

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



Veselé velikonoce

Volume 24 - Number 1 - March 1999



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OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

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

Deadline for receiving articles for the June issue is April 25, 1999.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who helped with the December issue were: Debbie, Kim and Lisa Volesky; Carol and Todd Baumgartner; Nadine Anderson; John Volesky and Frank Novotny. Your help is always appreciated.

CORRECTION

It is with regret that Sister Genevieve Novotny's name was inadvertently omitted as a volunteer for the September issue of the newsletter, especially when she was so persistent in helping.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Last year Czech Heritage had a full and exciting year. We had a St. Joseph's Day dance. We had entries in a number of parades and received several trophies. We had a booth for Houby Days and co-sponsored the Ethnic Fest. We sent two students for a month to the Czech Republic in the Homestay Program as well as sponsoring the Prince and Princess contest. We continued to be invited to several schools to present the Educational Unit. Let's not forget the many orders for books that were sent to many destinations as well as the newsletter. This is a long list and still does not include the band concert sponsorship, museum support, volunteer hours, and other projects and tasks that find their way to a Czech organization.

1999 will again be exciting but with fewer activities. The plans for the Ethnic Fest are on hold for this year. For the past 2 years it was held at the fair grounds with more room and parking. It was well attended, but those not on the committee do not realize the amount of work involved with entertainment, food and promotions.

On November 21 a bus left Cedar Rapids to attend the Holiday Folk Fair International in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For such a late date, the weather could not have been better. It was held at a temporary location at Maier Festival Park at the Lakefront while a new facility is being built. We enjoyed the cultural foods, entertainment and bazaar and hoped we could get ideas and learn from it. Milwaukee is a much bigger city so the festival had more ethnic groups participating, and their brochures had a long list of sponsors which takes the work load off of only a few. Maybe we will be re-energized by the visit. For a change we were being entertained and not working!

THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT WORDS:

"I admit I made a mistake"
The Five Most Important Words:
"You did a good job"
The Four Most Important Words:
"What is your opinion"
The Three Most Important Words:
"If you please"
The Two Most Important Words:
"Thank You"
The One Most Important Word:
"We"
The Least Important Word:
"I"

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

On Monday January 13, the Czech Heritage Fd'n. and National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library boards met at a combined meeting in Heritage Hall for the annual meeting. Purpose of the meeting is to present financial and business summaries from the previous year and election of officers.

Officers for the Czech Heritage Fd'n. board for 1999 are. Pres. Russ Novotny, Vice Pres. Sylvia Rohlena, Secy. Carol Danek, Treas. Dennis Hrabak, and Fin. Secy. Lovell Dvorak.

Other board members are: Emma Davidson, Beula Dvorak, Denver Dvorsky, Barbara Edmunds, Frank Edmunds, David Faltis, Joanne Fee, Charles Krejci, Diane Krejci, David Krivanek, Esther Lippert, Frank Novotny, Sherlee Peterson, Leonard Pfeifer, John Rocarek, Barbara Schroeder, Elsie Sova, Jeanne Tompkins, Emil Velky and Adeline Volesky. Honorary members are: Melvina Svec, Charles Vyskocil, Mae Novotny (dec.) and Bob Kouba (dec.).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all of the generous members of the Czech Heritage Foundation who contributed to the fund drive to match a grant from the State of Iowa for my position as librarian at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. I was amazed and humbled to see the names of all who responded to the fund drive listed in *Naše České Dědictví*. It is encouraging to know that there are so many people out there who see the value of preserving their Czech and Slovak heritage.

1998 was a good year for the library. I answered over 300 reference questions and processed 128 separate donations (a donation can consist of 1 to over 100 items). I expanded the museum's internet web site (www.ncsml.org) to include more information about the museum and other Czech and Slovak groups. And the library received a \$5,000 grant from the State of Iowa to purchase archival storage materials. 1999 looks to be a great year, too.

Thanks again for supporting the museum in this way. With the help of generous donors like you, we are building a comprehensive library and archives that documents Czech and Slovak history and culture.

Sincerely,

David Muhlena, Librarian

Dear Editor,

I was wondering if you could help me with some research that I'm doing on the Havels. I was reading a book, *Legends of Old Bohemia*, by Alois Jirasek, translated by Edith Pargeter and published by Paul Hamlyn, London. In it they had a story about a General Zizka and it was said that he died on Wednesday before Saint Havel's day. So my question is, do you have any information on a Saint Havel? I have been told by some people in our Czech area that there was a Saint Havel. I have gone to one of the Catholic libraries here in the Portland area, but they didn't have any information about him.

Also, I am wondering if you know where I could get a copy of the *Legends of Old Bohemia* book. I'm sure it's out of print but I enjoyed it so much and I think my children would enjoy reading it.

I hope that you can help me or give me an idea of where I can look. I will look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for Our Czech Heritage publication. I have really enjoyed the articles and hope to be able to visit Stupno Czech where my great grandparents came from.

Sincerely,

Nelson Havel

Dear Editor,

I recently returned from a visit to the Czech Republic. I spent most of my time in Letonice, north of Brno — the home town of Jan Barta Letovsky, the newspaper man. I stayed with friends Milan, Jana and Milana Illa. Milan is the Director of the Schools for Letonice. His sister, Libuse, teaches English at a gymnasium in Baskovice. I visited three such classes and told them about the Czechs and Moravians in the U.S. I had materials about Cedar Rapids, The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, photos of the same and of Jan Barta Letovsky. I spoke about the homestay program and showed copies of *Naše České Dědictví*, *The Most* and *Sokol Noviny*.

The students are very interested in having pen pals in the U.S. and would like to have students visit for part of the summer.

Pen pals write to: Libuse Skarčpova
c/o Gvmnázium Baskovice

Libby teaches English with three other teachers. I'm sending her copies of all Czech publications in the U.S. I enjoy reading articles in *Naše České Dědictví*.

Fraternally,

John A. Kuba



BIOGRAPHY

Josephine Tisl was born May 10, 1908. She was the first born to Frank and Julia Medek Sonka. Her siblings are Charles, Sister Consolata (Joanne), Rose Marie, Frank (deceased), and Teresa. Josephine was born in Iowa but the family moved to Minnesota to be near the Medek family. Josephine attended a rural

one room school. On cold mornings the opening exercise was marching around the room to music to warm up. Younger children grasped a lot of knowledge as the older students recited in the front of the room by the teacher's desk. Josephine was in a group of winners in a spelling bee. The \$1 prize had to be divided among all the winners. A popular game was pom-pom pull away.

