

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

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



Bob Goodfellow

Slovak Minister of Czech & Slovak Republic visits Cedar Rapids.



Volume 16 - Number 2 Summer 1991





Editor/Layout Lisa M. Rose

Advisor John Rocarek



Special thanks to Goodfellow Printing for their contributions to make this issue possible.

We need volunteers! If you have some time or ideas to offer, please contact Lisa Rose at [redacted]. Thank you.

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## From the President

Never before in the history of our foundation have we been granted the opportunity to make such great contributions toward the future of education, not only locally, but nationally and internationally. The Czech Heritage Foundation, deeply involved in education since its inception, is making a direct impact on its members and the community it serves.

Locally, the foundation plans to continue its activities within the Cedar Rapids Community School District by lining up schools to receive our Educational Kit. The Educational Kit will be presented to our local schools by our core of faithful volunteers during the upcoming school year.

Of national importance, we are making great strides in cooperation with the Czech Fine Arts Foundation with the development of the new Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. This is a multi-million dollar project.

Internationally, our Czech community of Cedar Rapids was host recently to Dr. Jan Pisut, Slovak Minister of Education for the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. The Czech Heritage Foundation organized two receptions for Dr. Pisut and arranged meetings with local educators and community leaders. He also was given a tour of Wilson Elementary School.

Our commitment to the preservation of our Czech and Slovak Heritage through education is prevalent in everything we do. We continue to perpetuate our cause effectively with the help of each of our member's hard work and effort. The foundation has come a long way, but without a doubt the best is yet to come!

John Rocarek  
President



# NEW HONORARY BOARD MEMBER



Charles H. Vyskocil of Fairlane Drive NE has been elected as a member of the Honorary Board of Directors of the Czech Heritage Founda-

tion. Charles has played a key role in several Czech groups and lodges locally and nationally. His many accomplishments include the office of national president of the Western Fraternal Life Association, past Financial Secretary of the Czech Heritage Foundation, and past treasurer of the Board of Trustees of ZCBJ.

These days Charles is busy translating letters from Czechoslovakia for WFLA. This keeps Charles busy but not too busy to spend time in his garden!

Conversational Czech Classes for the person with some previous knowledge of the language will be held on twelve consecutive Mondays beginning September 9th and ending November 25th. Classes will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Kuba Hall, located at 1302 2nd Street S.E., and are under the sponsorship of the Czech Heritage Foundation. Olga M. Drahozal will be the teacher and can be contacted at 28 25th Ave. S.W. A nominal charge of \$6.00 covers the twelve week course. Prior registration is encouraged. Please make your check out to the Czech Heritage Foundation.

June 10th through July 12th are the dates for the 122nd year of continuous summer school for children ages 6 through 16. The Czech school of Cedar Rapids is the oldest continuously operating ethnic school in the United States. The purpose of the school is to promote interest in the Czechoslovak culture and to offer educational experiences through which youngsters may learn about the customs and traditions, history, geography, art, architecture, natural resources, industries, music, literature and language of Czechoslovakia.

Language is emphasized through the study of the alphabet and vocabulary words, through enjoying stories and poems, and participating in recitations, choral reading and creative dynamics.

Singing the traditional songs of Czechoslovakia emphasizes the language, and the melodies and lyrics familiarize the students with the spirit and character of the Czech people.

Classes will be held in the Wilson Elementary School. Registration will be held at the beginning of the first day, but students may enroll at any time during the term. Classes meet from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Any child between the ages of 6 and 16 may attend, and need not be of Czech ancestry. Tuition is \$5.00 for the first child or \$8.00 per family.

Students are divided into levels by age. Each level will have its own teacher. The program includes daily classroom instruction, special presentations by resource people, one or two field trips and a program which will culminate the summer's activities. The program will be held in the Wilson School Auditorium and is followed by an ice cream social.

For more information write to:



Czech School  
1228 2nd St. S.E.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

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# letters to the editor

## Dear friends from Czech Heritage Foundation,

My name is Ludmila Kučerová. I am a Czech citizen. I live the town Svitavy in Czechoslovakia.

I read your journal *Nase České Dědictví*/Volume 16-No. 1 March 1991. It is very kind of you, that we are interested in life people from Czechoslovakia. I am happy about that. That pleasant surprised me.

In journal *České Dědictví* I saw a newspaper article--Letters to the editor--sentence *Nase Ceske Dedictvi* wants to hear from YOU! And I regret that I can not myself understood good in English. I speak and understand a little English. I am self-taught. I want you a letter in English write. I will try my best.

I and my husband are interested in your music-country. Already for a long time we arranging a concert country music/bluegrass, western, swing, country blues, country rock, folk music/. This year the concert will be on Saturday, June 29. Concert is name VANDRBÁL. Vandrál is in the open. It is show country and folk songs, country dances, in the evening big camp fire, song about the Wild West and so on.



This year was 22nd anniversary origin our country band UNION PACIFIK /it is name/. The band was founded in the 1969 in Svitavy.

