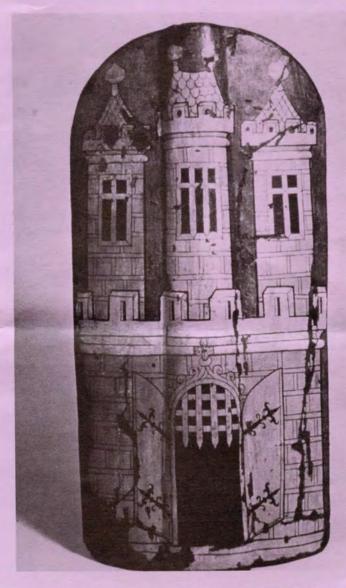
Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406



OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



A THOUSAND YEARS OF CZECH CULTURE

This artifact is on exhibit at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The leather and wood shield is decorated with the fortified gates of Prague, from 15th century.







Editor

Adeline L. Volesky

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NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

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

Deadline for receiving articles for the December issue is October 25th, 1997.

JUNE NEWSLETTER

I want to thank the Sisters at Mount Mercy Convent in Cedar Rapids for their work and dedication with the June newsletter for folding, taping, labeling and mailing preparation. A big job well done. Thank you to everyone who helped.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The exhibit "A Thousand Years of Czech Culture" continues to draw a large number of tourists and visitors. Iowa is quite centrally located in the United States, so it can be easily added to any travel plans going in any direction across the country. The Iowa Department of Transportation has overhead exit signs on I-380 directing you to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The museum has over 200 artifacts in a traveling exhibit on loan from the National Museum in Prague. The show ranges from politics, religion, folk customs, art as well as music and theater.

Included in the price of the ticket is a visit to a Czech immigrant home, the clocktower, flower garden and outdoor stage. The house, last owned by Frank Slager, was moved to the present location from across the river on the southeast side of Cedar Rapids. The house took 5,000 hours of restoration. Most of the time was spent for the removal of 10 or 12 coats of paint. After the restoration was completed, the house was furnished with artifacts from the turn of the century used in Czech homes and donated by Czech families. Look for the kraut cutters, ceramic and cast iron stove, sausage press, butter mold, and Czech embroidered splash cloth above the sink.

From the immigrant home you can cross 16th Avenue to Sokol Park. From Sokol Park you can stroll down the shady walks in Czech Village and visit ethnic shops and restaurants. You can stop to rest your feet on a bench at the bandstand. While at the bandstand, look for the nameplates of Czech business owners.

Now you may want to drive across the river over the Bridge of Lions to the southeast side of Cedar Rapids. Immediately you will see the flag of the United States, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic in Masaryk Park. Masaryk Park is located on the banks of the Cedar River. You may want to read the inscription commemorating Thomas G. Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia.

Early Czech immigrants first settled on this southeast side of Cedar Rapids. As you look around you will see the ZCBJ Hall, CSPS Hall, original Czech School, Matyk and Suchy Buildings, and St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church.

Other points of interest in Cedar Rapids include the Art Museum with Grant Wood and Marvin Cone collections. Brucemore is a 21 room mansion built in 1886 located on a 26 acre estate. Include a stop at Duffy's Collectible Cars from the 40's, 50's, and 60's and the Ushers Historic Village.

The Amana Colonies, Kalona Quilt Museum, Spillville, and Herbert Hoover Presidential Library are within driving distance for an inter-

esting trip to Iowa.

Adeline L. Volesky Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Russ Novotny

As the summer passes by and school begins, I have to wonder if time can fly any faster? And every year, the answer is YES! Maybe if we take a moment to reflect on all that has happened this summer, we will

remember some of the good times we had.

Summer in Cedar Rapids kicked off with Houby Days, and then the Ethnic Festival. This year's Ethnic Festival saw us move to a new indoor facility. We've had rain and cold weather for four straight years now, but this time we were ready. The Festival was a great success and the relaxed atmosphere in the new facility meant that both our guests and our 100 Czech volunteer workers & performers had one of the best times ever. We couldn't have events like these without the help of all our great volunteers — thanks again!

Then there's the St. Patricks day parade. You may ask, what do the Czechs have to do with a St. Patricks day parade? Well, we win the float competition, that's what. We have been a regular winner in this high-profile city event. Thanks to Leonard Pfeifer for his imagi-

nation and long hours of work.

We sent another crop of student ambassadors to the Czech Republic this summer. I always find it interesting that they celebrate the 4th of July in another country. This now makes 49 students that we have helped provide a month-long stay with families in the Prague area. Just think how many lives have been impacted by this program. A special thanks to the Homestay Committee this year. They had to coordinate major changes in the organizations we deal with in the Czech Republic.

This summer the Czech Republic has seen the worst floods in a century. At least 98 people have died, 10,000 were left homeless, and damage estimates are in the billions. This is a sad summer in the Czech Republic. Our local Federation of Czech Groups (of course, the Czech Heritage Foundation is a member) is now raising funds to aid those suffering from these floods. If you are looking for a way to help, I'm sure they would appreciate your donation. Send it to the

Czech Federation, c/o

Now, we are finishing out the summer with our Czech Heritage annual picnic. It's hard to beat the food at a Czech pot luck dinner. What a fitting way to get ready for Fall.

Volunteer Hours Pay Additional Dividends

Did you know that recording your hours at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library helps make an even stronger case for funding when applying for grants from corporations and foundations? By keeping track of this information and having it available, we are able to show support from individuals and other constituencies associated with the museum. A strong volunteer base represents quality and diversity in the organization. It provides not only a broad pool of talent to assist with programming and activities at the museum and library, but it helps in the pursuit of grant opportunities as well.

The process is simple...all it involves is logging in your hours on the sign up sheet located in the volunteer station each time you volunteer at the museum and library. It only takes a minute of your time, but can pay big dividends for the museum and library in the long run. If you are not currently a volunteer and wish to find out more about the exciting opportunities available, please call the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library at 362-8500. Thank you

Judy Ostrander, Dir. of Development

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Czech Heritage

Your article WHAT'S IN A NAME was very inter-

esting.

