

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

Vol.4.No.2. Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations
June 1979 P.O.Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.



NO LAZY DAYS CALENDAR !



JUNE 15, 16, 17 Kolach Days Festival St. Ludmilas. You all know what a very special event this is in our community.

17 Seminole Valley Farm 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Ice cream social; demonstrations of old time crafts. Tour the farmhouse. Czech Band plays 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Ample parking areas. Take 42nd Street N.E. directly into the park.

29 Czech Summer School ice cream social and exercises. See page 3.

JULY 1. POLKA FESTIVAL, Hawkeye Downs at All Iowa Fair. 8 polka bands will play at 2 centers at the same time! The Foundations will serve kolaches and coffee. We'll see you there.

4 Ely Days. Firemen's Breakfast 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Activities all day. Bingo, movies for the youngsters, horseshoe pitching, old fashioned games and also contests. Parade at 7 p.m.

7 Mount Vernon Kolach Day - all day events. Contest for best kolaches and recipe. Fee to enter is 2 dozen of the kolaches. \$50. gift certificate is the prize from the merchants.

20, 21 Solon Beef Days. Morning parade and carnival all day; eats, games, and contests.

19, 20, 21 Traer 5th Annual Czech Days. Polka bands play 70 hours in 3 days. Czech food at Memorial Bldg. on Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Czech Band plays Sat. noon to 2 p.m. Sokol Dancers at 4 to 5 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AUGUST 3, 4, 5 Spillville, Iowa. National Dvorak Festival. See page 3 for details.

3, 4, 5 Czech Festival, Wilber, Nebraska.

23 Annual Picnic Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations. See next column →

SEPTEMBER 7, 8, 9 Sixth Annual Czech Days in Czech Village, 16th Ave. S.W. See page 5.

OCTOBER 6. Czech Days, Yukon, Okla. Parade, games, eats, dancing.

NOVEMBER 11 Expected opening of the Czech glass exhibit in Chicago. See page 3.

FOUNDATIONS ANNUAL PICNIC

Date - August 23, Thursday
Time - come after 5 p.m. or around 5:30 so we can eat soon after 6:00 p.m.

Place - ZCJB Park, down Cedar River valley. Drive out Bowling St. to the ERA Power Plant, turn left thru the underpass, turn right, cross small bridge. Take first left turn, go some 2 miles to ZCJB gate at left. Turn into lane and continue to the pavilion. Ample parking areas.

Suggested pot luck contribution:

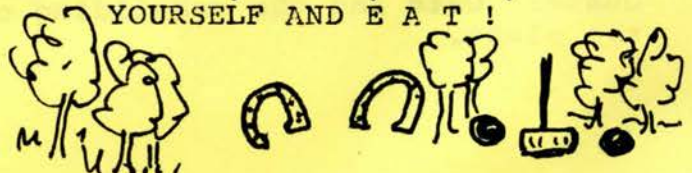
- A thru H - dessert
- J thru Q - salads, tossed greens, bean, potato, macaroni, eggs, vegetables or whatever you wish.
- R thru Z - casserole, scalloped corn, potato, beans, macaroni-cheese, tuna, vegetables or whatever...

PLEASE note that you may choose to bring whatever you find easiest for you to make. You need not follow the above listings.

Hot Dogs and Hamburgers and buns will be furnished as will coffee.

Please bring your table service and silverware.

COME EARLY, VISIT, RELAX, ENJOY YOURSELF AND EAT !



It happened June 19, 1920, at the Cedar Rapids Union Railroad Station. On that day my father was expecting his second son to arrive in the morning. However, I was put aboard another train in Chicago, so that I arrived in the afternoon.

Dressed in bellbottom trousers and clutching my only possession - a wicker luggage, I stepped onto the platform expecting my father to be waiting. He likely thought I had been delayed somewhere. Standing there with an European cap on my head I was watching people passing by-but no father.

Then my heart almost stopped beating. A very tall man in police uniform was slowly approaching. "What have I done?" I don't even know where I am and now I will be arrested!" Only an immigrant understands such fright and terror in a strange country.

Then came the real surprise! "Nejseš mládež Hlubuček?" asked the officer in a somewhat different dialect than I had learned in my school days. I asked myself, "Is it possible that a policeman in America would speak my language?" Soon after, he directed me to cross the narrow bridge to First Street S.W. where my father's hat store was located. Later I learned the "policajt" was police Sergeant Frank Hrabětin who was on patrol duty at the station. So it happened that my very first welcome to Cedar Rapids some 59 yrs. ago came from a kind American Policeman who was proud of his Czech ancestry, his family having come from from the Kladno region.

