

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



Czech Parody of Grant Wood's "American Gothic", "A Work in Prague-dress"

(Story on page 3)

Volume 26 – Number 2 – June 2001



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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

Editor: Russ Novotny

Contributors:

- Olga Drahozal Frank Novotny
- Jeanne Fee Linda Novotny
- Irene Hamous Sylvia Rohlena
- Chuck Jungman Jan Stoffer Tursi
- Dennis Murphy

Table of Contents

Nase Ceske Deditivi 2
 December Newsletter Volunteers 2
 President's Message 2
 Editor's Message 2

Special Notices:
 A Tribute to Melvina Svec – 100 Years, Sept. 16th .. 3
 Annual Czech Heritage Picnic Sept. 11th 3
 Next Newsletter Preview..... 3

Cover Story:
 Overall's All Over
 An American Gothic Happening 4
 Czech Entry by Artist Marj NejdI 6

Czech Language Corner:
 Olga's Lesson 6..... 8

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library..... 8

Special Reports:
 Czech School
 2001 Report..... 9
 Gabriela Hykova 9
 Adult Czech Language Classes Start Sept. 14th 11
 Homestay Program
 Jeanne Fee Visits Czech Hosts..... 11
 Student Ambassadors Presentations Oct. 14th 12
 Czech Ladies Educational Society Scholarships..... 12

Historic Perspectives:
 Jungman's Do You Remember? 12
 Remembering The Kappa Anna..... 13

Membership Application 15
 Calendar of Events 15
 Czech Out These Web Sites 16

Nase Ceske Deditivi

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation who pay their annual dues of \$3.00 per person receive *Nase Ceske Deditivi* free. Dues are renewable on January 1st of each year and expire December 31st. 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.

December Newsletter Volunteers

By Frank Novotny

It is always enjoyable to get together and prepare the Nase Ceske Deditivi for mailing. We met to work on the newsletter mailing at the Frank Novotny home. We wish to thank the following helpers:

- Emma Davidson, Leo & Erma Modrachek, Arlene Netolicky, Frank, Russ, & Linda Novotny, John & Adeline Volesky, and Mana Zlatohlavek.

We do want to express a sincere thank you to all the above and anybody else who helped getting the activity organized.

President's Message

By Sylvia Rohlena

Dear Czech Heritage Members,

I hope that you are all having a wonderful summer. The hot, humid days of July gave me an opportunity to review how the Czech Heritage Foundation developed into a dedicated organization that set firm principles thirty years ago. A strong energetic skilled group interested in their Czech roots knew that the arts, books and history must be preserved for future generations. With an excellent board and supporting membership the mission continues and I am grateful for this. This year being 2001, we have a vantage point to pay tribute to one of our original charter members, who will be 100, Melvina Svec. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to this lady for her persistent ideas that she carried through. I hope many of you can join us at the National Czech & Slovak Museum, September 16th. (more in newsletter)

We are proud of our continuing development which I will write about at a later date, so a Big Thank You to all who have contributed one way or another.

Na shledanou, Sylvia Blaha Rohlena

Editor's Message

by Russ Novotny

We have quite a variety of articles for you this issue, but as I look at the articles, I see a very strong Cedar Rapids theme. This isn't an intentional effort to leave out the rest of the world out there, but simply a result of a very active summer here in Cedar Rapids. I would love to include more articles on events from outside of our community, but I need your help. If any of you have or are willing to develop materials that you feel would be of interest to our readership, please contact us at:

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

It has been brought to my attention that for the past several issues, we have not been including lists of those generous members who have provided donations to our organization. I regret this oversight, and will be working to include those acknowledgements in future issues.

Special Notices:

A Tribute to Melvina Svec 100 Years

The Czech Heritage Foundation
Cordially Invites You To

A TRIBUTE TO MELVINA SVEC - 100 YEARS



Sunday September 16, 2001
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
(Program 2:30 PM)

At The National Czech & Slovak
Museum & Library

Send best wishes to
Melvina Svec, Northbrook Manor
6420 Council St N.E.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Czech Heritage Foundation Annual Potluck Meeting 9/11/01

by the Committee



Czech Heritage's annual potluck meeting will be held at the ZCJB Park on Old River Road SW, Cedar Rapids, on September 11th – the regular meeting night for the organization (2nd Tuesday of the month). The evening's events will begin at 6:30 PM with a potluck supper. The

event committee will furnish meat and drink. Please bring your own dishes and silverware, as well as a covered dish for the potluck.



