

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE

Vol. 14 - No. 2
June 1989

Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations
P. O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406



CALENDAR 1989 KALENDÁŘ

JUNE

- 12 Mon. FIRST DAY OF CZECH SUMMER SCHOOL (page 12)
- 18 Sun. CZECH MUSEUM RADIOTHON (page 3)
- 23-25 Fri.- Sun. INT'L CZECH FESTIVAL IN OMAHA (page 13)

JULY

- 4 Tues. INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 15 Sat. 16TH AVENUE BRIDGE DEDICATION (PAGE 3)
- 18 Tues. "LIFE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TODAY" Speakers (page 14)

SEPTEMBER

- 9,10 Sat. Sun. CZECH FALL FESTIVAL Czech Village

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CHECK YOUR LABEL LATELY?

On the mailing label above your name is the year in which your membership dues are paid. Yearly membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. Individuals joining late in the year are granted membership for the following year. It's possible that gift memberships issued in 1988 have not been renewed. If there are any errors on your address label, please let us know right away. We try to be as careful as possible but honest mistakes do occur. Problems? Write: Czech Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

VÍTÁME VÁS!! GREETINGS TO ALL!!

The halfway mark of another busy and successful year for the Czech Heritage Foundation is here. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will be reading about our different events so I will not elaborate, but I do want to tell all of you how wonderful you have been, always cooperating and willing to help when asked. It has been an exceptionally hard season for us due to sickness in the family; but somehow we have managed with your words of encouragement, cards, and visits, and we are on our way to recovery. Mae and I are looking forward to a rewarding and less stressful season ahead for us all. Our next big event will be the Fall Festival on 16th Avenue, September 9th and 10th. That will be a "snap" compared to this spring. Have an enjoyable summer and continue with your faithful support of the Czech Heritage Foundation. FWN

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THE GOVERNOR SHAKES MY HAND

Earlier this year we received a letter from the C.R. School Volunteer Office advising us that they had submitted the name of our organization for a Governor's Award for our contribution to education in Iowa through our Educational Unit. Some time later we were notified by the Governor's office that we were chosen as one of the groups to be given this honor on May 19th at the awards ceremony in Clinton, Iowa. It seemed so far away, but the time flew by, and on the day before the Houby Days Festival began, we were on our way to Clinton. Mae and I were looking forward to this event, as about twelve years ago we were in Des Moines accepting the State Leadership Award from Governor Ray.

cont.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Mae was unable to go with me this time, but Wes and Olga Drahozal and Martha Krejci made the trip. We witnessed a very impressive ceremony where one hundred and ninety awards were granted and Governor Terry Branstad shook each of our hands, and offered a warm smile. A picture was taken, and a plaque was given to the Czech Heritage Foundation. Each person accepting the awards were given a Governor's Pin. I was truly honored to represent our fine organization.

FWN

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TRAER'S 15TH ANNUAL CZECH FOLK FEST
July 14th thru 16th. Parade, games, good food, arts and crafts, and especially plenty of music and dance. Watch for Simanek's "Czech Artists" on Saturday, the 15th, 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 For more information write: Folk Fest, 700 Elm St., Traer, IA 50675

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AMBASSADORS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA!!!
Our ambassadors have completed their twelve week Czech language course and are preparing themselves for the journey that lies ahead. Teri Bartachek, Dawn Buresh, Darrick Chadima, Matt Faltis, and Tim Pfeifer leave this month for their four week homestay in Czechoslovakia, and we wish them the best of luck!

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TANGLEWOOD is the site of the famous Berkshire Music Festival in western Massachusetts. Tanglewood is the name of a former estate north of Interstate 90 and near the state line with New York. In the summer of 1988, the Boston Symphony Orchestra under guest conductor, Jiří Belohlávek (b.1946), presented a concert of Smetana's MÁ VLAST: Vyšehrad, Vltava, Sárka. After the intermission, the program offered Českých luhů a hájů (From the Bohemian Woods and Fields), Tabor Hussite Fortress, and Blaník (Mountains where Hussite Warriors Sleep). Sárka was first produced in Boston in 1895! Again in 1969 under Karel Ančerl (1908-1973) and in 1971 under Raphael Kubelik (b.1914). The present Tanglewood Music Director is the well known Seiji Ozawa. MMS



PETR EBEN (b.1929), well known Czech organist made his first visit to the United States in 1984. His popularity has grown from his playing

"Nedělní Hudba" (Sunday Mass). His father played the viola, his mother the guitar. A brother played the violin. At the age of nine, Petr played a bagpipe organ! During World War II the family had only their music for entertainment. Petr never had an organ lesson yet his compositions are for the organ. He enjoys the "more complete sophisticated rhythmical patterns" now possible on the modern organs. Eben prefers modern romanticism over the neo-classics. Three compositions representative of his works are: Job, Faust, and Oksa. Excerpted from The American Organist, Sept. '88 V.Z.

