

# PŘÍHODY "happenings"

## The Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.



Vol. 1. No. 2.

P. O. BOX 761 CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406

November 1976



VÍTAME VÁS! NAZDAR !

Here is the 2nd issue of the newsletter with the name of the first edition. Several other names have been sent to us. Whatever name is chosen should be easy to pronounce and remind the one who is reading about our organization.

PŘÍHODY . . Happenings  
UDÁLOSTI . . Events  
ZPRAVODAJ . Reporter  
Naš PRAPOR. Our Banner

If you have a title that you wish to submit, please let us hear by letter or phone. Of course, the same word may mean different things to other people. Also some words have "shades" of meaning that others do not notice or think of. Here are some of the suggested names so far :

Naše ZÁPISKY . . Our Records  
Naše SDĚLENÍ . . Our Activities  
Rapidské DĚDICTVÍ . Rapids Heritage  
Kulturní DĚDICTVÍ . Cultural Heritage

At our Annual Meeting, Monday, January 17, 1977, we will vote on one of the names listed above and others that you may wish to send us. In the meantime, think about a suitable name and talk about it with other folks.

ANNUAL MEETING, January 17th, 1977, Monday evening, 7:30 at Auditorium of Hayes School, "D" Street, S.W. 3 blocks south of 16th Avenue. Parking for cars at north and west of building and on "D" Street.



Business will include: reports of the past year's projects, election of officers, voting on a name for the newsletter; also report of the Czech Fine Arts Foundation for 1976, and remarks about the Czech Village Association.

A social time will follow the business meetings.

for members of the two Boards of Directors. The committee members are: Charles Kreici, Chairman.

Milton Langer,

George Joens,

The Heritage offices to be filled are for : president, vice president, secretary, treasurer. The present Heritage officers in that order are: Adolph Topinka, George Barta, Melvina Svec, George Chmelicek..

The officers in the Fine Arts are named on page 3.

The Board of Directors should have no fewer than six members, and no more than twenty-five.

If YOU would like to take an active part in the work of the Heritage or Fine Arts Fdns., or if you have the name of a person to suggest, please

**BALLOT**

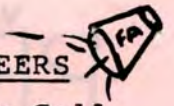
### ELECTION TIME HERE

What? not more elections !  
Yes, but in January at the Annual Meeting. The following were named as the Nominating Committee to serve the Heritage and Fine Arts Fdns. for the purpose of presenting a slate of officers for each group and also





CALL for VOLUNTEERS



inform any of the members of that Nominating Committee. Anyone who agrees to take an office or serve on a committee is expected to attend meetings and assume the duties of that office.

The Nominating Committee will present one slate of officers for Heritage & one for Fine Arts at the Jan. meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at the time by members of the Heritage Foundation.

PLEASE give this information serious thought. The biggest jobs are still ahead of us and to make the entire project a success and continuing source of pride among those of our Czech heritage, we must depend upon each other and work together ! !

MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers 548. Altho most are in Iowa, we have members from coast to coast and from Texas to the Dakotas !



At the November meetings, the Board and Officers passed the following two procedures: (1) membership dues expire on Dec. 31, 1976 for all members except those who joined in Oct., Nov., and Dec. 1976. For those who have so recently joined, their dues will now expire Dec. 31, 1977. ..and (2) dues per individual will be \$3.00 when you renew your membership for 1977.

Enclosed is a convenient renewal form. We should double our membership in 1977! Each member INVITE a friend, relative, neighbor.

\$\$\$ It is common practice to use dues for operating expenses; donations and memorials are to be used for the development of the Museum and Library. Have you thought about making a donation?

Donations and Gifts are to go to the Fine Arts Foundation and so are income tax deductible. Dues go to Czech Heritage Foundation. See page 4 for other information about this matter.

This is not Lincoln's Call, this is not Uncle Sam's Call - but Czech Heritage calling: YOO-HOO !

Do you like to meet people ? Then you could help on the membership committee. Do you enjoy typing and office detail? You could help with the library collection and keeping museum records.

Do you like social events? There is a social committee for you! How about planning programs -that is another open spot.

Too many people keep their talents and interests "under a bushel" as the saying goes. Speak up and have a part in this important and interesting undertaking we have.

Maybe you can recommend or suggest names of people who are able, and willing but are too bashful to speak up.

Use our PO Box 761 to send your letter offering your services or names of others.

So often people say, "NOBODY ASKED ME"... Well, WELL, YOU are being ASKED right now! GET INTO ACTION!

