

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

Czech Heritage Foundation Czech Fine Arts Foundation
Vol. III. No. 1. P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52406 '78



A MESSAGE from DENVER DVORSKY 1978 President of the CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Many times in the last few years, I have heard a reoccurring question posed. It usually goes something like this: " Why don't the Czech people (usually stated Bohemians) in our area get together and organize some events like they used to? You know, some really big dances, social affairs and tourist attractions like the Germans do out at the Amanos? There are enough people around her with Czech names that those kind of things should go over big?"

It seems to me that the people who ask this kind of question have a good point and give us something to think about.

Firstly, we in the Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations and the Czech Village Association know that is exactly what we have been doing for the last three years, namely organizaing some really fine social affairs, entertainment; and actively renovating 16th Avenue, Czech Village.

But why do non-Czech (and some of the Czech) people keep asking the same question?

Well, I would like to suggest that we in the Heritage groups have not got our job done. We have not yet reached the general public in the Cedar Rapids and Eastern Iowa Area, and made them aware of just how active the area Czechs are. For example, we know how big and entertaining the Czech Village Festival was last September. We are aware of the full house and tremendous receptions we had for our Symphony virtuoso violinist and dance performances at the Paramount Theater for the Performing Arts.

(continued on page 4)

ELECTION of 1978: RESULTS

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Heritage Foundation, on January 16th, the following officers and Board members were elected:

President: Denver Dvorsky
V. President: Frank W. Novotny
Secretary: Bette Landa Trefny
Treasurer: Libbie Holecek Fields

Board: George F. Barta, Paul Kosek, Charles E. Krejci, Robert J. Kubik, Wm. B. Pohorsky, Roland Raim, Jitka Schaffer, Donald E. Smith, M. Melvina Svec, Edwin F. Trachta, John Vosatka, Charles Vyskocil.

CZECH ORGANIZATIONS MEET WITH THE HERITAGE AND FINE ARTS BOARDS. . .

On Wednesday, January 4th, delegates from 11 of the 21 Czech groups in the community met to exchange ideas about a Czech Cultural Center. A great deal of interest was generated. The consensus was that a committee to include a member from the various interested groups meet to study the project - site, uses of such a center, building costs and maintenance, fund raising and other related matters.

The set-up of the committee would await later meetings of the two Foundations since newly elected members would be on the Boards of Directors.

HAYES SCHOOL PARENTS MEET

On Tuesday, January 17, parents and interested persons heard the report of the Citizens Committee on the future of Hayes School. Many remarks and questions were made by those present. Some 70 people attended the hearing. Concerned parents asked some pointed questions as well as giving their own ideas or problems.

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AND ABOUT OUR MEMBERS:

Many of you recall the Sosel family. Josef Sosel is said to have been the first Czech lawyer west of the Mississippi River. His daughters, Josephine and Mary were principals at old Monroe and Tyler schools around 1910 and after. The family home was on the corner of Greene and Adams Streets, the present site of Geneva Tower!

Mr. Sosel was 40 years of age when he arrived here. He had esdapsed from the Province of Bohemia by means of a barrel rolled across the border. Because he spoke out against the government of Frenz Josef, Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, there was a price on his head. Mr. Sosel was born in 1811 and died here in 1887.

(Irene Wlach)

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WHY I CAME TO AMERICA (Proč jsem přijel do Americky) . .

T. B. Hlubuček, affectionately known as Ted, tells his story. In 1912 his father left the Province of Bohemia to come to America. Two years later, the older brother, Charles, joined his father here in Cedar Rapids.

Ted was graduated from the State Industrial Academy in Rychnov nad Knežnou and would then be expected to serve his term in the Austro-Hungarian Army.

After delays, on June 19, 1920, required visa for a two years student stay in the United States contingent upon being accepted by a college (Berea, Ohio) was arranged and Ted eventually arrived in United States.

