

AMERICAN SOKOL

VOL. CII - NO. 2

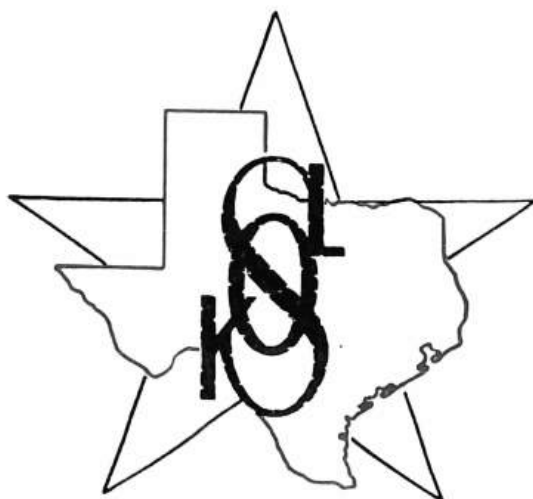
FEBRUARY, 1981

PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN SOKOL
Educational and Physical Culture Organization

American SOKOL Organization

Attend

The
XV National Slet and
Gymnastic Championships



SOKOL ROUNDUP

June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 1981

Fort Worth Cowtown Texas

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388 Shenstone Road Riverside, Ill. 60546
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ASO.

Jackie Kourim, Secretary
6426 W. Cermak Road Berwyn, Ill. 60402
Tel.: 795-6671

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at ASO Office

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Calendar of Events

FEB. 1 - SOKOL GREATER CLEVELAND
Winter Gymnastic Exhibition
FEB. 7 - SOKOL BROOKFIELD
Spaghetti Dinner
FEB. 7 - SOKOL MINNESOTA
Šibřinky, CSPA Hall
FEB. 8 - SOKOL DETROIT
Winter Gymnastic
FEB. 14 - SOKOL DETROIT and LADIES
AUXILIARY ANNUAL MEETING
FEB. 15 - SOKOL STICKNEY
Pancake Breakfast

FEB. 15 - SOKOL MILWAUKEE
"Jaternice" Dinner
FEB. 15 - SOKOL SOUTH OMAHA
Gymnastic Competition
FEB. 20 - SOKOL SOUTH OMAHA
Annual "Večirek"
FEB. 21 - SOKOL MINNESOTA
5th Annual Bohemian World Invitational
Euchre Tournament
FEB. 21 - SOKOL BALTIMORE
Šibřinky
FEB. 21 - SOKOL BERWYN
Las Vegas Nite
MAR. 7 - SOKOL GREATER CLEVELAND
Masquerade Ball "Šibřinky"
MAR. 7 - SOKOL BROOKFIELD
Exhibition
MAR. 14 - SOKOL BALTIMORE
Las Vegas Night
MAR. 14 - SOKOL SOUTH OMAHA
Gym Club Dance
MAR. 14 - SOKOL TABOR
Gymnastic Exhibition
MAR. 15 - SOKOL SLAVSKY
Gymnastic Exhibition - at Morton East
MAR. 21 - SOKOL STICKNEY
Exhibition
MAR. 28 - SOKOL BERWYN
Exhibition - at Morton West
MAR. 28-29 - SOKOL SOUTH OMAHA
Invitational Gymnastic Meet
APR. 11 - CHICAGOLAND SOKOL BLDG. ASSN.
Polka Party - at Sokol Brookfield
APR. 11 and 12 - SOKOL BALTIMORE
Spring Bazaar
APR. 13 - SOKOL SOUTH OMAHA
Dual Gymnastic Meet
MAY 15 - SOKOL MILWAUKEE
Graduation Gym Program
MAY 19, 20, 21 - SOKOL DETROIT
Rummage Sale - Sokol Cultural Center
MAY 31 - SOKOL BALTIMORE
Bull Roast
JUNE 7 - N.E. DISTRICT SLET
AMLA Camp Cleveland, Ohio
JUNE 21 - SOKOL DETROIT
Veřejné - Sokol Camp
NOV. 14 - SOKOL BROOKFIELD
50th Anniversary Dinner

V. JUBILEE SLET
CZECHOSLOVAK SOKOLS ABROAD
Pre-Slet Winter Games - February 14-15,
1981 at St. Ulrich am Pillersee, in
Austrian Tyrol

AMERICAN SOKOL

VESTNÍK AMERICKÉ OBCE SOKOLSKÉ

Ročník - Vol. CII

February - 1981 - Únor

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AMERICAN SOKOL
XV NATIONAL SLET ROUNDUP
Fort Worth, Texas

ORGANIZATION

October 1980

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends:

The XV American SOKOL SLET, SOKOL Round-Up, will take place from June 24 thru June 28, 1981, at Fort Worth, "Cowtown", Texas.

Again, as per custom, a XV Sokol Slet souvenir program book will be published. We ask that you, your family and friends be represented in this valued keepsake. We sincerely appreciate your support in the past, and know that we can depend upon your contribution at the present.

