

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

KOSEK MEMORIAL BANDSTAND



See page 15

Volume 20 - Number 2 - June 1995



NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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THANK YOU

Those who helped with the March issue were Emma Davidson, Mana Zlatohlavek and my husband John. We did well over a thousand copies so it was not a small task. A job well done and appreciated.

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚICTVÍ

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 Děictví free. Dues are renewable on January 1 of each year and expire December 31. The newsletter which is mailed quarterly, serves to inform its members of its activities, people, and places. (Dues received in September apply to the following year.)

Deadline for receiving articles for the September issue are July 23.



L-R: Bob Schaffer, Anne Kloubec, Barb Sherman

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Tuesday March 21st was a special day. The doors opened into the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The artifacts had been moved into the new building. They are temporarily housed in a carpeted, well lit room that is the library. The large room that was designed and built to house the artifacts still needs some finishing touches. When the display room is completed, the artifacts will again be moved to their permanent location. The many books that had been stored for so long, will finally be housed and cataloged and occupy the library.

The news media announced the opening. It was a warm sunny day. People who have admired the design on the outside were curious about the interior and eager to see it. There was a steady stream of visitors. Their eyes saw the beautiful interior but their noses told them there was some interior decorating in progress.

Our September newsletter will be a special issue that will have information on the Grand Opening celebration that is scheduled for late October. DON'T MISS IT!

Adeline L. Volesky

FAMILY CIRCUS



1-21
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"This used to be Czechoslovakia,
but it split up 'cause nobody
could spell it."

With permission from the Cedar Rapids Gazette

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

While our winter was mild our spring has been chilly and rainy. By the time you read this we'll know what the weather is for the Ethnic Fest (5/27-28). Local Czechs and members of St. George Greek Orthodox Church sponsor the fest where some 10 other ethnic groups are present. The event is held at the Roundhouse at the edge of Czech Village. There are ethnic dancers, ethnic music, and lots of wonderful ethnic specialty foods. Last year we even had visiting Czechs (who actually live in Germany) who came to see what our fest was about. This year there will be a naturalization ceremony at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library where some 80 foreign nationals will become US citizens. It should be interesting.

Since the fest is work to assemble it's a real statement of the cooperation of the Czech and Greek sponsors who work year 'round together to run the event.

The event uses the roundhouse, the area around the roundhouse and a show tent. At the perimeter of the round house hundreds of ethnic foods can be sampled while groups entertain on the tent and roundhouse stages.

It is a real opportunity to preserve and celebrate our ethnic diversity. Think about a visit.

Na shledanou
Dave Faltis

GUEZEN MEDAL TO HAVEL

On March 13, President Havel was awarded the 1995 Guezen Medal in the Netherlands. Dutch Premier Wim Kok presented the Medal to the Czech President for his non-violent fight for human rights. Queen Beatriz and Prince Claus also were present at the ceremony.

(from Czech the News)

We have a note from an American teaching in Ceska Budejovice, Czech Republic, who has students who would like to set up an exchange study or study in US. It might be an opportunity for a high school student here to study in Czech Republic as an exchange. They would have to speak Czech or French. For information contact Anton Vanicek,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank you and the Czech Heritage Foundation for the opportunity to attend your monthly meeting and talk to you about the Monroe School project. I was very pleased with the interest/discussion involving the project.

I am also proud to be a regular member of the Czech Heritage Foundation.

As I mentioned at the meeting, I would very much appreciate if you could include the enclosed information in the next newsletter about getting in touch with former Monroe School students.

Sincerely,
Matthew Kluber

(see page 9)

Dear Editor,

Do you have any information as to where Bohemian costumes could be purchased? If so could you print it in your newsletter?

Thanks,
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Naxera III

(Editor — Write to National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 10 -16th Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404. Arrangements are under way to sell men's, women's and children's "kroje." They hope to make them available by early summer.)

Dear Editor,

I am interested in knowing where you found the poem, "Just a note to say I'm living" which was on the cover of the March issue.

At Christmas my friend in England sent this to me with the comment that she had received it from a friend in Australia and was now sending it to her friend in America.

My version did not include the four lines "So it's my turn to write . . . and didn't want to be a bore."

It seems to be traveling around the world.

Sincerely,
Frances J. Vilim

DREAM COMES TRUE

As a member of Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, I attended the 1993 Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. At this conference, at one of the networking lunch tables, I met Retta Chandler (from Texas) who shared her experiences she had when she participated in a Czech Language Summer Study Program. I realized that my dream could become a reality by attending this program.

Leora Zahorik and I spent the month of July 1994 in the Czech Republic. We were greeted at the Prague Airport by the U.S. Coordinator and our class instructors, who took us to the Agricultural College at Suchol where our classes would be held. There are 4 different class levels and placement was made according to each person's level of knowledge of the language. The excellent instructors are from the Charles U. and a linguistic Institute in Prague. Classes were held 5 days a week and 4 hours each morning and a 2 hour conversation class one afternoon a week. Our group of 30 people (ages 19-72) came from all areas of the United States.

Included as part of this study program were historical walking tours and bus tours to South Moravia. All of these were accompanied by our instructors which gave us an opportunity to practice speaking the language, culture, and history of this country.

Prague is a unique and fascinating city and we were privileged to experience most of the cultural events. On July 6, we witnessed a memorable historic occasion when we viewed the XII Vsesokosky Slet Praha 1994 (Sokol Slet). It was a 4-1/2 hour spectacular synchronized routine performed by over 2000 participants from all over the world. Our Cedar Rapids egg painter, Marge Nejdil participated in this slet.

