



Houby Days 2010
May 14, 15, 16
Czech Village, 16th Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa



Photo courtesy of
WFLA

CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 8476, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52408

Spring 2010



Editor

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Contact me at
or

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Subscriptions

Subscriptions for *Our Czech Heritage* are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation receive the newsletter free of charge. Contributions may be sent anytime. Annual dues are \$10.00 and renewable on January 1 of each year and expire on December 31. Dues received today apply to the following year for new members.

Website

The Czech Heritage Foundation's newly updated website is something you have to see. Visit www.czech-heritagefoundation.org anytime for all things Czech.

Send Us Your Stories

If there is something you would like to see included in the next issue, please let me know. Please share your copy with a friend or relative, or better yet send in a gift membership in their name! How important is your heritage to you?

President's Message



Lud Svoboda
CHF President

As we start a new year of events here in the Village, we certainly must keep in mind the flood that took us down . . . however we cannot dwell on it. We must move ahead. I think the new theme is so appropriate, "Rising Above." It is a theme that we each can work with, whether we are rebuilding personal property or helping in some way refurbish a home or business back to a productive state.

Not being from this area but certainly being of 100% Czech ancestry, I can in a way sympathize with the people of the area more than if it had happened to another ethnic group. And by this

I in no way intend to demean any ethnic group. I can, and did, shed tears for people who lost everything. I didn't ask what nationality or ancestral background they were when I saw the damage. I just knew it was horrible.

We must move ahead, do what we must. First of all we must remember, then we must rebuild, thirdly we may have to tear down.

The attitude of most people I have talked with affected by the water is great and I know it is hard. The others affected by the flood but not by the water are offering a hand to those who need it. Helping us "Rise Above."

Being elected to the Presidency of the Czech Heritage Foundation, to guide and give direction for the upcoming term, I hope the organization will bear right down and keep things going as the officers have done in the preceding years. I've been involved in the Boy Scouts, Horseman's Club, Eagles, Knights of Columbus, 3rd and 4th Degree, and I know each organization has similar problems in recruitment of officers and help.

I've met with members of the Village Association and try to attend the Czech Heritage Guild meetings along with the Czech Heritage Foundation and the NCSML (National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.) I really admire their personnel as they work feverishly every day to bring all things back. I know that when they get done in the weeks, the months and the years ahead they will be able to look back at the theme and say we "Rose Above."

I appreciate the faith the members have in me to lead and I hope that when I start veering off the straight and narrow they will help me back.

President, Lud Svoboda

Naše České Dědictví (Our Czech Heritage) . . . Join Today!

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Membership Dues: \$10.00 Donation: \$ _____

Members receive this newsletter four times a year.

Mail form and check to:

Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 8476
Cedar Rapids, IA 52408



MASOPUST!

Czech Mardi Gras was celebrated in Protivin, Iowa February 13, 2010. Czech Heritage Foundation royalty along with 33 people from the Cedar Rapids area attended.



CHF Royalty front row l-r: Cassie Lehmann and Abby Frerick. Back row l-r: Eric Sindelar, Amanda De Hoedt and Andrea Cada.



A Czech skit was performed.



Cassie Lehmann and Abby Frerick, "Little Sisters" to Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa enjoyed dancing.



Amanda De Hoedt, Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa performed a humorous skit.



Woosley Bus Tours provided transportation to many Cedar Rapidsians in attendance at Masopust.

CHF at Cultural Diversity Day in Iowa City



CHF members and youth royalty greet the public and serve kolaches, klobásy, and hot dogs. Many cultures were represented at the annual event held at the University of Iowa Fieldhouse on Feb. 21, 2010.

Cookin' in Babi's Kitchen



"Babi's Kitchen," is sponsored by the NCSML Guild. Pictured above young Czech girls watch as demonstrator Carol Wohleben explains how to make Easter Egg Bread on Saturday, Feb. 27 at St. Ludmila's Social Hall.

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Patty Hikiji & Pat Kent Honored

By Pat Martin

"Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives are a mimicry. . ." Oscar Wilde.

Not so with the two women we honor today, two long-time Guild members who are valued Guild volunteers as well as former staff members at our National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

Pat Kent and Patty Hikiji are themselves, not reflections of other people. Their thoughts are their own opinions, their lives are distinctly their own.

Happily and luckily for The Guild of the NCSML and the institution of NCSML, both have shared themselves as our workers, our volunteers, and our friends.

Pat Kent has been a Guild volunteer and worked for NCSML for 9 1/2 years as the assistant to the manager of the museum store. She kept the store records, was in charge of their financial records. A Guild member, Pat helped with all of our projects and also served as Guild treasurer. She has been a faithful colleague and we value her talents, energy, and dedication. After the Flood of 2008, Pat rescued Museum Store items by taking them to her home. With Pat, we got Annie Kloubec (her sister) and a dynamic duo. Annie ordered books and the two sisters were the ornament czars!