George Pevratil
George Pevratil

Larry Laknovsky
Larry Laknovsky

Co-Chairmen

Nazdar!

Maureen Werner
Maureen Werner
Slet Secretary

XV AMERICAN SOKOL SLET 1981
"Sokol Round-Up"

I (WE) HEREBY AGREE TO CONTRACT for the following space in the souvenir program book, to be issued on the occasion of the XV American Sokol Slet, June 24-28, 1981, at Fort Worth, Texas.

FULL PAGE	(6" X 8 3/4")	\$100.00
1/2 PAGE	(4-1/2" X 6")	60.00
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6426 W. Cermak Road
Berwyn, IL 60402

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GEORGE WASHINGTON

FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY

Born on the family farm between the Potomac and the Rappahanock, he was raised in Virginia on lands which his great-grandfather, an immigrant from England, had settled. When George was eleven, his father died. Hard pressed to support a family of five children, his widowed mother could not afford to send George to college; at sixteen, adept in mathematics, he became a surveyor.

Entering the wilderness, young Washington spent months on the moving frontier, following the western horizon of a yet un-mapped America. The lines he surveyed remain true to this day, and his self-reliant spirit was strengthened in the hardship school of the pioneers.

At nineteen, after a trip to the West Indies, he was commissioned to guard Virginia's frontiers. Carrying a message of warning, he crossed the Alleghenies in the middle of winter, built rafts to ford icy streams, delivered his message to Fort LeBoeuf and returned the way he came. For three years he took part in the French and Indian War. When he saw the results of a massacre at Fort Necessity, he exclaimed: "If dying would glut

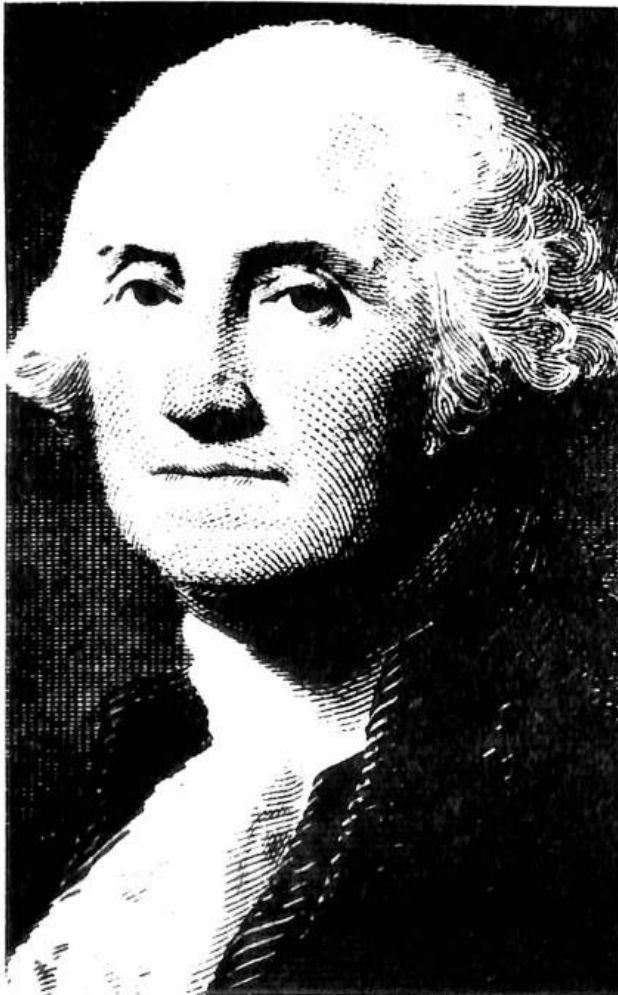
the Indians' revenge, I would be a willing offering to savage fury and die by inches to save a people!"

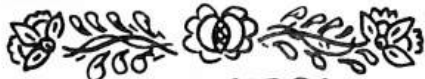
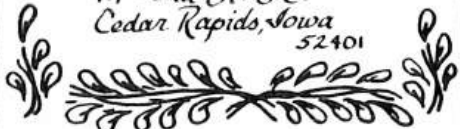
While serving under General Braddock, twenty-three-year-old Lt. Washington advised him on frontier fighting. But the stubborn British commander scorned the young colonial's counsel. Trapped in an ambush on the banks of the Monongahela, Braddock's troops were nearly wiped out in July, 1755. Braddock was killed. Two horses were shot under Washington, four bullets passed through his coat. Plunging into the forest, he barely escaped with his life.

At twenty-seven, Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis, a rich young widow with two children. Managing his farms and woodlands, he became one of the best farmers in the country. After 1770, he became more prominent in the resistance movement. When the Port of Boston was closed by George III in an effort to punish and starve the rebels, Washington said, "I will raise a thousand men at my own expense and ride to the relief of Boston."

