

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



Sv. Mikuláš, the Devil, and an Angel visit Czech Village

(Story on page 3)

Volume 30 – Number 3 – 2005



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OUR CZECH HERITAGE



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Nase Ceske Deditvii

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation who pay their annual dues of \$5.00 per person receive *Nase Ceske Deditvii* free. Dues are renewable on January 1st of each year and expire December 31st. The newsletter, which is mailed quarterly, serves to inform its members of its activities, people, and places. Dues received in or after September apply to the following year for new members.

From the President's Desk

By Arlo Netolicky



We at the Czech Heritage want to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been a busy year for all of us.

We regret to inform you, that due to our cost increases for postage & printing, we will need to increase the dues for membership shortly.

We appreciate your understanding as it seems as everything else is also increasing we need to adjust also to keep from going under. We haven't had an increase in several years feel this is still a bargain.

A Message from the Editor

By Russ Novotny

I must apologize for the fact that this is only the 3rd Newsletter this Year (January, July, and December). In fact, to set the record straight, we only had 3 issues last year too. I take full responsibility for missing publishing of the 4th newsletters these two years. I'm not going to dwell on reasons, but suffice it to say that I have had a host of life-changing experiences these past two years. I still am committed to supporting the Czech Heritage Foundation and celebrating our Czech heritage, but personal time has been at a premium.

I will seek ways to reorganize how the Newsletter gets published in coming years, and will make a renewed commitment to seeing that we publish all 4 quarterly issues in the future. One way that all of you can help to make this happen is by providing articles and ideas for articles that the membership would enjoy. Thank you for your support.

Newsletter Volunteers

Sincere thanks to the people that have helped in assembling, and mailing the newsletter. The people putting the last newsletter together were:

Hedy Benesh, Andrea Cada, Marie Cada, Marissa Cada, Emma Davidson, Peg Merta, Marj Nejd, Andrew Netolicky, Arlo Netolicky, Joyce Netolicky, Judy Serbousek, Linda Novotny, Russ Novotny, Adline Volesky, and John Volesky

Many thanks to all that helped. We welcome anyone who wishes to join us for future issues.

I. Cover Story:

Sv. Mikuláš, the Devil, and an Angle visit Czech Village



Sv. Mikuláš, accompanied by the devil and an angle visited Czech Village as a part of Svaty Mikulas Day activities. The Angle checks her book to see if the person they are visiting has been good. If they have, they get candy from Sv. Mikuláš, but if not, they get coal from the devil. Everyone in Czech Village must have been very good this year, because everyone got candy.

Bernie Drahozal has helped Sv. Mikuláš for many years by standing in for him to depict this holiday tradition. Bernie was assisted by Jonathan Serbousek as the devil and Emma Lehman as the angle. In the picture above, they are shown surprising Bessie Dugenova at her Bozenka's Gift Shop.

II. Olga's Czech Language Corner:



Lesson 13 - Koncovky

By Olga Drahozal

Dobry den! Vitame Vas!
Good day! We welcome you!

Have you heard these sentences in Czech Village?

dobre rano --good morning
dobry den---good day
dobre odpoledne--good afternoon
dobry vecer--good evening
dobrou noc--good night

How confusing! "Good" is "good" in the English language all the time, isn't it? Is it any wonder that people who are attempting to learn the Czech language for the first time are puzzled? It's those "", the endings on adjectives (those describing words) that are hard for beginners to understand.

It goes back to what we said in our last time together. So much depends on the gender of the noun, that masculine, feminine and neuter thing. Yes, there are some rules, and yes, sometimes rules are broken. But you have to start somewhere.

Let's review a bit. Vowels are a, e, i, u, and y. All others are consonants.

In Czech, masculine nouns end in a consonant.

kostel--church
strom--tree
pisek--sand
kamen--rock
kun--horse

Most feminine nouns end in "a"

kocka--cat
holka--girl
matka--mother
babicka--grandmother
skola--school
kytka--flower
obloha--sky

But some will fool you and end in "e"

cepice--cap
opice--monkey
slepice--hen

Neuter nouns usually end in "o"

letadlo--airplane
zrcadlo--mirror
jezero--lake
auto, piano, radio (guess!)

Try this translation exercise:

stary kostel
vysoky strom
velky kamen
cerny kum
cervena cepice

mala kocka
hezka holka
stara babicka
velka skola
modra obloha

vysoke letadlo
krasne jezero
nove piano
male radio
cerne auto

Till next time, let's hope the typographical gremlins don't show up with any mistakes!

III. Recipe Corner

Frank's Pickles

By Russ Novotny



I've often considered adding a regular "Recipe" section to the newsletter. Then, recently, I stumbled on to this recipe for the pickles my mother and father used to make. I took it as a "sign", and now plan to include a recipe section in future issues. I'll be including recipes of those

foods that always turn up and are favorites at Czech events. Let me know if you have a favorite you'd like to see published here.