We treasure locals with Czech roots. These ladies, whose maiden names are Vrba, say their earliest memories are attending Czech School and "Avenue" Saturday shopping with their parents. They graduated from Wilson High School and they worked at the public library branch in the now Czech Vil-



Pictured l-r: Patty Hikiji and Pat Kent at the Museum Guild's tribute to their work.

lage as teenagers.

Patty Hikiji is one of our Guild's five founders/charter members, with its establishment in early 1994. She is also a 22 year employee of our museum. She started working professionally at the "second" museum site in 1984, and remained in the position of tour guide there until 1994. At that point, Pat resigned and moved out of state. Patty returned to Cedar Rapids in 1997 and joined the NCSML staff as Program Director, Volunteer Coordinator, and Tour Coordinator.

Patty says her life was strongly influenced by the cultural values of her heritage: the importance of education, respect and appreciation of the natural world, love of music and art, and self-sufficiency. One of her earliest childhood memories is of playing on a blanket laid out in a sunny clearing in the woods while her family hunted for mushrooms.

Patty grew up with the Czech cultural institutions of CSPA Hall activities and the Moravian Day celebrations in Berwyn, Ill. Like the Vrba sisters, Pat

worked on "The Avenue" at the Modern Bakery full or part-time through her college years. She waited on customers, sliced bread, washed cookie pans and ground poppyseed. Patty's heritage links her to the Christle family as well as the Polehnas. Patty is well known in the community, not only representing NCSML, but with her contributions to volunteerism.

A recent example of her Guild volunteerism occurred when she stepped in to re-type 12 pages of Bylaws, when the Guild member assigned that task was ill for months and unable to carry out that responsibility. Patty, we could always count on you...your dedication, your style, and your knowledge of the Czech community in this area.

Taste of Czech & Slovak

NEW to this, the 10th annual "Taste of Czech & Slovak" celebration of cultural cuisine, is food sponsorship by several Village merchants.

This food feast, which kicks-off Houby Days festivities on Friday, May 14, from 5-7 pm, will present some 30 samples of appetizers, soups, meat dishes, side dishes, and desserts. Held at the spacious St. Ludmila Catholic Church Social Hall, there will be music, socializing, as well as attendance by the Czech Heritage Foundation Royalty.

"Favorite menu selections will be donated by The Blue Toad, Dostal's Catering, Maria's Tea Room, The Red Frog and Sykora Bakery and will certainly enhance our foods selection, which in the past has consisted entirely of contributions by Guild members," said Lu Volsch, fundraising chair for NCSML Guild.



St. Patrick's Day Parade



On March 17, 2010 Czech Heritage Foundation participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Cedar Rapids. Over 100 units participated.

Pictured right CHF royalty have fun before the parade. The Perkins Cookie came over to have "her" picture taken with us. Yes, Czechs love sweets! Pictured front row l-r: Hannah Van Deusen, Alana Andrews, and Micah Van Deusen. Back row l-r: Andrea Cada, The Perkins Cookie, and Eric Sindelar.



St. Joseph's Day Parade



On March 20, 2010 Czech Heritage Foundation participated in the annual St. Joseph's Day Parade. The parade route went through Czech Village on 16th Avenue. About 20 units participated.

Pictured front row l-r: Megan Lehmann, Hannah Van Deusen, Micah Van Deusen, Sarah Schirm. Middle l-r: Marissa Cada and Eric Sindelar. Back l-r: Cassie Lehmann and Amanda De Hoedt.



St. Joseph's Day Dance Big Success!

By Barb Edmunds

The Czech Heritage Foundation Inc. has again sponsored a successful and fun St. Joseph's Day Dance on Sunday, March 21st. It was held at the Cedar Rapids Elks Lodge, 801 33rd Ave SW. Over 350 people, many in their beautiful red outfits, enjoyed the wonderful music of "Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen." It was good to have many of the students in their kroje helping in many ways.

The bake sale was bigger and better than ever, bringing in much needed money for this fundraiser. There were kolache, rolls, cakes, cookies, honey, homemade maple syrup and jellies, bars, carmel corn....oh so many good things. We thank so many people who brought not just one item but many to make this such a successful sale.

There were a wonderful assortment of items for the raffle and door prize tables, much more than we expected. Many winners went home with some great gifts. Again, we thank all that brought items and thanks to those that bought tickets for the drawings to be



Past and present CHF Royalty distribute many door prizes and raffle items during the dance. Far right: Dance Committee organizers Barb and Frank Edmunds announce the winners.

winners.

The Czech Heritage Foundation would like to thank all that helped in any way to make this dance in 2010 a big success. The money raised goes to help us continue two important programs for our students, the Homestay Program and for Scholarships.

