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of the
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of the
Czechoslovak
National Republic

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To build a healthy and beautiful human body —
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To develop firm character, a well rounded disposition and
A love of truth and justice —
To produce strong, lovely and honorable people,
That is the goal of a "Sokol" education.

What is a "Sokol"?
Sokol is falcon in Czech language,
it is our symbol of swiftness,
courage and strength.



"Zdravé a krásné lidské tělo — souladné vypěstění celého člověka,
povahy ucelené, neoblomné, pravdymilovné a spravedlivé —
lidé silní, krásní a dobří — to je cíl sokolské výchovy."

AMERICAN SOKOL

VĚSTNÍK AMERICKÉ OBCE SOKOLSKÉ

Ročník - Vol. CIX

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OCTOBER 28, 1918 — INDEPENDENCE DAY



SEDMÝ S LET VŠESOKOLSKÝ V PRAZE

The author, Br. Vladislav W. Slavik, is President of the Eastern District of the American Sokol Organization. He has served as President of Sokol New York and as the Eastern District Director. Born in western Czechoslovakia, he immigrated in November, 1950 for the express purpose to serve as a traveling instructor for the Sokols.

This special issue was inspired at the District Presidents Conference, requested by your editor and the education committee and approved by the A.S.O. executive board. Many thanks to Bro. Slavik for his months of research and preparation of this article for our brothers and sisters and their families. We encourage you to read and discuss the events as a family to better impress the importance of understanding the political motivations of humans and the far reaching implications that can be thrust upon politically unaware citizens of a country.

EDITOR

(The Munich Betrayal will appear in the New York Times)

On October 28, 1988 all Czechoslovaks will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic. For the first time in 40 years this celebration will have the official blessing of the Communist Party. That in itself is a significant deviation from the official party dogma, which recognizes important events only since February 1948 when the Communists seized power and made Czechoslovakia a satellite of the Soviet Union. However belatedly, even the party agrees that October 28 is the cornerstone of modern Czechoslovak history.

On that day in 1918 the Prague Czech National Council, claiming the undeniable right of Czech and Slovak people to their own destiny and referring to the 10th point of Woodrow Wilson's famous 14-point Peace Program, declared the independence of Czechoslovakia. Three hundred years of the Habsburg oppression was over. Without firing a shot, Austrian police and military quickly left for Vienna, guessing, quite correctly, that the Emperor's days were numbered.

Woodrow Wilson had proclaimed his 14 point Peace Program on January 8, 1918. Its 10th point declared: "The people of Austria-Hungary, whose place among nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity of autonomous development." By peoples of Austria-Hungary he certainly included the Czechoslovak Legions, fighting on all fronts of World War I, by then renowned for their bravery. In a few months the Czechoslovak and American soldiers became comrades-in-arms. In fact, U.S. forces were sent to Siberia to aid the Czechoslovak Legions. Wilson was opposed to any military intervention in Russia aimed at eliminating the Bolsheviks. He believed that such action would not serve the purpose of United States involvement in World War I, which was to defeat Germany and Austria. To quote Wilson himself: "...our military action is to help Czecho-Slovaks to consolidate their forces..."

Early in October of 1918 the Austrian Government, seeking conditions for armistice, turned to the United States Government. The Secretary of State, Robert Lansing, responded on October 28. Referring to the 10th point of Wilson's Peace program, he qualified it: "...Since that sentence was written and uttered to the Congress, the United States Government recognized that the Czechoslovak National Council (established in 1916 in Paris and led by T. G. Masaryk, E. Beneš and M. Štefánik) is a de facto belligerent Government clothed with proper authority to direct the military and political

affairs of the Czechoslovaks. ...The United States President is no longer at liberty to accept mere autonomy..."

France and England had earlier recognized the Czechoslovak National Council. The Frenchmen had bled heavily. They understood the sacrifices it had taken to defeat the Kaiser Wilhelm and his well disciplined troops. Nevertheless, some politicians did not want to partition Austria. Austria had played an important role in maintaining the European political equilibrium. Austria served as a bulwark against the expansion of Germany on one side and Russia on the other, while preventing to realize any dreams of Slavs to form one Slav empire. From a strictly practical point of view, these politicians claimed, it was easier to deal with one established emperor than with five or six questionable or unstable governments.

Woodrow Wilson, however, would have none of this. He was an idealist by nature and a democrat by profession. As an American President he couldn't allow anything to interfere with the desires and aspirations of the Slavs nations. Furthermore, he was very much aware of the tremendous efforts of American Czechs and Slovaks who contributed enormously to make Czechoslovakia an independent state. When T. G. Masaryk, speaking on behalf of his nation on July 6, 1915, had declared war on Austria, the Americans of Czech and Slovak origin sent in 2,000 young men, most of them Sokols, to bolster the Czechoslovak Legions fighting in France. In addition, all American-Czechoslovak communities teemed with feverish activities to raise funds needed to establish an independent state. During the war Masaryk came to the United States to express a deep gratitude to President Wilson and American Czechoslovaks for contributing so much toward founding of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Help for the Czechoslovak cause also came from the Moravian Church. With roots in Moravia, it is actually a branch of Czech Reformation, which preceded Luther's movement by one hundred years. Jan Hus, a Rector of Charles University in Prague, laid foundations to a Hussites movement by pointing out the errors of the present Church, in those days badly divided by its schism. When Hus persisted, he was declared a heretic. He received a safe conduct promise from the Church and the Roman Emperor, Sigismund, to appear before the Council to explain his teachings. Instead, he was thrown into jail and on July 6, 1415 was burnt to death at the stake.

Such deception aroused the entire Czech nation, Hussites and Catholics alike. The Church excommunicated all Hussites who, in turn, burned down most of the monasteries and palaces of prelates. In the ensuing war no crusade was strong enough to defeat the "warriors of God," the Hussites.

The Czech Reformation and especially the Unity of Czech and Moravian Brethren crystalized Czech humanism. It stressed equality of all people. With equality came education, which in turn led to democracy. Czech humanism was far ahead of its

time since it helped eliminate serfdom by treating a peasant as equal to a nobleman. When Martin Luther spoke of Jan Hus, he declared: "We all are Hussites."

When the following generations weakened and the Czech nobles turned away from the original philosophy of Czech humanism, the Habsburg's German armies defeated the Czech nobles on November 8, 1620. Emperor Ferdinand II executed 27 Protestant leaders, exiled many and confiscated the estates of all Czech Protestants. The villagers had to stay, for they were needed as forced labor on the Emperor's or German nobles estates. The Czech nation fell to its knees. Anything valuable that remained was seized by plundering armies during the Thirty-Years War. The Habsburgs' victory was complete and the Czech Reformation was virtually destroyed.

