

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

POWDER TOWER



(See story on page 5)

Volume 20 - Number 1 - March 1995



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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. Only memberships are available. (Dues received in September apply to the following year.)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

We are in another new year and another year closer to the 21st century. Every year brings some new changes. As my old typewriter "clonked" out, all I see advertised are computers and word processors. These are household words for my grandchildren, but are scary to me. Typewriters might become collector's items and antiques like some of us old timers. The computer age is growing and changing so rapidly that some computers purchased in the spring are almost obsolete by year's end.

Some of the terminology is so strange. I thought a "floppy disc" was a piece of worn out farm machinery. A "mouse" was what you catch in a trap. A "hard drive" was reaching you destination quickly. "Characters" were clowns and jokers. A "processor" was a person that worked in a meat locker or a big canning kettle. "Ram" was a male sheep and "hardware" was nuts and bolts.

I guess none of us are ever too old to learn and perhaps it is not as bad as it sounds, but this technology just boggles my mind.

Adeline L. Volesky

CZECH SCHOOL CHILI SUPPER

Czech School (summer session for children) will hold its annual Chili Supper and bake sale on Saturday, March 4th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Kuba Hall, 1300 2nd St. S.E. The charge is \$3.00 per setting. Tickets are available at the door or from any Czech School student or board member. Donations to the bake sale are welcome. Czech School students will be happy to welcome you with a cheerful "Vítáme Vás!"

THANK YOU

Those who helped with the September 1994 issue were Charles and Lillian Vyskocil and my husband John.

Helping with the December issue were Frank and Barb Edmunds and my husband John.

Preparation consists of folding, stapling, labeling, co-ordinating zip codes, banding and sacking for bulk mailing.

It is a big task and your help is deeply appreciated.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! Last weekend our executive board got to preview the new museum and library building. There were still a few scaffolds and construction materials here and there but only a few construction touches were left.

It's a beautiful building! The interior is finished in burgundy oak and brass and polished terrazzo and the combination gives a very rich look. We were happy to get an invitation from Jon Dusek to hold our February Board meeting at the new building.

The museum board is now concentrating on the funding and production of the exhibits and getting them in place. They are working with museum designers, etc., so that the departure of Ray Shubinsky and his return to Quincy won't cause too much of a delay.

This year four have been selected as student ambassadors to the Czech Republic. Our homestay committee is laying the plans and the four will be introduced at the St. Joseph's Day dance. Get your tickets from Czech Heritage board members or Museum Guild members and join us for some fun!

Na shledanou
Dave Faltis
Czech Heritage Foundation

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

(Czech Heritage News)

The annual joint meeting of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. and the Fine Arts was held Monday, January 16th at Asbury Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Annual reports were presented and election of officers was held. The following candidates were nominated and approved to serve on the Czech Heritage Fd'n. board for 1995. They are as follows: Executive committee: president, David Faltis from Swisher; vice president, Frank Novotny; secretary, Carol Danek; treasurer, Dennis Hrabak; financial secretary, Lovell Dvorak. Board members are: Dale Buresh from Ely, Florence Dvorak, Denver Dvorsky from Toddville, Rod Jiruska, Ernest Kopecky, Charles Krejci, Diane Krejci, Esther Lippert, Kacy Novak, Quinn Novak, Russ Novotny, Sherlee Peterson from Mount Vernon, Leonard Pfeifer, John Rocarek, Sylvia Rohlena, Dorothy Simanek from Center Point, Elsie Sova,

Adeline Volesky, Emil Velky from Solon, and Joe Vondracek.

Mae Novotny was named to the Honorary Board posthumously. Others on the Honorary Board are: Melvina Svec, Bob Kouba (deceased) and Charles Vyskocil.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

Please extend our sincere thanks, through your newsletter, to all the folks in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa area when we held our convention there this past August. We were very much impressed with the kindness and friendliness of all you folks, be it at the Czech & Slovak Museum, St. Wenceslaus Parish, or the W.F.L.A. Special thanks to Collins Plaza, your singers, and your musicians.

Sincerely,
Joseph A. Kocab
President
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Editor,

I've been getting the Czech Heritage Fd'n. paper at least 10 years and this past issue was the best ever. I've been to Cedar Rapids and met a few of your people. They are good "Czechs!" That's a good story on Melvina Svec. Sorry to learn of Mae Novotny's death. So now I want to renew a few subscriptions.

I am only half Czech. But my mother was a full Czech, as is my wife (Smetana).

Sincerely,
Walter R. Liphardt

RAY SHUBINSKY RESIGNS

(Fine Arts News)

Ray Shubinsky was the new director of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library for four months before resigning.

He said it was personal reasons and was a difficult decision. He added that the museum is a wonderful place but felt mismatched for the position.

He has returned to Quincy, Illinois to rejoin his family who remained there during his brief tenure.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I want to thank you and your publication for your past help to me in publicizing the need for American teachers to go to Ostrava and Pisek areas in the Czech Republic to teach conversational English. The response was great, and the teachers who went all say they had wonderful experiences. They came from all over the USA, and hopefully some of them will write you to tell about their lives there.

