec. 2, from 3 to 9 p.m. Eagles Club, 202 7th Ave. S. E. Sponsored by the Czech Fine Arts Fdn. Proceeds go to the Czech Museum. Door prizes, Music, Floor Show. Traditional Christmas baked goodies. Advance tickets \$3 at Museum and Boddickers. At door tickets \$3.50. **TWO POLKA BANDS!**

**Sv. Mikulas Day events will include the following:**

- \* 12 noon to 4 p.m. Sv. Mikuláš with Angel and Devil will greet visitors.
- \* Czechoslovak egg decorating demonstrated at Joens Bros. Interiors and Granny's Attic, noon to 5 p.m.
- \* Houska braiding and pastry decorating demonstrated at Sykora Bakery from noon to 4 p.m.
- \* Christmas specials and drawings for visitors in Village Shops.
- \* Beautiful and diverse shops and restaurants for browsing and relaxing.
- \* 204 unmetered spaces for your convenience at Village Lots.

THE LEGEND OF SV. MIKULÁŠ. On Dec. 6th, the feast of Sv. Mikuláš is a custom followed by Czech people throughout December until Christmas Eve. Sv. Mikuláš, the Devil and Angel stroll about neighborhoods. The Devil and Angel walk ahead to signal the approach of Sv. Mikuláš, who asks each child if he says his prayers and has been good. Those who were good, get a treat and the Angel records the answer in a book. If one has been naughty, then the Devil rattles the chains. On Christmas Eve, the Angel's record of good children receive nuts, candy and fruit. If one has been naughty, a piece of coal, wood or potato is in the stocking. Of course the one who was naughty usually cries and makes promises to be good, so mother has nice gifts for the child.

Sv. Mikuláš is one of the most venerated of all saints. He was the real Bishop of Myra, Capital of Lycia, in an ancient province of Asia Minor, now Turkey. He was especially noted for his charity and of course, was the first Santa Claus.

Czech Village News by Pat Martin  
 Village Coordinator





### METRO H.S. STUDENTS PLAN INTERVIEWS

During the winter term at Metro High School, a class in "World Issues" will be interviewing local Czechs and other ethnic groups about their traditions, conflicts, history and geography of their experiences. If you have some background helpful to the class project and are interested in meeting some morning class period with the students, please do volunteer. Topics such as "The Immigrant Experiences" or "My Former Homeland" or many others are suitable ideas. Perhaps you can tell about reports you have heard about problems settling in America. If you can meet with a class for an interview and conversation, you'll certainly help the students to "feel history" and bring world issues alive! Write a brief letter about your experience or interests within a few days and be sure to include your name, address and phone number. The two teachers planning this project are Pat Martin, the well-known Czech Village Coordinator and colleague teacher, Gary Goldstein, World Issues Teachers, Metro Secondary School, 1212 - 7th Ave. S. E., Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52401.

JAMES NORMAN HALL (1887-1951) co-author of "Mutiny on the Bounty" and other stories, esp. of the South Pacific, was born in COLFAX, IOWA. No matter where he lived or travelled, he clung with pride "to his identity as an American from Iowa". He was with the British Army in WWI, later the LaFayette Escadrille serving in France. He then graduated from Grinnell and later from Harvard. He travelled wherever his fancy took him. He married a part-Tahitian, Sarah, in the 1920's and lived in Tahiti the rest of his life.

There he knew an innkeeper, Milos Rivnac, a Čech. As they visited it developed they both revered Dvořák's "New World Symphony" written the summer Dvořák lived at Spillville. It was indeed a coincidence that in 1907 both heard that music for the first time!

VESELE VÁNOCE a  
ŠTASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK

### AMONG THE WHO'S WHO IN MIDWEST.

Honors come to Miss Angela Svoboda, a member of the family who so generously had the flag pole erected by the Bandstand on the Mall in Czech Village and also supplied the Czech Flag - all in memory of their parents.



Miss Svoboda is Office Education teacher/Coordinator at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids. She has been named to the 19th edition (1984-85) of "Who's Who in the Midwest".

Miss Svoboda had an active part in school projects, received high academic honors at Central City High School from which she graduated. She attended Coe, graduated from University of Iowa, with honors in Business Education. She also did further graduate work at Univ. of Michigan, UNI and Appalachian State University. Experiences in business as well as teaching include a wide variety of places and responsibilities. Miss Svoboda is active in local, State and District levels of service clubs and church organizations, and Czech Heritage Fdn. She holds numerous memberships in several professional organizations. A plaque from "Who's Who in the Midwest" testifies to her "contribution to the betterment of contemporary living."

