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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



Stasia Krivanek Crowned Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2003-2004

(Story on page 3)

Volume 28 – Number 2 – June, 2003

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Nase Ceske Dedictvi

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation who pay their annual dues of \$3.00 per person receive *Nase Ceske Dedictvi* 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.

President's Message

By Arlo Netolicky

Greetings

So far this year the Czech Heritage Foundation held its ST. Joseph's Day dance on March 23, 2003, which included a raffle and bake sale. Many donations from individuals and business were received and the event was a **great success**. The Jim Busta band was enjoyed by all that attended.

A beautiful Czech Heritage parade float was in the St. Patrick's day and St. Joseph's day parades. Many hours of work were put into this float.

The Czech Heritage Foundation will also have Five (5), students going to the Czech Republic this summer in a Homestay program for a one month stay. I'm sure this will be an exciting and a learning experience for them.

Saturday, May 17, 2003, at Houby days activities the Czech Queen Contest was held at the Czech Museum and a queen was selected and will hold this position for a one-year period.

With this all happening I wish to say **THANK YOU** to all that were on committees and or donated their time and efforts. Also, thanks to all who donated goods and or products to help with the fund raising.

Newsletter Volunteers

By Frank Novotny

A sincere thanks to the people that have helped in assembling and mailing the newsletter. We have an enjoyable get together at my home, and generally we are done around noon. I get fried chicken, and the workers bring a dish for a pot luck, and we have a wonderful lunch. Thanks again. The people putting the last newsletter together were:

Hedi Benesh, Carol Bestricky, Emma Davidson,
Lenora Jiroutek, Emily Larkin, Peg Merta,
Arlene Netolicky, Arlo & Joyce Netolicky,

Frank Novotny, Darlene Trachta, John & Adeline Volesky, and Mana Zataluseck. We welcome anyone who wishes to join us for future issues.

I. Special Notices:

5/30-6/1/03 – Beckster Fest at Amana, IA

If you enjoy the music of Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen, be sure to visit the Beckster Fest in the Amanas. The event starts Friday at 6:00 PM, and runs through Sunday at 8:00 PM. The event will be held at the Amana Colonies RV Park & Outdoor Convention Facility in Amana, Iowa, where you can polka in air-conditioned buildings and on two wooden dance floors. Entertainers include: Bruce Bradley, Karl & Country Dutch., Top Notchmen, Steve Meisner, Goodtime Dutchmen, Lyle Beaver Trio, Maleks Fishermen, Gary's Ridgeland Dutch., and Brian's MV Dutchmen.

6/17/03 – Melodion Band at Traer, IA

The Melodion Band, on tour of the US from the Czech Republic, will be performing at Traer, Iowa. The program will be at the Traer Memorial Building, 414 2nd St., Traer, Iowa, on Saturday, June 14th, from 7-11:00 PM. The program will feature Czech music for dancing and listening. Clutier ZCBJ Lodge #104 is sponsoring this event. The Czech Heritage Prince and Princess, and the new Miss Czech Slovak Iowa have been invited to attend and be introduced. Admission is \$8.00.

6/21-22/03 - Miss Czech Slovak Wisconsin Pageant

This Pageant will be held a part of the 20th Annual Phillips Czechoslovakian Community Festival in Phillips, WI. The festival also includes Czech foods, music and dancing. Contact Toni Birmingham for information on the pageant (). The Festival web site is (<http://www.czech-slovakfestphillipswi.org/>).

6/26-28/03 – SVU Conference

The Czech and Slovak Presence in America: A Retrospective Look and Future Perspectives

This special conference, organized by the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) will be held June 26-28 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The conference is being convened under the patronage of Czech President Vaclav Klaus, and the sponsorship of the Excellencies The Ambassadors of Czech and Slovak Republics to the US. Never before has such a comprehensive conference been convened and so many experts on this subject assembled, be it here or abroad. The last count indicates that there will be close to 150 lectures presented. See related stories on the SVU and detailed program information for this conference in our Section VII. **Featured Articles.**

7/20/03 – Dance festival

The *2nd National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival* will be held July 20th at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Join us as folk dancers from around the

United States demonstrate and teach traditional Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak folk dances. The program begins at 1:00 PM in a large tent to be placed in the NCSML Garden.

9/27-28/03 – 64th Moravian Days at Countryside, IL

The United Moravian Societies is pleased to announce that the popular brass band Lanzhotcanka from Moravia will be appearing at the 64th Annual Moravian Days celebration in September, in Countryside, Illinois.

UMS includes five dance groups that cover ages 4 to 30, plus an adult singing group, all of whom will don their Moravian kroje and perform songs and dances to the exciting music of this region of the Czech Republic.

The dates are September 27th and 28th, and the location is the Union Hall at LaGrange and Joliet Roads in Chicago's western suburbs. The program includes a welcoming dance Saturday night, and then on Sunday, Mass in the Moravian dialect, a program with over 100 brilliantly costumed performers, and dancing to the music of Lanzhotcanka.

Access to the hall from I-294 and I-55 is convenient. For more information, e-mail:

unitedmoraviansocieties@msn.com.

II. Cover Story: MissCzech Slovak Iowa 2003-04

Stasia Krivanek Crowned Miss Czech Slovak Iowa



The Second Annual Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant was held in conjunction with the Houby Days celebration in Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on May 17th, 2003. The Czech Heritage Foundation once again was the primary event sponsor.