On a recent trip there, I met Dr. Vladimír Morozek, a medical doctor at the Frydek-Mistek hospital. This is a large hospital and Dr. Morozek is the deputy director in addition to his medical duties. He would like very much to set up some kind of exchange between his staff and medical people in this country. If you could run the message below, perhaps we could have the same success as with the teachers:

A large hospital in Frydek-Mistek, Czech Republic is seeking to initiate contacts between their doctors and nurses with their counterparts in the United States. If you are a doctor or nurse, this could be an exciting opportunity for you to host medical people who would be happy to see how health care is provided in this country. They in turn would welcome you to their city to not only experience their working environment, but also for you to enjoy a beautiful and historic part of Europe. For more information contact: Dr. Vladimír Morozek, Deputy Dir. LPP, Nemocnice, 738 18 Frydek-Mistek, Czech Rep., Europe. Fax: 011-42-658-20318 (Dr. is fluent in English)

Sincerely,
Anton Vanicek

JOGGING THE MEMORY

This is an excerpt from a recent Texas newspaper article written by Rudy Horak: I found an old photo from a Czech divadlo (play) held in the University of Texas in 1939 named "Poslední Můž" (Last Husband). The director was Eduard Miček and a member of the cast was Jaroslav Živney from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We performed all over Texas — those were the good old days!

THE THREE GOLDEN KEYS

The Three Golden Keys is a book written and illustrated by Peter Sís. Peter Sís was born in 1949 in Brno, Czechoslovakia, and is an internationally acclaimed author of many children's books. He has been living in New York since 1982. His editor at Doubleday, the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, wrote about him and his last book.

"Peter Sís is a genius. The word may be overused as to be almost meaningless, but I have no other explanation for the seemingly endless depths of his fertile imagination in "The Three Golden Keys." He gives us his most heartfelt work to date. In it he recaptures the wonder of his own childhood in Prague and celebrates the city's incomparable cultural heritage. It is a gift to his young daughter Madeleine, growing up in the New World, so that she would have a record of the strange and wonderful Old World heritage that is her birthright."

At times, when the 45 year old author felt depressed by his childhood memories, Jackie would visit Sís' studio and help him get on track.

In May 1994, after seeing Sís' finished work, the former First Lady wrote a letter to booksellers calling it "magical." Sadly she died on May of 1994 and never sent the letter. Jacqueline Onassis had discouraged authors from dedicating books to her, but Sís was able to include a note in "The Three Golden Keys" just before it went to press. It reads "Thank you for a dream J.O."

From Parade

X SOKOL CANADA SLET

A most sincere invitation is extended to all members of our world-wide Sokol brotherhood to the Tenth Slet of Sokol Canada to be held June 22-25, 1995 in Toronto, Ontario. In general, calisthenics exercises performed at the XII All Sokol Slet in Prague will be performed at our Slet (except for boys and girls who will perform calisthenics selected for the 1996 Sokol U.S.A. Philadelphia Slet). Compulsory exercises for gymnastic competition will be identical with those used by the Sokol in the U.S.A. We hope that as in 1994, Prague was truly a gathering place for Sokols, in 1995 Toronto will attract Sokols from all parts of the world.

(from Sokol Mn, Slovo)

THE POWDER TOWER

One of the most significant historical monuments of the Old Town of Prague is a remnant of the fortifications which surrounded the town houses in the vicinity of the present street "Na příkopě" (on the moat).

The former entrance was called the Mountain Gate," since it led toward the famed silver mining city of "Kutná Hora." The gate was mentioned in writing for the first time in 1310. When the new city of Prague was founded in 1348 by King Charles IV, the fortifications lost their significance, but the town councillors refused to destroy them. The Tower was later called "Odrano" (Raggy), the name describing its appearance.

In 1383, in the near vicinity of the Tower, the Czech rulers founded their seat, the so-called "King's Court," which was used up to the eighties of the 15th century. At that time the city citizens decided to substitute the existing building by a new representative tower. The foundation stone was laid in 1475 by King Vladislav Jagiellon.

The extensive sculptures on the outside preserved only in part, prove the high qualities of the builder and mason. The whole conception of the building perspicuously resembles the Old Town Bridge Tower, the entrance of the Charles Bridge.

The building of the Tower was finished by the end of the 16th century, the last works being the construction of the roof and reconstruction of the spiral stairway. The currently used name of the Tower, "Prašná" (Powder), dates back to the 18th century, when it was used to store gunpowder.

When the Prussian army seized Prague in 1757, the Tower was damaged. At the beginning of the 19th century many of the decorations on the facade had to be removed.

It was not until the eighties of the last century that the Powder Tower was extensively restored. Some architectural and decorative details were preserved, some were substituted by exact copies. Only the sculptured figures decorating the front show traces of neo-Gothic style.

In the 1960's, the Powder Tower was restored and opened to the public. From the height of 43 meters visitors can admire the panorama of the historical city as well as the recently renewed Royal Way.

HALF BAKED BUT WORKING

Vaclav Havel was not the traditional activist. He was a dissident playwright and poet who inspired the imagination of millions as he endured the hardship of a Communist prison, eventually leading to the Czech Velvet Revolution and freedom.