He attended the great protest meeting in Philadelphia in the spring of 1775. While his fellow delegates in the Continental Congress were still drafting humble petitions, Washington appeared in his colonel's uniform of the Virginia militia, which was his way of saying, "We must be ready to fight for our rights." When John Adams urged his nomination and when the delegates elected him unanimously to command the people's army, forty-three-year-old Washington thanked them for the great honor; he would serve without pay, he said, but was anxious to forewarn them; "I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with." The same evening, visiting Patrick Henry, he told the delegate with tears in his eyes, "Mark my words, Mr. Henry. From the day I enter upon command of the American armies, I date the fall and ruin of my reputation."

On his way north he learned of the battle of Bunker Hill. "Did the militia fight?" he asked. "Yes!" "Then the liberties of my country are safe," said Washington. On July 3, 1775 he took command of the camp at




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SOKOL GYMNAST

FEBRUARY 1981

Editor - Edward Linhart - 1820 Ridgeland Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402

MERIT AWARD 1981

Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee and the Board of Instructors, the delegates at the XII American Sokol Convention, held in Detroit in June 1975, approved Merit Awards to be paid from the Sokol Future Leaders Fund.

The Merit Award Committee is accepting applications of students who are planning a course or program in an accredited two-year or four-year college. Although physical education will not be a criteria, more consideration will be given to those who are training in the physical education field.

The amount to be awarded is to be \$200.00 per year to one student per district which has under 1,500 members and an additional student per district which has over 1,500 members. This award is renewable for a second year. In order to qualify for the second year, applicant must maintain a "C" average or better. Second year allocation is NOT automatic; applicant must file letter of intent to reapply for a second year. This letter is to be signed by the Unit and District Directors, designating approval or disapproval. The letter of intent, the original application and the transcripts of grades will be reviewed. The final selection is to be made by the Merit Award Committee, approved by the American Sokol Organization Board of Instructors and the American Sokol Organization Executive Board. When a renewal is granted, a transcript of grades after the second year must be submitted to the American Sokol Merit Award Committee. A "C" average or better must have been maintained during the second year. Failure to submit such a transcript will result in a request for repayment of the award.

Merit Awards will be reviewed in September of each year. If the quota for the District is not filled, a review of all Merit Award applications, not previously approved, will be made and any restrictions imposed may be removed for that year.

The following points will be considered by the Merit Award Committee in selecting the candidates:

1. Should have attended Sokol classes regularly for at least three years prior to this application. Juniors may be included but must become adult members - girls at age 17 and boys at age 18.
2. Must have attended and successfully completed one Sokol District or American Sokol Organization Instructors' School.
3. Must have taught or assisted in Sokol gym classes.
4. Recommendation of High School Physical Education teacher.
5. Recommendation of Physical Director of Sokol Unit.
6. Recommendation of District Physical Directors.
7. Approval of District President.

COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED NOT LATER THAN MAY 30, 1981

MERIT AWARD COMMITTEE:

Paul Lebloch, Marie Ptacek, Richard Ptacek, JoMarie Zeman, Charles Klapp and Lorraine Zdenek (Chairman)

**UNIT DIRECTORS - PLEASE POST ON BULLETIN BOARD
(APPLICATION ON OTHER PAGE)**

XV American Sokol Slet Bulletin

SOKOL NOTES



1. **Tentative Schedule** of Slet printed in December issue of *Gymnast*.
2. **Lodgings** (Hotels and Motels) presented in this and previous issue with Downtown map.
3. **XV Slet Slide Presentation:** There is a slide presentation available through the ASO office or Bro. Jurcik, Dallas, Texas. The presentation consists of a short tour of the Southern District and a preview of the coming 1981 Slet, shown at the 1980 Convention in Cedar Rapids.
4. **Uniforms:** ASO Uniform Division has printed a new price list of regulation Sokol uniforms. All gymnasts must wear regulation uniform in competitions and Slet.
5. **Music of the Slet - Marches - Anthems and Cardas** will be played live by the band at the Slet. Calisthenics and special numbers will be on tape.
6. **Special Number Competition:** This will be the official opening of the Slet. Anthems will be played on a piano with possibility of local singer. Practice time for numbers to be yet determined. Entrant's own cassette or tape music is under consideration with the option of using available equipment. The deadline for entry forms for **Unit Competition** has been changed to May 1st. Entries to be sent to the ASO. Order of procedure will be drawn by lot at the time of competition. Each District is being asked to have a judge at this event, also anyone interested in judging this event may contact Sis. Pistorius, ASO. Final decisions of judges will be made by the two co-chairmen, Sis. Sylvia Pistorius and Sis. Sylvia Laznovsky. Passes for participants and instructors will be distributed at Slet Headquarters - time to be determined at a later date. There will be no social affair after the Special Number Competition. See the schedule for listing of Social functions.
7. **Apparatus Events:** The apparatus moves for all divisions have been sent to every unit and lodge of the Sokols. Time of events is listed in Tentative Schedule, December, 1980.

