

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY



See pages 8 & 9

Volume 20 - Number 3 - September 1995



NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

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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 for new members.)

Deadline for receiving articles for the December issue is October 23.

THANK YOU

Volunteers who helped with the June newsletter were Amelia Youngbluth, Emma Davidson, Iva Jean Soukup and my husband, John. Folding, labeling and putting 1100 newsletters in zip code order is no small task but somehow we try to have fun doing it. Thanks a bunch!

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Since the opening of the new museum in Czech Village this spring, it has been the scene of many and varied activities. The naturalization ceremony in May for 88 new U.S. citizens was both inspiring and touching.

On June 30th several of us were asked to wear our Czech kroje to greet and welcome guests who came to the museum to the premiere showing of the Minisalon. The Minisalon is an exhibit that will visit 9 cities in the U.S.

The exhibit is a collection of "mini" boxes 6 inches by 6 inches by 2 inches. The boxes were given to Czech artists in 1984 during Communist suppression. It is an interesting exhibit. Viewers can almost sense the artist's frustration by the use of bones, ashes, and bent nails, while others had a more positive attitude and hopes for the future. After the Velvet Revolution the boxes were brought to life. A letter from President Clinton accompanies the exhibit.

On July 10th the Pardubicky Children's Choir and the Bratislava Boy's Choir performed in Cedar Rapids.

The Pardubicky Children's Choir was on a tour in the United States and competed in Des Moines for the International Children's Choral Festival. The choir was founded in 1960 in Pardubice. Their conductor Vlatislav Novak graduated from the Academy of Music in Prague.

The Bratislava's Boy's Choir, founded in 1982, appears in concerts with the Slovak National Theater and Vienna State Opera. Their conductor Magdalena Rovnakova holds a degree from the Academy of Music in Bratislava.

The 350 seats in WFLA Heritage Hall filled quickly with the overflow crowd sitting in Roman L. Hruska Hall. Each group presented an outstanding concert. For the finale both choruses sang together to delight the audience to a standing ovation. A reception of kolaches, cookies and lemonade concluded an evening of spectacular entertainment. Local families hosted the 90 children and adults in their homes.

The museum is alive with cultural activities which our Czech community and city are justly proud of.

Now let us prepare for the dedication ceremony of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in October!

Adeline L. Volesky

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

As I write this we've just had some scorching days to prove it's really summer!

We had the double pleasure of having two children's choirs visit in early July. One came from Pardubice in the Czech Republic and one from Bratislava, Slovakia. The singers were exuberant, the music was good, and the crowd was large enough to spill out into the Roman L. Hruska Hall of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

We had the conductor of the Pardubice Choir, Vlastislav Novak, as our overnight guest and enjoyed his stay with us as well. We were a bit surprised to find that Vlastislav knew one of our relatives in Pardubice. Sometimes it seems like a small world.

As you read this, the student ambassadors will be returning from their one month homestay in the Czech Republic. We hope to hear a new round of stories of their adventures.

Until next time . . . Na Shledanou!

Dave Faltis, President

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With the increasing costs of attending college, it has been a long time hope and goal of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. to provide a small scholarship to several students.

With the anonymous donation (Mum's the Word, June Issue page 13) and proceeds from the donated quilt, we feel we will be financially capable to do so in 1996.

All we are lacking are the rules and regulations for scholarships. We are seeking volunteers who are knowledgeable in this area. If you feel qualified or experienced, call David Faltis

or Charles Krejci . Your

input would be appreciated.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND QUILT

Dorothy Dvorak, wife of our financial secretary Lovell Dvorak, donated a hand pieced quilt 90 x 108 with a red, white and blue star pattern.

Tickets are in books of five are \$5.00. Those wishing to order by mail may write: Charles Krejci,

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

(See photo in June 1995 issue on page 10 and additional information — Editor)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In the December issue of Naše České Dědictví, there was a small article about an exhibit on Czech opera singer Jarmilla Novotná. I have enclosed some additional information on the 1942 recording which I think your readers will find of interest. I do not know if you print submissions such as this, but I have spent many years researching Czechoslovak history and culture (including extensive research on Lidice and the Illinois memorial, and on Jan Masaryk) and would enjoy contributing from time to time.

(see page 10)

Sincerely,

Carol Jean Smetana

Mr. Krejci:

I am sending a check to cover cost of one book of tickets on the quilt. It looks beautiful, should be a great fund raiser. Because I do quilting it is of much interest to me.

My husband is related to Melvina Svec, so we have visited her in Cedar Rapids several times, and have been in the (old) museum. We look forward to a visit to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library some day.

I find many interesting articles in the newsletter of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. Thanks to those who help get it out to the members of the Foundation.

My husband's grandparents were born in Czechoslovakia, are buried in Cedar-Rapids.

Mrs. George (Oppha) Stancel

(Name was Stanzl, now spelled Stancel)

July 10, 1995

Dear Editor:

I am seeking historical information about the town of Klatovy, about 25 miles south of Plzen, and the surrounding area in the Czech Republic. In particular, I'd like to learn what events or circumstances caused people to leave there in 1848 and '49. If any readers have first-hand knowledge of Klatovy or can direct me to a reference work, I'd be most grateful.

Sincerely,

Oscar Stepanek

Dear Mrs. Volesky,

Thank you so much for coming to Arthur School and sharing your expertise on Czechoslovakia. We enjoyed learning about the Czech culture and history of the Czech people in Cedar Rapids. You brought so many beautiful things that helped the children appreciate all the wonderful Czech crafts. The boys and girls are writing books about Cedar Rapids. Enclosed is a copy of one of their reports that was written about your presentation.