Meeting at Hayes School (p.1)

The last questions asked was to inquire if any groups were interested in the use of the building. Superintendent Maire replied that one group had made known its interest, that it was not a commercial organization and that he was not at liberty to divulge the name. All around the editor heard people whispering, "It's the Czech Heritage" . . "The Czech Heritage wants Hayes." . . So, it is evident that the community is aware of what is going on. . . .

However, he missed train connection in Chicago so he arrived later than expected in Cedar Rapids. When he stepped off the train at our old Union Station, no father, no brother met him! There he stood, valise in hand when he saw a burly policeman walk toward him. What had he done to meet a policeman? He was quaking in his boots. Then the officer greeted Ted in Czech! Some remarks were exchanged and Officer Hrabetin directed Ted to cross the 4th Ave. interurban bridge, turn right at the far end, and he would find his father's Hat Shop.

Ted's heavy heart and luggage became lighter as he hurried on his way. But college was not to be for almost at once he became of member of the foreign language department of the W. F. Severa Co., a pharmaceutical co. Its last location was the S. E. corner of First St. 4th Ave., SE. which is now occupied by Laurence Press Co. His co-workers were L. H. Straka and John C. Stepan. For 27 years, Ted was affiliated with Severa.

During those years, Ted was also a journalist associated with the Czech papers - Vestnik Iowsky, The Cedar Rapidske Listý, and a teacher in night classes in history and naturalization. He was active in various groups, especially well remembered as Director of the Czech Dramatic Association.

For some years, the Hlubuceks lived in the Chicago area where he was the Superintendent of the Bohemian Home for the Aged, returning to Cedar Rapids some ten years ago.

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From MRS. ANNA VALENTA, came a set of yellowed clippings dating 1924, 1951 and later. All except one are from Czech papers. In fact, Mrs. Valenta was the reporter and writer of some items! Topics tell of the early days of Matice Skolska Sboru, of a bazaar where over \$2000 was raised on the 70th anniversary of the group; of a visit from Calif.

(continued p. 6)



fine arts



NEW OFFICERS, 1978

Newly elected officers and the new Board members are:

- President: Robert Schaffer
- V. President: Mildred Drahovzal
- Secretary: Jana Fast
- Treasurer: Elsie Jelinek

Board: Val Barta, Arlene Boddicker, Jean Clark, Milan Fast, Robert L. Harris, Rose Kopecky, John A. Kuba, Milton R. Langer, Dorothy Longstaff, Janelle V. McClain, Max Naxera, Mildred Ortner, Ann Pesek, Gus Pesek, Raphael Snitil, Marie Trachta and Dorothy Votroubek.



250 mi.
OMAHA
415 km.

The Foundation will sponsor an overnight trip to Omaha to attend the Omaha Opera Company's production of Smetana's "The Bartered Bride" given in English at the newly restored Orpheum Theater.

Plans are to leave by bus Saturday morning, April 8. Reservations will be at the Continental Towers Motel. Dinner will be at The Bohemia Cafe. The opera starts at 8 P.M.

Sunday morning will be free to do as you choose. The bus will leave Omaha Sunday afternoon. For more information, call Arlene Boddicker 365-6652 before March 23rd.

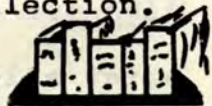
 * COMING ! *
 * Fine Arts Foundation *
 * ETHNIC FAIR and FESTIVAL *
 * * * * *
 * Sunday, May 21st, from 1 to 5 *
 * P.M., Riverside Roundhouse. *
 * Displays of Czech handcrafts *
 * and demonstrations of works. *
 * Kolaches, soft drinks, coffee, *
 * tea, fried mushrooms and also *
 * sale of Czech crafts. *
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♫ " THANK YOU" ♪

The Board of Directors of the Fine Arts Foundation appreciates the support and interest of those who attended the C.R. Youth Symphony All-Czech concert at Coe College on Sunday, January 29th. . and a "Thank You" to the students and the two Directors who produced a memorable event for the community.

OUR TRAVELING MUSEUM

is a real success. The displays have been enjoyed by many people at the Sheraton Inn and the United State Bank. Future locations are planned. We recently purchased several pieces of museum quality of Czech clothing and costumes which will be used in coming museum displays of our growing collection.