8. **Additional Slet Material** has been released. A film of the Men's Calisthenics and a film of the Women's Calisthenics has been produced by the B.O.I. and made available to all Districts. Units may contact their Directors and obtain them for study and clarification.
9. **Volleyball:** Sister Judy Harlan is in charge of Jr. Girls and Women; Bro. David Nesuda and Bro. Jim Hantak are in charge of Jr. Boys and Men. Rules and entry forms will be sent from ASO office. All teams must wear uniform jerseys with numbers and uniform shorts. - **ALL VOLLEYBALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE SLET CALISTHENICS ON SATURDAY EVENING.**

June 29 - July 11 - American Sokol 2-Week Advance Instructors School

10. **National Schools** - Two separate Advance Courses are being planned after the Slet running from June 29th thru July 11th. They will be held at Sokol Karel Havlicek Borovsky, Ennis, Texas, and Sokol Fort Worth. The schools will be divided into two age groups. The minimum age of attending is 16 years. Each student must have attained two beginners schools or equivalent (teaching experience in Sokol classes accepted). Students 18 years or over do not have to meet this requirement. Deadline for applications will be May 1st, 1981. - Request for application form must be made to the ASO office. The School Board will examine all applications and notify students who will be accepted to enter the school.

NOTICE - CAUTION: All events - apparatus - competitions - Special Numbers - Volleyball Games, conducted in the Tarrant County Convention Center will be performed on a **CONCRETE FLOOR.**

PROMOTE THE XV SLET BY USING YOUR SLET SEALS



Practice Teaching Lessons

For Classes I and II (Ages 5-11)

LESSON 8

Part 1: Parallel Bars (hip high)

Seats inside

Stand across at the end of the bars, facing outward, grasp left bar at the very end of it, grasp right bar close to the hip.

A. One after the other: Seat inside behind left hand; dismount to starting position; holding right hand, grasp left bar behind the body; seat inside the right bar behind right hand; dismount to stand across inside; hold left - grasp right behind the body and continue to the end of the bars.

B. Two gymnasts at a time, each at one end of the bars facing outward. Starting position as in "A". Seat inside behind left hand on left thigh only, right rearleg; hold seat, sidearm; aprm; sidearm; regrasp and dismount to stand across inside. Repeat reversed on right bar. See to good posture and correct execution. Repeat, if necessary.

C. Two gymnasts at a time as in "B". Seat inside behind left hand on the left thigh only, right rearleg; regrasp left behind the body; hold seat, swing both legs through frontleg to seat outside on right thigh, left rearleg; hold seat, swing both legs through frontleg to seat inside on left thigh, right rearleg, dismount to stand across inside. Repeat on the right bar reversed.

Part 2: Leap Over Live Obstacles

A. Team in file formation. About 6 feet in front of the file, the smallest gymnast is in front - lying vertical to the file. One after the other the gymnasts run, leap over the lying one, and continue running to rejoin their team at the rear end. All gymnasts take their turn in front-lying.

B. As "A", but there are two gymnasts lying parallel, about 6 feet apart. - Repeat with 3 then 4 gymnasts lying at the same distance.

C. The whole team is lying on markers, parallel. The last one begins running and leaping over them and returns running to his original position (front-lying). The next one begins as soon as first one has leaped over him, returns running to the rear end of his team, leaps over the last one and resumes his lying in his original place. Continue until all are back to their original places.

Part 3: Game "Running Numbers"

Single circle formation divided in halves. Each half is given numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.). The same numbers stand opposite each other (on the diameter of the circle). When the instructor calls a number, the children with that number run to the right around the circle and back to his or her place. The one who returns first gains one point for his team. The numbers are not called in their usual order. Score is kept. At the end, the winner is proclaimed.

Variation: Teams in ranks facing each other. Numbers that have been called, run to their right, around their own team and back to their places.

Gymnastic Skills Program

A program for all levels of gymnastics - BEGINNERS - INTERMEDIATE - ADVANCED and ELITE are incorporated in the American Sokol Gymnastics Skills Program. These have been published by the B.O.I. and are available to all unit instructors. With the successful completion of these skills, the gymnast will be awarded a Gymnastic Skills Patch to be worn on his warmup jacket or shirt. Sister Sylvia Pistorius is Chairman of the Girls Gymnastic Skills and Bro. Frank Michalek is chairman of The Boys Gymnastic Skills.

A NEW PUBLICATION!

Highlights of Czech History

AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

Merit Award Committee
6426 West Cermak Road
Berwyn, Illinois 60402

1981

I desire to make application for the American Sokol Organization Merit Award. Please mail application forms and all other instructions to:

Signature of Sokol member:

Street Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

My age is: years. I am a member of Sokol
of the District.

Cambridge. He raised the siege of Boston. A week before the Declaration of Independence was adopted, he spoke to his ragged troops of farm boys in the port of New York. Within sight of the royal armada of five hundred warships - the largest expeditionary force ever sent out to crush a people's rebellion - Washington declared: "The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be free men or slaves. The fate of unborn millions will now depend upon the courage and conduct of this army . . . Let us rely upon the goodness of the cause . . . to animate and encourage us to great and noble actions."