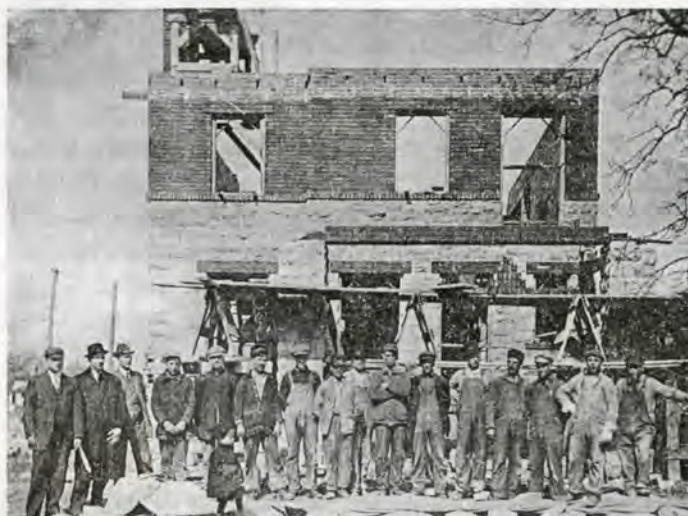
We had nice dorm rooms. We survived without air conditioning or fans even though it was record breaking heat. (Hottest in 200 years.) Our mode of transportation was walking, bus, tram, and taxi. We were fed 3 good meals a day.

Leora and I spent our last week in the Czech Republic with relatives in Chrudim and experienced living in a smaller village with relatives and friends.

The Language Program is held every year. It will be July 4-28, 1995. Contact:

Thadious T. Polasek
U.S. Student Co-ordinator for
Czechoslovak Foreign Institute
Route 4 Box 79
Schulenburg, Texas 78956
Call after 7 pm C.T. 409-562-2207

Article by Betsey McCalley



The construction crew started working on the house in the spring of 1915 and the house was completed in May, 1916. Stone from Stone City was brought to the site on horse-drawn flatbeds. The little boy is Emil Klepach, son of the builder, and he lives in Tampa, Fla. The men are, from left: John Klepach, contractor; Lumir Blahnik, architect; Jim Fredrickson, bookkeeper; Junior Doubrasky, cement finisher and blacksmith; Senior Doubrasky, laborer; Joe Horak, laborer; Erick Pearson, laborer; Zlatohlavek, laborer; Andy Nelson, cement finisher; Jack Smiley, laborer; John Ellis, laborer; Joe Lustik, bricklayer; John Seda, bricklayer; Frank Klepach, bricklayer; Wes Zacek, mortar man; Paul Nathan, bricklayer. The picture was taken in the fall of 1915.

(With permission from the Linn Co. Historical Society)

THE STONE HOUSE

You can huff and puff but you can't blow the house down. John Klepach, a Czech contractor, built a house of brick and stone in 1915. The walls are 22-25 inches thick that insulate the house in winter and summer. The house is three stories high with two finished rooms in the attic. It has a large fireplace. The stained glass for a window came from France. The house has two staircases.

The three stall garage has a second floor that is finished with hard wood. That is where the maids and servants lived.

John Klepach lived in the house for a short while after it was completed but moved from the area.

The house still stands on Seventh Avenue S.E. in Cedar Rapids.



BOUND TO PLEASE



Robert and Edith Kolarik

Robert and Edith Kolarik live on a picturesque acreage with a large yard and a white wooden fence in rural Springville, Iowa.

Robert (Bob) was the son of Joseph and Olga Zelenda Kolarik. Bob's grandparents came from Czechoslovakia. Bob has a sister Frances Batchelder.

Edith's parents were Phillip and Anna Barta Stanek. Her father came from Czechoslovakia at the age of 18 and her mother at the age of 4. Edith's family consists of 3 sisters and 1 brother, Mabel Zaruba and Rose Petrovitsky, both deceased and Virginia McWhinney. Her brother Oldrich Stanek is also deceased.

Edith is well known for winning many cooking contests. She got "hooked" on cooking when she was a young girl in 4-H and hated sewing,

When there is a contest, she first checks her cupboard to see what she has on hand to make her entry tasty, yet different. Her biggest prize was \$500 in an egg contest and her entry went on to national competition. She especially remembers two contests. One was sponsored by Wilson Meats using wieners. She was a guest of the Roosevelt Hotel in Cedar Rapids along with Wilson VIP's and even champagne. The other contest was sponsored by Martha Gooches in Nebraska. Edith entered a noodle dish. She was on television as was Billy Oakley. Most of Edith's winnings were cash, but she does have a silver edged cake plate from Betty Crocker. She also recalls an unpleasant experience in a beef contest in Des Moines. Her crock-pot upset and broke and the store did not open in time to buy a replacement. The entire day was a disappointment.

Her husband Bob has a good sense of humor in all of this. He quipped she does a lot of meat promotion and suggested she make a dip for lamb and call it "sheep dip." Bob and the dog are Edith's best judges. If they both like it, it usually wins a prize.

There have been many changes in the food industry. Most of the foods are either prepared or frozen. Edith has a sense of pride and achievement when a product is made from "scratch."

Bob is a retired book binder. His father tinkered with book binding at the age of 11 and opened his shop in 1921.

When Bob was a child, his mother brought him along to the shop. While she sewed, young Bob would play under the counter and cut pictures from magazines and discarded pages of books. He soon learned the trade from his father. Bob became very busy because binding library books became a new trend and there were few book binders,

Tools used in book binding are paper cutters, sewing machine, board shears, roller backer and stamping press. Bob did work for universities, hospitals, libraries and exclusively for the Masonic Library. After an article appeared in a well circulated periodical about Kolarik's book binding, guests names registered in the guest book are from East Pakistan, Brazil, Philippines, England and many parts of the world who came to call.

Many of the newly bound books are very attractive with gold leaf lettering. The gold is 23-1/2% gold and 1-1/2% copper so the metal could be rolled out thinner.

Bob has worked on special books. One was a family Bible, a book of Grant Wood's original works and a book he received that is very old and has rag paper and steel engraving.

Bob says "Books are a way of communicating. You put your thoughts down. We have books from the days of Pluto. Your thoughts are put on hold. Only when we read them, do we know what the author's thoughts were. Books are a precious source of knowledge."