Sincerely

Kathy Moucka, teacher 3rd grade
Arthur School



Czech Unit, Arthur School, May 8, 1995

Maura

May 10, 1995

Czech People

Mrs. Volesky talked to our class about the people from Czechoslovakia who settled in Cedar Rapids. The Czech people moved to the United States because some of their family was already there and another reason was, they had heard it looked like their home.

One more reason was because of freedom there. The Czech people stayed together, like, they had their own cemeteries and built their own schools and had their own dances and had loan companies. Czech people made lots and lots of crafts, like a costume called a kroj and made their own

puppets, pastry brushes, cornucopia dolls, eggs, and braided willows with ribbons tied on them. One more thing they made was a doll called Old Lady Winter. To the Czechs, food is important. Lots of Czechs love pork and dumplings and especially cabbage.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY AT THE NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

The naturalization ceremonies took place Saturday, May 27, 1995 in Czech Village in the Nat'l Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It was an appropriate location and setting for the new 88 Americans. Chief Judge Michael Malloy presided. Selina Mally, 6th grader from Wilson Middle School sang the National Anthem. Mr. Max Burbach, Naturalization Examiner called the roll of petitioners for admission to citizenship. Rep. Ron Corbet, Speaker of the Iowa House, from Cedar Rapids, gave the address.

Of the 88 new citizens, 24 countries were represented. 18 were from Vietnam, 8 from India, 7 Philippinoes, 6 each from Canada, Iran, Germany, China and Mexico. Other countries represented were Sierra Leone, Korea, Laos, Taiwan, England, Jordan, Bolivia, Ireland, Japan, United Kingdom, and Argentina.

There was one Czech in the group, Karl Odwarka. He left his homeland in 1945 and came to America in 1957. Odwarka said he found the American dream come true. He is a former professor in the University of Northern Iowa.

In order to gain citizenship, a person must live in the country for five years, have knowledge of the U.S. government and Constitution, read, write and speak English.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and distribution of certificates, a reception of kolaches and coffee was held. Each new citizen was given 2 complimentary tickets to attend the Ethnic Fest at the Cedar Rapids Roundhouse just across the street from the museum.

The Ethnic Fest is sponsored by the Czech Heritage Fd'n. and the Greeks. Ten ethnic groups participated in the annual event with ethnic foods being served and a lot of good and varied entertainment.

CZECH WEEK IN TEXAS

Dr. Eva Roubalova, Czech Professor from Charles University of Prague visited the Texas State Capitol this spring. She attended a hearing and testified in support of a House Resolution to declare the last week in October as "Czech Week" in Texas. This resolution passed both houses making the last week in October each year a "Czech Week" beginning in 1995.

Dr. Roubalova is a professor in the Linguistic Dept. of Charles University. She teaches Czech to English speakers.

(From Cesky Hlas)

THE EARLY PEOPLE OF GEORGIA

Who were the early people of Georgia? Many people think because Georgia was an English colony subject to the Trustees from 1733 to 1754 and that the early settlers were all Englishmen from London. Many different nationalities made up the history of Georgia. James Oglethorpe was interested in establishing many settlements.

Oglethorpe brought the people from the "Anne" to Savannah in 1733.

Joseph's Town was about four miles below the mouth of the Abercorn Creek on the Savannah River. It was settled by two Scotsmen and about 30 servants. They soon left because of malaria.

Hampsteas was settled in 1733 by 12 German families and High Gate by 12 French Huguenot families. Neither colony lasted very long.

Action was in the suburbs of Savannah. It was settled by indentured servants made up of Dutch, English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh.

Irene was settled by the Moravians in 1735. It was between Savannah and Ebenezer. The Moravians had been driven out of Bohemia into Saxony. They could not speak English, and they had problems in Georgia because they were pacifists. The Moravians had left by 1740 for the more peaceful area of Pennsylvania. For a short time they had stayed in Georgia on the Pipemakers Creek where Georgians had earlier met with the Indians.

(Excerpts from The Family Tree)

TED HLUBUCEK — MR. CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On November 24, 1974, Ted Hlubucek locally known as Mr. Czechoslovakia, starred in a 30 minute movie on a Czech family living in America during the 1920's. A spokesperson for the Kirkwood Educational media department said Hlubucek received the part because his Czech was "absolutely elegant."

Hlubucek, who immigrated to the U.S. from Czechoslovakia in 1920, worked 27 years for the W. F. Severa Pharmaceuticals. The company specialized in the development of home remedies. Hlubucek's fluency in Czech and Slovak, and German was invaluable to the business. He learned English after arriving in the United States.

(From the Gazette)

ETHNIC THANK YOU'S

The committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped in the Roundhouse for the Ethnic Fest. If it was not for the volunteers, it would be impossible to participate in such an event.

BRIDGE OF LIONS HISTORY

The crossing of the Cedar River at 16th Avenue was not accomplished until nearly 20 years after the first bridge at Cedar Rapids. A bridge was authorized in 1874 to connect 14th Avenue on the east side and 16th Avenue on the west, one mile downstream from the center of the city. This bridge was to be an iron structure of at least five spans, built on the bowstring pattern. The location was a strategic one for the large T. M. Sinclair packing plant. Sinclair made the largest contribution (\$9,500) toward the cost of the \$27,000 bridge.

For several weeks in August in 1908, city officials discussed the need to replace the 1875 bridge. Designed for wagons, the coming of motor vehicular traffic added to its decay. By the summer of 1908 the bridge was closed to heavy loads.

