

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

O u r C z e c h H e r i t a g e



Czech Heritage Foundation Czech Fine Arts Foundation
Vol:II, No.1. P.O.Box 761 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406. 1977

PRESIDENT RAIM SPEAKS

The past three years have been exciting for the Czech Heritage Foundation. We have initiated several projects and worked with groups when their plans were related to Czech heritage and culture. We are interested in the Czech Village and its development. One major goal is the realization of the Czech Library - Museum, a long time project. Progress is slow in some areas but coming along. I am confident of ultimate success in this and the other undertakings

Members of the Foundation have felt it rewarding to become involved in planning concerts, trips, setting up exhibits, meeting with groups to talk about our Czech heritage. The interest of our members as well as by the community-at-large indicates a real sincere desire to see our Czech heritage preserved in our area . . .

The Czech Heritage Foundation is a new organization, not directly related to any previous groups but related to all who are of Czech ancestry and interested in the work of the Foundation. . . .

Like other newcomers to AMERICA, the Czechs who settled in Iowa -- about 1850 and later -- grouped together in small communities. Here they kept many of their old-world ways while learning American ways. . . Many of today's 3rd and 4th generations have little, if any, knowledge of their heritage, its value and meaning. . .

What we of the present generations know about Czech culture, language, and customs differs from that of our early settlers. . . Altho we have made a late start on these projects, but with the many people of Czech ancestry in Linn and the

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NEW MASTHEAD

Our new title, NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ replaces Příhody used on the two issues in 1976. At the Annual Meeting, January 1977, the new name was suggested by members and received the most votes! We hope you like the new name -- it says exactly what we are doing.



ANNUAL MEETING

January 17, 1977 at
Hayes School

About 50 members and guests braved the bitterly cold night to attend second annual meeting of the Czech Heritage and Czech Fine Arts Foundations. Reports from both groups were followed by election of officers. For the coming year, Heritage Fdn. officers are as follows:
President: Roland Raim
Vice President: Charles Vyskocil
Secretary: Velma Zakostelecky
Treasurer: Dennis Hrabak
Board of Directors includes officers above, AND: Fred Anthony, George Barta, Robert Brosh, Terry Brosh, George Chmelicek, Denver Dvorsky, Sharon Hruska, George Joens, Paul Kosek, Mike Langer, Dorothy Longstaff, Bill Pohorsky, Jitka Schaffer, Melvina Svec, Adolph Topinka, Stan Travnicek.

Officers and Board Members of Fine Arts are on page 3.

At the close of the meeting a social hour was enjoyed. Kolaches and coffee were served. It was a pleasant experience to meet at Hayes in the new part of the building which is at ground level and easy to walk around. . . .

For the time being, our pursuit of a SISTER CITY in Czechoslovakia has come to a dead end. Marion, Iowa, is seeking a "sister city" but has just started looking into the details. .

adjoining counties, we can develop worthwhile and meaningful collections of materials with your help. . .

I am sure each member of our Czech Heritage Foundation has a definition of what heritage should consist of. As president, I have shared with you my ideas about the work of the Foundation.

At our monthly meetings of the Board of Directors (2nd Tuesday of the month at Lounge of Western Fraternal Life Association) ideas for the development of our heritage are talked over and plans made. As a member of the Foundation, feel free to communicate with me or any member of the Board about your ideas for the Foundation or Czech heritage.

Roland (Rollie) Raim
President

APPOINTMENTS to COMMITTEES

President Raim announced the following committees. If at any time a member of the Foundation has ideas to share, suggestions to offer, please get in touch with the committee or one of the members of that group. The first named is chairing the committee.

MEMBERSHIP: George Barta, Paul Kosek, Charles Krejci.

BUDGET & FINANCE: Dennis Hrabak, Fred Anthony, George Chmelicek, Dorothy S. Dailey.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: (co-chair) Sharon Hruska and Denver Dvorsky, Robert Brosh, Stan Travnicek,

PROGRAM: Adolph Topinka, Bill Pohorsky, George Joens.

SOCIAL: Dorothy Longstaff, Jitka Schaffer, Terry Brosh.

NEWSLETTER & PUBLICATIONS: Melvina Svec, Charles Vyskocil, Velma Zakostelecky.