I couldn't say this is a traditional, old Czech recipe (after all, really old Czechs didn't have refrigerators), but these pickles sure have been popular at a lot of traditional Czech functions. And maybe, this is just another way for me to honor my folks for all they did and for the Czech community. Just like they were always present to help, these pickles always seemed to be present at any event where there was food. My folks did leave me a good store of these pickles, so we'll continue to have them at our Czech and family functions for some time to come.

5 quarts of sliced cucumbers (thin)
3 onions sliced thin
3 cups Sugar
3 cups vinegar
1 T salt
1 tsp mustard seed
1 tsp celery seed
1 tsp tumeric
½ tsp alum

Use 5 qt. Ice cream bucket - after mixing put in frig.

Mix all together (items 2-9) well. Pour over cucumbers. Mix well. Cover for nine days, stirring once a day. Can be put into jars or leave in container, covered in frig.

IV. Czech Heritage Foundation Reports:

Membership Dues Now \$5/year

It's finally happened. Annual dues for the Czech Heritage Foundation are being changed! Starting January 1st, 2006 dues will be \$5 per year.

Most of us can't remember when the dues were anything but \$3 per year. Perhaps they have always been. But what never changes? Certainly our expenses have changed. It seems like the dues should at least cover the printing and distribution of the Newsletter, doesn't it?

The dues change was discussed at the November Board Meeting, and approved at the December meeting. Certainly, even at \$5 per year, this has got to be one of the least expensive dues around. But the rationale is that we want to encourage membership! We feel a modest increase is appropriate at this time, but we don't want to lose members. We want the low dues to be a tangible invitation to be a part of our organization.

Czech Heritage Float Wins 1st Place - Best Decorated Float



Czech Heritage once again was awarded "Best Decorated Float" at Cedar Rapids' winter festival. The *Fire and Ice* festival kicked off with a lighted parade followed by fireworks – festive sites on a snowy winter night. The parade was televised state-wide in Iowa.

Homestay Atricles

EDITOR'S NOTES: Over the summer of 2005, the Czech Heritage Foundation sponsored four youth Homestay Ambassadors – Amanda De Hoedt, Katie Gerlach, Shanda Novak, and Jennifer Turecek. These students spend a month in the Czech Republic, living with host families, "absorbing" the Czech culture and home life. Then, three students from the Czech Republic visited homes here in Iowa. Following are several articles related to this Homestay project. .

Reports from 2005 Homestay Ambassadors

Amanda De Hoedt

I had the best summer of my life thanks to the Czech Heritage Foundation, which allowed me to live in the Czech Republic with an amazing family for six weeks. I learned an incomprehensible amount on this trip, and not just Czech words and history, but I learned about a different culture and way of life which is something very few people have the opportunity to do. When I arrived to the Czech Republic, I thought that everything from the toilet paper to the pizza to the clothing was different, but I quickly learned that even though everything was different, it was really just the same. Toilet paper was still used as toilet paper, cars still got you from point A to point B, and the food still curbed your hunger. After that first week I loved every minute that I spent in the country. I made friends who went with me to parties, discos, and castles and who taught me a lot about Czech culture while I taught them lyrics to music how to play Uno. I had a blast and had I had the choice, I'm not sure if I would have come home. This really was an eye-opening experience that I hope the Czech Heritage Foundation will continue to support in the future. It was a great learning experience and I hope that many, many more will be able to learn and grow over the summer as I have.



Petra and Amanda at Blatna Castle



Amanda in front of Hluboka Castle



Amanda playing in the puppet museum in Chrudim, the city where her ancestors came from

Shanda Lynn Novak



First, I would like to thank the Czech Heritage Foundation for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime. Without them sponsoring me, I would never have gotten a chance to go to the Czech Republic. I want to say thank you because I had one of the best times of my life and I met so many great people.

I first arrived in the Czech Republic on June 14, 2005 with Jenny Turecek and Katie Gerlach. My host sister, Jana - eighteen years old, and her brother, Jili - twenty-three years old, greeted me. We left the Praha (Prague) Airport and went to the small village where I would be living for a month, Hvozďany. This village is about one and half hours south of Prague. I met my host parents, Jill and DrahuSe and my host sister, Hana who is twenty-one years old. My host family was very nice and they did many things to make me as comfortable as possible. Jana, Hana, and Jili were translators for me because their parents could not speak any English, only Czech and Russian. But while I was there I learned many words and taught my host family some English. All of Jana's neighbors were very friendly and always greeted me "ahoj" or "dobre den."



Host Mother, Dranuse, Making Fruit Dumplings

I think that the Czech Republic is one of the most beautiful places in the world. The buildings are very elaborate and the countryside is breath taking. When I was there, June 14 - July 12, I did many fun things and saw many amazing sights. I went to school with my host sister in Pn'bram. I went camping with Jana's geography

class in the northeastern part of the Czech Republic, in a town called Teplice.



Host Sister, Jana, and Shanda in Teplice, Camping and Hiking

I saw many different churches and cathedrals, including small chapels in the forests. I also took tours throughout many castles including the Prague Castle, Orlik, Hluboka, Kozel, Broumov, Blatni, Karlstajn, and Bfznice. My host family took me to the Budweiser Brewery in Ceske Budejovice, a beer museum in Plzen, and to Terezin, a concentration camp. In Praha, I went sightseeing and shopping with Jana and her friends. On the weekends Jana took me camping to Lake Orlik with her friends and we would also go to the local disco (dance clubs).