KAREL HUSA, composer, conductor, and teacher, has written more than forty "commissions," one of which was for the 125th Anniversary of Coe College in Cedar Rapids. Recently, Husa conducted the premiere of his Cello Concerto at the University of Southern California. The cello soloist was Lynn Harrell who found the composition "well suited to his style of playing." Harrell said, "... the piece shows aspects of Husa's sensitivity and tenderness as a person but also his sense of outrage at injustice." Daniel Lewis, conductor of the USC orchestra, finds the concerto rhythmic, inventive with orchestral brilliance and originality. The concerto was a "gift" in memory of Frank Kerze Jr., a "prominent chemical scientist, pioneer in nuclear power, and amateur cellist." Excerpted from L.A. Times, March 2, '89

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ST. WENCESLAUS GOULASH DAY
Sunday, September 17th - Games and activities for the kids. Plenty of good food and fun! See you there!!

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THIS WILL BE THE LAST ISSUE of Naše České Dědictví you will receive if dues for 1989 are not paid. Please renew your membership today!!!



Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

10 - 16TH AVENUE S.W. CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52404

IT'S CZECH SUMMER SCHOOL time again,

so enroll your youngster or grandchild today!! Classes began June 12th, but students are still encouraged to join us. Teaching again this year will be Olga Drahozal, Patricia Hikiji, and Mildred Pesek. See page twelve for more details.

On June 26th an outing is planned to the Hoover Museum in West Branch. Annual fieldtrips provide not only a well deserved break for the hard-working students, but is also an educational experience for them. The Czech School Board held a fundraiser in March of this year. It was a chili supper prepared and served by both board members and students. The supper was very successful and we hope to make it an annual event.

FWN

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THIRD ANNUAL RADIOTHON

On Sunday, June 18th, the Czech Museum fund-raiser will be held on the bank of the Cedar River, behind the Czech Museum and Immigrant Home. KCRG-AM 1600 will broadcast live from the site, starting at 7:00 a.m., featuring the Sunday Morning Czech Party with Dave Franklin. Live music by the Czech Artists, Boddicker Czech Showcase, Czech Heritage Band, Czech Plus Band, and J.C.'s Music and Sound students, will be broadcast. Also on hand will be soloists Emil Lamparek and Elmer Netolicky on the heligonka and accordion, the Czech Heritage Singers, and the Czech School Children.



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WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MATERIAL!

If you have an idea for a story, or have written an article you would like to see in Naše České Dědictví, please contact: John Rocarek,

DESMOINES - CZECH NIGHT

This year the Czech Heritage Fdn. was honored to be asked by the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce to represent the city at the Annual Legislators' Night on March 21st. In cooperation with about forty-five other groups, booths were set up in the Agricultural Building on the State Fair Grounds. Each group presented a display on "Iowa Tourism." Alice Anderson and Jim Barnett worked with the Czechs and an attractive booth was constructed. Marj NejdI had a display of her art (painted eggs) and Mae and I gave away kolaches to the legislators and their spouses. Our efforts were appreciated as we did our best to entice people to come to Cedar Rapids. It was truly a worthwhile evening and an event worthwhile. Thank you Cedar Rapids for asking the Czech Heritage Foundation to represent you.

FWN

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BRIDGE OF LIONS

The cement mascots have been purchased and are ready to be set in place. A tentative date has been set (July 15th) for the "Grand Opening" of the almost completed 16th Avenue Bridge in Cedar Rapids and plans are underway for several special activities throughout the afternoon and evening. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for the center of the new structure. Invited are representatives from city, county, state, and federal governmental branches.

A grand parade is scheduled with community involvement as well as visiting bands. Parade participants are welcome and may contact Joseph Vondracek at _____ for further details.

Dances will be held in the evening at areas located at both ends of the bridge, and an exceptionally large crowd is expected.

Commemorative buttons with a bridge design are being formulated.

The Bridge Dedication Committee is made up of Edward R. Kuba - Chairman,
cont.

Olga Drahozal - Sec., Charles Vyskocil -4- ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE
- Treas., Charles Krejci, Gary Ficken,
Joseph Vondracek, Leo Modracek, Bob
Schaffer, Patty Konecny, Lester
Sykora, Larry Chmelicek, Bessie
Dugena, Blanche Panek, and Frank
Novotny.



Financial contributions are welcome and will be needed to promote this very special occasion in a fitting manner. Please send them to: Bridge Committee, Charles Vyskocil, Treas. 1228 2nd St. S.E. Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401 Any donations, large or small, will be greatly appreciated. Watch and listen for upcoming details!

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GENERATION TO GENERATION of Dallas, Texas, is Texas style Czech fine foods, customs, and traditions. Now available, the cookbook is in its fourth printing, totaling over eleven thousand copies. Six divisions of contents are separated by heavy paper with drawings and index data in alphabetical order on the reverse side. Some pages list announcements. One page lists twelve Texas polka bands with their home towns. Lastly, section eight is history, costumes, dances, customs, immigrant stories, wedding traditions, and other topics. Often in smaller print at the bottom of a page is helpful advice or information. One example - "Add sugar to boiling corn, salt makes it tough." The book's style is unique. I like the use of "zampion" for mushroom (Champignon is French). Houba, you know, means sponge and refers to the spring Morel. Vaclavki are the fall variety.

Some recipes do not tell how many kolache or cookies the batch will make. However, an experienced cook can tell by the quantity of flour used what will result.

The plastic binder allows for the pages to lay flat when the book is opened for easy use.

The Generation to Generation Cookbook may be ordered from Czech Club History Society, P.O. Box 280403, Dallas, TX 75228. Price is \$9.95 postage included. V.Z.

