



Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood Opens April 17

By Leah Wilson, director of marketing and communications

The Czechs who came to Cedar Rapids faced wave after wave of adversity as they left homes behind and forged their destinies in the New World. This multimedia exhibition tells the story of those resilient people who settled a fertile bend in the Cedar River and built a thriving ethnic community there — one they would fight to keep.

The story begins with the history of Czechs in Cedar Rapids and the communities of Czech Village and New Bohemia. News stories, video

and eye-witness accounts carry you through the experience of the flood, moment by moment by devastating moment, culminating with a walk-in model of a flooded house. Interactive kiosks will display news coverage of ongoing recovery efforts in Cedar Rapids and will allow you to record your own personal flood story or family history.

By installing the exhibit in the heart of historic 16th Avenue, the NCSML incorporates Czech Village and New Bohemia as authentic 20th century ethnic commercial districts — once common to many Czech and Slovak neighborhoods across the country, but hard to find intact today. Walking tours, dynamic educational programs and festivals will make this an experience you'll remember.

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood, the exhibition described in this issue, answers the oft-asked question, "Why is the national museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa?" We didn't have a place to tell that story and now it will be part of everyone's visit to Czech Village. In developing the settlement history of Czech Village and New Bohemia, we couldn't escape telling the story of the flood — now an indelible part of Cedar Rapids history. If you haven't been through a major disaster yourself, it's hard to comprehend the overwhelming horror, sadness and disbelief that victims feel when they realize that, in the matter of a few hours, years and years of effort to build homes, businesses and community have been virtually undone. In *Rising Above*, you will be able to view and listen to first-hand accounts, news reports, and even walk inside a model of a flood-damaged house. For those of us in Cedar Rapids, who are still working through recovery, it is hard to revisit. But we believe it is the role of a museum to be a place where important events are examined and discussed. In this case, it is a place where people can remember and mourn the losses, and celebrate the progress in recovery.

The building opening on April 17 marks our first major step in recovery from the flood. I hope you will put a trip to Cedar Rapids in your travel plans for 2010. We will be overjoyed to see you, to thank you for your belief in us, and to tell you first hand that we are back and making exciting plans for the future.

Sincerely,

Gail Naughton

We are celebrating! The NCSML has reached a hard-earned and significant milestone — the return to our home territory with the opening of an extraordinary exhibition.

I want to express special thanks to our friends at Frank N. Magid Associates, who have graciously accommodated us for the last 21 months. They have provided the NCSML with not only temporary offices and meeting rooms, but with phone and internet connections. For their exceptional support and countless kindnesses, we are forever grateful.

When the NCSML made its first recovery plans in the summer of 2008, the board of directors reaffirmed support for the Czech and Slovak ethnic neighborhoods of Cedar Rapids — all of which were severely flooded. We recognized our role to help them recover and we knew we couldn't be the national museum and library outside of our neighborhood context. They need us and we need them.

As the staff began to think about it in more depth, we recognized that the Czech Village and New Bohemia areas where we stand are part of the immigrant story we tell. They are a real example of the once prolific ethnic enclaves that are few and far between today — not Disneyland — but a constantly evolving, active commercial district that still holds tight to its roots.

From our Board Chair

It is with a great sense of humility and awe that I prepare this first message in my role as board chair at the NCSML. Humility comes from working with so many of you during the past few years and becoming keenly aware that our success as an institution is built on the successful efforts of passionate people. Can't resist naming one in particular ... Many thanks to Gary Rozek, for his leadership and hard work these past two years. Gary guided, nurtured and prodded the NCSML board of directors to position our museum for success — and success is now on the horizon!



After the flood in June 2008, we had no museum — no way to house staff, conduct programs, or tell our story. Today, we open the Kosek Building in a matter of weeks. We have also chosen a beautiful site in the Czech Village where we will rebuild and expand our museum and library. Part of this plan includes incorporating the “red-roofed building” in the new site. I am awed by these achievements. Truly, 2010 is off to a promising start!

Sincerely,

Sue Olson

We welcome our new board members

TERRI CHRISTOFFERSEN Terri is currently the president of TEDAC Properties, LLC. She is active in numerous local organizations including Cedar Rapids Downtown Rotary Club, Junior League of Cedar Rapids, Four Oaks Inc., St. Luke's Hospital, United Way and Waypoint. She is the recipient of the 2008 Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids Community Service Award.