The River Road is in good condition and it is a beautiful scenic drive. The Park is a wonderful place to meet your friends and have a sociable evening.

Looking forward to seeing you September 11th.

Next Newsletter Previews

(Look for Details of these stories
in our next Newsletter)

NEXT EDITION News Flash:

Lisa Volesky Crowned Miss
Czech-Slovak USA.



Lisa Volesky was crowned Miss Czech-Slovak USA in Wilber, NB Sunday, August 5, 2001. She is the first Iowan to be crowned Miss Czech-Slovak USA in the 15-year history of the pageant.

NEXT EDITION Special Report:

Homestay Students Adventures in the Czech Republic

Our Homestay students have returned after a month-long stay with host families in the Czech Republic this summer. They are now preparing accounts of their wonderful visits, developing their pictures, and completing scrapbooks. Share some of these adventures at their first public joint presentation October 14th at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, and look for their stories beginning in our next newsletter.

**NEXT EDITION Historic Perspective:
Ossey Influence on SW Cedar Rapids**



In 1927, William Ossey bought property on the corner of Wilson Avenue and Bowling Street. Realizing the needs of the Czech community, he built a combination gas station with groceries.

Cover: "Overalls All Over"

**Overalls All Over
An American Gothic Happening
June 8 thru September 17 2001
Downtown Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

By Russ Novotny with excerpts from materials provided by the Cedar Rapids Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and Renaissance Group, Incorporated.

"Overalls All Over" is Cedar Rapids' way of having fun with Grant Wood's famous *American Gothic* image, while drawing attention to the city as the home and workplace of that famous artist. *American Gothic*, the likeness of a Midwest farmer and his daughter has become the 2nd most recognized painting in the world. It is probably the most frequently parodied painting as well. In an effort to join in on the fun, Cedar Rapids now has 29 life-size mannequins representing the "*American Gothic*" couple that have been dressed and decorated by local artists for the occasion.



Grant Wood was born near Cedar Rapids in Anamosa in 1891, and was raised in Cedar Rapids. After studying in Chicago and Paris, he came home to show off the furrowed hills and rounded trees, as well as his own hometown neighbors.

He exploded onto the American art scene in 1930 when he won the \$300 prize in a Chicago art show. His subject was a little farmhouse with a pointy gothic-style window that he'd stumbled upon and sketched on an envelope. His dentist and his sister, Nan, posed as a no-nonsense Iowa farmer and daughter. The painting was called *American Gothic*.

Now, Nan's face competes only with Whistler's Mother and the Mona Lisa as the most recognized female in art. Probably the most parodied and caricatured painting in the world, Wood's stern-faced duo have become household figures. The original work now resides at The Art Institute of Chicago.

The idea for "Overalls All Over" grew out of efforts by the Cedar Rapids Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Renaissance Group, Inc. to draw attention to Cedar Rapids. They knew about the success of Chicago's "Cows on Parade" and Cincinnati's "Big Pig Gig". In looking for something unique for Cedar Rapids, Grant Wood's famous *American Gothic* couple seemed like a natural.



The reference to Overalls was a tie to the painting as well as to Grant Wood himself. He was almost always photographed in overalls. In fact, at his No. 5 Turner Alley studio and his McKinley Junior High classroom he dressed in the same blue denim as his *American Gothic* farmer.

For some great stories and pictures on this interesting event, visit the Cedar Rapids Gazette web page: <http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/grantwood/overalls/index.htm>

Following is a representative sample of the types of themes and techniques used to decorate these "Fun Couples". These photographs were provided to the Convention and Visitors Bureau by French's Studio of Cedar Rapids.



"Two from the School of Cool", Sponsored by the Kirkwood Community College Foundation includes a radio tuned to the School's Jazz station.



“Friends of the Festival”, Sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival celebrates Cedar Rapids’ 4th of July Freedom Festival



“Fields and Dreams”, Sponsored by Linn County Supervisors and Weaver Witwer Trust illustrates Grant Wood’s classic style of painting



“American Dental Gothic”, Sponsored by Friends of the University of Iowa College of Dentistry illustrates the occupational themes of several of the statues.