We had two people who sold the most tickets and secured donations, Elaine and Leo Shima and we are so

grateful for all of their help. Thanks to all of the Czech Heritage Board members that helped us out in many ways.

The 2011 St. Joseph's Dance will be held Sunday, March 20th, 2011 and will be again held at the Cedar Rapids Elks Lodge. "Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen" will be entertaining us with their great music. Mark your calendars and bring your friends.

Thank You!

The Czech Heritage Foundation would like to send a special THANK YOU to the following people and companies that contributed to help make this 2010 dance a success.

Businesses
Red Frog
KFC, Center Point Rd.
HyVee Drug Store
NCSML
HyVee
Maria's Tea Room
Murdock Funeral Homes
Czech Cottage
Czech School
Village Hair Design
Iowa Valley Monument/Marengo Monument
Sykora Bakery
Brosh Funeral Homes

Businesses
Elks Lounge
Stalker Electric
KFC, Edgewood Rd.
Papich-Kuba Funeral Home
Wiley Car Wash
Teahen Funeral Homes
National Flag Co.
Tic Toc Lounge
O'Donnel Ace Hardware

Families
Wes & Olga Drahozal
Deloris & Vic Pilsner
David & Rosemary Burke
Larry & Arlene Spina
Joyce & Arlo Netolicky
Lud & Loreen Svoboda
Kathy & Scott Frerick
Kit Wobeter
Jerry Haight
Sindelar's
Lehmann's
De Hoedt's
Sauer's

Past & Present Homestay Students

And many more not mentioned that donated baked items, donations and gifts for door prizes and raffle items. We truly thank all of you.

The Dance Committee, Frank & Barb Edmunds

KOSEK BUILDING OPENS APRIL 17

The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, NCSML, celebrated the grand opening of the Kosek Building in Czech Village on April 16, 17, 18.

The new exhibition "Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood" was featured. Tours of the administrative offices, classroom and Museum Store were also held.

By Leah Wilson

Director of Marketing and Communications, NCSML

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

News stories, video and eye-witness accounts carry you through the experience of the flood, moment by devastating moment, culminating with a walk-in model of the flooded house.

age of ongoing recovery efforts in Cedar Rapids and will allow you to record your own personal flood story or family history.

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



Painters work on the Kosek Building on 16th Avenue in Czech Village. The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library has completely remodeled it to house "Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood." NCSML administrative offices are located on the second floor.



Putting the finishing touches on the new exhibition three weeks prior to opening. The exhibit begins with the history of Czechs in Cedar Rapids and concludes with the Flood of '08.



A walk-in model of a flooded house was being worked on prior to the opening of exhibit.

Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa

A tradition for 10 years



Lisa Volesky
Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2000-2001
Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2001-2002



Katie (Ziskovsky) Dawson
Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2002-2003



Stasia (Krivanek) Fine
Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2003-2004
Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2004-2005



Amanda De Hoedt
Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2004-2005
Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2009-2010



Beth Struzynski
Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2005-2006



Rachel Lehmann
Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2006-2007



Casey Dvorak
Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2007-2008



Samantha Hubler
Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2008-2009

Pageant Coordinators



Adeline Volesky



Zelda De Hoedt
Director



Deb Volesky



Joyce Netolicky

The 2010 Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant will be at the P-3 Union Hall, 116 - 14th Ave. SE on Saturday, May 15, from 7:00-8:00 pm.
Public is invited!

33rd Annual Houby Days

PRESENTED BY CZECH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

WWW.CZECHVILLAGECEDARRAPIDS.COM

Friday, May 14

5:00 - 7:00 Taste of Czech and Slovak
6:00 - Midnight Carnival
6:00 - 10:00 Barefoot Becky
7:00 - 9:00 Czech Plus Band Summer Kick-off Concert
8:00 - 11:00 McMurrin & Johnson @ Ernie's

Saturday, May 15

7:00 - 11:00 Egg and Houby Breakfast
7:00 - 3:00 Car Show
7:00 - 3:00 Tractor Expo
8:00 - 2:00 Houby Contest
8:00 Houby Identification Exhibition
9:00 - 9:30 Flag Raising Ceremony
9:00 - 10:00 The Czech Plus Band
10:00 - 11:00 Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant Kroje Competition and Parade of Kroje
10:00 Strolling accordionist Ron Johnson
11:00 Parade!!!
Noon Iowa Accordion Club
Noon Nail Driving Contest
Noon - Midnight Carnival
Noon - 2:30 Leonard Raymond Band
Noon - 4:30 Bingo at P3 Union Hall on 14th Street SE
2:30 - 3:15 Svetluský Children's Folk Ensemble
2:45 The Lipa Slovak Dancers
3:00 - 5:00 Mike Lasik
3:00 - 6:00 Tom Bruner, DJ Johnson & Eric Douglas @ Ernie's
4:00 Folk Hymn Mass at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church
6:00 - 10:00 Beaver and Brass Notes
7:00 - 8:00 Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant Queen Crowning Ceremony
7:00 - 9:00 Czech Heritage Band
8:00 - 11:00 McMurrin & Johnson Band feat. Skeeter Louis