Our town is small district town. The town has preserved its Middle Ages character: the square with arcade, bastion, in places there are remnants of walls. Former moats were filled

up, nowadays there are city alleys.

On these days Svitavy is an industrial town with the textile, machinery and food industry prevailing.

The present district of Svitavy is a part of the hill country at the border between Bohemia and Moravia and belongs to the East Bohemian region.

Remember me to your readers. Na shledanou.

Kučerová Ludmila

## Dear Editor:

I like your new format of *Nase České Dědictví*. In response to your invitation to send letters, there seems to be a growing interest in video tapes of travel, festivals and various musical programs in Czechoslovakia. I have received some from Czechoslovakia which I had to have converted to VHS at some loss of quality. Wouldn't it be a good money raising project to sell these or at least list sources in the USA?

Best regards,  
Frank Chrencik  
Birmingham, Alabama

## Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have just received your new edition of "*Nase ceske dedictvi*", Vol. 16-No.1 March 1991.

Allow me to congratulate you on the new form as well as on the interesting arrangements. It is a very refreshing change from the publications received in the past.

However, I find again Czech words incorrectly put. This fact

gave me the impression that it would be perhaps appropriate to let you know my opinion by sending you a short write-up. Should you be willing to publish it in your next number, I would not mind if you could do so, as I assume that it should increase the quality of your publication.

Wishing you all the best.

Sincerely,  
Charles Opatrny  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

## Dear Editor,

Hi! We love the new face and contents of the spring issue. Keep up the good work! Hope you will accept our renewal without using the back sheet application. The publication is too good to destroy the back page. Hope the weather clears up!

Thanks again,  
Bill and Helen Kupka  
Chelsea, Iowa

*Nase Ceske Dedictvi* wants to hear from YOU! We would like you to share with us and our readers any stories or bits of information you have regarding our Czech heritage. If you have any concerns, comments, or ideas we would like to hear those too.

## Send letters to:

*Nase Ceske Dedictvi*- To the Editor  
c/o The Czech Heritage Foundation  
P.O. Box 761  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Letters will not be returned unless specified. Letters may be edited. Please include your name, address, and phone number.



# CZECH IT OUT...

The Czech Heritage Singers of Cedar Rapids continue to propagate the beautiful melodies of Czechoslovakia by entertaining local organizations. They recently sang at a noon luncheon for the Collins Radio Retired Employees, and remain on call to entertain at the Museum or in Czech Village for any special events.

The Czechoslovak Foreign Institute is a non-political organization whose main purpose of existence is to maintain contact with people of Czech ancestry in other countries. Their goal is to assist people in retaining the use of the Czechoslovak language. To that end the Czechoslovak Institute annually sponsors a course in the Czech language in Prague. This course is offered to anyone who is in-

terested in the Czech language, irrespective of whether or not he or she has any previous knowledge of the tongue.

The course this year runs from September 5th through September 31st. Anyone of any age may register. Students will be divided into groups of no more than 10. Each group will be taught by a competent teacher. Groups will be set up according to level of competency.

The morning course is four hours in length, with two breaks. After lunch there are offered various interesting lectures on Czech history, culture, current events, and various levels of conversation. In addition there will be offered educational tours of Prague, Karlovy Vary (medicinal hot springs), to Ceske Budejovice in

Southern Bohemia, Sumava Forests, excursions to castles and fortresses, and even a trip to the world famous vineyards of Moravia for a taste of Moravian wine. There will be a chance to visit some Moravian Folklore festivals.

The cost of this course is \$600.00 per person. Each student is responsible for his cost of round trip ticket to Prague. The tuition may be paid upon arrival to Prague. Students will be greeted at the airport and taken to the college after arrival.

*For further information contact:*  
Czechoslovak Foreign Institute  
Československý ústav zahraniční  
Karmelitska 25  
Praha 1- Malá Strana PSC 118 31  
telefon: 42 2 530 441



by Bert Kreitlow of C.R. Gazette,  
Reprinted by permission

**W**ALKER- Even past 10:30 some nights, the lights of the farmhouse behind the grove of evergreens on Campfire Road might still be on.

Father Arthur Simanek and his two sons, Anton and Allen, would be there in the living room. Their labor-hard hands would work the valves and buttons of accordion and horns. Music from their Czechoslovak heritage would seep into the quiet of the Iowa farm fields.

Chores were done. But the family was working.

Now, decades after those rehearsals began, the biggest payoff

## Family takes Czech Heritage to D.C.

yet will come this summer for the Simanek family. That's when the sounds arranged and refined in their living room will be performed before up to 1 million people expected to attend a festival of American folk life this summer in Washington, D.C.

The Smithsonian Institution's

festival this year honors family farmers, and the Simaneks will be center stage with the nine-piece orchestra they have played with for the past 10 years called Czech Artists.

"It's once in a lifetime," Allen said. He now does most of the work on the 300 acre farm six miles southeast of Walker.