T.B.Hlubuček

Our 96 year young friend, Carl Bezděčný, remembers the Gas Company storage gas tank at the end of old 8th Avenue bridge. Large letters on the tank read "VARTE PLYNEM" . . or "Cook with Gas" . . .

He also recalls the fire at the Quaker Oats and the rebuilding of the plant.

Several local speakers visit with children in our local schools at grade 3 rooms, when the classes are learning about our community. Here are typical comments in their own letters written after such a visit:

"I really learned that a Czech is a person is not to be called Bohemie.

I learned that Czechs dress just like we do most of the time.

I liked the story about the poor bunny. It was good.

You taught me words I did not know.

They wear costumes on special times. I think the Easter eggs are neat.

Most of all, I like the toy with the chickens. The pillow cover is very pretty.

I like the cup that had a hole in the handle.

I learned that some people lived there back in Roman days.

Thank you for coming to visit with us about Czech culture."

ABOUT A NEW BOOK

J.Korbel on the faculty of the University of Denver, wrote "20th CENTURY CZECHOSLOVAKIA". The volume is a recent acquisition in our City Public Library. Korbel analyzes the events that resulted in Munich, World War II, Nazi rule and take over by Communism.

He writes: "In war - betrayal, invasion, occupation, persecution, domination, and death".... and

In peace, oppression, submission, domination, and death."

Editor welcomes your contributions & suggestions for consideration. Mail to P.O.Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52406

Are there any volunteers to act as reporters? proof readers? stuff envelopes?

Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

MUSEUM CHANGES HOURS

Changes in hours go into effect at once. The Thursday hours did not seem to attract many people. Please note the new hours:

SATURDAYS 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAYS 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Tours for groups or individuals may be arranged.

Many exhibits have been changed and new items are on display. Come see us!

The Museum Staff need volunteers to be on duty at the above days and hours. As a volunteer you would enjoy telling visitors about the exhibits. Could you plan your schedule to serve once a month or more often? Let us know. Phone 365-3598 or 365-3401.



HUNDREDS COME TO THE MUSEUM

The Museum had extra open hours at the time of Houby Days, May 18, 19, 20. Noodle making was demonstrated in the Museum kitchen. On the Avenue there were demonstrations of various Czech arts and crafts.

Although more than 500 toured the Museum, the donations - one major source of support - were less than at other times. There is no charge for admission.

Once again, I would like to thank the many who have donated very generously of time, funds, and museum articles to the cause of the Czech Museum-Library that it may live and grow.

Robert Schaffer, President

CZECH SUMMER SCHOOL CARRIES ON!

As you read these lines, classes are in session for the 109th consecutive year! Classes are at Hayes School. Teachers are Mildred Drahovzal, Leona Kaplan, Elsie Drahovzal who also directs the music. You are invited to the ice cream social 5 to 7 p.m. on June 29th and to attend the closing exercises of classes at 7 p.m. at St. Wenceslaus Gym, 1230 - 5th St. S.E.



NATIONAL DVORAK MUSIC AND FOLK ART FESTIVAL, Spillville, Iowa August 3, 4, 5. Events include Turkey Valley Community Chorus, the Great River Symphony featuring all Dvorak compositions. Other groups and soloists present other Dvorak's works.



All concerts are in St. Wenceslaus Gym. Afternoon recitals, \$3.00 and evening symphony concerts, \$10. (Reserved seats \$4.00 and \$14.00) Pianist Firkusny and Hugo Jan Huss are among soloists & artists. Huss is a descendent of Jan Hus dating back to the 1300's.

Visit the Bily Clock Museum - was Dvorak's home when in Spillville. Program folder with details available at Czech Museum and several stores on 16th Ave. SW, Czech Village.

There is a possibility of a Saturday Aug. 4th, one-day bus trip to this festival, August 4th. If interested call Boddicker School of Music, 365-9658. Seating at concert is limited so make your plans soon. Bus fare is \$10.00



GLASS EXHIBIT - First Showing in the United States at the Museum of Science and Industry, Jackson Park, Chicago. Special exhibit of 500 pieces of Czech glass.

