

american **SOKOL**

Volume CXIII, Number 4

APRIL 1992

Easter, which in the Christian faith commemorates the Resurrection of Christ and consequently is the most sacred of all holy days, is also the name of an ancient Saxon festival and of the pagan goddess of spring and offspring, Eastre. How a once-tumultuous Saxon festival to Eastre was transformed into a solemn Christian service is another example of the supreme authority of the Church early in its history.

Continued on Page 4-5



Easter Traditions and Their Origins

American Sokol

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by the

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the A.S.O. Office, 7:30 p.m.

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EDITOR - PATRICIA SATEK

1922 S. 57th Avenue, Cicero, IL 60650-2143
708-863-7978

Copy for publication must be received by the
10th of the month prior to published month.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

APRIL

- 11 Sokol Minnesota Spring Fling
- 12 Sokol Greater Cleveland
Marionette Show
- 18 Sokol Greater Cleveland Easter
Bread & Dumpling Sale
- 25 Sokol Slavsky Spaghetti Dinner
- 26 Sokol Minnesota Sing-A-Long
- 29-5/3 Minnesota Festival of Nations at
Civic Center, St. Paul
- 30 Sokol Havlicek-Tyrs Luncheon/
Bunco Party, Mid-America Bldg.

MAY

- 4 Sokol Milwaukee Competition
- 6 Sokol Greater Cleveland Spring
Card Party
- 17 Sokol Greater Cleveland Band
Concert
- 9 Sokol Minnesota Workers'
Appreciation Dinner
- 17 Sokol Minnesota Pancake
Breakfast
- 22 Sokol Milwaukee Exhibition &
Awards Program

DISTRICT EVENTS

APRIL

- 4 Central District Special Number
Akademie

- 27-5/3 Western District Mini Slet

MAY

- 2 Central Dist. Girls' Competition
- 4 Western District Children's
Competition, Crete, NE
- 9 Central Dist. Boys' Competition
- 9 NE District Competition, Detroit
- 16 Central District Slet & Girls',
Junior, Senior Competition
- 17 Central District Awards Picnic
- 31 NE District Exhibition,
Oddfellows Fresh Air Camp,
Glenwillow, OH

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY DATES

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| May 3 | Sokol Chicago 100th
Anniversary |
| October 13 | Sokol New York 125th
Anniversary |

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.*



*"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."*

From Your Editor...

I hope by now you're asking yourself "Is this really the American Sokol magazine?" I wanted to make a bold first impression as your new editor; to really make you take notice that a change has taken place. How did I do? Your comments are welcome, encouraged, appreciated! Watch for a new feature called "The Voice," in which I will routinely publish excerpts

of letters I receive from readers. Bro. Borvansky, ASO President, will have his own column, titled "View from the Top." I hope that you enjoy these changes. Read on and let me know what you think.

NA ZDARI!

Sls. Patricia Satek
1922 S. 57th Avenue
Cicero, IL 60650-2143

*There is nothing
permanent except
change.*

❖ *Heraclitus*



FOR THE RECORD

Minutes of the February 25, 1992 meeting of the A.S.O. Executive Board

The meeting was called to order by Bro. Borvansky at 7:37 p.m. and the pledge to the flag was recited.

Members present were Bros. Borvansky, Babka, Satek, Lebloch in the office and Bros. Masek, Dalton, Kalat and Podhrasky on teleconference; Sis. Kourim, Pros, Filipello and Pajeau in the office and Sis. Dalton and Kalat on teleconference.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved on motion by Sis. Pros, seconded/passed. Minutes of the meetings of the Central, Eastern, Northeastern, Pacific and Western Districts have been received in the office.

General correspondence has been taken care of and anything important will be brought up under the appropriate department.

The **BOI** report was given by Sis. Kalat. The Women's District Director in the Pacific District is now Lubos Mintnaus and in the Eastern District it is Melissa Bellehsen; there is no Men's Director in the Northeastern District. The Merit Award deadline is now June 1, so that awards can be awarded before school starts. The 1993 Slet plans are progressing. Competitions are being finalized; Junior Girls' uniform change is well under way; calisthenics are being tested; the hoop number will be performed and medals and tabulating are being looked into at this time. Canada newsletters are being received and the *Sokol Gymnast* will have more news about the Slet in 1993 and better balance of information for all levels of readers. Instructor's Course for 1993 will be discussed at District Directors' Conference in October.

Bro. Lebloch moved to pay Special Assessment Fund to Western District \$488.93 for Rhythmic/Judging Clinic and Central District \$240.00 for member in USGF 1991/92 for District Directors; seconded/passed.

Membership did not send in a report.

Bro. Lebloch reported for the **Education Committee**. There are twelve copies of "Czechoslovakia, Triumph & Tradition" available in the office. Article about video will be in publication. The price will be \$30.00 plus postage. Bro. Lebloch is

working on the Kolin Brass Band coming for a performance in the Fall. He took care of ongoing correspondence, especially from Europe.

Bro. Milan did not send a **Publicity** report. Sis. Wojcik did not send a **Treasurer** report.

Sis. Pros gave the **Financial Secretary** report. The Auditing Committee report was filed and all departments were found to be in order.

Bro. Masek reported as **2nd Vice-President** that he is continuing to work on the Foundation Fund. There was an additional donation of \$200.00, bringing the balance to \$1,584 in the savings and \$15,000 in a CD.