Josephine chuckles when she talks about the depression years. The family experienced so much hardship they did not know when the depression started and ended, but they always got along. The family raised a lot of potatoes for the table and to sell. The children were paid 1¢ for every 100 potato bugs they picked, but some bugs got counted several times as they squirmed around. This money was used as spending money for 4th of July treats.

Josephine helped her grandmother who lived across the field. When her grandmother had unexpected company she instructed Josephine to cut the baloney on the slant to give the appearance of bigger pieces. Her grandmother always rewarded her for her help, but never with money. It was always gingham material, some with unpopular colors and ugly patterns.

On 4th of July the family attended a parade in Pierz, Minnesota. Pop sold for a nickel.

When Josephine was 18, the family moved back to Cedar Rapids. Josephine got a job as a maid at Lubergers for \$8 a week. Through her relatives, she met Leo Tisl at a New Years dance at CSPA Hall. The courtship took them to big picnics in parks and house parties where dancing was held. Leo played an accordion in the Happy-Go-Lucky band with Frank Stangler, and Mr. Blaylok. A popular dance hall was the Thornwood Ballroom.

Leo and Josephine were married July 8, 1930 at St. Ludmilas Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids by Father Frank Hruby. After the wedding brunch at the home of the brides parents, the couple left for a honeymoon to visit friends and relatives in Minnesota who tricked them. When they retired for the night, the bed was jinxed with rice and junk. Cost of the honeymoon was gas 20¢/gal. gas, hotel \$4, lunch 20¢ and 50¢ with total cost of

\$20.34 for the honeymoon.

Even through the family's trials and tribulations, the Sonka family had an honor bestowed on them when Josephine's younger sister Joanne (now Sister Consolata) won a Cedar Rapids beauty contest and was awarded a trip.

At first Leo worked for Vondracek's Dairy, but was a farmer at heart. Their children are David, Ron, Karen Tisl Dircks, Gary, and Joanne Tisl Kudrna.

They lived on rented farms, but they always hoped to buy their own farm. Their dream came true when they bought a farm near Center Point. But illness struck and struck hard. Leo died in October 1964 at age 58 before the family moved to their farm they had longed for so long. Josephine and the family moved to the farm and the boys took over. Ron and Gary still farm. Josephine has now moved to town to retire.

As Josephine speaks, she feels blessed to have a caring family and good neighbors. She has 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren,

Josephine does not bake kolaches as often but one Christmas Eve tradition that is still observed is fried oysters. The oysters are well drained, dipped in beaten eggs, rolled in cracker crumbs and fried. Even today's price of oysters does not deter her from a cherished tradition.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the renowned scientist, psychiatrist, and psychotherapist Sigmund Freud was born in Moravia? He was born May 6, 1856 in Příbor (called Freiberg by the Germans) at 114 Zamecnicka (locksmith) Street to Jakob and Amalia Nathanson Freud. His birth recorded in the Roman Catholic register gives his religion as Jewish and his given name was Sigismund which was changed to Sigmund in 1878. The Freud family spoke German but Sigmund learned to understand Czech from his Czech nanny.

When Sigmund was still very young, the family moved to Vienna. At age 16 He returned to his hometown in Moravia and never visited again.

Sigmund received his degree in medicine at the University of Vienna and studied in Paris. He worked with Josef Breuer (1842-1925) in Vienna on the treatment of hysteria. In 1938 he fled to London after 50 years in Vienna to seek refuge from the Nazi regime. He died one year later.

On Freud's 75th birthday, Příbor unveiled a memorial tablet on his home but the tablet was destroyed by the Nazi after Příbor became part of the German Empire in 1938. In 1957 a new memorial tablet was unveiled and one of the Příbor streets was named after him.

Today the town has a permanent exhibit in a local museum, a statue, and the town square is named after Freud.

TIBET, THROUGH THE RED BOX

Peter Sis was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia in 1949. He attended the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague and the Royal College of Art in London. He is known internationally as an illustrator, author, and filmmaker.

While living in New York he quickly became a writer and illustrator of children's books. Peter is a five-time winner of the New York Times Best Illustrated Book of the Year which includes the book *THREE GOLDEN KEYS* which is a book on Prague. Peter Sis' editorial illustrations have appeared in Time, Newsweek, Esquire, The Atlantic Monthly, and many other magazines in the United States and abroad. Recently he completed a mural for the Washington/Baltimore Airport and a stage setting for the Joffery Ballet.

His last book *TIBET, THROUGH THE RED BOX* was published last November and published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. The book tells about Peter Sis' father Vladimir, who was a filmmaker. The elder Sis left for Beijing to teach film making to Chinese students. While making a documentary of a road-building in Tibet, he became lost during a landslide. He kept a diary which was brought home to Praha and kept in a small red box. The book is a blend of truth and dreams about the diary which unfolds the baffling story of a once lost father.

SPECIAL LIBRARY FUND

It was stated in the December issue of NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ that we would continue to publish the list of those who sent contributions to the library fund to match a grant that was awarded from the state. The following contributions were received since September 20, 1998.

Donations received from Cedar Rapids were from: Michael Aucutt, Jean Blahnik, Jeanne Burianek, Anne Dalecky, Lillian Janousek, Mary Jepson, Robert & Janis Kazimour, Sister Mary Lou Podzimek, and John & Adeline Volesky.

Donations received from other Iowa cities: Anton Banicek, Mr. & Mrs Alois Langasek, Pauline Manfull, Catherine Pfeifer, Anne Viktora, Marie Vileta, and Margaret Vosatka.

Donations received from other states: CA - Eva Palečková and Agnes Schrupf; CT - Mr. & Mrs. Victor Marek Jr.; CO - Richard Liphardt; FL - Jane Pugh; ID - Helen Hammond; IN - Kristin Frish; IL - Janet Phillips, Blanche Rozner; MO - Linda Brinks; ND - Tom & Joanne Lautenschlager; NJ - Elizabeth Miller; PA - Carol & Roger Grigson; TX - Ursula Klocke, Hertha Scott; VA - Evelyn Hanzlik, Ronald Skorepa.