The timing of their gig on the National Mall--July 1, 4, 5 and 6--is not the best for Allen.

"It will be right in the middle of cultivating and hay-making," said Allen, 30. "Maybe the farming might suffer at that point, but it's well worth it."

Arthur's wife, Dorothy, said the family was chosen because of its association with the Iowa Arts Council and acquaintance with David Brose, the council's director of community arts and cultural heritage. When organizers of the festival contacted Brose looking for a farm family to be featured at a cultural heritage festival, Brose was so confident he had just the family to fit the bill that he gave them only one name: Simanek.

Dorothy is a piano player, singer and supporter of the orchestra.

"I think I've been the instigator of a lot of it," she said.

Anton, 36, manages the Wapsipinicon Golf Club in Independence, and is the leader of the Czech Artists as well as its tuba player. The group plays regularly in the band shell during Czech Village festivals in Cedar Rapids, as well as at weddings, anniversaries and polka festivals from Minnesota to Nebraska.

Other members of the orchestra are Serge Sisler II of Coggon, Beth Hronek, a former Cedar Rapids resident now living in Kentucky; Paul Drahos, Larry Klima



# Melvina's Corner

M. Melvina Svec is a nationally known author and expert on Czechoslovak history and culture.

## CUSTOM TRADERS LEARNED THEIR TRADE IN VIENNA

In the early 1900s and even late 1890s Joseph Nemec, John Pribran, Chris Tichy and Joseph Mateju came to Cedar Rapids. They had learned their trades as tailors in Vienna. They worked three years without pay! John Pribran said, "I made a million--a million stitches!"

They had come from the Province of Bohemia of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Joseph Nemec was born in 1873 near Litomysl. At age 21 he came to Kansas to live for five years. In 1894 he came to Cedar Rapids as a trained tailor. He was at Zejda Tailor Shop for 20 years. With the help of a tutor he learned English.

In 1897 he married Mary Holets Jonas of Ely. He was 29 and she was 20. Then he bought out Novak Tailor Shop and has his own shop at 7th Avenue and 3rd Street S.E. His customers were businessmen, ministers, lawyers, teachers, a missionary from India, a West Point graduate and a world travelling magician. Mr. Nemec was active in the Czech community. He was a member of ZCBJ (now Western Fraternal Life Association) which was located at the corner of 12th Avenue and 3rd Street S.E. He was a member of the Building Committee in 1904 and on the Board of Trustees. He was also a Sokol and a member of St. Wenceslaus church. All of the nine present day family members

of the Czech Heritage Foundation.

In 1890 John Pribran watched his father who was a tailor in Bohemia. At age 14 he decided to learn the trade. An uncle in Cedar Rapids paid his fare to get here from Bohemia. In his shop it took one day to make a vest, one day to make trousers, and four days to make a vest. Those were the times of a six day week.

Charles Tichy, born in 1894, had a tailor shop in the Granby Building. In a 1962 item in the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Tichy said, "No one is becoming a tailor today...and all of the old tailors are dying."

John Mateju, also born in 1894, had a shop at 425 2nd Avenue S.E. About 40% of his trade was out of the state.

One of the last Czechs to become a tailor was Vaclav Kopecky. He came to Cedar Rapids after having served five years in the Austrian Army. He arrived in 1921. He felt lucky to have the opportunity to get to United States. He did not have his own shop but worked at Clancy's, Killian's and Armstrong's to make alterations on the ready-made clothing which had taken over the market. Mr. Kopecky retired at the age of 93 in September of 1990.

*Compiled from yellowed pages of old Cedar Rapids Gazette items from Elizabeth Nemec Willison and other sources.*

### The 2nd Cultural/Genealogical Conference

October 18 - 19, 1991

#### Location

Earl Brown Conference Center  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul Campus  
St. Paul, Minnesota

#### Time:

Registration - 8:00 a.m.  
Sessions - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### Some of the Planned Sessions Include:

- Historical Czechoslovak Records Available through the Latter Day Saints Family History Center
- Slovak Genealogical Research Tips
- Advanced Czechoslovak Genealogy
- Understanding Your Ancestors Through Their Music
- Czechoslovakia's Archives
- Historical Migrations of Germanic People into Czechoslovakia

Also included are workshops on beginning genealogy, beginning Kroje, (folk costumes), Helene Cincebeaux's Kroje exhibit, Open House at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library and the Immigration History Research Center, Host Reception at the Historic CSPS Hall, and a featured performance by the Czechoslovakian Folk Dance Group of St. Paul.





# Stejskal studying in Czechoslovakia



**L**ynette Sue Stejskal, daughter of Kenneth and Sally Stejskal of Solon, is attending Palacky University in Olomouc, Czechoslovakia. A student at Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, she is taking Czech literature courses and an intensified Czech language course.

While there Lynette also teaches four 1 1/2 hour classes in Conversational English on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Thursday is her longest day with three 1 1/2 hour classes. She shares an office with three other foreign teachers and lives in the college dormitory.