Celebrating July 4th in the Czech Republic

Front: Katie Gerlach, Jenny Turecek, Amanda De Hoedt, and Shanda Novak. Back Row: Host Sisters

I loved spending this past summer in the Czech Republic. I met many great people whom I developed long lasting friendships with. The best part of the whole experience was just sitting around the table or the fire, talking and sharing stories. I learned that there are interesting people all around the world who have similar life stories and that is what made me more aware of the people around me back here in Iowa.

Katie Gerlach



Ahoj! Everywhere I went that is what I would hear from people while visiting the Czech Republic. My name is Katie Gerlach and I am a senior this year at South Tama County High School. I had the wonderful opportunity this summer to visit the Czech Republic. I would like to extend many thanks to the Czech Heritage Foundation for selecting and sending me on this wonderful trip. I learned about my heritage and the culture that was once lived by my relatives. I cannot explain what a wonderful experience this was and I hope that youth in the future take part in this extraordinary experience!

I stayed with the Miroslav Stefan family that was made up of his wife, Yivonna, and their 15 and 19 year old daughters, Zdenka and Eva Stefanova. We lived in a beautiful house in the tiny village called Bubovice made up of a 100 people or less. Their family had a few farm animals on their property including a couple bulls, some chickens and geese, honey bees and their dog, Flip. Looking out the window every morning I could-see-the beautiful country side of the Czech Republic made up of ancient forests and rolling hills. Pribram was a mile or so down the road where many of Eva's friends lived as well as the family hosting Jenny Turecek. Many nights after school and especially after school was out for the summer, we would go to Pribram to stay with friends. Her family took me to see many castles, many American war monuments, including where WW2 ended in Europe, a day trip to a German farm show, the birthplace of the musician, Dvorak, and the Alps to name a few. We took a week long camping trip with her classmates to Orlik castle where we stayed in cabins and went hiking and swimming.



While, anticipating my visit to the Czech Republic, I couldn't have ever dreamed of the experience's that I would end up doing while visiting. The food was a major 'Culture shock for me. We had dumplings at least every other day if not more. I always thought that there was only one way to cook dumplings and that was with some sort of gravy and meat - boy was I ever wrong. I don't think that her mother made the same kind of dumplings twice!

On the fourth of July all four of the American ambassadors threw a party at the home of my host parents. We invited many of the friends we met as well as all of the other host families. During the day, we went shopping for the closest things that we thought that our families were eating on the same day. We grilled out hamburgers and hot dogs as well as having the stash of American candy that Amanda De Hoedt brought. Although it was the first hamburger that Eva had ever eaten, she still enjoyed it.

I think that the best experience that I had while staying with the Stefan family was while visiting Prague. I had my portrait drawn on the St. Charles Bridge and we went site seeing all day long. My other memorable experience was visiting Czech dairy farms and learning about their industry. It was a goal of mine to see at least one dairy farm and Eva's father, Miroslav, went above-and beyond taking me to three. I learned some of the language and made sure to buy cook books in English so that I could bring back some of their culture home with me. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity unlike anything that I have ever done. I hope you enjoyed hearing about my trip and I encourage anyone to visit the beautiful country of the Czech Republic!

Jennifer Turecek

This summer I was given the once in a lifetime opportunity to visit the Czech Republic. The reason was because of the Czech Heritage Foundation in Cedar Rapids. During my time visiting there I learned about a completely different culture that I had to adjust to. There are so many beautiful things in all the places I visited but a few stand out in my mind. One being Prague, the Charles Bridge in particular, but also beautiful scenery atop the city. Another place that I will never forget seeing is the town where my great, great grandmother was from, Rokycany. The last place is Svata Hora or Holy Mountain. It was one of the most gorgeous religious places in the world and made me completely in awe at the sight of it.



I would have never made it through my trip without my host family. They were the nicest family that I could have stayed with and treated me like their own daughter.

Even though I could not speak with them in the same language, I tried to mix some Czech and English together so that I could have a closer bond with them. They took me to many places including castles and family functions and made me feel like I belonged there. My sister at the beginning could barely ask me what I liked to eat without using her English dictionary, but by the end of the trip she was using English slang that we as Americans are so used to.

I would like to thank the foundation for the chance of a lifetime to see what it's like living in another country and opening my eyes to my family history and culture.

Reports: Hosting Czech Students

The following article was published in *Inside Iowa Today*, September 29, 2005, which is distributed as a part of the *Tama News-Herald*. We wish to thank the *Tama News-Herald* for their fine reporting of this story and for permission to reprint this article here.

Czech Heritage Foundation brings students together

Gerlach and Stefanova visit each other's homeland

By Charley Townsley,
Staff Writer



Katie Gerlach (left) and Eva Stefanova sit on a bench outside of the STC High School just a few days before Stefanova returned to the Czech Republic.