At a recent address in Stanford University, Havel referred to the new movement in the Czech Republic as "hopelessly half-baked."

While the phrase may be true, the formula seems to be working for the Czech Republic.

In 1990 the country stood between freedom and utter confusion. Prague stands as a beautiful and shining light still finding its way in the new world of freedom and new markets.

Prague attracted 66 million tourists the first 8 months of 1994. Autos reach gridlock on narrow winding streets and hotels are full.

Dissidents Havel and Poland's Lech Walesa rule as elected presidents of their countries. Each has seen former Communists take increasing major or dominant roles in the economics and politics of their countries. Havel's term "hopelessly half baked" in many ways illustrates the uniqueness of the progress.

The nation has a balanced budget policy but controls wages. Businessmen say that has proved difficult in a country where communism taught its citizens that everyone's efforts should result in equal pay. Companies have a hard time finding managers because people were not given experience under the system favoring Communist Party members.

The change has brought instant wealth to Czechs who understand the system and curiously many of them are former Communists who have the contracts.

Half baked or not, former Communists in key places or not, Havel is seeing his country achieve what he sought.

Taken from Union-Tribune

BIOGRAPHY



Libuše Koristova Pauk

Libuše Koristova Pauk was born in October 1902 in Moravia in Czechoslovakia. She had 3 brothers and 2 sisters. Her father was well educated and was a school principal. Libuse went to Chrudim to college for 4 years and became a school teacher.

Her husband Zdenek F. Pauk was born in 1901 in Jablone nad Orlice in Czechoslovakia to a Catholic family of 9 children. His parents owned a tract of land that had a brick factory. At the age of 17 there was a move toward religious freedom and reformation. Zdenek felt a strong dissension to Catholicism and went to London and attended seminary in his spare time to become a Presbyterian minister. In 2 years he returned to his native Czechoslovakia to preach but a friend suggested he extend his studies at the University of Prague for 2 more years. Upon completion, he became a minister in the village where Libuse taught school, became acquainted and married July 26, 1925.

They had a daughter Zora when he had a calling to the United States in 1928. Because of the calling, the trip took only 2 weeks and was direct from Prague and the ship was rather fancy and was equipped with a play area for children.

Their first calling and first home was in Binghamton, New York in a community of Czech

parishioners because Rev. Pauk's English language was very limited. His church was the Evangelical Reformed Church. He later served another church in the area. By then their second daughter Lillian was born.

He was offered a church in a Czech community in Texas. They lived in Texas 14 years before coming to Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Rev. Pauk and his family came to Cedar Rapids in October 1941 to the Hus Memorial Church. He held double services every Sunday in both languages. The church membership was 190 of whom 90% were of Czech descent. By then they were blessed with 2 sons.

In 1944, Rev. Pauk served as Chaplain of the Iowa State Guard and later in the Pacific Theater where he witnessed the ravages and suffering of war. He died at the age of 64.

Libuše feels proud and blessed to have come to America and that her children were able to be educated. Zora Pauk Duval received a masters degree in art, has 2 children and lives in Illinois. Lillian Pauk Pepernik is a nurse and lives in New Jersey. Son Danny has a doctors degree in psychiatry, has 2 children and lives in Florida. Son George is a doctor, has 2 children and lives in Arizona near a reservation. Libuse has 5 great grandchildren.

When Libuše was young, she made a beautiful Moravian kroj (costume) and regrets leaving it behind when she came to America. She hopes it has been saved by relatives as a family heirloom, but she is not sure. She made 3 visits to her family and homeland.

Mrs. Pauk enjoys good health but her eyes are failing. Her mind is exceptionally sharp. Her advise to the young people of this country is to be proud of their heritage, and accept old traditions because there is much to be learned and gained from them.

Libuše Pauk, 92, is a resident of Meth-wick Manor in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She does not care to live to 100 because she would like to keep contributing to society and her age is making it too difficult.

"WERE YOU BORN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA?"

(Czech Heritage Fd'n. News)

The Czech Heritage Fd'n. was organized May 17, 1973 for the purpose of preserving and promoting our heritage. You have read about our social events and Homestay students who receive \$1000 scholarship to spend a month with a family in Prague, but you hear very little about the Czech Educational Unit we have been taking into the classrooms in the Cedar Rapids school system, usually to the lower grades. Even though the school system eliminated their co-ordinator during a budget reorganization, we are continually invited to present this popular program, having been at most of the schools at least once.

Shortly after we became an organization, a committee organized two portable cases. One enclosed case is a mini-museum containing Czech glass, Easter eggs, beads, pottery, Czech dolls, garnets, and other things found in the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The other large suitcase contains a puppet, Sv. Mikulaš with Angel & Devil, Czech flag, maps, Children's kroj (costume) and posters.

On the assigned day we dress in our Czech costumes and greet the children with "Vitáme Vás." The boys and girls enjoy seeing the artifacts and listening to stories about Czech holidays, traditions, and customs. After a 30 minute presentation, the children ask questions. The most asked question is "Were you born in Czechoslovakia?"

When we leave we say "Nazdar."

The teachers ask students to write us letters. The letters are put in a big brown envelope and sent to the volunteers who presented the program.