The annual event was held on March 19th at the Eagles Club in Cedar Rapids. The fundraiser sponsored by the Czech Heritage Fdn. for the "Homestay Program" was a complete success. It was an evening of dancing to the music of Dave Franklin's Party Time Band, listening to the voices of the Czech Heritage Singers, and more! The Czech Prince and Princess, and the students chosen to represent our foundation and the Czech community as ambassadors to Czechoslovakia this summer were introduced. Door prizes donated by various businesses, individuals, and the families of the homestay ambassadors, were given out. As always, the bake sale went over real well.

Due to the cooperation of everyone concerned, and a tremendous response to ticket sales, it was one of our best attended and financially successful dances to date!

It also served as an example of how well the Czech Heritage Foundation is preserving our Czech heritage by celebrating St. Joseph's Day, observed annually on March 19th.

Our sincere thanks to all who in any way contributed to the dance's success.

FWN

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SOLON BEEF DAYS - July 21st and 22nd, parade, festivities, fun for the entire family!

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CROWNS FOR THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS

Time to be thinking about entries for our Czech Prince and Princess for the coming year. Evelyn Stejskal heads up the committee this year and is accepting applications now. You may contact her for registration or more information by calling 364-6283.

Three impartial judges are selected by the committee to determine who should next wear the crowns. Applicants are interviewed, evaluated, and the winners are announced at the Fall Festival in September.

The Prince and Princess receive a crown, a U.S. savings bond, and a Czech costume. In return, they are asked to represent the Czech Heritage Foundation at the various festivals and activities throughout the year. Have someone in mind? Urge them to contact Mrs. Stejskal today.

FWN

HOUBY DAYS - MUSHROOMS AND EGGS

The Czech Heritage Fdn. took on the challenge of serving breakfast during the annual festival on May 20th and 21st. This was our second year at the effort. The weather was in our favor and we had a very good response. We served over fourteen hundred people. In order to keep our customers happy, we had two shifts working daily. Over eighty volunteers helped, working three hour shifts. A "thank you" and a free breakfast ticket was their only reward, but everyone had a great time and worked together well. We even had volunteers from other organizations pitch in and they offered to help next time too.

It gets a little scary when you order food for such a crowd, and wonder whether or not the weather is going to cooperate or maybe worse nobody's hungry! As luck would have it, the sun shined, the crowd showed up hungry and the helpers really pitched in. Outside of one of our grills taking some time off (oh oh!) everything went fine. Finally 11:00 a.m. came around and we finished serving the last of the people. Time to clean up the area in preparation for Bingo scheduled later. We loaded our trusty "Jimmy" and made a trip, unloaded it, and came back for another load. There's a lot more to serving a successful breakfast than what meets the eye.

Mae and I enjoyed working with our wonderful volunteers. A sincere "thank you" and see you next Houby Days!
FWN

HOUBY CONTEST WINNERS

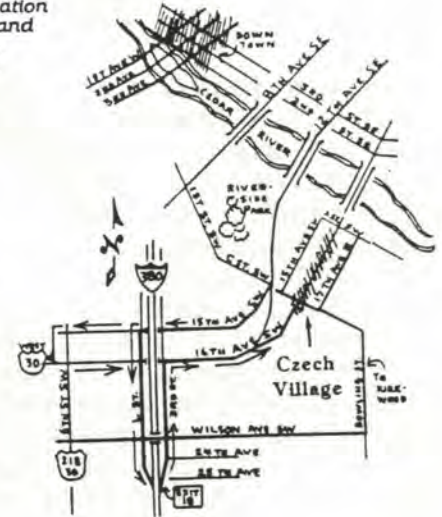
Largest-Jerene Thomas, Smallest-Sue Meister, Oddly shaped/small-Heather Miller, Oddly shaped/large-Benji Silver, Tallest-Brian Howell, Best small display-Carl Martin, Best large display-Harold A. Luers, Original display-Nadine Anderson, Best of Show-Brian Howell. Congratulations! Entries were received from all over Iowa. Master mushroom hunters came from Amana, Central City, Delta, and even Manchester to claim top honors!

DIAL 369-6217 for information concerning upcoming events sponsored by Czech organizations in the Cedar Rapids area.

-5-CZECH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION - 1989

Pres.-Patty Konecny, Vice Pres.-Lester Sykora, Sec.-Virginia Wilts, Asst. Sec.-Dick Barta, Treas.-Ray Snitil, Asst. Treas.-Dennis Hrabak, Board of Directors-Rick Bartunek, Jerry Boddicker, Gary Ficken, Kris Jones, Dr. Alan Robb, Bob Schaffer, Lumir Vondracek.

Arrangements can be made for group tours. Special interest tours are available. Combination tours of both the Museum and Czech Village are available. Please call 319/362-8500.



1989 HOUBY DAY 5000 METER RUN

Winners of the race sponsored by the First Trust & Savings Bank are as follows: Men, Age division (14 and under) - 1. Michael Thompson 2. Eric Wagner. (15-17) - 1. Brent Conway 2. Andy Ehresman 3. Brent Stejskal. (18-24) - 1. John Meehan 2. Rob Hubbard 3. Ben Holub. (25-34) - 1. Mark Mueller 2. Randall Collin 3. Daryl Julich. (35-45) - 1. Jerry Zumbrunnen 2. David Turrell 3. Jon Najek. (46 and over) - 1. Al Siemering 2. Tom Novak 3. Ralph Palmer. Women, Age division (14 and under) - 1. Heidi Northland 2. Shelly Canady 3. Kristen Hall. (15-17) - 1. Angie Dillion 2. Mary Varvaris. (18-24) - 1. Tammy Fonley 2. Sue Hite 3. Ann Zahn. (25-34) - 1. Liddie Heinemann 2. Julie Bruhns 3. Susan Bredl. (35-45) - 1. Susan Hall 2. Sharon Burns-Knutson 3. Paula Brown. (46 and over) - 1. Della Novak 2. Beth Blakesley. Congratulations to our fleet footed friends!