“All-American Gothic”, Sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Kernels Baseball Team, and the Cedar Rapids RoughRiders Hockey Team references the recreational opportunities in the Cedar Rapids area



“Not Just America’s Gothic”, Sponsored by AEGON USA represents an ethnic theme, as inspired by the ties to the sponsor’s Dutch business connections



“A Work in Prague-dress”, Sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Czech community reflects the rich Czech Heritage of the City (see following feature story)

Czech Community Entry: "A Work in Prague-dress" Artist: Marj NejdI

The Cedar Rapids Czech Community banded together to sponsor a Czech-theme entry in Cedar Rapids' Overalls All Over event (see previous article above).



The plaque shown below is placed near the Czech figures and acknowledges the Czech organizations that contributed to raise the necessary entry fee to acquire the life-sized mannequins for the display:

Thank you to the following sponsors of
"A Work In Prague-Dress":

CSA Rad Prokop Velky #137
Czech Cottage
Czech Heritage Foundation
Czech Village Association
Federation of Czech Groups
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
Sokol Cedar Rapids
Two-Star Detective Agency
WFLA #262 Cedar Rapids Lodge
Zindrick's Czech Restaurant

Cedar Rapids' own Marj NejdI was commissioned to dress and decorate the figures in typical Czech style. Marj, with help from her husband Ed, fashioned the outfits, and Marj painted typical Czech designs on the clothes to resemble embroidery.



Artist Marj NejdI

Once completed, the figures were treated with special chemicals to preserve, stabilize and waterproof the materials used.

This particular Czech couple was then placed in a prominent place of honor on the grounds of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML) directly under the bell tower.



Figures Placed Prominently
Under the Bell Tower at the
National Czech & Slovak
Museum & Library



This exhibit was so popular that it became the basis for several other activities this past summer. Marj and her accomplishment were featured on the Czech Heritage float entered in the Houby Days parade. Marj rode on the float with her granddaughter, while live models illustrated the *American Gothic* couple in Grant Wood's painting.



The Chamber of Commerce held a "Wood-Be" contest for contestants who dressed up like the *American Gothic* couple. Larry and Arlene Spina won the award for best look-alike couple, and celebrated their win with an impromptu polka.



Now, let's take a closer look at these cleverly decorated figures, as we view them from all sides:



Congratulations, Marj, on a job well done!

Czech Language Corner:

Olga's Lesson 6

By Olga Drahozal



To keep it as simple as possible, these rules apply MOST of the time.

Forming plurals:

A masculine noun, singular, becomes plural by adding a "y" to the singular form.

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
train	vlak (vlahk),	trains	vlaky (vlah-kee),
pass	pas (pahs)	passes	pasy (pah-see)
passport	cestovní pas (tses-tawf-nyee pahs)	passports	cestovní pasy (tses-tawf-nyee pahsee)
man	muž (moozh)	men	muži (moo-zhee)

A feminine noun becomes plural by dropping the final "a" and adding a "y".

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
map	mapa (mah-pah),	maps	mapy (mah-pee),
hour	hodina (haw-dyee-nah),	hours	hodiny (haw-dyee-nee)
school	škola (shkaw-lah)	schools	školy (shkaw-lee).
road	cesta (tses-tah)	roads	cesty (tses-thee)

A neuter noun, singular, becomes plural by dropping the final "o" and adding an "a" (which does not change its neuter status.)

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
auto	auto (ah-oo-thaw)	autos	auta (ah-oo-thah).
theater	divadlo (dyee-vah-dlaw)	theaters	divadla (dyee-vah-dlah)
airplane	letadlo (le-tah-dlaw)	airplanes	letadla (le-tah-dlah)
city	město (mye-staw)	cities	města (mye-stah).

Some exceptions: some feminine nouns end in "--e". These have the same form in singular and plural. Some examples are:

Street ulice (oo-lee-tseh)
 Village vesnice (veh-snyee-tseh)
 Hen slepice (sle-pee-tseh)

Other helpful words are:

ENGLISH	CZECH	GENDER
here	tady (thah-dee)	N/A
there	tam (thahm)	N/A
That	ten (then)	Masaculine
	ta (thah)	Feminine
	to (thaw)	Neuter
this here	tento (tehn-thaw)	Masaculine
	tato (thah-thaw)	Feminine
	toto(thaw-thaw)	Neuter
these here	tyto (thee-thaw)	N/A
that there	tamten (tham-then)	Masaculine
	tamta (tham-thah)	Feminine
	tamto (tham-thaw)	Neuter

TRANSLATE:

Tento muž je tady.
 Tato cesta je nova.
 Toto město (mye-staw) je staré. (stah-reh)
 Ta kniha je tady. (Thah knee-ha)
 To di/vadlo je velké. (vel-keh) (large)

This map is old.
 This train is long.
 That there passport is old.
 That school is new.
 That automobile is small.