Here are some excerpts from the letters:

"The trunk you brought had a lot of cool and neat things," Kristin.

"I really enjoyed the stuff in the traveling trunk and decorated eggs," Ashley.

"Kroj is a funny name for a Czech costume. It's amazing a dress could fit so many sizes. Easter must have been fun for little girls," Kally.

"I liked your costume you wore. I can't imagine what those girls went through! But they probably liked it so I won't say anything." Hillary.

Our presentations take time as well as the preparation, but the mailman brings our reward from the children in a big brown envelope making it all worth while.

WENCESLAUS HOLLAR



Hollar self-portrait includes view of Prague, engraving tools, copper plate.

Hollar self-portrait includes view of Prague, engraving tools, copper plate.

Wenceslaus Hollar was born in Prague in 1607 and spent his early years in that city. He was an artist who did copy work, nature, and maps, even though he had no formal training. His work won the praise of his contemporaries and set a standard of excellence to which many aspired. His technical mastery and meticulous rendering of details, distinguished him as one of the finest practitioners of his art.

In 1627, at the age of 20, he traveled to the tiled rooftops of Tangier, Algeria and to the celebrated towers of London. He created more than 2,700 drawings and prints.

A selection of these works were on display through January 1995 at the Smithsonian International Gallery. The show offered a first-hand look at everyday life in the 17th century Europe.

MY CZECH EXPERIENCE



Left to right: Carol Smisek, Vaclav Vanicek, Vaclav's wife Radka, Vanicek's daughter Radana live in Dobra near Frydek-Mistek.

For many years, I have had a true desire to spend some time living in the Czech Republic. My great, great grandfather, Vajciek Smisek came to America in 1867. Passed down in my family were his work ethics, Czech language, kolackey and enjoyment of music.

I was fortunate to meet Anton Vanicek, of Muscatine, Iowa during RAGBRAE 1993. Along with biking, Anton was also "recruiting" for the Czech Republic. Having relatives there, Anton was looking for people interested in helping children with conversational English.

Committing to the assignment for 6 months, I started to brush up on my Czech language, which was spoken in my home when I was a child. I wondered if the Czech people would understand me, would the words be the same. Arriving in the town of Frydek-Mistek, a town of 65,000 people, I was greeted by Anton's cousin Vaclav Vanicek. My first day, as the many visits to the Vanicek home that followed, were always celebrated with good food and soup was always on the stove. No matter how many Americans who were teaching there, enough food was prepared for everyone.

My 5 days a week teaching were shared by 3 schools and 230 children. My students were 10-14 years of age and all had English grammar for the past 2 to 4 years. My mission was to encourage the children to speak the language. I did not share with my students, until the last week of

school, that I, too, was Czech and that I spoke the language. I encouraged my students to ask questions about the U.S. or anything they wished to know. The 3 most popular questions were: my age, do I have a dog, and do I live near Michael Jackson?

My 3 schools contained well-used desks. Bathrooms were not furnished with soap, towels, or toilet paper. My monthly salary (about \$1 an hour in American money) was given to me in a small paper bag. Each month I signed my name and returned it. The following months I repeated the procedure, receiving the same bag during my 5 months of teaching.

I walked to my three schools. I seldom heard a telephone ring during my stay. Living with 2 other Americans who were teaching, we shared a flat (apartment) furnished by the town of Frydek-Mistek. Our flat contained a bedroom for each of us, and we shared a small kitchen and bath. We had a washing machine that resembled a dehumidifier. Unfortunately the 3 of us spent the whole 6 months trying to master the art of washing clothes without flooding out our neighbor below. We were unsuccessful!

I was told many stories about communist rule and limitations Czech people experienced. The spirit of the Czech people simply cannot be broken. They are filled with hope and unending thanks for all who helped them in their struggle. They are committed to a better life for their children.

I arrived home in July knowing I received far more than I gave. Perhaps the greatest gift to them was to let the Czech people see the pride I have in my Czech ancestry.

I visited the homes of many families during my stay. While at a beautiful country cottage and friends Jiri and Vera Souhrada, I observed a plaque with beautiful Czech words that I will never forget. "A kdyžby vše potěšení v tom světě bylo vzato, a jenom láska zůstala, ten život stál by za to." (And if all the pleasures in the world were taken and only love remained, then life would be worth it.)

Carol Novotny Coburn
Chanhassen, Minnesota

SNEAK PREVIEW

In early January, a small group of people were treated to a sneak preview of the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. As you drive up, you see a beautiful eye-appealing structure.

The city must be just as proud of this new facility as the Czech community. Cedar Rapids is a city of 108,000 residents and prides itself as a rich cultural center. This beautiful ediface is located on the southwest side of the city majestically overlooking the Cedar River in Czech Village.

The brick structure with its red roof has beautiful peaks and arches. As you enter the Grand Hall, it has grandeur and an elegant appearance that compliment the arches and facades on the outside.

The room that will house the artifacts looks cavernous when it is empty but a large area is necessary for the 5,000 plus items.

The well lit library is a spacious room and will adequately house the books and papers and allow room for research.