CHARLES ZVACEK'S father came from Moravia at the age of nine and his mother was age one. After six weeks on the ocean, the families arrived in New York City. Either they took the New York Central (1853) to Buffalo or took a boat up the Hudson to Albany and via the Erie Canal (opened 1825) to Buffalo. By ship on the Great Lakes they moved west by way of Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan to Racine, Wisconsin. In the mid-1800's, Racine was a major receiving site for many newcomers. The settlers moved west of Racine, farmed, worked hard and saved money.

Land was selling for \$1.25 an acre in Iowa. The Zvacek's bought a wagon, a yoke of oxen, loaded their belongings and started out on the mud trails and dirt roads. Streams in low water were readily forded... One of the oxen died! A cow was purchased because it was cheaper than an ox. This did slow the pace of travel. Often the wagon had to be pushed to help make a hill... At the Mississippi River a ferry boat took them to Iowa.

Arriving in Iowa the family settled some three miles west of Ely. Eventually the farm grew to two hundred and eighty acres. Crops were oats, rye, wheat, and barley. The pasture fed some twenty milking cows and the horses for field work. About one hundred pigs were raised, also ducks, chickens, geese, and turkey. Vegetables from the garden and fruits from apple, plum, cherry, and Siberian crab apples were canned to feed the family of two boys and six girls. Beside the four hundred quarts of canned goods and jellies and jams, sauerkraut was put up in earthen crocks of five, ten, fifteen, or twenty gallon sizes. Pickles filled some of the containers. Pork was fried down and stored in the lard in crocks as well.

The walk to school was about two miles. Prairie Ridge Schoolhouse held some twenty-five to thirty pupils, most were of Czech ancestry. Students attended through eighth grade. Some farmers planted rows of trees along the edge of their fields and snow would pile up in the road, making walking difficult. Roads were either muddy or dusty, and always rough. Opening exercises at school started with the Lord's Prayer, singing of songs such as "Bringing in the

-6- Sheaves" and "I Like to Tell the Story." Some songs were in Czech but usually were translated and extra verses added.

For high school, Charles attended the Preparatory Courses at Coe College for two years. He dropped out because he felt uncomfortable wearing the same suit day after day. He went to Cedar Rapids Business College taking courses in bookkeeping, penmanship, and rapid calculation. The later being required math training in lieu of today's adding machines, calculators, and computers. In the meantime, Mr. Zvacek worked at the Ely Lumberyard.

In 1915 he married Frances Holets. His first Ford, bought in 1916, cost \$425.00 but if it did not have brass trim and fittings, it would have been \$370.00

For forty-three years Mr. Zvacek was with well-known Limback and Jeffery Lumber dealers. The yard extended from the west end of the "A" Avenue viaduct to the Quaker Oats plant. He did both yard work and office tasks. During WWI he worked all over the place because there was a shortage of help, often seven days a week and after hours.

He retired in 1955 from the lumber business and for the next twenty-three years was on the board of directors of the Bohemian Savings and Loan Assoc. (now Banc Iowa).

Mr. and Mrs. Zvacek had a record of seventy-two years of marriage. They had lived at Methwick Manor the last several years. Mr. Zvacek laughingly says that his mushroom hunting days are over, even though he found them in the wooded areas adjoining the Manor.

Associate Editor M. Melvina Svec visited with Charles Zvacek recently and welcomes contributions from members either in the form of completed oral histories or ideas for future interviews.

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JANUARY 4, 1800 A newspaper, bearing this date, from the city of Kingston in Ulster County, New York, relates the news of the death of George Washington on December 14, 1799. The paper was found by Charles Zvacek as he sorted some memorabilia recently. A remarkable amount of the news was from cities around the world, and that was BEFORE we had the telegraph, cont.

telephone, radio or television! Most of the items were not dated.

The amazing surprise was that some of the letters were printed in Old German style! Here are a few examples - mufic, veffel, manfion. The "ff" is really "s" of "ss", so now try those words again. In 1848 after the rebellion by the peasants in Bohemia, the Austrian government decreed that German was the official language. School classes were taught in German. Bibles and prayer books were printed in German type, but some clever Bohemians used their own language in the German style of script... that is until inspectors realized what was going on.

German was taught in old Washington High School in Cedar Rapids but was dropped during WWI. The textbooks were printed in the Old German type, the handwriting was also in the Old German style of alphabet! mms

ETHNIC FEST '89 was a smashing success! The celebration was held at the Riverside Roundhouse in Cedar Rapids on May 27th and 28th. The Czech Heritage Foundation was there serving klobas with zeli and pork patties, and kolaches of course. Sales were brisk and all volunteers had a great time as usual. If you missed it this year, plan on attending next year. The entertainment is non-stop and the food supplied by the twelve different ethnic groups is out of this world. See you next year!