HILERY LIVENGOOD Hilery joins the NCSML board after two years on the *BrewNost!* steering committee, including a stint as co-chair in 2009, the most successful year ever. Professionally, she is the director of major and planned gifts at Mount Mercy College. Hilery also serves on the boards of the Cedar Rapids Public Library, the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation, and Theatre Cedar Rapids. She was raised in Cedar Rapids and is a graduate of the University of Iowa and Northwestern University.



JANELLE MCCLAIN Janelle returns to the NCSML board, having served from 1996-2001 as a board member and chair. Her professional life has been devoted to the promotion of talented Midwestern artists, including the creation of the CornerHouse Gallery & Frame, Inc. in 1976. Since selling the Gallery in 2007, she has been honing her own artistic skills and working as a private art consultant.



CRAIG VAN DYKE Craig has served as the senior vice-president & treasurer of Western Fraternal Life Association (WFLA) since 2000. Prior to his current position, he served for 11 years in the investment department at American General Corporation. He lives in Marion, Iowa, with his wife Anita and two children.



Vítamé Vás!

Plans for Museum and Library Announced

The 15-year-old museum building is an architectural icon in Cedar Rapids, and the museum's red roof rising above the 2008 floodwaters depicted the Cedar Rapids disaster around the world.

In an effort to protect the building from future flooding and to retain it for its original purpose, the board of directors has agreed to pursue moving the physical structure from its current site on the banks of the Cedar River to a site across the street, still in the Czech

ethnic neighborhood. The building will be elevated with parking on the lower level. The main floor of the museum is projected to be three feet above the 2008 flood level.

The moved and expanded museum and library is planned to be 50,000 square feet, which will include larger permanent and temporary exhibition galleries, an expanded research library, educational programming space, a new museum store, *(continued on page 12)*



Site plan under development

NEWS & EVENTS

NCSML Reconfigures Staff, Prepares for the Future

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) recently announced four new hires and one promotion. The changes precede a massive effort to move, elevate and expand the iconic cultural museum and library in Czech Village.

"The museum staff is being reconfigured to meet our organization's ambition — to be more relevant, efficient and impactful than ever," said Vice President for Development Jason Wright. "We are pleased to have these passionate, talented people on board as we move forward with our rebuilding plans."

The makeup of the NCSML staff has changed significantly, though the number of full-time staff members is still one less than before the flood.

The NCSML promoted Janet Stoffer to a newly created position as director of operations. Stoffer was with NCSML as a tour guide from 1992 – 1994, and returned in 2000. She has served in numerous capacities, most recently as director of programs and education. Under Stoffer's leadership, the NCSML saw tremendous growth in the number and quality of educational programs and public events.



Jilovec

Andrea Jilovec is the new director of education and programs. Jilovec is currently developing public programs and educational curricula to accompany the new exhibition, *Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood*, opening this spring. Prior to joining the NCSML staff, Jilovec was the education coordinator at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art.

Rosamund "Rosie" Johnston joined our staff as the oral history project coordinator. This new position is funded by a grant from

www.NCSML.org



Johnston

the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Johnston will coordinate efforts to record the personal stories, family sagas and community histories of émigrés from Czechoslovakia who settled in Washington DC, Cleveland and Chicago. Johnston hails from Scotland, but spent the last few years working as a reporter for Czech Radio in Prague before moving to Cedar Rapids to join the NCSML.



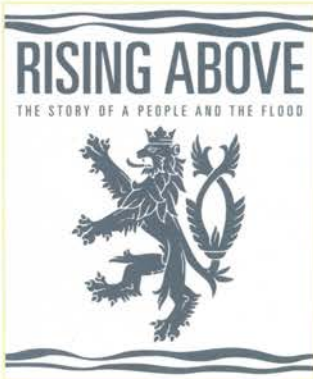
Smith

Douglas Smith came on board as the director of retail and business development. Smith has over 27 years of business experience. He managed retail development at The Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art in Indiana. He has expertise in product development and packaging, for which he won several national awards. Smith is in charge of developing the NCSML Museum Store, including the online store.