Stasia Krivanek was named Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2003-2004, and Sarah Fiala was First Runner-up. Stasia also was named winner of the talent competition. Katie Ziskovsky (Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2002-2003) and John Fiala made the presentation of awards.



From left to right - Sarah Fiala (First Runner-up), Stasia Krivanek (Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2003-2004), Katie Ziskovsky (Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2002-2003)

The traditions associated with the passing of the sash are interesting and significant. The reigning Queen is responsible for developing the sash for the new Queen. Each Queen adds a personal decorative pin, and all of these accumulated pins are passed on to the next Queen on her sash. Our past Queen, Katie Ziskovsky, presented the beautiful sash she had designed to Stasia. It included her American Flag pin, as well as Lisa Volesky's Czech Lion Pin. Lisa was the Iowa's candidate in 2001-2002, and was crowned Miss Czech Slovak USA 2001-2002.

Judges for this year's competition were Jennifer Vollmar (reigning National Miss Czech Slovak USA), Robert Stolba (Cedar Rapids), and Marlene Flory (Columbus Junction). Master of Ceremonies was John Fiala. Auditors of ballots were Arlo Netolicky and Bob Widfield.

This year's event's primary organizer was Mrs. Adeline Volesky. Lisa Volesky, Adeline's granddaughter, was previously the National Miss Czech Slovak USA, and was the prime force in organizing this Iowa Pageant last year.

The Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant would like to extend a special thank you to all of the following for their donations and contributions:

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library,
National Miss Czech Slovak USA Pageant,
Czech Heritage Foundation, John & Adeline
Volesky, Houby Days Committee, Stejskal's,

Russ Novotny, Katie Ziskovsky, Ralston Foods, The Corvette Club, Al Willenborg, Dave Selmet, Bret Parker, Quaker Oats, Von Maur, Two Star Detective Agency, Zimmerman Ford, Brosh Chapel, Sykora's Bakery, and Emma Davidson.

Meet the Contestants



Sarah Ann Fiala

Iowa City, Iowa
Parents John & Theresa Fiala
Xavier High School, graduated 2001
University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
Talent - Accordion



I plan on teaching High School English and directing plays and speech programs. Eventually I would like to go to graduate school or teach abroad.

I am very proud of my Czech-Slovak ancestry and enjoy sharing my culture with others. As the Miss Czech Slovak Iowa, a woman has an opportunity to proudly represent the Czech - Slovak people, and help others to better appreciate the Czech - Slovak people. It would also be a great chance to meet new people.



Stasia Krivanek

Cedar Rapids, Iowa
 Parents David & Debbie Krivanek
 Prairie High School, graduated 2000
 Northwestern College, St. Paul, Minnesota
 Talent – Interpretive Reading



After graduation I plan on entering ministry and at some point attending graduate school and earning a Masters of Divinity. My long-term goal is to become a motivational speaker/evangelist.

My Czech ancestry plays a vital role in my identity and it is something I am very proud of. When I was in High School, I participated in the National Mss Czech Slovak Pageant, which was a wonderful experience. I want to support the Iowa Czech Community in starting programs similar to this one and the festivities in Wilbur.



III. Czech Language Corner:

Lesson 10 By Olga Drahozal

Answers to your translation exercise from the last lesson:

From CZECH	To ENGLISH
Kdo je to? To je on.	Who is That? That is he.
Proc je tady? Nevim.	Why is he here? I don't know (literally I know not).
Kde je ona? Ona neni tady.	Where is she? She is not here.
Co je to? To neni zvire.	What is That? That is not an animal.
Kde je auto? Neni tady.	Where is the auto? It is not here.
Ja jsem tady protoze (praw-thaw-zeheh) (because) ona tady neni.	I am here because she is not here (i.e. she here is not).

To review:

We have learned that in Czech the nouns have a gender. Masculine singular nouns end in a consonant.. Most feminine nouns end in "a", a few in "e". Neuter nouns end in "o".

This lesson – Accusative Case.

Now we will encounter the accusative case. Sometimes it is easier to think of it as objective ... an object at the end of the sentence which receives the action of the verb.

- Mother has a coat. The word "coat" is the object which mother has.
- My sister has a cat. The word "cat" is the object which sister has.

Translate:

From CZECH	To ENGLISH
Ten profesor ma nove auto.	
Ta zena ma zeleny kabat.	
Ta pani ma velkou knihu.	
To piano ma klic.	

Notice that "kniha" became "knihu" when it was the direct object of the verb, i.e., when it became the accusative case. An adjective modifying, the feminine noun in the accusative case takes an "--ou" suffix.

More Translation:

From CZECH	To ENGLISH
Ja mam starou knihu.	
Ty mas malou kocku.	
Ona ma cerbenou tuzku.	
My hledame novou mapu.	
Vy mate širokou (shee-raw-koh) [wide] reku.	
Oni maji malou zahradu.	

Look for the answers in our next issue!

IV. National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



Outstanding Temporary Exhibits

By Jan Stoffer Tursi

Glass Behind the Iron Curtain: Czech Design, 1948-1978. Explore glass design in former Czechoslovakia during a time of limited artistic freedom. Beginning in Stalinist 1950's art was expected to conform to the principles of Socialist Realism intended to inspire the working class. However, glass was overlooked as a non-political medium and many artists took refuge in glass to escape harassment and retain their creative freedom. *Glass Behind the Iron Curtain* will illustrate the designs of this era through the exhibition of original works by many artists including Jiří Hájek, Stan Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová, Vladimír Kopecký, René Roubíček, and Věra Lišková. Exhibition designed and owned by the Corning Museum of Glass.