Bob says anyone can put a book together but it takes a real craftsman to do it right. Bob laughs when he says "To be a book binder you have to have a weak mind and a strong back."

In his retirement Bob enjoys woodworking and tinkering in his shop that still houses the tools of his trade.



Bob at the Cutter.

BOHEMIAN MASTERS OF THE VIOLIN

Bohemia is one of Europe's most musical regions. For centuries, its strongest export was musical talent, and musicians from Bohemia were active all over Europe. Often their identity was hidden behind German sounding names: thus, Jan Stamič became Johann Stamitz, famous as the founder of the Mannheim School; František Benda became Franz Benda, concertmaster to King Frederick II of Prussia. Because of Austria's political domination, many Bohemian musicians migrated to Vienna.

For centuries the proud capital city of Prague competed with the more glamorous city of Vienna. At all times, Prague retained its own independent judgement in musical matters. Mozart wrote his *DON GIOVANNI* for Prague, and he was feted there far more than in Vienna. On the other hand, Paganini, who had triumphed in Vienna, received a cool reception in Prague.

Perhaps it should come as no surprise that the Prague Conservatory, founded in 1811, is actually six years older than the one in Vienna. Despite the talent that gravitated toward Vienna, Prague became the center for an excellent school for violin playing. The first professor of violin in the newly established Prague Conservatory was a German violinist from Mannheim, Friedrich Pixis. In 1842 he was succeeded by his best student Moritz Mildner.

Mildner's most celebrated student was Ferdinand Laub (1832-1875).

In 1869 Laub was joined by another Czech violinist and fellow student of Mildner, Jan Hřimalý. After Laub left for Moscow, Hřimalý assumed all of his performing and teaching responsibilities.

Among other Bohemian violinists of the older generation, one of the most accomplished was František Ondříček, who played the premiere of the Dvorak Violin Concerto in 1883 in Prague. In 1892, the Bohemian String Quartet created a sensation with its performances. They were particularly brilliant in their native repertoire of Smetana and Dvořák. The second violinist, Josef Suk, later made a name for himself as a fine composer; he married Dvořák's daughter Ottilie. Suk's grandson (also named Josef Suk), born in 1929, is known as a concertizing violinist.

DVOŘÁK IN AMERICA

In November of 1944 the Iowa Humanities Board awarded project director Lucille Carra a \$7000.00 grant to support a one-hour 16mm documentary film exploring Czech composer Antonin Dvorak's sojourn in New York and Iowa (1892-1895), interweaving letters, diaries, news reportages of the day, plus oral histories of the descendants of Dvorak and his American hosts.



FRANCIS ONDŘÍČEK

When Francis Ondříček, the celebrated violinist, appeared before the Vienna public some years ago, a local critic of distinction declared the "little wizard" had a few equals on the violin but no superior. Coming from a hostile source, the Viennese critics and public have never been friendly to Bohemian artists, the compliments must have been highly gratifying to Mr. Ondříček. Like most artists, our virtuoso began to display his wonderful talent in his earliest youth. When hardly seven years old, this future "Bohemian Paganini" was already known all over Prague for his fine playing. Encouraged by his father, himself a musician, who held constantly before his mind the two great Bohemian violinists, Laub and Slavík as models, the boy practiced on his instrument with passionate ardor. In 1873 he entered into the Prague conservatory, but Director Bennewitz assigned him immediately to the fourth class. When later on, to finish his musical education, Ondříček entered the Paris conservatory, its director told him "we cannot teach you any more than what you already know." Within the last few years the virtuoso gave concerts in every principal city in Europe. There was some talk that he was coming to the United States, but it proved to be untrue. It is certain that some day Ondříček will visit this "paradise of artists and like Paderewski, reap both dollars and glory on his tomb" Ondříček is still a young man having been born in Prague in 1857.

(From the Bohemian Voice October 1, 1893)

"LOMCOVÁKS" (Barnstorming)

The Zlin was an airplane flown by test pilot Ladislav Bezak in 1960 at Bratislava. He was the first world aerobatic champion, when he decided to make a freedom dash to the West from Communist Czechoslovakia in 1971. Bezak loaded his wife and four children into a two-seat Zlin 226, took off and headed west. Despite the attentions of a MiG-17 pilot tasked with shooting him down, Bezak and his family made it to Germany. (Legend also has it that the MiG-17 pilot could not bring himself to shoot down an unarmed airplane carrying a mother and children: dismissed by military for inaction, he is said to have committed suicide.)

In the early 1960s, the Zlins were dominating in aerobatic contests and dazzling everyone with their aerobatic repertoire. Bezak was the one who had mesmerized pilots and crowds alike with his "lomcovák" publicly for the first time, in a Zlin at an air show in Kladno in 1957.

There is a certain mystique to the name Zlin. The airplane Zlin was founded in 1934 as a subsidiary of the Bata Shoe Company. Immediately after World War II the company was nationalized and produced models that became fixtures in the world of competitive aerobatics. It had features propelling the airplane into previously impossible maneuvers.

It was a Zlin that pilot Neil Williams, a British aerobatic champion, performed the impossible after the lower wing spar lug failed during an aerobatic routine. When the spar failed, the wing began to fold upwards, so Williams rolled in the direction required to push the wing back onto its broken lug. He then remained inverted until just before landing, at which time he rolled upright to keep the wing outstretched, and touched down as the wing collapsed, emerging unscathed from an incident that could have felled any other pilot.

Zlins are no longer at the forefront of competitiveness in aerobatics but the Czech company is still going strong and Zlins are offered for sale in North America. The Zlin Aerospace company is based in Barrie, Ontario.

(permission from Flying Magazine)

CZECH'S GET A TASTE OF 'AMERIKA' AND LIKE IT

Jana and Roman Lesny started in Pittsburgh in a rental car to drive across America and back. Roman encountered his first dilemma after renting his car. The agent explained a few features

including 'cruise control,' but failed to point out how to operate the gearshift. Standard shift is the Czech standard and this was an automatic. He describes his do-it-yourself lesson. As he was driving away from the agency in the automatic car, he tried to shift gears and instead rammed the car into park.