Photo by Charley Townsley

Katie Gerlach, STC senior saw a flyer at the high school that read: "Do you want to go to Europe?" Gerlach, the daughter of Steve and Becky Gerlach and Jane Currier, wanted to go and decided to take a chance. "I was chosen for an interview with the Czech Heritage

Foundation, Cedar Rapids, and was selected along with three Cedar Rapids students for the month long trip to the Czech Republic," said Gerlach.

Gerlach and the three other students left the United States on June 12 and returned July 12, 2005. "The only expense I had was a language course, passport and spending money while there, the Czech Heritage Foundation paid for the rest of the expenses.

Goals Of The Program

The goal of the program is to send students with Czech heritage to the Czech Republic to learn more about their heritage, then bring a student from the Czech Republic to the United States to learn about our culture.

Gerlach was matched with a student from the Czech Republic named Eva Stefanova. She is the 18-year-old daughter of Miroslav Stefan and Ivana Stefanova. She lives in Bubovice, a village of about 100 people, approximately 80 kilometers from Prague. "I was chosen by our English teacher," said Stefanova, "partly because our house was large enough for another person."

Gerlach went to school with Stefanova for a couple of weeks while she was there, but spent as much time as possible touring the country and absorbing a different culture: "School there is different," Gerlach said. "Classes are shorter and less formal."

Being raised on a dairy farm, one thing of interest to Gerlach was to visit a dairy farm there. "It was really interesting seeing the differences," she said. "I didn't care that much for the taste of the milk there." She also had the opportunity to go to a farm show with Stefan, in Germany.

She saw the other students on the trip weekly. "We all went hiking together in the Austrian Alps. The only thing I can say about that is, it was wonderful!"

Gerlach spent a day in Prague, where she saw the St. Charles River Bridge and Prague Castle, home to the president of the Czech Republic.

"The 'Holy Mountain' at Pribram is considered to be the holiest place in the Czech Republic," she said. "I was very fortunate to get to see it."

"We toured the Pilsner beer brewery. That was fun. It's a big thing there," she said.

An Incredible Opportunity

"It was an incredible opportunity for me in many ways," Gerlach said. "I learned what it felt like to be a minority. I also learned there's a big difference between American kolaches and, true Czech kolaches. The food there is different. They eat a lot of dumplings, as well as fruits and vegetables. Not much fried food."

Stefanova's time in the Tama-Toledo area was equally as exciting for her. She, too, went to classes at STC some, but took advantage of her time here to see the country. She arrived here with a list of places she wanted to see, and was able to make most all of them.

Her time here started in mid August, with a trip to the Iowa State Fair, where she spent several days, even staying-in the livestock barn with an exhibitor friend of Gerlach's.

A Cure for Home Sickness

When Stefanova got homesick, she went to the home of the Lester Dostal family. "They were so kind to me and fun to be with," she said. "They spoke to me in Czech and cooked food much like I'm used to. They also played Czech music for me. I met several other people who were able to speak Czech to me."

Although from a long ways away, Stefanova is much like American teenage girls. The Mall of America was on her list of places to visit. They also went to a Renaissance Fair in Minnesota.

Stefanova had the chance to take a trip west with another host family and saw the Grand Canyon, Sedona, the Rocky Mountains and Brice National Park. "It was such a great trip," she said. "I saw so much beautiful country."

About Returning Home

Stefanova has one year of school remaining, which started Sept., 1, and will go to university next year in Prague. She left on Sept. 18, but had the chance to go to an STC football game before leaving.

"I'm anxious to get home, but sad at the same time," she said. "I have only met nice people here. I'm going to miss everyone, and the cherry pie ala mode at the Big T." Both Gerlach and Stefanova intend to stay in touch with each other and hope to get together again. They were very grateful for the opportunity they had which introduced them to one another.

Hosting a Czech Student

By: Angela Hoose

The last three days of having the Czech girls here was the most stressful. Having missed their flight on Sunday, the airport called us and we returned to bring home all four girls. They were quite upset, one was crying and they all needed to call home to talk to parents. After about an hour of making necessary phone calls, we settled them into our finished basement in the family room. Because we are campers, we had plenty of mattresses to make them comfortable. They sat up till nearly morning talking, crying, eating and drinking lots of Pepsi.

Another flight was scheduled for them on Monday at 7:00 p.m. and when they again arrived at the airport, this flight was now cancelled due to weather. Again, the girls returned back at our house, again upset and again needing to call home. There was a late night run to Wal.Mart for needed supplies and more food. All their luggage had been sent on ahead of them and they were all without even a toothbrush. As was the night before, they slept in the family room wearing some t-shirts as night clothes. This time, their flight was at 7:00 in the morning and they had to be at the airport at 5:00 a.m. I don't think they slept at all that night. We could hear them talking, and smell the cooking almost all night long. Lonnie took them to the airport early Tuesday morning and sent them on their way.

We received an e-mail from Irena on Thursday that they made it home without incident and their luggage was there waiting for them! Praise God! We were so worried!

