

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR CZECH HERITAGE

Vol.5.No.4. Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations  
Dec.1980 P.O.Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.



## CALENDAR

When you find that 1981 calendar in your Xmas stocking, take pencil and fill in the events and places on the day and month! Details on many items on other pages. . . .

Dec. 31 Sokol New Year's Party  
1981

Jan.19 Annual meeting for members of Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundation. People's Bank West Side, 7:30 p.m.

Jan.23-24 Opera, BARTERED BRIDE at The Paramount Theater

Feb.14 HANA MANDLIKOVA and Billie Jean King, TENNIS PROS.

Feb.28 ŠIBŘINKÝ, Sokol Hall

May 16-17 HOUBY DAYS, Czech Village

Aug.20 Annual picnic Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations.

Sept.11,12,13 CZECH FESTIVAL DAYS on 16th Ave., SW. The Village.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS . . . ATTEN-SHUN everyone

The Nominating Committee is now considering names of persons to be 1981 officers or board members in Heritage Fdn. The slate will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting, January 19, 1981.

If you have any person in mind, please contact one of the following members of the committee: Dennis Hrabak, 366-1018, Bob Kouba, or Bob Kubik, . Or you may send the names to the Nominating Committee, PO Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52406

\*\*\*\*\*

Following the last performance of The Bartered Bride, January 24th, the Czech Heritage Fdn. and Sokolice Renata Tyrsova will have a reception at the Sokol Clubrooms to honor the cast and orchestra. Members of the Foundation and Sokol group are invited to attend. The reception will not start until after 10:30 p.m.

## KALENDAR

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE. Those of you who have presented programs about Czech heritage and culture during 1980, please send the report to President Frank W. Novotny, RR # 1, Cedar Rapids, Ia 52401 before Jan.10, 1981. Report the number of programs, the approximate number of persons in attendance, nature of the topic(s), and the types of groups for whom you gave the program.

Chairman of other committees, please send in your annual report about activities and plans accomplished during 1980 and possible recommendations for 1981.

\*\*\*\*\*

IPBN, The Iowa Public Broadcasting Network, (Ch.12 in CR) will film and tape The Bartered Bride .

CZECH VILLAGE not only placed FIRST in the Iowa Community Betterment Program on November 17 in Des Moines, but received a plaque and \$500.00 cash. More about the story on Czech Village page .

## SOME CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA . . . .

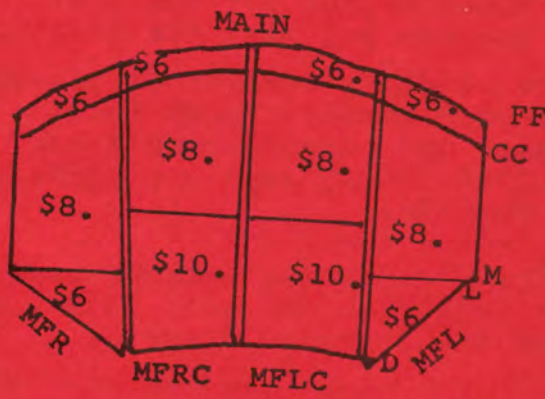
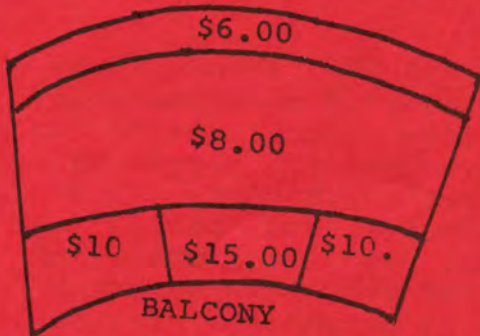
Among our souvenirs from Libbie Melsha is an article which is a collection from sources telling us about fact and fancy in olden times.

Christmas gifts to children were not from Santa Claus or Sv. Mikulas but from the Christ Child. December 6th, the Czechs observe Sv. Mikulas Day. St Nicholas visits each home along with the devil and angel. Sv. Mikulas asks each child if he has been good or bad, and what each would like for gifts. If the child has been bad, the little

(continued on page 6 )

TICKET INFORMATION for THE BARTERED BRIDE OPERA, Paramount Theater, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. January 23, Friday and January 24, Saturday at 8 p.m.