Answers? Look for them in the next issue! Na shledanou!

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



Permanent exhibit: *Homelands: The Story of the Czech & Slovak People.* This exhibit tells the story of the Czech and Slovak people from the days of Slavic tribes wandering into Central Europe, through the Velvet Divorce in 1993. Homelands features art, a 1969 Czech-made motorcycle, folk costumes and military artifacts.

Temporary exhibit: *20th Century Sensations: Czechs * Slovaks * Popular Culture.* May 24 -

September 23. From moon rocks to tennis rackets, pop art to psychoanalysis, *20th Century Sensations: Czechs * Slovaks * Popular Culture* explores the remarkable impact Czechs and Slovaks have made on the world around us, whether in the arts, politics, business, science, or sports. Personal items, historic artifacts, fine art, and images will tell the stories of individuals such as Andy Warhol, Madeleine Albright, Martina Navratilova, Sigmund Freud, Franz Kafka, Astronauts James Lovell and Eugene Cernan, Milos Forman, Ray Kroc, Louis Brandeis, Jaromir Jagr, Stan Musial, and many more.

Special Reports:

CZECH SCHOOL - 2001 Report

By Olga Drazahol

Cedar Rapids' own Czech School for children, existing since 1870, opened its doors to children aged 5 to 13 on Monday, June 11th. For five weeks, Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 11:00 AM, forty-five students from thirty families gathered at Wilson Middle School in Cedar Rapids to study many things about the land of the Czechs.



The field trip on Friday June 29th was to the Coral Ridge Mall and to the Museum of Natural History at the University of Iowa. Two chartered buses left the east parking lot at Wilson school at 8 a.m. and returned at 3:30 p.m. Parents and friends were invited to come along.

Several new activities were incorporated into the curriculum this year. Division I had the opportunity to visit the National Czech and Slovak Museum and toured the historic Czech Village area. Division II and III toured Sokol Hall at the invitation of Frank and Barb Edmunds. Allison Gerber, past president of instructors, explained the historical and political significance of the Sokols and the students were taught a mini-calisthenics drill.

On the evening July 13th a special program was presented in the Wilson School auditorium. The program was dedicated to Mrs. Leona Poduska, a long time teacher of Ceska Skola. A representation from Cedar Rapids Sokols formed a color guard and presented the flags to open the program. The pledge of allegiance was led by Czech Heritage Prince, Matt Samek, and the national anthems of the U.S.A. and the Czech Republic were sung. Songs, poems, and skits followed but the highlight of the evening was a "Ceske Divadlo" (a Czech

theater production), "Sedm malých kozů a vlk" (Seven little goats and a wolf). It was presented by Division II, which was taught by Gabriela Hykova. Miss Hykova, a Czech student studying at Mount Mercy, graciously consented to teach the second division following the reluctant resignation of long-time teacher of that group, Mrs. Leona Poduska. Division III



performed their mini-calisthenics drill, as taught by Ms. Allison Gerber. Graduation certificates were given by school board president, Mrs. Milly Ortner, to Beth Samek and Matt Samek, who was eligible several years ago but never got his diploma. The traditional ice cream social in the school cafeterias followed.

Dekuji Vam to all who made this year a success. Teachers this year were Bessie Dugena, Gabriela Hykova and Olga Drahozal. Our next public event will be the Chili Supper benefit which will be at St. Wenceslaus Church hall on March 2nd, 2002. Watch for further developments! Na shledanou!

CZECH SCHOOL - Gabriela Hykova Teaches at Czech Summer School

Interview by Russ Novotny, 7/12/01



Sometimes fate smiles upon us and wonderful things fall into place. Such a pleasant surprise happened this summer for the Czech School held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Here are those events:

1. Gabriela Hykova attends a Secondary School in the Czech Republic that has a student exchange program with 10 other colleges, including Mount Mercy in Cedar Rapids
2. Gabriela applies to participate in her school's foreign study program, selecting her top 3 choice locations. Cedar Rapids was her second choice (we can't blame her -- she didn't know us yet).
3. Gabriela's school sends her to Mount Mercy in Cedar Rapids for the 2000-2001 school year.