Buchheit

Lindsey Buchheit joined the NCSML administrative team as database manager. This position is responsible for the management and implementation of the fundraising database and prospect management system. Buchheit began her career in fundraising at RuffaloCODY, where she was a top fundraiser for the Museum of Science in Boston, as well as the National Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati. She also served as the development director for KRFC 88.9 FM Community Public Radio in Fort Collins, Colorado.



Grand Opening Weekend April 16, 17 & 18

Join us as we open the Kosek Building in Czech Village! Explore our new exhibition, *Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood*, then tour our administrative offices, classroom and Museum Store.

- **Donor Reception.** Friday, April 16. By invitation only.
- **Member and Volunteer Open House.** Saturday, April 17, 9 – 11 a.m.
- **Ribbon Cutting.** Saturday, April 17 at 11 a.m. with musical guests, Czech Heritage Singers and Světlušky, a children's folk ensemble. FREE ADMISSION from Noon – 4 p.m.
- **Public Open House.** Sunday, April 18, Noon – 4 p.m. FREE ADMISSION.

More Ways to Celebrate at the 33rd Annual Houby Days May 14, 15 & 16

2009 was a successful comeback year for the Czech Village Association's signature event. Avid festival-goers filled the streets and enjoyed this springtime celebration that honors the widely revered and stealthily collected *houba* (mushroom).

This year is even better, with more events and broad community collaboration. Take in the parade, enjoy a bike race or try your luck at the cabbage roll contest. The Miss Czech & Slovak Iowa talent contest is sure to entertain, too. The NCSML welcomes the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers, to delight audiences with a profusion of colorful, traditional dances.



Of course, the festival begins with the Taste of Czech & Slovak, on Friday, May 14. Brought to you by the Museum Guild of the NCSML, this event is hard to improve upon. Crowds

swarm from 5 p.m. until the food is gone — so plan to arrive early for this uniquely delicious tasting event. This year you'll have over 30 foods to sample and will find many opportunities for homespun camaraderie. This year's taste will be held at St. Ludmila Church Social Hall, 211 21st Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids.

Visit www.NCSML.org for a complete Houby Days schedule.

Kitty Chadima enjoys Taste of Czech & Slovak

Emil Viklický = Incomparable Jazz June 4

As a composer, Emil Viklický is renowned for his bold synthesis of modern jazz with the melodies and tones of Moravian folk songs, making him a musician of distinction among contemporary jazz artists. Viklický often performs in international ensembles during his worldwide tours, which have included performances in the United States, Japan, Mexico, Israel, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Finland, and Norway. The June 4 concert marks his sixth visit to Cedar Rapids and the NCSML. Visit www.NCSML.org for event details and ticket information.



Preservation Seminars May 1 & 8

Remember seeing pictures of flood-damaged items from the NCSML's artifact and library collections? Find out how experts at the Chicago Conservation Center and the University of Iowa Libraries Preservation Department assisted in the recovery of these flood-damaged items, learn how these damaged items have been restored, and see the end results.

Presenters include NCSML Curator Stefanie Kohn, NCSML Library Director David Muhlena, and preservation experts from the Chicago Conservation Center and the University of Iowa Libraries Preservation Department. The library seminar will be held in conjunction with the American Library Association's first Preservation Week, May 9-15.



A conservator restores a phonograph record cover

Do you have a beloved artifact in need of conservation? Come to the seminars to learn best practices for conserving your family heirlooms, and what to do should they get wet, moldy or brittle. FREE and open to the public.

Visit www.NCSML.org for details.

May 1 seminar:

Best practices for the preservation of family heirlooms. Presented by Curator Stefanie Kohn and preservationists from the Chicago Conservation Center.

May 8 seminar:

Best practices for the preservation of books, personal papers and related items. Presented by Library Director David Muhlena and the University of Iowa Libraries Preservation Department.

A post-BrewNost! Toast

On October 16, 2009, the *BrewNost!* committee welcomed more than 640 fun-seeking beer fans to the sixth annual *BrewNost!* fundraiser for the NCSML.