Sunday, May 16

7:00 - 11:00 Egg and Houby Breakfast
7:00 - Noon Houby Identification Exhibition
Noon Children's Tractor Pull
Noon - 2:30 Mike Lasik
Noon - 4:30 Bingo at P3 Union Hal
12:00 - 5:00 Carnival
12:00 - 5:00 Houby Identification Exhibition
1:00 Cabbage Roll
1:00 - 2:00 Walking Tour of Czech Village with Jan Stoffer
2:00 - 3:00 Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre
4:00 Children's Parade
4:30 Children's Bicycle Give-away

Get your
Houby Days
Button Today!



Help Save the Roundhouse

DETAILED HOUBY DAYS SCHEDULE

Friday, May 14

5:00 - 7:00 Taste of Czech and Slovak, sponsored by the Museum Guild of the NCSML. St. Ludmila's Catholic Church Social Hall.

6:00 - Midnight Carnival, sponsored by the Czech Village Association. Behind Sykora Bakery.

6:00 - 10:00 Barefoot Becky perform at the C Street Stage. Sponsored by the Czech Village Association.

7:00 - 9:00 Czech Plus Band Summer Kick-off Concert, sponsored by the Czech Plus Band. Concert at the Kosek Bandstand.

8:00 - 11:00 McMurrin & Johnson @ Ernie's Avenue Tavern

Saturday, May 15

7:00 - 11:00 Egg and Houby Breakfast, sponsored by Czech Village Association and Czech Heritage Foundation. P-3 Union Hall, 14th Street SE. Cost: \$6.00 in advance, \$7.00 at the door.

7:00 - 3:00 Car Show at Sokol Park

7:00 - 3:00 Tractor Expo in the parking lot located at C Street and 16th Avenue SW

8:00 - 2:00 Houby Contest. Awards given for the largest, smallest, or most creatively displayed, morel mushrooms. Sponsored by Czech Village Association. P-3 Union Hall, 116 -14th Ave. SE

8:00 Houby Identification Exhibition, sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation. P-3 Union Hall, 116 -14th Ave. SE

9:00 - 9:30 Flag Raising Ceremony, sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation (Prince, Princess, and Royal Court), featuring the Czech Plus Band and Czech Heritage Singers; at the Kosek Bandstand on 16th Ave. SW.

9:00 - 10:00 Concert featuring the Czech Plus Band and the Czech Heritage Singers. Kosek Bandstand.

10:00 - 11:00 Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant Kroje Competition and Parade of Kroje, sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation. To participate in the Parade of Kroje, Kosek Bandstand on 16th Ave. SW Please contact Joyce at (319) 396-7995.

10:00 Strolling accordionist Ron Johnson, sponsored by the Czech Village Association.

11:00 Parade!!! Come on out and line the route from 3rd Street & 14th Avenue SE, across the Bridge of Lions, and through Czech Village on 16th Avenue SW.

Noon Iowa Accordion Club @ Kosek Bandstand

Noon - Nail Driving Contest

Noon - Midnight Carnival, sponsored by the Czech Village Association. Behind Sykora Bakery.

Noon - 2:30 Leonard Raymond Band

Noon - 4:30 Bingo at P3 Union Hall on 116 - 14th Ave. SE

2:30 - 3:15 Světlušky Children's Folk Ensemble, sponsored by the NCSML. In front of Kosek Bandstand.

2:45 The Lipa Slovak Dancers, Světlušky will perform.

3:00 - 5:00 Mike Lasik @ Bandstand

3:00 - 6:00 Tom Bryberm, DJ Johnson & Eric Douglas @ Ernie's Avenue Tavern.

4:00 - Folk Hymn Mass at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, 12305th Street SE

6:00 - 10:00 Beaver and Brass Notes

7:00 - 8:00 Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant Queen Crowning Ceremony, sponsored by Czech Heritage Foundation. P-3 Union Hall, 116 - 14th Ave. SE.

7:00 - 9:00 Czech Heritage Band @ the Bandstand

8:00 - 11:00 McMurrin & Johnson Band feat. Skeeter Louis on Sax @ Ernie's Avenue Tavern

Sunday, May 16

7:00 - 11:00 Egg and Houby Breakfast, sponsored by Czech Village Association and Czech Heritage Foundation. P-3 Union Hall 116 - 14th Ave. SE Cost: \$6.00 in advance, \$7.00 at the door.