SOKOL CEDAR RAPIDS is the name of the new mens and womens combined Sokol gymnastic organization in Cedar Rapids. Votes were cast, and during the joint meeting held on March 3, 1989, the tabulation resulted in the joining of the two units. At the May meeting new officers were elected as follows: President - Larry Chmelicek, Vice president - Carol Frye, Treas. - Dennis Hrabak, Fin. secretary - Bessie Dugena, Secretary - Mana Zlatohlavek.

100 YEARS IN CEDAR RAPIDS

"A walk through the history of Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church - Cedar Rapids, Iowa" is a publication commemorating the 100th anniversary of the church. Events at the church on

March 10th, 11th, and 12th, observed the centennial. Over the years, seven ministers served ranging spans of three to twenty-eight years! The Rev. Vaclav Hlavaty arrived in Cedar Rapids from the Province of Bohemia and was minister from 1891-1919. Dr. Joseph Bren served from 1919-1933. He, too, had come from Bohemia.

The first church was a wooden structure on the corner of 9th Ave. and 7th St. S.E. in 1889... On that site in January, 1916 the neo-Romanesque style



of church was dedicated. Up to 1942 services were in Czech. Then, for a while, services were in both Czech and English. The fourth pastor, Dr. Joseph Havlek (1955-59), held English service in the morning and



Czech in the afternoon. After 1959 Czech services were discontinued. The present church building was dedicated in 1973. It is located in the southwest quadrant of the city where many of Czech ancestry settled. The building is of Contemporary style of architecture.

Many members of the church today still remember the Czech services



with fond memories. Times change and while many members of the church are of Slavic ancestry, now days several others are not.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES at the Czech Nat'l Cemetery were interrupted by heavy rains this year. The traditional twenty-one gun salute offered by the VFW and American Legion was given, but the Czech Heritage Singers were unable to perform because of the inclement weather. The tradition of services at the Czech Nat'l Cemetery for this national day of observance is sponsored by the Federation of Czech Groups.

CZECHOSLOVAK CULTURE - Recipes, history, and folk arts are combined in this 6 X 9 inch 176 page book, compiled by Pat Martin. Various articles including cornhusk doll making instructions dating back to 1887 are inside. Some one hundred recipes not included in earlier books by Pat Martin are featured. A center section displays colorful pictures,



Geese and a pond at the site of the original Peza homestead east of New Prague, Minnesota. New Prague was founded by Czech pioneers.

Sidonka Wadina-Lee, left, a Wisconsin Slovak-American folk artist, and her daughter Amanda hold goose eggs decorated with cut straw, a Moravian tradition.



Czechoslovak Culture

Martin

Charfield Press

and stories come from all over the U.S. The material in the book has taken over five years to compile, with stories from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. They are \$12.95 each plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. Order from: Czech Heritage Fdn. %Elmer Netolicky,

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CHELSEA HAS 125TH BIRTHDAY

July 21st-23rd - This Czech community is planning one fancy birthday party and you are all invited. Entertainment, games, lots of good food, kolach baking contest on the 21st at 3:00 p.m. Congratulations, Chelsea!

EVENING CLASSES IN CZECH LANGUAGE for adults concluded at the end of March. Thirty-five students in beginning class and twenty-five in advanced class used texts: "Teach Yourself Czech" by W.R. and Z. Lee, and Fryscak's "Say it in Czech" phrase book. The latter was especially helpful for those students planning a summer trip to Czechoslovakia. Among those in the beginning class were the five young students who are participating in the Czech Heritage Foundation's "Homestay Program" and their parents. Each group met for a two hour period once a week for twelve weeks.

During last fall's course we were visited by Marie Ruzickova from the area around Brno. With us she shared her experiences of life in Czechoslovakia and of her occupational duties on a collective farm as "Chiefswineherd Mistress." Our special visitor this spring was from Prague. Dr. Milan Sonka, an associate professor from Czech Technical University, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Dept. of Control, is currently teaching computer science at Kirkwood Community College. He is teaching in Cedar Rapids under an exchange program and will be here through the summer.

Our Czech classes concluded with the traditional pot-luck supper, after which two past ambassadors, Dan Chadima and Ed Kopecky, showed slides of their "Homestay" to Czechoslovakia last summer.

We are now looking forward to the fall term of evening Czech language classes. They are open to students who have a small amount of language facility. Dr. Sonka's wife, Jitka, teaches Czech to English speaking students at Charles University in Prague, and with her help we will be able to obtain a new textbook for our use. It's titled "Czech For Beginners" and is a short elementary course for English speaking students written by Jan Holub. It is guaranteed to be an excellent booster for our fall classes which will begin on September 20th.

Classes will again be held at Kuba Community Hall, 1300 2nd St. S.E. For more information call

O. Drahozal

HONORED GUEST

Dr. Milan Sonka, visiting exchange professor from Prague, was honored at a special dinner on March 30th at Kirkwood Community College. A seven course banquet was prepared and served by the students from the culinary class. About one hundred forty area citizens both of Czech and non-Czech background enjoyed the meal as well as the music provided by the Czech Plus Polka Band. A short program followed during which Dr. Sonka showed slides of Prague. He shared also a short VCR presentation about the Prague subway system and the international convention of glass blowers held in Czechoslovakia recently.