CZECH ORGANIZATIONS

Past and Present

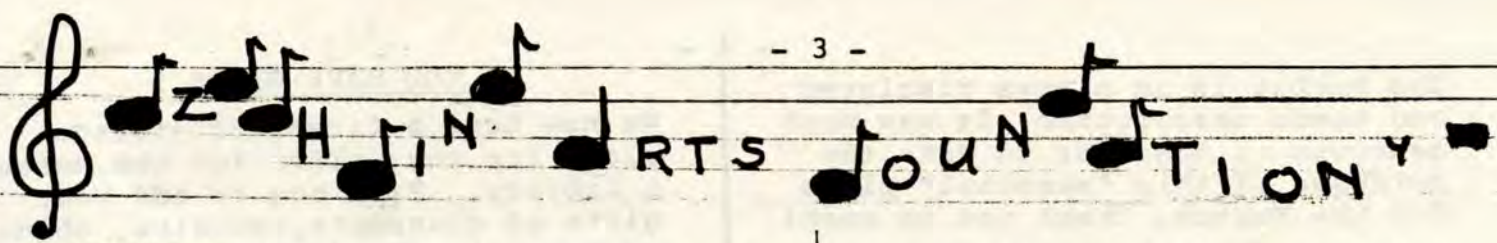
For years and years, social, church, reading, dramatic, service, education and lodge groups were for many of the early Czech settlers the most important way of getting together to visit, exchange ideas, share their skills, crafts, and ideas and cultural talents..and to work together in the community.

Some of the organizations no longer exist. Only in the memories of some of the older generation and in the grown-up "children" whose parents were among the early newcomers.

From time to time, this newsletter will give short reports on as many of the groups as we can locate .

(continued on page )





ANNUAL MEETING follows the conclusion of the Heritage meeting. The present officers are: Pres., Roland Raim, V.P. Raphael Snitil; Sec. Marie Trachta; Treas. Elsie Jelinek. A slate of officers will be presented by the Nominating Committee named on page 1. Other nominations may be made from the floor. At the conclusion of the session, a social hour will follow. Send in your name or names of others who might be officers or serve on the Board to the Nominating Committee.

PETR MESSIEUREUR, Czech virtuoso violinist, was guest soloist of the CR Symphony Orchestra at their October concert. Not only did he appear at both the Saturday and Monday concerts here at the Paramount Theater for the Performing Arts, but was guest soloist at Dubuque on Sunday, October 12th.

Following the Monday concert, Mr. Messieureur was the guest of the Czech Fine Arts and Heritage Foundations at Sokol Hall, Club Rooms. More than 100 people had the pleasure of seeing him and many also visited with him in Czech which seemed to delight him since he feels more "at home" speaking Czech or German. Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Topinka were guides and interpreters for him during his stay in Cedar Rapids. Also attending the reception were Conductor Richard and Linda Williams, some members of the orchestra and Board members.



WHY didn't I get a letter?

Many folks wondered WHY they did not get a chance to order a ticket for the concert and reception. The announcements were mailed to those members who had ordered tickets for the Czechoslovak Dance group who were here last spring. It was thought that they would be most interested in coming to this concert. Also, the number of seats available was limited. Then the cost of mailing over 500 letters did not seem reasonable thing to do when that many seats were not

to be had. And SO \* \* \* \* \*

NEXT TIME there is a special event and you wish to get tickets and did not receive a letter about the event, write us at Box 761, C.R. Iowa 52406 and we will be happy to send you the reservation forms, prices and information. OR if you wish to be on the mailing list for such future events, send us a request. Thank you for your understanding the problems.



On Sunday, Dec. 5th at Sinclair Chapel at Coe College, a free concert under the direction of HUSA, guest of the Music Dept. Mr. Husa is a well-known composer musician and director. He has written a special Bicentennial composition and its first hearing will be in Cedar Rapids. The Coe College choir will give the concert under his direction.

The Czech Fine Arts will provide an informal reception honoring Husa and the choir on Saturday afternoon following the rehearsal.

The public is invited to the Sunday concert. Watch the news for more information.

TWO SPECIAL GIFTS

On October 20, 1976, the Czech Fine Arts Fdn. received a check, sum of \$370.93 from Charles Vyskocil on behalf of the ZCBJ DRAMATIC CLUB which has been disbanded. The gift is restricted to some suitable use for the Museum or Library.

A month later, another major gift enriches our Museum collection.. the marble plaque that once was in the hallway at the dedication in 1901 of Matice Skolska. This plaque was purchased from the owners of the building by the DÁMSKÝ SBOR MATICE ŠKOLSKÁ. We really have a treasure to exhibit.