Study the chart below and send your order for tickets directly to the Cedar Rapids Symphony, Rm.202, Dows Building, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401.



MFR(Main, far right); MFL(Main, far left)  
 D-L \$6. M-CC \$8 DD-FF \$6.  
 MFRC(Main floor right center)  
 MFLC(Main floor left center)  
 B-V \$10. V-CC \$8. DD-FF \$6.

Give approximate area where you wish to be seated. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of tickets. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. ( 1-319) 366-8203.

Location desired \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total for tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of performance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Visa       Master Charge  
 Number of card \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of expiration \_\_\_\_\_

The STORY of the OPERA. The setting is in old Bohemia in the village square where the annual church festival is in progress. JENIK and MARENKA are sweethearts but she is downcast. Landowner MICHA is to bring his son, VASEK, to ask for MARENKA'S hand in marriage.

JENIK has never revealed his past. His mother died, father remarried. The stepmother was a jealous woman. JENIK leaves home. . JENIK and MARENKA share their joys and sorrows in song.

KECAL, the marriage broker, and MARENKA'S parents come to the square. Her parents want to know which son of MICHA'S their MARENKA is to marry. KECAL assures them there is but one son.

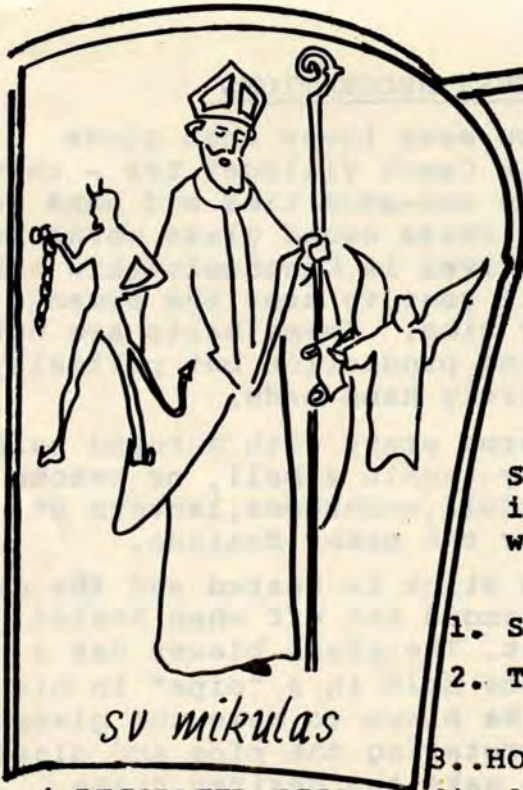
MARENKA returns to the scene and says that she is betrothed to JENIK. KECAL did not bring VASEK to the meeting because the lad is too shy.

The villagers dance and sing and depart. VASEK appears- a dull-witted stammerer. MARENKA walks by. He is overwhelmed by her beauty. MARENKA gets VASEK to agree he will not marry MARENKA. KECAL argues with JENIK about giving up MARENKA. JENIK sets a trap for KECAL to sign a contract : the bride is to go to the son of MICHA. JENIK pays MICHA 300 korunas. VASEK appears, telling the crowd that he has given up MARENKA.

A circus pulls into the square. VASEK is invited to join the circus and wear a grizzly bear costume. There is confusion - circus, villagers, VASEK'S and MARENKA'S parents. MARENKA is crestfallen to hear that JENIK has signed a contract for 300 korunas. JENIK and MARENKA argue.

Then JENIK reveals that he is the eldest son of MICHA and according to the contract, he is the bridegroom! KECAL realizes he has been tricked. JENIK asks MARENKA to choose between VASEK and him - and MARENKA runs into the arms of JENIK.