Additional persons will be appointed as activities increase. If you wish to take part in any of these groups, let President Raim know or Secretary Zakostelecky . .

Have you thought to remember the Foundations in your will ? ? ?

FLORENCE MASTERS ON THE GO! here and there spreading the story of the Czech Ethnic Heritage Studies project which was developed at Kirkwood Community College in 1974-75. Some of you readers took part in that experience! Mrs. Masters read a paper on "Ethnic Heritage Studies as a New Dimension in Education" at Washington, D.C. last August at the annual convention of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in America.

Then last November she was a member of a panel on "Czech Traditions on the Great Plains" at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society in Philadelphia. She used the play written by Ted Hlubucek in which the "actors" were Jerry Drahovzal, Velma Nedjl, Barbara Garnant, Victoria Pohlana, and the sons of Ed & Marge Nedjl, Charles and Phillip, and Ted himself!

Mrs. Masters says that if you or some groups to which you belong would like to see the video-tape of the play, to phone her at Kirkwood.

The FRATERNAL HERALD, March 1977, p.7. had this report on a recent book.

Author Michael Novak in his book, "The RISE of the UNMELTABLE ETHNICS" tells "of the long ignored millions of white ethnics - Poles, Italians, Greeks, Czechs, other Slavs- proving that they are now a dynamic force in American politics and culture. In the 1960's blacks and the young had their days. The seventies will be the "decade of ethnics"....Novak's book is the first intensive popular study of these "unmeltables" - their ways of living, their hopes, their resentments of those who insist that American is not many but one, and the freedom belongs to everyone." . . .

"Ethnicity is not a matter of genetics; it is a matter of CULTURAL TRANSMISSION from family to child. This new ethnicity is a form of historical consciousness, WHO are you? WHAT history do you come from? WHERE next? these are the questions. ("ed. Thanks to Marie Wokoun)

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Czech Fine Arts Foundation.

NEW OFFICERS TAKE OVER

after their election at the January meeting at Hayes School -

President: Robert Schaffer (Bob)

Vice President: Milton Langer

Secretary: Marie Trachta

Treasurer: Elsie Jelinek

The Board of Directors includes the

Officers AND: Val Barta, Arlene Boddicker, Jana Fast, Milan Fast, Robert Harris, Jarmila Hutchinson, Rose Kopecky, John Kuba, Janelle McClain, Dr. Robert Naibert, Max Naxera, Mildred Ortner, Ann Pesek, Gus Pesek, Roland Raim, Ray Snitil.

LIBRARY-MUSEUM COLLECTION GROWS

Since our last report, our Library-to-be has received 17 books from TED HLUBUCEK. Also 30 volumes from the family of the late Anna HROM-ATKO Fuhrmeister of Ely. To both of these donors we are deeply grateful and our THANKS. Some volumes are in English, some in Czech, some in color, some old, some new, some thick, some thin, some small, some large.

ANNOUNCE MUZEUM-LIBRARY COMMITTEE

as follows: Jana Fast, chairperson, John Kuba, Marie Trachta, Dr. Robert Naibert, Robert Schaffer, Janelle McClain, Elsie Jelinek.

MOST RECENT GIFTS reported by Elsie Jelinek are from MR AND MRS. ROBERT CRAWFORD, who donated four books in memory of Miss MARTHA GRIFFITH, long time teacher at Van Buren and Wilson schools. There was a short item about her in the last issue of PRÍHODY.

The Crawford materials include the original manuscripts of excerpts used in the April and July 1944 issues of the Iowa Journal of History and Politics (Iowa Historical Society) telling about "The Czech Settlement in Cedar Rapids."

In addition are copies of interviews Miss Griffith had with these people: Miss Mary Sosel, daughter of Joseph Sosel; Mr. Frank Hasek given by Mr. Milvoj Hasek; Mr. Thomas Korab given by Martha VONDRACEK Kralik; and

about Mr. Frank Krčmař given by his granddaughter, Annette CYPRA Thomas.

The Czech Fine Arts Foundation is very grateful for the many donations and memorials received for the Museum and Library. All articles will be placed in secure dry storage area until our building is obtained.