The Cedar Rapids Museum of Art was transformed for the event. Guests enjoyed the music of the eclectic SlovCzech Trio in a spacious (and warm!) outdoor tent; perused the silent auction and market finds; and of course, brimmed with enthusiastic praise for the international tour of beers and hors d'oeuvres. A special treat this year: the CRMA opened its galleries — including the NCSML exhibit, *Treasures from the National Collection*.



www.NCSML.org

We raise our glasses to all who made this year so spectacular — the outstanding *BrewNost!* Committee (with special congratulations to co-chairs Hilery Livengood and Tom DeBoom); presenting sponsors Alliant Energy and CRST International; and additional sponsors, auction/market donors, and patrons. Our cup runneth over. *BrewNost!* netted over \$69,500 for the NCSML's operating budget — almost \$5,000 over goal!

Cheers! Na zdraví!



Jane & Mike Melloy with Sue & Ron Olson (left to right)

More Ways to Stay Connected

The NCSML is getting a digital makeover! Since the launch of our new website last August, we've embraced social media as a way to connect with current and potential members. We're just getting started, so help us build a strong network by visiting our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages. Tell your friends, too!

Monthly e-newsletters and event updates are being introduced this spring as well. Sign up at www.NCSML.org.

Website development will continue in 2010 as we add more content and revamp the online store. See what's new and let us know what you think — just click "Contact Us."

Including more online communication means printing less — but don't worry, you can still receive two beautiful issues of MOST every year, unless you choose to go tree-free.





IN THE GALLERY

A Story of Restoration

By Stefanie Kohn, curator

Two years ago in June, we pulled some 1,100 artifacts from the slime and sediment that remained after the record-setting flood waters receded. Anyone who has suffered the loss of family heirlooms, prized possessions or sentimental mementoes will understand the pain and sorrow we all experienced during those terrible, exhausting and intense days of June 2008. By "we," I mean to include not only the NCSML staff and volunteers, but also our donors and friends all over the world.

For months after the flood, I received innumerable inquiries about the fate of the artifacts. Sometimes it was a donor calling to ask if Grandma's *kroj* made it through and sometimes it was someone offering unique skills to help restore, clean or repair damaged items. In the months following the disaster, nearly all of the flood-affected artifacts were sent to expert conservators.

Now the artifacts are starting to come home. The obvious analogy I could make is to compare opening the box that contains a restored artifact to opening

a gift. Well, it is not anything like that. A present may be a surprise, either welcome or otherwise; it may be an expected treat; it may even be a disappointment. A box that contains something much valued, much loved and much lamented, something that one thought was hopelessly damaged beyond saving — when that box is opened to reveal a treasured artifact that is clean and whole — it's more like the joyous homecoming of a long-absent friend or relative one despaired of ever seeing again.

That's the way it felt when the Masaryk violin was returned to us.

The story of this beloved artifact begins with a rather ordinary violin made about 90 years ago in the city of Schönbach. A talented wood carver (name unknown) was commissioned to carve the head of Tomáš G. Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia, on the scroll. Carvings of composer Richard Wagner and the two-tailed Czech lion complete the work.

The violin has long been one of the NCSML's most treasured objects. It was

immersed in flood water which caused all the glue to degrade and dissolve. Imagine my horror when I opened the violin case to find a pathetic little pile of wood fragments surrounding the still-intact carved scroll.

It took expert luthier, Jim Reck, four months to clean and rebuild the violin. The Masaryk violin takes its rightful place in *Rising Above*, as an example of how flood-damaged artifacts are being conserved. Photos of the fragments will be on display alongside the beautifully restored instrument.



On display through June, 2010: *Treasures from the National Collection*. Located at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. Visit www.NCSML.org for details.

Kosek Project Made Possible By Generous Gifts

By Jason Wright, vice president for development

In April 2010, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library will open its newest facility and a groundbreaking exhibit, *Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood*. This important step in our flood recovery is made possible by a tremendous outpouring of support.

One of the first gifts received by the NCSML after the flood was from the government of the Czech Republic. This gift is being used to renovate the Kosek Building in Czech Village and to create an original exhibit that tells the story of the Czech immigrants in Cedar Rapids and how they are rising above the flood of 2008. Recently, the NCSML just received a second gift from our Czech friends, this time from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The State of Iowa, with a significant allocation through its I-JOBS program,

has also demonstrated support for the important work done by the NCSML. A portion of this allocation was used for the Kosek project.