Sis. Kourim reported as **First Vice-President** that she will be meeting with the 1993 Slet Committee and the President of the Central District to begin in earnest the plans for the 1993 Slet. Meetings will be on the second Tuesday at the office.

President Borvansky took care of general office correspondence and met with representatives of the John Hancock Insurance Company, along with four other local members of the Board of Governors.

Sis. Filipello reported that the March issue of the publication is ready. Hopefully, a new **Editor** will be selected in the near future.

Sis. Filipello reported as **Executive Director** and asked a number of questions of the Board. She is to report to Bro. Borvansky. A written agreement will be drawn up and signed by all concerned and Bro. Borvansky will give final approval on all proposals written by the Executive Director. Since January 1, Sis. Filipello has been doing research about her position. She has spent hours at the donors Forum in Chicago and a two-day workshop at DePaul University. There was a short discussion about expenses of the Executive Director. Bro. Babka moved to recommend to the Board of Governors that all expenses of the Executive Director be taken out of the Executive Director expense account, seconded/passed. Sis. Filipello recommended contacting someone like Senator

Judy Baar-Topinka to have a benefit dinner dance. The board agreed that she proceed in this direction at this time.

Bro. Kalat requested that a copy of the Board of Governors minutes and the Executive Director job description be sent to all members of the Executive Board, seconded/passed.

Sis. Filipello nominated Sis. Patricia Satek as the new editor of the *American Sokol*. There being no other nominations, seconded/passed. Bro. Borvansky will appoint Sis. Satek interim Editor until the proper approval of the units is finalized.

Sis. Pros nominated Sis. Jane Jurew as new alternate to the Exec. Board. There being no other nominations, seconded/ passed. Sis. Jurew's name will be sent along with Sis. Satek's to all the units for their approval as stated in the By-Laws.

At the last Board of Governors meeting, Bro. Slavik offered to translate and be a go-between with the COS. Bro. Masek moved that Bro. Slavik be our representative to the COS with guidelines sent by the Executive Board, seconded/ passed.

The next **Board of Governors** meeting is set for July 18-19, 1992. At that time there will be a review of the Executive Director and other reports from the different committees.

A new copier is needed in the office, especially for the 1993 Slet. The Executive Director will look into getting a copier donated to the office.

Sis Kourim reported on the meeting with the John Hancock Insurance Company. Bro. Masek moved to give the John Hancock people the right to proceed with an annuity program, seconded/passed.

Bro Borvansky is still looking into a Fax Machine.

Bro. Lebloch moved to approve Sokolice South Omaha and the Western District By-Laws, as recommended by the By-Law Committee, seconded/passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.
~Sis. Nancy Pajeau, Secretary

☆ Zdenek

Easter Traditions



Second-century Christian missionaries, spreading out among the Teutonic tribes north of Rome, encountered numerous heathen religious observances. Whenever possible, the missionaries did not interfere too strongly with entrenched customs. Rather, quietly – and often ingeniously – they attempted to transform pagan practices into ceremonies that harmonized with Christian doctrine. There was a very practical reason for this. Converts publicly partaking in a Christian ceremony – and on a day when no one else was celebrating – were easy targets for persecution. But if a Christian rite was staged on the same day as a long-observed heathen one, and if the two modes of worship were not glaringly different, then the new converts might live to make other converts.

The Christian missionaries astutely observed that the centuries-old festival to Eastre, commemorated at the start of spring, coincided with the time of the year of their own observance of the miracle of the Resurrection of Christ. Thus, the Resurrection was subsumed under the protective rubric Eastre (later spelled Easter), saving the lives of countless Christians.

*“Easter is
astronomically
bound never
to fall earlier
than March 22
or later
than April 25”*

For several decades, Easter was variously celebrated on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Finally, in A.D. 325, the Council of Nicaea, convened by the emperor Constantine, issued the so-called Easter Rule: Easter should be celebrated on “the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox.” Consequently, Easter is astronomically bound never to fall earlier than March 22 or later than April 25. At this same

council, Constantine decreed that the cross be adopted as the official symbol of the Christian religion.

Easter Bunny

That a rabbit, or more accurately a hare, became a holiday symbol can be traced to the origin of the word “Easter.” According to the Venerable Bede, the English historian who lived from 672 to 735, the goddess Eastre was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol, the hare.

The custom of the Easter hare came to America with the Germans who immigrated to Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries. From Pennsylvania, they gradually spread out to Virginia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, New York and Canada, taking their customs with them. Most 18th-century Americans, however, were of more austere religious denominations, such as Quaker, Presbyterian and Puritan. They virtually ignored such a seemingly frivolous symbol as a white rabbit. More than a hundred years passed before this Teutonic Easter tradition began to gain acceptance in America. In fact, it was not until after the Civil War, with its legacy of death and destruction, that the nation as a whole began a widespread

and their Origins

(continued from Page 1)

observance of Easter itself, led primarily by Pres-byterians. They viewed the story of resurrection as a source of inspiration and renewed hope for the millions of bereaved Americans.

Easter Eggs

Only within the last century were chocolate and candy eggs exchanged as Easter gifts. But the springtime exchanging of *real* eggs - white, colored and gold-leafed - is an ancient custom, predating Easter by many centuries. From earliest times, and in most cultures, the egg signified birth and resurrection.

“...during the early 1880’s, Easter eggs substituted for birth certificates.”