4. The Cedar Rapids summer Czech School needs an additional teacher, and Gabriela agrees to take the challenge.
5. Gabriela is a huge hit with her students and the adults that work with her at Czech School. She works hard to make the school and enjoyable experience for her students, and they enjoy and are stimulated by her "real, recent" experience in the Czech Republic".



The story continues with a somewhat sad turn, but what promises to be a happy ending.

6. The Czech School prepares a skit in Czech & English for their final program, but Gabriela has to catch her prearranged flight home just hours before the program. The students do their best to during practice to impress her, and she must miss their final performance. She will have to enjoy the program via video recording, and misses the sure gratitude the parents, students, and audience would have shown her for her efforts.



7. Gabriela now plans to return to Iowa for graduate studies at the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in Spanish and English. After school, she would like to stay to teach, perhaps here in Iowa or in Mexico. (Shame on us if we let this talented teacher get away from us here).

As I visited with Gabriela to gather this information, I was impressed by her enthusiasm, her obvious natural way with the children, and her grasp of the teaching process and the needs of her students. Up to this experience, her background had been with educating adults, so this was a new, interesting experience.

She explained that the Czech language was too complicated to learn and remember much about in 5 weeks of schooling. Anyone would need to continue to use language to remember it. Her objective was to make it fun for the kids, so that they would:

- Enjoy the language, and
- Learn about the culture

They focused on very basic vocabulary, like numbers, colors, days, and things. While studying foods, she baked for them, they set a table with plates and cups, and pretended to be waiters, waitresses, and customers. They also had a Czech Christmas where they had Christmas cookies while studying customs, traditions, and basic vocabulary.

Of course, the children are thrilled to have a young, "hip/cool/..." (whatever they call it now) teacher who speaks with a Czech accent, and really lives in the place they are studying. Gabriela mentioned that the Czech school children ask her lots of questions about what it's like in the Czech Republic. Based on the questions they ask, she felt they are better informed about the Czech Republic than her college colleagues at Mt. Mercy. Thank you to their parents and community for helping them to be "Czech aware".



As one might expect, the veteran teachers at Czech School teach the Czech they learned. Gabriela calls it the "old" language - like the way her grandmother would talk. She brings the new/current language - new words that they use and identifies old ones they don't. It became common for the teachers to discuss these differences. Even the teachers are sometimes students.

We wish to thank Gabriela for helping with Czech School this summer. Her enthusiasm and "authentic" experiences were much appreciated. We hope that she will return to visit us in the future, and better yet, come back to stay - to teach and contribute to our community once more.

Adult Czech Language Classes Start September 19th

By Olga Drahozal

Advanced students having some knowledge of the Czech language are invited to participate in Fall Czech Language Classes. The classes will be held September 14th through November 21st, 7:00 - 8:30 PM at 28 25th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. A fee of \$30 will be charged for the 10 lessons. Contact Olga Drahozal for details.

HOMESTAY PROGRAM - Jeanne Fee Visits Czech Hosts

By Jeanne Fee

My trip to PORG, a secondary school in the Czech Republic, was very beneficial to our home-stay program. Officials from this school are assisting us by making arrangements to host our home-stay students. While visiting the school I met with Mgr. Vaclav Klaus, the director of the school, and Petr Rufer, the student exchange coordinator. I had started my communication with Mr. Rufer by e-mail almost one year ago after receiving his name from a proprietor of a pension I had stayed at in Prague in 1998.



PORG School, Prague

Through our e-mail exchanges I learned that Mr. Rufer's school had experience in student exchange programs, however they were limited to countries in Europe, especially the United Kingdom. He wrote that his school finds the exchange programs extremely beneficial for their students and that they would be very open to the idea of offering such a program to American high school students. After meeting with Mr. Rufer face to face, and

taking a tour of the school that our American students would be attending, I feel that we are indeed headed in the right direction. I found that the administration at the school was well run; the teachers were very concerned for the well being of their students.

Mr. Rufer told me that 2-3 years ago the school was rated the best in the country for the level of English known by its students and faculty. He also stated that the student's parents usually knew how to speak some English, something that was lacking in the homes we found for some of our previous ambassadors. During this trip I was even fortunate enough to meet with three of the four families that this year's ambassadors will be staying with.



Student hosts: Tomas Hercog, Tereza Chabova, and Anna Kletenska, with Exchange Coordinator Petr Rufer in back

While our students are in the Czech Republic they will be able to attend classes with the host student. Some of them may become teacher's assistants during the English lessons, providing a valuable resource for Czech students studying our language. Our students will be able to see the difference between what is available to them in the United States and what is available to students in the Czech Republic first hand.