Again we thank you for your support, Please read the letter to the editor on page 3 from David Muhlena, librarian at the museum.



CAN YOU HELP US?

This photo is the class of 1922 of the 4th or 5th grades at Hayes School. Many names are missing. Can you identify them?

First row left to right: 1 - Julia Shimek, 2 - ?, 3 - George Dvorak, 4 - Harry Elias, 5 - ?, 6 - ?, 7 - ?, 8 - Ed Cerny, 9 - Ed Kuba, 10 - ?, 11 - ?

Middle row: 1 - ?, 2 - ?, 3 - ?, 4 - Howard Cherry, 5 - Dorothy Warren, 6 - Velma Topic, 7 - Frances Holuza, 8 - Trefny, 9 - David Novak, 10 - ?, 11 - Rose Lana Svec.

Standing: 1 - Leonard Chadima, 2 - ?, 3 - Bill Fiesler, 4 - Christine Kulhavy, 5 - Alma Doua, 6 - Leo Just, 7 - ?, 8 - ?, 9 - ?, 10 - Dick Warren, 11 - Godfrey Slavik, 12 - ?

Teacher unknown

Photo property of David Novak

LIFE IN THE NEW WORLD WITH THOUGHTS OF HOME

The following letter was written by a member of the Frank Smrcek family. He was born in 1842 in Moravia. He was living in Wisconsin when he entered the army during the Civil War. He was married and lived on a farm he bought about a mile east of Ely, Iowa. His tombstone in Rogers Grove Cemetery lists his death as November 1870. He had been well educated in Moravia. He was fluent in 5 languages, perhaps the Slavic languages and English.

The following letter was sent to someone in Bohemia and translated by the late Ed Kuba.

Even though many years have passed, during which I have fulfilled my life's work, I am now left with many happy memories. These memories along with grief came after we left the land of our birth and sought a new home and a free life in this distant-foreign land with foreign climate and among strangers.

I wonder what the future holds for us. Our hope and aim is to become a part of this free country where all persons are guaranteed under natural law, a life of freedom. We live as citizens among citizens. Our thoughts of the Homeland are many, and even the passing of time does not ease the memories of our old home across the Atlantic. Scenes of my relatives and friends along with the areas of my previous life and activities flash across my mind. With deep thought and feeling, I feel I have learned much from you after much hard work and study. I wondered how you had been. I had intended writing you in hope that the news would be passed on to my friends.

You are aware that the first place of residence was in the state of Wisconsin. From there we traveled west to the state of Iowa, looking for cheaper land, and open country. We decided to make our home in the area of the Red Cedar river near Cedar Rapids which is located on the Red Cedar. It would be beneficial to establish our residence here. Our state is just 24 years old and was accepted into the union in 1846 and already has a population of over one million and is growing daily with immigrants from the east and mostly from Europe.

Wilderness under the hard work of the farmer, yields large crops and where there was wild grass, there is beautiful prairie, the bark of the wolf, wild cries and war dances of the Indians. These sons of nature are being moved back by the steady pressure of civilization. In all directions there appear small settlements that grow into cities and business is booming. In some counties there is a shortage of wood, but there is an inexhaustible supply of hard coal. In Linn County we have an ample supply of timber, oak, maple, ash, elm, basswood (linden) and walnut. Every citizen

can homestead 160 acres for \$16.00. Grains of all kind produce well on the fertile soil. Farmers raise cattle and water is plentiful and available

Cedar Rapids is our nearest city. It has good businesses with a great promise for the future. It is about 15 years old and has a population of 6,000. It has 4 railroads and a 5th is in the process of getting in service. There are 3 water-powered and 1 steam grain mills with many grain elevators for storage (4).

Many clothing mills and hardware stores, two money banks, two woolen mills, envelope company, 1 water-powered and 1 steam-powered lumber mill, two breweries, cereal mill, and many other factories. There are several schools that Cedar Rapidsians can be proud of. As I determine there are 5 brick buildings each costing \$10,000. Other items are also available, a gramophone costs \$10.00. Several religious denominations are here, among them is a Czech Reading and Dramatic Society with 120 members. This is thought to be less than half of the Czechs in Cedar Rapids. There are 3 newspapers, 2 in English and 1 in Czech which is clearly atheistic.

Now it is time to look around our area. I must tell you we do not live in a close community as you do. Local custom is to build on your land so that ordinarily it is 1/2 to 1 mile from your neighbor. All of our business is conducted in English, as is our school district. The law allows that in districts where 1/2 or more of the students were of other nationalities the state will pay for teaching the foreign language. The Czech population in our district is large . . . It is estimated that some 80,000 Czechs and Slovaks reside in the state. That, our parents, living in America are becoming citizens in this most free country in the world they are not forgetting their roots. Proof of this is that wherever several Czechs live in an area they will form lodges . . .

There are 5 Czech publications . . . In addition a Catholic publication comes out of Chicago to preach the gospels to all persons, but found that a majority of mature or older Czech-Americans turned to other things because of the shortage of priests. Whoever passed on to eternity may God grant them peace.

Last year the Slavs observed the 500th anniversary of the birth of Jan Hus. Many of the observances were impressive, which showed how deep or heartfelt was the memory, for truth that man hold dearest, which is life, was sacrificed. Peace to his ashes.

Another great event for local people was the completion of the railroad. It was a big job and completed the route to the ocean. It joins the Atlantic with the west coast and is 3,500 American miles long. It took many years of labor and thousands of people, many of them Chinese. It cost \$102 million.

(continued)

The newspaper is filled with the completion. Some of the newspapers likened the railroad to Moses' passage through the Red Sea. Reports are coming that a canal is being dug in Central America through the Isthmus. Work is being done from both sides of the world. It seems what was the first model of the earth, man wants to change it."

(Permission to use this letter was granted by Beatrice LeClere, who with her sisters Helen Hemminger and Margaret Keck are descendants of the Frank Smrcek family. This letter along with a diary that was kept by Smrcek during his service in the Civil War, are now in the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library for preservation. Permission was also granted by David Muhlena, librarian.)



This was Ely's only hotel in the 1880s. It was then converted into a home. The Novak family lived here in the early 1990s.