The Egyptians buried eggs in their tombs. The Greeks placed eggs atop graves. The Romans coined a proverb: *Omne vivum ex ovo*, “All life comes from an egg.” And legend has it that Simon of Cyrene, who helped carry Christ’s cross to Calvary, was by trade an egg merchant. (Upon

returning from the crucifixion to his produce farm, he allegedly discovered that all the hens’ eggs had miraculously turned a rainbow of colors; substantive evidence for this legend is weak.) Thus, when the Church started to celebrate the Resurrection, in the second century, it did not have to search far for a popular and easily recognizable symbol.



In those days, wealthy people would cover a gift egg with gilt or gold leaf, while peasants often dyed their eggs. The tinting was achieved by boiling the eggs with certain flowers, leaves, logwood chips or the cochineal insect. Spinach leaves or anemone petals were considered best for green; the bristly gorse blossom for yellow; logwood for rich purple; and the body fluid of the cochineal produced scarlet.

In parts of Germany during the early 1880’s, Easter eggs substituted for birth certificates. An egg was dyed a solid color, then a design, which included the recipient’s name and birth

date, was etched into the shell with a needle or sharp tool. Such Easter eggs were honored in courts of law as evidence of identity and age.

Easter’s most valuable eggs were hand crafted in the 1880’s. Made by the great goldsmith Peter Carl Fabergé, they were commissioned by Czar Alexander III of Russia as gifts for his wife, Czarina Maria Feodorovna. The first Fabergé egg, presented in 1886, measured two and a half inches long and had a deceptively simple exterior. Inside the white enamel shell, though, was a golden yolk, which, when opened, revealed a gold hen with ruby eyes. The hen itself could be opened, by lifting the beak, to expose a diamond replica of the imperial crown. A still smaller ruby pendant hung from the crown. The Fabergé treasures today are collectively valued at over four million dollars. Forty-three eggs know to have been made by Fabergé are now in museums and private collections.

Hot Cross Buns

Traditionally eaten at Easter, the twice-scored biscuits were first baked by the Saxons in honor of Eastre. The word “bun” itself derives from *boun*, Saxon for “sacred ox,” for an ox was sacrificed at the Eastre

Continued on Page 10

Reader Quips, Comments & Queries

Thanks for the super coverage on our Marionettes! Nazdar!

~ Dot Cummings,
Sokol Greater Cleveland

◆ MEMORIUM ◆

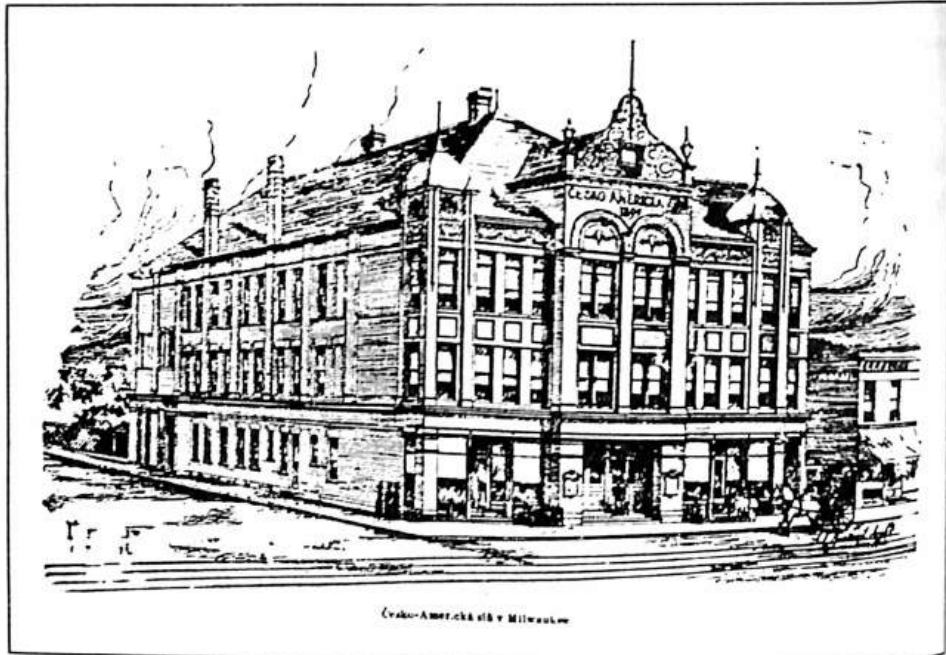
Sokol Greater Cleveland has recently been saddened by the loss of two long-time members.

Bro. Charles W. Hantl, Sr., a Sokol member since 1933, passed away on December 20, 1991. Bro. Hantl will always be remembered as a well-trained, outstanding gymnast. He represented the Unit at various AAU competitions, Sokol Slets and Slovak Slets, where he won numerous individual awards and contributed to many winning teams. He served as Director of Men at Sokol Tyrs for a number of years. All three of his children (Charles Jr., Bonnie, William) were active in the gymnastic programs and are members of Sokol Greater Cleveland. He is survived also by wife, Agnes. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to Sokol Greater Cleveland, 4939 Broadway Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44127.

Last Spring, Joseph and Zdenka Bittner visited free Czechoslovakia. What they saw they liked so well, they decided to return permanently to be near their son's family and relatives. On the historic date in Czechoslovak history, the 28th of October, they departed, little knowing that Joseph's days were numbered. Bro. Joseph Bittner, a Sokol member since 1934, died peacefully in his sleep after a long illness on January 3, 1992 in Frydek Mistek. He was 78.