Plans for a replacement bridge was announced in August 1908 in the newspapers. Councilman Charles D. Huston led the plan. He was the head of the department of streets and public improvements. The bridge was to be built without a tax increase. The city council authorized the issuance of bonds to fund the construction of this second replacement bridge. It was to be similar in design to that erected earlier at Second Avenue and completed just two years earlier. It called for a cement rail and the bridge was to be wired for electric lighting and have a conduit for telephone, telegraph as well as space for gas mains.

Ira G. Hedrick, a consulting engineer from Kansas City, Mo. was selected to design the 16th Avenue Bridge.

By August 1909 the old iron bridge was moved to a temporary location downstream where it was used for light traffic only. When the replacement bridge was built, the original bridge was demolished and auctioned to a commercial scrap iron company from Chicago.

The new 16th Avenue was to be opened by December 2, 1909 but was re-scheduled for a later date due to high water and cold weather. It was opened in the spring of 1910.

The 16th Avenue Bridge represented a "state-of-the-art" design in 1909 but it was an "art" that evolved rapidly. The basic form of the arches and piers was modeled on stone bridges from the Renaissance and the 18th and 19th centuries in Europe. But the materials, reinforced concrete was quite new, especially in America.

This bridge was replaced by the Bridge of Lions. The Bridge of Lions was designed by Shive-Hattery and dedicated on July 17, 1989. The new \$1.47 million bridge includes eight concrete lions. It replaces the bridge that was built in 1910 and demolished because of deterioration.

Linn County Historical Society

CZECH SETTLEMENT

Czech immigrants settled in Cedar Rapids as early as 1852 and constituted the most cohesive group in the city (and Linn County). The county was the center for Czech settlement in Iowa. By 1870 there were 128 Czech households. That grew to 387 out of 3,089 in 1877. Czech immigration was the strongest between 1865 and 1890. In 1890, 3,327 of the 10,928 Czechs in Iowa lived in Linn County.

In 1870s Czech-owned businesses started on (First Street East?) By 1881 a distinct Czech commercial sector had shifted to Third Street S.E. This move reflected the increasing Czech population around the St. Wenceslaus Church and the ZCJB, a fraternal organization.

The growing Cedar Rapids Czech settlement eventually burst its confines near the east side Sinclair packing plant and crossed the river, heading over the 16th Avenue Bridge. In 1906 Louis J. Pochabradsky built the first Czech business on 16th Avenue, a grocery store. In 1908 another Czech, Frank J. John, opened a harness shop. John Kucera built a hardware store and Frank Muzik opened a cigar factory.

By the 1940's Czech shops and businesses filled two blocks along 16th Avenue just beyond the bridge. The 16th Avenue district was an extension of Czech commercial, social, and religious institutions found across the bridge off 14th Avenue.

The Bohemian Savings & Loan Ass'n established in 1891 and the Bohemian Mutual Ins. organized in 1896 helped Czech residents to build their own homes. Most Czechs built in the extreme southwest and southeast sections of the city in the vicinity of the 16th Avenue Bridge.

The area around the 16th Avenue Bridge has long been Czech. Use of Riverside Park for festivities in 1906 honored the city's semi-centennial and also Bohemian Day. A boulder was dedicated at the park honoring both events, and a speaker claimed that "Cedar Rapids is known as the Bohemian Athens of America."

Because of the strong flavor around the 16th Avenue Bridge, a certain mythology exists. It was said to have been built to resemble the famed Karl IV Bridge in beloved Prague. The importance of the 16th Avenue Bridge is the physical link it provides with the two sides of the important Czech settlement in Cedar Rapids, and its symbolic standing as a reminder of Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Linn County Historical Society

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

Have you ever wondered why 16th Avenue is called Czech Village?

Following a meeting of the merchants on the avenue, the Czech Village Association was born. The year was Sept. 1972. Officers were elected, board members appointed and committees selected. The first coordinator was Pat Martin.

Bob Caldwell, of the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce, admired the Czech people. He held them in high esteem and hoped someday the avenue would develop into a tourist attraction. "Their culture, their heritage, and their history should be preserved and perpetuated," he said. For these reasons the Czech Heritage Foundation had its beginning. The organization planned events to draw people to the area. Houby Days in May became an annual event. The Fall Festival brought hundreds of people to the village. St. Joseph's Day parade and dance in March are big events. St. Mikulas Day in December brings families out to see "Christmas in Czechoslovakia."

As Czech interests grew, so did the need for a Czech Museum and Library to house artifacts and books. The people wanted their talents and artifacts preserved. The beautiful cut glass, the garnets, laces and embroidery, "kroje", egg art all were artifacts for everyone to enjoy. So, another organization came into being known as Czech Fine Arts Foundation. The purpose was to build a museum where precious artifacts could be preserved.

After years of work, planning and fund raising, the National Czech & Slovak Museum Library became a reality.

The beautiful structure on the west bank of the Cedar River, will be formally dedicated October, 1995. "Large oaks from little acorns grow."

I respected the opinion of Bob Caldwell and his deep interest in the Czech community. With his persuasion, I decided to try for a meeting of the merchants on the Avenue. That assemblage set the wheels in motion for greater things on 16th Avenue.

by Charles Krejci

THE INTERNATIONAL TRIO

At 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, September 16, 1995 in the lovely, historic St. Wenceslaus Church in Spillville, The International Trio (Howard Abel, piano; Leopold La Fosse violin; Terry King, cello) will perform an array of music by Czech composers, with special attention to the work of Antonin Dvorak. The organ in St. Wenceslaus Church is one of the few instruments once played by the great composer — in this case — Dvorak that is still in existence.

(from Iowa Humanities bulletin)

CZECH NATIONAL CEMETERY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

On May 29, 1995 Governor Terry Branstad was the featured speaker for the Memorial Day service at the Czech National Cemetery in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The program also included Mayor Larry Serbousek.