Tentative dates are November 11, '79 to January 14, 1980. Exhibit in the West Pavilion. No admission except to 4 of other permanent exhibits. Hours 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday...and 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sundays, Saturdays, Holidays. Food services in dining room, snack bar and cafeteria. Visiting groups must book in advance. Bus tour will be planned if enough interest. More details in next newsletter. .

Elsie Jelinek

A recent item in the New York Times reports that Czech-language publications in United States continue to decline. HOSPODAŘ, founded in 1880, had 15,000 subscribers in 1961 but now only 5,800. HLASATEL once had over 60,000 subscribers and now down to 6,800. . AMERICKE LISTY (N.Y.) dropped from 14,500 to 1,600. and NOVY SVET (Cleveland) once had 4,000 but now down to only 780 .

Most readers are well along in their years. It is said that "Hospodař" is only Czech periodical published in the United States that is allowed into Communist-controlled Czechoslovakia." It is non-political in its content. . .

And so, those who are serious about the preservation of Czech heritage and culture might work at learning the language of our people! So is the remark of the editor.

MEMBERSHIP GROWING

We now have more than 600 members. Do spread the word that membership is open to all who are interested in our projects.

A special introductory offer for NEW MEMBERS : dues \$1.50 from July 1st to December 31, 1979. Then as of January 1, 1980, dues will be the usual \$3.00 per person for the year.

Below is a sample of our GIFT CARD. The real design was created by Marge Nejd. We are counting on you to introduce Czech Heritage Foundation to



(Continued in right col.)

Annually several awards are made by EBOR DAMSKE MATICE ŠKOLSKA .The \$200 scholarships are available upon application. An award may also be granted for a 2nd year. Recipients for 1979-80 academic year have not yet been announced. Senior high school students in all local high schools are eligible.

KOMENSKY SOCIETY announced the awarding of 4 scholarships: Lee Pavlicek of Ely, Prairie H.S. enrolls at Pella at Central College, pre-med course; Debbie Sedlacek and Janet Blanchard of Jefferson H.S., Debbie enrolls at Kirkwood Community Coll. in Business Education, and Janet at Iowa State University at Ames in veterinary medicine; and Douglas Haddish, La Salle H.S. enrolls in Mt. Mercy Coll. in Social Science courses. Seniors in Linn County high schools are eligible for these awards and must attend a college in the state of Iowa.

Both of the above organizations welcome new members to support this one goal, providing scholarships for deserving young people .

MATICE VYŠŠÍHO VZDĚLÁNÍ - the Council of Higher Education was originally founded in Cedar Rapids but now the office is in Berwyn, Ill. After one year at college, a student may obtain an interest-free loan. College grades and faculty recommendations are part of the requirements. Write to Dr. Jan Mička, Secretary, Council of Higher Education, 2408 South Oak Park Ave., Berwyn, Illinois 60402. Applications for the 1980-1981 academic year to be made by spring and forms must be returned by June 1, 1980. . . .

Membership - friends, relatives, neighbors and interested persons. Use this GIFT for birthday, or some anniversary. Send us the name of the persons and addresses along with \$1.50 for each new member. Mail to us at P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52406. We will send each one the GIFT card and membership card as well. . .

The SOKOL TUMBLERS will perform at Traer Czech Days, Sat. July 21.



Czech Village

Cedar Rapids, Iowa



Although the **SECOND ANNUAL HOUBY DAYS** are over and gone, some records were made - and here they are:

- 35 Houby Entries, hundreds of looker-on - "the spectators"
- 196 runners in the 5000 Meter Race
- 1300 guests served breakfast of houby in scrambled eggs, sausages, toast and a beverage
- Standing room only in the taverns and resturants
- Superb coverage by the Gazette, KCRG-TV and Radio, WMT-TV and Radio, KLWW Radio, the "around and about magazine" Jo-Linn Journal, and Penny Saver.

FIRST WEDDING AT CZECH BANDSTAND was solemnized on Saturday, May 12 when Dan and Jessie Stastny's daughter, Dianne, was married to Dave Swieskowski. The bride and her father arrived in a pony cart. The wedding music was played on an accordian. A reception was held at the Wenceslaus Square Resturant. Our Heartiest **CONGRATULATIONS** to Dave and **BEST WISHES** to Dianne.