~ Edited from information submitted by Robert E. Jirousek & Mildred H. Zizka

Another GREAT Sokol Hall!



Sokol Milwaukee, 1871 N. 12th Street, Corner of Vine Street. Illustration from 1904 Slet Book, CSA Museum.

GUEST SPEAKER

Sis. Joan Sedlacek, Sokol Minnesota

I don't know the names of my heroes. Many of them are remembered in their units by only a few "old timers." To the younger or newer members, they are a name on a list or a nameless picture on the wall. They weren't officers or outstanding teachers. They were never champions or leaders.

These special, nameless Sisters and Brothers were, and are, the faithful followers. They are the ones who work in the kitchens so the teachers can be on the floor. They are the ones who work in the bars, so the musicians can be on the stage.

They are the ones who were never great athletes, but they kept the gym classes full and were the masses in the calisthenics. They weren't the lead actors on the stage, but they were the ones who cleaned the buildings, set up the chairs that made a gym a theater. They made the

costumes, sold the tickets, changed the scenery and sat in the audience.

They are the followers who made leaders, the competitors who made champions, the classes who made teachers. They are the proof of "Ni Zisk, Ni Slavu! (Neither Profit nor Glory!)."

We need leaders and champions. We cannot exist without those who are willing to step forward and take charge. By the same token, we would not have come as far as we have, nor can we go as far into the future as we wish, without the cooks and bakers, the teachers' helpers and drivers, the bartenders and floor-scrubbers, those who come early to set up and stay late to take down and put away, the ones always counted on and never failing, and all the quiet, dedicated, unsung heroes.

Their names were, and are, **SOKOL!**

☆ Zizka



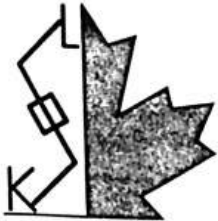
AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

GYMNAST

APRIL 1992



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



IX. SLET 1992
Toronto, June 26. - 28.

IX. SOKOL CANADA SLET TORONTO 1992

Friday, June 26.: Gymnastic competitions, Slet banquet
Saturday, June 27.: Volleyball tournament, Victory Dance
Sunday, June 28.: Main Slet performances

Let's spread the word about the Sokol Canada Slet...

To promote our Slet as widely as possible, promotional stickers have been issued, available in the three variants appended here. In addition to promoting our Slet and Sokol generally they will enhance the appearance of your correspondence, notes, memos, announcements, etc. We hope that you will make use of them as much as possible.

The stickers are priced at \$ 2.00 for a sheet containing 35 individual stickers; when ordering, please indicate by number (1, 2, 3) the sticker you wish to receive. Or, better still, send us \$ 5.00 and we will send you all three sheets.

Truly international...

From correspondence and preliminary participation survey data received to date evidently our Slet is going to be truly international in scope. From the United States Sokols from at least seven states will participate: California, Illinois, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Texas. From Europe Sokols from at least three countries will be represented: Austria, France, Switzerland. And...our Sokol brothers and sisters in far away Australia, sending us their greetings and best wishes of success, wrote that they are thinking very seriously about attending our Slet as well!

Czechoslovak Sokols coming to our Slet

We have just received word from the revived Czechoslovak Sokol Organization (ČOS) that a group from Czechoslovakia, possibly 40 members strong, will participate at our Slet. This points to a rather symbolic coincidence related to the "IX." Slet: In 1932, Sokol Montreal organized the first ever visit of Sokols from Canada to the IX. All-Sokol Slet in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Now 60 years later, in 1992, members of the Czechoslovak Sokol Organization will attend for the first time ever a Slet in Canada: the IX. Sokol Canada Slet in Toronto... It will be a real pleasure to welcome them and have them participate at our Slet.

Important date: March 15, 1992

With our previous bulletin (No. 2 - February) we enclosed a 'Participation Survey Sheet' and requested that it be returned to us as soon as possible, at the latest by March 15, 1992. These survey sheets will indicate expected attendance and participation figures and are therefore most important for us. Please check whether your unit/lodge/district has sent them. If not, please do so now. Thank you for your co-operation.



IX. SLET 1992
Toronto, June 26. - 28.

No. 1.



No. 2.



No. 3.

Accommodation

As reported in our previous bulletin (Number 2 - February 1, 1992) Toronto's Holiday Inn, Downtown-City Hall, will house the majority of Slet participants. When reporting the special rate of \$ 115.00 per room (for single, double, triple or quad accommodation) we have inadvertently omitted the Provincial sales tax. To clarify: The \$ 115.00 special rate (valid until May 25, 1992) is subject to a Commercial Concentration Levy (CCL) of \$ 2.85 per room and two taxes - 8% Provincial sales tax (PST) and 7% Federal Goods and Services tax (GST). As noted in our bulletin, U.S. visitors arriving as a group, can obtain a refund of both taxes (PST and GST) making the effective rate for rooms \$ 117.85 (\$ 115.00 plus \$ 2.85 CCL). We apologize for forgetting the Provincial tax (a Freudian slip, perhaps, reflecting a strong desire to forget the tax - any tax...?).

Enclosed with this bulletin is also a pamphlet of the Toronto Downtown-City Hall Holiday Inn.