I know very little Czech, only a few words here and there even though I am 100% Czech. I do know that my maiden name NASINEC means countryman.

While reading the book CZECHOSLOVAK CUL-TURE compiled by Pat Martin, I found that a Czech newspaper printed in Granger, Texas is called NASINEC.

The other names from my Czech heritage are

Hlubek, Zikmund and Vatova.

Joanne Wilson Glenwood, IA

Dear Editor,

I want to thank all the volunteers who help with

the newsletter.

I live in Rochester, Minnesota where we do not have many Czechs, but I am a good one. My hometown is Veseli, MN-, which means happy in Bohemian. I was also only 8 miles from New Prague, MN, which is a big Czech town.

I enjoyed your festival last year. I was in your

kolachie eating contest and came in 3rd place.

My wife is from Cresco, Iowa so I spend most of my

time in Protivin, Iowa which is about 99% Czech.

I enjoy getting the newsletter and see names like Novotny and other names which I grew up with back home, Tuma, Skulazecek, Malecka, Tupy etc. The list goes on and on.

Ron Lapic Rochester, MN

BE A VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are needed for "The Thousand Years of Czech Culture" that will be on display in the gallery of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library that started May 24 and ends December 31, 1997.

It can be a rewarding experience for anyone who enjoys working and interacting with people, appreciates culture, and learning about customs and tradi-

tions .

Volunteers are needed to greet and welcome visitors, act as host/hostesses in the gallery or assist in other areas. Morning and afternoon shifts are 3-4 hours long (with a 20 minute break).

You can experience first hand this outstanding collection from Prague with the Museum's visitors while you are getting involved with a community activity as

a volunteer.

Training, orientation, and handbooks are available. Call Pati Hikiji at the museum. Phone (319) 362-8500 for information.

BIOGRAPHY



Anna Melenovsky was born June 19, 1905 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to Frank and Barbara Kubovec. Her father came from the Pilzen area of Bohemia but her mother Barbara Serovy Kubovec, was from rural Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Anna has a younger sister, Irene Dytrt, and her

brother Jacob is deceased.

Anna remembers her childhood days as happy days. Her parents believed children should be disciplined but not spanked. Once she and her sister overstayed their visit with the neighborhood children. When they reached home late, the door was locked. Anna and Irene pounded on the door to get in. Their father came to the door and told them they did not live there any more. He shut the door and let the girls think about disobeying their parents. To young children, it was a frightening experience. It worked because Anna still remembers the episode. Anna attended and graduated from Van Buren School. She remembers how much fun it was to slide down the spiral fire escape tube from the third floor to the ground. When Anna was older, her mother had her wash a load of clothes before going to school. The machine had a hand lever that was pushed and pulled to run the agitator to wash the clothes.

Anna married Joseph Melenovsky on October 18, 1923 in a small no-frills wedding. He was born May 18, 1896 in Bohemia and came to the U.S. at the age of 20 with a cousin, leaving his family behind except for a brother Godfrey who came to the U.S. at a later date. Anna met her husband Joseph at a dance. Anna attended a lot of dances because her father had Kubovec's Band. He was also a builder and contractor. Joseph worked for National Oats (now Ralstons). They bought an acreage between Ely and Cedar Rapids where her father built them a house. During the lean years of the Depression, they had a cow, poultry and a garden and were self-sustaining. Melenovsky's enjoyed fishing, cards, and neighborhood friends. Joseph worked for National Oats for 44 years. He died May 23, 1977.

Anna is a devoted Lawrence Welk fan. In 1952, when the band was sponsored by Geritol, Anna went out and bought some and still uses it today. In 1953, Welk's sponsor was a hair dryer so Anna bought a hair dryer. In 1954, Dodge sponsored the band so Anna's husband bought a Dodge car. On Anna's 90th Birthday, the Geritol

Co. sent Anna a fancy and autographed birthday card. This year on her 92nd birthday she received a letter of recognition. Anna still enjoys Welk music, her hair dryer, and her Dodge car. Because of her age she no longer drives.

Anna still lives on her acreage. She has help with her well manicured lawn. Her family pride comes with her niece and two nephews. Mr. & Mrs. Wayne (Barbara) Chadima and family live in Iowa City. Nephew Joseph Dytrt and his wife Katherine and family live in Oxon Hills, Maryland. Lee Dytrt lives with his mother Irene in Cedar Rapids.

She enjoys crocheting and creating new patterns. She is very active and alert. Could that good health and longevity be attributed to Geritol?

DVORAK STATUE DEDICATION IN N.Y.

There will be a dedication of a statue of the composer Antonin Dvorak near his former home in Manhattan, New York. Many people from both the United States and Europe have been instrumental in raising funds for the statue's dedication. With sufficient funds now in hand and with the cooperation of the city of New York, the dedication is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, September 13, 1997. Many people have expressed an interest in being part of the dedication events. Anyone interested in the music of Dvorak, join in the fruition of several years of efforts. Pres. Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic has been invited, and Lord Mayor of Prague has promised to attend.

Part of the activities will include a concert. The concert will be presented by Harmonie Ensemble/N.Y. and will consist of works composed by Dvorak while he resided in N.Y. Many people are not aware that some of Dvorak's greatest works, including Symphony From the New World were actually composed in the U.S. Josef Suk, world-renowned violinist and the great-grandson of Antonin Dvorak will be featured soloist.

Dvorak was the first major composer to appreciate Native American and Black American music and he incorporated the music he heard in many of his works.

A tour planned by Peggy Woltz of Transient Pleasures of New York has included a dinner followed by a visit to an exhibit of memorabilia and photographs from the Dvorak Museum of Prague.