Photo property of David Novak

HOMESTAY COMMITTEE

For the last ten years the Czech Heritage Fd'n has helped send high school students to Prague for one month during the summer. A total of 51 students have made the trip. The students stay with Czech families, who are given a small stipend to cover expenses. The committee is no longer able to work with those that helped us find host families in the past. We are in correspondence with various people to set up a program to help us place students in Prague in the future. The bottom line is: we don't have homes for students this summer in 1999. The Homestay Program is so valuable to young people to help

them better understand their Czech heritage and carry on the tradition and pride of the Czech people.

Please contact Russ Novotny, Jeanne Tompkins, or Barbara Schroeder if you know of a family in Prague who would like to get to host a fine American teenager for 2 to 4 weeks. Time is running out to sponsor our student ambassadors for 1999.

ST. JOSEPH'S PARADE

Everyone loves a parade! Because there will only be a one day Houby Day celebration and no Ethnic Fest this year, emphasis will be made to celebrate an old Czech tradition of St. Joseph's Day in a big way.

The parade in Czech Village will be at 1 p.m., on Saturday, March 20. To make it the biggest and best parade ever, we encourage organizations, establishments, groups, individuals, floats, bands, people of all ages, novelties and all other entries to be part of the celebration. The parade will assemble on the east side of the Bridge of Lions on 3rd St. S.E. There is no entry fee but a entry number will be issued upon arrival, so join the parade.

For the spectators, we invite everyone to share in the festivities and make it a fun time.

If you need more information call the Saddle & Leather Shop at (319) 362-2846.

CEDAR RAPIDS TO CELEBRATE

The city of Cedar Rapids is celebrating its 150th birthday in 1999. The year-long celebration will encompass most exciting events, and will include some new events as organizations, groups and citizens come forward with ways in which they want to participate. All groups and organizations are encouraged to participate and become official sesquicentennial participants by hosting their usual celebrations or by creating something special for their existing events, projects or activities which will occur throughout the year 1999.

Cedar Rapids was incorporated in 1849 as a town. Seven years later it was reincorporated as a city. We recognize the importance today of documenting our history well, so that those who come after us will understand why we celebrated our sesquicentennial in 1999.

(from the official Sesquicentennial hand-book)

Olga Drahozal



MORENA (Old Mother Winter)

When winter was getting long, and it looked like spring was just around the corner, the boys and girls would gather up a bunch of their mother's old rags and put together a doll called

"Morena," or "Old Lady Winter." They would keep an eye on the river and watch for the ice to break up. When the ice was beginning to float away, they would take their "Morena" and put her on top of a big, tall pole. Then with the oldest boy of the village carrying the pole and all the other youngsters following along behind, they would march her straight down to the bank to the river and throw her in — "Good-by Winter, Hello Spring"!



POMLASKA (Whip)

While the girls in the village were busy decorating their beautiful eggs, the boys would be gathering the branches of the willow tree, which they would braid together to form a whip or switch (Pomlaska). Then on Easter Sunday the boys would take the whips and chase the village girls and try to brush their skirts with the whips. If the boy was successful, the girl would have to give the boy one of her decorated eggs. However, all was not lost because the next day would be a turnabout, and the girls would take the whips and chase the boys and try to get the egg back. If a boy did not return an egg, then it was a sign that a serious relationship might be developing.

DECORATED EGGS

Even though the tradition is associated with the Christian holiday of Easter, eggs have been decorated since before the existence of Christianity. The egg has been a symbol of life or rebirth since ancient times. For that reason they became tied to to spring, the season of rebirth. Today, in varying degrees, the decorated eggs are gifts, novelties, Christian symbols, and accompaniments to remnants of ancient rituals.

In Czechoslovakia, the art of decorating eggs evolved right along with handiwork. Girls developed decorating techniques along with cooking and sewing skills. Decorated eggs were a simple means of artistic expression. They were inexpensive to make, required little time, and used materials easily obtained from nature.

Decorated eggs were known by many names. The general term for them in Czechoslovakia is "kraslice", meaning beautiful eggs. The root "kras" is associated with the word "red." Red is also the Slavic color of joy and life (because it is the color of blood and fire). "Pysanky" is the term most commonly used in eastern Slavic countries. The root "psat" means to write.

Decorated eggs are referred to by the method by which they are made. Basically, in Czechoslovakia, there are seven traditional techniques used:

Painted eggs literally have the designs painted on them. Subjects range from folk design, village scenes or illustrations of a folk song.

In the pen and ink technique, designs are drawn onto a clean white egg, using black or blue ink.

In the shadow imprint, an interesting leaf or other natural material is positioned firmly in place while the egg is immersed in the dye.

Straw — Small pieces of oat or barley straw are cut lengthwise, ironed, and then cut into geometric shapes. The design pieces are arranged into patterns and glued to an egg dyed in a dark color.

Wax Relief — raised, colored wax designs are created using beeswax which has been colored. Eggs dyed red or brown can be decorated with black wax. Brightly colored waxes are beautiful on white eggs.

The scratched technique is used after the egg has been dyed a bright color. The design is scratched with a sharp object.

Batik is a wax-application/dyeing/wax-removal method that gets its name from a similar cloth-dyeing technique. Melted bees wax is applied to an egg with a tool. The egg is immersed into the dye baths beginning with the light colors first.

After the layers of waxing and dyeing process is completed, the wax coating on the surface of the egg must be carefully melted off over a low flame to reveal the design.



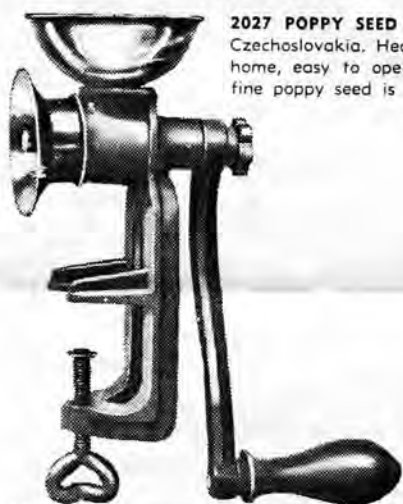
2029—LAMB MOLD

\$5.95 each

LAMB CAKE MOLD—Made of heavy cast aluminum which has been proven to be the best metal for this type of baking. Size 12x7x4 inches. Supply limited as this is an essential material.