She sees a great change since she was there four years ago as a homestay student sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation of Cedar Rapids. At that time she stayed with a host family in Prague for one month and experienced life under Communism as it was then.

She left Cedar Rapids February 5 and will be there until June 20. When she registered at the American Embassy there were Czech tanks and soldiers guarding the Embassy. She says Olomouc is a very neat and beautiful city.

*Taken from the Solon Economist, April 10, 1991*

**Dobrý den, ahoj! Jak se máte? Mám se dobře.**

I've been nestled quite comfortably in Olomouc now for two months and have adapted to my surroundings quite well, I must say. I'm working for the Philosophy Faculty at the Department of Linguistics at the University. I teach four English conversation classes which vary from intermediate to advanced speakers of English. I really enjoy teaching ESL basically because I find it a great challenge at times to lower linguistic barriers among people. Because I am working with intermediate and advanced students, I'm allowed a lot of freedom concerning the format and set up of my classes. I'm able to create a comfortable, casual atmosphere that promotes conversational learning rather than a more structured class required for beginners.

Besides my work at the University I also teach two different groups of children for four hours each week. This is what I dearly love since it is more in line with what I study back home. One group is 4-6 year olds who are absolute beginners and the other group is at a low intermediate level of ESL.

When I'm not teaching I'm usually meeting with various professors and teachers seven hours a week learning the Czech language and studying the literature. Learning the language is extremely difficult. Fortunately, I've learned the fundamentals, which make me sound primitive, but get me where I want and what I want if nothing else.

As for Olomouc, it is a beautiful city. It is the largest city in Moravia which makes it this region's center for cultural activities. Because it is also a college town, there is a lot of diversity in this cultural haven. I've attended punk rock concerts that had to be evacuated due to tear gas bombings as well as the symphony's performance of Mozart's Requiem. Needless to say, there is never a dull moment.

Because of the city's central location, travelling is very easy for me.

Believe me, I've taken every opportunity that is offered to me to travel. I've been to Vienna for a week, and I recently visited Budapest, Hungary both of which are less than six hours away. At the end of April, I went to Poland. I had no idea how accessible the Eastern Bloc countries would be and now is the best time to travel.

What I really like about Olomouc is that it is still relatively untainted by tourism and foreign business unlike Prague which unfortunately has become inundated by both. The Czechs who do not reside in Prague have really become discouraged and unhappy about the idea of travelling to Prague because it caters mostly to tourists now. In some establishments, tourists are favored over Czechs and sometimes Czechs are not even allowed admittance into their favorite pubs and restaurants. It is really sad. You can imagine how disappointed you would feel after entering your favorite restaurant to find it filled only with tourists.

The problem with tourism in Prague only adds to the state of depression that most of the people of this countryside feel. Economic and governmental change to a democracy is wonderful but must be slow, not rushed. Restructuring the skeletal foundations of so many institutions cannot happen overnight and people are becoming impatient as they worry about their personal and government's future. With the price increases that took place a few months ago (nearly doubling some product's prices), I can't help but wonder how families survive when the average person makes 3000 kcs a month. To add fuel to the fire, the country also has to be concerned with the Slovak separatism.

Every day I'm here is a learning experience inside and outside the classroom. I wanted to let everyone know what I have been doing since my arrival. I'll write again soon. Take care! Na shledanou!

Lynette



# Seeking a Mid-western Education

by Lisa M. Rose

Dr. Jan Pišut, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of the Slovak Republic of Czechoslovakia was the honored guest of a breakfast held in his honor on May 15. Several CHF and other community leaders arrived at the Gallery Restaurant at the young hour of 7am to greet the distinguished visitor. Happily, the formalities and protocol expected of such an arrival did not dampen the possibility for a perfectly relaxing and

enjoyable conversation over breakfast with Dr. Pišut.

He is one of the leading particle physicists in Czechoslovakia and until December, 1989, Dr. Pišut was a professor of theoretical physics at Comenius University in Bratislava. Until his appointment as Minister in September, 1990, Dr. Pišut was the First Deputy Minister of Education of the Slovak Republic, responsible for higher education. Dr. Pišut

is married and is the father of two daughters. His wife works as an assistant professor in the Department of Nuclear Physics at Comenius University.

Underneath the seemingly intimidating credentials, Dr. Pišut was pleasant and eager to discuss his views and ideas for the future of education in Czechoslovakia. Overall, he felt that pupils and instructors should become accustomed to democracy and creativity in the classroom. For many years, only one method of teaching had been implemented. For every student in every village across the country, only one unified textbook and curriculum were available. Since the revolution of November of 1989, teachers today are allowed to change up to 30% of the prescribed curriculum at will.