The memorial service was of significant importance. The cemetery was 100 years old this year. The cemetery does not show its age. It is a well manicured resting place with a lot of beautiful shade trees.

The granite marker at the entrance reads Czech National Cemetery-Český Národní Hřbitov.

Upon entering, there is a tall monument honoring veterans of Czech descent who died in combat in World War II. Names are inscribed on the monument.

The earlier burials were at Oak Hill Cemetery because the first Czech settlers settled on the east side of the river.

On August 17, 1895 a group of Czechs formed an organization, Bohemian Cemetery Association, to acquire land. Czech organizations contributed \$200 each to purchase 14 acres of land along C St. S.W. The purpose of the association was to sell affordable lots.

The first burial was Antonie Strakova in May 1896. The remains of a majority of the Czech buried in Oak Hill Cemetery were later moved to the new cemetery.

Today there are 7,664 souls buried there and the cemetery consists of 34 acres. A new columbarium with stained glass windows was dedicated in 1988.

Memorial Day services are held every year since early 1900. It is a strong tradition to visit and decorate graves often. This Czech tradition shows by the many flowers that can be seen during a visit to the Czech National Cemetery.

NAVRATILOVA

Martina Navratilová, Czech-born semiretired tennis idol, signed to work as a commentator at Wimbledon for HBO sports. It was announced that her agent is in talks for Navratilova to be a commentator of CBS on the United States Open.

(from CZECH THE NEWS)

CHESS TOURNAMENT

The New York Chess Tournament in April was won by Pavel Blatny, a Czech grandmaster. The grandmaster Zbynek Hracek of the Czech Republic tied with grandmasters Lembit Oil of Estonia, Joel Benjamin of Manhattan and Petr Svidler of Russia for second place.

(From CZECH THE NEWS)



First Museum in house on C Street S.W.



Second Museum on 16th Avenue S.W.



Ground breaking October 1993.



Work begins.

NEW BUILDING

(National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library News)

Five years ago, representatives from the Museum & Library and Czech Heritage Foundation began making plans for the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Two short years ago, ground was broken.

We have come along way in five years, and one very important lesson was learned from this monumental project. When a museum and library is enlarged from 2,600 sq. ft. to 18,000 sq. ft., not only are there growing pains . . . it ends up much longer than originally anticipated to reach major goals.

Work on the ground and north parking lot is still in progress and will be completed this fall. The Archive and Cultural Center is scheduled for completion in spring of 1996. The permanent exhibit hall, the single most important aspect of the entire project, is currently in development. It, of course, is expected to change continuously so that it is fresh and interesting to the patron each time they come to visit.

In spite of the short list of items which remain unfinished, just look at what we have accomplished. Many said it couldn't be done. There are those who thought out loud, "not in my lifetime!" The new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is a remarkable testament to the perseverance of all who generously contributed time and talent and financial donations. Now, after five years of planning and construction, thanks to everyone's generous support nationwide, we have a beautiful new building which is befitting the cherished collection we preserve and protect.

Your new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library building is complete and it is time to celebrate! Mark you calendars and join us for an entire week chocked full of activities and events.

On October 17-22, 1995, the landmark National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library building will be dedicated not only to honor Americans of Czech, Moravian and Slovak ancestry, but to all Americans. Everyone, regardless of nationality, can be proud of this magnificent facility. It not only represents the best of our ethnic

G DEDICATION!

heritage, but tells the even greater story of how a national community can come together to build on a dream, and that dreams do come true.

Dignitaries and guests from around the world have been invited to attend and participate. During the week-long celebration, plans are to include presentations of Czech/Slovak film, marionette puppet theatre, and traditional ethnic cuisine lunches and dinners. Two special exhibits are coming to the Museum: Folk-art treasures from Ohio and an exquisite Bohemian cut glass exhibit from Michigan. Activities are planned to commemorate Czech School's 125th year and Czech Heritage Foundation's perpetuation of our heritage through education and support of our youth.

Special events also include a grand parade on the morning of Saturday, October 21, followed by the cornerstone laying at 11:00 a.m., directed by the Grand Lodge of Iowa. That evening, a celebration dinner (black tie optional) will be held at the Five Seasons Center. The program will feature speakers and guest artists from across the country.

On Sunday evening, a dinner dance at Collins Plaza Hotel will cap off the week's celebration!

If you're not already a member of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, now would be the ideal time to join. Members receive the latest information and museum and library news by way of the *Most* (*Trans. The Bridge*). For membership information, call the Museum at 362-8500.

John Rocarek
Development Director



The Museum



Framework.



Enclosing the structure.



Putting on bricks.



Tower goes up.

SONGS OF LIDICE

In the spring of 1942, Jarmilla Novotná, the renowned Czechoslovak soprano, and Jan Masaryk, son of Tomáš and Charlotte Garrigue Masaryk, spent a day in a New York City studio collaborating on a 78-rpm recording of 15 Czech and Slovak folk songs. At the time Novotná was the reigning prima donna at the Metropolitan Opera, and Masaryk was the Foreign Minister of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile, headed by Eduard Beneš and based in London. Among the songs they recorded was "Ach synku, synku (Oh My Son, My Son)" reportedly Tomáš Masaryk's favorite folk song (it was sung by a children's choir at Jan Masaryk's funeral in March 1948).

The RCA Victor recording was called "Songs of Lidice." The June 10, 1942, destruction of Lidice, by the German army, the murder of its men and teen-age boys, and the deportation of its women and children to concentration camps had incensed people around the world. In liner notes for the original recording, Jan Masaryk wrote: "Jarmilla Novotná used to sing these songs to my father. Today both Jarmilla and I are refugees from Hitler's vulgar terribleness and we did these songs once more for ourselves. The simple immortal folk of that unhappy village sang all these songs, and it is in their memory that Jarmilla Novotná is offering them to the American public."