PRICE \$5.95

Formy na beránka jsou aluminiové, jež pekou lépe nežli hliněné nebo železné. Návod k pečení s každou formou.



2027 POPPY SEED GRINDERS — Imported from Czechoslovakia. Heavy construction. Ideal for the home, easy to operate. Can be adjusted to how fine poppy seed is preferred ground.

Price \$4.95

Naše mlýnky na mák jsou většího druhu, pevnější a melou znamenitě mák na jakoukoliv jemnost. Mlýnky tyto jsou nejlepší a nejpevnější jaké jsme kdy měli. Váží dvě a půl libry a uvážíme-li, že poštovné je nyní značně vysoké, cena za tyto mlýnky je velmi nízká!

THE THREE KINGS

Here's a warning to gardeners. The Czech legend states that tender plants in our area should not be planted until after May 15. The three legendary Kings are Pankrac, Servac and Bonifac. On May 15, Sofia brought a kettle of boiling water to thaw the three frozen kings.

Tender plants subject to frost are tomatoes, beans and other succulent plants.

LAMB CAKE

This is a pound-type cake which was baked in a lamb-shaped mold, frosted and decorated and placed on the table at Easter time. Raisins were added for eyes and a colorful ribbon was tied around the neck.

EASTER LAMB CAKE (BERANEK)

1/2 c butter	2 c sugar
3 egg yolks	1 c milk
3 c flour	3 tsp baking powder
3 egg whites	1 tsp vanilla

Cream butter, sugar and egg yolks until smooth and light. Sift flour, baking powder several times, and alternately add to butter mixture with milk. Add flavoring. Last, fold in the stiffly-beaten egg whites. Pour dough into well-greased and flour dusted lamb form. Bake in a 350° oven for about 45 to 50 minutes, having form face down on cookie sheet.

(From NARADOPISNY KROUSEK U.M.S. Cook book printed and bound by General Publishing & Binding, Inc., Iowa Falls, Iowa)

KITCHEN SPICES — Kuchyňské koření

We offer only the highest quality spices and sell no imitations. All these spices are genuine and pure; they have been re-cleaned and are free of any outside particles. We have fresh spices in bulk on hand at all times.

	Pkt.	1 Lb. Whole Celé	1 Lb. Ground Mleté
Allspice — Nové koření.....	25¢	\$1.75	\$1.85
Anise Seeds — Anýz.....	25¢	1.25	
Bay Leaves — Bobkový list.....	25¢	1.35	
Caraway Seed — Kmín.....	25¢	.95	
Celery — Celer.....	25¢	1.45	
Celery Salt — Celerová sůl.....	25¢		.65
Chamomile Flowers — Heřmánek.....	50¢	2.50	
Cinnamon — Skořice.....	25¢	1.80	1.95
Cloves — Hřebíček.....	25¢	1.65	1.95
Coriander Seeds — Koriandr.....	25¢	.85	
Dill Seed — Kopr.....	25¢	.75	
Fennel Seed — Fenykl.....	25¢	1.45	
Garlic, Whole — Česnek celý.....	1/4 lb. 45¢	1.35	
Ginger — Zázvor.....	25¢	1.85	1.90
Juniper Berries — Jalovčinky.....	50¢	2.25	
Mace — Květ.....	50¢	5.50	5.60
Marjoram — Marjánka.....	50¢	2.10	
Mustard — Hořčice.....	25¢	1.15	1.25
Nutmeg — Muškátové kuličky.....	50¢	4.00	4.20
Pepper Black — Pepř černý.....	25¢	1.75	2.00
Pickling Spice — Michané koření.....	25¢	1.65	
Poppy Seed — Mák.....	25¢	.95	
Saffron — Safrán.....	25¢	5 pkts. for \$1.00	
Sage — Šalvěj.....	50¢	1.75	
Saltpeter — Ledek.....		1.00	
St. John's Bread — Svatojánský chléb.....	50¢	1.55	
Sweet Paprika — Paprika sladká.....	25¢		2.00
Thyme — Dymianek.....	50¢	1.45	
Vanilla Beans — Vanilkové lusky.....	35¢	Each; 3 for \$1.00	

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE!

This page is from the 1958 catalog from the National Seed & Importing Co. of Omaha, Nebraska.

CZECH REFORMED CHURCH

The founding of the Czech Reformed Church in Cedar Rapids was due to the fact that many members of the Ely Presbyterian Church had moved to Cedar Rapids and wished to organize a branch of their mother congregation. Rev. Joseph Balcar, the Ely pastor, was asked by Rev. F. S. Bromer to preach to the Czech people in Cedar Rapids.

Rev. Balcar gladly assented and the following Sunday afternoon April 7, 1907 the first services were held and on Oct. 3, 1907 the church was formally organized with 42 members. The newly organized congregation continued to assemble in the building of the First Reformed Church until June 19, 1910 when for the first time it met in a tent called "Bohemian Tabernacle" which had been temporarily erected until a permanent building could be provided.

was the pastor until 1919 when he was succeeded by Rev. Jaroslav Stulo. During his pastorate a manse was erected. Rev. Frank Helmich served for 17 years followed by Rev. Milo Filipi.

In 1935 the Czech Reformed churches united with the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The Sunday morning services were conducted in Czech and young People's Society in English.

After Asbury Methodist Church and Hus Memorial Presbyterian churches were built, the Czech Reform Church was sold and is now occupied by the Redemption Missionary Baptist denomination.

Here is a letter written by my father, Vratislav Horacek in late 1910 to his brother Josef Horacek who was living in Hamburg, Germany at that time. He later emigrated to the U.S.

Pauline Jasa



Here we are sending you a picture of our former tabernacle where we held church services all last summer since we had no church building. We are a new congregation and like we had in the Old Country a Reformed Congregation. And now we have built a new church.

After the holidays we will hold services there. We live only about a five minute walking distance from there.

There is one other Czech church here but it is not a Reformed Church. It is a Presbyterian Church. So we are here 2 sides. There are more members in their church

than ours. When we organized last spring (1910) there were 15 members and now there are over 70.

