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BORDER CROSSINGS: COMING OF AGE IN THE CZECH RESISTANCE (Ten21 Press, Detroit), by Charles Novacek. Publication Date: October, 2012; hardcover, ISBN 978-0-9854151-0-5, \$28.00; paperback, ISBN 978-0-9854151-1-2, \$18.00; eBook also available.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Charles Novacek was born in Ožďany, Czechoslovakia on May 11, 1928. He graduated from the Industrial College of Engineering in Brno, Czechoslovakia with a degree in mechanical engineering and attended the Masaryk University School of Law in Brno. After escaping his homeland in 1948, Novacek fled to Germany, then Venezuela and was finally able to immigrate with his family to the United States in 1956 where he taught himself English as his seventh language.

Novacek was a registered professional engineer and spent thirty-three years in the Detroit, Michigan, metropolitan area as a civil engineer, project, design and quality assurance manager. In retirement Novacek studied Mandarin Chinese and earned a B.G.S and an M.A. in Liberal Studies from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and an M.A. in Painting from Eastern Michigan University. Novacek wrote and painted all of his life, but didn't start writing his memoir *Border Crossings: Coming of Age in the Czech Resistance* until the year 2000. He died in July 2007.

Charles Novacek immigrated to the United States in 1956, unable to speak English, yet he went on to become the chief engineer for Cobo Hall, Detroit's convention center. He directed other projects, including the Chrysler Styling Complex designed by Minoru Yamasaki.

Novacek received an ACI Construction Practice Award from the American Concrete Institute and a Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers. In addition to being an accomplished engineer, Novacek was a talented artist who carved stone and painted many fine and vibrant works, and a world traveler who was ever interested in the beauty and intricacy of other cultures. He was a lifelong learner who continually sought knowledge, earning two masters degrees and studying Chinese in his retirement years.

Novacek died in Detroit, Michigan in 2007.

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