The marble is in places disclosed and needs restoration. It was most generous of the Sbor to make the purchase of this "memorial" piece for the Museum. Thank you so much!

In both instances, these gifts give happiness to those who made the donations. Later those who will view the exhibits will learn about our Czech heritage. Appropriate identification cards will be mounted by these gifts.

DO YOU HAVE GIFTS ?

We now have a fireproof storage place for your gifts for the Museum & Library. Plan now to add your gifts of glassware, ceramics, china, pictures, carvings and items suitable for the Fine Arts collection.

Remember that GIFTS to the Museum & Library qualify for INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS. Refer to the pink page attached to the first issue of the newsletter. Get in touch with George Barta or Elsie Jelinek BEFORE you bring in any items.

OUR GROWING LIBRARY

Our Library collection is growing faster than the Museum items. Close to ONE-HUNDRED books, magazines, and library items have been received. Bookplates like the copy at the right of this page are being placed in each volume. A cataloging of the books is underway.

Some of the volumes are very special and items we will treasure in a collection.

At the time the Friends of the City Library had the big book sale, they let us take the Czech books in exchange for books in English. Our thanks to those of you who made this exchange possible. We received 36 books in that transaction. Our special THANK YOU to those who worked with the incoming books and spotted the Czech volumes and offered to make the exchange.



What is coming in 1977 ? Concert events for the coming year have not yet been settled. A number of projects are under consideration. Watch the news and listen for announcements . . .

Didn't you enjoy watching Bob Harris and Mrs. Harris trip the light fantastic - ala polka style at the reception?! He is the Business Manager of the Cedar Rapids Symphony.

Later a few danced about but the whirlwind "Butterfly" really shook up the hall.

The Czech Band provided the music for the evening. They hardly stopped to blow the foam off the bottle of beer!

do you want to polka  
or prefer to try the Beseda?  
one's feet begin to want-a  
when the band goes umpa.  
want to join a group  
to flit about & dance  
to limber up and stoop  
to bend, sway & prance?  
lines form at right & left!  
anon

A report on DONATIONS and MEMORIALS will be made at the Annual Meeting.





## Czech Village

## Cedar Rapids, Iowa

President of Czech Village Association, George Joens, reports that the 3rd Annual Czech Festival held on Sept. 10-11 was a success. Those attending enjoyed the many games, looking at crafts and displays, the Czech Dancers and listening to the music of the Bands and accordion players. The merchants were also pleased to see so many people shopping along the Avenue. Plans under way are for a bigger and better than ever 1977 event.

Construction is well under way for the BANDSTAND on B Street which was closed off at the 16th Ave. approach in October. Concrete footing will be poured Nov. 26th. The entire project is scheduled for completion by the end of December. The BANDSTAND will be the site of many concerts throughout the coming summer.

The Bicentennial Commission appropriated \$2500 for that project. The families of Paul and Stanely Kosek donated a matching \$2500 in memory of their father, Frank Kosek, long time merchant and supporter of his Czech heritage.

Some PARKING facilities have already been enlarged and more areas are in the planning stage on 15th Avenue.

Architect Dave Dicken of PEIFFER ASSOCIATES is drawing up plans for park areas and parking places on B Street between 16th and 17th Avenues. Some progress can be seen : a small park created on the parking lot of the Joens Brothers Interiors, and the park bench, grass and shrubbery west of Kosek's store.

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The newsletter welcomes items you wish to submit or questions you want to ask - subject to editing because of space limitations. . . . .

STORE FRONTS are changing! Dave Dicken met with several merchants to talk about remodeling changes to resemble a Czech village of old-times. The storefront of Saddle and Leather Shop, Inc., has been remodeled. The building in which the Boddicker School of Music is located will be changed by the end of 1976.

The City of Cedar Rapids has had a part in the plans of some of the projects. The city has applied for \$300,000.00 of state funds for the development and landscaping of the river front to the north of 16th Ave. bridge. George Barta and George Joens are members of the N.D.P. - Neighborhood Development Project - and they are optimistic about the long-range plans.

There are still other plans in the "think-tank" but we will have to await details until later.

( the end-for now )

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We have an announcement that a re-printing of HISTORY OF CZECHS IN NEBRASKA is available. The books the story in 1854 with the arrival of the early settlers. Originally written in Czech, the new edition is in English, of 500 pages, with more than 5000 names indexed. Pictures of settlers, homesteads, and family groups add interest. The book has a red cover with gold embossed lettering. \$17.00 postpaid. Write the Eastern Nebraska Geneological Society, P.O. Box 541, Fremont, Be Nebraska, 68025.