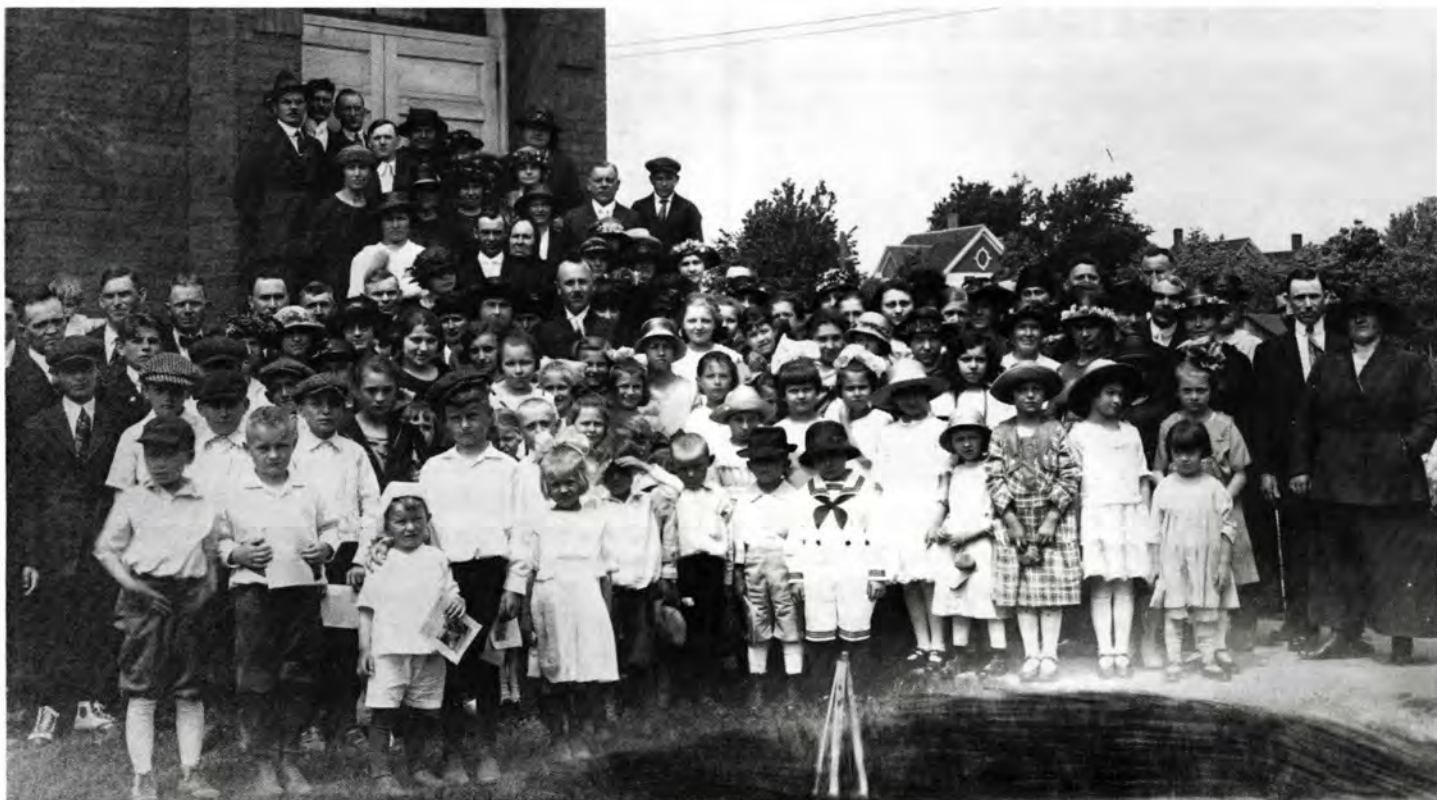
We made ourselves a debt. The new building cost \$3500.000 so we all signed for contributions toward it and we are all working very hard to gain more members. Most importantly we have an excellent minister who is able to gain new members himself. He explains God's Words like our dear minister in Poděbrady — Reverend Jelen who was called to his eternal home. Our minister's name is Rev. Balcar. When we have our new building photographed I will send you a picture.

Be with God and live well in your family circle.

Greetings and kisses from the Horacek family. Thousand kisses to little Jeniček (Johnny).

Early in the month of Sept. 1910, steps were taken for the erection of a new church. Rudolph Kriz donated a lot on the southwest corner of 2nd Street and 15th Avenue. Charles Zalesky drew up the plans and Wesley Chihak received the contract to build a church for the sum of \$3,800. The cornerstone was laid on Sunday November 6, 1910 and in less than a month services were held in the basement of the building. On January 15, 1911 the church was dedicated with all debts paid.

About 2 years later Rev. Joseph Balcar resigned. In the spring of 1914 Matthew Spinka, a seminary student, supplied the pulpit during the summer. After he graduated and was ordained, he



*Top - A Sunday congregation
Left - Newly completed church*



CZECH REFORMED CHURCH

CZECH REFORM CHURCH BOY'S CLUB

The Boys Club from the Czech Reform Club on an overnight camping trip. Camp took place at Prairie Creek at J St. and 27th Ave. in southwest, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Boys from left to right are: Paul Petrik, Arnold Yuza, Ed Boretsky, Hugh Reiner, "Pud" Charles Moel, Glen Rejsa, Wilfred Tlusty. The picture was taken by David Novak the club leader.



CZECH COTTAGE STORE



When you are in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and reach the corner of 16th Avenue and C Street Southwest, you know you are in Czech Village. There on the corner is an attractive shop that makes you feel as though you are in a small village somewhere in Czechoslovakia. As you walk up to the display windows you see a display of beautiful Czech glass, vases and dishes. How can you resist?

As you enter the door you are welcomed by a member of the Schaffer family. Jitka Hajek Schaffer was born in a small town not far from Plzen. Jitka's father had a small aluminum foundry in Czechoslovakia in addition to producing custom castings for local industry. He also produced his own artistic designs including one of Karlstejn Castle, a copy of which is occasionally on display at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Jitka had a brother. In 1947 she came by boat for a visit to the United States. While she was here the Communist government came to power. Her family encouraged her to extend her stay. Eventually she married Virgil Schaffer. They have two sons Steve and Bob. Jitka developed a small business in 1965 to produce copies of her father's work. When the Czech Village was being developed and restored in 1975, Jitka along with her husband Virgil opened the Czech Cottage in what most local residents remember as the Ted's Pharmacy Building. In the year 2000 the Czech Cottage will celebrate 25 years of business. Jitka makes regular visits to the Czech Republic and combines visits and purchasing. The Czech Cottage display includes Czech garnets, hand decorated eggs, crystal, glassware, laces and Christmas ornaments.