Slet Office

The Holiday Inn, Downtwon-City Hall, will be the location of our Slet office. Its service will include general information, sale of tickets for all Slet events, sale of Slet souvenirs. The office will be in operation during the four Slet days as follows:

Thursday, June 25, 1992:	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Friday, June 26, 1992:	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 27, 1992:	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 28, 1992:	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Slet souvenirs

Souvenirs especially produced for our Slet will include sweat shirts, T-shirts, caps, pens, mugs, lapel pins. Our next bulletin will contain a listing of items for sale and their price.

Planning an extended visit?

Information about various events, shows, exhibitions, etc., may be obtained by contacting the 'Toronto Visitor Information' office at (416) 368-9821.

Czech and Slovak Restaurants

In response to several enquiries, please note that Czech and Slovak food is served or sold at:
Sveik's Dining Lounge, 40 Orchard View Blvd., Toronto. Tel.: 489-3215.
Pepo's Bistro, 676 Queen Street West, Toronto. Tel.: 860-0514.
Prague Restaurant, Masaryktown, 450 Scarborough Golf Club Road. Tel.: 439-2053.
Prague Meat, 638 Queen Street West, Toronto. Tel.: 364-1787.

Czech and Slovak Community

In our last bulletin we mentioned the large Italian, Chinese, Portugese and Greek communities in Toronto. There are also large Polish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, West and East Indian, and many other communities. Compared with many of them the Czech and Slovak community in Toronto is rather small. It originated with the settling in Toronto of the Bellan family in the early 1870s and grew rather slowly. By 1923 less than one hundred Czechs and Slovaks lived in Toronto, by 1938 there were about 2,500, now some 10,000 Czechs and Slovaks call Metropolitan Toronto their home with another 10,000 residing in surrounding communities. In contrast with many other groups, Czechs and Slovaks are dispersed throughout the city and there is no distinct Czech or Slovak neighbourhood in Toronto. Sokol Toronto, established in 1931, is the oldest Czech and Slovak organization in Toronto; the Czechoslovak Association of Canada and the Masaryk Memorial Institute were established during the Second World War. Other community groups include the New Czech Theatre, "Moravanka" Dance group, Royal Canadian (Czechoslovak) Legion, Czech and Slovak Church parishes - Roman Catholic (Czech and Slovak), Baptist, Slovak Evangelic Lutheran. Business and commerce are represented by the Czechoslovak (Toronto) Credit Union that provides regular banking services, economic relations between Canada and the new democratic Czechoslovakia are promoted by the recently established Canada Czechoslovakia Chamber of Commerce. The community supports a Czech and Slovak language school, several periodicals, a Cable television programme and holds annual Czechoslovak Days at the Masaryktown Park in Scarborough.

SLET EVENT SCHEDULE AND VENUES

Thursday, June 25, 1992

- Evening:
- **Competition registration. Meeting of Directors, Judges.**
8:00 p.m. - **Holiday Inn, Downtown-City Hall, 89 Chestnut Street.**
Downtown Toronto, next to City Hall, Eaton Centre.
Closest subway stops: 'Queen' or 'Dundas' on "Yonge" subway line,
'Osgoode' or 'St. Patrick' on "University" line.

Friday, June 26, 1992

- All day:
- **Gymnastic competitions. Junior girls and boys, Men and Women.**
Variety Village, 3701 Danforth Avenue, Scarborough.
By car from downtown: south on 'University' or 'Bay' Streets to Lakeshore Road, east on Lakeshore Road to 'Woodbine' Avenue, north on Woodbine Avenue to 'Kingston' Road, east on Kingston Road to 'Birchmount' Road, north on Birchmount Road (past Birchmount Stadium) to 'Danforth' Avenue, east on Danforth Avenue to Variety Village (very close to Birchmount Road).
By public transport: "Bloor" subway line east to 'Main' station stop, take 'Cliffside No. 20.' bus to Danforth Avenue and Birchmount Road, walk 2-3 minutes along Danforth Avenue to Variety Village.

- Evening:
- **Slet Banquet. Holiday Inn, Downtown-City Hall, 89 Chestnut Street.**
7:00 p.m. - Admission \$ 40.00 (dinner included).
 - **Youth picnic and dance. Masaryktown Park, Scarborough.**
7:00 p.m. - Admission \$ 5.00 (barbecue snack included).
By car from downtown: south on University or Bay Streets to Lakeshore Road, east on Lakeshore Road to Woodbine Avenue, north on Woodbine Avenue to Kingston Road, east on Kingston Road to 'Scarborough Golf Club Road' (east of Markham Road), north on Scarborough Golf Club Road (crossing railroad tracks) to 'Masaryktown' Park.
By public transport: "Bloor" subway line east to 'Kennedy' station stop, take 'Scarborough No. 86.' bus or 'Morningside No. 116.' bus to Kingston Road and Scarborough Golf Club Road. Walk 10 minutes north on Scarborough Golf Club Road to Masaryktown Park.

Saturday, June 27, 1992

- All day:
- **Volleyball tournament. Men's and Women's teams.**
Variety Village, 3701 Danforth Avenue, Scarborough.
For directions see "Gymnastic competitions" Friday, June 26.
 - **Gymnastic competitions. Boys/Sokolads and Girls/Sokolettes.**
Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute, 3663 Danforth Ave., Scarborough.
(Next to Variety Village.)
- Evening:
- **Victory Slet Dance. Announcement of competition results.**
Party Centre, 167 Church Street, Downtown Toronto.
6:00 p.m. Admission (meal included): \$ 25.00.
Youth (12-18 yrs): \$ 15.00. Boys/Girls (up to 12 yrs): \$ 10.00.
** Admission after 8:00 p.m.: \$ 12.00 (meal not included). **
Five-minute walk from Downtown-City Hall Holiday Inn.