The first police to stop Roman was in Los Angeles for making a left turn over a solid yellow line. After hearing Roman was Czech, the officer pointed to a nearby parking lot and said "Do us all a favor and park your car over there for a while." No ticket.

The second officer pulled Roman over in North Carolina for driving 80 mph, "I'm a nice cop," the policeman explained to Roman. "The next one won't be." No ticket.

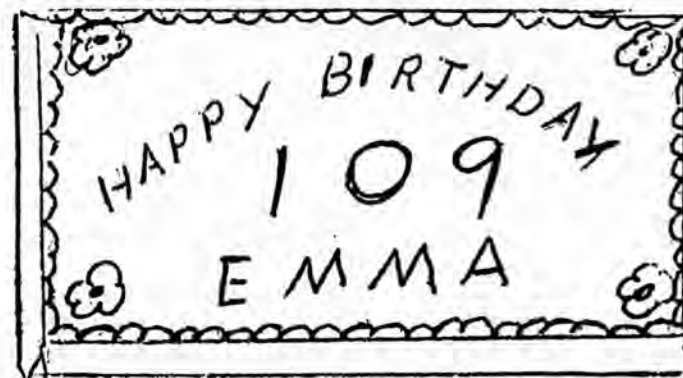
But the next one was just as nice. Roman was caught speeding in Washington, D.C. You got it! No ticket.

Traffic lights in the Czech Republic are in front of a crossroad; in the U.S. they're usually at the opposite side of a crossroad. Roman often found himself stopped in the MIDDLE of an intersection waiting for the red light to change.

When asked about his highlight of his trip the Lesnys said "The people—they are so friendly. Even people you don't know in the streets say Hello."

They returned to the Czech lands with a good taste of 'Amerika' and a craving for fast-food.

(excerpts from an article in the Chicago Tribune)



On April 3rd, Emma Biderman celebrated her 109th birthday. She credits her long life to hard work on the farm. Her sight and hearing are not as sharp as they once were. She was born April 3, 1886 to Joseph and Anna Cerny Erenberger who were Czech immigrants.

There is one other Eastern Iowan who is a few weeks older than Emma.

HOW MORANA BROUGHT SPRING

(Czech Fine Arts)



On the morning of Saturday, April 8th, winter left Cedar Rapids via the Cedar River. According to a tale from the book *HAPPY TIMES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA* by the author Libushka Bartusek, "Old Lady Winter Morana" was tossed into the river from the Bridge of Lions in Czech Village in Cedar Rapids, Iowa by local children accompanied by their elders.

According to traditions that are centuries old, children in Czechoslovakia fashioned a doll during winter or in the spring using scraps of worn out clothing, stuffed with twigs, grass or straw. In the spring when the streams were swollen with melting snow, children from the village gathered at the banks. They tossed their makeshift doll into the fast flowing water and declared "Old Lady Winter is gone" so spring must be right behind.

This is the first time this event was celebrated locally even though we carry a miniature Morana in our educational kit to the schools. We also have a large size Morana doll in a display case in our museum. Visiting children enjoy hearing the story and tradition of Morana and "Old Lady Winter."

The author concludes the tale in the book with this phrase:

"Death is floating far away
Lovely spring is on its way"

CZECH FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

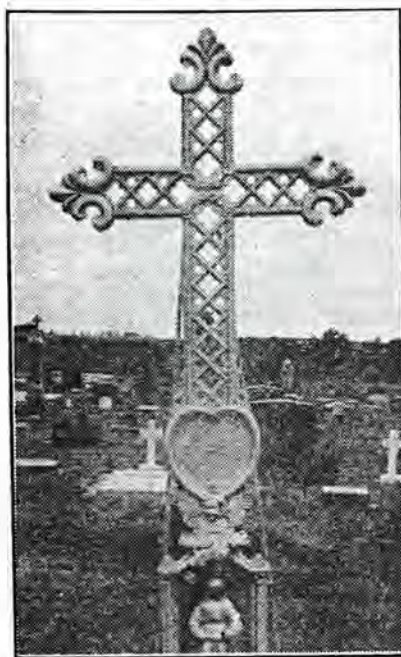
The Czech Republic will be featured in a major program at the Smithsonian Institution's 1995 Festival of American Folklife. This program will present traditional music, dance, crafts, performance, and food of the Czech Republic and Czech Americans. The Smithsonian Center, which is the producer of the Festival, is cooperating closely with the Czech Ministry of Culture and the Valasske Museum in the Moravian town of Rožnov pod Radhoštěm.

The Czech program will include more than 70 Czech and Moravian dancers, artisans, craftspeople, and cooks. Bagpipers, dulcimer players, a Romany band, Easter Egg decorators, corn husk doll makers, a weaver and lace maker, food demonstrators, and carpenters building a belfry will reflect the Czech Republic, a crossroads where Western and Eastern European traditions meet.

You will hear the Hradištan ensemble from Uherské Hradiště, Radhost and Polajka from Rožnov, Tockolotoc from Svitavy, Zogata from Trinec and others. Czech Americans from Wisconsin to Texas, including Polka Band Tuba, which will demonstrate transformations of these traditions in the New World.

About one million visitors are expected to come to the Festival and some 40 million more will learn about it from TV, radio and other media.

The Festival will be held outdoors on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., June 23-27 and June 30-July 4, 1995. Ph: (202) 287-3424, Fax: (202) 287-3699.



One of the Andera crosses found in Wisconsin.

ANDERA MARKER CROSSES

Charles Andera (also spelled Karl in Czech manner) was a craftsman in Spillville, Iowa from 1875 until his death in 1929. Among his products were cast metal grave marker crosses which were distributed widely throughout the United States where Czech and Slovaks settlers lived. Andera crosses have been verified in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Texas, Michigan and Wisconsin. No explanation or method of how such distribution might have been accomplished is known.