Czechoslovak Artists in Exile opens as the premier exhibition in the Laska Gallery. Czechoslovak Artists in Exile will feature original paintings and sculpture by world-famous Czech artists including Jiri Kolar, Roman Kames, George Mathissen, Jan Koblasa, Vladimír Skoda, and others from the private collection of Drs. Jaroslav and Mila Kyncl. The exhibition also includes limited edition prints featured in "Revue K," a French-language art journal was co-founded by Jiri Kolar and Roman Kames in 1981 to promote Czech artists in exile. The exhibition closes August 31, 2003.

V. Czech Heritage Special Reports:

Houby Days 2003 Report

By Russ Novotny



Houby Days - Czech Village Main Street

Houby days were held in Cedar Rapids' Czech Village May 16-18th. Great weather brought out a great crowd. Along with traditional Czech music entertainment, events included *A Taste of Czech & Slovak* where visitors could taste various ethnic dishes, an egg & mushroom breakfast, the *Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant* (see articles on pages 3-5), a parade, a Houby contest, a kolach eating contest, Maypole dances, and a button Accordion Jamboree.



Opening Parade Color Guard Passes NCSML



Even the Tractors Wore Czech & Slovak Colors



The Czech Heritage Foundation Donated New Flags for the Flag Raising



**American, Czech, and Slovak Anthems
at the Bandstand**

St. Joseph's Dance Report

By Frank & Barb Edmunds

Sunday, March 24th was a wonderful day, nice weather, good old fashion Czech fellowship and a variety of music for all to enjoy. Over 400 people, including children and youth were at the ELKS LODGE in Cedar Rapids to participate. This location was a change from the past St. Joseph Day Dances and has proven to be a good move. Guests enjoyed having more room to dance and just enjoy the great music provided by the Jim Busta Band from Spring Grove, MN.

This dance is to benefit two of the Czech Heritage programs, the Home Stay and the Scholarship program. Through the admissions, successful bake sale, door prizes and raffle items, we were able to turn over slightly more than \$1,250 to each of these two programs.

We have so many people to thank and we don't want to miss any of you. The tickets were printed courtesy of Stejskals Florist. Our Board members, ambassadors and former princess and prince helped us out in many ways. We had over 46 businesses contribute to this fundraiser, either with donations of money, items and certificates to raffle or bought tickets. See these donors listed in the following article.

We are thankful for the help from Evelyn Stejskal, who again this year spent MANY hours contacting businesses and individuals to help us with this fundraiser. Much of our success is because of Evelyn.

The arrangements have been made for 2003. The Elks Lodge will be the place to be on Sunday, March 23 and the Jim Busta Band will be there to entertain you. Again, thanks to all who helped and came to our 2002 dance. We will see you next year!

St. Josephs Dance Donors

By Frank & Barb Edmunds, and Evelyn Stejskal

The following donors were a big part of our great success with the St. Joseph's Dance. Be sure to patronize and thank these gracious donors. We couldn't do it without them. THANK YOU:

Bartunek Appliance, Brosh Funeral Home, Buresh Rental, Carver's Ace Hardware, Cedar Memorial Funeral Home, Culver's Frozen Custard, Czech Cottage, Czech Village Shirt Shop, Dairy Queen Wilson Ave., Dr. John F. Hamm, Drug Town, Wilson Ave., Flickers of Fun, Headquarters, Hy Vee Stores, Iowa Valley Monument, Jiruska Enterprises, Joen's Brothers, Kreb's Florist, Merle Norman Cosmetics, Murdock Funeral Home, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Papich-Kuba Funeral Home, Pierson's Florist, Polehna's Meat Market, Roland Wilbert Vault Co., Saddle & Leather Shop, Speed Print, Stalker Electric, Stejskals Florist, Inc., Sykora's Bakery, Teahen Funeral Home, Tic Toc, Vic Pilsner, Western Fraternal, Wiley Car Wash, Zindrick's Red Frog.

Czech Heritage Float Report

By Russ Novotny

The Czech Heritage Float has been busy winning awards this past season. Thanks to the imagination and hard work of Leonard Pfeifer, our float is adapted for the theme of each parade. We also make a point to have our Czech Heritage Prince & Princess ride on the float.



Best Overall in St. Patrick's Day Parade



1st Place in St. Joseph's Day parade



Houby Days Parade with Czech Prince & Princess

Czech Homestay Ambassadors

EDITOR'S NOTE: This year, the Czech Heritage Foundation has selected five students to represent us as Ambassadors to the Czech Republic. They will visit host families in the Czech Republic for one month this summer. See their introductions below. We will report on their adventures in future issues.