As for Irena staying with us, we didn't know exactly what to expect and agreed to host a Czech girl thinking that she would be at the school most of the time. Because of our crazy schedules, and Irena's difficulty understanding English, she didn't enjoy school because they talked too fast. We were able to take her on short day trips throughout the week and her weekends were filled with a trip to Chicago with Zelda' a family, a band concert in Iowa City with her American friend, a dance at Kennedy high school and much more. She was very busy most of the time.



Guests Visit Czech Heritage Meeting - Lonnie & Angela Hoose (Student Hosts), Amanda De Hoedt (Homestay Ambassador), Zelda De Hoedt (Student Host), Irena Vancurova (Czech Student), Judy Serbousek (Program Coordinator), Petra Nemeckova (Czech Student), Beth Struznski (Miss Czech & Slovak Iowa 2005-06), Bert & Ellen Struzynski

When we had a few moments at home, we talked together a lot. Irena shared with us all the differences between American life and Czech life. It made us yearn for a simpler life where time moves much slower. Irena shared with us how important family is and how often they are together. In America, we are rarely together. In the whole four weeks she was here, we only had one sit-down meal together at home. Irena told us that they have a sit down dinner together every night.

Another huge difference is how much we drive and the number of cars we have. In Czech, it is most common to

have only one car for the entire family. There are some people who have two cars, but not the majority. And, they don't drive everywhere. The public transit system is much nicer, they can take a train into many other towns. There are also busses available, and they ride bikes. Most of the time, they walk where they want to go. The grocery store is close by and they may walk there sometimes three times a day. Irena became restless and needed to exercise while here. When she got on the treadmill, she stayed there, running for well over an hour. Obviously, all the driving had gotten to her.

When Irena and I shopped together, there were a lot of similarities in the stores and the kinds of stores so there wasn't much of a culture shock there. She found a beautiful evening gown that she admired in the mirror for a long time. We went back home without the dress and she called all her friends to discuss whether or not she should buy the dress. The following day, she had decided to buy it and wanted to go back to the mall right away. When discussing what the dress was for, Irena shared with us the most remarkable thing. Instead of a prom, like we have here, in Czech they have a ball. At this ball, the entire family is invited to attend. All her aunts, uncles, grandparents, siblings, everyone is invited! It is a very formal dance where they have champagne and celebrate their graduation from high school. They dance very formally, doing waltzes and ballroom dancing instead of the hip-hop like we have. There is a huge formal dinner, dancing with the teachers and administration of her school and lots and lots of pictures. She had found the most beautiful dress and she was so excited about going to the ball!



I was then concerned when the discussion of the homecoming dance arrived. I knew it wouldn't be a big deal like she is accustomed to and that she might be disappointed. We found dresses for them to wear and with Tacie, Irena joined Amanda and Petra. When we picked them up later, Irena just could not understand why a dance would be in a lunch room at a school and why did the girls dress up so nice and it wasn't a formal event. We tried to explain that the homecoming dance and prom are the big events here and because of that, the girls tend to dress up a lot. She was astounded that this dance wasn't in a ballroom somewhere with a large band and waltzing. She experienced a real American high school dance, much different than what they have in Czech.

Irena had brought us brochures and magazines filled with information about Czech. The castles are beautiful, and

the scenery is grand! While on the trip to the Mississippi, one of the highlights of the trip was a castle that was built on the shore of the river. Irena said, "Our castles are much bigger," and wasn't impressed. We went to the Dubuque museum and the girls seemed to enjoy that.

The food was another experience for Irena. We were very glad that Irena was willing to try almost anything. She had her first corn-on-the-cob, her first Mexican food, and her first muskmelon. They have watermelon there, but not muskmelon. They also have corn in soups, but never on the cob. She was quite gracious and ate whatever we served her. I couldn't believe the amount of juice she drank though. We are heavy water drinkers and I know in some homes pop is the main drink. Irena must have made three pitchers of juice a day. It wasn't till late in her stay that we realized she would have rather had pop, but we didn't know that. Because of cost, I'm glad she was happy with the juice and didn't hit the pop till near the end of her stay. The four Czech girls together drank 3 cases of pop in those two nights they were here.

I had never wanted to cross the ocean to see another country, till now. After meeting Irena, she quickly became like a daughter and we grew to love her rather fast. One night, she came and sat on our bed and cried because she was afraid she would never see us again. We agreed to come to see her soon. While I'm in college though, I don't think we'll get there until I'm finished. I hope she remembers us till then because we really do want to go see the Czech Republic. It sounds like the most beautiful place and the culture seems to be much slower paced. Perhaps it is slower like it was when we were young and had plenty of time in a day to play and lounge around in lawn chairs, soaking in the sun or watching as the sun set for the evening. Back to a day when we actually could have a sit-down meal with the family and talk. It sounded like a country where we could take a step back and enjoy life for awhile. It sounded like a vacation that I surely do not want to miss out on.

Irena brought to our home a whole new vision on life and lots of information about her country. We were so glad to have shared that time with her! Thank you for allowing us to host a girl from Czech Republic!