Bob is a partner in the Czech Cottage, but it is very much a family enterprise because his wife Julia, Virgil or Jitka are there to greet you.

AN UNINVITED GUEST

The following article was submitted by David Novak of southwest Cedar Rapids, Ia.

President Herbert Hoover was the first president I voted for after I reached voting age. I have historic memories of the 31st president. I saw President Hoover and took a picture of him when he came to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was riding in an open car and would stand and wave at people he saw on the sidelines.

In 1964, when President Hoover died, he was brought back to Iowa for burial. I took part in the cortege as an uninvited guest. This is how it happened.

I came to the Cedar Rapids Airport well dressed, with my camera in hand, to witness the plane bearing the casket. I was standing with Mr. & Mrs. Emil Vondra, the couple that owned the beautiful farm across from the airport entrance. The airport manager asked if we would like to go up to the closed off balcony overlooking the runway. There I recognized Iowa's Governor Harold Hughes along with my friends the Lester Topinka's and Walter Heabels. My friends were asked by Mr. Turner, the funeral director, to have their Cadillacs ready if they were needed. Shortly after, they were notified their Cadillacs were not needed but we could go to the grave site. We got in one car with the Topinka's in front and Mr. Heabel and I in the back seat. As we were leaving the airport, a limo with a military man was leaving also. We followed the limo all the way to West Branch. It was exciting with people lining the highway to get a glimpse of the dignitaries. At the grave site I stood with distinguished guests including the Mayor of Cedar Rapids. I witnessed the lowering of the casket.

When I got home I called my sister Frances to tell her of my historic experience only to learn my son-in-law was the stone mason along with his father who helped build the tomb. It was a historic day in more ways than one.



In 1928 President Hoover visits Cedar Rapids in an open car. Photo taken by David Novak.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

You are to be commended for renewing your membership and including your generous donations. Your response tells the Czech Heritage Fd'n. that you appreciate the fact that we have not raised our \$3.00 per member dues since we organized in 1974 in spite of the fact that paper and postage continues to increase. For the months of October and December 1998 the total donations surpassed the income for membership dues.

Donations received in Oct. with new memberships were from: Sonja Younker. Donations received with renewals from: Hedvika Benesh, Richard & Tammy Beranek, Bernice Dvorak, Norm Eberle, Mildred Koenigsmark, Rose Kopecky, George Lanka, Donald Laue, Esther Lippert, Marion Moravec, Nancy Pajeau, Nancy Polansky, Dorothy Vavricek. Donations only, Mrs. Otto Nichols.

Donations received in November from new members: Roger Thomas, Margaret Wakeman, Anton Zadina. Donations received with renewals were from: LeRoy Anderle, Marcella Anderson, Eldon & Marion Hosek, Clifford & Lucille Netolicky, Pat & Marjorie Pace, Rose Wolf. Donation only: Esther Lippert.

Donations received in December with new memberships: Margaret (Peg) Merta & Patricia Satek. Donations received with renewals from: Arlene Anderle, Helen L. Barta, Karen Bartachek, Robert Baumruk, Kenneth Blezek, Rev. James Blocklinger, Francis Bozanek, Vlasta Brase, Linda Brink, Edwin & Martha Buresh, Ruth Bys, Wm. V. Cerny Sr., Joe & Esther Cervený, Donald Ceynar, Susan Cerney, George & Marilyn Chmelicek, Vivian Christen, John Cimburek, Joseph & Libby Dalecky, Martha Divishek, Wynona Dreuss, Louis & Lydia Elias, Vlasta Fajmon, James & JoFran Falcon, John & Frances Feiereisen, Elizabeth Finkenhoefer, Vernon Flint, Kristin Frish, Evelyn Hall, Martha Hanson, Jackie Hess, Douglas Hladek, Sharon Hruska, Pauline Jasa, Louis & Jarmilla Jedlicka, Dorothy Kadlec, George & Louise Kalous, Norma Knoche, Donald & Helen Kokesh, Irene Konecny, Anthony Konvalinka, Paul Kosek, Edwin Kral, Diane Krejci, Leonard & Violet Kycek, Emil & Evelyn Lamparek, Edna Lenicek, Emily Lins, Rose Lovetinsky, Pat & Mildred Lynott, Betsey McCalley, Mildred McIlrath, Leonora Mangold, Victor & Georgianna Marek, Marvin & Marie Melsha, Vlasta Miller, Musil Family, Betty

Nemec, David & Martha Novak, Robert Novotny, Evelyn Oldridge, Charles Opatrny, Betty Pavlinak, Paul & Mary Ann Pisarik, Frank Podzimek, David Pokorny, Frank Port, Clara Pospisil, Dorothy Prachyl, Elsie Prince, Louis Ptacek, Irene Pudil, Alma Rigel, Betty Rosell, George & Marilyn Roushar, Irma Rozek, Helen Salat, Cecelia Scott, Joseph Shimek, Iva Jean Soukup, Robert Stolba, Jeanne Vasek Tompkins, John Vanicek, James & Martha Vanourny, Robert & Erma Vanourny, Robert J. Vanourny, Agnes Vavra, Marie Vileta, Frances Vilim, Roman & Lottie Volesky, Miles Volf, John Vondra, Donald & Esther Vorel, Karla Zahradnik, Anna Lou Zielinski, Ethel Zobac. A donation was received from Margaret Wakeman.

FAVORITE SAYINGS

Worry is like a rocking chair . . . It gives you something to do but it doesn't get you anywhere.

In this world of give and take, not enough people are will to give what it takes.

Birds have bills, too, but they keep on singing.

CZECH CROWN JEWELS

Late last year the Czech coronation jewels were taken from the most secret place of the Prague Castle. They were on display to mark the 80th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's foundation. Before they could be displayed in the Old Royal Palace, seven keys were needed to open the door. The country's supreme officials who are entrusted with keys are President Vaclav Havel, Prime Minister Milos Zeman, Prague Archbishop Miloslav Vlk, Chamber of Deputies Chairman Vaclav Klaus, Senate Chairman Petr Pithart, the head of the Saint Vitus Chapter Jaroslav Skarvada, and Prague Mayor Jan Koukal. The coronation jewels were exhibited from October 24 to November 1.