OUR CONGRATULATIONS!

gifts

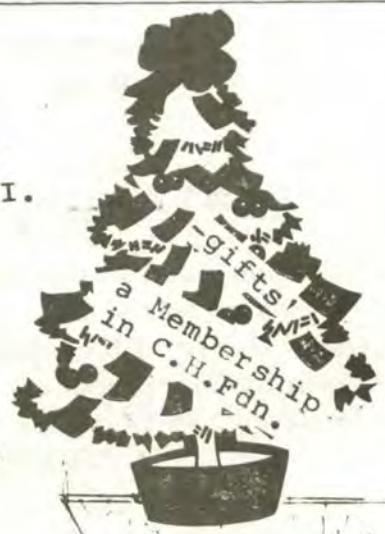
MY CZECH WORD  
BOOK ABC's

HISTORY  
Vols. I, II.

MUSIC ALBUM

MEET THE CZECH  
LANGUAGE BOOK

WIT  
and  
WISDOM FABLES





VÁNOČNÍ NOC - another version of The Night Before Christmas



Byla vánoční noc a skrz celej haus  
nic se nehnuo, ani jeden "maus".  
\*Punčochy ve řadě nad kamnami  
byly opatrně pověšeny.  
\*Dětičky v peřinách zabalený, zdálo  
se jim o houskách pečený.  
\*Náš vospalej pes, už nazranej dost,  
tam u kamen zdrímal, volizoval kost.  
\*A mně ve houpáku, co se mi nestalo,  
moje své chrápání mě taky uspalo.  
\*Ale najednou na střeše takový šramot  
já vyskočil hned a vlít do mých kalhot.  
\*A pes se probudil a štěkal tak stekle  
jsem jistej že myslel že teď je v pekle.  
\*Tam na naší střeše něký zvíře tam věje  
a já jsem chtěl vědět co se tam děje.  
\*Já vyběhl ven a uklouz jsem na led, a  
v sedu kouk vzhůru, to byl ale pohled!  
\*Tam vedle komína, ach jej na mouduši  
bylo chlupatý zvíře, mělo velký uši.  
\*Mělo dvě oči a veliký rohy  
a červeněj nos, a tenoučký nohy.  
\*Nos rozsvícenej, že já věděl hned  
Todle je Rudolf a žádnej medvěd.  
\*On tam vám na střeše frkal a hekal  
na ledovým šindeli se nárámě smekal.  
\*A jeleni za ním se taky hrabali  
Jako mastný kočky se marně škrábali.  
\*A sáně už výsely přes okapem  
tam náká hračka už vypadla ven.  
\*Sandi Klaus křičel, "Prosím tudle noc  
já potřebuju velikou pomoc."  
\*Tak jsme se radili Sandi Klaus a já  
co se dá dělat než Rudolf hapá?  
\*Pak jsme vynašli, co teď každej ví,  
Rudolf na kopytách měl podkovy hladký.  
\*Šli jsme k mému autu a s kolách jsme  
Vzali řetízky a Rudolfa na nohy dali.  
\*Sandi Klaus do sáních vlít jako myška  
a smál se sám sobě jako chytrá liška.  
\*A Rudolfoj na hlavu prutem prásk, tak,  
že se do kšíru vopřel a táh jako vlak.  
\*Rudolf vyhazoval, ani jednou nehekl  
na kopytách řetízky ani se nesmekl.  
\*A Sandi Klaus ohlásil, "Děkuju vám moc,  
veselé Vánoce všem, a všem dobrou noc."