The circus bear wanders into the square. VASEK shows his head and grins foolishly. Father MICHA accepts JENIK and gives his blessing to the couple. ALL ENDS WELL !



sv mikulas

SV MIKULAS will be in  
**Czech Village**  
 SATURDAY DEC 6  
 1 to 4 p.m.

SV. MIKULAS will be greeting children and adults in Czech Village from 1 to 4 p.m. Come visit with him and see the Angel and Devil with him.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

1. Sv.Mikulas leads the procession at 4 p.m.
2. The 45 trees decorated with tiny gold lights will be lighted at 4 p.m.
3. HOUSKA braiding demonstrations at SYKORA BAKERY
4. DECORATED EGGS on display and CROTCHED ARTISTRY demonstrated and on display in building ,corner C street, 16th Ave.,SW.
5. CZECH MUSEUM open and decorated for Christmas , 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
6. CZECH VILLAGE SHOPS AND RESTURANTS open for browsing,shopping and relaxing.
7. TREE ORNAMENTS, exquisite, individually blown,hand decorated and with bandstand design,made in Czechoslovakia. First edition, 1980. Collector's item. \$3.35 at all Village shops,tex included.

VILLAGE NEWS The SIDEWALK SCAPE was completed in October. FORTY FIVE new young trees, landscaping bandstand area,new sidewalks adjoining 15th - 16th Avenues on "A" Street are there to see and enjoy!

Once upon a time "A" tree grew in old Brooklyn. Have you seen the 45 trees mentioned above? Someday 16th Avenue, S.W. will look almost like VACLAVSKE NÁMESITÍ in PRAHA !

CZECH VILLAGE PLACES FIRST IN IOWA capturing the FIRST PLACE award in the neighborhood competition in Iowa Community Betterment Program's 10th Anniversary held Dec. 17th in Des Moines.

! CONGRATULATIONS,CZECH VILLAGE!

Recognition Day honors and gives credit to volunteers who donate time, effort,and money to improve their communities. This year 147 communities were hosted at the event. Over the years,500 groups have participated.

Czech Village entered the Sidewalk Scape. The Association and the partnership of the City Council, various City Departments, Convention Bureau, Junior League, Civic Tours, Czech Heritage and Fine Arts Foundations, C.R.Board of Realtors,and numerous other city organizations and groups, both public and private,have participated in the Czech Village Festival.

Czech Village won one of three awards for the booth and display of Czech baked delicacies, costumes,glassware, antiques,books, music and leather goods.

At the luncheon with some 1000 and Miss Iowa in attendance, GEORGE JOENS was presented the GOVERNOR'S LEADERSHIP AWARD! CONGRATULATIONS!

George has been a leader in the 8 years of the founding of Czech Village Association of which he was the first president. Entertainment at the event was provided by the C.R.

Boddicker School of Music Czech Combo and Folk Dancers. (cont'd) →

Czech Village Places First(concl'd)

Governor Ray flew in from the Conference of Governors(Philadelphia) to attend the evening events when more than 1200 were present.

Workshops, speeches, displays, and seeing other projects produced by communities were not only most interesting but informative. Our CR group returned with many helpful ideas.

Some 25 Czech Heritage and Village Association members and 15 Boddicker musicians chartered a bus to take the party to the RECOGNITION Day events. **WONDERFUL WONDERFUL !**

FACTS ABOUT THE COOKBOOK.

Pat Martin, coordinator for the Czech Village Association, 58-16th Ave. SW., Cedar Rapids, Ia 52404, is compiling a new booklet entitled, " RECIPES and TRADITION FROM CZECH VILLAGE." to be released in May 1981 from Penfield Press, the 40 page booklets will feature in addition to recipes, the history and traditions of Czechs in the New World, particularly Cedar Rapids and Eastern Iowa.

The publication will have a color cover and color photographs of some Cedar Rapids Czech people. The first publication of photographs and Pat's material about the history and the traditions will be incorporated in a seven-page article in the Christmas issue of THE IOWAN magazine.

Pat would welcome Czech recipe contributions from Czech readers of this newsletter. Working with Pat is Joan Liffing-Zug, contributing editor of THE IOWAN.