New in Czech Village is **JULIE ANN'S STUDIO**, focusing on self-awareness and development and professional modeling. Classes begin June 7th at 97 - 16th Avenue S.W. with Julie Sadler directing.



PARKING! PARKING! the second of two major new parking lots in under construction on 15th Avenue, S.W. after the completion of the 17th Avenue lots. Soon the beautification of Czech Village will be more obvious in a variety of other ways. Come see!



WINNERS IN HOUBY CONTESTS

- Best Houby... Virginia Calvert
- Tallest Houba (9 1/2").. Paul Hallberg
- Largest Houba (4 1/4 oz.) tie bt. Tammy Ham, Clifford Brees, North Liberty
- Smallest Houba.. Clint Hoskins
- Best Large Display.. Patty Konecny, Ely.
- Best Small Display.. Mary Tichy, Ely
- Most Oddly-Shaped Large... Genenieve Woodward
- Most-Oddly Shaped Small.. Irma Binko

TROPHIES FOR 5000-METER WINNERS

- 18 & under.. George Zach, Swisher .. Jean Sedlacek
 - 19-29 .. Dave Langer; Kathy McCue
 - 30-39 .. Larry Lockhart .. Veronica Burkhalter
 - 40-49 .. Al Siemering; Clara Kleiman
 - 50 & over.. Bob Mueller .. Jean Smith, Marion
- Fastest time: Langer, 15.31

CHILDREN'S 100-YD. DASH, TROPHIES TO

- Deron Berkof, age 9
- Kelley Ireland, age 10

Contestants are Cedar Rapidians unless otherwise indicated.

WHAT A DAY! If you all or we all missed the events, too bad not to see and hear the folks doing their "THING" !

At the May 31st meeting of the Czech Village Association, a \$200.00 donation was voted for the Museum-Library. The Museum is very happy to receive such sums which are used to pay the rent.

Conculsion of informal folksy visit with Carl Bezděčný about his recollections of early Cedar Rapids.

"...Než jsem se oženil střídal jsem nejen místa zaměstnání, ale též místa kde jsem byl na stravu a na noceh. Byl jsem velice rád tomu že jsem si přivez z Čechu velkou peřinu, jinak bylo by mě jisté zima na půdě kde jsme my mládenci byly umístěny. Když jsem byl u Jenistu, pozdě do noci četl zajímavou knížku z České knihovny. Lampa u mé postele pomalu pálila prkna na střeše... a než jsem to zpozoroval už byla velká černá skvrna!

Hrával jsem teč divadle v ČSPS síni. Když jsem se oženil nevynechali jsme skoro žádné představení. Občas přyleli Ludvikoci a jiný herci z Chicago. Tedy zábavu bylo postarano a neybylo nám smutno proto bylo zde hodně přijetých z Čech a obchody byly řízeny Českými lidmi.

Moje snaha naučit se správně anglicky řeč byla pevná... Chodili jsme do večerní školy dvakrát za týden... do Monroe... kde potom byl Witwer Grocer Co. Našim učitel, P. Jan Stepan, nejen vyučoval angličtinu ale teč připravoval nás zkoušku pro občanství a nad radnice a byl naš svědek před soudcem. Bylo nás asi 30.

Děvčata který sloužily v různých panu v domácnosti, take navštěvovaly večerní školu. My mládenci po vyučování doprovázeli jsme je domu... Kde sloužili... Moje vyvolená, Emilie Chmeličková, sloužila u rodině Ely na první avenue kde nyní stojí Blair House. Byli jsme oddáni v roce 1910.

Hodně jsme zkusili první roky ale byly jsme šťastní a nikdy nelitovali že jsme přestehovali do Ameriky. Měli jsme dvě děti z tech měli velikou radost... Byl jsem zaměstnan u J.G. Cherry prez 30 roků... že již jsem 96 roků stár... také mám vyplacená pojistka kteran jsem si platil "do životně" u Západní Česko Bratrské Jednoty.. jsem členem řádu Karl IV. č 13 . a členem Eden United Church of Christ."

The translation is as close to the Czech as possible but sentence structure is unlike that in the English.

"..Before I married, I changed not only places of work but even places where I boarded and slept. I was very happy that I brought with me from Czechy a feather quilt (peřina), otherwise I surely would have been cold in the attic (rooms) where we young men were living. When I was at Jenistas, late one night, I read an interesting book from the Czech Library. The lamp by my bed slowly burned the eaves.... and before I noticed, already there was a long black stain. . . .

