

JANUARY 1991 — VOL. CXII - No. 1

AMERICAN SOKOL

Publication of the American Sokol
Educational & Physical Culture Organization



American Sokols in Prague – July 15, 1990



What the heart unites... Oceans cannot divide

AMERICAN SOKOL

ISSN: 0003-1259

Published Monthly
(Except Bi-Monthly July and August)
by the

AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION
6424 West Cermak Road, Berwyn, Illinois 60402

Telephone: 708-795-6671

Subscription \$4.00 per year

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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."

"Prague is the Most Beautiful Jewel in the Stone Crown of the Globe."-Goethe

The city of Prague was filled to capacity with tourists and Sokols from all over the world in a gigantic celebration of freedom and brotherhood.

Pictures of Thomas G. Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia, were displayed in many store windows. Phonograph records of SOKOL marches were available in stores.

It was a great honor to be a part of the AMERICAN SOKOL delegation. Saturday, July 14th, was a historic day for our organization as our delegation placed wreaths at the gravesites of Thomas G. Masaryk, Miroslav Tyrs and Jindrich Fuegner.

President Vaclav Havel received a SOKOL delegation in the summer presidential palace at Lanz. I presented him with our AMERICAN SOKOL Honorary Membership certificate and an AMERICAN SOKOL trifold. Br. Havel spoke of his experiences as a small boy in SOKOL. He also stressed the significance of SOKOL and its' Slets for the nation. Olympic gymnast star, Sis. Vera Caslavska welcomed our group.

The delegation continued on to Wenceslas Square where I placed flowers with an American flag and AMERICAN SOKOL patch on the monument in honor of the students of the *velvet revolution* and to those who suffered under communist tyranny. This impressive monument was created from thousands of melted candles and flowers placed in the square by a grateful people. On November 17, 1990 our president George Bush placed a wreath at this monument.

The Prague gymnastic presentations were outstanding and beautifully produced. I will always remember the fantastic ovation our American Sokols received as we entered the arena behind our United States and AMERICAN SOKOL flags that were so proudly carried by Br. Joe Vrzalik and Sis. Dagmar Hintnaus.

I was very proud of all our gymnasts and members. They all looked great in our SOKOL gymnastic and parade uniforms.

The events in Paris and Prague were a dream come true!

I hope these historic events will be the beginning of a resurgence of SOKOL activity all over the world.

Nazdar! Br. Paul Lebloch

A.S.O. Education Committee, Chairman

Paris, France, July 6, 1990- It was evident at the Saturday afternoon rehearsal that this SOKOL Slet would be long remembered as the beginning of a new era of Slet participation by the Czechoslovak SOKOLS. At least 300 gymnasts were taking part in this historic event. The stadium, although smaller than a football field, easily accommodated the 700 participants who performed the senior calisthenics to the inspiring music of Dvorak's *New World Symphony*.

Sunday, July 7- More rehearsals with only one hour to prepare for the afternoon program. The air was filled with excitement and once again we were so proud as we were greeted by the audiences' overwhelming applause as we opened the parade of nations onto the field. The ovation for the COS marching as an organization for the first time in over 45 years was as impressive. All the numbers in the program received loud cheers, but none so loud as Sis. Dagmar Fiala's HOOP number that it was repeated, the first time in Slet history. We left the stadium after an almost six hour program with such an uplift of emotions! Our farewells were not sad, but joyous at the thought of meeting again in seven days in Prague!

Friday, July 13- the ASO delegation met with the COS at the Tyrsuv Dum. Many items were discussed including recommendations for an exchange of published materials and attending technical courses including exchange of instructors. The afternoon was filled with a welcoming ceremony, Sokol marches, speeches, a parade of past SOKOL uniforms and after the program, a tour of the old but impressive Tyrsuv Dum.

The evening festivities were held in the Sports Palace with at least ten bands playing SOKOL marches, majorettes performing excellent routines, and the music of the Kolin Marching Band brought rousing applause from the audience. The event was televised with a brief history of SOKOL and the finale with all the bands playing the marches was fantastic.

Saturday morning included the visit to the grave of Thomas G. Masaryk where Br. Walter Slavik delivered a most inspiring speech. We continued on to the summer presidential palace where Br. Paul Lebloch presented President Havel with the honorary membership in a most dignified manner. The entire delegation stood with the president on the balcony where he awed the audience by wearing the Paris Slet Tshirt the COS has presented him. It was evident why the Czech people respect and admire his leadership.