Pat is taking orders for that December issue of THE IOWAN mentioned above. Seven pages about the Czech community in C.R., black-white and color photographs. \$ 3.00 per copy. Phone her at [redacted] or [redacted]. THE IOWAN makes a lovely Xmas gift. Act Now !

*Greetings of the Season to you and yours!*

MAGIC TREE DECORATIONS

Have you seen those spun glass balls in Czech Village? Yes - they are made one-at-a-time and hand decorated. State owned glass works and cooperatives in Czechoslovakia make them all year to meet the demands at holiday time. These balls are not an automated production but partially or entirely hand-made.

Most forms start with a round ball that may remain a ball, or become a horn, doll, mushrooms, lantern or whatever the maker designs.

A glass stick is heated and the desired length cut off when heated red hot. The glass blower has a the piece held in a "pipe" in his mouth. He blows to make the glass expand, rotating the pipe and glass blob to make the desired shape.

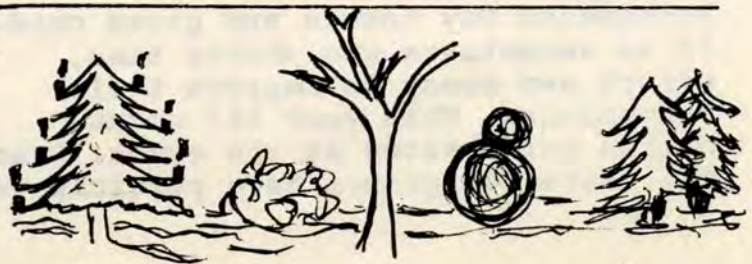
In step 2, a worker in charge has many balls in a container, pours silver nitrate over them, rinses them in hot water and the balls are silver coated! Infra-red heat dries them and also toughens them. A light coat of varnish is applied. All of the decorative painting is hand done.

These balls are like the ones you can purchase in Czech Village.

from a magazine article on loan from Rollie Raim.

Join the WELCOME to 1981 at the annual SOKOL PARTY, downstairs club-room, 413 - 3rd Street SE. from 8:30 to after midnight! Lunch at the 1/2 way hour during the evening. Meat and coffee supplied, Please bring covered dish and table service. Hats, horns and such are free. No table charge. Music for dancing by Jos. Pazour & Company. RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN ADVAMCE. \$ 3.00 per person. Phone Pazour [redacted] or Bob Kubik, [redacted]. ( Bring any special refreshments you desire.)

NAZDAR !



# Czech Fine Arts Foundation, Inc.

The CZECH MUSEUM and LIBRARY are doing very well. Since the opening there have been over 6,000 names inscribed on our guest books with many families of two to four members. The tour guides report that during festivals and busy times, many guests do not sign.

So, who is interested in our Museum? They are individuals, families, tourists, and students doing ethnic research. Many groups of pupils and students, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts and Campfire groups are also among our visitors.

From where do our visitors come? thirty-eight states, fifteen foreign lands and newcomers almost weekly.

With a little luck, some hard work, and a lot of donations, the Museum and Library should be located in the new home by March 1981 at 10 - 16th Avenue S.W.

The building is a concrete block shell. Renovation to date includes a new insulated roof and considerable interior cleaning and repair work. Heating and air-conditioning, plumbing and electrical work are under contract.

Funds raised so far will pay for only a part of the remodeling. A FUND DRIVE will begin within some two weeks to raise a total of \$50,000. to do not only remodeling but to include the initial costs of starting up for items including display equipment. Major contributions so far include \$10,000 from ZCBJ, \$5000 pledged from Bohemian Savings and Loan, and \$500. from Quaker Oats Co. We do "THANK" these organizations for their generous support and also the many individuals for their support in labor and donations of articles and money.

A grant has been awarded from the Linn County Board of Supervisors for the purchase of video equipment to record interviews with older residents so as to preserve a part of the valuable information they have in their memories. This project should be under way this spring.

To arrange for donations, or to volunteer as a guide or to work in the new Museum or just to ask a question, Call Bob Schaffer or Elsie Jelinek

Bob Schaffer, President  
Czech Fine Arts Foundation . .