Dr. Pišut felt that teachers should be allowed and encouraged to take more initiative in the classroom. The process of allowing more flexibility should, in his opinion, begin with



Bob Goodfellow

Dr. Pišut discusses educational issues with CHF members



students at the kindergarten level. Also, teachers and students alike should be encouraged to be free thinkers and should question and explore ideas of the world around them. He agreed with President Bush that it is important to upgrade educational systems so that they produce students who are among the world's finest.

Democracy is something that Dr. Pišut feels has not truly crystalized yet for the political arena of Czechoslovakia. Only after economic reform can actual democratization occur. Their new government is young and needs economic fortification before it can withstand the pressures that the struggle for democracy will place on it.

Dr. Pišut also responded to the division that seems to be occurring within Civic Forum, the majority party of Czechoslovakia. He duly noted that what is happening within Civic Forum is a normal part of any political heirarchy when several different personalities and ambitions emerge and grow together. Eventually, goals and interests will no longer be completely identical and factions will emerge. Dr. Pišut did not convey any particular alarm about the stability of Civic Forum and



Left to right: Adeline Volesky, Dr. Pišut, Frank Novotny, Charles Krejci

said that President Havel is as popular as he was before the June elections of 1990.

In regard to the upcoming elections of 1992, Dr. Pišut seemed only to speculate that it was difficult to make any predictions regarding newly emerging political parties as 90% of the population of Czechoslovakia is still paid by the state. He restated that until working economic reforms are implemented, predictions of new political appearances are somewhat premature.

Dr. Pišut offered some insight to understanding the move of the Slovaks to separate and distinguish themselves from the rest of Czechoslovakia. He expalined that even though by

definition Prague is the capitol of the country, Bratislava is the working center of the eastern half of Czechoslovakia. Because of simple locality it is not realistic for Prague to efficiently run the Slovak region and in practice has not been for some time. The move for a separate state of identity is only a formalization of a previously unofficial relationship.

On the lighter side of conversation, Dr. Pišut was eager to agree that U Fleku is one of Prague's better establishments for good times, good conversation and good pivo. After excusing himself for a cigarette, Dr. Pišut returned to pose for photos with all of his new friends in Cedar Rapids.



Insights:

# ČESKO SLOVENSKO

by Lisa M. Rose

Prague Spring is a name that has been typically associated with a political period in 1968 but many do not know that it is also the name of a music festival that occurs annually. Every May, glorious sounds of Smetana, Dvořak, Janáček, and others pour from music halls around Prague. Long lines of people wait hours in hopes of buying tickets to any of the performances slated for the month. World famous artists as well as local talents enjoy sell out crowds to nearly every concert.

Last night I listened to a recording of the performance of *Ma Vlast* that we had rushed and pushed through the crowds of students to hear at Smetana Syn. It

brought back many memories of warm spring evenings, smashed in between sweaty people on the tram, rushing to make the first downbeat of the maestro. Concert goers came young and old, rich and poor, and from all over Europe. One particular fan was Edward "Ted" Pettinger from Scotland. Ted was also a guest of the family with whom I was staying in

Prague. He made his way to Prague for the sole purpose of attending the many musical performances of Prague Spring.

Ted was a fan of music in general but his particular love was the music of Bohuslav Martinu. Ivan, the head of our host family's household, spent many afternoons searching out tickets for the Martinu performances. Ivan also spent



A french horn quartet at Bouzor castle near Olomouc.





Posing in front of the Janaček museum is (left to right) tour guide, Lisa Rose and Ted Pettinger.

many afternoons with Ted seeking out the tiny, obscure record shops in hopes of finding one of the few missing Martinů albums to complete Ted's collection. If it were possible to define "Bohuslav Martinů zealot" Ted really would have fit the description well. Simply from reading this story, it is probably difficult to comprehend the sheer joy that Ted was experiencing when we visited Polička, the boyhood home of Martinů.

Bohuslav Martinů was born in a one bedroom apartment at the top of a church tower in the middle of the Polička. It was his father's job to maintain and run the huge bells that were directly under their dwelling in the church tower. Polička was a very special place to Martinů and he revisited it many times during his life and music.

Bohuslav Martinů was Ted's ultimate favorite but Leoš Janaček also scored well on the list of favorites. So well, in fact, that Ivan treated Ted and I to an excursion to Moravia to visit the childhood home of Janaček also.

It was a delightful drive through the mountains to Hukvaldy, where Janaček's former home and now museum stands. The guide at the museum was very happy to show off all the personal belongings that were a significant part of Janaček's life and music. He gave Ted and I each complimentary copies of Janaček's biography that

were passed out only to "special" visitors. He requested only that we take the books back to our respective homes and spread the good word of Janaček's music. We, of course, agreed to do so.

Warm days such as these remind me of my time in Prague when music was the reason for unlikely friendships to emerge.

Many came from all over the world to share in the rebirth of Czechoslovak culture--not only fans but performers as well made the journey to Prague. Among others, the distinguished list of visitors included Leonard Bernstein, Joan Baez, Sherrill Milnes, the Cleveland Quartet, the Moscow Philharmonic, the West Berlin Philharmonic and the Academy of St.-Martin-In-The Fields. Music is indeed an incredible thing. There is no better medium with which to build fond memories and lasting friendships.