Naomi Fottral



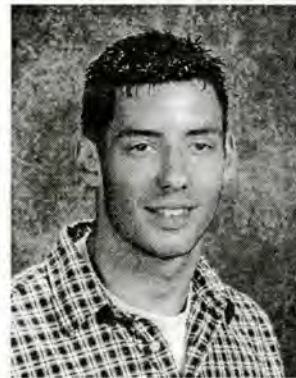
Hi, my name is Naomi Fottral. I am a senior at Prairie High School. I live in Swisher with my parents Jerry and Kazumi. My dad is a professor at Kirkwood Community College, and my mom is a nurse. I have three siblings, all older than me. My oldest sibling is my brother Mayo, and he's

twenty-five. Sanami is the next oldest and she's twenty-three and currently living in Japan. The next oldest is Masumi who is twenty, and she attends Coe College.

I keep myself busy with a few activities. These include: swimming, National Honor Society, Band, S.A.V.E., and soccer. I have been involved in club swimming since the age of four. This is the first year I have tried soccer so it's very new to me. In band I play the tenor saxophone. I have been doing this since about sixth grade.

I am very excited to participate in this trip, and I'm sure that holds true to the other four participating as well. It will be exciting to learn more about the Czech language, culture, and heritage overall.

Austen Fiala



My name is Austen Fiala, and I live in Swisher, Iowa and attend Prairie High School. I am a junior at Prairie; I am 16 years old and 6'3" tall. In school, I take all the normal academic courses, and I am very active in Scouting, Concert Chorale, Varsity Sports, and outdoor activities. I am also very interested in business, and

have taken several business and leadership courses. I work at Subway on the weekends. My parents taught me to be pretty independent and to rely on myself; I bought my own car, I can cook, do my own laundry and balance my checkbook. Like most teenagers, I am adept at using a computer and the Internet. When I graduate, I plan to go to college in Iowa.

At Prairie High School, I am on the Student Council, and I play both Varsity Football and Varsity Basketball. Our Prairie Hawks teams did very well this past year. In the "off-season" I work out in the weight room to keep in good physical condition. I am also a member of the Prairie High School Concert Chorale, the audition choir at PHS and I enjoy music.

I've grown up in Swisher, and have attended College Community schools all my life. My family has traveled every year to Texas to visit with my grandparents and cousins in New Braunfels, Texas. We enjoy many water sports in Texas and I am an excellent swimmer.

I have 3 brothers, Jason (18), Bryan (15) and Nathan (13) who also enjoy traveling. Over the past ten years, my family has done a lot of camping, fishing and hiking. I am a Life Scout in Boy Scout Troop 37 and a member of Order of the Arrow honor society. I belong to First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids and attend the Shueyville United Methodist Youth Group with my school friends. I've learned about community service from Scouting and my church.

My Dad, Paul, is a Registered Investment Advisor, and President of Fiala Portfolio Management. My Mother, Kathy Gregory-Fiala, is a Sales Executive for IBM. They talk to good people from all over the world every day, so I have inherited this global perspective, and hope to be a good Youth Ambassador from our community to the Czech Republic.

I am an Iowa and a Texas Czech kid. My Czech heritage comes from both my mother's and father's side of the family. My mother's Czech ancestors, the Wenzel Nowotny family, arrived in Texas, from Budweis, Bohemia, in 1845, and many Nowotny descendants still live in the area around New Braunfels and Austin, Texas. My father's Czech ancestors, the Hora, Bena and Fiala families arrived to Iowa around 1845. My father, Paul,

believes that his family is a mix of Czech and Moravian ancestry. I am interested in learning more about my Czech heritage and will really enjoy my trip this summer to the Czech Republic. Thank you all for making this trip possible.

Austen will be visiting in Prague this summer with Jiri Stepanek and Mikulas Necek, two Czech teenagers who will return with him for a month visit to Iowa in August.

Kelsi Kautzky



Hello there, my name is Kelsi Kautzky. I am a senior at Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids. I live in Hiawatha with my parents, Bill and Valerie Kautzky. I have four older siblings, seven nieces and nephews and a new kitten.

Some of my past and present activities include Optimist Club, elementary school mentor, dancing, singing, show choir and piano. I was a National Council on Youth Leadership nominee in 2002 and am a member of the International Thespian Society. I am proud to say that I was a People to People Student Ambassador in Europe in 2000. I was Junior Miss Hiawatha in 1997 and in 1998 I was a top 12 merit finalist in the Distinguished Youth of Iowa Scholarship Pageant.

Being chosen to represent the Czech Heritage Foundation in Prague this summer is truly a dream come true. While in the Czech Republic I hope to visit the Rychnov nad Kneznou Chateau, or as it used to be called, Kolowrat Castle. This is where my 5th great-grandfather, Adalbert Kautzky, served as the hunting companion to Count Franz Kolowrat.

I've worked part time since I turned 14. I am currently working 25 hours a week and am an honor roll student. Next year I plan to attend the University of Iowa. Thank you so much for affording me the opportunity to learn more about the people of the Czech Republic and my Czech heritage.

Rebecca Moeller



Dobry Den! My name is Rebecca Moeller and I'm currently a senior at Jefferson High School. My parents are David and Deborah Moeller. I have participated in many things throughout high school. Some things include swimming, basketball, and band. I also mentor a 5th grader at Cleveland

Elementary and am involved in a program called Friends of Freshmen at school. I attend church at St. Ludmila where I volunteer at youth masses.

Although I'm originally from South Korea, the Czech culture has always been a part of my life. Whether it was attending Czech School for several years as a young girl, hearing stories from my grandmother who grew up in a Czech family, or working at Sykora Bakery, the Czech culture has played a major role in my life.