Although one can try to beat the serf to death, as long as there is at least one serf left, there is always a spark of hope. Within the next two centuries such a little spark developed into a mighty flame. From that burst of light, a historian František Palacký (1798-1876) formulated in the middle of the last century a national rebirth based on Czech history and the philosophy of Jan Hus. A brilliant journalist, Karel Havlíček (1821-1856), who spent most of his lifetime in Austrian jails because of his sharp pen, followed with writings that gave his nation self respect and self confidence. The Sokol, a gymnastic organization, chauvinistically national in its concept, attracted thousands of young men and was called the national army.

Now all the nation needed was a man of international stature to lead to independence. It found him in the person of Tomáš G. Masaryk (1850-1937), a philosopher, writer and professor of Charles University in Prague. He was a man with an unsurpassed capacity to fight for the causes of the oppressed and unjustly persecuted people. In the famous Hilsner case he proved that the theory that the Jews use Christian blood in their Passover ritual was a pure blood libel. In return, the grateful world Jewry helped him immensely during World War I. Masaryk went on to improve Palacký's national program and put it into a politically practical perspective. At the beginning of the war, Masaryk fled from his homeland and began the final phase of the national fight for independence. With the help of Western democracies, the supreme sacrifices of Czechoslovak Legions and with the courageous efforts of people at home, Masaryk brought his nation to independence. It was proclaimed on October 28, 1918.

1938 — MUNICH BETRAYAL

Under President Masaryk's leadership Czechoslovakia became an island of democracy and stability. The traditionally diligent Czechoslovak people turned their country into an industrial complex. Czech universities attracted many scholars and students. The Sokol Festivals, with well over 100,000 performers, became major international tourist attractions. Many foreigners admired and came to

see this proud little country that served as an example of conciliatory relations among national minorities. Unfortunately, there was a large minority in Sudetenland. To be sure, they were well taken care of, as Masaryk's humanism treated everybody equally. While there were six universities for eleven million Czechoslovaks, the three million German-speaking citizens had one university and two polytechnics, 82 schools of higher education, 63 daily newspapers, 143 magazines, etc. More importantly though, they had 72 deputies in a 300-member national Parliament.

When Hitler took over Germany, Prague became a haven for many anti-fascists and Jews. The Czechoslovaks knew all about German expansion, for they had been facing it for well over one thousand years. Adolf Hitler, of course, did not become a Chancellor only to govern Germany. He believed that he was destined to unite all Germans in his Third Reich. His "Drang nach Osten" meant getting rid of Czechoslovakia once and for all. He had never liked this island of cooperation among people speaking different languages. There was more to his resolve than only to annihilate it. Hitler's aggression against Czechoslovakia was also a matter of ideologies. He never met President Beneš, yet he passionately hated him because Beneš was a democrat. Beneš and democracy were on one side, and on the other side was the Führer whom "Providence entrusted with world leadership." Thus the stage was set for a test of principles — and — for an agreement that would coin a new synonym for betrayal.

No event of a great magnitude happens overnight. The conflict between Germany and Czechoslovakia over Sudetenland must be traced several years back. In 1936, while his military forces were still weak, Hitler occupied Saar-land, against the specific Versailles agreement. Once France protested with only a diplomatic note, Hitler sensed that Western democracies didn't have the will power to protect what was theirs. Hitler was known to believe in divine intuition. His "personal divinity" had been helped indirectly by other political issues, like the impotence of the League of Nations when Mussolini attacked Ethiopia. Strangely enough, Hitler's outrageous schemes were so successful that he thought of himself as the only genius of his time.

In 1938 Hitler felt that the time was ripe to erase Czechoslovakia from the map of Europe. He knew that Czechoslovakia was well armed and had excellent fortifications on her border facing Germany. It was no secret that Czechoslovak soldiers were thoroughly trained. Therefore, Hitler first seized German-speaking Austria. Now the 350 miles long belly of his hated neighbor lay unprotected against his attack. But, he still hesitated. Czechoslovakia and France had a pact guaranteeing military help to each other if either were attacked. At this point, the spring of 1938, Germany was too weak to fight Czechoslovakia and France at the same time.

In March of 1938, the French minister of foreign affairs, Paul-Boncour, told the British ambassador that France was ready to honor her pact with Czechoslovakia. Boncour noted that "...the minorities (Germans) enjoy much better living conditions than similar minorities anywhere." Still, the Czechoslovaks tried to negotiate. President Beneš agreed to give a degree of autonomy to the Sudetenland and also employ more Germans in state positions. Czech Germans were ready to accept this offer, but Hitler turned it down, even though he had nothing to do with these negotiations.

In summer of 1938 the French Government fell and Paul-Boncour was not given a post in the new Daladier's Cabinet. Hitler surmised correctly that Daladier did not have the resolve to stand firm. French perseverance to resist the evil died with her one and a half million brave soldiers at Verdun and other battlefields. And Chamberlain? Neville Chamberlain thought he was bringing home from Munich "peace in our time." Chamberlain also negotiated away what was not his. The price of such "peace in our time" was the tragic rape of Czechoslovakia.

On September 29, 1938, Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain and Daladier partitioned Czechoslovakia without consulting a single Czechoslovak. The Munich betrayal dictated Czechoslovakia to cede 25% of her territory, to disarm her forces, and astonishingly, to change her constitution. Since these world leaders felt that the Czechoslovak Government had nothing to say about changes of such magnitude, they demanded a surrender in 24 hours.

Czechoslovakia was stunned. Like all Czechs, Beneš loved France. He couldn't believe that France had betrayed him. He tried to call Paris; there was no one to speak to. The Czechoslovak Government had nowhere to turn. Even the help of the Soviet Union was tied to the military pact with France. People cried openly on the streets. They wanted to fight. But the Czechoslovak Premier, General Jan Syrový, remorseful: "It's either a suicide or a murder." Five days later, Beneš abdicated. With no profound words, but rather with a shaky voice he concluded his short abdication speech: "I have a plan." Hitler must have smiled — how little did he know.

With simple but precise words The New York Times editorialized on September 30, 1938, almost as an eulogy: "...This is a price which cedes land and resources solely under the plain threat that force would be used if this cession were not made.

"It is a price which sacrifices the interest of a small forsaken nation to the interest of its larger neighbors..."