Masaryk was renowned in diplomatic circles for his prowess on the piano, and friends noted that he was adept at improvising and could play any tune by ear. As a young adult, Jan Masaryk lived in the U.S. for several years, during which time he helped support himself by playing the piano in movie houses to accompany silent films. (A biographical portrait published in November 1947 issue of *Harper's Magazine* reported that Jan had often underscored the moving pictures' love scenes with Mendelssohn's Spring Song, and heralded the hero's race to the rescue with a crescendo of Schubert's "Marche Militaire.")

In 1983, Jarmilla Novotná was asked by the British company Pearl Records to collaborate on a reissue anthology to profile her acclaimed career, and she included renditions of "Songs of Lidice." The two record set, "Jarmilla Novotná: The Artist's Own Selection of Her Finest Recordings" (GEMM 26 1/2) was distributed in the U.S. by Qualiton Imports, Ltd. 39-28 Crescent St., Long Island, NY 11101, and may be easier to find than the original 78-rpm recordings.

By Carol Jean Smetana

IOWA'S COWS VERSUS SLOVAK COWS

Iowa dairy cows may one day have an impact on milk production in Slovakia.

Iowa State University dairy extension specialist Marjorie Faust has spent seven weeks in Slovakia in 1994 studying the country's dairy industry.

What she saw convinced her that Iowa's high-quality genetics could boost Slovakia's dairy industry and boost Iowa's markets for dairy breeders.

Slovakia has not had access to western genetics for a long time. Slovakia, like many formerly communist nations, is struggling to adapt to a free-market economy.

Many Slovakian milking herds include cows that have roots similar to those traditional U.S. beef herds with annual production of less than 7,000 pounds per cow, compared with 15,000 pounds per cow in Iowa. Milk production for top Slovak herds is 13,500 pounds a year, compared to more than 30,000 pounds for top Iowa herds.

Faust convinced a delegation of Slovakian dairy specialists to visit Iowa last October.

During a tour of farms, the specialists were impressed with the Iowa cattle they saw.

Faust said cattle would be difficult to ship but they can be helped through developing a market for our genetic material.

CZECH PRINCE & PRINCESS

A Czech prince and princess will be selected to preside over events during next year's Czech activities. The Czech Heritage Fd'n. is encouraging youths between the ages of 12 to 16 years of age, of Czech background and a resident of Cedar Rapids and surrounding community, to enter.

Crowns will be awarded to the prince and princess along with a Czech costume, compliments of the Czech Heritage Fd'n. and a savings deposit.

Contestants are scored on a completed written entry stating basic information such as school/extracurricular activities, and a personal interview with a discussion of participation in some facet of his/her Czech heritage.

Registration forms may be obtained by writing to:

Sylvia Rohlena

Entry forms are due October 1, 1995.



Mother and daughter - L-R Anna Stepankova and Dana Stepankova

HOW A KROJ FOUND ITS WAY TO AMERICA

By Adeline Volesky

A kroj is the name of a highly stylized dress from Czechoslovakia. A young girl will learn various stitches and hand work. It may take several years to complete a kroj with expertise and finesse. Kroje are worn only on special occasions and last a lifetime since they are adjustable.

The two kroje you will read about are mine and my sister's and how they found their way 6,000 miles to Cedar Rapids, Iowa from Roznov pod Radhosti, Czech Republic.

Our mother was born in Czechoslovakia. She came to Iowa to join brothers and sisters already here. Many dear relatives remained in her native country. She corresponded regularly. To keep our mother posted about relatives she left behind, many photos were enclosed in the letters posted "from Czechoslovakia."

After our mother's passing in 1981, we saved her many letters and pictures because to throw them away is discarding your family and heritage. What's more, they were very interesting pictures!

To keep our relatives in Czechoslovakia posted about the "younger generation's well being in America," we wrote letters to keep our ties of communication open.

In early 1989, a picture postcard of our mother's caught our eye. It was a mother and daughter posing for a picture in their kroje. The inscription on the back of the postcard said "cervenec 1946 Maminka a Dana Stepankova." (June 1946 Mother and Dana Stepanek)

As we were getting deeply involved in Czech Heritage, Czech School, and as tour guides, we realized how special the people and the kroje in the picture postcard really were.

The same year we wrote to Dana and asked "What has become of 'maminka's and Dana's kroje from the picture postcard dated červen 1946?" She answered our letter by saying "both kroje are stored in my trunk. I no longer live in the region the kroj represents and since we are not yet a free country, you can have them. You are deserving of them."

In September 1990 and after the October 1989 Velvet Revolution, we landed in Vienna where the Stepaneks picked us up.

What a difference! Our two previous visits were scary experiences at the border with dogs, guns and guards. This time freedom filled the air. Guards smiled and greeted us.

After touring castles, caves, Wallachian Museum and the mountains, we tucked the two kroje inconspicuously midst our belongings, and never left them from our sight because they are treasures that gold cannot buy. They are also our heritage.



L-R: Adeline Volesky with Dana's kroj. Leona Poduska with Anna's kroj.

On May 29th, 1995 Dana Stepankova and her husband, Zdenek, arrived in Chicago for their first visit to the United States.

They were surprised by the vastness and open area of the Midwest, beautiful homes, well kept gardens, lawns and farm fields.

They were impressed with the quality and quantity of produce and food in supermarkets. They like the idea of our soft, sliced and wrapped bread. They were fascinated with the varieties of rolls, breads and pastries.