I was very excited to hear that I had the chance to earn a trip to the Czech Republic this summer. I am always willing and eager to be able to learn more about another country's culture and way of life. Not only do I hope to take in everything the Czech Republic has to offer, but I also hope to broaden my previous knowledge from Czech School several years ago. Thank you so much to everyone who has played a part in my ableness to go on this trip!

Rachel Sippy



Hello, my name is Rachel Sippy, and I live in Swisher, Iowa (south of Cedar Rapids). I am eighteen years old and I will graduate from Prairie High School this May. I hope to study Architecture for five years at a college I will love. I live with my

mom, Jean, a research assistant at the University of Iowa, and my dad, Tom, a self-employed contractor. I also live with my brother, Pat, a junior and a business major at the University of Iowa, and my sister, Grace, a freshman at Prairie.

I like to read, play games (especially cards), watch movies and have fun with my friends. I am involved in many activities at school, since I like to stay busy. Right now, I am a captain of the track team, where I like to high jump and run an occasional race if my coaches make me. I'm looking forward to joining the soccer team as soon as track is over, since it is my favorite sport and our team has a lot of fun. I finished playing indoor soccer with a Marion team in February, which I will miss a lot. I play percussion in Prairie's band, where I am a section leader. Over spring break, our music department is traveling to the Bahamas to compete in a national contest. This should be a lot of fun, especially since it's been so cold here lately. Our school has a chapter of Amnesty International, a human rights group. I am the group coordinator of our chapter, and I enjoy learning about what's going on in the world and trying to help those who need it. I am also in Student Council, on the Prairie Electric Car Team, and a member of the national Honor Society. After school, I work at O'Flaherty Law

Firm, as a legal assistant. Although I definitely don't want to be a lawyer, it is interesting to learn about our legal system.

I think this is a wonderful opportunity for local students. It is a great way for the people in my generation to learn about their heritage. I've always been interested in my past, since my mom is in charge of studying genealogy for our family. I also got to learn a lot about the Czech Republic when three close friends of mine went on this trip last year. They told me a lot about their experiences, and about what they had learned. I heard even more about the Czech Republic when I hosted Alena Simonovska last fall. She taught me a lot about the Czech culture, and I am very excited to see her again if I get the chance. I would like to thank the Czech Heritage Society for providing this opportunity, and I hope to share my experiences with as many people as possible.

Homestay Exchange Needs US Hosts This Fall

This is the second year that students from the Czech Republic will be participating in a **reciprocal exchange**. We will be hosting six students (4 girls and 2 boys) for month long stays this fall. Last year, our visiting students were able to spend time with their hosts at their schools and participate in school activities. We are hoping to provide the same experiences this year.

We still are in need of families in the Cedar Rapids area to help us host these very interesting visitors. We are seeking families with Sophomore, Junior, or Senior High School students. If you are interested, or know of a family that may be, please contact Jeanne Fee at 443-2925 for details.

VI. Historic Perspectives:

Let's Have a Party and Dance

Compiled by Adeline Volesky and Evelyn Stejskal

There is nostalgia in this photograph taken back in 1885. It is of a dance in Monroe Township, located three and a half miles southwest of Swisher, Iowa.



1885 Dance Hall, Guests, and Entertainers

This picture shows a large get together of friends and relatives and five musicians. Identities of some of the guests on the far left include Frank Troyna, Frank Langer, Anna Raim, Joe Cejka, Mr. & Mrs. Ignas Petrik, Frank Sedlacek, Anna Lizner and Rose Raim. Perhaps the musicians were a group of men with musical talent who got together because they enjoyed music. Most Czech families had one or more family members who played a musical instrument. Musicians were often paid by a free will offering by those attending the event.

Most of the men are dressed in suits, white shirts, ties and hats. The women and children have long dresses, ruffled petticoats, and 1880's hairstyle.

This dance hall was located in what was once known as Gregg, Iowa. The hall was previously owned by Joe and Mary Lench, who sold the property to Vaclav & Terezie Stanek Votroubek. The Votroubek family had living quarters in the rear of the hall next to the near-by summer kitchen. Above the dance hall were sleeping quarters for the Votroubek children. The dance hall hosted parties, dances, wedding showers and receptions. Small children were not allowed to dances. The Votroubeks sold cold beer, pop, and lunch. The beer was cooled with ice from the near by icehouse. The icehouse was filled in the winter with ice from the Iowa River and covered with sawdust to deter melting. The beer was served in tin cups and brown and green pottery mugs. The saloon was a shed attached to the icehouse, measuring 20 x 30 feet and made entirely of wood. It had six shuttered windows and a door behind the bar leading to the icehouse. The ceiling and walls had wainscoting. The interior was painted brown and green just like the mugs.

On the evening of a big scheduled event, the Votroubek children were sent to neighbors or relatives so their upstairs sleeping quarters could be used to accommodate guests from North Liberty and Oxford. Some celebrations lasted well after midnight. With the long distance traveled, rough narrow dirt roads and poor river crossings, guest opted to spend the night above the dance hall before returning home the following day.

The Votroubeks sold the property to Bart Becicka. In 1925 the Becickas sold to John & Anna Sedlacek Stanek. In 1926 the Staneks razed the hall and built a barn and house from the recycled lumber.