Andera crosses are found exclusively in Bohemian or German Roman Catholic cemeteries, but the size and weight of them must have made them both expensive and awkward to ship long distances.

Andera crosses are cast in at least 14 different styles and sizes. They are marked on the back in at least 22 different ways. Crosses continued to be manufactured even after Andera's death in 1929, at least dates after that date have been found on crosses. He did not always cast his mark on the back of the crosses.

Symbols on the front of the crosses vary. Included in the known examples are such things as angels, crucifixes, skull and crossed bones, crown pierced by a cross, Lamb of God, the Sacred Heart of the Blessed Mary and a praying Madonna. Crossed arms have fleur de lis and quatrefoil decorations.

I am searching for Andera crosses in Wisconsin cemeteries. Write to:



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COMMISSION. PLEASE CONTACT : MELANIE GUE,
CHAIRPERSON AT: 366-1841 OR 365-0581 AT BYERS
AND HAPPEL IOWA REALTY.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

**CZECHOSLOVAK
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Chicago is the site of the 5th Genealogical/Cultural Conference. It will take place October 12, 13, 14, 1995. The conference offers tours, networking, music, dancing, ethnic food tasting, parade of kroj, and genealogical and cultural topics.

Space is limited. The cutoff date is September 1, 1995.

It will be held in the William Tell Holiday Inn (Czech owned and operated), 6201 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525. Ask for CGSI room rates.

For more information write to: Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Inter., PO. Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116-0225.

BOHEMIAN CITIZEN

(This article is reprinted from the Cedar Rapids Sunday Republican dated June 10, 1906, and written by Sarah Hrbek)

Frank Premensky was not among the first Bohemians who decided that Cedar Rapids was the best place to live, but he is probably the oldest living settler in this city. Mr. Premensky was born in Kostelec, above the Orlice River in Bohemia January 6th, 1837 and will therefore be 70 years old in 6 months. He came to America to seek his fortune in May 1854, the ocean trip lasting three full months. He spent some time in Massachusetts and then with courage and zeal of youth, he struck out for the west, landing in the timber regions of Wisconsin. He did not remain long, but learned there were two or three Bohemian families in a village in Iowa in a vicinity in which the Indians were not so fierce as elsewhere. He set out in 1855 for a foresaid village and found Cedar Rapids. Here he met his "mate," marrying the partner of his life in 1861. He was not allowed to enjoy uninterrupted bliss for any great length of time as the call of his country came and he enlisted with the Sixth Iowa Cavalry on Sept. 17, 1862.

His regiment was assigned to duty protecting the frontier against the depredations of the Indians, who cleverly seized the opportunity when the nation had its hands full with the Civil War. The Sixth Iowa Cavalry's achievement was overshadowed by the boys in blue who were fighting the southern grays. However after fierce encounters with the Indians in the West, the president granted a discharge in December 1865 to the Iowa boys who gave over three years of service to their country.

When Mr. Premensky returned to Cedar Rapids, he was proficient in the English language and engaged in the meat market business.

Mr. Premensky is the father of a fair sized family and enjoys good health except for an injury in 1864 which had disabled him for a time.

(Permission from Linn Co. Historical Society)



SCHOLARSHIP QUILT



Dorothy Dvorak, supportive wife of our financial secretary Lovell Dvorak and of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. hand pieced a red, white and blue star pattern quilt 90 X 108. She donated the quilt to our organization for a fund raiser. The women of the Hus Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids volunteered to hand quilt it.

Proceeds raised will be added to the college scholarship fund. Tickets are in books of five. Books are \$5.00 or \$1.00 each. Tickets will be sold at various events throughout the summer.

The drawing will be held in late October in conjunction with the Grand Opening of the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

Those wishing to order by mail may write to: Charles Krejci,

ADULT CZECH LANGUAGE CLASSES

(Czech Heritage News)

Those of us who can speak the language are very proud of that fact. Those who spoke Czech as youngsters and who have little or no chance to practice that skill lately can take advantage of the classes which Czech Heritage Fd'n continues to sponsor. Those who have had no experience with the Czech language but would like to learn some of the basic phrases which would facilitate their travels through the Czech Republic can sign up for a ten week course which should help to send them on their way.

BEGINNERS CZECH CLASSES

Fall term	10 weeks
Mondays	7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 2 to Dec. 11	

1870 CZECH SCHOOL 1995

The summer courses of Czech School for children was first established in Cedar Rapids in 1870 by Czech immigrant parents who were anxious to preserve in their children the reading and writing skills of their native Bohemia. This year marks the 125th consecutive year of its existence. Our Czech School for children is the only such school of ethnic language to claim uninterrupted continuance in the United States.

From teaching children rudiments of reading and writing a language with which they are familiar, (because it was their "mother tongue") to the classroom of today, where the children come with English as their first language, there have been many changes. The focus of the classes this year will be on the contributions of our immigrant ancestors and a program July 7th will honor all the past teachers of the Czech School of Cedar Rapids.

We are asking anyone who has any memories of their experiences at Ceska Skola to contribute them in writing to: Pres. Ed Kuba,

It is our hope that we will be able to compile these memories into booklet form and have them ready for public distribution at a later date.

We are also asking for any pictures or photographs which you might have in your possession which would be displayed as part of the program. Please have your name, address and phone number on the back of your photos so that we can return these to you. On a separate piece of paper list the names of any names of schoolmates you might recognize on the pictures. Remember to list from left to right starting with the bottom row. Please bring these to the above address at your earliest convenience (or give them to any Matice Skolska School Board member) so that we can begin to assemble these valuable artifacts.