NEWS of the CZECH DANCE OF THE YEAR ! SIBRINKY, Sokol Hall, in upstairs club rooms, newly decorated. Saturdat, Feb. 28, 1981 from 8:30 pm. to 12:30 am. . . Costumes and masks welcome. Those with Czech costumes are asked to wear them. Coffee and kolach free. No charge for tables. Music by the Jolly Bohemians. \$3.00 per person. Choice of tables on first come first serve! Please make reservation with Jos. Pazour, or Bob Kubik, . See you there! Sibrinky Committee

The opera DON GIOVANNI, composed by Mozart, had its premier in PRAHA, 1781 and in London 1817, in New York city 1826. In Cedar Rapids \_\_\_ ?

DID YOU KNOW that CHARLES UNIVERSITY in Praha was founded in 1348, some 38 years before the famous University at Heidelberg, Germany? The University Of Vienna dates back to 1365 altho later was reorganized twice before the year 1400.

Earlier universities started in the south of Europe, e.g. University of Rome dates 1303 and Oxford in England dates 1239 ! There were many famous libraries in B.C. times with scrolls of papyrus as the volumes. Some of the "books" were clay tablets . . .

Pat Martin, Village Coordinator, reported that the week of October 26, the Museum had over 300 visitors who were attending conventions in the city !



PRO TENNIS  
EXHIBITION  
Feb. 14, 1981  
8 p.m.  
Five Seasons  
Center

FEATURING

HANA MANDLIKOVA  
and  
BILLIE JEAN KING  
in  
Women's Singles  
and  
ELIOT TELTSCHER  
PAUL McNAMEE  
in  
Men's Singles

All FOUR in Mixed Doubles

Sponsored by Junior League of C.R.

HANA MANDLIKOVA, age 18, learned to play tennis at Sparta Club in Praha, same place where Martina Navratilova was trained. Hana is # 6 champion among world tennis players. Since age 17 BILLIE JEAN KING has been # 1 in the world three times and is among the top 10 in U.S.A.

TELTSCHER, age 21, is from California McNAMEE, age 26, is an Australian. Both men have won tournaments thruout the world in the last few years.

Tickets available after Dec.5th at the ticket office, Five Seasons Center. If large groups, 20 to 50 or more, depending upon price, now available. Phone Jayne Bernhard , .

General admission, 2nd balcony, \$6.00 not reserved. (\$5 for students and for senior citizens with I.D.card); \$10 reserved on risers and 1st balcony; patrons \$50. plus party with the Pros after the exhibition at Coventry Gardens. P.M.

Some Christmas Traditions ( from p.1.)

devil writes it down in a book and if the child has been good, the angel writes it down in that book. On Christmas the bad children found potatoes and lumps of coal in their stocking hung by the tree; the good children found nuts and fruits and other goodies in their stocking. Also the good children received gifts from the Christ Child in memory of gifts which the Wise Men brought to Him.

The presents would be opened. Good children had many presents but the bad child seemed to have none! After tears and promises to be good, presents for the once bad child would appear.

The traditional Christmas Eve meal was mushroom soup from those which had been gathered in the fall, dried, and kept for special meals. The carp (fish) was covered with a dark sweet gravy in which prunes added flavor, dumplings, and a pudding of farina flavored with honey, butter, and ginger.

The families would go to midnight mass in the village church. The cold night, bright stars and snow crunching under foot made it all a very special event. At church familiar carols were sung by the choir, shepherds came down the aisle toward the altar, and after the final carol, everyone went home, their hearts filled with happiness and joy.

Often poor children from other parts of the province would go from door to door to ask for food. Such guests were never turned away to go their way in the snow and cold.

One game was to cut an apple crosswise so that the seeds formed a star. If a perfect star resulted the person would have a long and happy life. A wormy apple or an imperfect star meant sorrow and trouble. Another trick was to peel the apple in one long continuous strip, then throw the peeling over the shoulder. When it fell to the floor it would form an initial of the person one would marry.