Vaclav Votroubek died August 9, 1908 at age 47. Because of his size it took ten men to carry the coffin. His wife Terezie died April 26, 1962 at age 99. They are both buried at near by Dupont Cemetery.

In 1964 Ben and Agnes Zach Stanek purchased twenty acres of the large farm. After Agnes Stanek died in 1993, the estate was sold to Eric & Jane Zangerle, who are the current residents.

REPORTER'S NOTES: The preceeding photo and information were submitted by Robert & Irma Vanoumy and their son Robert of rural Swisher who owns the photo, family records and documents. The hall and property belonged to family members from 1925 to 1993. They also have the brown and green beer mugs. Other interesting facts are: ice was sold for fifty cents per sled load. This ice was used for corpses. Back then it cost 10 cents a month for the kerosene lamps, in 1922 a cord of wood cost \$7.50; oats 35 cents a bushel; potatoes \$1.25 a bushel and wheat 70 cents a bushel.

Are Spillville Landmarks the Oldest of their Kind in the US?

By Steven Klimesh

My name is Steven Klimesh. I am a parish member engaged in an effort to place the Saint Wenceslaus Czech Catholic Church, Old Parochial School, Rectory and Cemetery, located in Spillville, Iowa, on the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District.

As part of that effort, I am attempting to determine if the Saint Wenceslaus Czech Catholic Church and the Saint Wenceslaus Czech Catholic Old School are the oldest standing facilities of their kind in the United States today.

Following is the specific date information on the Church and Old School as taken from the 1910 publication; *"History of Czechs in America"* by Dr. Jan Habenicht, as translated from the Czech to English by Miroslav Koudelka in 1996

05/16/1860 - "The corner stone of the new **Czech church** was laid, and the first mass was celebrated on St. Wenceslaus' Day of that same year."

1869 - 1870 - In 1869, under Farther Mikota, a steeple was built on the top of the church, and in the next year, a presbytery (the part of a church reserved for the officiating clergy) and both wings of the church was built, as well as the **school** that was the best in the entire neighborhood.

CALL FOR HELP: Does anyone know of a Czech Catholic Church or Czech Catholic School in the United States that is older than those standing and in use at the St. Wenceslaus parish in Spillville, Iowa?

Please Contact Steve with any information you might have on this subject:

Steven A. Klimesh

VII. Feature Articles:

Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)

Excerpts from the SVU Web Site
(<http://www.svu2000.org/>)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article describes the SVU organization to our readers. Their web site is very interesting and informative. I suggest those interested browse their site at <http://www.svu2000.org/>.

Most scholars of the Central European region now readily recognize the acronym SVU which in Czech and Slovak languages stands for the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. Since its inception in 1958, the SVU has grown into a respected international organization with chapters in major cities around the world. Although the Society until recently functioned almost exclusively in the West, ever since the peaceful 1989 Velvet revolution, it has expanded its activities to Czechoslovakia and its succession states, the Czech and the Slovak Republics.

The SVU is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, cultural organization, dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, the free dissemination of ideas, and the fostering of contacts among people. It brings together scholars, scientists, artists, writers, students, lawyers, businessmen, and others throughout the world who have a professional, family or other interest in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, their history, peoples, or their cultural and intellectual contributions. The aims and goals of the SVU are:

1. To enhance and promote Czech and Slovak culture worldwide
2. To coordinate and assist with the work of SVU members
3. To foster cooperation between scientists, artists, and other professionals, as well as with cultural institutions in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and those abroad
4. To assist with the preservation of Czech and Slovak cultural heritage abroad

Historical Background

The Society was officially organized in 1958, at the initiative of Czech and Slovak intellectuals living abroad, at a time when the communist regime in Czechoslovakia had repudiated the country's historical traditions and suppressed free expression. The SVU wanted to provide a forum for the free development of Czechoslovak culture in exile and make the world aware of the Czech and Slovak cultural traditions, which date back more than a millennium.

Its activities, as outlined in the original bylaws, consisted of supporting and coordinating the educational, scholarly, literary and artistic endeavors of the

Czechoslovak intelligentsia abroad. However, the Society was subsequently broadened into an organization open to all individuals, regardless of ethnic origin, interested in fostering Slovak and/or Czech culture.

Following the end of the communist regime in 1989, the SVU's functions greatly expanded. Now, in addition to its original mission, the Society has become a bridge between Czech and Slovak professionals and those in other countries. It allows scholars abroad to benefit from contact with their Czech and Slovak colleagues, as well as helping to reintegrate the intellectual life of these two nations into the main stream of world science, arts and letters, from which they were separated for so long by political barriers.

Future Perspectives

Since the fall of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia in 1989, the Society has been instrumental in assisting the fledgling democracies in reestablishing the normal functions of a free society, through material assistance, lectures, seminars, and workshops, and most of all, through the personal expertise and experience of its members. This emphasis will continue in the future.

The Society also recognizes, however, its obligations toward Czech and Slovak emigrants, as well as members of other ethnic groups who migrated from the territory of the former Czechoslovakia, and is committed to supporting certain activities for the preservation of their cultural heritage and the fostering of their cultural contacts with the Czechlands and Slovakia.

Above all, the Society is interested in encouraging young people, whether they are Czech and Slovak students who want to enhance their educational opportunities abroad, or North American students or those of other nationalities who wish to make Czech and / or Slovak culture the focus of their professional careers.