The social area, namely Heritage Hall, will certainly provide a lovely setting for a multitude of cultural and social events. It has 4,000 square feet and has a capacity of 450 people. Food can be catered from the ultra modern kitchen to 250 seated guests. The Heritage Hall doors open to a patio overlooking the river and a panoramic view of the Bridge of the Lions and Masaryk Park on the southeast bank opposite the museum.

The gift shop has enough room to attractively display gifts, crafts, and books.

After the finishing touches are completed, spring and warm weather are needed to work on parking lots, flower beds, landscaping and tower.

Include a trip to Czech Village and to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library as you plan your summer vacation. It is well worth your time. You will be rewarded.

HOUBY DAYS

Houby Days 1995 will be held May 20-21. Plans are to start with a breakfast on Saturday

from 7-11 a.m. with scrambled eggs with mushrooms, sausage, toast and drink. The traditional flag raising ceremony will be held. The morel contest will be held. Categories to be judged are largest, smallest, oddest and best display. Prizes will be awarded to winners. There will be continuous music both days at several locations. The Bridge of Lions will be closed for the carnival. Arts and crafts will be located on the grassy river bank. Sidewalk sales will be on the avenue.

Events on Sunday will be breakfast, carnival, sales and displays. Special events on Sunday include a Polka Mass at St. Wenceslaus Church, 5k run, kolach eating contest and a parade at 1:00 p.m.

It was a big event last year but will be bigger this year. You will want to take a tour through the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The facility will be open, however the exhibits will be in temporary display areas. The museum alone will be well worth your trip to Houby Days.

KOLACHE FESTIVAL TEXAS STYLE

Over 25,000 people were in Caldwell, Texas in September to celebrate the Annual Kolache Festival.

A flag ceremony was held along with the singing of the American and Czech national anthems.

Entertainment was provided by the Original Kolache Festival Band, New Tabor SPJST Youth Club Beseda Dancers, Texas Czech Folk Singers, Burleson Co. Czech Singers, Sonshine Gospelaires, Kovanda's Czech Band, Czech Heritage Singers & Dancers of Houston, Po.L.K. of A. Choral Group, Fayetteville Czech Singers and Musicians, Seaton Beseda Dancers, Lee Co. Deutsche Saenger Runde, Vrazel's Polka Band, Clem Kubacak and the Polka Stars, Taylor Czech Chorus, and the Shiner Hobo Band.

In addition there was ample food, crafts and displays.

A total of 4,789 dozen kolaches were consumed by hungry festival-goers.

NEW CZECH SQUARE



Illustration by Novak Design Group

Most of you are familiar with the quaint old Czech Village in Southwest Cedar Rapids. Now there is a new Czech Square in northeast Cedar Rapids. Czech Square is a new retail office complex located on Czech Lane, off Center Point Road. The three building, 30,000 square foot complex will provide space for 21 tenants.

The complex is nearing completion. When completed it will be easily recognized by a tall tower near the entrance with the name "Czech Square" on all four sides. The tower was constructed using matching bricks and glass blocks used in the complex. A special feature and added attraction will be a large lion approximately 4-5 feet high and weighing several hundred pounds. It was hand sculpted in bronze in China and shipped here. It will be positioned on a pedestal near the tower. As far as anyone knows, it may be one of a kind.

The complex is part of Jiruska Enterprises. Ray Jiruska is the president. His grandparents were born in Czechoslovakia and came to Cedar Rapids. Ray's Grandfather, Frank, was a carpenter by trade and built a number of buildings on 3rd Avenue S.W. which still stand today. Ray recalls his childhood, as being poor. He soon learned hard work ethics.

He attended schools in Cedar Rapids, graduating from Franklin High School. He also attended University of Iowa for 2 years.

He was married and has 3 sons Rodney, David and Daniel and 4 grandchildren.

He is too busy to retire but finds time to travel and his hobby is collecting scale sized cars that are replicas of rare and exotic models.



THE "JEŽEK"

The "ježek" (hedgehog) ornament was a popular choice for a Christmas ornament this past holiday season for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library gift shop. For those who purchased the sparkling glass ornament for their tree or for a gift, the hedgehog is an interesting creature.

The Prague Zoo asks people each fall to adopt and care for a lost or orphan "ježek" each fall. They are to be fed raw meat, cooked egg, cottage cheese or cooked porridge until they are turned loose in the spring.

The "ježek" is a small mammal which looks somewhat like a porcupine. It is almost 9 inches long, has short ears and a long nose. Its back is covered with stiff hair which hardens into spines towards the ends. A short fur covers the underside of the body. When the hedgehog is in danger, it pulls its head down and rolls itself into a ball of sharp brown spikes. Hedgehogs eat insects, snakes, small animals, birds, and bird eggs and are classed as "Insectivora" and are nocturnal. They feed at night. Hedgehogs are found only in Europe but porcupines are both in the Old and New World. Hedgehogs make a noise some describe as the "snuffling of an old man."

Hedgehogs can be found almost everywhere in Prague, on lawns and around apartment houses and are easy to find.

They make great pets!



THE PICKLE

Sales were brisk for the imported Czech green pickle ornament at Christmas at the gift shop. It is popular because it has a story to tell. The Czech people were not considered to be of great wealth and children received a limited amount of toys and gifts at Christmas.