There was no better place or time for such a relationship to begin as in Czechoslovakia for the Prague Spring music festival.





# From the Homeland

## DIVORCE, CZECH STYLE

A smiling face, symbol of Czechoslovakia's Civic Forum, may be turning to a frown. Beset by internal wrangling over policy in the newly emancipated nation, the popular alliance that swept the communists out of power 15 months ago and installed dissident playwright Vaclav Havel as President is splitting into two factions, already represented in Parliament: the

conservative Club of the Democratic Right (CDR) and the Liberal Club.

The move was initiated by Finance Minister and CDR mentor Vaclav Klaus, who is overseeing the transition from a state-run economy to the free market. In October the outspoken Klaus won an upset victory as Forum chairman over Havel's chosen candidate. Many

members of the loosely aligned Liberal Club are longtime associates of Havel's and opposed Klaus in that vote. "We have decided on a divorce, Czech-style," Klaus said, "between a majority that elected me [chairman] and a minority view."

*Taken from the February 25, 1991 issue of Time magazine*

## HARES

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP)-The Czech hare, once plentiful in forests and fields and exported for hunting in France and Italy, may not survive into the next century because of heavily polluted soil, experts say.

"The only way to save the hares is huge ecological action," said Karel Bukovjan, a research expert in animal contamination.

Bukovjan spoke Sunday at a conference on the protection of small wildlife animals in the Moravian capital of Brno. He said Czechoslovak fields had been devastated by chemical fertilizers.

Fifteen to twenty years would be needed to revitalize the dwin-

dling hare population, Bukovjan said, adding that half the surviving animals have been checked show signs for genetic malformation, infertility and toxic contamination with heavy metals.

According to Bukovjan, a typical pound of Czech hare meat contains .57 milligrams of mercury, .65 milligrams of lead and other contaminants at levels far above acceptable standards.

Under communist rule, Czechoslovak farmers were forced to merge their property into huge collective farms in the 1950s, leaving little room for hares to breed in grass patches and meadows separating the fields.

"But the real tragedy of the Czech hare started to unfold in the 1970s, when chemical farming was intensified," Bukovjan explained.

Agricultural cooperatives, driven by the Communist planners to top yields regardless of environmental harm, used up to 374 pounds of chemicals per acre, six times more than the recommended amount, the Mlada fronta Dnes daily newspaper said, quoting information from the Brno conference.

*Taken from the Cedar Rapids Gazette*

## TAX WORRIES CZECH PUBLISHERS

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) -- Newspaper and magazine executives fear a tax intended to revitalize the economy could bring an end to dozens of publications, newspapers reported Tuesday.

The government said it would continue to seek compliance of a tax imposed Jan. 1 that requires publishers to pay 22 percent of retail profits.

Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Rudlovcak said the government needed the money to

move from a controlled to a market economy. He added that the government will retain the right to subsidize some publications.

But the measures have been sharply criticized by editors and publishers, particularly in Slovakia, a southeastern republic, where readership may be too small for profitability.

The measure threatens "the very essence of the press throughout Czechoslovakia," the official council of editors in Slovakia

said in a communique printed in Rude Pravo.

According to the Slovak daily Verejnost, only 28 of the 120 Czechoslovakian magazines have a shot at surviving if forced to pay the tax, and only seven of 15 dailies are likely to establish a circulation of 100,000 or more, considered necessary to remain in business.

*Taken from the Cedar Rapids Gazette*



# "LIDICE Shall Live"...

The small village of Lidice was not a place of great importance to the rest of the world. Yet, the horrifying, heinous events which transpired June 10, 1942 gave it a distinction and significance that touched human hearts on all parts of the globe. Lidice would never again be obscure.

During World War II, the resistance movement was heavily concentrated in Czechoslovakia. Their government in exile, based in London, kept in close contact with underground forces in and around Prague. Commandoes and parachutists were of grave concern to the Nazis as they were Czechs and Slovaks, familiar with the terrain, language and people. They carried important information back to London. Each time a parachutist was captured, tortured and killed or an underground headquarters discovered and liquidated, intelligence activities increased. Determined to do their part in the fight for freedom, they demonstrated a bravery and defiance that bordered on a mass death-wish.

In October of 1941, the name of Lidice was first called to the attention of the Gestapo when addresses were found on a captured parachutist. The addresses were those of two families in Lidice who would "aid the cause." The information was carefully filed by the Nazis.

On December 28, 1941, three parachutists were dropped in Czechoslovakia on a very dangerous and important mission: the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, SS Obergruppenfuhrer and General Police, ruthless "Protector" of Bohemia and Moravia. After five months of careful planning and surveillance, the mission was executed on May 27, 1942. On his way to Prague to tend to the day's business, Heydrich was to be shot by one Josef Gabcik. When Gabcik's gun failed to fire, his comrade, Jan Kubis, threw a grenade at Heydrich's car. Heydrich was not killed that day, but died of blood poisoning as a result of his wounds eight days later.