Dr. Sonka's wife, Jitka, is now in the states and they are vacationing across the country. Soon she will return to Prague and Dr. Sonka will continue to teach through the summer term at Kirkwood.

O. Drahozal

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Recognize this fellow?



We'll identify him in our next issue!

Here's a clue: Possibly the wisest and most loyal of all 20th century military men; but sometimes it was hard to tell exactly whose side he was on.

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PAINTING AND CARVING

This year the "Homestay Program" was fortunate to be given two objects to be raffled off in an effort to raise money to send our young people to Czechoslovakia. A large oil painting was donated by Louis and Elma Buresh of Fairfax, Iowa. The picture, painted by Elma, depicts a beautiful lake scene with Mallard ducks. Bill

and Helen Kupka, of Chelsea, Iowa donated a large, hand-crafted, solid walnut goose. Mr. Kupka, "Bill" as he is better known, has provided the foundation wooden carved pictures the past two years.

Tickets are available from Czech Heritage Fdn. board members, and also at the Fall Festival where the painting and the goose will be displayed. Tickets are three for \$1.00 and may be purchased up to the time of the drawing at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 10th. You need not be present to win.

A sincere THANK YOU to the Bureshs and the Kupkas for their generous contribution to a worthy project.

FWN

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SPJST ? Ask the thirty-five thousand members in Texas! Back in 1897 the fraternal group was formed by Czechs, Moravians, and Slovaks, and called itself the Slovenske Podporujici Jednota State of Texas. Now the organization is known as the Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas.

Their museum boasts over two thousand artifacts that show and tell about the early settlers. Items include dance costumes, wedding gowns, clocks, furniture, colorful kroje, farm tools, and puppets. Also found are three old coins dating back to 600 A.D. from locations in Moravia and Slovakia. The library has twenty-three thousand volumes of which sixteen thousand are in Czech. What a gold mine of information one would find in such an accessible library!

A miniature log cabin built by Otto Habus shows one of the first homes of a Czech settler in 1854.

Temple, Texas is the location of this fine museum and library. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Other times by appointment, sizeable groups are welcome. Temple has a population of approximately forty-three thousand, and is located between Waco and Austin. Write: SPJST P.O. Box 100, Temple, TX 76501.

Excerpted from the San Antonio "Daily Star" '88 Item courtesy of Larry Vavra.



IN RECOGNITION...

Pictured are Charles and Lillian Vyskocil of Cedar Rapids. In March Charles was awarded a plaque by Pres. Frank Novotny (on right) for the ten years he served as financial secretary for the Czech Heritage Foundation. Both Charles and Lillian worked hard, volunteering freely of their time and energy. They mailed tons of books all over the country, maintained the membership files, and always were there to lend a helping hand. The Vyskocils have been married fifty-six years. Their son and his family live in Texas; another son passed away a few years ago. Charles and Lillian have nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Charles was president of Western Fraternal Life Association for many years and is well known in the community. The Vyskocils will always be active supporters of the Czech Heritage Foundation. Charles remains on the board of directors and we look forward to seeing them both at future meetings. We wish the Vyskocils much happiness and good health in the years ahead. Congratulations Charles, and again, thank you for the many years of fine service! E. Stejskal

OOPS !

In the March '89 edition of Naše České Dědictví we listed the names of our organization's new officers and board members for 1989. We failed to include the name of board member Florence Dvorak. Sorry Florence!

NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PRAGUE

Shirley Temple Black, the child movie star, will soon be named ambassador to

source said. Shirley Temple began acting at the age of three. Some of her most memorable films include "Little Miss Marker" and "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm." She made one of her last films, "The Bachelor and the Bobby-soxer" at the age of nineteen. In the 1960's, although still in the entertainment field, Mrs. Black turned her attention to Republican politics and public service. President Richard M. Nixon appointed her as a representative to the U.N. General Assembly in 1969-70. During the Ford administration, she served as ambassador to Ghana from 1974-76; and from 1976-77, she was State Department chief of protocol. She also has served on various international commissions and delegations. Mrs. Black has been living in California and recently published her autobiography, "Child Star." Excerpted from The Federal Page, 3-17-89

NUCLEAR POLKA

Oom-pah-pah...oom-pah-pah... Well, maybe, but faster...faster...faster! In the music world there are hundreds of categories and thousands of sub-categories used to describe and "label" the sounds we listen to. Some are well-known - Country & Western, Rock 'n Roll, Jazz, Classical; others obscure - Rockabilly, Doo Wop, Early Gothic, Boogie-Woogie. In 1979 a new sound, a new style, emerged. Its Texas founder, Carl Finch, fed up with redundant, commercialized pop music sought a different sound. He had played the guitar in Rock bands for years, but something was wrong. "Top Ten" music was losing its conviction. Setting the contemporary sound aside, Finch blew the dust off the old polka records from his collection and "heard a passion that was totally missing from Rock at the time." He bought an accordion, taught himself to play it, and began to look for others who shared his musical interests. Finch formed Brave Combo and the group began playing the fraternal halls and smoke-filled nightclubs around Denton.

cont.