> (Submitted by Peggy Woltz, Transient Pleasures) (212) 997-1600 ext. 202

SLOVAKIA

The history of Slovakia and its people dates back into history. Slovak ancestors migrated to this mountainous landlocked heart of Europe some 1,500 years ago. Invaders of Slovakia were the Avars, Magyars, Tatars and the Turks. The Slovaks fought to hold on to the land. In the 19th century they were briefly part of the Great Moravian Empire, but the Magyars invasion resulted in a thousand years of Hungarian rule but the Slovaks kept their identity. Their language was not recorded in writing until the late 1700's. Slovakia is a mosaic of nationalities, Czech, Hungarian, Russian, Polish, German, Gypsies, and others. They have Catholics, Lutherans, and Orthodox Churches.

After the first World War, independence returned. The new democratic Czech Republic united with the Slovaks. This was followed by Hitler's invasion and the Soviet Army and a communist takeover. During the Velvet Revolution in 1989 Slovakia sought to be a separate nation from

Czechoslovakia.

Slovakia is graced by the Carpathian Mountains on the north to the fertile plains of the Danube River. Other Slovak rivers are Vah, Hron, Cirocha, and Hornad. Medieval castles are located in Slovakia. In 1255 Banska Bystrica was renowned for copper and silver mines. Wealth created Gothic and Renaissance houses, massive castles, and lofty church spires. North of Banska Bystrica is Tatra National Park. The beauty of the mountains was discovered in the 16th century. The park has millions of visitors each year. Tourists visit the famous health spa at Lendak for healing and rid their troubles. The village of Detva's heritage is present with cultural events showcasing beautiful embroidery, lavish velvet tablecloths, and colorful costumes.

Slovak farms produce grain, potatoes, sugar

beets, hops, fruit and vegetables.

On weekends Slovaks flood the country to swim, fish, ski, and hike. They believe in changes but change comes slowly. They believe that music and mountains restore their spirit.

BOOK - HISTORY OF CZECHS IN AMERICA

This valuable resource book was written by Dr. Jan Habenicht and published by the Hlas Publishing Co. in 1910. It was translated into English by Miloslav Koudelka. The book has 595 pages bound by a hardcover. The book includes 276 illustrations, list of Czech organizations, maps, and a complete surname index (over 2,400 names). Cost \$44.95 each plus \$4.95 shipping cost. MN residents add 6-1/2% sales tax. Write to Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l., PO Box 16225, St. Paul MN 55116-1225.

"IT'S ALWAYS THE GYPSIES"

Gypsies came to Europe from Northern India over six centuries ago. Human rights officials say the Gypsies are a hated and depressed ethnic minority. The Gypsies are branded as unskilled and lazy people who make their living as fortunetellers and thieves. If a tourist loses his wallet, sees families living in squalor, or people inappropriately dressed, they are told "it's the Gypsies.". Unemployment rate for Gypsies is 60-

70 percent.

Gypsies from Slovakia began arriving in Czechoslovakia after World War II when there was a shortage of unskilled laborers. It is estimated there are 150,000 Gypsies in the Czech Republic. Because the Gypsies have a different culture and speak their own language, they are not assimilated into another society. The Czech government has taken steps to make it more difficult for Gypsies to become citizens but the Helsinki Commission is critical of these steps. Without citizenship, the Gypsies are unable to vote, hold office or receive benefits. It is easier to become a citizen of Slovakia but there are fewer opportunities.

Until the differences can be worked out the deep rooted hatred for the Gypsies will continue and the common phrase "it's always the Gypsies"

will continue to be heard.

FLAX AND LINEN

Flax, the oldest of European textile fibers, has been cultivated in Czechoslovakia since time unknown. This plant bears blue flowers in late summer and grows in poor mountainous regions of this land for thousands of years and is still growing today. Czech climate is suitable for cultivation. Flax needs a damp climate, suitable composition of soil and clear soft water.

The Czech's have thousands of years of manufacturing traditions handed down from generation

to generation.

Flax has special characteristics. The fibers are long, smooth, porous and strongly hygroscopic which means the fabric is smooth to touch, light and cool, easily absorbs moisture and releasing it in the atmosphere.

Its prime use is for bedding, tablecloths and

other household linens.

The linen industry in Czechoslovakia remains true to its tradition in spite of modern progressive methods. Czech linen receives praise in the most advanced countries of the world including fine damask with its high sheen.

Like all linens, they are both attractive and practical. It can be said linen gains in beauty with use and age and no doubt will continue to be a

popular fabric.

SPECIAL LIBRARY FUND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This list is a continuation from the June issue of donors to the Special Library Fund. The Czech Heritage Association took it upon themselves and stepped forward in a leadership role to raise \$10,000.00 to hire a librarian to remove books from storage to shelves in the new library in the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. So far \$7,537.26 has been received.

Martha Wilding, our new librarian, is sorting and labeling material. The new computer has been installed. Martha is still shopping for catalog software. New shelving is in place to accommodate periodicals. She has designed, published, and maintained the museum's web page. It is through your generosity that made this progress possible.

The following donations were received from April 15 to May 14 from the following: Arlene Anderle, JoAnn Chadima Bailey, Elizabeth Becicka, Mr. & Mrs. John Cimburek, Mrs. Clifford DeFore, Fern Kaplan Fackler, Don & Irene Hamous, John & Mary Havlicek, Julia Heimann, Bob & Ann Hejkal, Delores Hubert, Mrs. Marie Jadrnicek, Louis & Jarmilla Jedlicka, Marilyn Jensen, Eugene Kadlec, Ann Kloubec, David & Diane Krejci, Robert F. Lenc Sr., Esther Lippert, Bonnie Liska, Duane Nesetril, Don & Mary Ann Novotny, Gladys Peterson, Elmer & Mary Rose Sedlacek, Dwane Shalla, Robert M. Skala, Fran Sonka, Milton & Emma Stefl, Stejskal Florist's Inc., Alice Stodola, Mary Stroleny, Jeanne Vlasek Tompkins, Jeanne Trachta, Ed & Bev Vesely, Anči L. Viktora, Anton Vanicek, Miles Volf, Charles & Lillian Vyskocil and David & Cyndia Zias, all from Iowa.