7:00 - Noon Houby Identification Exhibition, sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation

Noon - Children's Tractor Pull, sponsored by the Czech Village Association. Located at the corner of A Street and 16th Avenue SW.

Noon-4:30 Bingo at P3 Union Hall, 116 14th Ave. SE.

12:00 - 5:00 Carnival, sponsored by the Czech Village Association. Behind Sykora Bakery.

12:00 - 5:00 Houby Identification Exhibition, sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation.

1:00 Cabbage Roll, sponsored by Sykora Bakery. Registration at the time of contest. For all ages.

1:00 Walking Tour of Czech Village with Jan Stoffer; Tickets available at NCSML Store; cost is \$7.00 per person; meet in front of the NCSML's Kosek Bldg.

2:00 - 3:00 Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre.

4:00 - Children's Parade, sponsored by Czech Village Association.

4:30 - Children's Bicycle Give-away, sponsored by the Czech Village Association.



The Frame Trader located at 72 - 16th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids in the heart of Czech Village.

What's new on The Avenue?

Frame shop offers
value, diversity

By Frank and Calvin Spinka

Looking around at the devastation left from the flood in our community, we often overlook the subtle signs of hope. One such sign is Cedar Rapids' newest custom framing shop located in the heart of Czech Village.

"When most people hear the words custom framing they automatically think expensive. Our mission is to dispel that myth."

Started by Frank Spinka and his son Calvin Paul Spinka, Frame Trader seems to have found a home in The Village.

When the Spinkas began looking for a place to open their store over eight months ago much of Czech Village was still in shambles. Although they were excited about the potential there, they weren't sure how quickly the recovery would proceed. A few short months

later the Spinkas were open for business across the street from Sykora's Bakery. If the new remodeling and the striking tin ceiling weren't enough, the decision to located at 72 Sixteenth Avenue was a

perfect match for the Spinkas.

Frank was born Francis Jerome Spinka in 1951 to parents Rose Ann and Wencil James Spinka, both of Czech descent. He grew up in Cedar Rapids with his brother Wencil Louis and is proud of his Czech heritage. Frank has worked as a maintenance supervisor for over 30 years at Hawthorne Hills Apartments



Calvin Paul and Frank Spinka, owners of The Frame Trader.

just up the hill from the village. The location of his shop is very much a homecoming for Frank. In his spare time he has become an accomplished

cabinetry maker through his love of tools and wood-working. He plans to retire in a few years and devote his time to the business that he and his son started.

Calvin Paul Spinka attended college at the University of Iowa where he majored in Anthropology

Continued on page 16



Houby Hunters

Houby is the Czech word for mushroom. Readers share their stories regarding "The Hunt!"

Amanda De Hoedt, Iowa City

"I don't have a specific houby story, but I've been going mushrooming with my grandpa and dad since I was little and it was always fun to go on hiking adventures with them in search of morels. I don't even like the things, but we turned our hunts into competitions to see who could find the most, or the largest, so it was always a really good time.

When I went to the Czech Republic as part of the homestay program, I went mushrooming with my host family every time we visited her grandmother. I felt like there were so many different types of mushrooms that we don't really see here in Iowa, a lot of them bad, so it was much more difficult to find them. It seemed like everyone agreed that there was one type of mushroom that was best and you could always tell if you had found one by touch-



|| ad and daughter
terLuss|| ell oedt
and Amanda || e
|| oedt houby
hunting.

ing the bottom, which would then turn blue. I remember we once spotted one on the bank across a river, and one of the guys actually fell into the river trying to get it!

I had extended my stay for my parents and I to visit some family friends, so I was actually lucky to get to go with my real dad! Two friends, my dad, and I all got up one morning to go searching, and came back with several baskets, which I believe were gone in a matter of hours!"

Sue Wolfe, Cedar Rapids

"I was about 11, and I was so honored that I was old enough to go houby hunting with my mom, grandma, and aunt. We went to a timber area hunting. All of a sudden my aunt spotted a bull. It started kicking it's hoof and holding it's head down . . . it was ready to charge! We all started running with my aunt leading the pack! She came to a barbed wire fence and ripped her pants. My mom, grandma and I were behind her and 'escaped' the angry bull.

Sarah Moore, Cedar Rapids

"When I was 19 I went houby hunting with two male friends of mine. They told me that I had to pick the houbys really fast or else they would go back in the ground! Not knowing any better, I raced around picking all the mushrooms, doing all the work. It wasn't until that evening, when I retold friends about my day that I discovered I had been tricked!"

Petr Jandacek, Los Alamos, NM

"Our family escaped the Communist Utopia in Czechoslovakia under the guise of collecting 'shrooms.' For the full story visit our website: www.jandacek.com and click on Family History."