* * *

Needless to say that Hitler did his best to liquidate Czechoslovakia. He even planned to resettle most Czechs somewhere in the steppes of Siberia, if he ever got there. He closed all Czech universities, in spiteful revenge he destroyed Lidice, murdered thousands of Czechs, most of them political and

community leaders and Sokols, and turned Bohemia and Moravia into a forced labor camp. Slovakia was made a vassal state. Msgr. Jozef Tito couldn't wait to be installed as a puppet President and a real collaborator.

But, not even Hitler could destroy the Czech spirit. As in the days of their Hussite predecessors, the Czech nation fought back. In the East or in the West, Czechoslovak soldiers, partisans and underground at home paid the price of freedom. Half of them paid the supreme price. With the end of the war Eduard Beneš returned while Hitler's ashes lay somewhere among the rubble of his Third Reich.

1948 COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER

Czechoslovakia regained democracy once again. However, Big Brother, the Soviet Union, was watching right on the border. All of the Allies had lost their best young men on battlefields all over the world in World War II. But, Russia counted twenty million dead and Stalin made sure that everyone knew it. The wounds of the Munich betrayal were still open and were to fester for some time. When free elections were held in May of 1946, the Communists captured 38% of the electorate. In a six-party national coalition they were the largest party with Klement Gottwald as premier and gained the ministries of police, media and a few others. But they did not have a majority of the Government. Jan Masaryk, son of the first President, not affiliated with any party, served as a Minister of Foreign Affairs. With Beneš as the President, Czechoslovak democracy had a reasonable chance of survival.

The Communists, of course, had other plans. Late in 1947 their polls indicated a loss among their deputies in the election planned for May, 1948. In Czechoslovakia, as in most of Europe, police help to run the national election. In January, 1948, the minister of police, Václav Nosek, a stubborn Communist, demoted high officers in all election districts and replaced them with officers he trusted, Communists.

By a majority vote, the government overruled these police transfers. When Gottwald refused to implement the government decision, twelve non-Communist ministers resigned, hoping that President Beneš would not accept their resignation, thus forcing Gottwald to obey the will of majority. Jan Masaryk and General Svoboda, and the three Social Democrats did not resign, although they all voted with the twelve non-Communist ministers. Obviously, the twelve ministers resigned before they had an ironclad support of Beneš or their colleagues in the Cabinet, regardless of consequences.

What happened in the next five days is not clear even today, forty years later. Yes, for Gottwald and the Communists this was an opportunity to set up a new Communist government. They used this political crisis as a pretext to their take over of Czechoslovakia. "These twelve ministers refuse to serve the people. They will never return! They will be replaced by progressive ministers, faithful to our people and to our brother, the Soviet Union," raged

Gottwald at one of the mass rally. The Communists mobilized their members, forced non-members to join them, held rallies to show Beneš that the people were behind Gottwald. They called a general strike and through intimidation they succeeded. For five days Communist forces ruled the streets of Prague. They seized the radio stations. Most importantly, the police were on their side.

On the other hand, the twelve democratic ministers and their four parties seemed to be in disarray. They could not find the thirteenth minister (to make it a resignation of a majority of the government), who apparently should have been one of the Social Democrats or Jan Masaryk. They couldn't muster enough followers to counteract the Communist demonstrations. There were two large non-Communist organizations that were able to show a massive display of force: the Sokols and the university students.

Once again, Czechoslovakia lived through a clash of ideologies. Dictators order, while democrats suggest. In all of Prague there was not a single leader who would ask the Sokols to demonstrate on behalf of democracy. The students did demonstrate, but it was too late, in the afternoon of the next to last day when it was already apparent that the Communist mob succeeded. On the fifth day, February 25, 1948, President Beneš accepted the resignations of all twelve ministers and asked Gottwald to form a new government.

In a chain of events one small mistake may cause catastrophic consequences. Once again Fate was merciless. In February 1948 the Czechoslovak democrats failed the test. Looking back, it is hard to believe that Beneš and Zenkl, vice premier and a leader of the non-Communists, did not chart a firm course and consider all possible alternatives. While the future of many generations is at stake, it takes more than a ministerial resignation to guide a nation through storms and straights. To lead them, the Czechoslovaks had only one T. G. Masaryk. Ironically, his own son, Jan, who accepted a post in Gottwald's new totalitarian government, died 17 days later, under rather mysterious circumstances.

Fighting a Communist take-over is a Herculean task. Many other nations tried and lost. The Czechoslovak democrats had no choice but to accept the challenge and stand up for what was right. It would have cost lives, but the lives were lost anyway. Stalinists do not forgive. The Czechoslovak Communists were evidently prepared and needed only an opportunity. Once the opportunity presented itself, they had the willpower to take over. In the end, they had nothing to lose, since they were going to lose the election anyway.

How they reformed, or deformed, Czechoslovakia, how they destroyed all that is dear to any Czech and Slovak, and how they murdered democratic patriots, defies any description. People lived without any purpose, hopes turned into ashes, the days went on endlessly. When the Stalinists began to execute each other, even the Communist ideal-

GYMNAST

SEPTEMBER 1988

Editor: Frank H. Michalek — 10 S. 020 Lorraine Dr., Hinsdale, Illinois 60521

NATIONAL COURSE HUGE SUCCESS

AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION — NATIONAL INSTRUCTORS COURSE

July 8-17, 1988, Ennis Texas

The 1988 American Sokol Organization Instructors Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced Instructors Course was hosted by Sokol Karel Havlíček Borovský, Southern District, Ennis, TX, July 8-17, 1988. Forty-one full time and one part time students attended.

Bro. Rome Milan from Sokol Ft. Worth, and Director of Men of the Southern District, was the Course Director. The remainder of the staff consisted of Bro. Frank Michalek of Sokol West Suburban and 2nd Assistant Director of men of the American Sokol; Bro. Bob Liptak, of the DA Sokol, Astoria, New York; and Student Instructors, Sis. Mila Waldauf, Sokol Fort Worth, and Bro. Steve Biondo, DA Sokol, Astori, New York. Course Secretary of Sis. Sylvia Laznovsky, Director of Women, Southern District.

Additional members contributed with lectures and special classes. Bro. Larry Laznovsky, President of Sokol Karel Havlíček Borovský and of the Southern District, gave a presentation on organization. Bro. Brad Durham, Sokol Fort Worth and Southern District Secretary, led a class on vaulting techniques. Bro. Jerry Milan and Sis. Henrietta Milan, Sokol Fort Worth, gave a class on tots and on wall drills. Bro. Milan is the District Public Relations Officer and the American Sokol By-Laws Chairman. Sister Audrey Benda, Sokol Little Ferry, and Florence Palas, Sokol Los Angeles, visited the course the first two days and contributed in many administrative areas.