Nuclear Polka was born. Ten years and seven albums later, the group remains popular with young and old alike. For instance, on their



BRAVE COMBO

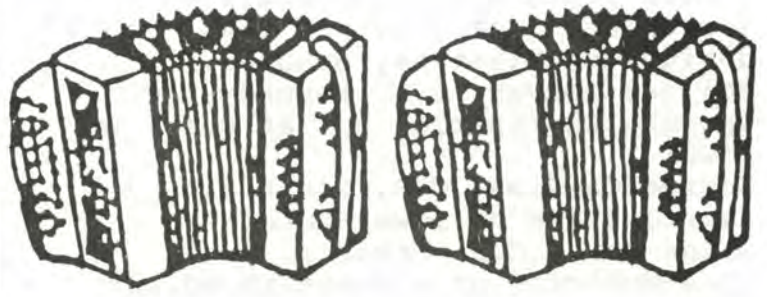
$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{5}{6}$



POLKATHARSIS album there is something for everybody; something slow (Seven Steps), something fast (Who Stole the Kishka?), and something bizarre! (Crazy Serbian Butcher's Dance). While some tunes on this album are just plain impossible to dance to, others demand immediate physical reaction - STAND UP AND DANCE! Carl Finch, the only original band member, says the Polka's in his blood. "I'm addicted to it, as I've been for the last twelve years. I listen to all kinds of Polkas and hope to continue spreading the polka sound by

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 * * * * *
 Brave Combo (brāv kombó) n. 1. Four very talented artists who are afraid of nothing.
 Nuclear Polka may not top the charts, but it's original and it's honest.
 * * * * *
 * * * * *

-11- syndicating a Polka radio show eventually." He's quick to point out that Polkas come in all shapes and sizes. "American Indians play Polkas, black South Africans play Polkas, Mexicans play Polkas." The Polka is a universal sound and not limited to slavnic nationalities as we tend to believe. The Polka may be Brave Combo's calling card, but this diverse group is comfortable playing umpteen number of musical styles - Salsa, Rhumba, Jazz, Waltz... The band, based in Denton, Texas, is made up of - (1) Mitch Marine - drums/percussion, (2) Jeffrey Barnes - reeds, (3) Bubba Hernandez - bass/tuba, (4) Carl Finch - Keyboard/accordion/guitar. Surprisingly, none of the groups members have any Czech or Slavic background. "Bubba, Jeff, and I (Finch), do the Czech vocals, but we were taught by friends who speak Czech. We know a lot of the people involved in various Czech organizations and events in Texas. We play at many of the halls in the area (Sokol, KJT, SPJST) and also play several Polka events each year..."



What is the driving force behind Nuclear Polka? The accordion, of course! This much maligned instrument makes up the very foundation of this revved-up Polka craze. Even though the accordion receives more than its share of bad press, Finch, a member of the Texas Accordion Assoc. has done a lot to change the instrument's image. The proud owner of five accordions, he tells us, "Accordions are back and they are the coolest thing happening right now!" Records/tapes price list and tour schedule available by writing Brave Combo/Four Dots, P.O. Box 233, Denton, TX 76202

J.R.

ČESKÁ ŠKOLA

The 119th session of the Czech School is being held at Wilson Elementary School, J Street and Wilson Ave. S.W., from June 12th to July 21st. The school meets for six weeks, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Youngsters, ages six thru fifteen, have the opportunity to learn about Czechoslovak culture, traditions, and language. One highlight of the summer session will be a field trip to an Iowa historical site.

It's easy to sign up and students may begin at any age. NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE IS REQUIRED, only an interest to learn is needed.

The traditional Ice Cream Social will top off the summer's activities and you are all invited to attend. To register your student in class or to obtain tickets to the social you may call Edward Kuba at

It's never too late to sign up!

THE KOMENSKY SOCIETY is pleased to announce the recipients of their 1989-90 scholarships. Six awards of \$400.00 each have been granted to the following graduating Linn County high school seniors:

- Angela Zahradnik, C.R. Prairie, (engineering at Univ. of Iowa) and designated Vlastenky Scholar.
- Melissa Louvar, C.R. Kennedy, (psychology/special ed. at Univ. of Iowa)
- George Chadima, C.R. Prairie, (agriculture at Iowa State)
- Diane Lowe, C.R. Prairie, (pre-medicine or elementary ed. at either Wm. Penn or Iowa State)
- Susan Zachar, C.R. Regis, (pre-law/political science at Univ. of Iowa)
- Holly Conway, North Linn-Coggon, (pre-medicine/general science at Loras College)

Scholarship winners and their families will be invited to attend the annual meeting of the Komensky Society at 12:00 noon, Saturday, June 17th, 1989, at the Concession Pavilion at Bever Park in Cedar Rapids.

R. Stone

THE CZECH LANGUAGE as it is written today surfaced in the middle of the 16th century with the printing of the Kralice Bible. Nine scholars, members

-12- of the Unity of the Bohemian Brethren, translated the Old Testament from the Hebrew and printed it along with a new edition of Jan Blahoslav's (1523-1571) earlier translation, at their secret printing press in the village of Kralice. This bible is considered to be the first major work to offer the familiar diacritical marks which uniquely distinguish today's Czech alphabet.