Hitler, infuriated, immediately ordered the death of 10,000 Czechs. Karl Frank, State Secretary for the Protectorate urged an intensive search for the assassins and anyone connected with the assassination plot. Between May 28 and June 9, 1942, 1,800 Czechs were shot to death.

After Heydrich's funeral in Berlin on June 9, 1942, a decision was made to destroy Lidice as an example to quell further resistance. The order read:

1. All men to be executed by shooting.
2. All women to be sent to concentration camps.
3. All children to be concentrated, those capable of being germanized to be sent to SS families in Germany and the rest elsewhere.
4. The commune to be burnt down and levelled to the ground.

During the evening of June 9th, Lidice was surrounded. All valuables were confiscated and property seized. In the early morning hours of June 10, all men 16 and over were herded to the Horak farm cellar or barn. Systematically, ten by ten, they were taken to the orchard and shot. The women and children, meanwhile, were taken by truck to Kladno where they were separated, the former sent to Ravensbruck or Terezin Concentration Camps. Ninety-four of the children were sent to a children's camp at Gneisenau and disappeared without a trace. Nordic featured children and those capable of being germanized were taken by the Red Cross cars to Prague.

A stunned world received the news of the destruction of Lidice. The deplorable, brutal acts firmed up the resolve to defeat the Nazis and instigated the slogan, "LIDICE SHALL LIVE" worldwide.



Monument dedicated to Lidice in Phillips, WI.

The large settlement of Czech, Moravian and Slovak people in Phillips, Wisconsin wept for Lidice. Some had relatives and friends there. A door-to-door campaign was initiated to raise funds to build a monument in memory of the brave people of that small hamlet. A monument was completed and dedicated in the autumn of 1944. For many years, a memorial service was held in June on the Sunday nearest the anniversary date.

Josef Ondracek of the Czechoslovakian Department of the Interior led the search for the missing children of Lidice after the war. Accounts indicated 88 of them were gassed at a camp in Poland. Mr. Ondracek located 16 of the children and returned them to their people. One hundred forty-three women returned "home."

Plans to rebuild Lidice were underway before the war's end. The mass grave of the men is marked with a large cross. A museum honors the village and its inhabitants. Varieties of roses from all parts of the world flourish there with new life in the new village.

*Submitted by Toni Rohrig of Phillips, Wisconsin.*



# Czech Festivals

## 1991 PHILLIPS CZECHOSLOVAKIAN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday, June 15th and 16th, 1991 in Phillips, Wisconsin honoring Czech peoples.

Doors open at 10 a.m. at Phillips High School. Visit the famous Booth of Czechoslovakian

Culture. Gifts available at the Gift Booth and bakery at our wonderful Bakery Booth. Demonstrations, displays, concessions, continuous entertainment--something for everyone.

The Czech Plus Band of Cedar Rapids will be performing, as well as a polka mass and ser-

vice, genealogy presentation, video presentations, Lidice Memorial Service, genuine Czech cuisine, and much more.

For more information contact Nancy Cechvala, P.O. Box 193 in Phillips, WI, 54555, or Toni Rohrig at

## HERITAGEFEST IN NEW ULM, MINNESOTA

Discover Germany in Minnesota at the 17th annual Heritagefest held at 12th North and State Streets in New Ulm, July 18-21, 1991.

A unique Old World celebration of history and culture features continuous entertainment on five stages, including performers from Europe as well as New Ulm's famous Concord Singers.

## GERMAN-BOHEMIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Minnesota German-Bohemian Heritage Society was organized in 1964 to promote, develop and maintain the strong German-Bohemian culture and heritage. A monument will be

The four day festival blends a wide variety of ethnic and musical family entertainment, storytellers, mimes, jugglers, along with a large Bavarian-styled gift shop featuring imported items for an unusual shopping experience. The Arts and Crafts exhibit will feature handmade items and traditional folk crafts. A large selection of ethnic food and beverage specialties are very popular among festgoers. Two mile and 10K foot races and

unveiled on Saturday, July 20th at 1:30 p.m. in German Park which will stand as a symbol of the contributions that German-Bohemian immigrants have made to New Ulm and the surrounding areas.

a children's Kinderlauf race will take place on Saturday, finishing within the Festgrounds. A unique parade featuring the Heinzelmännchen (German Gnome family), morel mushroom characters and the Prairie Einwanderin will be on Sunday, July 21st at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, children 12 and under are admitted free.

If you have any additional questions, or need additional information, please contact our office at: P.O. Box 461, New Ulm, Minnesota, 56073 or phone (507) 354-8850.

## TRAEER'S 17TH ANNUAL CZECH FOLK FEST

July 19 & 20

All roads lead to Traer for the 17th Annual Czech Fest with

carnival rides, food stands, beer garden, bingo, games, arts & crafts and more!