Profiles of Visiting Czech Students

Jana Jirincova

Czech Republic Town: Hvozduary, small town, 500 people live there. There is a primary school in my town.

Parent's Occupations: mother, Drahusa, -business speaker. Father, Jiri, - watchman.

Host Family & Town: Norman and Lisa Novak, Oxford, Ia.

USA School Experiences: choices of many sports. The teacher-student relationship is very friendly. Text books are issued from the school to the students.

Interesting USA Experiences: Visited many interesting places: Chicago, Iowa State Fair, Southwest and western U>S.A. The Czech Museum was good but is more interesting for American or English speaking people. ATV experiences.

Experiences with Host Family: Riding in a camper for 9 days to the southwest United States. Camping and boating on Lake McBride. Going to the cinema - March of the Penguins. Going to the Green Day concert in Davenport.

Interesting Czech Republic Experiences: Camping in the town Teplice (nad Hetuji) with my classmates and Shanda, going to the concentration camp Terezin, visiting many castles, camping at Lake Orlik.

Conclusions & Comments: I am very happy that I could stay with the Novaks. I had a wonderful time here in Iowa. I hope that the Novaks are able to visit me in the Czech Republic.

Petra Nemeokova

Czech Republic Town: Rozmítal Pod Tremsinem - we have maybe four ponds where people do fishing, you can see here a lots of pubs, one stadium where football players train, cultural center, and lots of trees.

Parent's Occupations: mother, Jana - Shop assistant. Father, Milan - Iron construction.

Host Family & Town: Russ, Zelda, Amanda, & Elizabeth De Hoedt, Cedar Rapids, IA

USA School Experiences: Kennedy High School - I do think that most of people tried to help me when I couldn't remember some words. They were pleasant.

Interesting USA Experiences: Everything is big! Cars, towns, shopping centers. What was surprising for me? Most of the people love hamburgers (fast food). But what a nice surprise when I saw Czech Village. I remembered for my home.

Experiences with Host Family: I think that they tried to do everything for me. We visited the river Mississippi, the city Chicago where I knew about the Czech community. We were in Czech restaurants too.

Interesting Czech Republic Experiences: I haven't so many interesting stories. I only know that I like to spend my free time with my friends and it's every time wonderful.

Conclusions & Comments: I know that I would like to visit the USA again because this holiday was maybe the best holiday which I ever had. I hope that I will be able to visit more interesting places in the USA.

Eva Stefanova

Czech Republic Town: Breznice I live in a small village about 100 people. Everybody knows each other. There is a church from 14th century, one store, and a pub. I love this place.

Parent's Occupations: Ivana (mom) -accountant, Miroslav (dad) -director of part of a company which sells John Deeres

Host Family & Town: Gerlach family in Tama

USA School Experiences: School is very different than mine. We have got 8 periods in one day. We never have hamburgers for school lunch. I like American teachers. They are much more friendly than in my school.

Interesting USA Experiences: I was in State Fairs. I slept in barns, because my host family showed cows. I visited Minneapolis. I spent 1 week in Grand Canyon. It was really strong and beautiful experience.

Experiences with Host Family: My host family was great. We had got beautiful time together. They showed me real American lifestyle. They took me to really nice places.

Interesting Czech Republic Experiences: For me and hole my family it was great experience to have and to host American girl for a month. We spent 3 days in Alps, we visited Carl's spa, 2 Czech castles, Prague and Pilsner beer factory.

Conclusions & Comments: I have got really great time.

Irena Vancurova

Czech Republic Town: Breznice, small town on small river Vlcava in the south of center Czech. There is church of St. Ignac and F. Xaversky' and renaissance castle.

Parent's Occupations: Mother, Irena, makes bathrooms carpets by German company. Father, Jan, works for company which makes car components.

Host Family & Town: Lonnie and Angie Hoose, Corinthia and Tacie, Fairfax, Ia

USA School Experiences: Prairie HS. In Cedar Rapids. Getting to know style of American classes.

Interesting USA Experiences: Church mass, taking rest food from restaurant home, driving American car, meeting a lot of friendly people.

Experiences with Host Family: Road trip to Mississippi River, church masses, bake marshmallows, great dinner at home or in restaurant, visiting Czech village, visiting Mt Mercy College.

Interesting Czech Republic Experiences: Visiting a lot of castles, old Czech towns, camping with friends.

Conclusions & Comments: I am very glad that I was able get to know American habits, people, culture and country. It is very great experience to my future life. I hope, it is not my last visit America.

Invitation to Miss Czech & Slovak Iowa Pageant



EDITOR'S NOTE: The Czech Heritage Foundation has been sponsoring the Miss Czech Slovak Iowa pageant for the last several years. The winner of this pageant goes on to represent Iowa in the Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska, this August.

The Czech Heritage Foundation of Cedar Rapids, Iowa will again sponsor the fifth annual Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant. It will be held in conjunction with the

Houby Days celebration in Czech Village on May 20 & 21. The contest will take place on Saturday May 20. The contestants will have an interview, ride in the parade, attend a noon luncheon and participate in a talent contest.