The buffet restaurants were a favorite place to eat with our large variety, eye appeal, selection, appetizing food and decor. We were reminded that we are a nation of food abundance and low cost.

After the Stepaneks attended our 50th wedding anniversary in June, visited friends and relatives and points of interest they returned to the Czech Republic leaving Chicago June 30th.

(Her maiden name was Stepanek and she married a Stepanek.)



L-R: Ing Zdenek Stepanek and Dana Stepankova



Paul Kosek

KOSEK FAMILY & BAKERY

Paul Kosek is the oldest son of Frank and Rose Pavlicek Kosek. Paul had twin brothers Stanley and Rodney. Rodney died at the age of four months.

Paul's grandparents were Charles (Karel) and Anna Hradecky Kosek. They were born in Bohemia in a province of Austria. They had seven children: Charles, an electrician and parks commissioner; George, national secretary of ZCBJ; Frank, operator of Woolworth stores in Nebraska; Rose who married Lud Prastka; Otto ran Woolworth Stores in Wisconsin; Ernest was a legislator; and a girl died in infancy.

Paul's grandfather was an entrepreneur. He would start a bakery and sell it to an employee and start another bakery. In 1904, Koseks came to Cedar Rapids and started a bakery on 16th Avenue in a small building. The following year they bought an adjoining tavern to expand the bakery. In 1913, they sold the bakery to an employee. Joseph F. Sykora was a baker for Koseks as well as for the new owners. In 1926, the bakery was sold again. This time it was purchased by Joseph Sykora who ran the bakery until Lester Sykora took over from his father.

Paul Kosek's father, Frank, often told how the children had to work in the bakery. Frank and his brother, Charles' mischief led to an egg fight. To avoid punishment, Frank hid in a crawlspace under the bakery where he could hear the conversation. Finally, after several hours, the parents' anger turned to concern and fear for Frank's safety. He crawled out and was welcomed into open arms.

In 1909, the Kosek boys watched the demolition of the first old steel bridge across the Cedar River. The boys threw pebbles at the demolition workers. In return, the iron workers tossed scrap

iron at the boys. In the evening, the boys retrieved the scrap iron and swapped the iron at Kucera's Hardware Store for fish hooks.

Paul Kosek and his wife Carol Zadnichek are residents of Cedar Rapids.

The present day owners and operators of the same bakery are Don & Sheila Janda.



C. K. Kosek, owner; Pechacek, baker; Jelinek, baker; Vavra, baker; Stodola, baker; Fred Kosek, baker; Mrs. C. K. Kosek, in door way; Ernest Kosek, child in arms; Otto Kosek, in door way; Anna Novak Machacek, clerk; Bozyske, wagon driver; Sheda, wagon driver; Heckle, wagon driver; Dressed as bakers are: Charles, George, Frank and Rose Kosek. C. K. Kosek Bakery, 73 - 16th Ave. S.W. - 1906.



1904 - Saloon on corner 16th Ave. & B St. S.W. before bakery was started by C. K. Kosek



C. K. Kosek Bakery - 1906



The Sixteenth Avenue Industrial Club, Cedar Rapids, Iowa — 1907. Top Row: Charles Tichy (Drugs), John Kucera (Hardware), John Novotny (Shoe Repair), Ed Buresh (Grocer). Middle Row: Frank Muzik (Cigar Maker), John Lorenc (Hardware), Frank Vacek (Shoe Repair), J. A. Victor (Dry Goods), Frank Turecek (Shoe Repair). Front Row: C. K. Kosek (Baker), Frank Miha (Saloon), Charles Turecek (Grocer), Louis Pochobradsky (Grocer), Joe Serovy (Butcher).



Cervenska's Bakery, 3rd Street S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa about 1897

MINISALON

(Nat'l Czech & Slovak Museum & Library News)

The Minisalon is a traveling exhibit from Prague. It was in the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library from July 1 to August 31. It will be in nine cities in the United States before returning to Prague.

The Minisalon's appearance was made possible after a 1994 meeting with President Clinton and President Havel.

The Minisalon was organized by Joska Skalník during communism and came to light after the 1989 Velvet Revolution.

It is a collection of small boxes where artists were able to express their feelings. It was an interesting exhibit because each artist had a unique way to express his emotions in the "mini" boxes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dues for membership to the Czech Heritage Fd'n. have remained at \$3.00 per year due to the generous donations which were included with your renewals. Dues have remained the same since 1974.

Donations in April were received from: Helen Kovach Peterson, Sandra Clayton, Arlene Erusha, Emil L. Novak, and Carol Jean Smetana.

Donations for May were from: Christine Coverly, Frank and Barb Edmunds, Vernon Flint, Rudolph H. Jansa, Lillian M. Johnson, Marvin Marek, and Vicky Whittemore,

June donations were received from: R. S. Bezdeny, George Hlavka, Nancy Pajeau, Franklin Barta, Edward Barvir, Sylvia Evans, Julia Heimann, Olga Jancik, Clementine Kinkor, Irene B. Konecny, Florence Kotleba, J. C. Kucera, Josephine Matizak, Betty Pavlinak, Joe and Mildred Pesek, Florence Ramsay, Joseph Secl, Pamela Shipp, Violette Steinke, Jim and Karen Vlasek, and Sonja J. Younker.

JAN SARKANDER CANONIZED

On May 21, 1995 an event of historic importance took place in Olomouc, Moravia in the Czech Republic.

Pope John Paul II declared Jan Sarkander a saint during Mass.

Jan was born in 1576 in Skocznow, today's Polish Silesia. Sarkander's family was mostly Bohemian. While Jan's family lived in Pribor, he studied at the Bohemian parish school. He finished school in 1603 in Prague's Jesuit College. He studied Theology in Austria and was ordained to the priesthood in Brno in 1609.