For seven long and bitter years, against the most unequal odds, against cold and starvation, neglect and treachery, General Washington held together a remnant of the people's army. From Valley Forge to Yorktown, his indomitable will and character preserved a nearly lost cause, a cause he had pledged himself to uphold.

After many grim reversals he finally forced Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. With the help of the French Fleet the American rebellion had become a successful revolution: the people of the colonies had won the right to form a government of their own choosing. Bidding farewell to arms, Washington returned to his long-neglected farms by the Potomac.

But he could not enjoy Mount Vernon for long. In May, 1787, delegates from the thirteen newly independent and nearly sovereign states met in Philadelphia to draft a new and more effective constitution than the Articles of Confederation. Washington was asked to preside over the Constitutional Convention. After the Constitution was hammered out, the delegates elected Washington unanimously as the new nation's first President.

Some wanted to crown him King of America, but Washington dismissed the tempters with scorn. "If you have any regard for your country or respect for me, banish such thoughts forever!" Some wanted to address him with the resounding title, "His Most Gracious Highness; President of the United States and Protector of Their Liberties." The accepted title became "Mr. President."

Washington took his oath of office on April 30, 1789 at City Hall in New York, the temporary capital. "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

In his inaugural address Washington spoke of America's mission. "The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are . . . staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people." In office, he did all he could to unify the country, to give strength and dignity to democratic government, both at home and abroad; he set the first high example in governing a free people.

Having served two terms, he refused a third. He considered it dangerous to keep any one man in power too long. In his Farewell Address, which is read in Congress each year, he gave his best parting counsel to the nation he had helped to found.

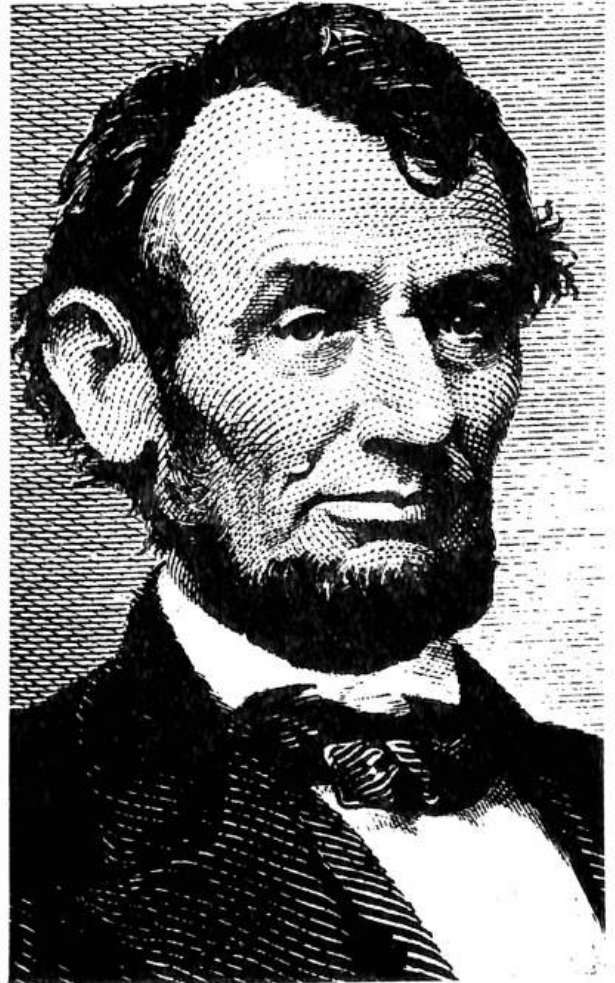
"My first wish is to see this plague of mankind - war - banished from the earth." He urged the people "to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism . . . Observe good faith and justice toward all nations, cultivate peace and harmony with all . . . Steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world . . ."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR

A carpenter's son, he grew up in the Kentucky territory. His father could neither read nor write. - His mother, unable to withstand the hardships of pioneer life died on October 5, 1818 when he was a boy of nine. While Thomas Lincoln whipsawed a log into planks for her coffin, young Abe silently whittled wooden pegs to serve as nails for her coffin. Together they buried the wife and mother in an unmarked grave near Pigeon Creek.

A year later the father married Sarah Bush Johnston, a kindly widow with three children of her own. She brought warmth and order into the desolate cabin. Despite the father's objections, she sent young Lincoln to school whenever he could be spared from his chores.



Altogether his schooling lasted less than a year. The rest he taught himself.