Library donations from other states are: AL -P. Callahon & Eva Newman, AZ - Elmer & Mildred Karasek, Mary Machanec, and Teri Thorpe, CA - Elizabeth Dake, Larry Lehecka, and Frances Schlunger, CO - L. Kroupa CT - Victor & Georgianna Marek, and Cmdr. Joseph Secl, FL -Eleanor Elkington, Hana & A. J. Koby, Walter Liphardt, Joseph Pesta, and Bruno Smid, GA -Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fitzpatrick, IL - Robert Baumruk, Stanley & Blanche Bohatka, Vivian Mizia, Janet Hoag Phillips, Linda Starek, and Gladys Wheeler, KY - Mildred Koenigsmark, MD -Joe Doupnik, JoFran & Jim Falcon, Darryl & Marilyn Modracek, and Pam & Steve Shipp, MI -Evelyn Krenek Fergle, Evelyn Hall, Roger & Deborah Novotny, and Frank Winkler Sr., MN -Mark Vaško Bigaouette, Mary M. Halbert, and Alton & Marie Krikava, MO - Earl & Annette Stepanek, and Viola Wachal Young, NE - Ernest Cajka, Norma & James Knoche, and Bessie Kucera, NV - Lillian Kolař Heckers, NC - Jarmila McMullen, NY - Helene Zemek Baine & Helene Baine Cincebeaux, Eleanor Maeurer, and Frank Schovanec, OH - Stan Folda, TN - Georgiana Knurr, TX - Willa Mae Cervenka, Ursula Klocke,

and Dorothy Vavra Prachyl, UT - Susan Husch, WA - Frank Barta, WI - Sue Bulgrin, Ronald Keberle, Jerry Ptáček, and Ed & Edna Schuch.

All donors names will be published in future issues of Naše České Dědictví unless stated otherwise as an anonymous donor. Czech Heritage Fd'n. thanks everyone for their financial support. Donations may also be given as memorials. The address for the library fund is Czech Heritage Library Fund. c/o Dennis Hrabak Treas.

TROPHY WINNERS

Here is the list of winners of the morel mushroom contest held on Houby Days in Czech Village this spring. They are: Best of Show, Tim & Katie Smith; Oddly shaped small, Jason Harms; Oddly shaped large, Brian Howell; Largest, Wayne McClair; Best small display, Devin Kelley; Smallest, Mark Smejkal all of Cedar Rapids.

Tallest morel, Debbie Hayland of Kalona; and Most-original display, Mark Popelka of Ely.

Congratulations to all the winners!

FREEDOM FESTIVAL PARADE

The Czech Heritage float in the 4th of July Freedom Festival Parade in Cedar Rapids won first prize in the Best Float category. The Czech Plus Band won third prize in the Best Band category. The Czech Prince Quentin Lewis and Princes Debbie Rigel participated in the parade riding in a red convertible.

Leonard Pfeifer, Czech Heritage board member, designs and builds the floats. After the parades, the float sits outdoors and is exposed to the wind, rain, snow, and sun to deteriorate. Does anyone have an unused spot for storage? It takes a 13 foot clearance. If you do call Leonard Pfeifer

at 364-1599.

CZECH PRINCE & PRINCESS

The Czech Heritage Fd'n. will again conduct a search for a Czech Prince & Princess to preside over Czech activities for the coming year. Youths between the ages of 14-16, of Czech background, and a resident of Cedar Rapids and surrounding community are urged to enter.

Winners will be awarded a savings bond and a

Czech costume.

Contestants need to fill out a written entry form stating basic information such as school/extracurricular activities. A personal interview with a discussion of participation in some facet of his/her heritage will be held.

Crowning will take place in October. Registration forms may be obtained by writing to

Sylvia Rohlena,

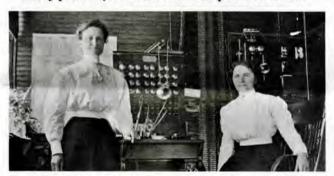
. Entry forms are due October 1,



Dows Street 1910 looking west.



Early photo of J. C. Dvorak's Implement Store.



Early central telephone office.



Vavra Lumberyard about 1890.



Presbyterian Church.

1872 ELY, IOWA 1997

On August 15, 16, and 17th the town of Ely celebrated its 125th birthday. The town was named after John F. Ely who was born in New York and came to the area to practice medicine.

The coming of the railroad helped Ely to develop quickly. A post office was established April 20, 1871. Ely was fast growing into a Czech settlement. Of the 250 inhabitants in 1878, more than half were Bohemians. J. E. Dolezal's Implement Store sold a wagon and spring seat for \$60. Joseph Woitisek expanded into the largest general store, grain and live stock dealer in Ely. Joseph Holets established a harness shop. J. C. Dolezal purchased an implement dealership and expanded into a hardware store and farm implements that were housed in a warehouse that later became Biderman Hardware and Implement Store. Joseph Lorence owned and operated a drug store. Frank Krall entered into a dry goods store while F. Novotny opened a harness shop.

Ely, the infant town, had grown into adulthood and acquired telephones, lights and sidewalks.

In 1903, Ely was incorporated with George Kent, mayor; Joe Lorence, recorder; Joe Holets, treasurer; Frank Janko, marshall; J. C. Dvorak, N. J. Jordan, Joseph Novotny, John Asenbrener, M. Vanourny and Godfrey Truhlar as members of the council.

John Filipi, owner and operator of a lumber yard, persuaded Joseph Becicka, a recent arrival from Bohemia to take over the lumber business. He remained in business from 1891 to 1930. John Filipi's grandson Edwin Vavra was approached into buying the business. Encouraged by his father Joseph Vavra, Ed consented to buy the business even though he knew very little about lumber and hated cutting boards. Today the town of Ely is a fast thriving town. The Vavra Lumber is still in existence today. F. J. Krob Elevator buys grain from the surrounding farms grown on the rich soil. The American Legion is very active and sponsors social activities. The Ely School is a community and senior center. St. John's Lutheran Church and the rural Presbyterian Church (Formerly the Bohemian & Moravian Church) still hold regular Sunday services. A new bank and convenience stores serve the residents.