CZECH SCHOOL

Czech School for children ages 6 to 12 will run 5 weeks, Monday through Friday from June 5 to July 7. Classes are taught at Wilson Elementary School on J St. S.W. in Cedar Rapids. The school day begins at 8:00a.m. with dismissal time at 11:00 a.m. A field trip is planned mid-season to Kalona to study the culture of our early immigrants. The school year will conclude with the traditional program and ice cream social on July 7. The charge for the classes is \$10.00 per child or \$15.00 per family. Classes are taught by Bessie Dugena, Mrs. Leona Poduska and Mrs. Olga Drahozal. Advance registration is appreciated but not necessary. Advance registration forms are available at the National Czech & Slovak National Museum. For more information call (319) 364-3301. Czech school shirts are on sale in Czech Village at Bozenka's Shop. Prices vary.

A GIFT FROM MY GRANDFATHER

by Carol Smetana

My grandfather, Frank Charles Smetana returned to Czechoslovakia only once after his immigration to the United States in 1911. Among the family mementos passed down to me were photographic slides he took in 1948 when he visited his only sister Josefka, who lived in Prague with her husband Jan Klacek. He died a year later, and a condolence letter from Josefka was the last communication from "the old country."

The first time I traveled to Czechoslovakia in 1979, I felt I returned home, and I wanted some tangible connection to my Czech heritage. One of my grandfather's slides showed Josefka in a cemetery, standing on a cement path facing a grave, a watering can at her feet. The names on the tombstones were indiscernible, but I thought Josefka was standing in front of the grave of her parents, my great-grandparents. In 1986 I went back to Prague, carrying a print of that slide, hoping to find the family grave. But I wasn't sure it was in Prague. The slide was marked simply "hřbitov"-cemetery.

My map indicated more than 10 cemeteries in Prague. Olšanské hřbitov, the largest covering 30 square blocks, is more than 300 years old and for the past 200 years has been Prague's main cemetery. But barely 10 minutes later I left, I felt it was not the right place.

Hurrying across the street that separated Olšanské from Židovské (Jewish) hřbitov, I stopped at the main gate. My logic was weak vague doubts—my intuition was strong, I didn't even enter Židovské. (Jewish)

The 100 year old Vinohradský cemetery was smaller, its cement walls enclosed more than 15 square blocks. I entered a side gate and began a methodical search, I was looking for three salient grave markers from the photo: a sculpted black stone bird on a white column.

Looking frequently at the photo clutched in my hand, I searched near the cemetery wall. I passed gravestones of every description. What if those tombstones from a decade photo were no longer standing?

I had been searching the cemetery for 30 minutes when I spied the outspread wings of a chiseled black bird perched on a white column. I examined the photo again—the gravestones in the photo and the one in front of me were identical! I turned then and saw the obelisk,

Heart pounding, I carefully lined up each grave marker with the photo until I was finally

standing on the exact spot where my great-aunt stood 38 years earlier. But the name on the marker closest to me "KOSTRAKIEWICZ" was unfamiliar. I read the markers on either side "FAIXOVA." "HEJDUK" was unfamiliar. Neither was a family name.

Disappointment washed away my claim. Was it possible Josefka hadn't been standing by the family grave after all and my grandfather had just snapped a random photo in a cemetery?

But the watering can—they must have been tending a family grave. It must be somewhere close by. I walked slowly looking for Smetana or a Michalkova.

For the next 15 minutes I painstakingly searched the area. Suddenly one marker's bold inscription seized my attention! "FANTISKA SMETANOVA — JOSEFKA KLACKOVA!" The graves of my great-grandmother and my great-aunt!

The names and dates were carved on a black granite monolith. To the left stood a slender white cross. At the foot of the cross, a candle glowed, sheltered in a heart-shaped tin box behind a glass door.

Emotions surged through me. I had found my tangible connection, a place of family in my ancestor's homeland. Surely my grandfather had reached down to me through the years with his photograph and guided me back to my family in Czechoslovakia.

But who else came here? The graves were well tended: the marigolds were flourishing, the candle was burning.

With the help of my Czech-English dictionary, I wrote a note explaining who I was and tucked it in the tin heart. As I walked back to the metro stop, it began raining. I had little hope that my note would be discovered intact.

I had been back in the states for a week when I received an air mail letter in unfamiliar writing. The return address astonished me: Jan Klacek! I tore open the envelope and pulled out three pages written in Czech — "Dear Carol. I was very glad when I found your note on our grave. I am Jan Klacek, husband of Josefka"—And so began my correspondence with my 94-year-old great uncle in Prague. After almost four decades of silence the families are in touch again. Only for a short time. Jan and Josefka had no children, and Jan died a year later, before we could meet in person. I have since made two more trips to Prague and to Vinohradský hřbitov, my tangible connection to "moje české dědictví," discovered through a photograph taken by my grandfather over 45 years ago.



CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION WELCOMES SONS & DAUGHTERS OF IRISH & CZECH DESCENT

This float received the winning trophy at the St. Joseph's Day parade on March 25 in Czech Village in Cedar Rapids. Prince James Horak and Princess Holly Upah rode on the float. Unlike other years, the day was warm and sunny and people were looking for the opportunity to get out. It was the largest crowd ever, with more than 50 units participating. People celebrated the day by wearing red clothing, eating red bread, and drinking red beer.

The Czech Heritage float also participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17.

The float was built by board member Leonard Pfeifer.

CZECH HERITAGE SINGERS

The Czech Heritage Singers under the direction of Olga Drahozal entertain in the Cedar Rapids area. The program consists of songs in Czech and English.

If you would like to have music for a program contact: Olga Drahozal,



Czech Plus Band

proudly presents...