Bohemian Glass, Part II

There are many ways to decorate glass. Free blown, mold blown, engraved, and cut glass is what we will try to cover in this article. Free blown glass is hot glass that in a liquid state is gathered on the end of a hollow metal pipe four to five feet long called a blow pipe. The glass maker then blows through the other end making a glass bubble that will be made into a vase, beaker, or some other object. Another glass worker will attach to the hot glass bubble's end a solid metal rod

that is called a pontil. The glass object will be taken off the blow pipe and shaped and rolled on a piece of marble (with the aid of the pontil rod) into an object that the glass blower wants. During this process the glass object will be put in the furnace's glory hole several times to reheat the object so that more hot glass can be added to form handles, rigaree wings, or other items. It will be taken off the pontil rod and then to a curing oven to cool slowly. If glass doesn't cool slowly it will crack and break.

A flux is necessary for making all glass. It helps the sand bond together and melt faster. The Venetians used glass recipes that had the ashes of seaweed in it for a flux that is called soda glass. It makes a glass that was thin, very pliable, and stayed work-

able longer. The Venetians loved it because they made most of their glass items with handles, rigaree, wings, and other added decoration. But this glass is so thin it is not suitable for engraving.

The Bohemian glass makers used beechwood to heat their pots to make glass. The beechwood ashes were refined and made a good flux called potash because it was ash from the pot. Potash glass is much thicker, harder, more brilliant than soda glass, and very suitable for

engraving.

Mold blown glass is blown in a mold made of apple or cherry wood that usually has a design carved in it. After the glass object is blown it is taken out of the mold. The unwanted glass and the blow pipe are removed and it is taken to the curing oven to cool. Mold blown glass is less labor intense than free blown, so it is cheaper to produce. The primitive Bohemian glass

makers used the free blown technique, but when the demand was made for different shapes of glass they would use wood molds.

Cutting glass and engraving glass are two different crafts. A machine called a treadle machine was used to engrave hard-stones back in the 1400s and was still being used for that purpose in the 1500s when it was first used for glass engraving. The power that was necessary to do the engraving had to be generated by the engraver because electricity was not available yet. This was accomplished by him working his foot in a rocking manner on a foot-pedal. By the use of wheels and belts a small copper disk that had emery powder on it was powered and that did the cutting.

If you had an ancestor that worked in the glass industry in Bohemia and know what they did and where they worked please let us know.



Engraved and Cut Red Flashed Pokal.



Chalice with Hunting Scene, third quarter 1800s. Pictured front and back.

Houby Days: 33 years and counting!

By Pat Martin

In 1978, plans were made for a spring festival in Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, a neighborhood known for its ethnic history. The neighborhood already had a very successful fall festival and merchants wanted a spring festival to compliment it. Lumir Vondracek and Frank Nusetril came up with a theme - mushrooms - and Houby Days was born. Both men were houba hunters and supported that "sport" as the mainstay of the spring festival. Merchants and festival planners met weekly at Joens Brothers Interiors, sitting on rolls of carpeting, as they discussed plans for the first spring festival.

The first Houby Days was held the weekend after Mother's Day in May, 1978. The Czech Village Association set that date for the festival so people could plan to attend the festival from year to year. Lumir was an expert mushroom hunter, and he and his houba buddies, George Tichy and Dick Jones, served as judges of the Houby Competition in the early years. Trophies were awarded for the largest, smallest, tallest, oddly shaped large and small (mushrooms, not Czechs!) best display, and best houba in show.

From the beginning, Sykora Bakery sold mushroom tarts. It is a tart stuffed with mushrooms, cream cheese, a bit of onion and butter. Sokol and St. Ludmila bakers made kolaches and had booths, and Lester Sykora did not mind a bit because he could not keep up with the demand.

The Merchant's Breakfast featured scrambled eggs and mushrooms, sausage, Texas toast and beverage. There were

continuous musical performances at the bandstand. Several vendors participated in a sidewalk bazaar. The Beseda Dancers from Sokol Cedar Rapids performed at the bandstand.

And, it would not be a festival without the carnival, located on the parking lot behind Sykora's Bakery. On Sunday morning, Dave Kralik of the Czech radio program was live at the tent in the Joens Brothers lot where bingo was played in the afternoon and evening. Sunday also featured the Houby Days 5000 meter race.

Today, the event has grown to include the National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival sponsored by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The Mu-

seum Guild presents the kick-off event, Friday evening's "Taste of Czech and Slovak." During "Taste" guests select from more than 30 traditional foods, set up at individual stations. The Czech Heritage Foundation hosts and sponsors the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant. St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church offers a Folk Hymn Mass and traditional Czech Pork and Dumpling Dinner on Saturday. There are guided walking tours of this historic neighborhood, a popular car show, maypole dance, kiddie parade, and a lot of options for wholesome family fun.