During the Thirty Years War, Jan was accused by a powerful and wealthy landowner of plotting with a Polish baron to have Poland invade Moravia. He was ordered to reveal what he had heard at confession. When he refused he was burned with a torch. He lived for a month fearlessly defending the right of the church. He was accused of rekindling the Catholic faith among the followers of Jan Hus, and reconciled about 250 of them to the Catholic Church.

Czech Protestants criticize the canonization of Sarkander. Protestants accuse Sarkander of high treason by aiding Polish Catholic forces, and portray him as a ruthless counter-reformist.

During Pope John Paul II's visit to the Czech Republic and canonization, the Pope's theme was for ecumenical forgiveness for "the wrongs inflicted on non-Catholics in the turbulent history of the Czech people. At the same time, I pledge the Catholic Church's forgiveness for whatever harm her sons and daughters suffered." He added by saying he came to the Czech Republic as a "pilgrim of peace and love and tragic events of the centuries must help establish a new attitude and relationship."



MATICE SKOLSKA

Czech School of Cedar Rapids dates back to 1870. The immigrants from Czechy, Moravia, and Slovakia realized the need of teaching Czech to the youth so they could communicate with their relatives in the homeland. A loosely knit committee of Business and Fraternal leaders provided for the teachers and the site of the classes. The first teacher of record was John B. Suster. Classes were held in the mornings of Saturday and Sunday in the Bohemian Turner Hall (220-7th Ave. S.E.), vacant stores, Brown Hotel, CSPS Hall, and up to 225 pupils were taught in the Monroe and Madison Schools.

In 1892, Czech language classes were taught in the basement of St. Wenceslaus parochial school. During the same year a society to plan for the erection of a Czech school building was organized. The organization was known as DAMSKA MATICE SKOLSKA. By means of a bazaar and program the women built up a fund for a proposed building. The first money donated was from the CESKA BESEDA in the amount of \$11.75.

In the summer of 1900, W. F. Severa guaranteed the furniture for all the classrooms and for the library.

In March of 1894 Matice Skolska was incorporated (page 495-498 Book IV Linn Co. March 17, 1894). Signatories were J. W. Kouba, Frank Kurka, James A. Bartos, V. A. Jung, and John Vosmek. The school was to be built at 10th Ave. and 2nd St. S.E. Frank (Frederick) Brown offered to contract the building for \$10,000. It was the first building in the U.S. to be used exclusively as a Czech School. There were 3 classrooms. One in the Matice Skolska had 2 rooms to accommodate 54 people and 1 in the basement for young children. The top floor was an auditorium, complete with stage and a library.

After the dedication, the ladies of Damska Matice Skolska continued to pay the debt on the structure. The school was non-sectarian and free. It was divided into 3 grades in each of which the people sang Czech songs, studied the history and geography of Bohemia, and learned to write, speak, and read the language. In the early school,

girls were taught how to make lace, knit, and to embroider. The building was also used by older girls for night classes.

Since 1905, Damska Matice Skolska has undertaken the maintenance of the school. Funds to pay the teachers were secured from Czech lodges and the Sokols. A small charge of 50¢ was later charged for the summer term.

The minutes of Damska Matice Skolska in 1937 gives this report: Henry Jambor had 21 students, Jaroslava Holubova Hays with 16, Marie Chmelickova 22, Marie Junova 28, with a total enrollment of 96 and a total tuition of \$33. The last class was held in 1952.

Summer classes were held since then in Hays School, Grant and Van Buren Schools before Wilson Middle School became available.

The Matice Skolska building still stands today at 927- 2nd St. S.E. which once was a large Czech community.

It was sold to a Czech butcher, Andrew Polehna, who used it as a sausage factory until 1974. It is presently used as a warehouse.

This area along the Cedar River is considered for restoration. Matice Skolska was well built and maintained and it is hopeful the school can be preserved and restored.

The organization Damska Matice Skolska is still an active organization that supports and oversees the continuation of the children's summer Czech School held in Wilson Middle School.

Interest from the funds from the sale of Matice Skolska still provides college scholarships to students of Czech ancestry.

Former Teachers Now Retired

Former teachers of Czech School are: Marie Cada, Rose Dryml, David Hruska, Leona Kaplan, Vera Kurka, Marge Nejd, Rose Polehna, Elsie Sova, Mana Zlatohlavek, Elsie Drahovzal, Pati Hikiji, Leona Janesovsky, Ed Kuba, Sr., Ann Libor, Millie Pesek, Janet Ransom, Rose Smrcek and Adolph Topinka.

Teachers this summer were: Olga Drahozal, Leona Poduska and Bessie Dugena.

Former Teachers Deceased

Charles Bezdecny, Georgia Buresh, Henrietta Buresh, Marie Charvat, Marie Chmelicek, Mildred Drahovzal, A. Drevikovsky, Jan Fiala, Frank Grubhoffer, Joseph Hajek, Bela Henderson, Mary Hlubucek, Ted Hlubucek, Frank Hradecky, Sarka Hrbek, Vlasta Hrbek, Pavla Hromadka, Mae Hurka, Joseph Jadrnicek, Henry Jambor, Vaclav Janda, Anton Jenista, Mary Jun, Esther Hronik Klersey, Josephine Lebeda, Jan B Letovsky, Marie Machovsky, Emily Matousek, Emily Mojzis, Karen Mojzis, Elsie Hrbek Naxera, Hermina Netolicky, Beatrice Pidima, Vac. Prasil, Barbara Riha, Bertha Sadowsky, Henry Schorz, Mary Slezak, John Stepan, Edward Soukup and John Suster, the first teacher of Czech School.