It was Christmas eve and throughout the  
whole house, nothing moved, not one mouse.  
\*Stockings in a row above the stove  
were carefully hung.  
\*Children wrapped in featherbeds  
dreaming of baked fruit breads.  
\*Our sleepy dog, already well fed, by  
the stove dreaming, licking a bone.  
\*And I in a rocking chair, what happened  
to me, my snoring put me to sleep.  
\*All at once on the roof such a noise  
I jumped at once and flew into my trousers.  
\*The dog awakened and barked like mad  
I thought for sure he must be in hell.  
\*There on the roof some whinnying animal  
And I wanted to see what was going on.  
\*I ran outdoors, slipped on the ice,  
as I sat, I looked up, that was a view!  
\*There by the chimney, upon my word  
was a hairy creature with large ears.  
\*It had 2 eyes and huge horns  
a red nose and slender legs.  
\*The shiny nose I knew at once  
That is Rudolf and not a bear!  
\*On the roof, puffing and groaning,  
on icy shingles was badly slipping.  
\*The deer behind him also pawing  
like greased cats vainly scratching.  
\*The sleigh hung over the eaves  
and some toys had fallen out.  
\*Sandi Klaus cried, "Please, this  
night I need much help!"  
\*So I advised Sandi Klaus what to  
do before Rudolf tumbles down.  
\*So we found, as everyone now knows,  
Rudolf had smooth hooves.  
\*We went to the auto and from wheels  
took the chains, put them on Rudolf's feet.  
\*Sandi Klaus jumped into the sleigh  
like a mouse, smiled to himself like a  
wise fox.  
\*He flicked the whip at Rudolf's head  
then he leaned into the harness and  
pulled like a train.  
\*Rudolf leaped, not once did he groan  
with chains on his hooves, not even slipping.  
And Sandi Klaus called, "Thank you very  
much, happy Christmas to all and to all  
good night."

~ANOCEa

VÝ ROK

C. H. V.



CZECH CYCLIST AND FAMILY ARRIVE IN DENVER after 2 years of planning. Robert Hutyra and family soared out of the homeland in a metal gondola lifted by a home-made hot air balloon and landed in Austria. A friend who had defected in 1976 and who now lives in Denver greeted Robert Hutyra, wife Jana and their children, Richard, age 12, and Jana, age 15, just this last September.

Mrs. Hutyra spent 500 hours sewing the rainbow-colored raincoat fabric for the 66 ft. high balloon. A small camp stove supplied the heat for the hot air. The gondola was metal to foil possible shots by the border guards who did fire flares which did not reach the altitude of the balloon. "Czechoslovakia is a pretty land but the political system is not for me," said Mr. Hutyra when interviewed. The family had lived in Bratislava, Slovakia, which happens to be just across the Danube River from Austria where the river is the international boundary.

The metal gondola is in a West Berlin Museum. The 292 pound balloon is on its way by sea mail to Colorado. The family are pleased with the sun and mountain location of their new home and look forward to skiing.

Eleanor Pohorsky Elkington  
from St. Petersburg, Fla. news

TONGUE TWISTER

I had a wood whistle, but it wooden whistle,  
I got a lead whistle, it wooden lead me  
whistle.

I got a steel whistle, it still wooden whistle,  
Then I got a tin whistle. Now I tin whistle  
just swell.

Marjorie Stejskal, Yukon, Oklahoma  
from the WFLA Herald Journal

SLOVAK AND CZECH NEWSPAPERS, U. S. A.

A recent survey of ethnic newspapers listed that 6 Slovak publications have a circulation of over 71,000, and 3 Czech publications have a circulation of some 20,000. It is of special interest to note that some 64% of the popula-

(continued next column)

tion in Czechoslovakia is Czech-Moravian and some 30% is Slovak. The total population of the nation is some 15,400,000 in recent census. The HLASATEL (Chicago) has appeared for some 95 years. The HOSPODÁŘ formerly of Omaha (1900) and is now in West, Texas. In addition to newspapers, many groups such as lodges, local groups, some religious organizations continue to publish all or part of their organs or journals or newsletters in the language of the homeland or with all or part of the publication in English.

Some of the 23 listed ethnic newspapers in the report such as Spanish have a circulation of more than 875,000. Some papers are highly political, others more religious; some are actually linked with foreign governments of the homeland of the subscribers. Since the press "does not fully cover the needs of ethnic people, the ethnic papers will survive". The appearance of more Spanish and almost a score of Vietnamese papers in Southern California indicates that local papers do not appeal to all newcomers. Of course, it is understandable that until the newcomers became more a part of the mainstream in their new homeland, they will find their own language newspapers more informative.

DUES FOR 1985 PAYABLE NOW. The ANNUAL DUES EXPIRE AS OF DEC. 31, AND CONTINUE TO BE \$3.00/yr. per individual. Donations gratefully received. Send your payment and check made out to Czech Heritage Fdn., Inc., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52406. Be sure your name, address and phone number are included. Some members have PAID UP so this notice does not apply to you. THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR PROMPT REPLIES.



VESELÉ VÁNOCE a  
ŠŤASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK!