Significant gifts have also been received from the Community and Momentum funds of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, Rockwell Collins, AEGON USA, United Fire & Casualty Insurance Company, David & Rose Marie Burke, Kenneth Johnson, KMD Foundation, Bill and Amy Severa, Henrietta B. Pons, Marc-Andre Pons, and Gary and Cathy Rozek.

The NCSML is eager to return home to Czech Village, and these individuals, foundations, corporations and governments have made it possible. Our profound thanks to those who have already contributed.

If you are interested in supporting the Kosek project, please contact Jason S. Wright, vice president for development (319-362-8500, jwright@ncsml.org).

V is for Versatile Volunteers

Q. How does a museum become great?

A. Through the tireless, targeted efforts of great people!

The Czech Fine Arts Foundation was established 35 years ago by volunteers with vision. They recognized the urgent need to preserve and perpetuate Czech and Slovak heritage for the enrichment of future generations. This early effort became the foundation for exciting accomplishments and growth that, 21 years later, culminated in our national museum.

That kind of accomplishment is the result of a lot of hard work by dedicated individuals who can do just about anything.

We're grateful for all of our volunteers, and would like to acknowledge several individuals who were instrumental contributors in 2009:

Volunteer Ann Kloubec contributed her many talents in the Museum Store. She kept track of the inventory of books, handled all of the shipping, organized the ornament inventory and served customers.

The Flood of 2008 made coordinating and executing programs a tremendous

challenge. In response, Lu Volsch and Carolyn Holubar assumed leadership roles to plan, coordinate, and supervise several of our most popular events. These included two "Cooking in Babi's Kitchen" demonstrations and the spring Houby Days activities.

As chairperson of the Museum Guild's Social and Hospitality Committee, Lu coordinated the annual "Taste of Czech and Slovak" event, and "Cookie Walk," resulting in record donations for both events! She also coordinated the receptions for numerous events.

The NCSML is fortunate to have such a diverse group of talented people who are so generous with their time. You can help continue the good work! Contact Andrea Jilovec at 319-362-8500 or AJilovec@NCSML.org.



New Oral History Project is Underway

By Rosie Johnston, oral history coordinator

Hundreds of thousands of Czechs and Slovaks fled their homeland during the communist era, many risking their lives in the process. Their stories about why and how they emigrated are sometimes dramatic, sometimes tragic, and essential to our understanding of the events that shaped the 20th century.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library launched a new project, Recording Voices and Documenting Memories of Czech and Slovak Americans, to record the personal stories, family sagas and community histories of Cold War era immigrants from Czechoslovakia who settled in Washington D.C., Chicago

and Cleveland. Their stories are personal, but they help explain monumental political and cultural shifts that occurred during the 20th century. In what we believe is the first project of its kind, we aim to gather the personal accounts of Czech- and Slovak-Americans and preserve their stories for future generations. The success of this project depends on strong participation from people like you.

- *Are you a Czech or Slovak immigrant living in Washington D.C., Chicago or Cleveland?*
- *Do you know someone with a story to tell?*
- *Do you have any resources that you think might be of value to us?*



If so, please contact Rosie Johnston, project coordinator, 319-362-8500, rjohnston@ncsml.org

"Recording Voices" has been made possible thanks to a grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The NCSML would also like to thank the Office of Slovaks Living Abroad, the Slovak Institute in Cleveland, the Czech Consulate in Chicago and the Chicago chapter of SVU for their cooperation on this project.

A Conversation with Zdeněk and Jarmila Hruban

By Rosie Johnston, oral history coordinator

Zdeněk Hruban was born in Píerov, Moravia, in 1921. His wife, Jarmila, was born around 200 miles away, on the Czech border with Bavaria. But it took traveling halfway around the world for the pair to meet each other, as graduate students at the University of Chicago in the 1950s. For both, Chicago was the end point of a journey which started years previously, when Communists seized power in the Hrubans' native Czechoslovakia in 1948. Once they settled in Chicago's Hyde Park for good, Zdeněk Hruban dedicated himself to a career in pathology and, on the side, established one of the largest collections of Czech and Slovak expatriate documentation in the world — the Archives of Czechs and Slovaks Abroad.



As part of the NCSML's "Recording Voices" oral history project, Rosie Johnston spoke to the Hrubans about the events that brought them to the United States, and their experiences of America.