While I was in the Czech Republic, Mr. Rufer also voiced his desire to make this program a full exchange program. He would like to see the Czech host students have the opportunity to come to the United States. This has already been made possible for two of the Czech host students; they will be coming to the states later this summer. I would encourage anyone wishing to host a Czech student to contact me, Jeanne Fee, at

Mr. Rufer also stated that he would like to expand his program even further so it could include a cultural exchange between our schools and PORG. He gave me a CD of his school's jazz band, which I will present to some of our area high school band instructors. If I can find interest in this cultural exchange, the Czech band may come over for a 1-2 week "engagement". Our students, in turn, would be welcome in the Czech Republic.

At the end of my visit I found that we not only have the home-stay program up and running, but that a return exchange program was slowly evolving. We may also end up being the catalyst for a larger cultural exchange program between the United States and PORG.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This fall, we will again be looking for students interested in representing the Czech Heritage Foundation as a youth ambassador in our home-stay program for next summer or in hosting a Czech student visiting the United States. Look for applications at your schools, or contact Jeanne Fee directly at

- Ann Marie Bousek, Cedar Rapids
- Sarah Fiala, Cedar Rapids
- Jessica R. Long, Cedar Rapids
- Megan Hynek, Swisher

Scholarships are awarded to qualified students of Czech decent.

These annual awards have been made possible thanks to proceeds from the sale of the old Czech School Building in Cedar Rapids many years ago and several other donations. Applications for next year's scholarships will be available at Cedar Rapids area High School Counselor's offices starting in January.

HOMESTAY PROGRAM - Student Ambassador's Presentations Oct. 14th

Join our student 2001 Homestay Student Ambassadors as they present a program on their adventures in the Czech Republic this past summer. The Ambassador reports will be presented October 14th from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML), Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Activities will include a reception where you can visit personally with these students.



Bridget Kit Regina Sarah

Each year, we ask that our Ambassadors share with their community what they have seen and learned on their month-long visit to the Czech Republic. After spending this time, living with a Czech family and becoming a part of their home, our student always return with significant memories that will stay with them for a lifetime. Join us October 14th to share these memories and adventures.

The afternoon's events are sponsored with the help of the Czech Heritage Foundation, and the NCSML.

Czech Ladies Educational Society Scholarship Award Winners

Submitted by Irene Hamous, Director

The Czech Ladies Educational Society is proud to announce the award of six \$550 scholarships to the following students:

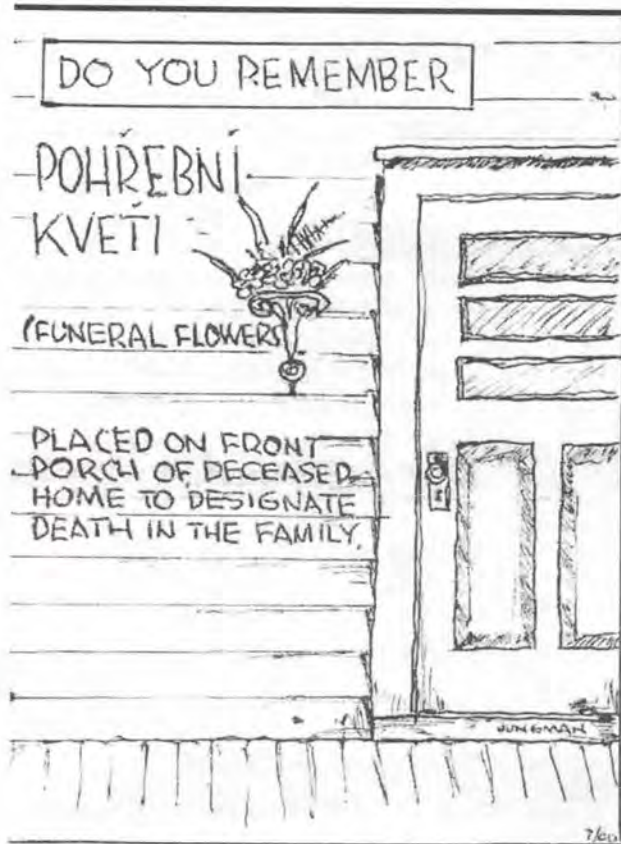
- Kathie Leigh DeSotel, Cedar Rapids
- Tiffany Vann, Cedar Rapids

Historic Perspectives:

EDITOR'S NOTE: Chuck Jungman has been doing illustrations of some of his fond memories of the past. He calls the series "Do You Remember". Chuck has agreed to let us publish several of these images. I'll be including others in future issues to "tickle" your memories too. If any of these remind you of a story you'd be willing to share, please contact me and perhaps, you too can become a published author.