The Christmas tree was adorned with many homemade decorations and glass ornaments. The pickle was carefully hidden on Christmas Eve by the parents. When the children reached the tree Christmas morning, they frantically searched for the pickle. The lucky child finding the pickle received an additional gift.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GLASS IN THE 16th CENTURY

In the 16th century the political climate in the Czech lands changed considerably. In 1526-1560 Ferdinand I, a Hapsburg, became the king of Bohemia and Hungary.

Toward the end of Ferdinand's rule, the Italian Renaissance began to influence the Czechs. The aristocracy became aware of artistic trends. Many glass factories were founded. By the end of the 16th century there were 54 factories and 40 were in Bohemia alone.

The aristocrats had a socially complex and expensive life style. Elaborate glass tableware was desired for banquets. Venetian style glass was imported but it did not satisfy the demands. Glass manufacture therefore was encouraged in Bohemia.

The desire to imitate Venetian glass led to the improvement in Bohemian glassmaking. There were significant improvements in furnace structure and in glass composition. Bohemian glassmakers also learned to purify the potash and soda raw materials, mix them accurately, remove foam from surface, and to use manganese as a decolorizer.

The improvement of Czech glassmaking paralleled that of the mining industry. Silver, copper, tin and cobalt was found amid the ore-bearing minerals. The most important and progressive glassmaking families were the Preusslers, Schürers and Wanders from the region of Krušné Hory. An important Schürer glassworks was near Nejdek on the Bohemian side of Krušné Hory where the Schürer's probably introduced the manufacture of cobalt-blue glass. Another in Broumy, west of Prague in the Křivoklát area, probably supplied glassware to Prague Castle.

The first Venetian decorative technique adopted in Central Europe was enameling. Some examples of Bohemian enameled glass occurred during the reign of Rudolf II (1576-1612). By then, not only glasses decorated with coats-of-arms, but with symbols of the Empire, figures of the emperor, and biblicans hunting and mythological scenes. Almost all were realistically and carefully painted with great attention and detail. Varying amounts of manganese and cobalt were used for color.

According to Matthesius, other Venetian techniques as diamond-paint engraving, and filigrano were used before 1562 mainly in Silesia. Filigrano glass manufacturing in Chřibuská is known to have been exported from North Bohemia to Dresden in 1599.

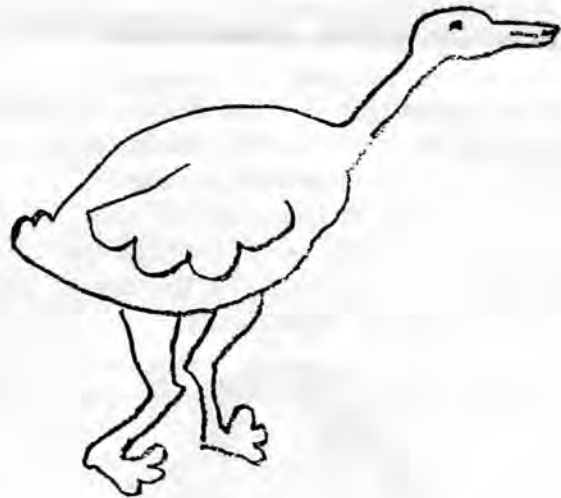
Archeological finds from Rejdice in Northern Bohemia and from Blessed Anežka monastery in the old town of Prague (where the Dominican monks had a glass factory) prove that related glasses were manufactured in several areas of Bohemia.

Techniques such a filigrano and painting were not suitable for Bohemian glass and they were used for a short time only.

(From "Czechoslovakian Glass 1350-1980" Corning Museum of Glass Museum of Decorative Arts - Prague.)

"BIG BIRD"

drop velký



While the Czech and Slovak Republics hardly rival Madagascar or Australia in the exotic animal populations, they each have a few beasts to call their very own.

The drop velky, or, scientifically, otic tarda in Latin, is the world's heaviest flying bird, a distinction it no doubt owes to the land-heavy Czech cuisine. Weighing in at 38 pounds, this hefty relative of the ostrich is a native of Southern Bohemia.

from Prognosis

MEET THE HOMESTAY STUDENTS

(These 4 students applied and met the requirements to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Czech Heritage Fd'n. to spend a month with a host family in Prague, Czech Republic this summer.)



My name is Chris Fee and I am a junior at Center Point-Urbana High School. I live outside of Urbana on an acreage with my parents Jim and Jeanne, and my 14 year old brother Matt.

I enjoy football, track, band, pep band and show choir. I have participated in three school plays and at this time we are rehearsing for Aladdin. We take our Children's Theater to elementary schools in our area.

On weekends I am employed by Pizza Place in Center Point and Royal Fork in Cedar Rapids.

In my spare time I enjoy skiing at Sundown, riding snowmobiles and motorcycles with my friends and taking trips with my family.

I look forward to going on this trip to further my knowledge of my Czech Heritage and possibly meet some of my cousins who live there. Thanks for allowing me this opportunity.