Because Ely is between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City it is a rapidly growing community. Modern homes and duplexes and senior citizens housing is available. It is a town with a touch of rural living and friendly atmosphere.

WFLA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

When the early Czechs, Slovaks and Moravian immigrants came to the New World, they would congregate to preserve their identity and culture. They soon realized when they banded together they could achieve their goals easier. One of their goals in this country was economic opportunity and to own land. They formed an organization and named it the Czechoslovak benevolent society (CSPS) Ceska Slovanka Podporujici Spolek. Only the men paid dues and became members. Immigration increased at the turn of the century and Czech communities were forming across the country. The first organizers of CSPS set the policies and avoided changes but the younger members sought change and caused a rift in the organization. On Feb. 9, 1897 Jan Rosicky, a Czech publisher from Omaha, submitted four resolutions that were drafted by delegates from 31 CSPS lodges that would change the society. The resolutions would allow women to be admitted, premiums determined by age, establish a reserve fund, and applicants would need to submit a medical record. The CSPS rejected all the resolutions. As a result the Articles of Incorporation were filed in the State of Iowa, and on July 4, 1897, Zapadni Ceska Bratrska Jednota (ZCBJ) the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association came into existence and grew rapidly.

The business meetings of the ZCBJ were all conducted in Czech because many immigrants did not speak or write English. A Czech newsletter BRATRSKY VESTNIK was published. According to records the first death claim was for Jan Svarc from North Bend, Nebraska who died after he

was kicked by a mule.

Lodge Halls began to spring up all over the country where there were Czech settlements and formed charter lodges. The halls were usually small square buildings. It was a place to hold meetings, fund raisers and picnics. Stages were added to the lodges in the 30's and became the communities social center and the scene of plays, dances, and Czech dinners. Many lodges added cemeteries near by that were used for burial for the Czechs after the service in the lodge hall.

The ZCBJ prides itself during Czechoslovakia's struggle for freedom during the war years in Europe. Lodges held events to raise money to relieve suffering in their homeland. To further the cause the Bohemian Nat'l. Alliance was formed. Together the organizations supported the U.S. in the war effort. Czech immigrants enlisted into service to free their homeland from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

In 1922 the membership broadened. With Czech population declining and intermarriages, membership was declining. In order to keep youth interested a decision was made to accept youth

and English speaking lodges.

The first English speaking lodge to be accept-

ed was in Cedar Rapids.

Because the Czech's are frugal and far sighted, the organization survived the Great Depression. While some lodges did disband, other new charters were issued. Lodges offered the spirit of fraternalism and extended a sympathetic ear. Lodges provided activities and an outlet for frustration that befell the U.S.

As the Great Depression eased its grip in the U.S., Germany was becoming a threat to peace once again in Europe and Czechoslovakia. Again the Western Bohemian Fraternal played a big roll to help defeat Hitler's Nazism. Lodge members were urged to buy Defense Bonds, help Red Cross, and to send mail and packages to the servicemen. Enough funds were raised to buy a number of

ambulances and bomber airplane.

For all this time the Home Office was located in Cedar Rapids. The first National President was Josef Zbanek and the first National Secretary, Alois Blaha, were both from Cedar Rapids. Anton Novotny, Zbanek's successor as National President was also from Cedar Rapids. The first home office was located in Secretary Blaha's home and remained there until 1908 when the office was moved to the ZCBJ Hall in southeast Cedar Rapids. As the membership grew it became necessary to properly accommodate the growing organization and to update office equipment with modern business machines. The location for the new home office would be on a parcel of land on the corner of 19th St. and 1st Ave. in Cedar Rapids. The state-of-art building was dedicated Sept. 9, 1959.

By now the newsletter's name was changed to Fraternal Herald. Once all written in Czech, now was written in English. Another reform came in 1971 when the delegates at the Nat'l Convention in Cleveland, Ohio voted to change the name to Western Fraternal Association from Western Bohemian Fraternal Association. The new name did not necessarily mean the heritage would be lost but there would be no ethnic discrimination. That would allow for growth to a new level for the association.

The first Nat'l Convention was held in New Prague, MN in 1899 with 55 delegates. Cedar Rapids hosted the conventions in 1917, 1963 and

1983

This year Cedar Rapids hosted the WFLA's Centennial celebration with 1100 members and guests in attendance. The celebration included tours, craft demonstrations, music, dancing, picnic under the tent and balloons for a festive gala 100th party.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Information and permission from the Western Fraternal Association.





Upper Left: Former Senator and First Chairman of the Board Roman Hruska spoke at the opening Ceremony.



Above: The Capital City Czech Choraliers from Lincoln, Nebraska performed several songs for the crowd in the afternoon.

Lower Left: The crowd at the picnic.



SWISHER, IOWA

The incorporated town of Swisher, Iowa is in Jefferson Township in the northwest portion of Johnson County. In 1841, Benjamin Swisher from Ohio settled in the area. The family had 8 children.

The town was platted soon after the interurban was located. Because Swisher is located between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, it had Czech settlers. Names of arrivals to Swisher include Castek, Petrick, Pudil, Dvorak, and Serbousek.

Today the Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Railway still runs through town. Swisher has a dance hall, postoffice, stores, car wash, and banking service. The Bohemian Farmers Mutual Insurance Association office is located in Swisher.

Swisher is experiencing a building boom making it a growing community that still is home to many Czech families.





The Jackson Elevator, Swisher, Iowa.



Swisher, Iowa - 1911.



Vondracek Feed & Lumber, Swisher, Iowa.



Marak's Store, Swisher, Iowa - 1911.



Dvorak Brother Implement Store, Swisher, Iowa.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Here is a list of names of people who sent a donation with their renewals or new member-

ships to the Czech Heritage Fd'n.