SVU Conference: *The Czech and Slovak Presence in America: A Retrospective Look and Future Perspectives*

SVU Press Release & Excerpts from
SVU Web Site <http://www.svu2000.org>

This is the general theme of a special conference, organized by the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) on **26-28, June, 2003** in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The conference is being convened under the patronage of Czech President Vaclav Klaus, and the sponsorship of the Excellencies The Ambassadors of Czech and Slovak Republics to the US.

This will be an extraordinary event and, in the opinion of many, the pivotal event of the year for anyone interested in anything Czech or Slovak. The organizers have

prepared a truly outstanding program, consisting of a variety of lectures, discussion panels and symposia relating to Czech and Slovak Americans, their lives, struggles and contributions, their historic settlements and the efforts to preserve their cultural heritage for future generations. Part of the proceedings will be devoted to the concerns of Czech and Slovak Americans, the echoes of Czech & Slovak culture in America and American culture in Czech & Slovak Republics, and the relations with the Czech and Slovak Republics. Never before has such a comprehensive conference been convened and so many experts on this subject assembled, be it here or abroad. The last count indicates that there will be close to 150 lectures presented on a wide breadth of topics.

The organizers have purposely selected Cedar Rapids for the conference site because the State of Iowa, more than any other State in the Union, had reminded the early settlers from the territory of former Czechoslovakia of their home country. It is of note that the Council of Higher Education ("Matice Vyssiho Vzdelani") which initiated the first scholarship program for Czech American students more than 100 years ago and is still active today, had its beginnings in Cedar Rapids, as did several Czech periodicals. This was also the place where Czechs established their Freethinkers Movement. In the close-by village of Ely, Rev. F. Kun from Moravia established the first Protestant church in the US. The Czech Catholics, in turn, built here their beautiful new church dedicated to St. Wenceslaus. Many of the churches built by the Czech settlers have been meticulously preserved and are on the National Register because of their unique architecture and the role they have played. The visitors will have an opportunity to see all these sites during a special bus excursion planned for Saturday, June 29. And finally, not too far from Cedar Rapids is an old Czech settlement, Spillville, where the foremost Czech composer Antonin Dvorak spent one summer and composed some of his most important compositions. It is fitting that a number of music programs are scheduled during the conference, especially during the evenings and the weekend, including a unique performance on the Czech bag-pipes ("dudy").

We sincerely invite the general public to attend this unique conference to learn about the Czech and Slovak Americana which is an integral part of the rich American cultural landscape strongly reflecting on their European roots.

Further details about the conference can be found on SVU Website: www.svu2000.org If you have questions, please, contact Cathy Oslzly (coslzly@unl.edu) or Mila Rechcigl (SVU1@aol.com)

Schedule

June 25, Wednesday

7:00 am - 9:30 pm Reception, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

June 26, Thursday

8:30 am - 9:00 am Opening Ceremony, Coe College

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Academic Program, Coe College
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm SVU Annual Meeting, Coe College
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Chuckwagon Barbeque, Coe College
8:00 pm - 10:30 pm Polka Dance, Coe College

June 27, Friday

8:30 am - 6:00 pm Academic Program, Coe College
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm SVU Banquet, Coe College

June 28, Saturday

8:00 am - 6:00 pm Spillville, Protivin, Ft. Atkinson Tour
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm Clarinet and Piano Concert, Coe

June 29, Sunday

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Cedar Rapids, Ely, Solon Tour

Cultural Events

Ceske Dudy Performance, Wednesday, June 25, 8:00 p.m. at the Reception

Michael Cwach of rural Yankton, SD, will perform a few selections on the Bohemian bagpipe (ceské dudy), which were common in many parts of Bohemia.

Polka Dance, Thursday, June 26, 8-10:30 p.m.

Czech Plus Band. Be sure to bring your dancing shoes to Cedar Rapids to enjoy the polka dance.

Spillville Tour, Saturday, June 28, 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Among the many sites in Spillville are the Bily Brothers Clock Museum, the Antonin Dvorak Museum, the St. Wenceslaus Church where Dvorak performed the summer of 1893, the adjacent cemetery with the Andera crosses, the Dvorak monument, and the old school building that is believed to be the oldest Czech Catholic Parochial School in the U. S., built in 1871.

Piano and Clarinet Recital, Saturday, June 28, 8-9:00 p.m., Coe College Recital Hall

Czech Classics for Clarinet and Piano Works by Vanhal, Dvorak, Martinu etc.

Cedar Rapids, Ely, Solon - Sunday, June 29, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cedar Rapids, Ely, Solon Tour begins in Czech Village for a walking tour of this historic area. Jan Stoffer Tursi, the Museum Educator and Program Coordinator, will guide the Czech Village Tour. Mark Hunter, the Staff Historian at the Linn County History Center, will guide us through the other areas of Cedar Rapids and surrounds that are rich in Czech history and culture beginning with a tour of St. Wenceslaus Church, established in 1873.