Lynn Nejd

Sara Joens

Julie Jilovec

OUR THREE AMBASSADORS

"OUT ON THE ACRES" was Joe Behounek, near Chelsea when he was interviewed by Al Swegle of the C. R. Gazette. Joe specializes in "Large Whites", raising 1300 purebred breeding stock in a year. Behounek says that the day of the farmer who raises 1000 hogs a year is over. Big operators in the Midwest raise from 10,000 to 25,000 or more hogs/yr. and have taken over the business. Buyers of the Big Whites are in Missouri, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. Exports go to Korea, Japan, Singapore and Mexico. Visitors from Taiwan are coming to see these Big Whites. Ten years ago the Behouneks visited Ireland to take a look at the "Whites". Since then they have bought breeding stock from a Minnesotan.

Our THREE AMBASSADORS spent 4 glorious weeks this past summer in the homes of families in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on the Experiment of International Living Program. They were the first to participate "Behind the Iron Curtain" -- that is, in a Communist country. All agreed that the experience was the most memorable with many opportunities to see and learn about family living, historic sites and events, to meet relatives of their families and to travel about the cities and the countryside.

The girls are sharing their experiences on programs at service clubs, church groups, senior citizens and school classes.

The summer of 1985, the Czech Heritage Foundation will again sponsor some senior high school students to represent us in Czechoslovakia.

CZECHOSLOVAK HERITAGE is a new quarterly publication, 22 pages, \$5/yr., 4 issues, published by the Chicago and Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, Inc., P.O. Box 159, Berwyn, Ill. 60402. There are 3 sections or segments to the publication: history, culture, stamps.

You may not be a stamp collector but you might still be interested in the special articles which take up most of an issue. There are recipes, too, which might appeal to those who collect cook books. An item in the news release states that "Something for everyone" is in the publication.

C. E. K.

TWO ITEMS that answer your Xmas shopping are: a packet of 8 assorted postcards, assorted landscape winter scenes in Czechoslovakia -- in color -- village, countryside and city. \$1.25 plus postage. AND ALL LINEN TEA TOWELS, 17" x 30". Figures include costumes, rooster, flowers, hearts, fruit with border in black, brown or green. \$2 plus postage.

The above items may be ordered from Czech Heritage Fdn., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52406.



Nobel Prize to JAROSLAV SEIFERT.

The recipient of the 1985 Nobel Prize in Literature was the well-known and beloved poet of Czechoslovakia, Jaroslav Seifert whose poetry has been characterized as "lyrical with love and hope, often nationalistic verse." He was one of the signers of the 77 Charter in 1979 which supported the Helsinki Treaty on Human Rights. His opposition to Communist causes was obvious in his writings which were banned in 1968 at the time of the brief period

of the "Prague Spring" when Dubček for a few months brought a lightening of the government ways. This, of course, was brought to an abrupt halt when the Soviet tanks rolled down the Václavské Náměstí, 1968. Clippings from such papers as the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, the St. Petersburg Independent, Des Moines Sunday Register as well as our local Gazette carried at some length the story of Seifert. The following are excerpts from some of the above newspapers:

1. Seifert's first collected poems to be published in 1920 "Město Slzách", City in Tears. (Prague it was).

2. He was the first Czech author to win a Nobel Prize.

3. Seifert received official blessing of the Communist government 2 days after he was awarded the prize of \$193,000.

4. "Through 2 World Wars, through Hitler and Stalin, through the political maneuverings and writers, unions, Seifert remained faithful first and above all to his art."

5. "The prize reminds us that there are writers in Czechoslovakia and their work is worth the world's respect."

6. Seifert was born in a working-class district in Prague. He is 83 with an ailing heart and with a diabetic condition.

7. A list of 150 candidates was considered by the Nobel Committee. A "Fellow" at Cambridge University (England)

blasted the academy for noting that the prize never went to others . . . including Franz Kafka.

8. He is the greatest living Czech poet and is most popular. Outside of the region he is hardly known except to specialists.

The following poem circulated clandestinely in Prague in 1979; was originally published in the Christian Science Monitor.

Whenever I gaze out on Prague  
—and I do so constantly and always  
with bated breath  
because I love her—  
I turn my mind to God  
wherever he may be,  
beyond the starry mists or just behind  
that moth-eaten screen,  
to thank him  
for granting that magnificent setting  
to me to live in.

