

Charles Ota Heller author of
Prague: My Long Journey Home

Bart Childs

March 13, 2013

Charles Ota Heller's memoir is entitled *Prague: My Long Journey Home*.
Charles was twelve when his family escaped the Czech Communist regime.

He will make several stops in Texas in May, 2013 to read from this work, sign
books, and interact with the audience. Hosts, contact information, and sites are:

May 1 Sokol Dallas

7448 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231. 7:30-? pm
Phone 214-368-5608 www.sokoldallas.org

May 2 Czech Heritage Museum and Genealogy Center,

119 W. French Ave, Temple, TX 76501 5:30-8:00 pm
Event will be held at the SPJST (around the corner)
that address is 520 No. Main

Phone 254-899-2935 www.czechmuseum.org

Cosponsored by the Texas Czech Genealogical Society www.txcgs.org

May 3 George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

1000 George Bush Drive West, College Station, TX. 77845
11:30 am-1:30 pm

Phone 979-691-4014 bushlibrary.tamu.edu

May 3 Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center

250 West Fairgrounds Road, La Grange, TX 78945 4:00-6:00 pm
Phone 888-785-4500 www.czechtexas.org

May 4 Czech Center Museum Houston, Brno Gallery

4920 San Jacinto, Houston, TX 77004 11 am-3 pm.
Phone 713-528-2060 www.czechcenter.org

Charlie weaves many threads together to create an intriguing book that is hard to
put down. One thread is the history of the Czech people from different origins,
different faiths, and dominated by outside governments. Another thread is of his
families that were entrepreneurs and community leaders. Still another thread is
that of a youngster whose father goes far away to join the British Army to fight

the occupiers of his homeland. This includes arbitrary loss of family at the hands of the occupiers, his mother being horribly oppressed, and his growth despite the circumstances. The family became American and achieved success through hard work in the manner of the classic American melting pot.

Charlie was invited by the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences to visit his homeland in 1970. The reason for the invitation was his work in a revolutionary application of computers, Computer-Aided Design. His parents were reluctant about his accepting the invitation because they were listed as enemies of the state. Sue, his wife, was excited and insisted that she and their young son accompany him. This rewarding experience was not without tense moments and Charlie describes them with drama and humor.

Charlie has made many trips to the Czech Republic since the Velvet Revolution. He has given workshops and seminars to managers of newly-privatized companies on entrepreneurship and doing business in a market economy. This has also enabled him to reconnect with family and childhood friends. He has served the Czech culture in the U.S. through the board of the SVU (Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences) and many other ways.

The books will be available for purchase at a bookstore or gift shop associated with each of the sites or at a bookstore designated by the site. The list prices are \$18 and \$36 for paperback and hardcover, respectively.

I am fortunate to be in Charlie's circle of friends (classmates studying engineering in 1960) that vacation and travel together. Our most memorable and rewarding trip occurred in 2007. We spent four days in the Czech Republic with Charlie and Sue as our tour guides. We were able to see many of the sites that are described in this book.



Charles Heller, Sue, classmates, and friends at the Shyrov Castle



Dancing the Polka in Nosalov



Charlie and Sue at the WWI and WWII monuments in hometown, Kojetice



The church of St. Vitus where Charlie was baptized. Charlie and his Mother funded restoration



Sculpture in honor of children murdered at Lidice

I will be pleased to furnish further information:

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