125th YEAR OF CZECH SCHOOL

The 125th year of Czech School (Ceska Skola pro deti) concluded on July 7th with a program at Wilson school. A record breaking enrollment of 78 students entertained the audience with songs, dances and a dramatic presentation which portrayed the problems and experiences of a young Czech immigrant family in Cedar Rapids in 1870 and the establishment of the first Czech School classes. Written by Olga and directed by Wes Drahozal, the dialogue was entirely in Czech with two narrators acting as translators. Division 2 was taught some Czech folk dances by Marj Nejd, and Division 1 charmed the audience with their special presentations. A special moment in the program was the presentation of past teachers each of whom was presented a lovely corsage which had been made by Frank Novotny. Special thanks this year must go to those who assisted in the classrooms either as substitute teachers or teacher aides. The teachers, Bessie Dugena, Leona Poduska and Olga Drahozal want to say "dekuji Vam moc krat" to Fred Anthony, Milly Ortner, Ann Rocarek, Adeline Volesky, Lisa Volesky, Debra Rigel and especially Jill Voss to whom we are grateful for facilitating the manufacture and sale of our commemorative Czech School T-shirts. A few of these memorial T-shirts are still on sale at Bozenka's Shirt and Gift Shop in Czech Village. It was a special year!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Fri., Sept. 8, 7:00 p.m.Final Concert
Czech Village
- Sept. 9, 16, 23, etc.Czech & Slovak
Language Classes
Czech & Slovak Heritage Ass'n.
Baltimore, MD 21214
- Sun., Sept. 10.....Czechoslovak Day
Highland Park
383 Michigan St., St. Paul, MN 55102
- Tue., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m.Czech Heritage
Board Meeting
- Sat., Sept. 16, 4:00 p.m. .International Trio
Spillville, Iowa
- Sun., Sept. 17,. 10:00 a.m. ..St. Wenceslaus
Goulash Day
- Sun., Oct. 8, 2:00 p.m....Homestay Program
Nat'l Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
- Oct. 17-22.....Dedication of
Nat'l Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Sun., Oct. 22.....Czech & Slovak Festival
Parkersville, Maryland

HOMESTAY PRESENTATION



Back row: Chris Fee. Front row L-R: Mandy Haster, Joy Janda, Amy Novotny.

These four Homestay students will present a program about their month stay with a host family in Prague, Czech Republic. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship.

The program will be held Sunday, October 8th at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The program which starts at 2:00 p.m. is free to the public.

HOMESTAY PROGRAM

High school students in their junior year with a Czech background are invited to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship from the Czech Heritage Foundation to spend a month in the summer of 1996 with a host family in Prague, Czech Republic.

Applications are due November 1st and may be obtained from their high school counselors or by calling Diane Krejci, [redacted] or Sherlee Peterson, [redacted] or Jeanne Tompkins, [redacted].

BED & BREAKFAST

A Czech family in Prague offers bed and breakfast. Write or phone J. Beran, Prevoznicka [redacted] [redacted]

ST. WENCESLAUS GOULASH DAY, SEPT. 17

St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids will celebrate its 15th annual Goulash Day on Sunday, September 17th. The celebration will take place in the church gym and grounds located at 1230 5th St. S E. The celebration starts at 10:00 a.m. with a Mass followed by a dinner. The dinner menu includes Czech goulash, kolaches, sandwiches, dessert and drink.

Activities planned for the day include an auction, country store, bingo, games, and a cake walk. First prize for the raffle is \$1000. Other prizes include 12 \$50 gift certificates for groceries.

St. Wenceslaus is located in a Czech community. The cornerstone was laid Sunday, August 24, 1874. It once had Czech priests and Czech services for many years.

Father Glovik and the congregation invite you to Goulash Day for fun and fellowship.

For more information call the church office (319) 362-8061.

I'M TIRED

Yes, I'm tired. For several years I've been blaming it on middle-age, iron poor blood, lack of vitamins, air pollution, saccharin, obesity, dieting, under-arm odor, yellow wax buildup, and a dozen maladies that make you wonder if life is really worth living.

But now I find out tain't that.

I'm tired because I'm overworked.

The population of this country is 200 million. Eighty-four million are retired. That leaves 116 million to do the work. There are 75 million in school, which leaves 41 million to do the work. Of this total, there are 22 million employed by the government.

That leaves 19 million to do the work.

Four million are in the Armed Forces, which leaves 15 million to do the work. Take from that total the 14,800,000 people who work for State and City Government and that leaves 12,000 to do the work.

Now, there are 11,998 people in prisons. That leaves just two people to do the work. You and me. And you're sitting there reading this. No wonder I'm tired.

(John and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in June. A dear friend and senior citizen tucked this article in our greeting card. Thanks Pauline Pendergast—Editor)

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS REPUBLICAN

Dated 10 June 1906

BOHEMIAN WOMAN'S SOCIETIES

"JEDNOTA CESKYCH DAM" Signifies "The Federation of Bohemian Women." It is an organization almost 15,000 strong and has over 130 lodges in numerous states of the east and middle west. The organization gives a death benefit of \$600 and renders assistance of cases of illness. The order is identified with every public movement and gave nearly \$400.00 recently towards the support of the Council of Higher Education.

CHARLES UNIVERSITY ALUMNI REUNION

The oldest university in Central Europe, Charles University of Prague, founded April 7, 1348 by Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia, Charles IV, is seeking its alumni around the world in order to invite them to join in the celebration of the university's 650th anniversary in 1998. Please write to the following address:

Spolek absolventu a pratel University Karlovy
PhDr. Michal Skapa

(From CZECH THE NEWS)