You grew up in the First Republic (1918-1938) under President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, can you tell me a bit about what you remember of your school days?

Zdeněk: "I remember one teacher who had a good influence on me — he was called Professor Dědek and he was an expert on Comenius.

And we had a French teacher who I remember well, Mrs. Konarovská — I made a joke about her — I said that she was a religious person, because whenever I started to speak French she raised her hands and said 'mon dieu, mon dieu!'. My father, who was a mathematician, taught me mathematics at home in addition to what I was taught in school, and I read most of the works of Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy."

CONVERSATIONS

Jarmila: "I went to a village school in a place called Boubská, and my father was the head teacher. The school had three classes that covered eight grades. I, myself, from the sixth grade on, travelled to the nearest gymnázium (secondary school), which was in the town of Strakonice."

Jarmila, you lived near the German border, does that mean you grew up speaking both Czech and German?

Jarmila: "Well, at home we spoke Czech. Of course, if we went to Vimperk — to the dentist — we spoke German, but then the family doctor was Czech. But, you know, it depended what store you went to, and I think it was always who had the biggest selection which decided how one shopped."

"Zdeněk didn't mention it, but it was the same with him: four times, I spent one month during the summer with a German family learning German, and these German kids, during that time, were with my family learning Czech."

"We met in a restaurant in Pilsen, there was me and my father and this judge with his son or his daughter and they just switched the children, and that was it! Then we met again one month later — that was how people trusted each other! At that point I was around 12, 13, up to 16 years old."

Why did you decide to leave Czechoslovakia?

Zdeněk: "My sister's husband was the secretary of the American Institute in Prague. He was told that as soon as the prisons were empty he would be arrested, so I thought the best thing would be to go before they came after my family."

"I left in July 1948. My sister was already in Germany. I had a rucksack filled with dry salami and an English dictionary. I contacted my sister in Germany and she sent a guide who

took me across the border. He was a very brave man with no sense of danger. We crossed at night."

Jarmila: "My father had two sisters and three cousins who had moved to America — because where I came from was a poor region. They left for a better life. So I was pro-American, and I got clothes from America, and even at university I wore American clothes. So, I think I had a little bit of a reputation, you know, 'that girl, she has contacts.' It was a little bit exaggerated. When '48 came, we had to go and fill out forms about our political background [at university]. And I didn't pass this test."

"My brother left illegally in, I think, September 1948, which I'm sure was part of me failing that political test. So, I got the idea of leaving. It happened that my mother's cousin lived on the very border of Bavaria and Czech Republic, and he was the one who was supposed to catch all these illegal travelers."

"He was willing to take me across the border — so in March '49, I crossed the border over to Germany and ended up first in Munich in some processing station, and then I was shipped to Murnau, which was a former barracks turned into a refugee camp. And I think I was there for a year and a half."

You were both displaced by the Communist regime. In light of your experiences, would you say that Communism was a bad thing for Czechoslovakia?

Jarmila: "No, no, I mean, I have said it a hundred times; I was so lucky that I left the way I did in 1949, I am sure I would have ended up in jail. And with my background in philosophy — I would have had to teach Marxism — it just wasn't for me."

"I have to say though that, coming from that region, these poor people were pulled up by communism. The middle class there today is much, much bigger.

In the villages now you see cars. My father died because the doctor didn't want to drive to that village, and when the doctor would come, the kids would run after that car — it was something new for them. What was more common when someone was sick was that the priest came and prayed — and of course that person died. People died even giving birth to a child. It pulled poor people up. You have poor people now, but it is much different from what it was when I left."

One of the things that you are best known for today, Dr. Hruban, is your decision to found the Archives of Czechs and Slovaks Abroad. What made you create such a collection?

Zdeněk: "I wanted to preserve these [expatriate] newspapers for historians, because they contained the history of Czech emigrants, and in the Communist era there was no such collection being made in Europe. It took active participation to get newspapers from other places outside of Chicago. I went to Michigan and even Arizona to collect newspapers. Now, I believe researchers come from around the world to use the archives for research."

From all of the things you've collected, do you have a favorite?

Zdeněk: "We have a handkerchief which Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk used!"