The course opened on Friday evening, July 8th, with a pool party at Tyrš pool. Orientation was held at 8 P.M. Basic rules were reviewed and instructions were held. A regular course schedule began on Saturday morning. The daily schedule included rise and shine at 7:00 A.M., warm-ups at 7:30 A.M. All three meals, each day, were served by Sis. Lil Laznovsky, Kitchen Chairman and her helpers. Classes were held in: teaching skills, spotting and progressions, first aid, biomechanics, choreography, marching, pyramid building, history of Sokol, calisthenics terminology, and apparatus terminology.

Students participated in special number writing contests, pyramid contests, and marching contests. On Friday evening, the 15th a fun evening was held with a scavenger hunt and pool volleyball. A

talent show was presented on the last Saturday evening.

Graduation ceremonies on Sunday, the 17th concluded the course. Many parents and members joined the group in a graduation breakfast.

Graduates are as follows:

Advanced & Intermediate:

Peter Batinic, Sokol Houston; Evelyn Cepak, Sokol West; Charles Kalat, Sokol Ennis; Lori Laznovsky, Sokol Ennis; Tammy McCaffrey, Sokol Ft. Worth; David Mikeska, Sokol Houston; Shelley Mitchell, Sokol Ft. Worth; Cliff Mullican, Sokol Ennis; Kim Oates, Sokol Ennis; Laurie Southwell, Sokol Ennis.

Beginners:

Chris Berka, Sokol South Omaha; Sooyen Chen, Sokol New York; Frank Felner, Sokol South Omaha; Melissa Francisco, Sokol Little Ferry; Danita Fuller, Sokol Ennis; Troy Garvin, Sokol Fort Worth; Ulysses Gordills, Sokol New York; Stephanie Green, Sokol Ennis; Kelly Hill, Sokol Ft. Worth; Stacey Hurt, Sokol So. Omaha; Patti Kalat, Sokol Ennis; Skye-Catherine Koenig, Sokol St. Louis; Jacqueline Kokesh, D.A. Sokol Metro; Kristi Kubin, Sokol Ennis; Heather Larson, Sokol Ennis; Peter Lattanzio, D.A. Sokol Metro; Lisa Laznovsky, Sokol Ennis; Marla Meier, Sokol San Francisco; Ryan Mullican, Sokol Ennis; Christen Norum, Sokol Ennis; Jessica O'Bannon, Sokol Ennis; Venus Perez, Sokol Los Angeles; Linda Pochop, Sokol So. Omaha; Katrina Prossr, Sokol San Francisco; Jeff Schonhoff, Sokol West Suburban; Debra Shrofe, Sokol Berwyn; Jeanette Smith, Sokol Little Ferry; Christopher Stahulak, Sokol West Suburban; Wendy Stout, Sokol Ennis; Michelle Taras, D.A. Sokol Metro; Theresa Von DeBur, Sokol Berwyn; Tracie Wooten, Sokol Ft. Worth; Todd Zymball, Sokol So. Omaha.

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JUNE 18, 1988

WOMEN**Low Division**

*1	Jolene Dalton, Sokol South Omaha	44.30
*2	Phyllis Kool, Sokol South Omaha	42.00
*3	Debbie Glogowski, Sokol South Omaha	41.40

Low Division Team

1	Sokol South Omaha	127.70
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High Division

*1	Margie Swoboda, Sokol South Omaha	44.10
*2	Kandy Holecek, Sokol South Omaha	39.85
3	April Johnson, Sokol South Omaha	37.80
4	Colleen Kenney, Sokol South Omaha	32.55

High Division Team

1	Sokol South Omaha	121.75
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Championship Women

*1	Jackie Swoboda, Sokol South Omaha	76.15
*2	Cindy Hoden, Sokol South Omaha	72.40

Championship Women Team

1	Sokol South Omaha	148.55
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JUNIOR GIRLS**Low B Division**

*1	Gina Dunn, Sokol South Omaha	43.00
*1	Wendy Fry, Sokolice Crete	43.00
*3	Donna Pierson, Sokol South Omaha	41.80
*4	Jana Yeshnowski, Sokol South Omaha	41.45
5	Jodi Yilk, Sokol South Omaha	41.20

Low B Division Team

1	Sokol South Omaha	126.25
2	Sokolice Crete	124.50
3	Sokolice Cedar Rapids	112.50

Low A Division

*1	Nicole Shestak, Sokol South Omaha	43.40
*2	Misty Weeks, Sokol South Omaha	42.10
*3	Kathy Kent, Sokol South Omaha	41.90
*4	Jenny Sueper, Sokolice Crete	40.75
*5	Jennifer Smith, Sokol South Omaha	40.45

Low A Division Teams

1	Sokol South Omaha	127.40
2	Sokolice Crete	119.20
3	Sokol South Omaha	116.75

Intermediate Division

*1	Michéle Eells, Sokol South Omaha	41.00
*2	Stacey Hurt, Sokol South Omaha	39.90
*3	Julie Vlasek, Sokolice Cedar Rapids	35.95
4	Amy Driscoll, Sokolice Cedar Rapids	35.85
5	Christine Hrabik, Sokol Omaha	35.70

High Division

*1	Tiffany Teply, Sokol South Omaha	37.00
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Championship Division

*1	Tina Cahalane, Sokol South Omaha	79.30
*2	Lori Fickenscher, Sokol South Omaha	78.60
*3	Stefanie Gregulich, Sokol South Omaha	73.30

Championship Division Team

1	Sokol South Omaha	157.90
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MEN**Masters II Division**

*1	Chas. Spicka, Sokol Cedar Rapids	56.15
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Low B Division

*1	Don Pulkrab, Sokol Cedar Rapids	56.05
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Low A Division

*1	Bud Benak, Sokol South Omaha	56.80
*2	Matthew Dostal, Sokol Cedar Rapids	52.20

High Division

*1	Jack Walsh, Sokol South Omaha	49.45
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Championship Division

*1	Buddy Benak, Sokol South Omaha	92.95
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JUNIOR BOYS**Low A Division**

*1	Todd Symball, Sokol South Omaha	54.95
*2	Frank Felner, Sokol South Omaha	53.90
*3	Paul Lesac, Sokol South Omaha	53.75
4	Chris Berka, Sokol South Omaha	50.95
5	Robert Hurley, Sokol South Omaha	39.05