Academic Program (Tentative)

I. General Surveys

A. Introductory

Panel 1: Immigration to North America from the Czechlands and Slovakia (Kacenska Oslzly)

B. History of and Life in Czech & Slovak Settlements

Panel 1: Czechs and Slovaks in the Midwest (Ezra Zeitler)

Panel 2: Czechs and Slovaks in Iowa (Ezra Zeitler and

Lisa Volesky)
Panel 3: Czechs in Cedar Rapids (John Rocarek)
Panel 4: Czechs in the South and the Southwest (John Fiala)

II. Contributions of Czech and Slovak Americans

Panel 1: Readings from The Taste of a Lost Homeland.
A Bilingual Anthology of Czech and Slovak
Exile Poetry Written in America (Vera
Borkovec)
Panel 2: Music and Art (Dagmar White)
Panel 3: Contributions in Professions (Cecilia Rokusek)

III. Preservation of Czech & Slovak Heritage in America

Panel 1. Historic Sites, Monuments & National Halls (L.
Joe Stehlik)
Panel 2. Cultural Centers, Institutions, Ethnic Programs
(Michael Seng)
Panel 3. Archival Material in America and its Future
(Daniel Necas)
Panel 4. Family History & Genealogy as a Tool in
Maintaining One's Roots (G. Pejzar)

IV. Education & Youth

Panel 1: Teaching of Czech & Slovak Languages in the
US and Canada (Mila Saskova-Pierce)
Panel 2: Teaching Czech in the US: A Linguists'
Perspective (Laura Janda)

Panel 3: American University Programs bearing on
Czechs & Slovaks (Charles Townsend)
Panel 4. The Accent on Youth : A Roundtable
Discussion (Lisa Volesky)

V. Issues that Concern Czech & Slovak Americans

Panel 1: Civil Society (Milton Cerny)
Panel 2: Women's Issues (Mary Douglas Swoboda)
Panel 3: Health and Mental Health Issues (Joseph
Swoboda)

VI. Echoes of Czech & Slovak History & Culture in America and American Culture in Czech & Slovak Republics

Panel 1: Good Soldier Svejk and Hasek (Joseph
Swoboda)
Panel 2: Czech Reflections in American Literature (Jana
Tuzar)
Panel 3: Art (Steven A. Klimesh)
Panel 4: Music (Judith Mabary)
Panel 5: History (Zdenek David)
Panel 6: Media and Journalism (Layne Pierce)

VII. Relations with Czech & Slovak Republics

Panel 1. Mutual Relations of Czech & Slovak Americans
and CR & SR (Mojmir Povolny)
Panel 2: Joint Projects of CR and SR with the US and
Canada: A Roundtable Discussion (Milan C.
Miskovsky)

A. Czech Heritage Contributors

The following graciously included additional donations with their membership application fees

February 2003: Helen Barta, Re. James Blockinger, Gerald Caslavka, Helenka Claypool, Stanley & Dorothy Ditch, Edward Drahozal, Ralph Evans, Jo Fran & James Falcon, Vernoica Frost, Anna Mae Horak, Loren Jansa, Mildred Jezek, Bud & Marcy Jirava, Clementine Kinkor, Vlasta Korbel, John Kuba, Esther Libbert, Emily Lins, Richard Long, Betsey McCalley, Erma Meskimen, Betty Milota, Mary Ann Pochobradsky, Irma Rozek, Dorothy Sirowy, George & Vernita Stejskal, Robert Stolba, Mary Lour HenryEmil Vellek, Phyllis Vesely, Frank & Ruth Ann Volesky, Liba Watson

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Membership Application

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 \$3.00 per year

C. 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 web 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/links.htm> - Provided 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

Cedar Rapids Gazette Features

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/village/index.htm> - Czech Village (Gazette articles, clickable map, village-related web sites, recipes, photo tour)

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/czech/index.htm> - Dedication of National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library - Special reports and related articles (1995)

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)

CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

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D. Calendar of Events

May 30- June 1	Beckster Fest – Amana Outdoor Convention Center, Amana, IA (see event description on pages 3)
June 6	Summer Concert – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 7-8:30 PM
10	Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting - NCSML, 7:30 PM
17	Melodion Band – Traer Memorial Building, Traer, IA, 7-11:00 PM (see event description on page 3)
20	Summer Concert – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 7-8:30 PM
21-22	Miss Czech Slovak Wisconsin Pageant – 20 th Annual Phillips Czechoslovakian Community Festival, Phillips, WI (see event description on page 3).
26-28	SVU Conference, <i>The Czech and Slovak Presence in America: A Retrospective Look and Future Perspectives</i> , NCSML and Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA (see event description on pages 3, 12-14)
July 4	Summer Concert – NCSML Gardens, Cedar Rapids, 2:00 PM
8	Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting – NCSML, 7:30 PM
18	Summer Concert – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 7-8:30 PM
20	2nd National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival , NCSML, Cedar Rapids, IA, 1:00 PM (see event description on page 3)
Aug. 8	Summer Concert – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 7-8:30 PM
12	Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting – NCSML, 7:30 PM
22	Summer Concert – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 7-8:30 PM
31	Czechoslovak Artists in Exile - Special exhibit CLOSES at NCSML
Sept. 5	Summer Concert – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 7-8:30 PM
7	Closing Summer Concert – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 2-3:30 PM
9	Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting – NCSML, 7:30 PM
27-28	64th Moravian Days – Couttryside, IL (see event description on page 3)
28	Glass Behind the Iron Curtain: Czech Design, 1948-1978 - Special exhibit CLOSES at NCSML
Oct. 14	Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting – NCSML, 7:30 PM
30	Liberation! World War I and the Formation of Czechoslovakia - Special exhibit OPENS at NCSML