čárka (stroke) ✓

háček (hook) ✓

kroužek (small circle) °

apostofa (apostrophe) ’

Religious reformer and scholar, Jan Hus, is credited with being the first to recognize the need for a standardized written alphabet. He began to restructure the written Czech language in 1402 after being appointed Rector of the Bethlehem Chapel in Prague. Hus originated the systematic use of dots above the letters for uniform identification instead of the prevalent archiac method of using double characters (ss) or clumsy letter combinations (rz). Thanks to Hus and his compatriots, and the slight modifications which followed over the next hundred years, the Czech written language became readily accepted by the populace and flourished. Now the word for "line", previously spelled czaara is recognized as čára. JR

CZECH AND SLOVAK LITERATURE IN ENGLISH is a comprehensive index of almost two hundred Czech authors and one hundred Slovak authors. The writers and editors of anthologies number some three hundred and forty, with over one hundred translators. The Library of Congress, European Division names George J. Kovtun as the author of this second edition, revised, 1988. The volume is \$6.50 and available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The book is paperback, 151 pages, 6 X 9 inches. If Czech libraries do not have a copy, it would be a useful addition to their reference section. V.Z. mms

The American Sokol Organization is proud to present - "A Celebration of Czechoslovakian Culture and Fitness."

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At press time there were still a few bus tickets available for Omaha. Call Dorothy Simanek at _____ or _____ or Wes Drahozal at _____.

THE INTERNATIONAL CZECHOSLOVAKIAN FESTIVAL AND SLET

Nazdar!

While SOKOL training has produced gymnastic stars, including Omaha SOKOL'S own Olympians Jim Hartung and Phil Cahoy, the spirit of SOKOL is physical fitness for all. Czech immigrants brought the SOKOL ideal from their cities and hamlets to the United States, where the first SOKOL was founded in 1865. In 1879, 19 athletes competed in the first American Slet held in New York. One hundred and ten years later, over 1,000 competitors meet for the international events in Omaha.

Enjoy the physical grace and competitive spirit as athletes from all over the country match skill, strength and endurance attained from years of SOKOL training. And Nebraska boasts its own as the world-class gymnastic team from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln display their talents in exhibition events.



Omaha Civic Auditorium Convention Center at 17th and Capital on June 20-25

The Heritage Museum, in the Convention Center, traces the SOKOL movement and the Czech heritage from its beginnings through cultural exhibits of dolls, coins, clothing and art.

And, to capture more than memories of this colorful Festival, stop by the Festival Marketplace. Wonderful and marvelous artifacts of folk art can be yours at small prices in the Convention Center.

"Nazdar!" rings out throughout the Festival and Slet. The greeting evokes pride in the Czech, offers encouragement to the competitor and extends welcome to the visitor. For these three days in June, all share the heritage.

Slet activities begin on the 20th. The Festival begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 23rd. Several local (Eastern Iowa) groups are scheduled to perform, including our foundation's very own Czech Heritage Singers.

* * * * *

CZECH HERITAGE SINGERS of Cedar Rapids presented programs at both the St. Nicholas Day Dance and the St. Joseph Day Dance. The group continues to find new places to share their musical talents. They will appear at the Czech Museum Radiothon, in the morning, on June 19th. That afternoon, they will perform at the Celebration of the Arts gathering at Brucemore Mansion in Cedar Rapids. The following week, on June 24th - 25th, they will be in Omaha, Nebraska entertaining at the Czechoslovakian Festival of Arts and Folk Lore. We hope to be a part of the celebration at the grand opening of the new 16th Avenue Bridge, which is tentatively planned for July 15th.

"Zustaň tů s námi, muziko česká!"

O. Drahozal

* * * * *

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE? WHY NOT A GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO THE CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION?

Your \$3.00 donation does more than deliver the quarterly newsletter NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ to the lucky recipient's door. It also provides funds for the many Czech Heritage programs.

Donor's name _____

Address _____

Gift membership card sent to:

Name _____

Address _____

Please make check payable and mail to: Czech Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On the evening of Tuesday, July 18th, the Czech Heritage Fdn. has arranged for three guest speakers from Czechoslovakia to share a two hour non-political presentation on the subject of "Life in Czechoslovakia Today." The visitors, Antonin Mikan, his sister, Vendula Nechanicky, and her son, Pavel are touring the U.S. on their way to a family reunion in Minnesota. Along the way they have agreed to speak before college and civic groups in an effort to share their experiences with others. Topics of discussion include sports, tourism, history, geography, education, etc... The speaking engagement was coordinated by the guests' Auto-Travel Sponsor and Czech Heritage Fdn. member, William Nechanicky of Virginia Beach, Virginia. The presentation's exact time and place are at this time undetermined. The general public is invited. For more information concerning this interesting evening coming up in July, call Wes Drahozal at

-14- OUR NEXT ISSUE:

- * Our five Homestay Ambassadors, back from Czechoslovakia, share their experiences with us - "Four Weeks in the 'Old Country'".
 - * J. Joseff recalls life as a young man growing up in an inner city (New York) Czech community, during the twenties and thirties.
 - * Czech Heritage Fdn.'s Prince and Princess for 1989, John Dostal and Heidi Krejci, lend their subjects a royal audience.
 - * "A Czech Village" written by F. Vilim, gives us a glimpse of Czechoslovakia in 1947.
- All this and much, much more!

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ELY FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Parade, good food, games, fireworks! Don't miss it!!

* * * * *

THIS WILL BE THE LAST ISSUE of Naše České Dědictví you will receive if dues for 1989 are not paid. Please renew your membership today!!!

CZECH HERITAGE FDN.

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