



Newsletter

American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club

North Miami, FL

Co je České, to je hezké

March-April 2008

Mailing Address

American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club
13325 Arch Creek Road
North Miami, Florida 33181

Telephone: (305) 891-9130

Web Site: <http://acsc.org>

Restaurant Hours

Sunday: Noon to 6:00 PM

Duck or special group orders must be ordered in advance.

Reservations & orders: (954) 274-7878

Bar Hours

Saturday: 6 PM to

Sunday: Noon to

Officers

Karl Kmoch, President

Marie Svoboda, 1st Vice-President

Drew Bowyer, 2nd Vice-President

Robert Petřík, Secretary (Acting)

Cecilia Rokusek, Treasurer

General Manager

Miroslav Dušek

Board of Directors

Gail Bowyer, Lubomir Gurtler,

Arthur Karlick, Nancy Karlick,

Martina Kmoch, Jaroslav Soucek,

Mildred M. Urban

Newsletter Staff

Robert Petřík, Co-editor

Bill Stupka, Co-editor & Webmaster

Martin Gilian, Mailing

General Meetings

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month. Members are notified of meeting dates in the ACSCC Newsletter.

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A Tribute to Our Most Senior Member Mary Hewett

In 1912 Vaclav and Anna Anýž, who were of Czech descent, were married in Bohemia and went to America for their honeymoon. Because of conditions in Europe at that time, the couple decided not to return to their home, but instead they settled in upstate New York. On January 14, 1914 their daughter Mary was born in Saratoga Springs, New York. Mary is the subject of this article.



Mary Hewett at 94

Mary grew up in Schenectady, New York where her father taught her Czech and English. At age 8 she started to take piano lessons and she became a fine pianist. Besides playing the piano, Mary participated in many athletic activities especially gymnastics with the local Sokol Club. Living in Schenectady in the wintertime was a challenge. Mary remembers that the temperature once dropped to -33 degrees!

Mary married Egon Toman in Schenectady in 1935, and they settled in Bridgeport, CT. They had one daughter, Diane, who currently lives in Miami Shores. Egon passed away in 1943.

Some time during the late 1940s a regional Sokol Slet was held in Schenectady. It was at that event that Annette Macoun told Mary about the wonderful weather and beauty in South Florida. So in 1951 Mary moved to Miami where she lived on SW 7th Street with her daughter. Mary worked for Pan American Airlines, in Miami, as a Senior Secretary for many years. In 1969 Mary was married to Woodward Hewett in Miami.

In Florida, Mary soon became active in the American Czechoslovak Social Club, as it was known in those years. She knew all the founding fathers of the club including the first Presidents, Martin Ploužek and Edward Berounský.

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Visit our website at acsc.org

Kde je Slovák, tam je píseň

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Mary played the piano for all club events from 1951 to 1997. Rehearsals were always on Wednesday evenings for all programs that included singing, and also Saturday night dances, and special dance programs. She recalls that there were many members of the club that had wonderful singing voices.

The 1950s were some of the most exciting days of the American Czechoslovak Social Club. Sunday afternoons were a hubbub of activity. Five women volunteers worked in the kitchen. Mrs. Ploužek was in charge of the kitchen. She and her husband had formerly owned the Slavia Restaurant which was the meeting place for the Czechs and Slovaks in the area before the club was formed. People lined up outside the clubhouse to have dinner, and at least 200 dinners were served every Sunday. Once diners were finished eating they would go outside to the picnic area behind the clubhouse, where there were tables and chairs, to drink beer and tell jokes.

During the 1950s there was no air conditioning in the clubhouse so Mary would have a small fan on the floor by her when she played the piano. There was very little activity at the club during the summers partly because of the lack of air conditioning. In the winter many Czechoslovak snowbirds came to Florida, and ate at the club. Some of them would park their small trailer homes on the club grounds under the trees. The snowbirds accounted for more than 50% of the customers in the winter.

One of the more memorable programs was a Hawaiian Night where the men wore grass skirts. It was quite a spectacle when the men did the hula in their grass skirts.

During the 1950s Alice Masaryková (daughter of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk) would come to the club on Sunday afternoons. She was a quiet, stately woman in her early 80s at that time. She came to the club with an attendant during the winter season. A special seat was reserved for her and people would come and talk with her.

Mary and her husband Woodward owned a small apartment on Flagler Street. Woodward passed away in 1993, and Mary now lives in a condominium in North Miami. She maintains ongoing communication with her relatives in the Czech Republic by writing letters to them in Czech.

Mary Hewett is 94 years young and the Club's most senior member both in terms of age and membership in the Club. It is always such a delight to see Mary at the club. We hope that she will continue to be the most senior member for many years to come.

Slovakia will introduce the Euro as planned in 2009

Rapid and healthy economic growth based on the successful development of the private sector means that the Slovak economy doesn't need additional impetus from public finances in the near future. On the contrary, the public finance deficit should be reduced, reads a Preliminary Report on the Public Administration Budget for 2007-09, presented by Finance Minister Ivan Miklos. The proposed public administration budget for the next two years and the expected development of the Slovak economy means that Slovakia will be able to fulfill all Maastricht criteria in 2007, and will be ready for introduction of the euro as planned in 2009, the report claims. - Slovensko.com