Low A Division Team

1	Sokol South Omaha	162.60
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Intermediate Division

*1	Eric McCulley	52.60
*2	Troy Loftus	49.35
*3	Sean Razece	45.00

Intermediate Division Team

1	Sokol South Omaha	146.95
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High Division

*1	Derek Fickenscher	44.50
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Championship Division

*1	Scott Zymball	99.85
*2	Tom McLaughlin	92.25

Championship Division Team

1	Sokol South Omaha	192.10
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VIII SOKOL CANADA SLET

MONTREAL — JUNE 24-25-26, 1988

Competing Organizations:

American Sokol Organization

Canadian Sokols

D.A. Sokols

Sokol USA

MEN & WOMEN GYMNASTIC RESULTS**Jr. Girls Low A — Team Results**

1	South Omaha	128.55
2	Union	120.61
3	Baltimore	117.65

Individual Results

*1	Jennifer Piazza, D.A. Sokol	43.25
*2	Nicole Shestak, South Omaha	43.15
*3	Misty Weeks, South Omaha	43.15
4	Jennifer Smith, South Omaha	42.25
5	Lindsay Hanson, Union	41.75

Jr. Girls Novice — Team Results

1	Ceska Sin - ASO	124.15
2	D.A. Sokol	120.70
3	Byram - Sokol USA	119.20

Individual Results

1	Joelle Pome, Guttenburg	43.10
2	Donna Nornyle, D.A. Sokol	42.75

3	Regina Faranda, Ceska Sin	42.50	Individual Results		
4	Kelly Darst, Ceska Sin	42.00	1	Ray Taylor, Detroit 62.55	
5	Kathryn Darula, Byram	41.15	2	Terry Galaida, Ceska Sin 62.00	
Jr. Girls Low B — Individual Results			3	Darmain Johnson, Baltimore 61.75	
1	jackie Kokesh, D.A. Sokol	44.95	4	Jason Botticello, Union 61.60	
2	Paula Tracgart, D.A. Sokol	44.63	5	Michael Stiffy, Monesson 61.25	
3	Gina Dunn, South Omaha	43.95	Jr. Boys — Intermediate Division — Team Results		
4	Heather Hattham, St. Louis Cent. Dist.	42.90	1	South Omaha 165.10	
5	Christi O'Connell, D.A. Sokol	42.75	Individual Results		
Intermediate — Jr. Girls — Individual Results			1	Eric McCulley, South Omaha 58.20	
1	Michelle Sikon, Gr. Cleveland	41.80	2	Troy Loftus, South Omaha 56.15	
2	Michell Santher, Baltimore	41.70	3	Daniel Jirousek, Cleveland 53.60	
3	Jenny Johnson, Chicago	40.80	4	Sean Rasee, South Omaha 50.75	
4	Michell Rells, South Omaha	39.20	5	Paul Moravec, West Suburban 21.20	
5	Hurt Stacey, South Omaha	39.10	Jr. Boys High Division — Team Results		
Jr. Girls — High — Team Results			1	South Omaha 176.50	
1	South Omaha	127.95	Individual Results		
Individual Results			1	Tom McLaughlin, South Omaha 60.95	
1	Fickenscher Lori, So. Omaha	44.15	2	Scott Zymball, South Omaha 60.20	
2	Christi Cahalane, So. Omaha	43.95	3	Derek Fickenseher, South Omaha 55.35	
3	Heather Steenson, Ceska Sin	42.10	4	Jessie Traynham, Fort Worth 51.25	
4	Stefani Gregurich, South Omaha	39.95	Sr. Masters I		
5	Tiffany Teply, South Omaha	35.60	1	Edwin Jirousek, Gr. Cleveland 59.78	
Junior Girls — Low B — Team Results			2	Gene Nakoneczny, Ceska Sin 53.85	
1	D.A. Sokol	132.35	3	Waldo Hotz, Union 52.85	
2	South Omaha	128.30	Sr. Masters II — Team Results		
3	D.A. Sokol	126.20	1	Toronto 167.30	
4	Farrell	124.50	Individual Results		
5	Ceska Sin	122.25	*1	Frank Michalek, West Suburban 62.95	
Senior Women — Master I — Team Results			*1	Vaclav Mika, Zurich, Switz. 62.95	
1	Ceska Sin	128.85	3	Charles Spicka, Cedar Rapids 61.00	
Individual Results			4	Ivo Sypstak, Toronto 56.25	
1	Doris Kotlan, Ceska Sin	44.65	5	Zdenek Nimra, Toronto 56.10	
2	Carol Siekaniec, Ceska Sin	43.10	Sr. Mens Low B — Individual Results		
3	Brenda Nakoneczny, Ceska Sin	41.00	1	Ken Howard, Ceska Sin 58.25	
4	Gail Homer, Gr. Cleveland	40.75	2	Greg Thomas, Monassen 57.25	
5	Mary Moravec, West Suburban	34.25	Sr. Men's Low A — Team Results		
Senior Women — Low B — Team Results			1	Chicago - USA 190.70	
1	Baltimore	127.85	2	Ceska Sin 183.00	
2	D.A. Sokol	126.00	3	Cleveland 167.55	
3	Ceska Sin	123.25	Individual Results		
Individual Results			1	Scott Pracko, Chicago 63.90	
1	Jody Huber, Baltimore	44.50	2	Balo Katz, Chicago 63.80	
2	Elizabeth Slocom, D.A. Sokol	43.40	*3	Don Kotlan, Ceska Sin 63.00	
3	Lori Calhoun, Ceska Sin	42.95	*3	Bryan Pracko, Chicago 63.00	
4	Ann Huber, Baltimore	42.40	*5	Joseph Hollander, DA Sokol 60.90	
5	Valerie Ferro, D.A. Sokol	42.30	*5	Paul Savage, Ceska Sin 60.90	
Jr. Boys Novice — Individual Results			Sr. Mens Intermediate Division — Team Results		
1	Marc Banjak, Farrell	54.35	1	D.A. Sokol 177.75	
1	Tim Matz, Union	54.35	2	New York - A.S.O. 172.45	
3	Brian Backenstoe, Bethlehm	53.70	3	D.A. Sokol 172.30	
Jr. Boys Low B — Team Results			Individual Results		
1	D.A. Sokol	179.45	1	Joaquin Armbergo, New York - A.S.O. 62.50	
2	New York - USA	153.60	2	Jeff Gurney, Baltimore 61.85	
Individual Results			3	Joseph Motelbano, D.A. Sokol 60.45	
1	David Moreno, D.A. Sokol	60.65	4	Mathew Traugott, D.A. Sokol 60.00	
2	Peter Lattanzio, D.A. Sokol	60.55	5	Brian Hathcoat, Tabor 59.90	
3	Richard Bond, D.A. Sokol	58.25	Sr. Mens High Division — No Teams		
4	Jeffrey Sliva, D.A. Sokol	57.45	Individual Results		
5	Benjamin Faranda, Ceska Sin	54.60	1	Jonathan Conrad, Fort Worth 63.80	
Jr. Boys Low A — Team Results			2	Michael Delapena, Guttenburg 63.20	
1	Detroit	181.00	3	Bradley Rocklein, D.A. Sokol 61.55	
2	Baltimore	179.55	4	Jack Walsh, South Omaha 61.30	
3	Ceska Sin	177.80	5	Buddy Benak, South Omaha 60.45	