For April a donation with a new membership was received from Joseph Uzel. Donations received with renewals from: Sandra Clayton, Bernard Drahozal, Edna Goodrow, Carol Grigson, Helen Hammond, H. E. Hejkal, Rudolph Jansa, Alice Kadlec, Jerome Kovar, Pat McCluskey, Esther Musil, Norma Novak, Francis Schluneger, Ed & Erma Schuch, Betty Truesdell, and Joe & Helen Valenta.

For May: donations with new memberships from Marilee Manczur and Jarmille Minard. Donations received with renewals from: Florence Dvorak, Ken Lastufka, Leonore Mangold, Mary V.

Minard and Mary Ann Tegen.

For June: donations received with new memberships from Bob Chadima, Dolores Duy, Ed Hemphill, and Laverne Smazik. Donations received with renewals from: Gladys Aldridge, R. S. Bezdeny, Elizabeth Burianek, Wm. Cerny, Sharon Curtis, Bessie Dochterman, Donald Kohout, Joseph L. Kubicek, Milos Kukal, Patricia Novak, Janet Phillips, David & Malinda Poduska, Lillian Schminke, Col. George Serbousek, Agnes Tichy, Jeanne Trachta, Julia Wadden and Mary Zezula. A non-member donation was received from Linda Blank.

HOMESTAY PROGRAM

The Czech Heritage Foundation sent 4 students to the Czech Republic June 23rd to July 22nd. They will be giving a program on their experiences Sunday, October 5th at 2 p.m. at the

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. There is no admission as this is a thank you to Czech Heritage for the \$1000 scholarship to travel to the Czech Republic. Two of the students lived in Prague, one in Pardubice about 60 miles from Prague, and one in Namest nad Oslavou, a small town about 35 miles, from Brno.

\$1000 TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

Czech Heritage Foundation will be offering scholarships of \$1000 to students who are now juniors in high school. After Czech language classes and orientation, they will be assigned families in and near Prague to live a month with the summer of 1998. This will be the 15th year for the program which was

started in 1984 and has sent 49 students to their country of ancestry. Applications will be available September 15th and will be due November 1st. They can be obtained from high school counselors or by calling Diane Krejci, . The student must be of Czech-Slovak heritage.

FILL 'ER UP

In the early history of Cedar Rapids, Czechs made up a large percent of the population. Yet the Genealogical Society of Linn Co. has very little information on the southwest quadrant of the city in their files. Since the Czechs played such an important part in growth and development in that area, this is an invitation for you to check your closets and drawers for post cards, maps, newspaper clippings, pictures etc., and get it to the society. The articles will be duplicated and the originals returned back to you.

Their genealogical department is an important research center with a growing collection of books recording family records, deaths, burials,

and historical events.

The Genealogical Society of Linn County is located at 101 - 8th Ave. S.E. It was organized in 1965. It is located in the same area where the first Czech immigrants settled in Cedar Rapids. This area is now being revitalized. Due to this revitalization of this area, the Genealogical Society of Linn County will eventually move to a newly acquired location downtown.

Let us preserve our Czech culture in Cedar Rapids by filling up the empty file. We have a lot

to be proud of.

ST. WENCESLAUS CZECH GOULASH DAY AND BAZAAR 1230 5th Street S.E., Cedar Rapids • Gym Building Sunday, Sept. 21

IFAMILY IFUN IFOIR AILIL CIRAIFTS

*1,000 12 - *50

Gift Certificates & Much More

FOOD

Czech Goulash • Kolaches Rye Bread • Pies & Cakes Wence Burgers • Pop & Coffee Serving 10am to 6pm

10:30 A.M.
Polka Mass
10:30 to 7 Country Store
Rummage Sale
Baked Goods

12 to 6 Bingo • Games Cake Walk 7pm - Auction



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

(The Memorial Day message on May 26, 1997 was delivered by Bob Rush, Attorney and Former State Senator at the National Czech & Slovak

Museum & Library.)

"Today across America we remember and we honor those who died while defending our country. We remember and honor those men and women who sacrificed their lives so that we might live in freedom. We must vow to uphold the values they died for and which makes our country great . . . an America free and strong, a force and peace, a land of tolerance, opportunity for all.

It is fitting we are here. A year and half ago we were witnesses to an historical event. Three

Presidents: Havel, Kovac, and Clinton.

Like today it was bad weather; and unfortunately, outside . . . windy and cold . . . teeth chat-

tering wind chill.

But then the presidents began to speak . . . with passion and emotion about their countries, struggle for freedom, facing death and imprisonment.

And then we listened with great pride as President Clinton spoke. We were reminded Czechs and Slovaks, like Americans, are willing to fight and die for what can be expressed in one word: FREEDOM.

We had forgotten about the cold and our teeth

stopped chattering.

Like today we remember our history from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War, from the World Wars to Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and other conflicts in our history, all remind us, our people, our military have given so much to protect the land we love.

Today we salute the men and women in uniform and families who support them. We are

proud of then.

Our troops are the backbone of American leadership that is the source of strength at home and

our success around the world.

Whether preventing conflict in the Persian Gulf, reducing strife in Bosnia, nuclear threats in North Korea, or isolating rogue nations like Iran, Iraq, and Libya. American leadership makes our people safer and the world more secure. Our nation owes many debts to all who served.

Even as we balance our budget we must keep our commitment to America's veterans by improving the health care they receive, protecting the benefits they have earned, and making sure they have a fair shot at a decent job, education and a

home.

Generations of servicemen, have fought and died for the American dream, Freedom &

Opportunity.

We must never forget. We must remember those Iowans who served: World War I - 3576 killed, World War II 8398, Korea 532, Vietnam 843 with 16 MIA, Persian Gulf 8.

As President Lincoln said: "It is for us the liv-

ing to be dedicated, to be resolved that the dead shall not have died in vain. That the Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not not be the land."

not perish from the land."

So today we remember and honor those who gave so much for us. Let us pledge to honor their sacrifice by continuing the fight for freedom and democracy. Let us each do our part to keep the American dream alive."