Fresh Kolaches baked Saturday and Sunday. Friday night features Jim Busta's Polka Band

from 8-12 midnight and on Saturday enjoy Becky Livermore & Invahoe Dutchmen from 8-12 midnight. See you there.

**FREE GATE ADMISSION!**

## CZECH DAYS

at Holy Trinity Church in Protivin, Iowa: Sunday, August 18th.

Czech Heritage Singers are sponsoring a bus to Czech

Days at Protivin which will leave Cedar Rapids early on Sunday and come back the same day.

The Heritage Singers will join the Protivin Czech Singers for a combined concert as well as appearing with the Czech Plus

Band in a fun-filled day with music, food and dancing.

Come and join us for a mini vacation free from the care of driving. For more information call 364-0540.



# TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY PRESS

For many years the language spoken in Texas besides English and Spanish was Czech, but the Anglo American, Spanish, Mexican, and even German pioneers in Texas have received considerably more historical and popular attention than the Czechs. A new book from Texas A&M University Press redresses the imbalance and brings to the present some voices from the past—ten Czech pioneers of Texas, telling of their hardships and their hopes in a new land.

Josef Lebeda, the first of the ten immigrants heard in *Czech Voices: Stories from the Amerikan Narodní Kalendář*, begins his story by stating his birthplace: "I am a native of Český Dobříš, in the district of Prague." Although their stories begin in Europe, they recount a special and unique history of Texas. Czech Texans, comprising immigrants from the regions of Moravia, Bohemia, and Silesia in Eastern Europe, looked to Texas for political and religious freedom as well as economic opportunities.

They began immigrating to the state in the 1850s and founded several communities. The narratives presented here were the first printed in the midwestern Czech-language journal *Amerikan Narodní Kalendář*. They tell the story of the early immigrants and provide a picture of this ethnic subculture that goes beyond the kolach pastries and polka dancing popularly associated with Czech Americans.

Several motifs and themes that run through the collection loom especially large: physical hardships of the immigrants, religious conflicts, the American Civil War, ethnic identity, farming practices, and attitudes toward the land. Among the writers are important leaders, adventurers, journalists, and typical farmers, chosen for their identity or powers of expression or for the importance of the events they record. Their impressions, attitudes, and emotions bring to life an era that other sources rarely can.

Clinton Machann and James W. Mendl, Jr., who selected and

translated these stories, provide an interpretive introduction, informative notes, and a bibliography that help to place the life stories in their historical and cultural context. These narratives have never before been generally available; historians interested in American immigration and ethnicity, as well as the descendants of immigrants, will appreciate both their valuable contribution and the pleasure of reading them.

*Czech Voices: Stories from Texas in the Amerikan Narodní Kalendář*, translated and edited by Clinton Machann and James W. Mendl, Jr., is available from booksellers or direct from Texas A&M University Press by calling toll-free 1-800-826-8911. For more information about the book or about the editors (an associate professor of English at Texas A&M University and a school-teacher in Taylor, Texas, respectively), please contact Maureen Creamer, publicity manager, at (409) 845-1436 or FAX (409) 847-8752.

184 pages. 10 black & white photos.

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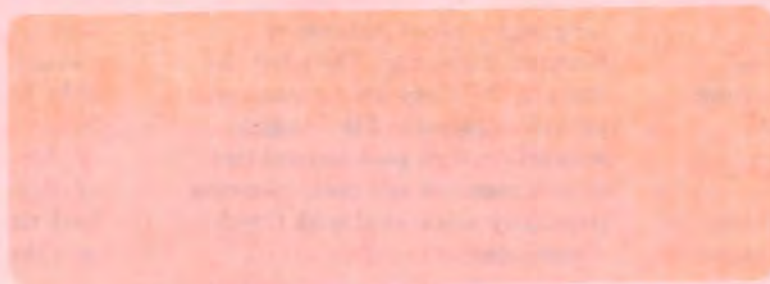
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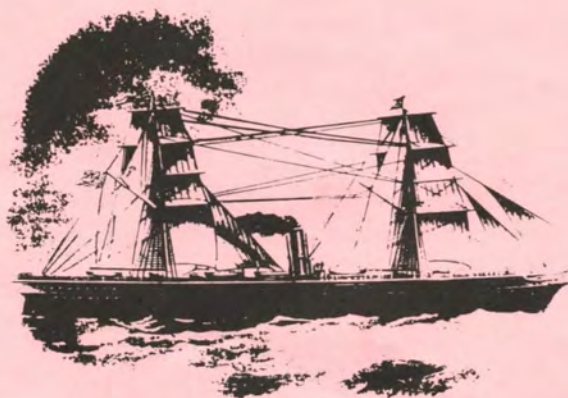


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**“The Early Immigrants’ Journey”**

a new exhibit honoring our  
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other fine museum exhibits (Immigrant Home, National Costumes, Glassware)  
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