We would appreciate donations of glassware, tools, quilts, pictures, handwork, books, and other items made by and used by Czech people in their homes.

Elsie Jelinek



ETHNIC FAIR at ROUNDHOUSE

Plans for activities at the Fair on April 16-17 are almost completed and from what we have heard, the events promise to be exciting & interesting. Save the dates!

EVENTS on Saturday, April 16 at 8 P.M.: Beseda Dancers with audience participation. Boddicker School of Music is loaning musical instruments for dancing! Max Naxera and Rollie Raim are making arrangements. Door donation of \$1.00. Refreshments served.

EVENTS on Sunday, April 17, at 2-5 P.M. Come! see displays, demonstrations of egg coloring, quilting, making noodles, painting china and others. Displays include costumes, glassware, garnets.

The Committee in charge include John Kuba, Marie Trachta, Elsie Jelinek, Rose Kopecky, Bob Schaffer.

Also on display will be selected items from our donations for the Library and Museum.

BUS TO "BROLIN"

Czech Fine Arts member. Arlene Boddicker arranged for and conducted the trip to Ames March 24th for members of our organizations to attend the BROLIN events at Stephens Auditorium. The group are from Brno, Moravia, and present the dances and music of that province.



FINE ARTS MEMORIAL FUND GROWING

The Jerry Drahozal Memorial Fund of \$1180.00 came from the many lodges of the Western Fraternal Life Association. We are most appreciative to Mildred Libal DRAHOVZAL for her decision to share that Fund with Sokols, C.R.Czech School and our Foundation. Jerry was active, and so interested in all three organizations.

ANOTHER PIECE OF HISTORY FOR US

Elizabeth NEMEC Willson gave us a colorful poster dating back to the 1920's. In medallion style are the portraits of President Wilson, President Masaryk; General Stefanik, a Slovak, and Kramař both active in the government. The coat-of-arms of the provinces and pictures of cities add to the color and design. The poster was mounted and being framed as a donation of one of our members. This makes another fine addition to our historical pages.

* * *

INTEREST in CZECH BOOKS IS BOOMING!



It is heartening to know that not only we but others are gathering books in the Czech language. Our Czech Library collection now must number some 170 volumes. Elsewhere such developments are: at the main building of the AMERICAN SOKOL in Berwyn, Illinois the collection is 95% in Czech. The books have been cataloged and cross-indexed. Also a file of pamphlets, music, folk dances and other items are in the collection. All materials and books must be used in the library.

AND at the WESTERN FRATERNAL LIFE ASSOCIATION Home Office here in Cedar Rapids (better known as the ZCBJ to older folks) the Library has some 1500 books with some 100 in English-all others Czech. They were indexed and shelved by these volunteers: Marie Sokoup, Alma Turechek, Lenora Topinka, Leona Janesovsky, Gladys Shultz, and Agnes Dvorak, Melvina Svec, Lillian Serbousek, Mana Zlatohlavek, Marie Wokoun.

-- AND MORE MUSEUMS !

In Wisconsin, The Fraternal Herald reported in December 1976 issue, of the plans to preserve Czech culture in that state. They, too, are seeking heirlooms for the Museum. Many of the lodges as well as individuals have pledged from \$10.00 to \$10,000. Some items are to be on "loan" and others are permanent gifts. Altho the Museum will be in Milwaukee, all Wisconsin Czechs are interested in the development.

COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Matice Vyššího Vzdělání

Many local lodges and groups make an annual contribution to the scholarship fund of the Council of Higher Education. It was funded and founded in 1903 in Cedar Rapids by Mr. W.F. Seveza with the support of Dr. Bohumil Shimek, Professor of Botany at the University of Iowa. Mr. Joe Mekota of Cedar Rapids was the legal advisor. Later the office was moved to Illinois and now is in Berwyn.

It was a loan from that fund that helped me at college. No interest is charged and one is honor-bound to make the repayment as soon as one is able. The loans vary as to the needs of the student, academic standing, and knowledge of the Czech heritage.

The first secretary was Paul Korab of Iowa City. Then Ted Hlubucek held the office for many years. Only one student has defaulted in repayment over the years! The loans are available to students of Czech ancestry.