*Tie



1st row: Mila Waldauf, Skye Koenig, Heather Larson, Lisa Lanovsky, Stacey Hurt, Christine Norum, Jackie Kokes, Anita Fuller, Kelly Hill, Tracie Wooten, Sylvia Laznovsky.
2nd row: Venus Perez, Wendy Stout, Kristi Kuban, Patti Kalat, Lori Laznovsky, Ryan Mullican, Peter Latanzio, Shelley Mitchell, Melissa Francisco, Tammy McCaffrey, Stephanie Green.
3rd row: Steve Biondo, Lori Southwell, Theresa Vondebur, Katrina Prosser, Marla Meir, Evelyn Cepek, Kim Oats, Troy Garvin, Todd Zymbal, Jeff Schonhoff, Chris Berka, Chris Stahulak, Ulysses Gordills, Robert Liptak.
4th row: Rome Milan, Jeanette Smith, Linda Pochop, Jessica O'Bannon, Michelle Taras, Debra Schroffe, Charles Kalat, David Mikeska, Sooyen Chen, Cliff Mullican, Peter Baitnic, Frank Felner, Frank Michalek.

ists, who really believed in their utopia, began to realize that the system could not possibly work.

There were thousands of Czechs and Slovaks who escaped from Czechoslovakia after February 1948, most of them dreaming of going home in a year or two. When the cold reality set in, they realized that they were stateless. Their dreams were replaced by worries about a place to live, the working day and other daily chores. Just like with millions of other refugees, all hopes vanished.

1968 — THE RUSSIAN INVASION

By 1960 the economic situation in Czechoslovakia was in a shambles. The writers, academics and even the disenchanted party members began to whisper criticism. Popular media people, Forman, Matuška, Kundera, Seifert and others breathed fresh air into the stagnant miasma of Prague. By 1967, Prague and other Czechoslovak cities felt that finally a new era was about to set in. True, it originated from Communist roots, yet, it was fresh air with a smile and compassion, that had been missing for twenty years.

In the Spring of 1968 the new ideas seemed to be more liberal than Communistic. Press censors and secret police joined the list of extinct professions. Newspapers and television turned their attention to the crimes and tricks of party officials, forcing radical changes in the Czechoslovak politbureau. Dubček, Smrkovský, Mlynář and others created their own brand of Communism called "Socialism with a human face." While in 1948 they had helped to suffocate a democratic Czechoslovakia, in 1968 they turned into prosecutors and began charging Stalinists with crimes. Non-Communist parties, until now mute collaborators with the regime, proclaimed their own political programs, very similar to what they adhered to in the days of democracy. Sokol and other organizations, taken for dead long ago, resurrected themselves. In this atmosphere of great expectations, the national spirit revived.

By summer of 1968 it wasn't Dubček and his reformed party that governed Czechoslovakia. It was rather the free spirit of a rejuvenated nation, led by writers and people of media, that controlled the situation. While Czechoslovakia enjoyed the best summer in twenty years, the Soviet Union felt that her faithful satellite was becoming too independent and the party had lost its grip over the people. A meeting of the entire leadership of both the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, was held to assess the situation. Dubček asserted very forcefully that his party was still in charge. To meet the demands of Leonid Brezhnev and his generals, he promised to suppress "Some of the right wing excesses." It did not matter what he said because Soviet leader Brezhnev had probably already decided to bring Czechoslovakia to "her senses." All Brezhnev needed was to find someone of stature who would request the help from the forces of the Warsaw Pact. After searching for almost six weeks, he found no one. To Brezhnev this also did not

matter, since as one of the last few true Bolsheviks, Brezhnev believed in raw power.

On August 21, 1968 the forces of Warsaw Pact, almost all of them Russians, invaded its sister, Czechoslovakia. In a matter of hours, 120,000 troops were in and occupied all key points. It was late summer when Prague Socialist Spring was crushed and the Brezhnev Doctrine was born.

In the eyes of many the Russian invasion changed nothing. It merely affirmed the Communist take-over in February 1948. To a disillusioned liberal it meant that a Communist system would never accept a human face. Worst of all, artists faced a heart breaking predicament, once best illustrated by Boris Pasternak: To receive a Nobel Prize and never be able to return to one's homeland? Which values are of higher importance? Has Kundera's "Unbearable Lightness of Being" solved the problem?

Long ago, at the turn of this century, Jacob Riis, a journalist and writer, examining social ills, quoting a Bohemian priest, proposed a definition of a Bohemian: "He is Roman Catholic by birth, infidel by necessity and Protestant by history and inclination." Not only Bohemians but all small nations, important enough to their powerful neighbors, face the same dilemma. They must balance their aspirations with the wishes of those whose power makes them superior. Fortunately for Czechoslovakia, there are still a good many of those who identify themselves with the playwright, Václav Havel, when he calls his nation to its own reckoning: "...the tragedy of a man is not that he knows so little about the meaning of his own self and his life, but that it bothers him less and less."

The successors to the rich legacy of the Christianity of St. Václav, the truth of Jan Hus and the philosophy of Tomáš G. Masaryk must gather all their intellectual ingenuity to bring about the moral upheaval in their country. Rattling of weapons, threats of jails or personal persecution cannot conquer a morally strong society. A regime which is about to disintegrate through its own failures has its days numbered. No military or political expansion can succeed if it is not based on humanism and if it doesn't fulfill the aspirations of its own people. As Stalin's empire of brutal force and dictatorship had dissolved even in the cradle of Communism, it cannot take long before the true "glasnost" will spread its ideas all over Czechoslovakia. Once that happens the Czechoslovaks will transform the Russian glasnost into a truly Czechoslovak glasnost.