Jungman's *Do You Remember?*





REMEMBERING THE KAPA-ANN

By Dennis Murphy, Sr.



Photo Post Card

Paul G. Miller had a dream. Why couldn't we have boat rides, dancing, parties and meals on the Cedar River? Paul and his brother already belonged to the Yacht Club, which was located on the riverbank next to Sheftic's Boathouse. Sheftic's rented small boats and had storage, fishing supplies, and did repairs. The Yacht Club had everything that Paul wanted, but on land.

The hull of the Kapa-Ann was built in early spring of 1952. It was pushed into the water by Coonrod Wrecker and Crane Service by pushing the river bank into the river and later putting the river bank back with the

permission of the City Council. The top portion of the Kapa-Ann was built by Hawkeye Lumber Company on First Street and I Avenue NW. The lumber company was noted for its name to be "Best By A Dam Site". It sat next to the river and the dam, about where the Village Inn is now located. The free board (the part of the boat that is above the water line) was made pre-cut and put together on the hull. The side supports were first so that the arched roof could be put in place. There were 13 beams that weighed about seven hundred fifty pounds apiece, two the sides and floor finishing were put in. When the boat was finished it carried its own power to move it in the water. It also carried its own fresh water supply for the bathrooms and for doing dishes behind the bar. It carried a 30-gallon electric water heater for doing the dishes. This was required by the Health Department. It carried a 5,000-watt generator for lights, in and outside and for the coolers, which held ice cream, ice cubes and pop, and for playing the jukebox for music to listen to or dance to. On each end of the boat (bow, front, stern, back) there was seating for small groups of 20 people, to be reserved for any reason. The stern was used a lot for food with private parties.

On each side of the bar there was a passageway to the dance floor. On the outer side of the aisle there was a little cove, which housed the bathrooms and storage of the life preservers, required by City and State Laws. After leaving the bar area you met the dance floor, which was the main reason to take a cruise. It was 13 feet wide and 44 feet long and smooth as glass and slick, for free and easy dancing.



Dancing on the Kapa Ann, 1962

As you passed the bar on each side of the boat there were a number of booths which would seat six people and nine



booths on each side with windows. By the ninth booth there was a small walkway with its two small booths that seated two people. From here you entered the bow where there was seating for 20 people like the stern had. Then in the middle of the front deck and between the two small booths there was a small closed off place that led up to the Pilot House. Yes, the



pilot set and controlled the direction of the vessel and safety of the passengers. The boat when finished weighed 26 tons without people. It drew only six inches of water in the bow and seven inches in the stern. You could add about four tons to the weight of the

boat and add only one inch to the draft of the hull.

The cost of the Sunday afternoon cruises at 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 P.M. was thirty-five cents. Private parties were 60 people and lasted two hours at a cost of \$1.00 per person. Private parties were held mostly on weeknights and would last no longer than four hours. Weekend hours were 8:00 to 10:00 P.M. and from 10:00 to 12:00 P.M. Sometimes on Saturday afternoons groups from nursing homes, church groups, scout groups or any other groups that wanted to go would take the cruise. Of course, it all depended on if the boat was ready, the crew was there and the weather was fit for us to go. Safety was the most important aspect of operating the boat. The pilot had the say over anyone including the owner. Insurance was very costly for people on water. By operating in this manner there was never a claim or anyone hurt on the boat in the 22 years of its operation. I should know, as I was the pilot and engineer (because while underway or any other time I had full responsibility of the engines).



Dennis Murphy behind the wheel, 8/62

The pilot and engineers license is just like a chauffeur's license, but about three times as hard. You must know the rules of the road, who has the right-of-way over you, know where you can go and why, what kinds of weather, different kinds of currents, holes in the river bottom, the difference if there is dredging some place in the channel or on the shore. The pilot must not at any time let family, friends, the, passengers or drinking interfere with the pilot's ability to operate the boat in a safe manner. If there was an accident, as a licensed pilot I would be sued, just like the owner. I was licensed in 1952 at the ripe old age of 18, which is the youngest a license can be issued, and at this time, August 16, 1989, I think I am the only one left with a license.