Sharon Hruska (Dear Genie) writes that anyone having ancestors from or in Nebraska will find this a most fascinating and valuable book.



Czech Organizations- Past and Present



If you find as we complete the short articles that we left out some group, tell us what you know about the club and we can use it for another issue.

Just the other day I heard about an early baseball club, "RAILSPLITTERS". Who can tell us about them—who was on the team and some of the exciting things that happened.?

Many of the readers will know the names of the individuals who did so much to carry on our traditions, and took part in many activities.

For now, the policy will be to not list names of individuals because somebody's name would be left out unintentionally and we do not want to offend anyone.

However, YOU will recall many of the names of people and that will give you much pleasure, too.

MUSIC and MUSICIANS

Many talented musicians were self-taught, others had training. They played with gusto & marked beat... tapping feet, whirling of gay dancers and laughter filled the halls when the band played the popular pieces of the day along with familiar old melodies of former Bohemia Province.

The high spot of the evening was the SOUSEDSKÁ BESEDA - with some seven different variations in steps, such as polka, waltz, furiant, grand right and left and so on.

As you read on, many of you will recall the names of a tuba player who tootled until his face was red! or the pianist whose nimble fingers ran up and down the keyboard, or the drummer, cornetist, or clarinetist... Alas, each was a special showman in uniform.

What memories of the directors! Some of you must be smiling and even chuckling at your recollections of those days-way-back-when. . . .

BANDS were popular in the life of the community. Around 1869-70 there was KOUBA'S NATIONAL BAND, known far and wide. It was also called the

Light Guard, National Cornet Band and Orchestra, the Bohemian Brass Band. Then 1876 Kubicek's Band, 1896 Mokrejis Band, 1900 Jansa's Band, each having its big time. Some years ago there was a Czech Centennial Band but now it has the title of Czech Heritage Band. There were and still are other band groups in some of the Czech communities in Iowa and elsewhere.

And then there were ORCHESTRAS - such as Koubat's 1870; Pirk1 1875, Tlapa 1886 and the Cervenka Orchestra in the 1930's.

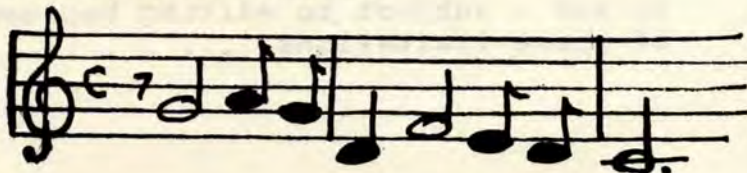
The leader of a band or orchestra was not only the director but also an accomplished musician himself. The groups usually had seven to ten members.

The first CHORAL SOCIETY started in 1876. In 1905, nineteen men formed the Hlahol Society. They purchased a piano from F.W. Slapnika. The next year women joined the society. By 1918 the group disbanded.

The Czech Community brought to the Majestic Theater the children's Bakule Chorus in 1923; and in 1928 The Shrine Temple was filled with music of the Prague Teachers' Chorus.

Czech programs on radio were popular for many years on WMT, the first radio station. Many individuals, men and women, were soloists on these programs singing in Czech the many familiar folk songs and classics. KCGR features a 4 hour Czech program on Sunday mornings.

This is but a short review of some contributions Czechs have made to the community ever since their arrival in the years from 1850's to the present. Enjoy yourself just by thinking about items that have not been mentioned!





The information in these brief reports and those yet to follow are being compiled from conversations with local Czechs and in a large measure from the Iowa Journal of History and Politics, April and July 1945. The Journal had reprinted the Master's Thesis written by Miss Martha Griffith, long time teacher at Van Buren and Wilson Junior High School. It took endless hours of searching, reading, interviewing, and devoted attention to details that gives us such a complete history of Czechs in the Cedar Rapids Community from the earliest days and on into the 1940's.

We are most grateful to her for this labor of love and her interest in the Czech community in which she was a teacher for so many years. Miss Griffith retired from Wilson in 1959, and died nine years later.

The next issue of the newsletter will continue with accounts about other musical groups, reading and dramatic societies, lodges, education, etc.

The extra membership form is one you may want to give to someone that is interested in becoming a member. Better still, why not give a paid-up membership as a birthday or Christmas gift?

Also if you wish to bring the filled out form and dues to the January meeting, wait until then to pay the dues.

1977 Dues                      CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, Inc.                      Dues 1977

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$3.00 for an individual. Please make check payable to the Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc. P.O.Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.

If you wish to make a donation, make that check payable to the Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc. and enclose both check in the same envelope. The donation is tax exempt. Dues are not income tax exempt.

Enclosed dues of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss

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