My name is Amy Novotny and I am currently 17 years old and I am a junior in Washington High School in Cedar Rapids. I am very excited to go to Czechoslovakia this summer and I'd like to thank the Czech Heritage for enabling me to go. I am very involved in activities at school. I am a member of the Warrior Pom Squad, Concert Choir, Madrigal Chamber Choir, jazz ensemble

called Slice of Jazz and I am the dance captain of Manenheim Swing Choir.

I'm the secretary of my church's youth council and am a very strong member of the youth group and choir. I enjoy traveling, singing, dancing, and spending time with friends and family. I'm very excited to meet my fellow ambassadors and travel to Czechoslovakia.



My name is Joy Lynne Janda. My parents are Don and Sheila Janda. I am a junior at Clear Creek-Amana High School in Tiffin. I am a varsity football and wrestling cheerleader. I also work part time at Sykora Bakery and at Liz Claiborne at the outlet mall.

I am looking forward to visiting the Czech Republic and visiting the village my great grandmother came from. Thank you for this opportunity. I hope to be a great student ambassador on behalf of the Czech Heritage Foundation.



My name is Mandy Rae Haster. My parents are Gary and Mary Haster. I am 16 and a Junior at Jefferson H.S. My school activities consist of yearbook staff, playing flute, member of the Senior High youth group at Covenant Bible Church, and part time work at Hillside Child Care Center.

My hobbies are reading, sewing, writing, cooking, crafts, and traveling with my family.

Mandy says "I will offer a new friendship and a true picture of what a normal American teenager from Cedar Rapids is really like. I want to show them how their culture is still obvious for some families in the United States."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Since 1974 our membership dues remained at \$3.00 per person per year. Due to your generous donations we have not raised dues despite increased costs. Our thanks for November and December go to: Dorothy Ackerman, Harold J. Adams, Marcella Anderson, Franklin Barta, Helen Barta, Karen Bartachek, Richard and Tammy Beranek, Doris Beseda, Wilma Brase, Joseph and Esther Cerveny, Blanche Cuhel, Harold and Emma Davidson, Betty Dempnock, Mary Ditch, Wynona Dreuss, Gladys Faiman, Edna Goodrow, Martha Hanson, Bob Hejkal, Douglas Hladek, Eldon Hosek, David Janicek, Rudy R. Jasa, Louis Jedlicka, Elizabeth Kadlec, Ronald Keberle, Mildred Koenigsmark, John Kopecky, Diane Krejci, E. J. Kubicek, Milos Kukal, Emil and Evelyn Laparek, Libbie Langton, Edna Lenicek, Emily Lins, Edward Liphardt, Albert Losenicky, Edith Lund, Betsey McCalley, Mildred McIlrath, Joesph and Blanche Masek, Louis Melsa, Erma Meskimen, Ray Miller, Irma and Leo Modracek, Musil Family, Clifford and Lucille Netolicky, Robert Novotny, Wallace Oliva, Mary Ann Pochobradsky, Frank Pozimek, Inez Popelka, Clara Pospisil, Evelyn Prior, Irene Pudil, Robert and Ella Samek, Diane Schultz, Olga Sedenka, Bernard Shanelec, Bruno Smid, Grace Soukup, Elsie Sova, Janet Jeffries Spencer, Helen Stevens, Mary Tichy, Anton Vanicek, Robert E. and Irma Vanourny, Robert J. Vanourny, Charles Vavra, Evelyn Vecera, Emil Vellek, Harold Vesely, Marie Vileta, Lewis Vornholt, Bishop Emil Wcela, Cecia Werner, Jody Feldtman Wright and Jack and Elinore Zaruba.

KLUB KONTINENTAL

Ruby and Henrietta Klecka, P.O. Box 28 of East Bernard, Texas are planning 4 tours to the Czech Republic in 1995. Tour #1 leaves June 14 for 21 days. Tour #2 leaves May 11 for 15 days. Tour #3 leaves July 17 for 13 days. Tour #4 leaves September 18 for 15 days. Write for information.

CZECH GRADE SCHOOL



*Oldest continuous Czech language school in the U.S.
Founded 1870*

MONROE SCHOOL

Monroe School, the third school to be built in Cedar Rapids in the early 1870's was built for \$12,000 at 10th Ave. and Third St. S.E. In 1899, an addition was built giving it 10 more classrooms.

The school was the first to hold adult evening classes, and English was taught as a second language to Czech residents. Eighty-five percent of the school's students were Czech.

In 1923 it was abandoned and sold to Witwer Grocer Co. and used as a warehouse.

Rumors abounded the building would be restored. Parts of the second floor still contain original classrooms, coat hooks and blackboards. Last December members of the Metro Area Housing Program toured the building and were saddened by the amount of deterioration that took place in the last few years and is beyond restoration.

I am sure some of our readers had family members who attended Monroe School or lived in the vicinity.



Monroe School as it might have been restored.
Drawing by Novak Design Group



View of 16th Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids. Looking east toward the bridge. Today this is the heart of the Czech business district.