At sixteen, young Abe "Linkern" was known in the backwoods for his strength and his gift as a story-teller. He could sink an axe deeper into wood than anyone else. At eighteen, he stood six-feet-three and weighed nearly 200 pounds. "He looked as if he had been rough-hewn with an axe and needed smoothing with a jack-plane," said his father. The family pulled up stakes and moved farther west, to Indiana, to Illinois. Young Lincoln helped his father clear land and build a new cabin. To fence ten acres on the north side of the Sangamon, he cut down locust trees and split them into rails; one summer, with the help of his cousin, Dennis Hanks, he split three thousand rails. He floated a flatboat loaded with produce to New Orleans, where the sight of a Negro slave market made a lasting impression on him.

At twenty-one, he left his father's farm for New Salem, a village of twenty cabins and one hundred inhabitants, his home for the next five years. "A piece of floating driftwood," Lincoln called himself, "accidentally lodged at New Salem." Mill hand, store clerk, postmaster, he did whatever came his way. His native wit and kindness won him friends. When his boss, Denton Offutt, boasted that his new clerk could "outrun, whip or throw down any man in Sangamon County," young Lincoln was challenged by the Clary Grove Boys. He fought their leader in a wrestling match and defeated the terror of the countryside.

When the Governor of Illinois called for volunteers in the Black Hawk War, twenty-three-year-old Lincoln enlisted; the Clary Grove Boys elected him their captain; they marched toward the south of Ottawa, looking for Indians. Returning within a few weeks, Lincoln ran for the Illinois legislature, and lost the county election. In New Salem he read Shakespeare and Burns, Paine and Voltaire as part of his self-education. He studied Blackstone, with the help of Mentor Graham, the village schoolmaster, he studied Euclid and learned the art of surveying. In debates in Rutledge Tavern he developed as a speaker.

His deepest attachment in New Salem was Ann Rutledge, a lovely auburn-haired girl of eighteen when Lincoln first met her. She looked with sympathy at the gaunt young man of the people, they planned to get married, but the chills and fevers of malaria came to New Salem in the spring of 1835, and Ann was buried at twenty-two. For weeks Lincoln roamed the countryside like one who had lost his reason.

Packing his worldly goods into two saddlebags, he then rode to Springfield, the state capital twenty miles away, which became his home for the next thirty years. He never returned to New Salem.

Admitted to the bar in 1837, he went into partnership in a law office with John Stuart, then with William Herndon. As a circuit lawyer he spent years on horseback riding through fourteen counties. The people of Illinois prairies came to love and respect their homely visitor who "dripped with melancholy" yet could tell the best jokes. In 1842, Lincoln married Mary Todd, a belle from Lexington, Kentucky, who had been courted by Stephen A. Douglas. A devoted father of four sons,

Lincoln endured his wife's high temper and her impatience with his slow progress. When Douglas was already a national figure, Lincoln was still an obscure country lawyer who chopped his own wood and curried his own horse.

In 1858, when the slavery issue was agitating the whole country, Lincoln engaged in a series of eight public debates with Senator Douglas. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," declared Lincoln. "This government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free." The debates brought Lincoln into national prominence. In 1860, the newly formed Republican party nominated him for the Presidency. The opposition decried Lincoln as "a nullity, a maker of clumsy jokes, a third-rate country lawyer who resembles a gorilla." Running against Senator Douglas, Lincoln got only 40 percent of the popular vote. But the Democrats were divided, and Lincoln won by an electoral vote of 180 to 123.

Leaving for his inauguration on a rainy morning in February 1861, he said farewell to his neighbors in Springfield. "No one, not in my position, can appreciate the feeling of sadness at this parting," said the fifty-two-year-old son of the people, "To this place and the kindness of these people I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or if ever I may return. Pray for me." Bareheaded in the rain, his countrymen silently watched him as the train pulled out.

Less than six weeks after his inaugural, the civil war became a grim reality. South Carolina seceded from the Union, followed by six other states. Southern troops bombarded Fort Sumter, shot down the flag, captured the fort. On April 15, 1861, Lincoln called for volunteers, and the North responded as one man.

So began the long bitter fratricidal war between the States. For four years Lincoln stood at the helm; a man of peace, he faced agonizing problems and made decisions of life and death day after day. "In times like the present," he said, "men should utter nothing for which they would not willingly be responsible through time and eternity." The struggle was marked by bloody battles at Bull Run, Shiloh, Antietam; at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg; at Vicksburg, Cold Harbor, Atlanta . . . Before the end of the Civil War more than two million troops were engaged and the casualties exceeded 640,000.

Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, giving political freedom to three million Negroes in the South. In November of the same year he dedicated a new cemetery at Gettysburg and spoke "half a dozen words of consecration" . . . At his second inaugural, in March 1865, he reviewed the tragic years and prepared to restore and rehabilitate the nearly vanquished South. "With malice toward none, with charity for all . . . to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered at Appomattox. On the evening of April 14, while Lincoln was attending

a play at Ford's Theater, the actor John Wilkes Booth fired a bullet into his brain. Lincoln was carried into a rooming-house across the street. Stretched on a bed too short for his gaunt body, he died the next morning at 7:22. One among his millions of mourners, Walt Whitman said, "He leaves for America's history and biography the greatest, best, most characteristic, artistic and moral personality."