Sunday, June 28, 1992

- Morning:
- **Rehearsals. Rehearsal schedule to be announced later.**
- Afternoon:
- **Main Slet performance.**
Birchmount Stadium, Birchmount and Kingston Roads, Scarborough.
2:00 p.m. - Admission \$ 5.00.
For directions by car see "Gymnastic competitions" Friday, June 27.
By public transport: "Bloor" subway line east to 'Victoria Park' station stop, take 'Kingston Road No. 12.' bus to Kingston Road & Birchmount Road stop.

Souvenir programme book

Among the first ads for our Slet souvenir programme book was one from the Polish Falcons of America. Thank you Sokol brothers and sisters. Czolem!

Have you prepared your ad yet? Remember the order deadline for this excellent advertising opportunity is May 1, 1992.

Want to keep good company?

It is easy; all you have to do is drop us a line, specifying how you want your name to appear in our Slet brochure where you'll be in the best company with other Slet well wishers. The cost per name is \$ 15.

Our mail bag

As the Slet draws near we are receiving requests for inclusion in the bulletin's mailing list and for specific information concerning the various Slet events. A sampling from our mail bag includes letters and telephone enquiries from brothers and sisters: Betty Novak, Ford City, PA., Gerry Cernicky, New Kensington, PA., Eric Skovronek, Mt. Tabor, NJ., Jennifer Bindas, Parsippany, NJ, L.R.Predaina, Chicago, IL., Zdenek and Evelyn Prazak, Cleveland, OH., Grace Cahlander, Baltimore, MD., Karen Berg, Cleveland, OH., Doris Kotlan, Lakewood, OH., Sally Bukovsky, Westmont, IL., Bea Walko, Greenwich, Conn. - Keep your letters coming, we like to hear from you!

Thanks for your publicity!

It is most gratifying to note many publications devoting their space to information about our Slet. We may not have seen them all, but we are aware of references to our Slet, some very extensive ones, in the following publications:

In the United States: "American Sokol", "American Sokol Directors' Newsletter", "Sokol Greater Cleveland Newsletter", "Hlas Národa- Voice of the Nation", "Denní Hlasatel-Daily Herald". Our Slet also received coverage in the W.E.R.E. Czech Radio Program in Cleveland, Ohio.

In Canada our Slet receives continuous coverage by Toronto periodicals "Nový domov-New Homeland" and "Kanadske Listy".

In Europe too our Slet receives good publicity. In Switzerland it is the monthly newsmagazine "Zpravodaj", in Germany "Hlas Bohemie", in Austria "Výdeřské svobodné listy". Our Slet attracted attention also in Czechoslovakia. Best wishes for a successful Slet have been received from two Sokol districts - the Jan Machal district in Brno and the Jan Hus district in České Budějovice.

Spotlight on...

ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE, called a museum of the 21st century, is certainly worth a visit when in Toronto. It is much more than just a museum - where else can you work hand-in-clamp with a robot, land on the moon, or stand at the edge of a black hole? A dozen mini-theatres show films that bring the natural world to life, live demonstrations of lasers, glassblowing, papermaking, electricity, etc., take place regularly throughout the day. And the museum has been further enriched by the newly opened 'Space Hall and Challenger Learning Centre'.

The Ontario Science Centre, 11 km (7 miles) from downtown Toronto, may be reached by public transportation taking the "Yonge" subway line from downtown to the 'Eglinton' station stop and from there the 'Eglinton East' bus to the 'Don Mills Parkway' stop.

A word of caution: you need at least two hours to scratch the surface; and you may wish to spend an entire day...

Final Note

Our Slet is approaching fast. We hope that you are making plans to come to Toronto and join with us in celebrating the 130th year of world-wide Sokol activity.

Direct all questions, comments, suggestions, requests, address changes/additions to:
Slet Committee of Sokol Canada, 740 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2J2 Canada.

Bohemian Names Have Varied Roots

When Cech, the forefather of the Czechoslovak nation, and his small band of followers arrived in the unsettled land called Bohemia in the year 400, surnames were unnecessary. If needed, they were simply based on the father's name; e.g., Ondrus, son of Andrew (manly).

The earliest surnames were used by the nobility and were based on ownership of property. Jan z Dube owned the Dube, the "z" being the same as the French "de" or English "of."

According "Genealogical Research for Czech and Slovak Americans" by Olga Miller, it was Maria Theresa, the Empress of Bohemia, who decreed about 1740 that everyone must have a family name.

These family names were generally taken from old church records of burials and christenings. Being very ancient, they meant something specific. They were usually derived from a person's occupation; where he lived or came from; his look; or a personal quirk or habit.

The Svec was the local shoemaker, Krejci the tailor, Mylnar and Melnick millers, Pekar baked the bread and Reznick was the butcher. Kolar and Kolodej were wheelwrights, and Kovar the blacksmith. While Becvar or Bednar made wooden pails.

Pacholek and Podruh worked on a farm, Sedlak was the farmer. But Plevy, Plevokve and Zabari, notowning as much land as the farmer, were called peasants. Smigdir and Kramir were travelling salesmen; Kupec, Obchodnik and Handlir were merchants. Ozdobnik dealt in laces and

ten started out as simple nicknames, often became attached to the original person and then to his descendants. The namers were not always kind or polite to their neighbors. Thus, Cvrcek (cricket) was very small; Siroky very large; Kucera curly haired; Bezdeka wasn't too smart;

Divoky had a reputation of being wild; and Hubacek liked to hear himself talk. Pekny and Hezky were nice, but Necina not overly ambitious, and Zubatej and Teplej were sarcastic. Bohaty and Bohac had money, Chudy did not, and Mizera was destitute, while Biba (toast) enjoyed the "fruit of the vine." Dolak lived in a valley. Horak or Horacek had a home in the mountains. Rybnicky resided near a lake and Rybak fished in it.

Cech, such a simple word to have been the basis for a nation of surnames that have daunted the American tongue, unused to words singularly lacking in vowels and guarded with a forest of diacritical marks.

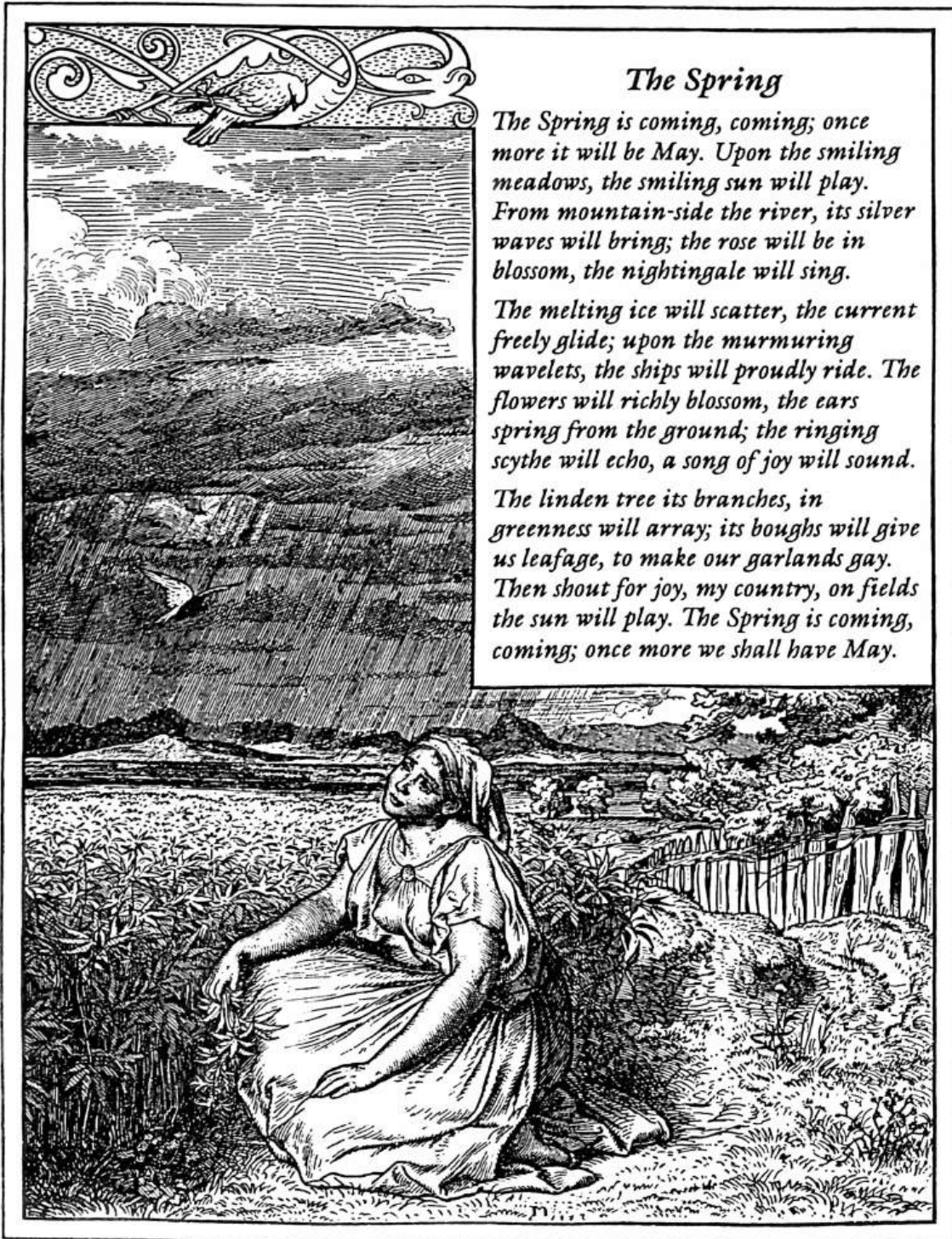
The Bohemians, of course, unlike some other nationalities, had no difficulty spelling their names, since they were considered to have been the best educated of any group of immigrants to land on American shores.

~ By Pat Heuel. Published in the Chicago Daily News approximately 20 years ago. Submitted by Lillian F. Prihoda, Sokolice Tabor



Smukir sold notions. Pisar and Metsky were scribes, Lekar the doctor; Duchovni the priest; and Farar the minister in charge of the parish; and Dvorak was merry-maker to the king.