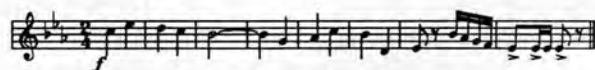
Summer Concerts in the Czech Village Bandstand

Third



Annual

Concert Series



All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

(NO RAIN DATE)

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Fri. May 26: | Ethnic Fest Opener |
| Fri. June 2: | Guest Artist |
| Fri. June 16: | Czech School Students |
| Fri. June 30: | FREEDOM FESTIVAL
at Czech/Slovak museum |
| Fri. July 14: | Czech Heritage Singers |
| Fri. July 28: | at Masaryk Park |
| Fri. Aug. 11: | Guest Artist |
| Fri. Aug. 25: | Request Night |
| Fri. Sept. 8: | Final Concert |



Czech Plus Band:

(since 1978)

**17 years of authentic Czech
brass band music-
official band of Czech Village.**

Czech Plus Band
Wesley J. Drahozal, Mgr.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Due to the generous donations that were sent along with your renewals, it will not be necessary to raise the \$3.00 dues per person that have been in effect since 1974. Our thank-yous for January go to: Gladys Aldridge, Jeanne Andre, Lucian Anderle, Marie Bauer, Wilma Benish, Mark Bigauette, Jean L. Blahnik, Sylvia Brown, Jeanne Burianek, Gerald Caslavka, Leonard & Charlotte Chadima, Carol Danek, Geraldine Dhooghe, Louis Elias, Della Flider, Carol Grigson, Evelyn Hall, Fran Hallett, Lillian Heral, Jackie Hess, Janice Horak, Camille Hubacek, Marie Jadrnicek, Leonard Jansa, Jeanne Jares, Grace Johnson, Dorothy Kadlec, Eugene Kadlec, George & Louise Kalous, Bruce & Linda Koehler, Anthony Konvalinka, Anthony Korvas, Jerome Kovar, Art Kozlik, Mildred Kucera, Jarmilla McMullen, Rose Marek, Victor & Georgianne Marek, George Matejka, Lillian Miller, Libbie Navartil, Edward & Marjorie Nejdil, Milton Nemec, Debra Polacek, Rose Polehna, Frank Port, Elizabeth Priban, Kandy Jonas Rogers, Elmer & Mary Rose Sedlacek, Karole Stockall, Ed & Beverly Vesely, Frank & Ruth Volesky, Roman & Lottie Volesky and David B. Johnson, a resident of the Czech Republic.

Donations for February and thank-yous go to: Bob Blecha, Blanche Bohatka, Robert W. David, Frank & Barb Edmunds, Joyce Faltis, Esther Lippert, Raymond J. Marek, John & Zula Oujiri, David & Malinda Poduska, Harold & Leona Poduska, Rose A. Pospisil, Dorothy Prachyl, John Repka, Mrs. Lee Stehno and Carol Stodola.

Donations received in March are from: Loren Horton, Allen & Ramona Kilberger, Kenneth & Florence Allen, Pauline Baca, Gary Bartachek, Sharon Benesh, Jerry Cada, George, Joanne, Dan & Tamara Chadima, Clifford & Margaret DeFore, Joe R. Doupnik, Rose Dryml, Bessie Dugena, Anna F. Eisner, Mrs. Ralph Evans, Fern Fackler, David Crystal, Brian & Matthew Faltis, Evelyn Feiden, Victoria Fisher, Gladys L. Haar, Alice Hakel, Donald & Dorothy Harrelson, Sharon Hruska, Edwin J. Hynek, Bruce A. Janda, Chuck & Ginny Jungman, Evelyn Kliment, Mary M. Kloop, Leona Kloubec, Alton Krikava, Ken Lastufka, Pat & Mrs. Lynott, Franklin Lundak, Geraldine Michalek, Leona Mihal, Jo Marie Miller, Vlasta Miller, Sylvia Neitderhisar, Richard Netolicky, Dorothy Niebs, Henry Penkava, Jo Ann Peterson, Clifford & Sherlee Peterson, Irma J. Rozek, Frances Schluneger, Frank Schovanec, Ed & Erma Schuch, Hertha Scott, William Shebetka, Joseph Shimek, Lorraine Snider, George Stancel, David & Kaye Stoklasa, Mary Stroleny, Emil & Alice Terbl, Blanche Trachta, Edwin & Olga Vavra, Phyllis Vesely, Frances Vilim, Rose Volesky, Connie Wubbena, Mrs. Robert Zach, Leora Zahorik, and Anna Lou Zielinski.

Marcella Anderson, Jean Daluge, Camille Hubacek, Walter Liphardt, and M. F. Kaspar from Great Britain.

MUM'S THE WORD

This spring I received a call from an elderly couple who asked me to stop by, that they had something for the Czech Heritage and didn't want to mail it. When I arrived, I was given an envelope and when I opened it I was thankful I was sitting down. I looked at the check and asked them what did they want it used for. They said they had no special place for it so I suggested the College Scholarship Program and the Homestay Program. They said that would be perfect, but it had to be an anonymous donation.

I thanked them and after a discussion with Charles Krejci, we put \$20,000.00 on the College Scholarship fund and \$5,000.00 on the Homestay. By doing this we feel that we shall be able to start using the interest next year to give monetary scholarships to deserving students. Finally, due to the generosity of people like the donors, we are getting our program in gear!

Please do not attempt to figure out any names, as "mum" is the word!

I am available to be called any day to make a delivery like that.

Frank W. Novotny

ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE REPORT

In our last issue, I had an article about our St. Joseph's Dance, which was held on March 19th at the Retirees Hall. This issue I have a very good report to pass on to you. Due to the excellent cooperation of our Czech Heritage members and the members of the Museum Guild, we had a wonderful afternoon of entertainment and fun.

The Bake Sale was a success as was the food line. The response to selling tickets ahead of the dance turned out real well and the door prizes were plentiful. The music was enjoyed by all.

After all expenses were paid, I was able to turn over to our treasurer a sizeable amount to be deposited to our Homestay Program and the Scholarship Program.

Thanks again for all your help.

*Frank W. Novotny
and Committee*



This photo was taken at the South Side Sash & Door Company that was once located at 1705 A St. S.W. along the Cedar River bank. Does anyone else have this picture and can identify any of the men? The sixth man from the left is Fred Pfeifer. He was born in 1887 and died in 1944.