We are searching for a woman 16 - 26 who "possesses dignity, charm, poise and talent" to meet the public and "represent the Czech/Slovak ancestry for her state and nation". Iowa has many throughout the state and with Czech and Slovak Heritage. We are looking for you.

Crowning of Miss Czech Slovak Iowa will take place in the National. Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Saturday evening followed by a reception. The winner will receive a crown, \$500 scholarship, flowers, and gifts. She will make numerous appearances and serve as the official representative of Czech and Slovak ancestry for the state of Iowa. Her entry fee will be paid to attend and compete in the National Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska in August 2006.

Contestants must be between the ages of 16 and 26 and never married; be partial Czech, Slovak, Moravian or Selesian.; appear in an authentic or Americanized costume.; and participate in costume modeling and interviews.

Iowa contest winners who went on to the national pageant were Lisa Volesky, Katie Ziskovsky, Stasia Krivanek, Amanda DeHoedt and Beth Struzynski. All scored very well and two contestants went on to win the national title.

Potential candidates wanting further information or entry forms can contact:

Miss Czech Slovak Iowa

Deadline for submitting an entry form is April 23, 2006.

V. National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



The Tragedy of Slovak Jews

November 4, 2005 to February 26, 2006

**Special Exhibit
In the Robert J. Petrik Exhibit Hall**

For the first time since the fall of communism in 1989 and the formation of the Slovak Republic in 1993, the creation and course of the holocaust in Slovakia is presented in an exhibition entitled *The Tragedy of Slovak Jews*. The exhibition is on display at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from November 4, 2005 to February 26, 2006.



**Jews board deportation trains under military guard
in Zilina, Czechoslovakia - 1942**

This is the first exhibition in the United States of this moving story. *The Tragedy of Slovak Jews* has been on display since 2002 at the Auschwitz – Birkenau State Museum in Auschwitz, Poland. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is partnering with the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, which originally researched and prepared the exhibit.

In 1939, Hitler's army entered and occupied all of Czechoslovakia. The country was divided into two separate nations, The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (controlled solely by the Nazis) and an "independent" Slovak. Over the next six years, Slovakia deported nearly 60,000 Slovak Jews to concentration camps, where most of them were murdered as part of Hitler's "final solution." In total, nearly 80,000 Slovak Jews were lost during the Holocaust.



Jewish boy from Slovakia, name unknown, deported to Auschwitz Concentration Camp on July 18, 1942 in a transport from the camp in Zilina.

Jewish girl from Slovakia, name unknown, deported to Auschwitz Concentration Camp from Bratislava on March 28, 1942.

Their fate is unknown.

The exhibition focuses on the key milestones of the Slovak story including the acceptance of the Jewish Codex in 1941, a series of laws and regulations that stripped Slovakia's Jews of their civil rights and means of economic survival. The exhibit chronicles the first wave of deportations (March-October 1942), the origin and activity of working and prison camps; the second wave of deportations in 1944, the resistance movement, participation in the Slovak National Uprising, and the reprisals of the Nazis in 1944 – 1945.

The exhibition runs from November 4, 2005 to February 26, 2006. For more information about programs related to this exhibit, visit <http://www.ncsml.org/events&programs/events-special.htm>

***Silent Stones: Jewish Cemeteries in
Bohemia and Moravia***
September 25, 2005 to February 12, 2006

**Special Exhibit
In the Laska Gallery**

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is pleased to present a new, special exhibition entitled *Silent Stones: Jewish Cemeteries in Bohemia and Moravia* on Sunday, September 25. The exhibition documents the hauntingly beautiful Jewish cemeteries in Bohemia and Moravia. Photographer Lisa Feder's thirty-three prints show headstones from a variety of cemeteries and includes information about burial customs, the story of the Jewish community in the Czech

lands, and efforts to preserve these sacred sites. The exhibit closes February 12, 2006.

For more information about exhibits, contact Edith Blanchard, Curator, at eblanchard@ncsml.org or call 319-362-8500.

VI. Historic Perspectives

Remembering a Street Sweeper

By Evelyne Stejskal and Adeline Volesky

Evelyne Stejskal and Adeline Volesky want to thank Frank Hasek's daughters Mary Jepson and Ann Weiland for providing the pictures and information about their father. Pictures of current buildings were provided by Russ Novotny

Frank Hasek was born February 4, 1890 in Kladno, Czechoslovakia. He immigrated to America in 1912, arrived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1913, and became an American citizen in 1923.



He was hired by the Cedar Rapids Street Department to sweep the streets. His "beat" was Third Street SE between Ninth and Fourteenth Avenues. His starting pay was \$1.75 per day. It was nine years later he took

the Sixteenth Avenue route which included the business district on the west side of the river across the bridge to Fourteenth Avenue SE and parts of Second and Third Streets.

Frank was a hard working and dedicated man. He worked unsupervised six days a week, rain or shine, without checking with his boss or punching a time clock. He would start his job by picking up his broom and two wheel cart which was stored at the coal yard that was located at the west end of the Sixteenth Avenue bridge. His tools of the trade were a push broom, shovel and trash can on two wheels.