The name KAPA ANN is fashioned out of the Miller family name.

- KA Daughter, KATHY
- PA Mr. Paul G. Miller
- ANN Mrs. ANN Miller

KAPA-ANN



Left to Right, Dennis Murphy (pilot, age 18), Ann Miller (wife of boat owner), & Okal Book, 8/4/57

EDITOR'S NOTE: Special Thanks to Evelyn Stejskal and Adeline Volesky for their efforts in locating and coordinating these fine recollections of early life in the Cedar Rapids area.

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.

It is time to renew your membership, unless you are a new member. Memberships expire December 31 and are renewable January 1. Use this handy Membership Renewal Application form. Don't forget. Renew now so you won't miss a single information packed issue of Naše České Dědictví.

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

Calendar of Events

September

- 9 NCSML Picnic & Ice Cream Social – NCSML Garden, Noon-3:00 PM
- 10 Kava a Knihy (Coffee & Books): *Milena* by Maragrete Buber-Neumann - NCSML, 7:00-9:00 PM
- 11 Czech Heritage Annual Picnic - Z.C.B.J. Park in southwest Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 6:30 PM.
- 14 Summer Concert Series, Czech Plus Band – Kosek Bandstand, 7:00 PM
- 20 Learn at Lunch: Jan Hus – Czech National Hero – NCSML Heritage Hall, Noon
- 23 NCSML 20th Century Sensations – Exhibit Closes at NCSML
- 28 Fall Concert Series: From my Life, Bedrich Smetana (U of I String Quartet) – NCSML, 7:30 PM
- 29 Melodion Band from Prague, Czech Republic – Traer Memorial Bldg., Traer Iowa, 7:00-11:00 PM
- 30 Lifelong Learning Series: Slovak Hymnody – NCSML Heritage hall, 2:00 PM

October

- 2, 16 Designing & Making Necklaces with Czech Beads – NCSML Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM
- 4, 18 Designing & Making Earrings with Czech Beads – NCSML Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM
- 7 Life Long Learning: Two Early Cedar Rapids Industrial Sites – NCSML Heritage Hall, 2:00 PM
- 8 Kava a Knihy (Coffee & Books): *The Trial* by Franz Kafka - NCSML, 7:00-9:00 PM
- 9 Czech Heritage Meeting Foundation Meeting – NCSML, 7:00 PM
- 18 Learn at Lunch: A Glimpse at Life in Slovakia Today – NCSML Heritage Hall, Noon
- 20 Exploring Czech & Slovak Cinema: "Alice" by Jan Svankmajer – NCSML Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM
- 20 Exploring Czech & Slovak Cinema: Svankmajer Shorts – NCSML Heritage Hall, 7:00 PM
- 25 NCSML *Roads to Understanding* Exhibit Opens – Rare books, prints, & maps from the National Library in Prague, NCSML
- 25 NCSML Annual Fall Dinner - NCSML
- 26 Fall Concert Series: Jazz Pianist Emil Viklicky – NCSML Grand Hall, 7:00 PM

November

- 3 Fall Concert Series: Red Cedar Chamber Orchestra – NCSML Grand Hall, 8:00 PM
- 9 Czech Heritage Meeting Foundation Meeting – NCSML, 7:00 PM

CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. Box 761
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Non-Profit Organiz.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 127
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

National Czech & Slovak Museum
30 16th Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

52404+3304 10



Czech Out These Web Sites

Travel to the Czech and Slovak Republics from the comfort of your own home. Read a Czech newspaper (in Czech if you want). Research your Czech/Slovak roots. The web contains more sites and information related to our heritage than any of us will ever have time to fully explore. Try some of these sites out.

Cedar Rapids "Overalls All Over" Project

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/grantwood/overalls/index.htm>

<http://www.overallsallover.com/default.htm>

Cedar Rapids Czech Village (recent Gazette articles, clickable map, village-related web sites, recipes, photo tour)

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/village/index.htm>

National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library Dedication - Special reports and related articles (1995)

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/czech/index.htm>

National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (be sure to try their link to "Other Web Sites")

<http://www.ncsml.org/>

Czech Republic

<http://www.czech.cz/>

Czech Links

<http://slavic.ohio-state.edu/people/yoo/links/czecho.htm>

Prague Castle

http://www.hrad.cz/index_uk.html