Nazdar, Sis. Sylvia Pistorius, past ASO National



Prague Revisited

Freedom...a year ago it was just a remote and unlikely dream. July, 1990 it was a reality, at times seemingly as beautiful as Prague herself, at other times a harsh reminder that everything, especially freedom, has its price. It was an emotional return for most of us. We pride ourselves on the fact that we are good and faithful citizens of the United States, yet, through all these years a part of our heart never left the motherland. It may be an ancient almost forgotten virtue, but a love of one's homeland remains with us forever.

Emotions ran high, even in Paris, the first stop of our SOKOL pilgrimage. We were astonished to see two long Czechoslovak columns enter the practice field. There were gymnasts of all ages, young and old, all marching in typical SOKOL strides. Their uniforms served as a testament to the glorious Slets of the past...a remembrance of Sis. Marie Provaznik. It felt as if time stood still, we were all there together, AMERICAN SOKOLS, EUROPEAN SOKOLS, CZECHOSLOVAK SOKOLS, on a threshold of a new era, all doing the same movements, all united in the same idea. When we finished our final calisthenics exercise to Dvorak music and then sang the Czechoslovak anthem that concluded the Paris Slet, my self control betrayed me; to be sure, I was not alone.

American Sokols began arriving in Prague on Monday, July 9 and by Thursday over 200 members were prepared for the week-end festivities. On July 13 the official delegation of the ASO Bros. Paul Lebloch, ASO National Mens Director Frank Michalek, Vladislav Voris,

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Walter Slavik, and Sis. Sylvia Pistorius met with the COS leadership followed by the Sokol exhibition in the Tyrsov Dum second court-yard.

On Saturday hundreds of Sokols made a pilgrimage to Lany, first to the Sokol hall where we were greeted by local Sokols with bread and salt. From there, led by Sokol flags, we proceeded to the Lany cemetery where Bros. Lebloch, Voris, Michalek and Jerry Milan and Sis. Pistorius placed a beautiful wreath on the simple grave of Masaryk. Br. Slavik, speaking on behalf of the AMERICAN SOKOL, addressed the gathering of some one thousand people in both languages, English and Czech.

He touched upon Masaryk's profound humanistic ideas which culminated in the recent Czechoslovak rebirth. The president of COS, Bro. Fiala, followed with brief remarks.

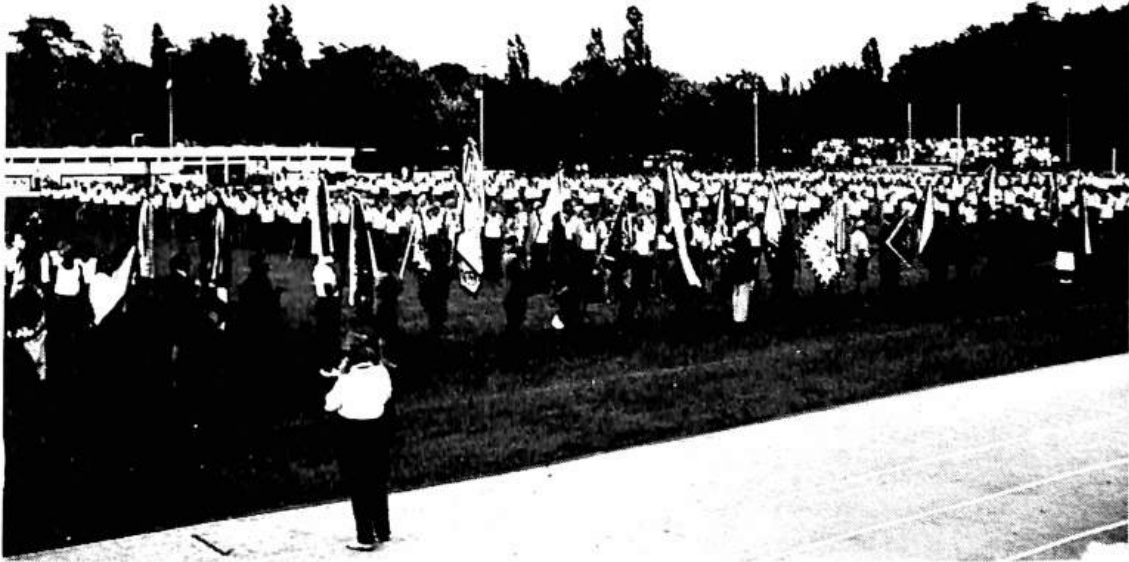
Our journey continued on through meeting with President Havel and then back to the Olsany cemetery, the final resting place of our founders, Tyrs and Fuegner. We placed a wreath at their tomb and Br. Boris Uher gratefully acknowledged the past and present visits of American Sokols to this place. The delegation's journey came to an end at the statue of St. Vaclav, where Br. Lebloch placed an American flag with the SOKOL emblem.

Sunday we all gathered at the Dum Oddechu (House of Rest) for rehearsals of the Sokol exhibition. To our surprise, we American Sokols learned only then that the women could perform only one set of calisthenics as the field could only accommodate 288 markers. Since over one thousand gymnasts were prepared to perform three sets, disappointment was felt by many. In spite of that, our American Sokol number was done extremely well and tumultuous applause accompanied us as we marched off the field. Since there are hardly ever enough men, our men fared much better. They were also needed for the Dvorak's number.

Yet, the laurels of this SOKOL exhibition must be given to the Czechoslovak performers. Little over two hundred men, young and old, proved that men, too, can be attracted to regular calisthenics and do them well. The women exercises with indian clubs seemed to be an especially beautiful number not only for its form but for its difficulty, executed to perfection. A group of girls, 11-13 yrs, playfully performed with skipping rope that had two plastic balls attached to it, with almost faultless precision.

Against the background of exciting performances, the nostalgic and indeed grandiose entry and march-off of some 80 national and SOKOL flags dominated this exhibition for they symbolized the magnificent SOKOL spirit that reappeared to manifest itself in the never-dying perseverance of those who kept the SOKOL ideals alive as far away as America and Australia.

Nazdar, Br. Walter Slavik, President, Eastern District



1990 SOKOLS ABROAD SLET COMPETITION RESULTS

Sokol Lads

1st pl	Kyrill Lapin	Vienna, Austria	16.96
2nd pl	Richard Bachman	Lucerne, Switz.	15.40

Junior Boys

1st pl	Daniel Stanke	Vienna, Austria, CS	38.90
2nd pl	Tim Galaida	Central Dist ASO	35.05
3rd pl	Jan Mullberger	Vienna, Austria, CS	23.30

Young Men

1st pl	Pavel Rodt	Vienna, Austria, CS	40.90
2nd pl	Steve Cacchione	L306 Sokol USA	40.30
3rd pl	Ivan Beranek	Zurich, Switz, CS	39.10
4th pl	Thomas Frey	Vienna, Austria, CS	37.50
5th pl	Terry Galaida	Central Dist ASO	37.25
6th pl	Zbynek Komarek	Solothurn, Switz, CS	36.70
7th pl	Tom Galaida	Central Dist ASO	35.85
8th pl	Alexander Lapin	Vienna, Austria, CS	34.00
9th pl	Ales Vrana	Zurich, Switz, CS	33.90
10th pl	Radim Jordan	Lucern, Switz, CS	33.00
11th pl	Joseph Michniak	W.Sub.C.D. ASO	32.80
12th pl	Michal Kostohryz	Vienna, Austria, CS	32.35
13th pl	Oliver Lichy	Paris Sokol, CS	29.85
14th pl	Jan Sinagl	Lucern Switz, CS	28.00

Men Over 35

1st pl	Ivan Banzet	Montreal, Can. CS	47.10
2nd pl	Jiri Osecky	Basil, Switz, CS	45.05
3rd pl	Vaclav Mika	Zurich, Switz, CS	41.80
4th pl	Pavel Vytiska	Vienna, Switz, CS	39.90
5th pl	Frank Michalek	W.Sub.C.D. ASO	33.85
6th pl	Erich Reinisch	Zurich, Switz, CS	30.20
7th pl	Jean Rozmarin	Paris Sokol, CS	28.60
8th pl	Jacques Moris	Paris, France, CS	27.00

Championship Men

1st pl	Jesse Traynham	Ft. Worth, S.D. ASO	56.10
2nd pl	Josh Milan	Ft. Worth, S.D. ASO	54.85
3rd pl	Joe Vrzalik	Ft. Worth, S.D. ASO	54.30
4th pl	Jimmy Averatte	Ft. Worth, S.D. ASO	53.30
5th pl	Shay Hennessey	Ft. Worth, S.D. ASO	50.90
6th pl	Rome Milan	Ft. Worth, S.D. ASO	50.80
7th pl	Brian Pracko	L306, Sokol USA	49.90
8th pl	Jacob Traynham	Ft. Worth, S.D. ASO	39.30

Mens Team Results

1st pl	Fort Worth Southern District ASO	221.65
2nd pl	Vienna District, Austria CS	158.10
3rd pl	Central District ASO	147.45
4th pl	Zurich, Switzerland C S	145.00

Mens Volleyball Team Results

Pool A			
1. Sokol Paris	2. Switzerland Dist. A	3. Sokol Vienna	4. Vienna Dist. B
Pool B			
1. Sokol Malsovice	2 WestSuburban	3. Switzerland Dist B	4. Goteborg
Pool C			
1. Vienna District A	2. Sokol Solothurn	3. Sokol Paris C	4. Canada
Pool D			
1. Ft. Worth	2. London	3. Scratched	4. Paris B
FINALS			
1st place team	Sokol Malsovice	GOLD	
2nd place team	Vienna District A	SILVER	
3rd place team	Sokol Fort Worth	BRONZE	

Little Sokol Girls

1st pl	Scarlett Hlobikova	Toronto, Cn CS	15.70
2nd pl	Laura Van Steenova	Goteborg, Fr. CS	15.10
3rd pl	Andrea Bachmannova	Lucern Switz	13.10

Older Sokol Girls

1st pl	Sayaka Motlikova	Paris, Fr. CS	16.00
2nd pl	Michaela Daskova	Toronto, Cn CS	15.40
3rd pl	Charlotte Hlobilkova	Toronto, Cn. CS	13.60

Junior Girls

1st pl	Marie Polanska	Paris, Fr CS	29.00
2nd pl	Alexandra Pibilova	Vienna, Austria CS	25.00
3rd pl	Anika Balasova	Goteborg, Fr CS	23.90
4th pl	Nora Lepesantova	Paris, Fr CS	22.90
5th pl	Barbara Kralova	Toronto, Cn CS	22.70
6th pl	Eliska Bystricka	Paris, Fr CS	22.50
7th pl	Melanie Hovorkova	Vienna, Austria CS	21.00
8th pl	Barbara Lepesantova	Paris, Fr CS	20.80
9th pl	Denise Koudelikova	Montreal, Cn CS	17.30

Young Women

1st pl	Marta Janacova	Bratislava. COS	33.10
2nd pl	Daniela Maternova	Vienna, Austria CS	30.80
3rd pl	Jodi Michniakova	W.Sub C.D. ASO	21.50
4th pl	Eva Weinwurmova	Vienna, Austria CS	20.70
5th pl	Andrea Matouskova	Vienna, Austria CS	19.40

Women Over 35

1st pl	Allison Gerberova	Ced. Rap. W.D. ASO	19.80
2nd pl	Anna-Klara Balasova	Goteborg, Fr CS	16.60

Championship Women

1st pl	Tereza Bendelmeyerova	Strasnice, COS	36.90
2nd pl	Lenza Martinkova	Strasnice, COS	36.80
3rd pl	Petra Vespalova	Strasnice, COS	36.10
4th pl	Hana Vrbova	Strasnice, COS	35.80
5th pl	Mila Milanova	Ft. Worth S.D. ASO	32.90
6th pl	Sandy Frizelova	Ft. Worth S.D. ASO	32.70
7th pl	Leslie Poindexterova	Ft. Worth S.D. ASO	32.40
8th pl	Christine Mortonova	Ft. Worth S.D. ASO	32.00
9th pl	Dawn Delpova	Ft. Worth S.D. ASO	30.90

Team Results

1st pl	Strasnice, Czechoslovakia	COS	145.60
2nd pl	Fort Worth, Texas So. Dist	ASO	131.60
3rd pl	Vienna, Austria	CS	98.50
4th pl	Paris, France	CS	95.20

Volleyball Team Results

Pool A			
1st pl. Solothurn	2nd pl. Fort Worth	3rd pl. Toronto	4th pl. Switzerland District
Pool B			
1st pl. Goteborg	2nd pl. Vienna District	3rd pl. London	4th pl. Czechoslovak Obec Sokolska

FINALS

1st place	Sokol Solothurn	GOLD
2nd place	Sokol Goteburg	SILVER
3rd place	Sokol Fort Worth	BRONZE



Our Members Share Their Memories

They came from the corners of Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Australia, Switzerland, Austria, Canada, France, England, and the U.S.A. and they all shared "Nazdar" as their Sokol greeting. I wish I had a koruna (crown) for each time we sang "Koline, Koline" or "Lvi Silou" and parted with "Na Shledanou" ("til we meet again).

My reflection of the Slet in Paris is extreme appreciation for the very high standard of drilling that is expected of all participants. The system works if we all work at it. The effect of 800 people moving together in unison can be mesmerizing and, on the contrary, it is painfully obvious when a person or a group does not know the drill well. The special numbers were truly special. The extra rehearsals were productive, and the grumbling magically turned into pride for a job well done.

On to Praha... a free Praha. Crossing the border was still a little apprehensive, guards in uniform but no guns or dogs. Definitely more relaxed than in 1982. Suddenly, we were traveling across land that some of our relatives came from, or left behind. New homes, new repairs, more flowers blooming greeted us. Then, Plzen (Pilsen), a side trip to view the memorial of the 45th anniversary of American soldiers liberating the city, and lunch at the world-famed brewery.

Onward to Prague. People everywhere, tours by bus, by foot, by Metro, and always running into someone you know. And best of all, I didn't need a dictionary. Thank goodness Mom sent me to Alois Jirasek (Czech school). The days flew by with sights, surprises, laughter, and music. Sunday arrived too soon. We took the Metro to the Sports Hall early Sunday morning and settled into a locker room shared by men and women. Rehearsal started and then we heard of the "Generalka), a dress rehearsal. The second rehearsal started at noon and it was a grand idea. The pace, the staging, the variety, and the level of performance were stunning. The musical selections, compositions, special numbers, narration, lighting were all incredibly well done in a way that I had never experienced in a SOKOL exhibition. Performances included individual and team rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline routines to music, group drills, a young instructor's jazz number, old-timers drills, Sis. Fiala's senior calisthenics and hoop special number, and the Halik's senior II calisthenics.

As the flags were carried forward and as we sang "Kde Domov Muj" with heart and meaning, tears flowed freely. Our fervent wish is that old and young Sokols alike will find the means, the time, and the wisdom to continue with the spirit begun by Tyrs and Fuegner some 125 years ago.

Nazdar, Sis. Ellie Babka Sokol Slavsky Berwyn II.

....And from Sokol New York

First of all we want to let all of you know that the Slet in Paris was a glorious success. The field in Vincennes was just the right size and all of us, gymnasts and spectators, enjoyed the triumphs we achieved that day. How proud we were. The calisthenics drills were superb and the Sokol Spirit was everywhere.

Prague was exciting. Our trip to Lany to pay homage to President's Masaryk's memory, the inspiring words of our Br. Slavik, and then the visit with President Havel who accepted our Sokol T shirt and wore it; all these memories will stay with us.

The highlight for us was the afternoon at the Tyrsuv Dum where the excellent brass band played our Sokol marches and we all joined in. I remember an old Sokol brother who tried hard to suppress his tears, but could not. I am sure he was one who marched in our Slet in 1938. Prague is a beautiful city and the party in Zofin was a great farewell.

Nazdar! Sis. Zlata Paces

Sokol Baltimore thanks members....

We would like to thank all the members for their financial and emotional support to the representatives from Sokol Baltimore who traveled to the Paris Slet and Prague exhibition. Words fall short in describing the emotional impact of these events. The field was filled in Paris which included over 500 Sokols from Czechoslovakia performing for the first time in 42 years in a SOKOL event.

The Prague exhibition was so well attended the gymnasts were limited to the performance of only one number. Many of the gymnasts had trouble focusing through their tears of memories of the slets prior to 1948. The newer gymnasts were given a gift of being able to participate in the rejuvenation of the Czechoslovak SOKOLS

Our Baltimore flag was carried by me onto the floor at Prague and with it I carried our history, our support, and the thoughts and love of each Sokol Baltimore member. Thank you.

Nazdar! Anci Cervin Huber and Group

Sokol Greater Cleveland

A pleasant experience was running into other Sokols in many places in Paris and Prague. In one of these encounters a brother from Praha said how sorry he was for the forty years of his life which were lost, but he was thankful he would be able to live a little time in a democracy.

Nazdar! Sis. D. Cummings

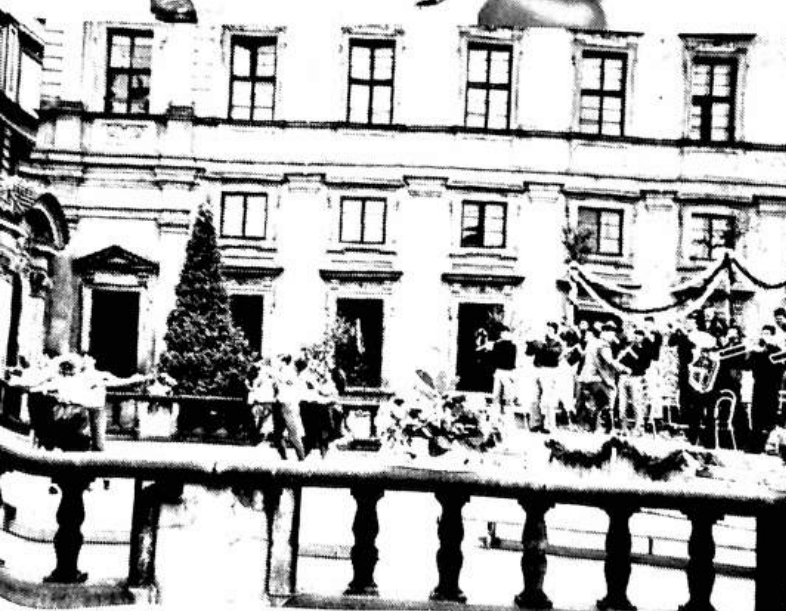


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What the heart unites ~~~~~~Oceans cannot divide

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<i>Vlasta Kirchman</i>	<i>Anonymous</i>	<i>Wallace and JoAnn</i>	<i>Rose Sramek</i>
<i>Fred and Emily</i>	<i>Anthony Michelin</i>	<i>Oliva</i>	<i>Elsie Cerny</i>
<i>Stankovsky</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Emma Palla</i>	<i>Sokol Naperville</i>
<i>Elsie J. Petracek</i>	<i>Libbie Schamanek</i>	<i>James and Elsie</i>	<i>Sokol New York</i>
<i>Sokol Ceska Sin</i>	<i>Dr. and Mrs. Jerry J.</i>	<i>Roepke</i>	<i>Emilie Ruzicka</i>
<i>Martha Sokol Ray</i>	<i>Hosek</i>	<i>Marie Rogers</i>	<i>Blanche Duffy</i>
<i>Olive Suchy</i>	<i>Anna S. Vikart and</i>	<i>Joseph Ruzicka</i>	<i>Sophie Zitny</i>
<i>T.J. Sokol Houston</i>	<i>Edward</i>	<i>Rose Dolejsi Saliny</i>	<i>Anton and Ann H.</i>
<i>Frank and Lorraine</i>	<i>Ethel Nemeč</i>	<i>Joan Sedlacek</i>	<i>Novotny</i>
<i>Kruzela</i>	<i>Rose and Stanley Bar-</i>	<i>Karleen Chott Shep-</i>	<i>Lee Voyt</i>
<i>Harold and Gloria Klir</i>	<i>cal</i>	<i>pard</i>	<i>Helen (Trnovsky)</i>
<i>Bernard and Ellie Babka</i>	<i>Charles and Antoinette</i>	<i>Norm E. Sladek</i>	<i>Mikus</i>
<i>Western District</i>	<i>Chemlir</i>		<i>Mary Ann</i>
<i>Sokol Miami Assn.</i>	<i>Elmer and Marilyn</i>		<i>Pochobradsky</i>
<i>James Kratky</i>	<i>Cerny</i>		<i>Sokol Detroit</i>

It was a great honor to present a check for \$24,000 for the restoration of the Tyrsvu Dum at the Grand Finale of the Sokol Setkani in Prague to Brother Borivoj Petrak, President of the Czechoslovak Organization on July 15. Brother Paul Lebloch, Chairman of the American Sokol delegation



The Return of the Sokol Unit Flag

On our first visit to Czechoslovakia in 1972 my aunt took me to an old man that had hidden the unit flags of Sokol Kunovice (my mother's unit) from the Nazi's and then, from the communists. I saw the flags again in 1980 and tried to purchase them from him, assuring him that if Sokol ever started again in Czechoslovakia I would return them to their unit. He was afraid that I might be stopped at the border and the flags confiscated, causing him trouble.

The old man passed away in 1981 and on another trip, in 1982, I visited his wife and daughter who were willing to sell the Junior flag. I had no trouble at the border and Sokol Ft. Worth became the home of this flag. In the meantime, the mother passed away and the daughter told my aunt that if I was still interested she would sell the other flag. In 1987 I visited there and returned with the Unit flag to Ft. Worth. I have carried the flag at our Southern District Slets, at unit events, and the national slet in Omaha.

In January when I went to Prague for the refounding of Sokol in Czechoslovakia, I told my cousin that I would present the flags back to Kunovice after the Paris Slet. In Paris word traveled fast that a celebration was planned for the return of the flags. Even Br. Boris Uher was aware of the July 12 event. Our family and unit members were not prepared for the events that followed.

We arrived at Kunovice late afternoon and were greeted at our car by a large group of residents with bottles of slivovice (plum brandy distilled from the fermented juice of plums). After drinking a toast, we walked through the doors and were greeted by more people. Our group was directed to sit at tables on one side of the room and our greeters sat on the other side of the room. Musicians played anthems and then the Sokol president introduced Dr. Hlobil who gave a welcoming speech in English and Czech. The president presented me with the first honorary membership of Sokol Kunovice. Br. Emil Milan presented a baseball cap with the Sokol emblem to the president. Other gifts were then exchanged. The Junior Flag was presented first as I stated the standard is straight just like our Sokol ideals. Then the Unit flag was presented with deep emotion felt by all in that room. Food and wine was served and we all celebrated this moment in history.

Later, we stepped outside for pictures. My son Tal went back inside for something and as he entered the room where the flags stood once more on Czech land, an older woman was holding the tip of the unit flag, kissing it in an almost reverent respect. Tal will carry this memory with him and teach others how precious freedom is.

Later we sang all the Sokol songs and my brothers Frank and Emil with their families, 3 generations, were overjoyed at this experience. The pictures show only a fraction of our joy of being a part of this story. What we did later as a result of the return of the flags follows!

Br. Jerry Milan, Sokol Ft. Worth

The Sister Sokol Program

The Ft. Worth unit became interested in developing a relationship with Sokol Kunovice. They developed a sister unit program for the same reasons we nurture a relationship with any kindred spirit...to motivate each to continue in their individual growth towards fulfillment.

Members from So. District drew up the following statement for each participating unit to read and sign.

Mission Statement

To foster and encourage mutual understanding, friendship and peace through communication by cultural, educational, social, sport, and other exchanges between one unit of the American Sokol Organization and their sister units of other Sokol organizations (COS, D.A. Sokols, Sokol USA, Polish Falcons, Yugoslav Sokols, etc.)

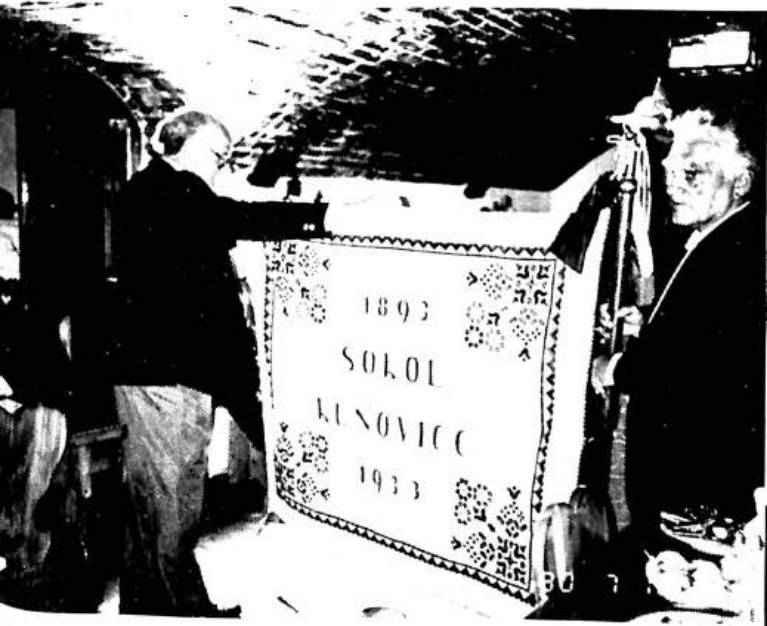
It is the desire to cultivate mutually beneficial relationships among the members of a unit, children through older seniors alike.

Some of these objectives are

- 1. Send official letter and diploma of agreement.*
- 2. Exchange historical facts concerning respective units.*
- 3. Exchange photos of buildings, classes, activities, etc.*
- 4. Incorporate a pen-pal program between classes and members.*
- 5. Exchange educational materials, books including drawings of apparatus and flags. Members could learn the other language's title and descriptives through these drawings.*
- 6. Survey of each unit's program could be completed to best match units of similar interests.*
- 7. Establish a unit chairperson of Sister Sokol program.*
- 8. Encourage exchange of gymnasts, coaches and members for sporting, cultural, educational, and social events.*

Since the inception of Sokol Ft. Worth's sister program with Sokol Kunovice they have established the pen-pal program, exchanged pictures and some literature, and Slet program books.

Br. Jerry Milan is our national public relations chairman since May 1990. He has reported monthly at our board meeting regarding the need for each unit and district to become involved in community and business activities to maintain a higher public profile. The Sister Sokol program is another example of public awareness that we should cultivate with all our units. Please contact Br. Milan for additional information.



MERIT AWARD 1991

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

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

The amount to be awarded is to be \$750.00 per year to one student per district which has under 1,500 members and an additional student per district which has over 1,500 members. A transcript of grades of the first year must be submitted to the American Sokol Merit Award Committee. A "C" average or better must have been maintained during the year. Failure to submit such a transcript will result in a request for repayment of award. This award is renewable for one additional year.

In order to qualify for the additional year, applicant must maintain a "C" average or better. After receipt of the transcript of grades of the first year, if applicant is eligible, the American Sokol Merit Award Committee will send applicant a Renewal Application to be filled out in full with the signatures of the Unit and District Directors designating approval or disapproval.

Unit and District Directors should also be responsible that application is complete otherwise application, if not properly completed, will not be considered. The letter of intent, the original application and the transcripts of grades will be reviewed.

The final selection is to be made by the Merit Award Committee, approved by the American Sokol Organization Board of Instructors and the American Sokol Organization Executive Board. When a renewal is granted, a transcript of grades after the second year must be submitted to the American Sokol Merit Award Committee as soon as possible. A "C" average or better must have been maintained during the second year. Failure to submit such a transcript will result in a request for repayment of the award.

Merit Awards will be reviewed in September of each year. If the quota for the District is not filled, a review of all Merit Award applications, not previously approved, will be made and any restrictions imposed may be removed for that year. Renewal forms and transcripts to be received at the American Sokol Organization c/o Merit Award Committee by August 1, 1991.

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

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

COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED NOT LATER THAN JUNE 1, 1991

MERIT AWARD COMMITTEE:

Janet Kalat, Frank Michalek, Anne Halik, Charles Borvansky, Paul Lebloch, Eva N. Balas (Chairman)

UNIT DIRECTORS — PLEASE POST ON BULLETIN BOARD

AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION
Merit Award Committee
6424 West Cermak Road
Berwyn, Illinois 60402

1991

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

Signature of Sokol member: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

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

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VERA THE GREAT

Vera Caslavka was appointed one of the five advisors to Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel last year and she was present when our delegation met with President Havel last July. What an honor for our members to be in the presence of this international gymnast and coach.

It all started in 1968, when Caslavka was the top girl at the Olympics in Mexico City and she did not revoke the courageous "Manifesto of the 2,000 Words", when in 1968 the protest of the Czechoslovakian intelligentsia against the brutal occupation of her country by the Soviets and Warsaw pact states had a world-wide repercussion. She faced professional prohibition over many years and was not allowed to accept enticing offers from abroad, above from the USA and Japan. And then the revolution in November 1989 and she amidst those who demonstrated for freedom. *

Recently, in the Chicago Tribune magazine's feature article on Cathy Rigby, former American international gymnast, in town for her role as "Peter Pan", said her personal hero is "Czech gymnast Vera Caslavka who was very outspoken about the Russian invasion of her country. In the 1968 Olympics, she was pitted against a Soviet gymnast and despite all the pressure became the gold medalist. "

She was and still is a hero to many American Sokol members. She greeted the Sokol delegation in Prague and attended the Prague Sokol exhibition.

Vera has refined musical and literary taste and, moreover, she is a painter. She has become a living legend not only in Czechoslovak gymnastics but also in the gymnastics world. In her career she won 140 medals; 97 gold, 32 silver, 11 bronze. Today, a mother of two, she states "For me, the birth of a child is a greater miracle than all the medals." *

*August 1989 and July 1990 International Gymnast magazines

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