LIBRARY and MUSEUM NOTES

The Foundation wishes to thank those of you who have been so generous with your donations of money, books, and memorabilia for the Museum and Library collections.

Our main objective is to preserve the Czech heritage. This can best be done if we have our own building to house these items. Alone, the Foundation cannot furnish the money and contents for this project. We do need everyone's help. And so your donations of money, Czech glassware, linens, books, clothing, pictures, and quilts, costumes, jewelry, tools and other items would make a complete collection worthy of our heritage.

To make donations or give us additional information about items we should know about, please contact Bob Schaffer or Elsie Jelinek .

The President's Message (p.1.)

We know that plans for a Museum and Library are moving along. We have started a traveling display of prized artifacts and treasures. Unfortunately the average Cedar Rapiidian isn't aware of all of this- not yet.

And now, to get to MY REAL MESSAGE ! This year will see us offer more and bigger events that ever before. Just check out the calendar of activities and their description in this newsletter under Czech Fine Arts and the Czech Village. Then make some mental plans (and mark your date book, too) for the things that will interest you. We will, of course, have other publicity for our plans. More will be listed in the next newsletter.

I believe that the simplest way to make the rest of the public aware of all that we have to offer, as well as our long term objectives, is to increase our membership. And I mean a real increase, like doubling or tripling our more than 500 membership.

After all, there are an awful lot of Czech people and sympathizers in this area, many of whom could be expected to have some interest in what's happening. Your group officers are planning a membership drive but individual member efforts in introducing the organization to their friends will accomplish the most of all.

Fortunately, our coming attractions will make this effort easier this year. All you have to do is to invite your friends to the summer picnic, the Village Festival, concerts, and the rest should come naturally! Good times have a way of producing interested people to become members.

I believe it is essential for our long term goals to establish a museum and the development of the Czech heritage, we expand the size of our group and offer something to everyone!

In a couple of years, I hope to stop hearing that question about why the Czechs don't do something here. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in this year of 1978. . . . D.D.

OUR SPEAKERS BUREAU

At the Annual Meeting in January, a report was given of the many talks by our speakers. You will recall that the December issue of the newsletter carried a copy of the titles and speakers.

During 1977, 14 speakers met with a total of 2150 people in audiences at 89 different meetings. Some of groups numbered 15, others were over 200. For sure we do not have a complete report because some of you not on the list also give of time and talent at programs.

Then on TV, Rose Polehna appeared three times demonstrating noodle and dumpling making; Marge Nejd1 continues to demonstrate egg coloring; Sokol sewing group is sharing quilting skills and still others make contributions, such as baking kolaches or hoska for some holiday events.

And so, with Czech Festival Days, Czech Fine Arts events at the Riverside Roundhouse added to the above events --we are reaching thousands of people and no longer just talking to ourselves.

These talks and demonstrations are shared with church groups, some grades in our city schools, clubs, Scouts, lodges, service clubs, and many other organizations.

Will those of you who share your skills and talents let us know WHO you are, WHAT you are doing, and how large a total audiences you meet during 1978 ? Thanks!

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The list from the Speakers Bureau has an error in phone numbers. Bette Landa Trefny's phone is

. Now that she is the Secretary for the Heritage Fdn. you will want the correct number as well *

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President: D.Dvorsky

Secretaty: Bette Trefny

Editor: M.Melvina Svec

1978 ELECTION REPORT

At the January business meeting of the Czech Village Association the following officers were elected:
 President: Paul Kosek
 V. President: Lester Sykora
 Secretary: Jessie Stastny
 Treasurer: Ernie Hlas

Pat Martin continues as the co-ordinator and liaison person to keep communications between the Heritage and Fine Arts and Village Association as well as to promote events on the Avenue.



COMING UP!