In the last 8 years an average of 34 students are helped each year - the loans average around \$640.00 per student. M.M. Svec

Stories about our local CZECH heritage will be resumed in the next issue. There was too much material for this issue. . . .

* * * * *

If you have material for our newsletter, submit to editor, Melvina Svec,



THE BAND PLAYS ON !

The official DEDICATION of the BAND-STAND by the Czech Village Association on "HERITAGE MALL" on 16th Ave. SW., has been set for June 4, 1977.

Weather permitting, an additional 2 coats of paint will have been applied to the Bandstand, the costs paid by the merchants. By then, the landscaping should be completed.

Mayor Donald Canney and others on the City Council will be on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony. A full day of activities will be planned.

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OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA

MORE BUILDINGS WITH NEW FACES will soon greet shoppers. Plans have been completed for the new fronts for the Boddicker School of Music, Sykora's Bakery, and Ernie's 16th Avenue Tavern. These additions will be done or at least under way by Dedication Day.

GREEN SPACES AND PARKING, TOO

It is the intention of the Czech Village Association to approach the City Council this year as to the possibility of vacating B Street between 16th and 17th avenues for the purpose of more green spaces, additional parking and possible horseshoe pits for the public.

DAVE DICKEN, the Czech Village project architect, has prepared the accurate plans for the property between 15th and 16th avenues on C Street and B Street. This will make more parking available, numerous areas for new shops and landscaping possibilities that will further enhance our park-like atmosphere. Copies of these plans have been turned over to the Cedar Rapids Planning and Redevelopment Commission for possible acquisition, demolition, and improvement of these areas for possible funding under the Community Development Program.

WANTED - A B I G R O C K

We will need a LARGE BOULDER that will be placed by the Bandstand as a part of the landscaping. If you know of such an available item, please contact any of the area merchants.

George Joens, President
Czech Village Association

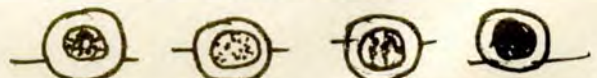
Avenue Briefs

CONGRATULATIONS to Arlene Boddicker who is on the faculty of the Music Department at Mt. Mercy College. She will offer lessons on the accordion! Arlene has an impressive record of accomplishments and is pioneering her favorite instrument as an accredited instrument. Not many colleges in the U.S.A. have such courses and she is certainly well qualified to spark student interest. We well know that her students are available for many programs and have won recognition from coast to coast, as she, too, has been honored from time to time.

THE GREENING OF THE AVENUE :As you stroll about shopping this warming time of the year (yet to arrive) rest at JOENS PARK on those cool cement blocks in the shade of those very young trees! and adjoining KOSEK'S is a smaller "park area" in the shade of other buildings.

CALENDAR of EVENTS: Apr; June-July; Sept.

- April 16-Beseda Dances, Roundhouse donation \$1.00; 8 P.M.
 - April 17-FAIR at Roundhouse, 2-5 P.M.
 - June 4-tentative date for dedication of Bandstand on "Heritage Mall"
 - June 25-July 4 CZECH HERITAGE Booth # 35, All Iowa Fair, Hawkeye Downs.
 - Sept. 9-10 Czech Festival Days on the Avenue.
- COME ONE, COME ALL ! Put the dates on your calendar, too.



THE CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

The Constitution of the Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc. is in reality the Articles of Incorporation, recorded in the Office of the Secretary of State of Iowa, February 14, 1974, under provisions of Chapter 504A, 1973 Code of Iowa.

The Charter and Certificate of Incorporation are on file in the volume, Corporate Records, in the keeping of the Secretary of Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.

BYLAWS
of the
CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.
of
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

ARTICLE I - MEETINGS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once a month at a time and place to be agreed upon by the Executive Committee. Additional meetings shall be held at the request of the President or at the request of three members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Fifty-one per cent of the membership of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. The Annual Meeting of this Foundation shall be held on the third Monday in January, at a time and place to be arranged by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Foundation shall be open to all citizens and residents who are interested in our Czech heritage.

ARTICLE III - DUES

The annual dues of members of the Foundation shall be determined by the Board of Directors, presented to the members at the Annual Meeting and voted upon at that time.