To me and to my joys and carefree  
loves,  
to me and to my tears without weep-  
ing

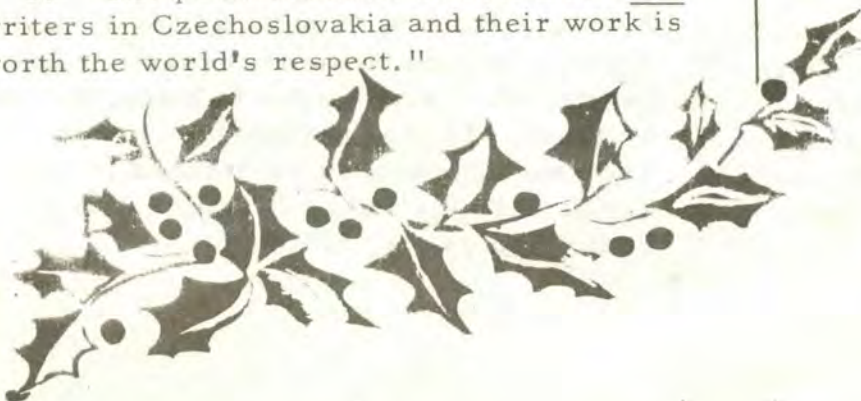
when the loves departed,  
and to my more-than-bitter grief  
when even my verses could not weep.  
I love her fire-charred walls  
to which we clung during the war  
so as to hold out.

I would not change them for anything in  
the world.

Not even for others.  
Not even if the Eiffel tower rose be-  
tween them  
and the Seine flowed sadly past,  
not even for all the gardens of para-  
dise  
full of flowers.

When I shall die—and this will be quite  
soon—  
I shall still carry on my heart this city's  
destiny.

And mercilessly, just as Marsyas, let  
anyone be flayed alive  
who lays hands on this city,  
no matter who he is.  
No matter how sweetly he plays  
on his flute.





Of Seiferts many volumes of poetry, only one "The Casting of the Bells" has been translated into English and published by The Spirit That Moves Us Press, Box 1585, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240 (Monty Sklar, publisher). \$7 softcover; \$14 cloth cover.

Since the announcement of the Nobel Prize, Sklar has received many orders including a cablegram from Stockholm, Sweden for 250 copies.

(C. R. Gazette)

Appearing in the Des Moines Sunday Register, Oct. 28, 1984, is a half-page article by Ann Struthers, a Cedar Rapids poet and free-lance writer. The following excerpts of Seifert's poems come from the volume, "The Casting of the Bells".

If the tyrant does not fall  
(and even that we inherit)  
The poet is sentenced to silence  
And the clenched fist opens  
To spread over the singer's mouth  
But he shouts his verses through  
the bars,

While book thieves  
Get to work fast,  
But I am not him.

\*\*\*\*\*

Writes Ann Struthers that Seifert "may be making a political statement as well as a religious one...."

The names of all sins are  
defined clearly  
and are right or wrong  
and the right ones are just as good  
as the rest.

And in this "three themes are mixed, showing that love, politics and religion cannot be separated....."

Oh, yes, innocent lovemaking!  
But as a good friend said,  
not even love could do  
without a little blissful sinning.  
Only that will excite and warm  
and chase away monotony.  
But love does not have to put on  
the colors of bleached-out pants  
and tight overalls.

And this selection is about politics.

And They're so glad to smile  
even when they, at candlelight,  
listen in the evening  
to the nostalgic vespers.  
Even hope has that ridiculousness  
about it  
and man, as you may well know, can,  
after all endure anything.  
Even death!  
by then, it's already still and quiet.

\*\*\*\*\*

And this in "Dance Song" . . . . .

She had tangled bronze hair  
which hung  
In one thick braid down to the waist  
And when she danced faster, and  
faster,  
It flew heavily after her  
Like a tamed bird.

\*\*\*\*\*

To those of you who have translated from other languages into English find that the rythm, the rhyme of poetry are almost impossible to reproduce in a translation. Many words in other languages have such subtle meanings in the mind of the writer that are lost in the change to another language. One writer has laughingly said, "Words and symbolism are in the "blood" of those who know the original writing of the poet.

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HATS OFF to EVELYN STEJSKAL who has enlarged the membership by TWENTY NEW MEMBERS.



She says that this is her contribution to her participation in the Foundation.  
MANY THANKS.  
Are there any more EVELYNS out there?

There is a possibility that Monty Sklar, Iowa City, publisher of SEIFERT'S "The Casting of the Bells" will speak at our Annual Meeting on January 21.



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