The Archives of Czechs and Slovaks Abroad have grown exponentially from the three shelves they were originally allocated by the university librarian. Dr. and Mrs. Hruban continue to live nearby, and visit regularly, the collection that Zdeněk founded. The NCSML will be proud to feature footage from this, and other such interviews with Czech and Slovak Americans, on its website in the course of this coming year.

¹ "My God! My God!"

Easter Food Traditions

By Andrea Jilovec, director of programs and education

In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, as in nations and regions around the world, Easter is marked with special foods, carefully prepared to denote the significance of the holiday. Colorful Easter eggs, sweet Easter breads, ham, butter, horseradish are just some of the foods that may come to mind.

In some areas, especially in eastern Slovakia, many people still uphold a Byzantine Church tradition — on Easter Sunday, they go to Mass with a basket filled with symbolic foods which are blessed by the priest as part of the service.

Each basket is covered with an embroidered cloth. The traditional basket contains foods abstained from during lent: the Easter bread called pascha, Ham, hruška (egg cheese), klobasý (sausage), butter, hard-

boiled decorated eggs called kraslice, horseradish and chren (beet relish), bacon, and salt. The contents of the basket vary from family to family in terms of additional meats, wine, pastries, candy and other treats.

One very special Easter food tradition is that of baking the lamb cake, an important symbol of the Christian faith. In days past and present, people use a treasured lamb mold to bake a cake worthy of a place of honor on their holiday table. In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and in some communities in U.S. cities, you can walk into a bakery at Easter time and see shelves lined high with little lambs. Some will be covered in white fluffy frosting or powdered sugar, others with white coconut; still others may be glazed with chocolate, many with festive ribbons around their necks.

The recipe for Easter Lamb Sponge Cake was provided by former volunteer coordinator, Patricia Hikiji. As a teen, Hikiji worked in the Modern Bakery, located on 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, which was owned and operated at the time by Mary and James Benda. She remembers helping to fill the bakery with lamb cakes at Easter time. The recipe is from a recipe book given as a gift to Patricia in 1960 by bakery owners Mr. & Mrs. Benda. The book, *Czech National Cook Book*, by Marie L. Jandacek, is long out of print, and these original, rich recipes can no longer be found in today's cookbooks or even on the internet. Modern recipes can also be found in the NCSML Museum Guild cookbook, *Czech and Slovak Heritage: Family Stories, Traditions and Recipes*, for sale in the Museum Store.

Easter Lamb Sponge Cake • (Velikono ní Beránek)

- 2 eggs
- 5 egg yolks
- 5 egg whites
- 1 cup sugar
- juice from ½ lemon
- rind from ½ lemon
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- Optional: 1 to 2 insides of a peach stone, dried
- 2¾ cups flour
- Butter and flour for pan

ICING

- 1 egg white
- 6 tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Mix together 1 cup sugar, 5 egg yolks, 2 whole eggs, juice and rind from ½ lemon, and vanilla. Mix about ½ hour. Grate in 1 or 2 bitter almonds. Beat egg whites until stiff and mix into egg mixture alternately with sifted flour. Grease and flour lamb mold. Pour batter into mold and bake for about 25 minutes, or until golden-brown.

Carefully remove cake from mold and allow to cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar or decorate with icing.

Icing: Cream together 1 egg white, 6 heaping tablespoons powdered sugar and 1 tablespoon lemon juice and keep mixing until thick and smooth.



National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
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www.NCSML.org

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REBUILDING UPDATE

(continued from page 4)

collection storage and work space.

The board decision followed an extensive process of evaluation, during which the museum staff and board learned that — where it stands — the existing building could no longer be used to house exhibitions, artifacts and library collections.

"We simply cannot insure them in that location," said President/CEO Gail Naughton.

"The choice to move the building was determined to be the best way to preserve what has become an icon for Cedar Rapids and the museum's national and international constituency, while meeting the requirements of an accredited museum."

The next step is to design the new museum and library. Detailed engineering studies of the building site are underway, with the goal to make site improvements and

move the existing building in 2010. Construction of the new additions will begin in 2011 with plans to open the new facility in 2012.

Rebuilding the national museum is estimated to cost \$15 million (US), with the total for recovery at \$25 million. Naughton emphasized that the success of this project depends on the outstanding support from the museum's local, national and international circle of friends.

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