MARK YOUR DATE BOOK



Saturday, March 18. American Field Service students and Linn Mar High School students and teachers will be in the Village for a two-hour tour. Some 50 of these visitors will look in on 16th Avenue Meat Market, Kosek's, Polehna's Market, Saddle and Leather Shop, Sykora Bakery, Czech Cottage, Czech Closet, and Boddicker's School of Music. On the tour they will see everything from pigs' feet to sausage stuffing, to leather working, pastry preparation, Czech objects of art and costumes, to music of Czech heritage.

The visitors will see the artistry and culture of Czech people in their work and to top off the tour they will have lunch at Konecny's. The Village will be celebrating St. Joseph's Day on March 18th also!

TUESDAY, April 4. Junior League's Civic Tour "History Revisited" will be in Czech Village in the morning.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 29-30. See "Images '78", an art fair at the Riverside Roundhouse, sponsored by the Ambroz Recreation Center and the Cedar Rapids-Marion Fine Arts Council. The event will be a major part of the Czech Village focus that weekend.



Kapela Hraje!



KOSEK MEMORIAL BANDSTAND

Czech Village

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 20-21.

Something new "HOUBY DAYS" in Czech Village, co-sponsored by the Village Association and the Czech Fine Arts Foundation.

"Houby" are mushrooms in the event the reader is not familiar with houby!

The spotlight during this two-day festival will be on customs and arts that are characteristic of Czech heritage.

On Sunday there will be mushroom-hunting contests, delightful mushroom goodies to eat, events for children, Czech arts objects and crafts for sale and Czech music will fill the air. Make a date! Sunday, 1 to 5 P.M. Riverside Roundhouse. Demonstrations of various Czech arts will be going on for your observation. . . .

FOLK SAYINGS

Anna Valenta (from p. 2)

of Mrs. Anna Paider and daughter Rose, about the early ministers at Ely and Western - Rev. Frank Kun and the Rev. Francis Pokorny. Many of you members knew these people. The clippings will be filed in our Museum-Library collection to provide historical information.

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MORE ABOUT SPEAKERS

The first printing of leaflets for our Speakers Bureau has been about exhausted. And so we will be thinking of revising the material, making additions and corrections.

If you have suggestions as to any topics, speakers, or whatever, please let us hear AT ONCE ! We are eager to improve our offerings so don't hide your light under 2 bushels.

Just send you ideas in a note, leave it unsigned if you wish, to us at our PO Box 761, CR., Ia. 52406.

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Eugene Cernan of Slovak ancestry was OUR astronaut who took the longest walk in space, June 3, 1966 . . . Recent news tells that Vladimir Remek of Czechoslovakia was rocketed into space on Soyuz 28 with Alexei Gubarev on March 3 1978.

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from Betty Losenicky

1. Bez práci nejsou koláče.
2. Žádný učeny z nebe nepad.

from Bette Trefny

3. Dvakrát měř a jednou řez.
4. Schovaná věc se nikdy neztratí.
5. Nikdy nesouď člověka podle kabátu.

from Marie Wokoun

6. Kdyby byla písnička sebe delší přeci jí někdy bude konec.
7. Či chleb jidej toho piseň zpivej.

Interesting, aren't they?! Did you think of a saying in the English that had similar ideas? Or didn't you know what was going on ? Here are the translations:

1. Without work, there are no kolaches.
2. No learning falls from heaven.
3. Measure twice, cut once.
4. Hidden things are never lost.
5. Never judge a person by the coat he wears.
6. No matter how long the song, it comes to an end.
7. Sing the song of him whose bread you eat.

\$3 \$3 \$3 \$3 \$3 DUES ! DUES ? DUES ! \$3 \$3 \$3 \$3 \$3 \$3

If you find a bright yellow "bill" in the envelope, it is a reminder that dues for 1978 should be paid at once. Our membership is on an annual basis, expiring at the end of the year.

If your membership is not active for 1978, this is the last issue of the newsletter you will receive. The next issue will have details of the summer picnic, Czech Festival Days in September and other fall events.

In the event that you mailed your dues in the last few days, please disregard the notice and yellow form. However, maybe you could pass the slip to a relative, friend, or neighbors who are interested in membership in the Foundation. Thanks..

March 1978 issue