I took part in several plays at the C.S.P.S. Hall. After I was married, we seldom missed a performance. Often the Ludvik and other actors came from Chicago. Here entertainment was provided and never were we sad because there were many recent arrivals from Czechy and stores were owned by Czech people.

My desire to learn correct English language was firm. . we went to evening school twice a week.. to Monroe.. where later was Witwer Grocery Co. Our teacher, Mr. Jan Stepan, not only taught English but also prepared us for examinations to acquire citizenship. At the City Hall he was our witness before the judge. There were about 30 of us.

Young women who worked as domestics also attended evening school.... We fellows, when school was out, would escort the girls to the homes where they worked. My future wife, Emilie Chmelicek, was employed by the Ely family on First Avenue, where now stands Blair House Apts. We were married in 1910.

Much we experienced the first years but we also were fortunate and never grieved that we had moved to America. We had 2 children who gave us much happiness.

I was employed at J.G. Cherry Co. over 30 years... and I am now 96 years of age... Also I have a paid up life policy which pays me "for life" at Western Fraternal Life Association.. . . . am a member of Lodge Karl IV, #13, and a member of the United Church of Christ..."

Karel Bezděčný

TOURISM IS ON THE UPSWING. During May some 202 visitors formally visited Czech Village. Here is the report:

May 15 . .	25 visitors
16 . .	25
27 . .	15
23 . .	96
31 . .	41

Museum tours were arranged for such groups as local C.R. Retired Teachers Association, International Cooking Class from Washington High School and folks from Pleasant Valley in Liberty Township, Kalona, and Fort Atkinson.

On May 16th a Catholic Workmen Convention brought some 200 members to Cedar Rapids. Many were of Czech descent and visited the Village on their own schedule time.

Sales of Czech costumes at "Czech Closet" to delegates from Tabor, S.D. kept the clerks busy.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS FROM THE GOOD OLD DAYS? Doubt you will want to try any of them!

1. To keep flies off gilt frames, boil 3 or 4 onions in a pint of water and apply with soft brush.
2. To sweeten meat that is not quite fresh, throw a little charcoal into the pot but if meat is tainted and not fit to eat, do not do this.
3. For a clear flame, soak the lamp wick in vinegar 24 hours before placing in the lamp.
4. Wrinkles in the skin removed by applications of: 1 oz. white wax, 2 oz. strained honey, 2 oz. juice of lilly bulbs. Stir together and apply. (Editor would be interested if the treatment works.)
5. Asthma sufferers get certain relief by wearing a muskrat skin over their lungs with the fur side next to the body.

Such was life before the advent of insect sprays, refrigeration, gas and later electric lights and so on. Recipes from 1892 "Everyday Cook Book and Encyclopedia"

FOR SOMEBODY'S BIRTHDAY

How about this recipe for that special cake for someone who is also special? At today's prices it will cost at least \$17.70 and here's why: 1½ lb. butter, 2 lb. flour, 3½ lb. currants; ½ lb. almonds, ½ lb. candid peel, 2 oz. spices, grated rind of 3 lemons, 18 eggs, 1 gill brandy. Paper the hoops and bake 3 hours.

Hopefully the cook knew about the oven temperature and whatever the "hoops" might be. No directions about the way to combine these ingredients. The above cost does not include the cost of energy for 3 hours baking.

P.S. Currants cost about \$8.75 and the almonds would be about \$2.64 Helps that there is no sales tax on foods!

DID YOU KNOW ?

Catherine Evelyn Adamec of Cresco is hailed as Iowa's Favorite Farmer's Daughter. She is a junior at Iowa State University at Ames, majoring in dairy science-agribusiness. The contest was sponsored by WMT and IE.

Rudolph Serkin, world renown pianist, was born in 1903 in Cheb once called Eger. In those days Cheb was in the Province of Old Bohemia, His parents were Russian. At an early age he studied piano in Vienna. He is an American citizen and lives with his wife in Vermont. He has appeared with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra more than 100 times, more than any other soloist. No doubt you have seen and heard him on TV programs. Cheb is a border city in the far western part of Czechy not far from Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně, and Františkovy Lázně.

Lépe žiti v chudobe nežli v hanobě.
Better to live in poverty than in dishonor.