KOLACH FESTIVAL IN CEDAR RAPIDS

St. Ludmilla's Catholic Church at 215 21st Ave. S.W. in Cedar Rapids will hold their annual Kolach Festival, June 9, 10, and 11. Included will be a craft show, talent contest and bingo.

The first prize for the raffle drawing is \$5000, 2nd prize \$1500 and 3rd prize is \$1000.

June 9 is a talent extravaganza. There is an entry fee.

A Karaoke contest and dance will be held in the tent. Prizes will be awarded in several categories including Elvis, Beatles, Patsy Cline and Lip Sync.

There will be a kolach eating contest, raffle prizes, Polka Mass, food, kolaches, 5k run and bike ride. For information call (319) 366-2705 or (319) 364-7313.

Last year 2,734 dozen kolaches were baked for the festival and they ran out.

TABOR, S.D. CELEBRATES CZECH DAYS

Tabor, S.D. will hold their 47th annual Czech Days celebration on June 16th and 17th starting on Friday at 10:45 a.m. with a memorial service at Vancura Park. Activities include a parade, accordion jam session, choliers, concert, Beseda dancers, and a dance at Beseda Hall.

Saturday activities start at 10:30 a.m. with a kiddie parade.

Kolaches and Czech meals will be served. There will be carnival rides and craft show.

Czech Days has been picked as one of the 20 top attraction in June by the National Association of Travel Organizations and also picked in the "places to see" by the AAA Travel Magazine.

Contact: Tabor Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 21, Tabor, SD 57063-0021. Ph. (605) 463-2476.

CZECH HERITAGE PICNIC

The annual picnic of the Czech Heritage Foundation will be held this year at the ZCBBJ Park on Old River Rd. It will be held on our regular meeting night in August. The date is August 8th with a potluck at 6:00 p.m. Meat and refreshment will be furnished. Please put this on your calendar of events and plan to attend. It is always nice to go to the park and relax with your friends and neighbors. See you all there.

F. W. Novotny

MAL D'AFRIQUE

Stories by Jarda Cervenka— In this enchanting collection of thirteen stories the author's wild imagination and radiant prose carry the reader from war-torn Eastern Europe to a remote village in Africa into the mind of a South Seas shell diver. Although Cervenka's subjects range far beyond Czechoslovakia of his youth, he displays, like Milan Kundera, a distinctly Eastern European sensibility and ironic worldview. \$9.95 paperback ISBN-0-89823-158-2. The cover painting and inside artwork are by Richard Krogstad. Available from New River Press, 420 N. 5th St. Suite 910, Minneapolis, MN. Credit card orders accepted. MN residents must add 6.5% sales tax. Include \$2.00 for postage and handling.

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

Kapela Hraje!



KOSEK MEMORIAL BANDSTAND

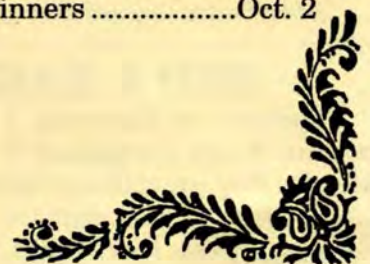
Most of the festivals and concerts in Czech Village are held around the Kosek Memorial Bandstand.

In 1976, a bicentennial grant became available with matching funds. Paul and Stanley Kosek matched the funds as a memorial to their parents Frank and Rose Kosek. There is a Plaque on a large stone commemorating the event. Mayor Canney participated in the dedication.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Houby Days, Czech VillageMay 20, 21
- Ethnic Fest, RoundhouseMay 27, 28
- Memorial Day ServiceMay 29
 Czech Nat'l Cemetery
- Summer ConcertsJune 2, 16, 30
 Czech Village
- Ice Cream Social, Wilson SchoolJuly 7
- Summer ConcertsJuly 14, 28
 Czech Village
- Picnic, ZCBJ Park.....August 8
- Summer Concert, Czech VillageSept. 8
- Czech Heritage Board Meeting.....Sept. 12
 Heritage Hall, Museum
- Czech Class for BeginnersOct. 2



CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. Box 761
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa

HERITAGE TOURS

To: Czech & Slovak Republics

June Festival Tour	June 16-30
Fall Treasures Tour	Sept. 15-Oct. 2
Czech Holiday Tour	Dec. 4-18

All tours depart from O'Hare Airport, Chicago, IL. Contact Heritage Tours, 4219 Thornhill Lane, St. Paul, MN 55127.

TREASURES OF SLOVAKIA

This trip is July 2-16, 1995. Touch the heart of Slovakia with Helen Baine & Helene Cincebeaux, a mother/daughter team who enjoy sharing the treasures of Slovakia. Historic towns include Bratislava, Trencin, Martin, Bardejov and Kosice.

CASTLES & FOLKLORE

This trip is August 6-18 with Helene & Helen to Prague & Moravian/Slovak Folk Festival. Send a stamp for itineraries to;

Helen Cincebeaux

Both tours depart from JFK Airport in NY.

BED & BREAKFAST

Located in Moravia, 3 miles from Austrian border. Fully furnished 3 bedrooms for 6 to 11 people. For an unforgettable experience of wine tasting, food, and culture contact: Effie & Bill Rosene.

THE CZECH OUT TOUR

"The Best of the Republic" trip is from Chicago. The dates are Sept. 1-11, 1995. The cost is \$1837 p. person dbl occ. For information contact:

L-N Travel Inc.
5923 Broadview Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44134



KOLOTOUR

P.O. Box 1493
Boulder Creek, CA 95006-1493
(408) 338-3101

KOLOTOUR is conducting 2 bicycle tours to the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria. Tour averages 40 miles each day. A person may bring his or her own bicycle. Special "touring" bicycles are not necessary. Kolotour provides hotel accommodations (including breakfast), support van, airport transfer, local guides, daily itinerary, maps, bicycle mechanic, Czech language phrase books, departure information and video. Contact: Kolotour in Boulder Creek, CA.

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