To start the day he would first start with his push broom, sweeping litter into little piles along the curb, visiting with merchants and townspeople along the way. After a few blocks, he went back for his cart and proceeded to pick up the piles of refuse into the "dust pan" flipping the handle over the container and dumping the sweepings. He would sweep up after horse drawn wagons and carriages, wrappers, bits of broken glass, clods of mud and dust.

Some of the Sixteenth Avenue businesses at that time were grocery stores, pharmacy, gas station, blacksmith shop, bank, bakery, hardware store, a coal company and yard, feed store, cafe, tavern, butcher shop, automobile dealership, dentist, harness shop, among other things.

Frank Hasek retired January 1, 1956 after 43 years of service to the city. The Street Commissioner said: "he would be hard to replace".



Top - Frank in front of the United State Bank on the Southeast corner of 16th Ave. and C St.
Bottom - The Bank is now a Tattoo Parlor



Top - Frank in front of the Drug Store on the Northwest corner of 16th Ave. and C St.
Bottom - The Drug Store is now the Czech Cottage

VII. Feature Articles:

St. Wenceslaus' Czech Heritage Park

This article was reprinted from REDHAWK (St. Wenceslaus High School Alumni Newsletter) with permission of Bob Drahozal, Editor. Thank you to Bob for the article and pictures of Jan and the statue. The picture of the park was provided by Russ Novotny.

St. Wenceslaus Parish, with the aid of many generous donors, has developed a park behind the church to be used as a memorial to our Czech heritage. The centerpiece of the park is a statue of St. Ludmila teaching her grandson, St. Wenceslaus. The statue is a replica of the 18th century statue on the Charles Bridge over the Vlatava River in Prague, Czech Republic and was crafted

from the original model used for the Prague statue. Plaques, benches and flower bed walls will provide space for memorials to specific people and groups.



A View of the St. Wenceslaus Czech Heritage Park,
Located right behind the
St. Wenceslaus Church Building, Cedar Rapids, IA



Statue of St. Ludmila teaching the child,
St. Wenceslaus



The statuary group was crafted by Jan Kotek, a noted Czech sculptor. Mr. Kotek accompanied the statue to Cedar Rapids, overseeing the placement and putting on the finishing touches. The statue was put in place August 20, 2005. A reception

for Mr. Kotek was held that evening after the afternoon Mass. Formal dedication of the park and the statue was held on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 5:00 PM. It was preceded by Mass at 4:00 PM which included rededication of the church building on its 100th birthday.

Membership Application -- Please note NEW rate of \$5.00 per year

Please check the proper item: Renewal ___ New ___ Gift ___

Name(s) Ms., Mr., Mrs. _____

Address _____ Zip + 4 _____

Make check payable and mail to :

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

Membership dues \$ _____ Donation \$ _____ Gift Membership \$ _____

Why not consider a gift membership for someone special? Your dues and generous donations help to fund several worthwhile endeavors such as Czech Prince and Princess sponsorship, financial support for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, adult Czech language classes, the Homestay Program, along with publishing the quarterly Naše České Dědictví, and other numerous publications. The list of Czech Heritage projects goes on and on.

It is time to renew your membership, unless you are a new member. Memberships expire December 31 and are renewable January 1. Use this handy Membership Renewal Application form. Don't forget. Renew now so you won't miss a single information packed issue of Naše České Dědictví.

Please renew today! A Bargain at \$5.00 per year.

Czech Out These Web Sites

Travel to the Czech and Slovak Republics from the comfort of your own home. Read a Czech newspaper (in Czech if you want). Research your Czech/Slovak roots. The World Wide Web (www) contains more sites and information related to our heritage than any of us will ever have time to fully explore. Try some of these sites out.

Lists of Links to Other Czech & Slovak related Web Sites

- <http://www.ncsml.org/collections&research/links.htm> - Provided and maintained by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library)
- http://www.slavophilia.com/pages/Country_Focus/ - Slavic and Eastern European Links. Includes Czech Republic and Slovak Republic

Official Governmental Sites

- <http://www.czech.cz/> - Czech Republic
- <http://www.slovakembassy-us.org/> - Slovak Embassy in USA

Other Sites of Interest

- <http://www.ncsml.org/> - National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library.
- <http://www.afocr.org/> - American Friends of the Czech Republic
- <http://www.svu2000.org> - Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)

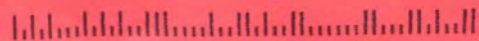
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Calendar of Events

-
- Jan. 23 **Czech Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
-
- Feb. 12 ***Silent Stones* Exhibit Closes**, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
14 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
26 ***Tragedy of the Slovak Jews* Exhibit Closes**, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
-
- Mar. 5 ***Prague Between History and Dreams* Exhibit Opens**, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
14 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
25 **St. Joseph's Day Celebration** – Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, IA – Parade at 2:00 PM
-
- April 7 ***Embellished Textiles – Absolutely Art!* Exhibit Opens**, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
11 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
-
- May 9 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
19-21 **Houby Days Celebration** – Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, IA
-
- June 13 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM