

AMERICAN SOKOL



Publication of the American Sokol
Educational & Physical Culture Organization

The Sokol Spirit

As one season moves into the next, we move in to the future confident that the future is ours to shape, to influence, to command.

We want to be Sokol champions in every sense of the word, to champion the cause of freedom, justice, and equality for all.

We search our consciousness to speak words of honest praise for our brothers and sisters instead of whispers of unfounded criticism, and vow to always rejoice in their accomplishments on their journey to reach for the higher self.

We ask, "Can I, this day and each day hereafter, be a model of positive aspirations through positive thinking and ask my brothers and sisters, 'How can I help you reach your goal'?!"

A single act of kindness can move mountains.

AMERICAN SOKOL

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EDITOR - LYNDA FILIPELLO
4401 Fender Rd., Lisle, IL 60532
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Jackie Kourim, Secretary

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at ASO Office

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436

FUTURE SOKOL LEADERS FUND

June 1989

In memory of Joseph Babka — Joseph and Blanche Masek	\$ 20.00
In memory of Rudolph Rozum — Sokol Town of Lake	\$25.00
Ann Barzyk	10.00
Sokol Townites Social Club	25.00
	60.00
In memory of Harriet Jansky — Sokol Townites Socil Club	25.00
In memory of Barbara Zak — Sokol Town of Lake	25.00
In memory of Mary M. Thompson — Sokol and Sokolice Racine	20.00
In memory of Frank Staroba — Josephine (daughter) and Milton Pleva	40.00
In honor of Sokol Slavsky's 55 year members — Elmer Jezek and Lydia Silhan	10.00
	200.00

— Donations are tax exempt —

Change of Address for American Sokol

AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION
6424 West Cermak Road
Berwyn, IL 60402

Sokol _____

Name _____

Old address _____

_____ Zip _____

New address _____

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Our Sokol Credo:

To build a healthy and beautiful human body —
To cultivate a harmonious and total person —
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. CX

July-August — 1989 — Červenec-Srpen

Číslo - No. 7-8

Executive Board Minutes

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1989

Meeting called to order by I Vice President Charles Borvansky. Pledge to flag given.

Members present: Sis. Pinc, Zitny, Ptacek, Pistorius, Kourim, Filipello; Bro. Masek, Zitny, Barcal, Rabas, Ptacek, Satek, and Lebloch. Members excused: Sis. Ruzicka, Bro. Milan, Basta, Kala, and Jelinek. Guest: Sis. Joan Sedlacek of Sokol Minnesota.

District minutes received and reviewed: Central April 26th.

CORRESPONDENCE: Stephen J. Banjak, Sokol U.S.A. in response to our Round Table meeting in Omaha. Units to be notified of new Flags Unlimited source.

1989 SLET: No report from Mr. Gutman or Slet minutes. Final stages in motion, brought in flyers and posters.

COMBINED DIRECTORS REPORT: USGF Congress of Coaches Sept. 14-17 in Philadelphia. District Directors Conference recommended that both ASO directors attend. Very lengthy discussion followed with questions whether someone who is already going bring back info, are we benefiting through this attendance, etc? Motion to send both directors defeated 5 against, 3 in favor (directors abstained). Letter sent to all unit and district directors that all competitors at National competition submit birth certificate copy with release forms. Recommendation from Br. Edwin Halik regarding a plan to establish a pre-teen open division at national slets to be considered at District Directors conference in October. **FINAL REPORT FORMS:** Western District-USGF Safety Certification test plus book for unit men & women, 13 students at South Omaha, \$993.85. Also unit men & women USGF membership. Theresa Vernon, Sandy Benak, Br. Bud Benak, @ \$40, both approved for payment. **SLET UPDATE:** All entries received and recorded. Thirteen special numbers, nineteen judges names submitted, Br. E. Schnabl head judging comm., Br. J. Satek, coor. rehearsal. Seventeen volleyball teams registered. Bus rental to be handled by B.O.I., after lengthy discussion, vote 13 for, 1 opposed.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: absent, no report.

EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMAN: Slet essay contest letters and rules sent to all district and unit educational directors. Prepared text and layout for new

ASO tri-fold publicity folder. Need volleyball photo and female gymnast on apparatus photo to complete folder. Assisted Br. Frank Michalek with his lecture on the American Sokol given to PHD candidates from Cincinnati at the CSA Heritage Museum.

PUBLICITY — CZECH: Slet articles supplied to Czech newspapers. Denní Hlasatel to receive \$450.00 for Slet advertising.

PUBLICITY — ENGLISH: Suggest funds be set at convention for paid publicity.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY — April reports prepared and distributed. Many units do not use "system reference numbers" when corresponding on members. All back orders for 5 year pins sent.

TREASURER: Books in good order.

EDITOR: Presented bills for pictures. Discuss increased advertising at convention. Response to Sokol family pictures good.

SECRETARY: Numerous duties handled.

II VICE PRESIDENT: Attended South Omaha's mini-Slet.

I VICE PRESIDENT: Attended St. Louis' exhibition. Assisted educational department in mailing. Working with Sis. Pros on Identity program.

PRESIDENT: (via phone) Filed 990 form. Attended Roman Hruska banquet. Presented gifts from ASO and Central district to Br. Hruska. Attended Los Angeles 80th anniversary banquet and their District Slet.

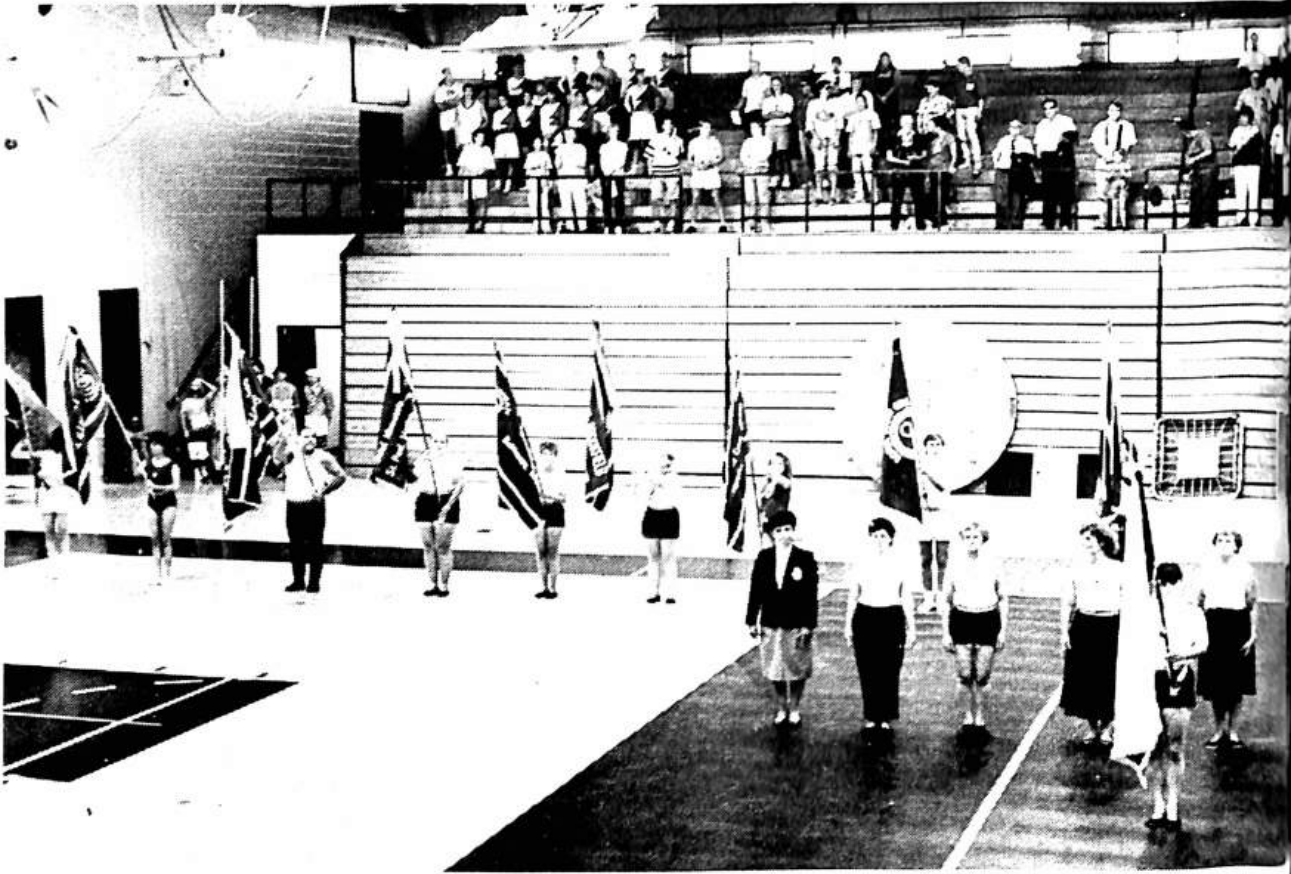
UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Br. Borvansky to sign Hotel Worthington contract for 1990 Convention tonight.

"Czechoslovak Culture" books ordered.

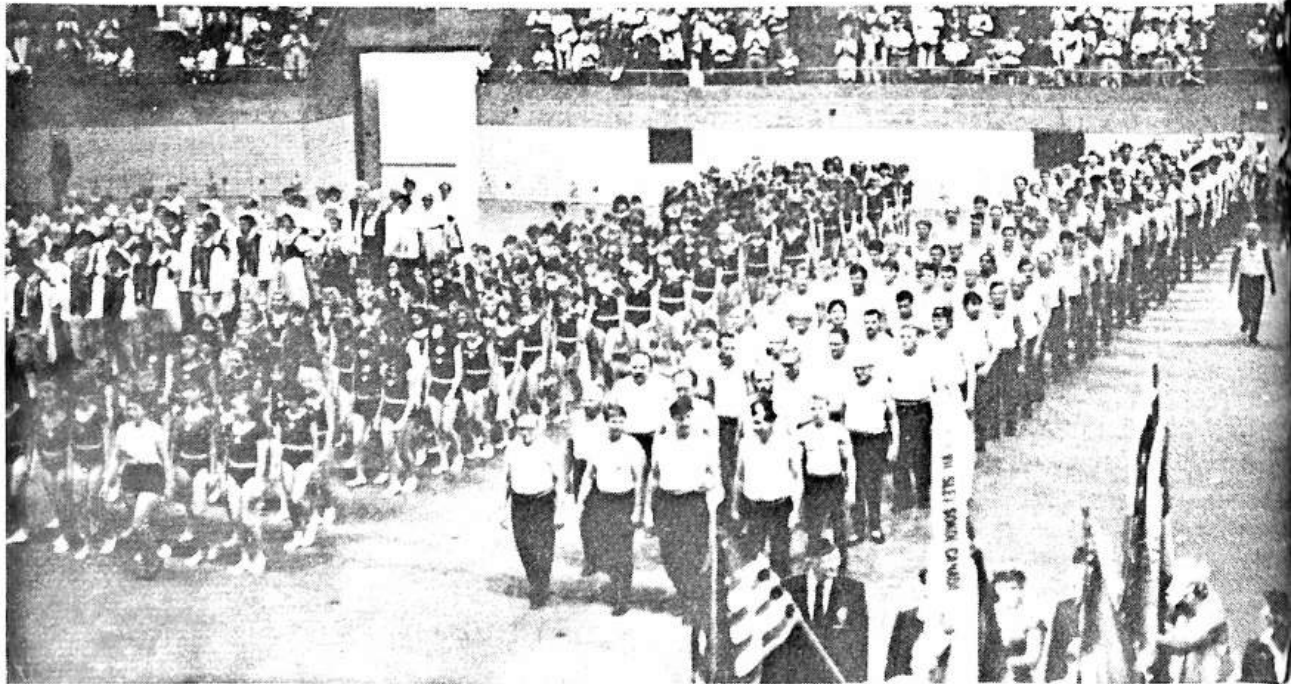
NEW BUSINESS: Report from Br. Lebloch, Czechoslovak American Congress district rep. Lidice memorial service this week-end. Czech American picnic July 30th. Moravian group to have two buses attending Detroit Czech Festival July 7th, 8th. Sokol Greater Cleveland and Sokol Detroit to participate in 50th Moravian Day Sept. 23 & 24th at Union Hall in Countryside, Ill.

ARE YOUR DUES CURRENT?

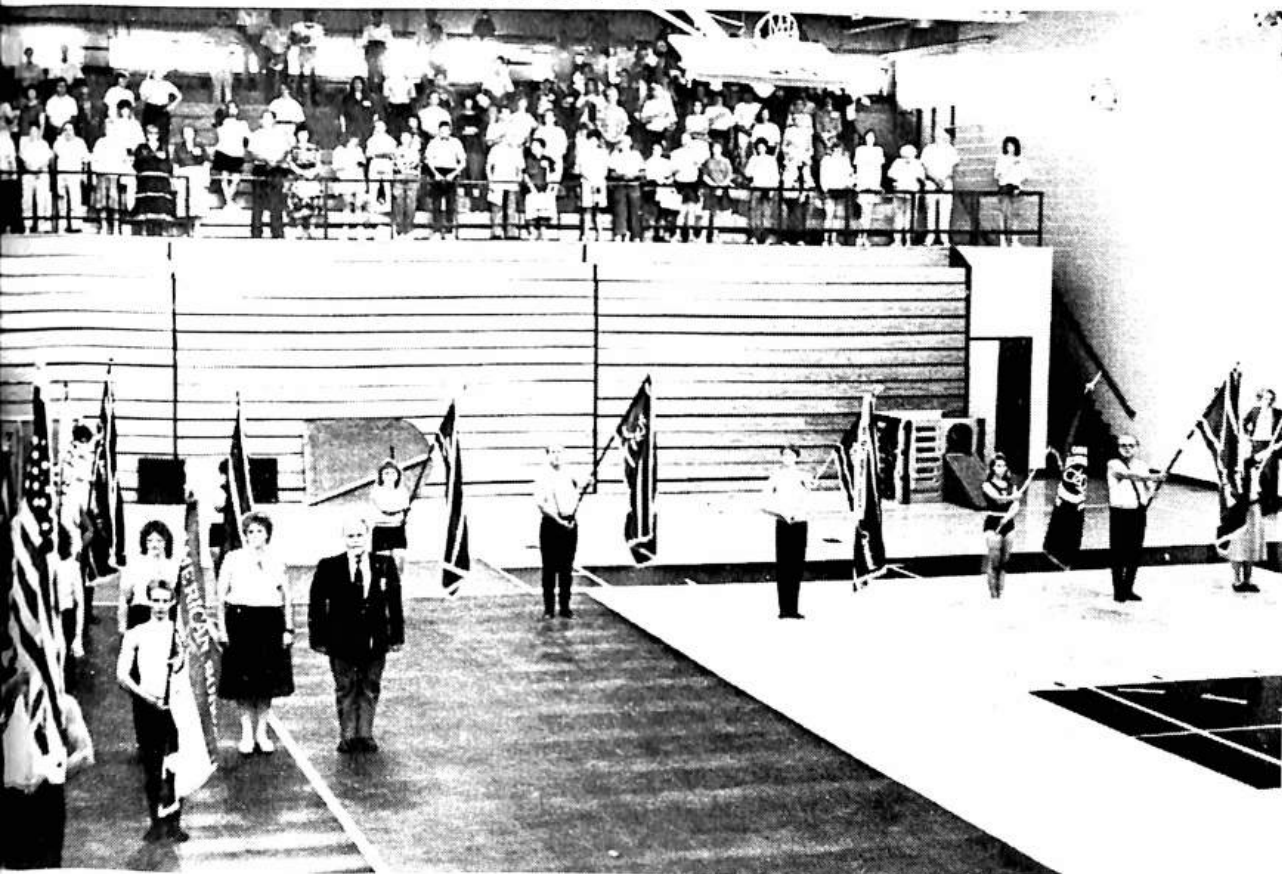
XVII AMERICAN SOKOL



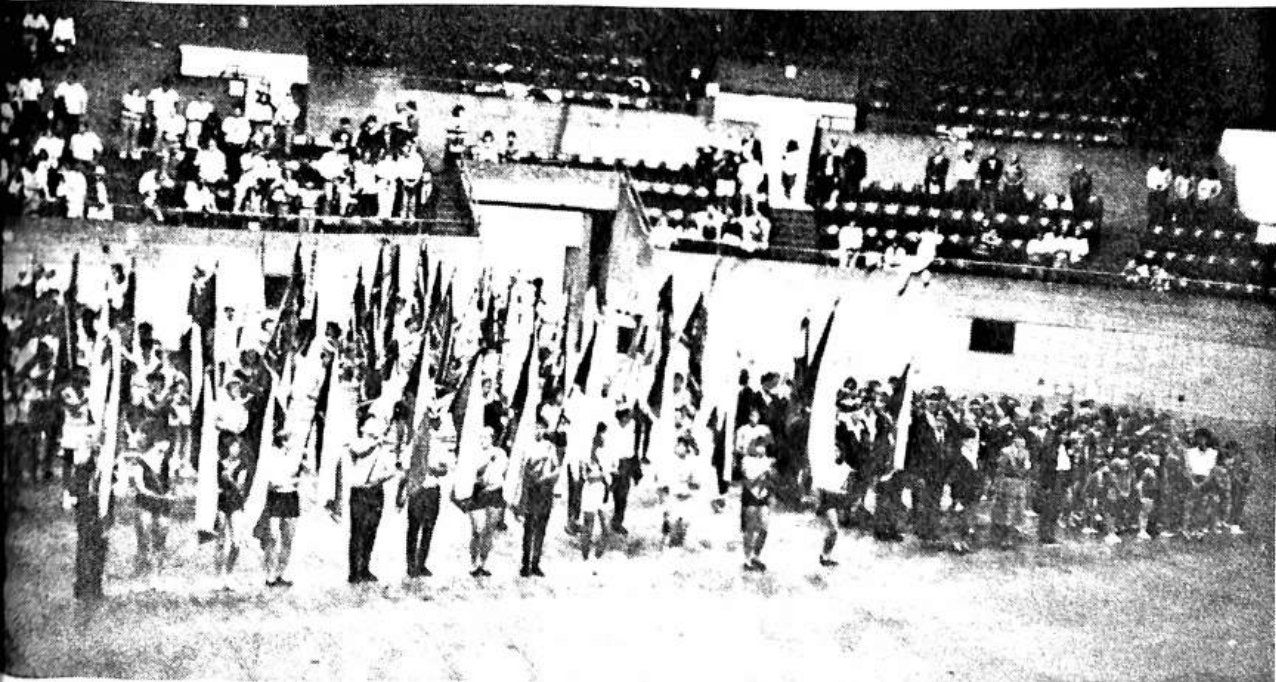
XVII AMERICAN S



OPENING CEREMONY



SOKOL SLET ASSEMBLY





This is a photo from National Library Week at the A.S.O. on April 13, 14, 15. Those greeting guests were: Blanche Kos, Annette Schabowski, Paul Lebloch, Stanley Barcal.

Anyone wishing to bring their class or group can make an appointment with our Educational Committee.

FUTURE SOKOL LEADERS FUND

MAY, 1989

In memory of Sis. Harriet Jansky — Sokol Town of Lake	\$ 25.00
In memory of Br. Rudolph Rozum — Josephine & Jerry Sommer	100.00
— Donations are tax exempt —	\$125.00

PAST PRESIDENT'S PIN

(Honor your past president with a distinctive pin.)



This gold pin with a stem back, garnet insert, is available for \$20.00 post paid.

Send your order and check to:

Jimmy Klimt
5141 N. 64th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53218
414-466-4789

Make checks payable to:

SOKOL MILWAUKEE GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION



Br. Frank and Sis. Anna Pliska 75th Wedding Anniversary

Br. Frank and Sis. Anna Pliska, who will be observing their 75th wedding anniversary on August 8, 1989. We will be celebrating this occasion on August 5, 1989 at their home, with the family and a few friends. They are 95 and 94 yrs. old respectively; they have 3 sons, Miroslav, Vladimír and Frank and 2 daughters Jarmila and Věra. There are 13 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Br. Frank Pliska became a member of Sokol I in Prostějov at age 17 in Czechoslovakia. Attended the Slet of 1912 in Praha. Came to the U.S. in 1914. Mother ventured a year earlier in 1913. They were married in Detroit, Mich. in August of 1914 and Dad became active in Sokol Detroit as Men's Director. He was Sokolice Detroit's first náčelník in 1920. Was instructor in Pittsburgh, Sokol Říp and then instructor in Cleveland at Sokol Nová Vlast (we moved around a lot!). Where they needed an instructor or vedoucí, my dad & family went. In 1935 & 1936 Dad was North Eastern District Director. During all this time he was gymnast in the Champion Div. of many competitions in Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago and New York. In 1923 Dad tried out for the Olympics. The competitions were held out in the open; when dad was ready to compete on the horizontal bar, it began to rain and he ripped both palms off (the calluses) and couldn't finish the competitions.

Our Sokol education began at home. Dad is a walking encyclopedia of the origin and history of Sokol and its great leaders Dr. Miroslav Tyrš and Jindřich Fuegner. He cherishes his friendships with many of our past Sokol traveling instructors, Br. Jarka Košar, one time editor of Sokol Americký, and many others.

We're all proud to have had this Sokol atmosphere at home. We know it was unique and we are grateful to our parents for our Sokol heritage. At their home, we never say "hello" or "goodbye", it's always "Nazdar" which says it all.

We will appreciate whatever you feel you would like to publish along with their picture.

Nazdar! Jarmila Zborit



AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

GYMNAST

JULY-AUGUST 1989

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



Uneven Bars - Underswing 1/2 turn to Handstand

Steve Whitlock, USGF Director of Educational Services

The 1989-92 Women's Elite Compulsory Bar routine contains one element described as Underswing with legs together and 1/2 turn (180°) with flight over LB to momentary clear support. Element number 2.32 in the Code of Points (See Figure 1)

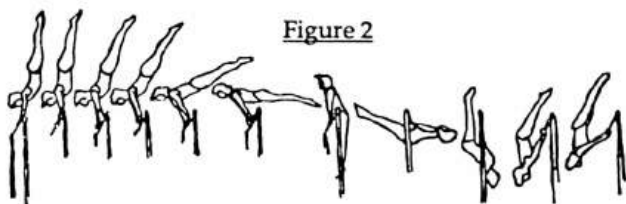
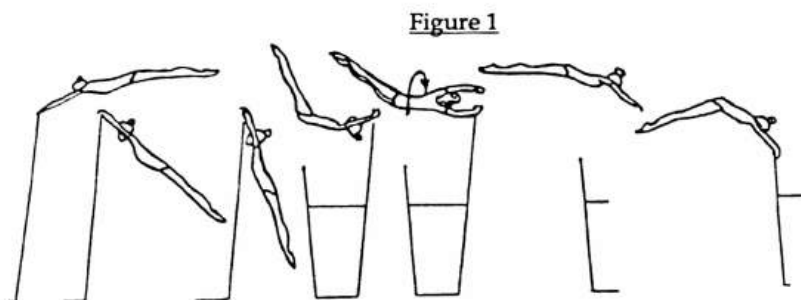
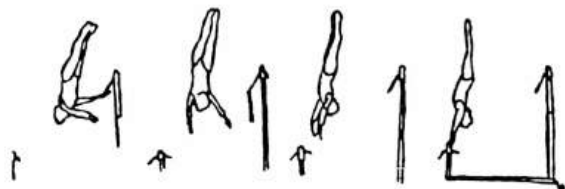
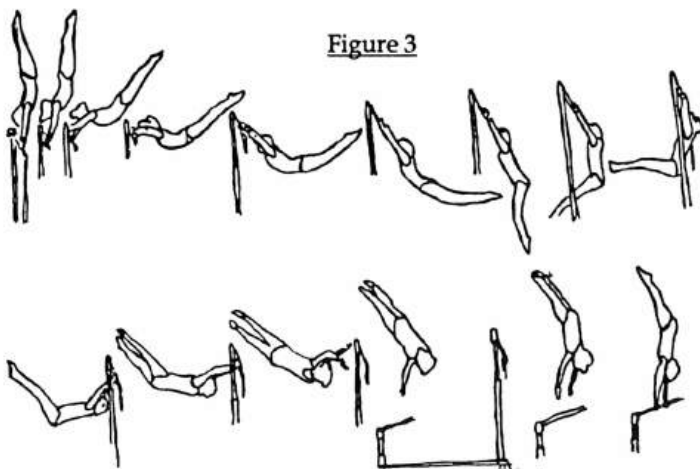


Figure 2 illustrates this element performed from a handstand on the HB to a handstand on the LB utilizing a Clear hip type technique.



Utilizing the Clear hip method, the gymnast has great control over the speed of the drop. Given the allowable width between the bars, this technique may prove to be the most easily executed by taller gymnasts.

Figure 3 illustrates the element performed from handstand to handstand utilizing a drop through a long swing (this is also known as the bail technique). Although either technique is "acceptable" from a judging standpoint, after experimentation with both techniques at the Women's National Training Camps; the National Coaching Staff recognizes that the Bail offers the greatest potential for amplitude of "swing" and height of the drop and, therefore, is the "preferred" method.



SOKOL - THE FUTURE IS YOURS

By Jim Riha
Program Book Chairman



"Sokol - The Future Is Yours" is the theme of the American Sokol Organization's XVII Slet being held in Omaha, Nebraska, from June 20-24, 1989. For the first time in history, the Slet is being held in conjunction with a national Czechoslovakian festival including many non-Sokol participants and the public at large. As a result, we anticipate over ten thousand participants in this year's Slet activities with the majority being non-Sokol members.

Membership in the Sokol organization is unquestionably on the decline in this country, and it has been for the past several decades. During the 1980's we saw membership decline nationally by 21.32%. The following chart demonstrates the grim facts:

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1989</u>	
Central District	2048	1811	(11.58%)
Eastern District	1238	1108	(10.51%)
Northeast District	1112	753	(32.39%)
Southern District	1331	769	(42.23%)
Pacific District	461	390	(15.41%)
Western District	<u>1687</u>	<u>1367</u>	<u>(18.97%)</u>
TOTALS	7877	6198	(21.32%)

In most Slet Program Books, great significance is given to historical recitations about the origin of the Sokol movement and details about Slets that have been held throughout the long and proud history of the organization. In keeping with the theme of this year's Slet, we felt it important to consider where the organization is at currently in order to evolve into a more positive future. It is clear that unless changes are made, that we can plan to lose almost one-fourth of our membership over the next decade. It is very possible, for reasons that we will discuss later, that the actual loss will be much greater than one-fourth.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Sokol was founded by Dr. Miroslav Tyrs in the region now known as Czechoslovakia almost one hundred and fifty years ago. The concept was not just a gymnastics club, but developed from an entire philosophy that encompassed the promotion of mental, spiritual and physical excellence. Sokol was founded in and for a country located in Eastern Europe, where the people had traditionally been oppressed by a government that allowed none of the freedoms that are allowed under a democracy. The unifying force of the early Sokol movement was a yearning for freedom that could find a means of expression through the Sokol movement and its philosophy. Sokol philosophy was a combination of political, social, cultural and athletic activity meant to preserve the identity of the Czechoslovakian people during a time when the ruling government was hostile to them. These principles and ideas were then brought to America by the immigrants who came to this country.

The American immigrants naturally adopted measures that would make their new home resemble the place that they had left. In large part, this was done to make the adjustment to the new world an easier and more comfortable transition in what had to be an awesome experience. The surprising thing about the early Sokol units in the United States is that they were organized and grew independently of each other, without any concerted effort by a centralized body to promote their formation.

As the immigration from Czechoslovakia slowed and the first generation was born in America, there was often an emphasis placed upon learning the customs of the new land, fitting in and becoming a part of the 'melting pot' that came to be in vogue. There are many first generation Americans that did not learn to speak the Czech language. The World War II generation embraced the Sokol organization and still remains as the largest age category in the current membership. Those members are now either at or near retirement and the desire to participate in Sokol activities has faded away with time. The Czech language and customs declined as they were passed down to modern generations. The ethnic neighborhoods have all but disappeared, with a transition to more suburban areas. The population of rural immigrant communities has also declined, with fewer engaged in farming and more moving to suburban areas to work in the cities.

The masses of Sokol members from the World War II generation have simply not been sustained by later generations. If there is to be a future for Sokol, we must ask the difficult questions, have a full discussion of the options that are proposed as answers, and then have the courage to change the system to become a viable organization in the future.

THE SEARCH FOR AN IDENTITY

The modern Sokol organization must first establish a set of priorities to attain the desired objectives. In order to do that, the objectives must be established and better defined. The ideals of Tyrs are no less valid today—a desire for physical, mental and moral development. The most effective way of attaining those ideals must be the priority of our future direction.

Consider how much the world has changed since the time of Tyrs. The invention of the automobile, the airplane, the telephone, radio, television, space shuttles, the list is inconceivable for modern youth. The world is changing at such a rapid pace that it requires a constant struggle just to keep up with current developments.

It would seem that there are three main components that together represent the modern American Sokol. They are athletic, social and cultural. We must examine each of these individually before we can consider how they may interact to create mutual support.

ATHLETIC

Foremost among the teaching of Tyrs, we find reference to developing a strong mind through a healthy body. In the modern Sokol this is represented by the traditional gymnastics, along with volleyball, rhythmic gymnastics and swimming at some units. Sokol units should keep an open mind about sponsoring these and other types of athletic participation. Tyrs himself recognized at least four distinct divisions of physical activities and participation in more than one area was encouraged.

When was the last time a Unit participated in combatives? (one of Tyrs divisions). Self-defense courses are currently very popular. Training without apparatus? This could be aerobics in modern language. America is currently in the midst of what has been termed a health and fitness craze. Health and fitness clubs have sprouted up around the country to enroll a vast number of willing and eager athletic participants. The generation that could have joined Sokol have instead gone to the local health club. The Board of Instructors should not be confined to only support those areas where they are currently competitive, but should strive for expansion in the future.

Even in our most concentrated athletic activity the Sokol system is becoming obsolete in modern competition. Throughout the United States the sport of gymnastics received a tremendous amount of exposure during the Olympics that have been televised during the past several years. People who had never heard of the sport were talking about Nadia, Olga and Mary Lou. Just twenty years ago, the Sokols were practically alone in their active pursuit of the sport. It is much, much different today. Now it is virtually impossible to go to any major city, and not see a large number of groups offering gymnastics instruction listed in the yellow pages of the telephone directory. During this same time period there have only been a couple of new Sokol units founded, several have dissolved or merged for survival, and even more have closed their gymnasiums and become strictly social clubs.

The United States Gymnastics Federation is the sponsoring body for most of the gymnastics that takes place in America today. The number and interest in that organization has exploded at the same time that the numbers and interest in the Sokol organization has plummeted. These facts cannot be ignored. Perhaps it is for the good of the organization to adopt the necessary changes to become more of a USGF type of competitive program. This would also mean placing less emphasis on some things that have become institutionalized as part of the Sokol system.

For instance, a Sokol Slet could still be held, but the gymnastics competition would be sanctioned by the USGF and would not be limited to Sokol competitors, but would include any of the qualified gymnasts within the USGF system. If we developed a closer relationship of cooperation with the United States Gymnastics Federation, there are many possible alternatives that could be explored. The top finishers could qualify for the national USGF meet. This could be a stepping stone within the USGF system that is followed primarily by gymnasts in this country.

Other considerations would be to alleviate administrative burdens that now are complicated and time consuming. The progression to different skill levels would be handled by the USGF, thereby giving our gymnastics instructors more time to devote to teaching the student instead of filling out reports.

An outstanding characteristic of the private gymnastics clubs around the country is the extent of parental involvement. Our Units do not encourage participation by the parents of the children in the

in the classes. Consider whether to make it mandatory for the parents of each child to join the Unit and participate in its activities. The Unit should become more of a Booster Club for the gymnastic competitors. Today, it often plays more of an adversarial role in many unfortunate situations. Those are the Units that have no gymnastics activity, whose membership rosters are declining the fastest, and have no hope of survival in the future. Those are also the Units that are most resistant to change. How sad that this resistance to change will condemn the future of an institution to which many have donated so much of their lives.

By working within the USGF system, Sokol could compete on a more equal basis with the private gymnastics clubs. At the present, most private gymnastics clubs charge for instruction an amount each month that would be almost equal to a year at Sokol. Why would anyone pay in one month, what they could get for one year at Sokol? It is not for a lack of facilities or instructors. It is not because the parents would be required to spend too much time on projects to help the gym club. I would hope that after reflective thought, that each Sokol member could answer this question by themselves. It is impossible to conceive of a new Unit being established in a new state, if they could not focus their efforts toward USGF meets. There are many gymnastics clubs competing to enroll the youth interested in the sport. If this hypothetical new unit was attempting to attract gymnasts, but was not participating in USGF meets, there would be no chance for survival.

A future Sokol Slet could consist of a cultural festival, such as the one being inaugurated this year in Omaha, along with gymnastics exhibitions, mass calisthenics, etc. This type of gathering would also allow for the traditional social and cultural activity that members have come to appreciate.

SOCIAL

No one in America today would argue against the noble ideas of Tyrs that comprise the Sokol ideology. But, because an organization advocates a commendable ideology, is not going to bring too many new members through the door in and of itself. There is too much competition from among various fraternal and charitable organizations to successfully recruit new members based on ideology alone. In most communities you will find a wide variety of Elks, Kiwanis, Optimists, Eagles, Boy/Girl Scouts, YMCA/YWCA, Church Athletic Leagues, etc. that are competing against each other for the potential Sokol member. You have got to give that person a reason to want to join Sokol. We cannot depend upon young members to participate in Unit activities after they have left the gym class unless we give them a reason to do so.

We have only to look to successful organizations to see the things that they have done to encourage membership. Social activities such as dinners, dances, trips, raffles, prizes, drawings and discounts are but a few ideas in practice. Among those successful organizations can be found a similar trait. They consistently offer activities on a regular basis that would appeal to large numbers of the general public.

An office of Unit Entertainment Chairman should be established, if there is not someone already in that capacity. The Entertainment Chairman could work closely with the Membership Chairman to promote events that will offer the opportunity to attract and recruit new members and at the same time give the current membership a reason for remaining. For example some organizations will offer a monthly dinner at a reasonable price to its members. However, if

you recruit a new member, you and the new member would get the dinner free of charge. There are thousands of ways to attract new members. Unfortunately, very few have been tried at Sokol units in this country.

What works in one part of the country may very well not work in another. The Texas barbeque, for example, may not recruit many new members in New York. The California beach party may not be possible in Omaha, but the people in Miami might get some ideas

"Ni zisk, Ni slava" means "Neither Profit or Glory" and is one of the original slogans written by Tyrš. It serves as a noble reminder that our efforts should be freely given on a completely voluntary basis with no thought of compensation. Sokol history is replete with individuals who have performed countless tasks for the good of the organization with no thought for reward. However, as time marches on, those numbers are becoming fewer and fewer. In modern American life it is unusual to find those few that are willing to give their precious time, and we are greatly indebted to them. A fact of life in the future is that many of these services that we have had donated in the past will have to be paid for if they cannot be replaced by someone willing to do it for free.

We should anticipate a time in the future when there will be paid gymnastics instructors, Hall managers, janitorial and maintenance, accountants, recruitment coordinators and financial advisers, to name a few. To be successful in today's modern society often requires a specialized skill and it is not realistic to believe that the skill that is required can always be obtained for free.

If each Unit had a recruitment coordinator that made a certain amount of money based upon the total number of members in that Unit, there would probably be a substantial amount of interest for the position. Contrast that to the present situation in most Units, where if there is such a person at all, there is no direct incentive and very little ever gets accomplished. I know that the idea of a financial incentive is repugnant to many, but you must admit that it would probably work. At least you could imagine several people vying for a job that is now shunned and ignored. The same job that is vital to the growth of a Unit.

The three most important things that can be considered when starting a new business is "location, location and location". In many instances where Sokol units are concerned, those are three strikes against them, and they are out. Many of the Sokol Units are located in old ethnic neighborhoods that are vastly changed from even twenty years ago. In most cities there was a migration to the suburbs during the 70's and 80's, leaving behind those areas where many immigrants settled when arriving in America. Gymnastics clubs like those discussed in the previous section are flourishing in the suburban areas all over the country. In modern American society, convenience is highly cherished. There are many people that could be potential Sokol members that patronize places that are closer to their residences. For those areas of expansion or relocation, consideration should be given to the location of the facility with relation to its projected patrons.

CULTURAL

The magic of the early Sokol movement came about because it was a combination of political, social and cultural activity designed to preserve the identity of the people of Czechoslovakia. It is very important to remember the significance of the heritage and customs that were traditionally practiced by our ancestors. The sociological reason for the spontaneous appearance of Sokol in this country (to

serve as a bridge to enable immigrants to adapt to their new country) no longer exists. That does not mean, however, that interest in the Czechoslovakian culture also does not exist. In fact, the future trend is to the contrary.

We should strive to attract new members from a diversity of ethnic backgrounds, and our By-Laws were amended in 1985 accordingly. A person of any background can become a Sokol member, as long as the person expresses an appreciation for the Slavonic culture. However, we must realize that our main constituency and the very foundation of the organization is built with its roots in the region of Eastern Europe now known as Czechoslovakia.

America is currently in the midst of a cultural awakening. The "melting pot" mentality is slowly becoming eroded in favor of a celebration of ethnic diversity. During the past two decades, there have been tremendous numbers of immigrants into the United States, most notably of Spanish and Asian origin. With the increase in the number of racial and ethnic groups, there is more emphasis on cultural identity. European Americans are taking a renewed interest in their own ethnic roots in order to participate in the era of ethnic diversity.

The Sokol organization is uniquely in a position to take advantage of a revival in the celebration of cultural heritage. The introduction of a National Czechoslovakian Festival at the 1989 Slet will be an important development and its success or failure should be carefully analyzed. There may be financial gains, but one must consider also the intangible benefits, such as public awareness and participation. It is from that public that our future must be derived.

CONCLUSIONS

It is time for a bold, strategic plan to be developed if the American Sokol Organization hopes to expand and extend into the 1990's and beyond. We cling to the known past in fear of an unknown future. It will take courage and conviction to enact the changes that are necessary to change the course into the future that we are now travelling.

The thoughts expressed in this article are not meant to serve as a panacea or a manual for the future. They are instead meant to stimulate a discussion that will ultimately result in some action that will improve the potential disaster that now constitutes the future.

The American Sokol Organization will hold its national convention in one year. During that time it is up to each individual, and each Unit, to contemplate the future of the organization and determine the path we wish to follow.

SOKOL - THE FUTURE IS YOURS.



Calendar of Events

- SEPT. 10 — Sokol/Sokolice Detroit Grape Festival
- SEPT. 9-10 — Czech Fall Festival, Cedar Rapids, Ia.
- SEPT. 23 — Sokol South Omaha Family Picnic
- SEPT. 23 — Sokol Houston Dance, 8:30-12:30 p.m.
- SEPT. 23 — Sokol San Fran. Vaclavka's Dance
- SEPT. 23 — Sokol S. Omaha Family Picnic at Sokol Park
- SEPT. 30 — Eastern District Annual Meetings, Exit 3
- SEPT. 30 — 50th Anniv. "Bata Groups", Aberdeen, Md., Sheraton
- OCT. 14 — Sokol G. Cleveland 250 Club Dinner Dance
- OCT 21-22 — Sokol G. Cleveland Czech Ind. Day Celebration
- OCT. 28 — Sokol Baltimore "VINOBRANÍ" Dance
- OCT. 28 — Sokol S.F. Commemoration Independence Day
- NOV. 4-5 — Sokol Greater Cleveland VII Czech Holiday Fair
- NOV. 11 — Central District B.O.I. Annual Meeting
- NOV. 12 — Central District Annual Meeting
- NOV. 18 — Sokol Houston Turkey Dinner & Dance
- NOV. 25 — Sokol Miami 20th Anniv. Luncheon
- DEC. 2 — Sokol San Fran. Mikulášská
- DEC. 3 — Sokol G. Cleveland Annual Meeting & Social
- DEC. 3 — Sokol/Sokolice Detroit Czech Dinner Party
- DEC. 9 — Sokol G. Cleveland Mikulášská (St. Nick) Dance
- DEC. 10 — Sokol San. Fran. Annual Mtg.
- DEC. 31 — Sokol G. Cleveland New Year's Eve Party
- DEC. 31 — Sokol San Fran. Sylvestr
- DEC. 31 — Sokol/Sokolice Detroit New Year's Eve Dance

ARE YOUR DUES CURRENT?

FUTURE EVENTS

- MAY 5, 1990 — Sokol Slavsky 100th Anniversary, William Tell Restaurant, Countryside, Ill.
- APRIL 22, 1990 — AMERICAN SOKOL NATIONAL CONVENTION, SOUTHERN DISTRICT HOSTS
- MAY 1990 — 125th ANNIVERSARY SOKOL ST. LOUIS FIRST SOKOL UNIT IN THE UNITED STATES

VII. S L E T
CZECHOSLOVAK SOKOL ABROAD

JULY 5, 1990 —

Czechoslovak Sokol Abroad

VII Slet, Paris, France



FALL 1991 — Sokol Tabor's 125th anniversary

District and Unit News and Views

SOKOL WEST held gym classes twice a week in July! They will hold a West Fest Sept 3rd and 4th. They are also involved in "power tumbling" competitions that include three age groups 2-6 yrs., 7-12, and 13-17. Tots-power tumbling?

A Presidential Physical Fitness Award from the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports was presented to SOKOL HOUSTON'S gymnastic team member, Lucas Mikeska "in recognition of outstanding physical achievement and exceptional dedication to the ideal of a sound mind in a sound body".

SOKOL HOUSTON also host monthly dances with bands such as The City Polka Boys, Central Texas Sounds, Bobby Jones, and others. Dancing is a great physical fitness exercise and one that can be enjoyed by every age and skill level.

SOKOL BALTIMORE'S June newsletter has details of a 50th anniversary reunion of the "Bata Group" of 1939 planned for Saturday evening, September 30 at the Aberdeen Sheraton Rt. 22 and I-95, Aberdeen, Md. 21001, (301-273-6300). The social hour begins at 6 p.m., dinner at 7. Reservations are \$22.00 per person. Sokol Belcamp is donating a carafe of white wine and red wine at each table. If you cannot attend, they ask for a photograph with an accompanying letter of information to be displayed on a bulletin board in the banquet room.

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

In Memoriam — Frank C. Cech

1896 to 1989



Frank Cech, a former Sokol member and Cleveland Trade School teacher, passed away on April 13, 1989 at the age of ninety-two in Venice, Florida, where he had moved to after his retirement in 1970.

Frank was born in Vienna, Austria and came to the United States with his parents as a small boy. He was a wood pattern maker by trade and worked in several pattern shops in the city of Cleveland. He attended night school, received a degree in education and began teaching at the Cleveland Trade School on Engle Ave. in the mid to late 1920's. He had many students pass through his classes that went on to open their own places of business, not only in Cleveland, but through out the United States. Besides teaching Frank belonged to Sokol, a Czech gymnastic and educational organization. His entire family was active in Sokol for many years.

Before the Second World War, Frank was a gym teacher at Sokol Komenski and President of the North East District from 1938 to 1942. On Sunday mornings he held gym classes, at Sokol Tyrš, for the senior men who were not young enough to go into the service.

Frank was also a life time member of the American Foundryman Society, Newburgh Lodge No. 379 in Brecksville, Ohio, AA&A and Scottish Rite of Free Masonry.

He is survived by his wife Pat, sons — Franklin C., Robert A., and Eugene J., daughters — Maria R. and Dorothy, a sister Mae Kuchta of Cleveland, 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Services were held in Venice, Florida.

Nazdar, John Dusek

Ft. Worth Dedication

Early in 1967, while preparing trophies for the National Mid-Slet in Dallas, Brs. Walter Hosek and Jerry Milan came across a small 2" high contemporary falcon.

They felt this should be enlarged into a sculpture for Sokol Ft. Worth. But how could it be done? Years later after talking with Brs. Henry Grote and Ray Johnson they decided to tackle the job. Br. Grote would make the patterns and both would cut, bend and weld it. It was a big job and as time passed only some pieces were finished. These pieces were taken to Johnson engineering where Brother Carl Johnson completed the sculpture. Bro. Jerry and Tal Milan along with J.C. Mason mounted it in it's present nest here at Sokol Ft. Worth.

We dedicate this symbol this afternoon to the many Sokol pioneers and the members that have sacrificed to maintain and nurture the aims and goals of Dr. Miroslav Tyrš.

Don't pass this up — Last change to order

— Get yours now —

SLET SHIRTS

Due to the overwhelming demand for Slet T-Shirts & Sweatshirts during the XVII A.S.O. Slet. The Souvenir Committee has decided to take order for these two items. Orders will be taken through October 31, 1989. Please remit payment at the time you place your order. Your order must be received by the above mentioned date. The Shirts will be printed the first week of November. You should receive your order approximately at the end of November.

*** No orders will be accepted after October 31, 1989.**

T-Shirt sizes: Adult: X-Large, Large, Medium, Small
Child: Large, Medium, Small

Sweatshirt sizes: Adult: X-Large, Large, Medium, Small
Child: Large & Medium

T-SHIRTS WITH SLET LOGO — \$8.00

SWEATSHIRTS WITH SLET LOGO — \$17.00

The Souvenir Committee requests that \$3.00 shipping and handling fee be added to any order of \$16.00 or less and for orders over \$16.00 add \$5.00 for shipping and handling.

Please note that this offer is only for the 1989 A.S.O. Slet T-Shirts and Sweatshirts. All other souvenirs must be ordered through the A.S.O. office in Chicago.

Get your order in early!!!

Make checks payable to: XVII American Sokol Slet

Mail to: XVII SLET SOUVENIR COMMITTEE
c/o Bro. Joe Berka
3329 North 59th Street
Omaha, NE 68104

May this symbol "Stand always on guard and watch over the Sokol organization as we pass it's perpetuation to our youth and the generations to come..."

Nazdar, Jerry Milan



VLADISLAV SLAVÍK:

MIROSLAV TYRŠ**Leader - Scholar - Human Being**

On November 15, 1865 Tyrš stood at Fuegner's deathbed, as the first Sokol President died of blood poisoning. Thousands of people, led by Tyrš, accompanied Fuegner's body from the Sokol Hall to Olšany Cemetery. The next day, some of the creditors, holding notes guaranteed by the building, demanded their payment and threatened to seize the Sokol Hall. Through some incredible financial generosity of Sokol members and donations from numerous patriotic citizens, the notes were paid up and the building purchased by Sokol Pražský.

In 1866 Tyrš completed his *Basics of Gymnastics (Základové Tělocviku)* but it took a long time to print it. That year he lost his bid for deputy in the Czech Assembly. However, the Emperor Franz Josef dissolved that session on the eve of his suicidal war with Prussia.

The following year Tyrš wrote "Olympic Fest" (*Hod olympický*), a study of the role of athletics in the life of ancient Greece. In this study Tyrš quoted Solon: "We do pride ourselves in these meets, but they also prepare our citizens for another task — that is to safeguard freedom for each individual and most importantly, the liberty for the entire nation." That year Tyrš used his vacation for a trip to Munich to study the priceless collections of Ludwig the First. Although Sokol work kept him quite busy, Tyrš agreed to prepare three lectures on Munich's fine arts collections for "Svatobor". The lectures were so successful that they were published in the newspaper *Lumír*. Svatobor rewarded him with a stipend of 400 guilders.

When the nation celebrated the placing of a founding stone for the National Theatre, Tyrš was in charge of a spectacular regatta and fireworks on Vltava. The following day he led the Sokol cavalry riding a lead horse. Only a week later Tyrš took 350 Sokols to Pilsen where he was greeted as a national hero. These and other affairs convinced him that the time was ripe for a Slet and a convention of all Sokol units. Apprehensive of any Sokol activity, the Habsburg Government prohibited such Sokol gathering. Embittered Tyrš called a special meeting for June 17 where he attacked the oppressive government in his famous anti-Habsburg speech. "To come on June 21, the day his bloody predecessor executed 27 leaders of the Czech rebellion in the year of 1621 and we should welcome him?" asked Tyrš. A thunderous "No" was the answer. When Franz Josef arrived in Prague the following Sunday, Sokols ignored him and went to the town of Kolín to unfurl their Sokol flag.

That summer Tyrš published a booklet "Czech Commands and Military Terminology. (České velení a názvosloví vojenské) indicating his intentions to use Sokols as a military force, should they

be needed. Only in the fall of 1868 was he finally free to undertake a two-month journey to Munich, Paris, London, Berlin and Leipzig. As a historian of art, Tyrš was impressed with the Louvre. He also liked the British Museum in London where he studied the changes of the pre-Christian cultures. He experienced a great inner happiness at being able to see these exhibits, yet at the same time he realized that he needed to improve his knowledge of philosophy. This educational trip had other benefits as well. Being a distant believer of Darwin's theories, Tyrš now re-oriented his thinking toward Schopenhauer's philosophy which he studies in Germany. On his return, Tyrš wrote a short study "Historische Einleitung in die Schopenhauer Philosophie."

In March of 1869 Tyrš was invited to lecture to Prague Women Club about religion. That lecture, although highly critical of the official Habsburgs' conception of Catholicism, was so rational that it received praise from the truly Czech clergy and was printed in magazine *Květy*. A few days later he spoke at the huge outdoor rally of "Omladina" (young people), where some 20,000 young men and women demonstrated for Czech and German equality.

In the Summer Tyrš traveled to Constanze, where Jan Hus had been burned at the stake. He spent the whole day at the Jan Hus stone, contemplating the life of the Czech reformer, his courage to stand for what he believed was right. A free thinking man against the current dogma who would rather die than repudiate the truth. In September 1869 when the Czech nation commemorated the fifth centennial of the birth of Jan Hus, Tyrš led a throng of Czech people to Bethlehem Square and later to Husinec, Hus's birthplace. It was a truly national affair. There were only two speakers, František Palacký, the "father of the nation" and Miroslav Tyrš. Tyrš's theme was: The heritage of Jan Hus and the leadership of Jan Žižka. In essence, he outlined the numerous challenges the nation must overcome to attain its long sought goals. Later that fall Tyrš easily won a seat in the Assembly, representing, as he liked to call it, a Hussite nest, Tábor-Pelhřimov.

In the same year Tyrš was instrumental in founding a Ladies Gymnastic Association. Žofie Podlipská dominated the association with her excellent administrative skills and flair for public speaking. The rising star, however, was young Klemeňa Hanušová, the best instructor among women. It was the first ladies gymnastic association in the world and was fortunate to have Tyrš as both its spiritual leader and its driving force.

But it was the same drive with exhausting days without sufficient rest that led to the first breakdown of his body, by birth so susceptible to disaster. In the middle of the night a piercing pain clutched his chest. Within an hour the entire body caved in. When the morning sun finally brought some recovery, Tyrš dragged himself to a neighbor, a physician, who ordered a complete rest. The doctor knew at once that Tyrš needs rest and asked the

Duke Thurn-Taxis to take Tyrš to his country estate to be totally separated from Sokol, writing and all other work. The complete rest helped, but only a little. His mind was depressed with the fear of the dreadful disease that had preyed on his family. In order to divorce him totally from his past, doctors sent him to St. Gallen sanatorium in Switzerland. One of his instructors, Bro. Eulner, accompanied him. After a few weeks of despair Tyrš wrote what he perceived as his written bequest to Sokol Pražský. He stated that he had no other wish but that Sokol idea would live forever and asked the Sokol brothers to carry on his legacy. Somehow, writing that letter seemed to help him and relieved him of his worries. Motivated once again, his old spirit slowly returned. His letters began to show signs of his former optimism. Progress was unmistakable. From his deep dejection he began to reach new heights.

By October 1870 Tyrš was back in Prague. On January 1, 1871 he published the first issue of Sokol, with the famous "Our Task, Aim and Goal" (Náš úkol, směr a cíl), which became compulsory reading for every Sokol member. Here Tyrš

To: Sis. Lynda Filippello, Editor

Some time ago, when I embarked on this study, I was thinking of writing a study about Tyrš and Renata Tyršová. I did not want to make a short historical article, the kind that appears from time to time in our newsletters or papers. What I wanted to outline, mostly to benefit our younger readers, was a picture of Tyrš as the founder of our Sokol, writer and organizer, but also to bring about his other qualities, namely that he was a true scholar of fine arts, a fiery but well-prepared speaker, a politician and above all an ordinary human being. For those who are not familiar with his life story this study portrays an extraordinary man with ordinary problems similar to those we all are facing every day.

This should also help our young people to understand what it takes to become a true leader. Obviously, some talent is needed, certainly. What is imperative, however, is the will to overcome and the ability to endure.

When I put the hundreds of my notes and tapes on paper in long hand, I realized that if the limit required is some six pages of American Sokol, then the study was twice as long. Therefore, I deleted all I thought was possible about Fuegner and Renata. Even so, it was still too long on the first typed draft. So I began to make cuts, sentences and adjectives (they always go first). The study probably lost some of its luster but it is about the same length of the article about the 70 years of Czechoslovakia.

Now I have plenty of material left on Renata Tyršová, if it should be needed. Tyršová herself really deserves an honest article on so productive a life, not only in writing, folklore, education but for her courageous stand during World War I.

Other than that, the study is in your hands to cut, delete, change or add, or simply to return with or without thanks.

With Sokol Nazdar,

Yours, V. W. Slavik

addressed not only the Sokol issues but spoke to all humanity.

(To be continued)

ASO FINANCIAL REPORT

MAY, 1989

RECEIPTS:

Dues	\$ 3,890.44
Dividends & Interest	156.18
Jewelry	77.00
Subscriptions	8.00
U.P.S.	81.68
Educational Booklets	8.50
Entree Fees for XVII Slet	8,455.00
Miscellaneous	844.25
	<u>\$13,521.05</u>
A.S.O. Uniform Division - Rent, Salaries, etc.	758.92
Total Receipts	<u>\$14,279.97</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE

Salaries - Office Employees	\$ 792.80
Salaries - Membership	58.50
F.I.C.A. & F.W.T. for April, 1989	168.48
Rent, Janitor Service & Supplies, Phone, Electric	1,048.57
U.P.S. & Postage	180.18
Computer Supplies	223.44
Travel Expense	2,037.11
General Liability Insurance	244.00
Annual Audit	925.00
Membership Pins	4,689.17
Miscellaneous - Refreshments	42.61
	<u>\$10,409.86</u>

BOARD OF INSTRUCTORS

Salaries	\$ 580.61
F.I.C.A. & F.W.T. for April, 1989	103.82
Editor "Sokol Gymnast" - May, 1989	30.00
Add't. copies "Sokol Gymnast" - April, 1989	58.00
U.P.S. & Postage	78.26
Phone	7.33
Tapes	12.00
	<u>\$ 870.02</u>

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Salary	\$ 53.87
F.I.C.A. - April, 1989	15.48
Postage	.25
Library/Supplies	24.00
	<u>\$ 93.60</u>

SOKOL PUBLICATION

Printing "American Sokol" - April, 1989	\$1,774.10
Postage - "American Sokol" - April, 1989	711.10
Editor - "American Sokol" - May, 1989	125.00
Mailing - "American Sokol" - April, 1989	146.25
Delivery of Publication to Post office	5.00
	<u>\$ 2,761.45</u>

MISCELLANEOUS

A.S.O. Uniform Division - Salaries, F.I.C.A., Apr. 1989, FWT, Apr., 1989 & phone	\$ 423.24
Future Sokol Leaders Fund - Postage	.50
Special Appropriations - Western District	1,113.85
XVII Slet Expenses	1,616.76
	<u>\$ 3,154.35</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$17,289.28</u>

Balance brought forward:

Affiliated Bank/Western National - Checking Acct.	\$ 9,913.84
Receipts - May, 1989	14,279.97
	<u>\$24,193.81</u>
Disbursements - May, 1989	17,289.28
	<u>\$ 6,904.53</u>

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Essay Contest

ATTENTION: Educational Directors
Directors of Men and Women

The American Sokol Organization Educational Committee is conducting an Essay Contest.

Subject: My Recollections of the XVII
American Sokol Slet

Divisions: Juniors (13-18 years)
Seniors (18 years and over)

The contest will run from July 1, 1989 to October 1, 1989 and is open to all juniors and seniors of the American Sokol Organization and participating guest organizations.

Entries may be written in English, Czech or Slovak.

Entries will be judged on neatness, originality, content and clarity of thought.

On the top left side of paper please include the following:

- 1st line — Last name, First name
- 2nd line — Street address
- 3rd line — City, State, Zip Code
- 4th line — State Junior or Senior
(plus age if Junior)
- 5th line — Name of unit and district or guest organization name.

All entries are to be sent to the American Sokol Organization, 6424 West Cermak Road, Berwyn, Illinois 60402.

Prizes will be awarded in each division.

Please encourage all your eligible members to participate.

Success to our Slet! Sletu Zdar!

Na Zdar!

Paul Lebloch, Educational Chairman

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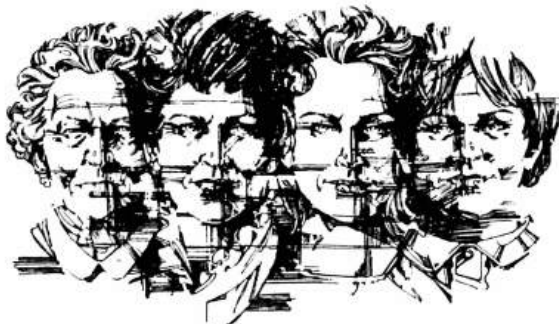
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