Source: Presidents of the U.S.A. - Profiles and pictures by Cornel Lengyel.

ASO FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 1980

RECEIPTS:

Dues	\$ 946.00
Convention Fund	1,134.00
Special Assessment	567.00
Dividends and Interest	481.34
Resale of Jewelry	43.65
"Highlights of Czech History"	24.75
UPS Charges	3.94
Song Books	2.50
Educational Pamphlets	25.00
Miscellaneous	144.50
	<u>\$3,372.68</u>

Transfer of funds from savings account to checking account	900.00
	<u>\$4,272.68</u>

ASO Uniform Division - Rents, salaries, etc.	564.36
	<u>\$4,837.04</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS

DISBURSEMENTS:

Administrative

Salaries	\$612.33
FICA & FWT for November, 1980	179.62
Rent, Janitor Services, Phone, Electric	930.37
Office Supplies	173.96
Postage	46.70
Insurance	213.00
Travel Expense	150.00
Office Repairs	180.54
Donations	50.00
Miscellaneous	572.23
	<u>\$3,108.75</u>

Board of Instructors

Salaries	\$391.57
FICA & FWT for November, 1980	75.94
Editor "Sokol Gymnast"	30.00
Travel Expense	388.27
Postage and Office Supplies	9.95
	<u>\$ 895.73</u>

Educational Department

Picture Frames	\$150.10
FICA for November, 1980	6.66
	<u>\$ 156.76</u>

Sokol Publication

Editor "American Sokol"	\$100.00
Postage "American Sokol"	8.35
	<u>\$ 108.35</u>

Miscellaneous

ASO Uniform Division - Salaries, FICA and Phone	\$376.91
XV ASO Slet - Postage and Office Supplies	995.30
	<u>\$1,372.21</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$5,641.80</u>

Balance brought forward:

Western National Bank of Cicero - Checking Account	\$1,010.95
Receipts - December, 1980	4,837.04
	<u>\$5,847.99</u>
Disbursements - December 1980	5,641.80
	<u>\$ 206.19</u>

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES FUND

December 1980

In memory of Bro. Charles M. Prchal - Sokolice Renata Tyrsova	\$ 50.00
Interest Earned	36.43
	<u>\$ 86.43</u>

Donations are tax exempt

FUTURE SOKOL LEADERS FUND

December 1980

In memory of Bro. Jerry Veirauch - Sokol and Sokolice Racine	\$ 10.00
In memory of Sis. Marie Picha - Sokol Town of Lake	15.00
In memory of Bro. Joseph Smidl - Sokol Chicago	10.00
	<u>\$ 35.00</u>
Interest Earned	706.98
	<u>\$741.98</u>

DONATIONS TO GENERAL FUND

Blanche Spicka	\$ 13.00
Mir Cechie, C.S.A.	25.00
	<u>\$ 38.00</u>

Donations are tax exempt

SOKOL EDUCATOR

Charles Bridge of Prague

The first bridge made by man was probably a tree trunk pulled across a stream. The Chinese invented the arch bridge and early bridges were made of wood. In the 16th century BC, Persian kings used pontoon bridges supported by boats or floating barges over which they were stretched to enable the movement of troops. The Romans developed the stone arch, and brick arches were found among Egyptian ruins. Bridges are now being made of steel, concrete and masonry.

The old nursery rhyme "LONDON BRIDGE IS FALLING DOWN" starts a child thinking about bridges and the possibility of one falling down. London Bridge across the Thames was built in 1824-31 and was replaced by a new bridge in 1968. The old London Bridge is now a tourist attraction at Lake Havasu,

Arizona, where it was moved and connected from the mainland to an island large enough for an airport, marina and golf course. Brooklyn Bridge, Golden Gate Bridge and the Straits of Mackinac Bridge, suspension bridges, are engineering triumphs. Ironbridge in Shrewsbury, England, is called a revolutionary bridge, for when it was built in 1779, it brought in the iron age. Man had learned how to use coke to smelt iron.

The Charles Bridge in Prague is known not only for its solid construction and beautiful arches, but for its open-air gallery of statues and groups of saints. Re-building Judith's stone bridge, erected in the years of 1169 to 1171, was done by Peter Parler, architect-builder of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague. Charles Bridge was constructed during the second half of the fourteenth century, begun by King Charles IV and completed during the reign of his son, Wenceslas IV. No other monarch in the history of Prague had done more to make it a glorious city. He brought architectural and educational superiority, and when the student body of Charles University, which he founded, outgrew the housing facilities of the old walled city, Charles built the "New Town". With all the building, the people were kept working and happy.

The bridge was built of limestone, made up of sixteen arches, and is nearly a third of a mile long. A legend states that the builder of the bridge asked King Charles' permission to mix the mortar with eggs, not water, believing that the construction would be stronger and hold up better. King Charles thought a little sacrifice on the part of the lords would be good for them, and he issued orders to cut down on the consumption of eggs in their kitchens and donate them to the mortar-mixers.