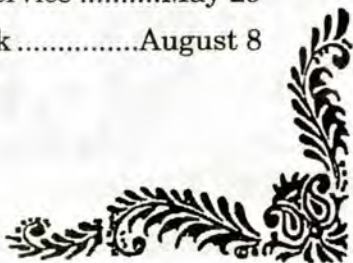


St. Wenceslaus School 12th Ave. and 5th St. S.E. in Cedar Rapids. The parish school was founded in 1894. In 1926 it was the first Czech parish high school accredited in the United States



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Homestay Benefit Dance...March 19
 St. Joseph's Day Parade....March 25
 Houby Days.....May 20-21
 Ethnic Fest.....May 27-28
 Memorial Day ServiceMay 29
 Picnic ZCBB ParkAugust 8



ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE

For several years the Czech Heritage Fd'n. has held a fund raiser for its Homestay scholarship program. We hope that you will plan to spend the afternoon with us Sunday, March 19th from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the P3 Retiree Union Hall at the corner of 2nd St. and 14th Ave. S.E. at the east end of the 16th Ave. Bridge of Lions and next to Masaryk Park. Mike Lasack and His Rhythm Aires will provide the music for your dancing pleasure. We shall be serving a light lunch and soft drinks. There will be a bake sale table where you may bring food or buy food. Door prizes will be given and our students going to the Czech Republic will be introduced.

Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and an opportunity to meet your friends and neighbors.

Frank Novotny and Committee

SCHOLARSHIP QUILT

I have been contacted by Dorothy Dvorak, wife of our Financial Secretary Lovell Dvorak, that she has put together a quilt which she is going to have hand quilted. She was wondering if we could use it for our college scholarship fund which we have been building. In behalf of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. I accepted the gift of the quilt. We will have to make arrangements to work on tickets and so forth for a fund raiser. You will be informed as to the progress of the endeavor. So in behalf of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. a big thank you to the Dvoraks for the gift.

Frank Novotny

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

Unlike the "wearing of the green" on March 17th on St. Patrick's Day, the Czech traditionally celebrate St. Joseph's Day on March 19th by wearing red. There is little religious significance to the event but a time to celebrate the day by honoring those with the name of Joseph. In Czechoslovakia, the day was a day of fun and activities.

In Czech Village in S.W. Cedar Rapids a parade will be held March 25th at 1:00 p.m. to honor St. Joseph. The bakery sells red bread, taverns sell red beer and the Avenue is decorated with red banners.

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

CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE

Please check your mailing label on this newsletter. If you see a (94) following your name, then your Czech Heritage Membership has expired as of the end of 1994. We don't want to lose you as a member any more than you want your membership to lapse. If you have not yet forwarded your 1995 membership, please use the attached application now — before you forget. Thanks!

CZECH HERITAGE & CULTURAL QUESTIONNAIRE

My name is Susan Pellar and I am a Graduate Student in Oklahoma State University's Applied History Program. I am currently doing research on how the Czech people have maintained their cultural heritage into the 1990's and how that heritage is being preserved today. I am of Czech descent myself, from the Dolezals and Vasiceks of Banner, Oklahoma.

Would you please print a copy of the attached questionnaire in your newsletter, asking your readers to fill it out and mail a copy to my home address: Susan Pellar, _____ ?

I subscribe to *Our Czech Heritage* myself and hope to submit findings for your publication.

What is your name? _____

Are you: male female Age _____

What is your home city and state? _____

Are you of Czech or Slavic descent? _____

Are you: full? half? quarter? less?

Do you have children? What ages? _____ yes no

Do you have grandchildren? What ages? _____ yes no

Have you passed on your Czech heritage to them? _____ yes no

Did your parents/grandparents pass the heritage to you? _____ yes no

Are they active in Czech cultural heritage? _____ yes no

Do you attend church? frequently some rarely never yes no

What religion do you follow? Catholic Baptist Methodist Aglican
 Lutheran other _____

Do you speak the Czech language? fluent some little none yes no

Do you know any Czech dances? _____ songs? _____ yes no

Are you interested in learning any? _____ yes no

Do you have native costumes? _____ yes no

Do you know what the colors stand for? _____ yes no

Do you eat native Czech foods? How Often? Who cooks them? _____ yes no

Do you attend festivals? _____ yes no

Do you participate in Czech holiday traditions? _____ yes no

Do you belong to any Czech organizations? Which? _____ yes no

Do you get any Czech newsletters or magazines? Which? _____ yes no

Can you trace your lineage to Czechoslovakia? _____ yes no

If yes, have you visited your ancestral village? _____ yes no

If so, when? _____

If not, would you like to? _____ yes no

Comments: _____

CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. Box 761
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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Just a note to say I'm living,

that I'm not among the dead.
Though I'm getting more forgetful
and mixed up in the head.
I got used to my arthritis,
to my dentures I'm resigned.
I can manage my bifocals
but gosh I miss my mind!
For sometimes I can't remember,
when I stand at the foot of the stairs,
if I must go up for something
or have I just come down from there?
And before the fridge so often,
my poor mind is filled with doubt.
Have I just put food away
or have I come to take some out?
So if it's my turn to write you
there's no need for getting sore;
I may think that I have written
and don't want to be a bore.
Just remember that I love you
and wish that you were near.
Now it's nearly mail time
so I must say goodbye, my dear:
Here I stand beside the mailbox
with a face so very red!
Instead of mailing you my letter,
I have opened it instead!

Author Unknown