The Bohemian Crown Jewels were on show for the eighth time this century at Prague Castle. The crown, orb and scepter which dates back to the 14th century, were again locked up on Sunday November 1, 1998 for another five years. Those who missed the showing can see a replica and an exhibition of precious stones from the late medieval period at the Castle.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Czech Heritage Foundation Scholarship Board has applications for the 1999 Czech Heritage Scholarships.

The purpose of this Scholarship is to provide financial assistance to students of Czech heritage who are attending an accredited post-secondary education institution on a full time basis.

Requirements include: Applicants file an application with the Scholarship Board, applicants must have Czech ancestry, and their immediate family must have been a member of Czech Heritage Foundation for at least two years. Applicant must have completed a minimum of one year as a full time post-secondary student.

Applicants will be evaluated on: academic achievement, need, service to support their Czech Heritage, character and school activities.

The Scholarship Board will determine the amount based on the number of awards.

Applications are due May 1, 1999 and may be picked up at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library or by sending a self stamped envelope to: Czech Heritage Foundation Scholarship, c/o Sylvia Rohlena,

ST JOSEPH'S DANCE

It is getting to that time of the year to forget our winter and think of spring, music and fun. The Czech Heritage Fdn. is happy to invite everyone to our St. Joseph's Dance which is held as a fund raiser for two of our important projects. They are the Homestay Program where we have sent fifty-one students to Prague and surrounding area for a month long stay with a host family and our new Scholarship program where-by we were able to give five scholarships to deserving students. A wonderful program, but we need your support. We are having our dance on Sunday, March 14th at the Local P-3 Retiree's Inc. Hall at 116 - 14th Ave. S.E. Cedar Rapids from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Mike Lasack & His Rythmaires will provide the music. He is good to dance to or just sit and enjoy his music and antics. Admission is \$5.00. Come and enjoy the music and have lunch with us, door prizes and bake sale. Donations of bakery or a door prize will be appreciated. Thank you and see you the 14th.

Frank Novotny & Committee

NO ETHNIC FEST

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this article to our newsletter. After eighteen years of having our Ethnic Fest, an annual affair on Memorial Day weekend, the committee has been forced to cancel our plans for the Fest in 1999 due to unforeseen circumstances. The ethnic groups will meet in 1999 and see if we can reorganize for the year 2000. We will keep you informed of our progress. It has been a wonderful experience for all of us and we feel we have provided an enjoyable week-end for many people, both workers and guests. In the meantime a sincere thank you to all of you who have helped for the past 18 years,

Frank Novotny & Committee

CHILI SUPPER

Time to relax and forget about cooking that meal at home. Step out for an enjoyable evening. Saturday, March 6th is the date at the St. Wenceslaus Church (basement) 1224-5th St. S.E. Cedar Rapids, Ia.. We start serving at 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Your ticket for \$3 will entitle you to a supper of delicious chili, rye bread and crackers, carrots and celery, with cake for dessert, and a drink of coffee or punch. We are also having a bake sale and donations of bakery are welcome and appreciated.

Thanking you in advance for your help and contributions for making our annual fund raiser a success. All proceeds go to the Czech School.

Step out and enjoy yourself.

Frank Novotny & Committee

TOURS

For 1999, Heritage Tours is offering trips to the Czech & Slovak Republics. Two depart in May, two in June, one in September. Heritage tours are personally hosted by Mark Vasko-Bigaouette or his mother Marcella. Call the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (319) 362-8500 or toll free 1-888-427-8687.

Weber Travel of Berwyn, IL will host two 1999 tours. A May tour to the Czech Republic and a September tour to Slovakia. Call toll free 1-800-886-7012. Ask for Joe or Jerry.

Membership Application

Please check the proper item: Renewal____ New____ Gift____

Name(s) Ms., Mr., Mrs. _____

Address _____ Zip + 4 _____ - _____

Make check payable and mail to :

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


Membership dues \$_____ Donation \$_____ Gift Membership \$_____

Why not consider a gift membership for someone special? Your dues and generous donations help to fund several worthwhile endeavors such as Czech Prince and Princess sponsorship, financial support for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, adult Czech language classes, the Homestay Program, along with publishing the quarterly Naše České Dědictví, and other numerous publications. The list of Czech Heritage projects goes on and on.

We appreciate your continued support. With your help we can carry on with projects, activities, and goals to preserve our heritage and culture. **THANK YOU! Na shledanou!**

Please renew today! A Bargain at \$3.00 per year

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 
- March 4.....Czech cult band, Plastic People, from Prague
on tour in U.S.
CSPS Hall in Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- March 6.....Czech School Chili Supper 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
St. Wenceslaus Church
- March 8....."Kava a Knihy" 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Museum - free
- March 9.....Czech Heritage Fd'n Meeting
7:30 Museum
- March 14.....St. Joseph's Day Dance
P-3 Retiree's Hall 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- March 17.....Learn at Lunch
Baking for Easter - free
Museum 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
- March 19.....St. Joseph's Day
- March 20.....St. Joseph's Parade
Czech Village 1:00 p.m.
Easter Crafts - Museum
- March 27 & April 3 ..Czech & Slovak Easter Customs & Traditions
Egg decorating classes
9:30 to 4:00 p.m. Museum
- April 13.....Czech Heritage Fd'n Meeting
7:30 Museum
- May 11Czech Heritage Fd'n Meeting
7:30 Museum
- May 15Houby Day
1 day celebration (319) 364-8482
- 

CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. Box 761
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Non-Profit Organiz.
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Cedar Rapids, Iowa



THE NIGHT BEFORE EASTER

'Twas the night before Easter
And all through the house
There was something a-stirring
I thought 'twas a mouse,
But soon I was certain
'Twas bigger than that,
And then I decided
It might be the cat.

So I pulled all the covers
Up over my head
For I feared that the creature
Might jump on my bed.
I listened and waited
Expecting a leap,
But somehow or other
I fell fast asleep.

I woke in the morning
And learned with delight
Who it was that rambled
Around in the night.
With furry ears wiggling
And funny long legs —
St. Bunny had laid me
A basket of eggs.