1988

As on July Fourth when the American sky is resplendent with myriads of showering lights, for the Czechoslovak people on October 28, the skies are foreboding; it has always been a day of expiration and reminiscence. That disparity seems to define the cruel difference between small and large nations. Throughout its one-thousand-year history, the Czech nation basked many times in the light of national triumphs. Yet, there were twice as many

tragedies. The hard-earned October 28, 1918 triumph lasted a mere twenty years, followed by three disasters in the next fifty years.

To concede, however, that a small nation has no right to its own destiny, means to renounce the ideals on which such a nation is founded. More than that, it abandons the right of individuals to seek their own happiness. Despite the present state of affairs, the Czechoslovaks are not ready to give up these rights inherited from preceding generations. Charter 77 and other quickly growing groups subject their government to a close scrutiny. They possess no real power to enforce their findings, except their dedication to the ideals on which October 28 was founded. Regardless of the still cruel consequences they implore their government to live by the Constitution, to adhere to its own laws. The chorus of dissatisfied masses increases in intensity as well as in depth.

On the other side, the winds of Gorbachev's liberalism foretell changes to come. Uncertain of their own future, the party leaders have reluctantly admitted that T. G. Masaryk was a founder of the Republic. They have spent millions of crowns to dress Prague in majestic splendor to celebrate what they had previously called bourgeois or naive ceremony. They know that this observance will generate a

new wave of national awareness. As they unmistakably stagger under the weight of events inversely affecting their power they have no choice. Having been caught in the web of their own mistakes, Stalinists would appear to have reached the end of their era.

No authority, no government can force people to give up their dreams. Peoples' dreams conceive new ideas and affirm the old ones. On October 28 the Czechoslovak people will dream of a better future and remind themselves of the prophecy of Jan Ámos Komenský (Comenius), the last bishop of the Unity of Czech Brethren, who was exiled in 1628:

*"Nor can I forget thee, my native land,
Thou Bohemian and Moravian nation,
Now that I must take my final leave!*

*I turn to thee especially
And make thee the chief claimant
And heir of my treasures
Which the Lord has entrusted me.*

*I trust God that
After passing of the tempest of wrath
Which our sins brought down upon our heads,
The rule of thine affairs
Shall again be restored to thee,
O Bohemian people!"*



PRAŽSKÝ HRAD

Canada Slet Report

by DAVID KURPA, President Sokol San Francisco

The VIII Montreal Slet exceeded all expectation because it was so successful in showcasing Czechoslovak physical and artistic culture in the Sokol tradition. From the Slet opening to the closing ceremony very few details were overlooked.

The official Slet opening took place Friday evening, June 23 at the Pollock Concert Hall on the McGill University Campus. Br. Karel Pinke, President of Sokol Canada welcomed the audience numbering over five hundred people.

After Br. Pinke's address, the audience was treated to a cultural program which featured local Czechoslovak artists performing the works of Dvořák, Smetana, and Martinů — among others. Guest performers included Vít Fiala (violin cello), Věra Brun (mezzosoprano), Dr. Jan Rubeš (baritone), and Prof. Oskar Morawetz (piano). The evening ended with standing ovations and audience request for more music.

Gymnastic and Volleyball competition took place on the University of Montreal and McGill University campuses. After the contests ended, the competitors were honored at the Slet Victory Dance and Banquet at the McGill University Student Centre. Over 600 Slet participants and spectators attended. Furiant! — Sokol San Francisco Czechoslovak Folk Ensemble — entertained the guests and received very favorable reviews. Once the athletic competition was over, only the closing ceremony and calisthenic drills remained.

The closing ceremony took place Sunday morning on the University of Montreal athletic field. All Slet participants marched onto the field and were reviewed by Sokol officials and acknowledged by the Slet spectators. Next, Mass Calisthenics followed. Each Slet participant (child, junior, or senior) performed with his peers in a program specifically choreographed for his class. Finally, after nearly two years of drilling, the participants were finally performing before a large audience. The mass calisthenics were, by far, the most exciting part of the Slet program.

The conclusion of the VIII Montreal Slet was exceptionally dramatic — mostly because it was not planned by any committee. After the official Slet conclusion, spectators, participants, strangers, and new friends were exchanging farewells, tearfully embracing, and some, even excitedly planning reunions for the next Sokol Slet. This scene on the field, I am sure, will be remembered by many Sokols well after they return to their homes in Canada, the United States, and Europe.

I, on behalf of those San Francisco Sokol Slet participants, would like to acknowledge Sokol Canada and Sokol Masaryk-Montreal for successfully preserving Sokol traditions and promoting Sokol Ideals during the VIII Montreal Slet.

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER EVENTS CELEBRATING THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC

OCTOBER 22 — Sokol New York
Banquet at Astoria Manor

OCTOBER 23 — Sokol/Sokolice Detroit
Commemoration

OCTOBER 28 — New York — Concert at the
Metropolitan Museum of Art

OCTOBER 28 — EASTERN DISTRICT
Commemoration, Sokol Hall, N.Y.C. 3 p.m.

OCTOBER 29 — Czechoslovak-American Congress
Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the
Czechoslovak Republic at Morton East
High School Auditorium, Cicero, Ill., 1:30 p.m.

UNIT AND DISTRICT EVENTS

OCTOBER 29 — EASTERN DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING Sokol Hall, N.Y. City
11 a.m. preceded by B.O.I. at 10 a.m.

OCTOBER 29 — Sokol Ceska Sin — Saturday
Halloween Dance

NOVEMBER 20 — Sokol St. Louis
Dramatic Club Dinner/Theater

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER — Sokol Ceska Sin
Flip-A-Thon

DECEMBER 3 — Sokol/Sokolice Detroit
Czechoslovak Dinner Party

DECEMBER 16 — Sokol Ceska Sin
Friday — Christmas Party

DECEMBER 31 — Detroit
New Year's Eve Dance

JANUARY 28, 1989 — Sokol Ceska Sin
Saturday — Winter Exhibition

FEBRUARY 3-5, 1989 — Sokol Ceska Sin
Saturday — Ski Weekend Trip

FEBRUARY 5, 1989 — Detroit —
Winter Gymnastical

FUTURE EVENTS

JUNE 20-24, 1989 — AMERICAN SOKOL
NATIONAL SLET, OMAHA, NEBRASKA

MAY 5, 1990 — Sokol Slavsky 100th Anniversary

MAY 1990 — Sokol St. Louis
125th ANNIVERSARY

ASO FINANCIAL REPORT

JUNE, 1988

RECEIPTS:

Dues	\$ 3,582.00
Convention Fund	610.00
Special Assessment (Southern)	305.00
T. G. Masaryk Dues	10.00
Resale of Jewelry	365.00
Dividends & Interest	308.41
Postage	6.87
Song Books	7.50
Slet patches	20.00
Novice Bars	8.00
Skills patches	61.00
Computer labels	23.85
Stick pins	21.00
Copies	10.00
1985 Slet cups	9.00
1938 Slet photos	14.55
	\$ 5,362.18
A.S.O. Uniform Division - Rent, Salaries, etc.	729.03
Total Receipts	\$ 6,091.21

DISBURSEMENTS:**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Salaries - Office Employees	\$1,008.84
Salaries - Membership	9.00
F.I.C.A. & F.W.T. for May, 1988	173.24
Rent, Janitor Services, Phone, Electric	1,021.12
Office Supplies	37.50
Bond Insurance	459.00
Membership Fee - CRBA	35.00
100-Year Plaques	126.26
District Presidents' Conference - Pictures	10.00
	\$ 2,879.96

BOARD OF INSTRUCTORS

Salaries	\$ 516.97
F.I.C.A. & F.W.T. for May, 1988	97.46
Editor "Sokol Gymnast"	30.00
Add'l. copies - "Sokol Gymnast"	58.00
Office Supplies & Phone	14.36
Travel Expense	101.70
	\$ 818.49

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Salaries	\$ 188.86
F.I.C.A. - May, 1988	10.36
Art Supplies	9.00
Pictures (for Br. Piskac)	14.84
	\$ 223.06

SOKOL PUBLICATION

Printing "American Sokol" - June, 1988	\$1,045.04
Editor "American Sokol" - June, 1988	125.00
Salaries - Computer - Mailing Publication	117.00
	\$ 1,287.04

MISCELLANEOUS

A.S.O. Uniform Division - Salaries, F.I.C.A., May, 1988 & phone	\$ 380.43
	\$ 380.43

Total Disbursements

Total Disbursements	\$ 5,588.98
Balance brought forward:	
Affiliated Bank/Western National - Checking Account	\$ 3,924.99
Receipts - June, 1988	6,091.21
	\$10,016.20
Disbursements - June, 1988	5,588.98
	\$ 4,427.22

FUTURE SOKOL LEADERS FUND

JUNE 1988

In memory of Br. James Jansky - Sokol Town of Lake	\$ 25.00
In memory of Br. James Jansky & Sis. Blanche J. Cihak - Sokol Townintes Social Club	50.00
In honor of Sokol Slavsky's 55-members - Jerry Marecek and Jarmila Stemson - Sokol Slavsky	10.00
In memory of Bro. Joseph R. Juracek - Joseph and Blanche Masek	25.00
In memory of Sis. Georgianna Leiner - Jerry and Carolina P. Leiner	25.00
In memory of Mae Cerny - Emily and Bill Polacek	10.00
In memory of Ann Zitko - Vera & Bob Barcal and Bobby	10.00
	\$155.00

JULY 1988

In memory of Sis. Anna Falta - Helen and Betty Prener	\$ 10.00
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*- Donations are tax exempt -***LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES FUND**

JUNE 1988

In memory of Sis. Emily Polasek - Jerry B. & Henrietta Milan	\$ 25.00
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*- Donations are tax exempt -***DIRECTORY CHANGE:**

As of May 2, 1988 - Sokol Omaha and Sokolice Omaha have merged into one unit to be known as "Sokol Omaha".

Their new officers are as follows:

Pres., Dennis Pavlik, 3711 S. 117th St., Omaha, NE 68144
Sec., Violet Callaway, 513 Bellevue Blvd., N. Bellevue, NE 68005
Fin. Sec., Ray Duranski, 2312 S. 14th St., Omaha, NE 68108
Dir. of Women, Barbara Seefus, 1815 Ontario St., Omaha, NE 68108
Dir. of Men, Wally Bures, 1905 S. 121st St., Omaha, NE 68144
Mtgs., 1st Monday, Sokol Omaha, 2234 S. 13th St., Omaha, NE 68108

Executive Board Minutes

MAY 24, 1988

Called to order by president Br. Basta. A moment of silence observed for Sis. Ann Falta, past executive board member.

Members excused: Br. Borvansky, Milan, Rabas, Zitny, Jelinek; Sis. Zitny and Ruzicka.

District minutes received and reviewed: Southern annual mtg., Nov. 14, 1987, and Jan. 28, 1988; Mar. 19 ASO Slet mtg; Mar. 27 Western. ASO ex. bd. minutes approved.

COMBINED MEN & WOMEN DIRECTORS REPORT: Dist. Dir. conference new dates Nov. 4, 5, & 6 in Baltimore area. ASO SLET: Womens routines will remain the same as last four years. Br. Hartung would be willing to produce gymnastic skill tape at no charge and

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asked if we would help promote and suggest possible sources for sale of gymnastic equipment he represents. Safety Certification course in Central District attended by 20 members including 9 ASO board members. Recommendation that all instructors be eventually certified.

MEMBERSHIP: Sokol and Sokolice Omaha voted to merge. Sokol Wilbur is now current. Motion by Br. Kala, second by Br. Masek that Br. Riha start working on the by-laws now so that they can be firmed up before 1990 convention. Motion carried.

EDUCATIONAL: Request for six picture reprints of Sokols parading at 1938 Prague Slet from April issue. Sis. Emilie Ruzicka's article "50 Years Ago" in that issue was excellent. Request to purchase book: "We're Czechs" by Robert Z. Skrabanec from Texas AEM University Press, that deals with life in central Texas in the 1920's and 30's. We have asked Br. Stanley Barcal to write about his experiences as a Sokol Traveling instructor in the Czech communities of Northern Wisconsin. Motion to have special recognition dinner for honorary ASO members passed.

TREASURER: Reconciled bank stmts, all in order.

EDITOR: Sokol credo will remain on inside cover; bill approved \$44.00 for cost of developing pictures of District Presidents and conference attendees.

SECRETARY: New Canon copy machine in place and all secretarial duties attended to.

II V. PRESIDENT: Request ex. bd. meeting change to third Tuesday due to employment duties, approved starting August.

PRESIDENT: Gave eulogy at Sis. Falta's wake, attended U. of Chicago library trip with Central District, thank you from Br. Joe Falta to Ex. Bd. for their attendance at wake. Explained computer program problems and solutions.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: April report distributed. Books were audited for first quarter and in good order.

1989 SLET: *October Publication will have up to date information on all events, hotel accommodations, etc.*

(Minutes edited.)

**COPY FOR PUBLICATION
must be received by the 10th
of the previous month**

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