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

The National Anthem for the Czech Republic is "Kde Domov Muj" (Where is My Home?). It was composed by Frantisek Skroup, The words were written by Joseph Kajetan Tyl. It is neither a marching nor a fighting song like many other anthems. It sings of the beauty of the land of Bohemia in a spirit corresponding with the first third of the 19th century.

"Nad Tatrou sa Blyska" (Thunder Over the Tatra Mountains") is sung to a traditional Slovak melody. It tells a different story. It was written by Janko Matuska to commemorate the exodus of Slovak students from Bratislava in 1843, and reminds Slovaks to be brave during storms of

oppression.

During events held in Cedar Rapids, the singing of both anthems is followed by the Star Spangled Banner. All 3 flags are flown at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and at Masaryk Park as well as at many Czech festivals and events.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Dámský Sbor Matice Školské (Czech Ladies Educational Society) has awarded nine \$400 scholarships to the following graduates of Cedar Rapids area schools, who are of Czech or Slovak descent and are registered to attend an accredited college or university in Iowa this fall: Stacy Bonlander, Julie M. Goedken, Nichole Hynek, Benjamin Keen, Amanda Lawrence, Matthew Ruzek, Holly Upah, Howard Cobb Jr., and Amy Whitton.

Dámský Sbor Matice Školské has been awarding scholarships for 41 years, using interest that is generated by their principal account. People who would be interested in furthering this cause by donating money to the principal account, either by outright gifts or by specifying gifts to Dámský Sbor Matice Školské in their wills, would enable this group to expand the number of scholarships that could be awarded to our bright youth, who desire to further their education.

Irene Hamous, D.S.M.S., Director

CZECH SCHOOL 1997

Česká Škola, Czech School for children, 1997, is now just a memory. What the teachers think about all winter, plan for all spring and enthusiastically prepare for, is over, in just five short

weeks!

Came the morning of Monday, June 11th, and soon the chanting of "ah, beh, tseh, cheh" (a, b, c, č) was heard coming from every classroom. Division I, with Mrs. Bessie Dugena (and Fred Anthony as teacher-aide) began to work on "jedna, dve, tri, ctyri, pet" (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and from the classroom of Division II with Leona Poduska, (Mrs. Jeanne Tompkins, assisting) was heard "Co je to? (What is it?) To je pes. (It is a dog) To je kočka (It is a cat), while Division III, began to labor in earnest on "Tady je černý pes. Tam je černá kočka. To je černé auto", (Here is a black dog. There is a black cat. That is a black auto.), and the inevitable question was asked: Why are the endings changed, pani ucitelko? (mistress teacher).

Some 70 students were enrolled in the five week course taught to students aged 6 through 12 at Wilson Elementary School this summer. Established in 1870 by Czech immigrants who felt their children needed to learn how to read and write the language of their ancestors. Cedar Rapids can boast of being the oldest continuing ethnic language school for children in the U.S.

The students enjoyed a field trip to Spillville, Iowa this year. They toured St. Wenceslaus Church where Anton Dvorak played the organ at the church services when he spent the summer of 1893 in the little village which so strongly reminded him of his birthplace in Old Bohemia. They visited the cemetery behind the church and marveled at the many old grave markers. A trip to the blacksmith shop was interesting. After a picnic at Riverside Park and a walk through Inwood Ballroom, the students walked around the Memorial to Dvorak which is in the park and took note of the many compositions which are attributed to Dvorak and which are inscribed on the memorial. The highlight of the trip was the hourlong visit to the Museum of Bily Clocks. The two Bily brothers were wood carvers and their handcarved clocks were exhibited in the building where Anton Dvorak and his family spent their summer in 1893. The collection of wooden clocks was donated to the town of Spillville by the brothers with the stipulation that the collection never be broken up. Henry Ford visited the brothers at one time, and he offered them a million dollars for one of the clocks, an offer which the humble brothers politely refused.

Division III took advantage of the "Thousand Years of Czech Culture" exhibit at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and enjoyed the many irreplaceable artifacts which the Museum has the honor of hosting for public display. This exhibit will be in place only till the end

of this year. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has the honor of being the second museum in this country to host this exhibit. At the end of the year, the collection will be returned to the archives of the Czech National

Museum in Prague.

Marj Nejdl, Czech Folk Artist extraordinaire, visited our school and some of the classes were able to observe her egg painting results and even had the opportunity to paint an egg using Mrs. Nejdl's methods of creating a "kraslice", the Czech word for "beautifully decorated egg." A folk dancer-teacher from St. Paul, MN., Ms. Louise Wessinger, taught some Czech dancing classes at the Museum and we were delighted to have her come to our school and teach us the basic polka steps and some variations on the "Doudlebska"

polka.

Division I worked hard at their workbooks filled with art and individual contributions. They delighted everyone with their rendition of "Annie In the Cabbage Patch" at the program in the Wilson Auditorium on July 11th. Division II charmed the audience with a choral reading which was as follows: Ozenil se mravenec; vzal si zenu: musku (Once an ant married a fly) Posadil ji na parez; dal ji cucat hrusku (Set her on a stump, gave her a pear) Nestarej se; zeno ma, ze se nenajime (Never fear dear wife, we won't go hungry) Zabijem si komara, maso nasolime (We'll kill a mosquito and salt it down) Pul ho dame do komina, pul do uvarime (Half we'll smoke and half we'll boil) Nestarej se, zeno ma, ze se nanajime (Never fear, dear wife, that we'll go hungry) Proc bych ja se starala, muj zlaty muzicku (Why should I worry, dear husband) Vzdyt mam jeste v kuchyni z komara nozicku. (I still have in the kitchen, a leftover mosquito drumstick).

With Ben Bryant on the tuba, Emily Zimmerman, trombone, Surria Drahozal, tenor sax, and Aubry Flaherty on flute, the ensemble from Division III surprised the audience with a rendition of Dvorak's "Largo" fro his "New World

Symphony.'