Both ends of the bridge have Gothic towered entrances. Above the parapets on each side of the bridge and on the buttresses of the span stand the statues of the venerated saints of Prague. For centuries, people walking across the bridge have stopped, knelt before their favorite saint and prayed. The view from the bridge is magnificent with its panorama of Hradčany, greenery, spires and Baroque roofs of buildings.

A bronze statue of the patron saint of Bohemia, Saint John Nepomuk, rests on one of the buttresses. A tablet on the monument marks the spot where the unlucky John was thrown alive over the railing of the bridge by order of King Wenceslas IV. The priest was hurled to his death because of the jealousy of the king. He wished to pry into his queen's privacy and ordered John to reveal to him what she had confessed. Sainly John refused to divulge the queen's confession and was seized by several of the king's men and thrown into the turbulent waters below. The cruel event is portrayed at the base of the saint's statue. The queen is shown in the confessional and John being pushed over the bridge railing. There are five stars above John's head, which, it is said, appeared when he struck the water. That part of the story was never authenticated, but accepted as a miraculous sign that John was a saint living "in Christ" and a martyr because of his violent death.

Facing Křížovnické Náměstí there are statues of the builders of the bridge, King Charles IV, after whom the bridge is named and his son, King Wenceslaus IV.

Here also are seen the statues of St. Adalbert, St. Vitus and St. Sigismund. Through the centuries invaders attacked with artillery fire, the Vltava overflowed, but the medieval bridge with its statuary survived. These works of sculpture show the transition from the classical period of Michelangelo to Baroque art. The only work of John Brokoff left standing on the bridge is a statue of St. John Nepomucene. His melancholy face is uplifted and in his hands he holds a figure of Christ. Brokoff's masterpiece, THE PIETA, the Virgin holding the dead Christ across her knees, the fallen arms of Christ portraying the agony of the body taken down from the cross and the perfect blending of the Virgin's and Christ's faces, disappeared from the bridge in 1695. It can now be seen in the CLOISTER OF THE SISTERS OF MISERICORDE, at Petrin. THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST is a statue by Brokoff, dated 1706, which was taken from the bridge and placed in the LAPI-DARIUM. It fell into the river in 1890, parts of it recovered after a period of twelve years, and the original SAINT XAVIER was reconstructed. The one on the bridge is a copy. A statue of mitered SAINT VOJTECH holding a cross in one hand, while with the other hand he blesses the people walking past, is there.

The group of SAINT LUIDGARDE was made in 1710 by Mathias Braun and is the ultimate in sculptural achievement. The Christ stands with one hand on the cross, the other hand encircles the neck of SAINT LUIDGARDE, who is touching his knees. Two other statues of Mathias are the statue of SAINT IVES, the patron saint of lawyers done in 1711 and SAINT LUDMILA, in 1720.

The works of Matias Wenceslas Jockel, not as highly rated as Brokoff's statuary, remain on the bridge. There



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And don't try to kid anybody. Call a spade a spade. Say what you mean and mean what you say. People don't like double-talk. They prefer a leader who gives them straight facts - even when they're not very pleasant. It's a lot better than a manager who tries to gloss things over and make black look white.

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is a statue of ST. ANNE (1707), OUR LADY WITH ST. BERNARD (1709) and OUR LADY WITH SAINT DOMINIC and ST. THOMAS AQUINAS (1708).

A great bronze statue of Jesus on the cross was erected in 1606. It is said to be the only statue of the crucifix that bears a Jewish inscription. A legend states that in 1696, a Jew showed disrespect for Jesus by uttering blasphemous words and he was seized and brought before the court. He was punished by being forced to carve the words HOLY, HOLY, HOLY within the halo around Christ.

One of the most cherished statues is the one of GOOD KING WENCESLAS, made by K. Bohm, dated 1858. Wenceslas was the ruler of the Czech tribes in 920 and brought them Christianity. Because of his saintly life, he was canonized by the Church and immortalized by the famous English Christmas carol. First stanza:

"Good King Wenceslas looked out,
On the feast of Steven,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep, and crisp and even."

There are other beautiful bridges in Prague and also ornated with statuary. Hlavka Bridge was erected in 1908-12, from plans drawn up by architect P. Janak, and the statuary on it was done by J. Stursa, 1911-12. Palacký Bridge, one of the most beautiful with its pylons decorated by Myslbek and statues by him on each side of the bridge, also has a monument of Libuse and Přemysl. Another bridge, much like Charles Bridge, but smaller, spans the Otava River, a tributary of Vltava, at Písek. Like Charles Bridge, it has graceful arches and an outdoor gallery of venerated saints. It is the oldest bridge in Czechoslovakia and dates from the thirteenth century. In the early days Písek was heavily fortified, and the bridge was its only way out of the stronghold.

Sister Stella Tichy,
Sokol Cechie, Chicago

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