Many of you readers will have your memories or know of customs in parts of old Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia or Slovakia that are not like what you have just read. So often in an isolated village, esp. in days of limited travel and communication, folks made do with what they had and so quite another story would come from them. . . . .

PRODANA NEVĚSTA, our Bartered Bride, by Smetana, premier in Praha 1866, in London 1885, in New York 1911. C.R. will see it again in 1981 ! You all come!

NAME CHANGES

A growing and widening interest in geneology has come about since our Bicentennial, "Roots", and the re-vitalization of not only 16th Ave. SW in Cedar Rapids but the recent organizations of groups over the state of Iowa to preserve their ancestral heritage and customs. Marie Vileta of Tama reports some of the problems encountered in trying to identify the descendents of Joseph ČELOUD, who is buried in Oak Hill cemetery in Cedar Rapids. He came to Iowa with his wife, a daughter and two sons in 1865 from the province of Moravia.

One of the sons, Anthony CHALLED, is interred in Linwood cemetery, and the other, Joseph ČALOUD, is interred at the National cemetery, Vining, Ia.

Some descendents are now in their 7th generation with at least three spellings of the name: ČALOUD, CHALLED, ČELOUD. It will truly be a miracle if ever a documented "family tree" emerges.

No doubt some of you folks have had similar problems in tracing family names. This is but one example of changes in spelling of a name and yet all are pronounced about the same.

PODPLAMINKY: who or what is that? Do you know? Want to guess? If you are Czechoslovakian or know someone over there, that may help. No prize will be awarded. Send us the correct answer! We will say "pretty smart" if you send the correct or almost correct answer! Let's hear from you. (MW)

Please read these notices of information!

- (1) if your dues are PAID for 1981 the word PAID is stamped on the renewal space below. Some folks have paid thru 1982! Perhaps you wish to send a contribution or a gift membership or two.
- (2) a change of address would help us to keep our records up-to-date. So, help us keep our information in order. Since we have a mailing permit, undelivered newsletters are NOT returned to us.
- (3) we would appreciate knowing of deceased members. We then send the newsletter for the remainder of the year to next of kin so send us the name of a family member to whom the letter can be mailed. Thanks...

MEMBERSHIP IN CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

renewal \_\_\_\_\_ new \_\_\_\_\_ gift \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

If you send gift membership, name of person(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 and address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$3.00 per person for one year (Jan. 1.-Dec. 31.) Please make the check payable to Czech Heritage Foundation and mail to PO Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.

Enclosed: dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you need more space for names, please use other side of this form or add another sheet of paper. THANK you very much.

THE NEWSLETTER WENT TO PRESS NOV. 21st. IF YOU HAVE MAILED YOUR DUES IN THE MEANTIME, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT. THANKS.

CSPS HALL in St.Paul was built in 1887, 93 years ago,remodeled with additions in 1917. Three years ago the Hall was placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

The cornerstone for our local CSPS Hall is dated 1890. This Hall is also on the National Registry. However,there is one big difference! The Minnesota lodges and the Czechoslovak community and friends along with grants from the Minnesota Historical Society and the Cherokee State Bank are financing an estimated \$300,000 needed to restore the building. The Hall is used as a main center for Czechoslovak groups and as a Museum. (Sokol Slovo, Minnesota)

This issue lacks space to share with you an article about the Czech Fine Arts Society of the 1930's. Some of you were active in that group. We will have space in the March newsletter to print the article. Some of the names mentioned are, Ted Hlubucek, Marie Wokoun, Caroline Shonka, Mrs.J.J.Hervert (affectionately called "Ma Hervert") Dr.Leo B.Sedlacek, Mr.Jos.Sadowsky.

If you have recollections of that group you want to share with us, please let us hear from you. . .

The editor appreciates the items sent to the"office" .Thanks. mms

A special "THANK YOU" to our Pat Martin,Village Coordinator,for the detailed reports of Village projects.

**CZECH HERITAGE FDN.**

P. O. Box 761  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

BULK RATE  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Permit No. 127