Graduating students from Division III having at least 2 years and reached the age of 13 were Bonnie Williams, Kurt Grimm, Becca Moeller,

James Hamous, and Tamra Williams.

We want to thank the staff of Wilson School for their hospitality and help. Thanks, too, to Papich-Kuba Funeral Home for printing the programs and duplicating teachers material and to Prokop Velka Lodge 137 CSA for their generous monetary donation. We want to thank Mid-Continent for supplying the beverages on the Spillville Field trip.

Dekuji Vam to Milly Ortner, Jeanne Tompkins, Helen Cross and Fred Anthony whose help to us is immeasurable. The teachers say:

Dekuji Vam moc krat!

Olga Drahozal, Leona Poduska and Bessie Dugena, the teachers.

by Olga Drahozal



TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTER

The Interim Board of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center has released this preliminary design of a multi-million dollar facility in LaGrange, Texas. LaGrange in Fayette County is known as the "Cradle of Czech Immigration."

The facility is designed for the collection and preservation of artifacts, photos, literature, music, research center, visitors information center, outdoor amphitheater, and a recreated Czech-Texan farmstead and village. The site for the center overlooks the Colorado River Valley.

CZESKY FOUSEK



High-set cars are broad at base and pointed toward tips

KEN FACTS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN Czech Republic DATE OF ORIGIN 1800's First use Game pointing.

Use roday Game pointing, companion LIFE EXPECTANCY 12-13 years OTHER NAMES Crech Pointer Czech Coarse-Haired Setter

48 5-75 lb 22-34 kg



Cout has soft, dense undercoat, and hard, rough topcoat

This responsive dog is one of Bohemia's most popular hunting dogs. A multipurpose worker, it points, sets, and then retrieves from land or water. At ease in the home, it is almost always amenable with children. There can be a dramatic difference in size between the sexes - the largest males can be almost 50 percent bigger than the smallest females. Some individuals can be particularly headstrong and need firm control. With regular exercise, this breed makes an attractive, amenable companion, although it is best suited to the countryside. The Czesky Fousek was first bred to written standards in the late 1800s. An excellent breed, it deserves recognition outside its native land.

THE LINDEN TREE

The Linden is the popular name for the tree in the old world. It is often mentioned in songs and stories. One tree in the town of Bojnice, Slovak Republic is considered sacred by Slovaks and Czechs alike.

This old tree was planted in 1301. It has seen battles, celebrations, conferences and concerts take place under its branches. The tree was planted when the last king of the old Arpad Dynasty died. Over the years it thrived in its location alongside the Bojnice castle. The tree was respected not only by Bojnice citizens, but by their enemies as well.

During the time of Turkish invasions, the enemy troops avoided the Linden tree while attacking the near by castle. The Linden tree, now almost 700 years old has lived through many historical changes and events.

The Linden tree remains one of the symbols and is often on medals, stamps, documents, art work of the Czech and Slovak lands.

From Sokol Newsletter

Membership Application Please check the proper item: Renewal___ New___ Gift___ Name(s) Ms., Mr., Mrs. Address Zip + 4Make 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 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 COMING EVENTS

Sept. 3......Concert 7:00 p.m. Bandstand Czech Heritage Singers Sept. 8....."Kava a Knihy" Reading & Lecture 7-9:00 p.m. Museum (preregister) Sept. 9.....Czech Heritage Fdn. Meeting 7:30 p.m. Museum Sept. 12.....Final Concert Bandstand 7:00 p.m. Sept 17"Learn at Lunch" 12:00-1:00 p.m. Museum (free) Sept. 20Children's Story Time 10:00 a.m. Museum (free) Sept. 20 toTour of Czech Republic Dan Baldwin, host Sept. 21St. Wenceslaus Church Goulash & Bazaar Oct. 4Chicago Trip Oct. 5Homestay Program 2:00 p.m. Museum (free) Oct. 14Czech Heritage Fdn. Meeting 7:30 p.m. Museum Nov. 11Czech Heritage Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Museum Dec. 6.....Sv. Mikulas Czech Village



OTHER ETHNIC EVENTS

Sept. 13-14 Czech Festival S. Sokol, Omaha, NE

Sept. 27.....Banquet & Ball Cleveland, OH 216-562-7730

Oct. 1-4Czech Genealogical Conf. St. Paul, MN 612-645-4585

Oct. 1913th Texas Czech Festival Victoria Com. College Call Joe Pustka 512-578-2507

Oct. 26Bexar Co. Czech Heritage Day K.C. Hall, San Antonio, TX 210-657-4001



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 & LIBRARY GUILD TOUR TO CSA CZECHOSLOVAK HERITAGE MUSEUM, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES ON OCT. 4th

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Guild invites you to tour Chicagoland's Czechoslovak Heritage Museum, Library and Archives. Join the Guild on Saturday, October 4th, when we tour the CSA Czechoslovak Heritage Museum. Library and Archives in Oak Brook. Illinois. Afterward, we'll enjoy a delicious Czech meal at Klas's Czech Restaurant in Cicero and still have time for a stop at the grand Oak Brook Shopping Center. At only \$39 per person, you won't want to miss this great day trip! To assure your place, make your reservations today! Send your check, made payable to: Nat'l Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Guild, to John Rocarek, 1821 J Street SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Departure at 6:30 a.m. from Wilson School parking lot. Return at 9:30 p.m. Fee includes bus travel, museum donation, & meal. Come join us!

DEFINITION OF HEALTH TERMS

vein conceited artery study of paintings

back door of a cafeteria

barium what Dr.'s do when patients die bowel a letter like a, e, i, o, u

cat scan searching for kitty colic a sheep dog

hangnail coat hook labor pain getting hurt at work

medical staff a doctor's cane

nitrates cheaper than day rates

outpatient person who fainted pelvis a cousin of Elvis

terminal illness getting sick at the airport

recovery room place to do upholstery

morbid a higher bid

D & C where Washington is

dilate to live long tumor more than one