Houby Days 2010 unites both sides of the river. Both Czech Village and New Bohemia are committed to making this a memorable event. Join us as we celebrate our community's rich ethnic and historical roots.

Pat Martin was the first Czech Village Coordinator, 1977-1985



1977 Czech Village Association. Pictured l-r: Les Sykora, Sykora Bakery; Pat Martin, Czech Village Coordinator; Frank Nusetril, United State Bank (where US Bank is at present); Bud Howell, Riverside Neighborhood Assn. (also member of 16th Ave Commercial Club, which preceded Czech Village Association); Jerry Boddicker, Boddicker School of Music; Rick Bartunek, Bartunek's Maytag; Vince Fiala, Pohlana Meat Market; Bob Schaffer, Czech Cottage; Julie Stastny Sadler, Czech Closet; George Joens, Joens Brothers Interiors; Jessie Stastny, Czech Closet; Lumir Vondracek, 16th Ave. Meat Market; Richard Holden, attorney; George Barta, Saddle and Leather Shop; Paul Kosek, Kosek's Variety Store; Rollie Pierson, Pierson's Flowers; Ernie Hlas, Ernie's Tavern; Jim Kruse, Coast to Coast Store.

Frame Trader

Cont. from p. 12

and Art. While working part-time at the University Museum, Calvin Paul got his first exposure to picture framing. After college he got a job at a national chain store that sold art supplies and did custom framing. Although hired as a stocker, Calvin Paul's enthusiasm to learn soon led him to the framing department. There he discovered more about framing but soon realized that he wanted to run his own framing business. In order to achieve this goal, Calvin Paul decided to take a job with a small local frame shop.

Several years later the time seemed right for Calvin Paul and Frank, and Frame Trader was born. Their goal is to provide affordable custom framing to the masses. Calvin Paul says, "When most people hear the words custom framing they automatically think expensive. Our mission is to dispel that myth. Custom framing can be expensive. . . but it doesn't have to be!" Slowly it seems to be working. Like most start up businesses they are struggling, but the Spinkas aren't giving up. Their aim is not only to establish a successful business within the proud Czech community, but to provide a glimmer of hope between what once was and what soon shall be.



The Frame Trader offers a wide selection of frames and mats.

Wondering when your subscription is due?

Look for a 4 digit number right behind your name on the address label of this newsletter. It will say the year your subscription expires.

John Doe (2010)

100 Main St.

Town, State, Zip

Summer 2010 Calendar of Events

Taste of Czech
St. Ludmila's Social Hall
May 14, 5:00-7:00 pm

Houby Days
Czech Village
May 14-16

Kolache Festival
St. Ludmila's
June 13

Czech School
Wilson School
J St. & Wilson Ave. SW, CR
June 14-July 16
for children ages 6-13+

Antique Fair
Czech Village
June 19, 7 am - 9 pm

Czech Chalk & Art Fair
Czech Village
July 17, 7 am- 9 pm

49th Annual Czech Days
Wilber, NE
August 6-8

Czech Village Garage Sale
& Market
Czech Village
August 21, 7 am - 9 pm

Visit www.czechvillagecedarrapids.com
for calendar updates.



Czech School News

The annual Czech School Chili Supper Fundraiser was held Saturday, March 13 at St. Ludmila's Social Hall. Proceeds go towards running Czech School for six weeks in the summer at Wilson School.

Czech School is tentatively scheduled to begin Monday, June 14 and end, with the Final Program and Ice Cream Social on Friday, July 16. The classes, for students from age 6-13+, will again be held at Wilson School, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Czech School welcomes enthusiastic learners of any ancestry.

Teachers for the Czech School 2010 will be: Division I ages 6-8 - Daria Lipusova, Czech Republic; Division II ages 9-11 - Regina Lipusova, Czech Republic; Division III ages 12-14 - Tomas Slepicka, Czech

Republic. Music teacher for all ages - Mrs. Donna Merkle and Coordinator/Administrator - Cecilia Wolter.

Tuition will be unchanged from last year. \$40 for the first student from a family, \$10 for each additional student from the immediate family.

Registration forms may be obtained by calling Bernie Drahozal at [redacted] or by requesting by email to czechschool@gmail.com. Students also may register on the first day of school, June 14.

Czech School for adults, 2010: discussions continue, details pending.



Hot Houby Sandwiches

Ingredients

1c. chopped fresh mushrooms
2T Butter softened
1/2 c. mayonnaise
1/4 c. finely diced ham
salt and pepper to taste
4-6 thick slices French Bread
Grated cheddar cheese

Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
Mix mushrooms, butter, mayo, ham, salt and pepper together.
Spread evenly on the bread slices.
Top each slice with cheddar cheese.
Bake in preheated oven until cheese is bubbly about 8 minutes. Yields: serves 6

Notes: You can cut these down and make adorable hot appetizers. Can use baguettes, rye bread slices, instead of french bread for a change.