ARTICLE IV - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of one member of the Board of Directors from Czech Heritage Foundation, and one from the Czech Fine Arts Board, and one member-at-large. The committee will designate the chairperson.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of officers of one candidate for each office, and no less than six names for the slate of Board Members, to be presented at the Annual Meeting in January. Nominations may be made from the floor at this time.

Section 3. Any member of the Czech Heritage Foundation may nominate a candidate or declare (his)(her) own candidacy by communicating with the Nominating Committee.

Section 4. Election of members to an office or to the Board of Directors will be judged by a majority of the votes received by the candidate.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Foundation shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. All officers must be members of the Czech Heritage Foundation at the time of election and during the term of office.

Section 3. Whenever a majority of the Executive Committee shall agree that an officer has been grossly negligent of the duties as defined in the Bylaws, or is incapacitated or voluntarily resigns from office, they shall declare the office vacant.

Section 4. An office declared vacant by the Executive Committee shall be filled for the unexpired term by election of a replacement from the membership of the Foundation by action of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. All documents and property of the Foundation shall be surrendered to the Executive Committee upon the termination of services of such an officer.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and Annual Meetings; appoint all standing committees and special committees as needed, serve as ex-officio of all committees. The President shall represent the Foundation in public events as occasions require.

Section 2. The Vice President shall perform the duties usually attributed to the office, and serve as chairperson of a major standing committee.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep accurate MINUTES of meetings and keep copies on file and tend to other correspondence as needed.

Section 4. The TREASURER shall receive and disburse all monies concerned with the operation of this Foundation. The Treasurer will be assisted by a Financial Secretary to keep accounts in proper form in the ledger to facilitate the Treasurer's monthly and annual reports.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Membership of the Executive Committee shall consist of the officers and the immediate past president.

Section 2. Authority of the Executive Committee shall be the executive authority for this Foundation, and to conduct affairs as needed between meetings of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of this Foundation shall consist of the Executive Committee and a minimum of six and a maximum of 25 members-at-large.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES

The STANDING COMMITTEES will be established by the Board of Directors with a Board Member or Officer to chair a committee. Additional members of committees shall be chosen from the general membership.

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP Committee shall have the responsibility of securing renewals, increasing membership, maintaining the file of records (names, address, zip code, phone number) and keeping the file up-to-date, mailing membership cards and responding to inquiries.

Section 2. BUDGET & FINANCE Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer. A budget shall be presented to the incoming officers no later than February following the election of officers in January. Auditing shall be provided for prior to the January Annual Meeting.

Section 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS & PROMOTION. This Committee shall see that publicity and news items and newsletters are received by the news media, (radio, TV, papers) in ample time to be of use in promoting projects; should provide for a speakers bureau and list topics and available speakers; arrange for events that will promote Czech heritage and culture so community will be aware of these features. Arrange for exhibits and materials at appropriate local events, (fairs and similar events in area).

Section 4. NEWSLETTER & PUBLICATIONS Committee shall develop no less than three issues of the newsletter to the membership during the year, take care of sales and distribution of any booklets, keep the accounts of sales etc., develop other possible materials that are appropriate. Deposits of sales shall be made to the Treasurer. Be responsible for additional printings of materials as needed.

Section 5. PROGRAM COMMITTEE shall plan and provide periodic events that keep the Czech heritage before the community, Programs shall often be in cooperation with Czech Fine Arts Foundation and other groups in the community. When more than one Annual Meeting is held, provide for the program and events.

Section 6. SOCIAL Committee shall be in charge of hospitality and hostessing at general meetings for the membership and be responsible for teas and receptions as they occur.

ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION

Section 1. The Foundation may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of those present at the Annual Meeting in January or at a Special Meeting of the membership called to consider the dissolution.

Section 2. Upon dissolution, the Executive Committee shall make provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the Foundation, and shall dispose of all assets by transferring them to such groups as are organized and operated for purposes comparable to this Foundation.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS AND RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed in the conduct of meetings when a procedural problem arises.

Section 2. The Constitution and Bylaws of this corporation may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at an Annual Meeting providing the recommendations have been approved by the Board of Directors and further, that notice of changes will have been included in the last edition of the newsletter prior to the Annual Meeting.

January 17, 1977