Movement Forming to Save Roundhouse

By Alex Andersen

Alex Andersen, owner of Ernie's Avenue Tavern is head of the Czech Village Association committee to save the Roundhouse for the people of Cedar Rapids.

The Roundhouse is a venerable, historic and important part of our Czech Village and city. With the volunteer help of our many skilled labor union professionals, as well as many companies giving of their expertise and equipment, we are going to help this fine landmark step aside to make room for the new Czech Museum and Library. Our plan for the Roundhouse is that she will first be carefully disassembled using the volunteer time and talents of our many skilled building trade professionals. She will then be moved just a few short blocks from her current location, keeping her in the Czech Village. Awaiting land and the final



clearance, she will be reconstructed, becoming better than ever.

The Roundhouse will be a year-round, fully outfitted event center. She will be a multipurpose center to host such things as markets, entertainment, meetings, etc. becoming a new asset to the shops and businesses and WILL BE a part of the *New Czech Village*.

With the anticipated support of the Cedar Rapids City Council and with your help, we believe the New Czech Village Roundhouse will be an even more vibrant and important part of our neighborhood and our

city.

We look forward to working with any individuals, groups, or companies that share our goals and our vision. Any donations for the rebuilding of the Roundhouse will be greatly appreciated and should be addressed to:

Save the Roundhouse Committee
Czech Village Association
69-1/2 16th Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

100% of the proceeds will go to saving the Roundhouse.

If you have any questions or would like to help in saving the Roundhouse in any way, please contact me. Thank you.

Alex Andersen

Phone:

. Email:

Czech Plus Band 2010 Summer Schedule



Here is the TENTATIVE Summer 2010 schedule for Czech Plus Band.

HOUBY DAYS WEEKEND

Friday, May 14, 7-8:30 pm concert

Saturday, May 15 Flag-raising, concert 9-10 am, Parade at noon.

Friday night concerts on Kosek Bandstand, 7-8:30 pm

May 21

June 4 and 18

July 2, 16 and 30

August 13, 27, and Sunday 29th 2:00-4:00

In addition there may be two Folk Masses, one at St. Ludmila's for Kolache Festival June 13 for 10:30 am Mass plus one hour concert afterwards and another at St. Wenceslaus for Houby Days May 15 for 4:00 pm Mass.

Světlušky News

Světlušky, the Czech youth music and dance ensemble founded and directed by Guenter and Donna Merkle have been busy growing and performing. The ensemble has recently grown from nine to 14 members and is made up of seven musicians playing bass, viola, violin, clarinet and recorder. All the members take turns playing instruments, singing, and dancing to Czech and Slovak folk music.

If you would like to have Svetluský perform at your event or make a tax deductible donation to this non-profit organization please contact:

Donna Merkle

Světlušky Performance Calendar

Northbrook ManorApril 10
Trinity Lane PreschoolApril 15
Houby DaysMay 15
Linn Co. Fair Central CityJuly 9



Světlušky recently performed at the Northbrook Manor Nursing Home in Cedar Rapids. Pictured top: Performing the Red Scarf Dance. Bottom l-r: Megan Lehmann, Carly Mark, Hannah Van Deusen, Cassie Lehmann, Jack Fejfar, Victor Mark, Micah Van Deusen, and Joey Mark.

2010 CHF Officers



President Lud Svoboda, Treasurer Dennis Hrabek, Secretary Joyce Netolicky, Vice-President Leonard Pfeiffer.

Members, Who Are You?

Are you the active member, the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just a member, your name upon a list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?

Or do you mostly stay at home and criticize and knock?

Do you play an active part to help the work along?

Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belongs?

Do you really get involved and make things really tick?

Or leave the work to just a few and moan about the "Clique"?

Do you come to meetings often and help with hand and heart?

Don't be just a member, but take an active part?

Think this over members you all know right from wrong!

Are you an active "MEMBER", or do you just belong?

Friday, May 14

5 - 7 p.m.

A Taste of Czech & Slovak

10th Annual!

St. Ludmila's
Catholic Church Social Hall
211 21st Ave., S.W.

A celebration of Czech
and Slovak cuisine

All are welcome!

Part of Holyday Blues

20 samples for \$10 or 10 samples for \$6

Tickets sold at the door

Sponsored by the NCSM Museum Guild

Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 8476
Cedar Rapids, IA 52408

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CZECH EGG DECORATING CLASS



On Saturday, March 20, 2010 Czech youth and adults attended a "kraslice" Czech Easter egg class. This traditional Czech art form class was made possible by the Czech and Slovak Museum at Hus Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids. The class instructor was Marj Nejd.

Photos courtesy of Karen Sindelar