Personal characteristics, which of-



The Spring

The Spring is coming, coming; once more it will be May. Upon the smiling meadows, the smiling sun will play. From mountain-side the river, its silver waves will bring; the rose will be in blossom, the nightingale will sing.

The melting ice will scatter, the current freely glide; upon the murmuring wavelets, the ships will proudly ride. The flowers will richly blossom, the ears spring from the ground; the ringing scythe will echo, a song of joy will sound.

The linden tree its branches, in greenness will array; its boughs will give us leafage, to make our garlands gay. Then shout for joy, my country, on fields the sun will play. The Spring is coming, coming; once more we shall have May.

To the Czech revivalists, all forms of folk art were of great interest as an expression of cultural nationalism: there were many who delved into folk lore and came up with songs and dances to which a quite false antiquity was ascribed. At the same time, it became fashionable for poets to write in the folk style for a growing audience of Czech readers. The song above was published, and probably composed, by Arnost Forchgot-Tovacovsky (1835-1874); but it has long been accepted into the repertoire of Czech folk art. Still sung today (in Czech) it preserves the traditional symbolism of the rhythm of the seasons; amid the hard days of Czech history, the promise of Spring is a hope for brighter days yet to come. (*Translation of "Jaro" [The Spring] by Alfred French.*)

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Sokol Lodging In Czechoslovakia

As part of my new work assigned to me by Bro. Charles Borvansky, I have received several offers to help those Sokols or their friends who are considering a trip to Czechoslovakia.

Tyrsuv Dum (*Tyrs' House*) in Prague, offers its services for lodging in Prague or anywhere else. The COS (*The Czechoslovak Sokol*) has formed a special division called "Sokol Tour," a Sokol tourist office which will be happy to help with lodging, tours and other services. Bro. Miroslav Tetour is in charge of "Sokol Tour." Write to him at this address:

Br. Miroslav Tetour, Sokol Tour
Tyrsuv Dum
Ujezd 450, Mala Strana
118 01 Praha 1
Czechoslovakia
Phone: 53-45-51

TJ Sokol Velké Popovice offers a stay in Hotel Slavoj, part of Sokol Hall of Velké Popovice. Their Sokol Hall has a restaurant and bar, tennis courts, puppet theater and understandably, Sokol gym classes, available to any Sokol guests. The price is 300 Kcs per night, which is about \$12. Most rooms are for two. Velké Popovice is located near the Prague-Brno super highway, approximately 13 miles southeast of Prague, with excellent bus connections.

As some of you know, Velké Popovice Brewery makes an excellent beer, considered best in Czechoslovakia. (Apologies to Pilsner Urquell and Budvar [Budweiser].)

This Sokol unit also offers lodging in a castle, Stirin,

only two miles away, for the same price of about \$12 a night for one bed. All rooms have two beds. There is a beautiful park around the renowned castle. Address:

Br. Jan Vins, Jednatel Sokola
Velké Popovice 379
251 69
Czechoslovakia

TJ Slavoj Praha offers 34 beds in Tourist Sleeping Quarters of the Boathouse. For information, write to:

TJ Slavoj Praha
Tynska 17
110 00 Praha 1
Czechoslovakia

Phone: 231-33-61 or 231-83-45

Unfortunately, I have no other information on this at this time, not even the price list. I do understand that the Boathouse is a new building situated on the River Vltave, near Metro and buses. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

Up to 3 room (private) are available in Praha-Smichov. Room, including breakfast, is \$20 per night. The room is for two. This is located right at Metro. Tours, by Sis. Vlasta Beranek, a professional guide, are available. Sis. Beranek is a member of the BOI of the COS. Her address is:

Sis. Dr. Vlasta Berankova
Markova 5
158 00 Praha 5, Jinonice
Czechoslovakia

Nazdar! ~ Br. Vladislav Slavik

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sis. Lynda Filipello for her past work as Editor of the American Sokol magazine and to wish her well in her new position as Executive Director (for fund raising) of the American Sokol Organization. I would also like to welcome Sis. Patricia Satek as our new Editor. I know I speak for the entire Executive Board when I say that our confidence in her is unanimous.

Easter Traditions

Continued from page 5

festival; the image of its horns was carved into the celebratory cakes.

The Easter treat was widespread in the early Western world. "Hot cross buns" were found preserved in the excavations at the ancient city of Herculaneum, destroyed in A.D. 79 along with Pompeii by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Early church fathers, to compete with the pagan custom of baking ox-marked cakes, used in numerous

celebrations, baked their own version, employing the dough used for the consecrated host. Reinterpreting the oxhorn image as a crucifix, they distributed the somewhat-familiar-looking buns to new converts attending mass. In this way, they accomplished three objectives: they Christianized a pagan cake; gave the people a treat they were accustomed to; and subtly scored the buns with an image that, though decidedly Catholic, at a



distance would not dangerously label the bearer "Christian." The most desirable image on today's hot cross buns is neither an ox horn nor a cross, but broad smears of glazed frosting.

~ Reprinted from "Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things" by Charles Panati

Video Review

CZECHOSLOVAKIA - Triumph and Tradition

In this fairyland of medieval castles and architectural treasures, East meets West to weave a fascinating cultural tapestry. Tour the capital city of Prague, with its historic Old Town Square, the Prague Castle and the St. Vitus Cathedral. Listen to the haunting staccato of the shepherd's ancient fujara and delight in the artistry of a contemporary puppet play. Experience this proud nation and celebrate the awakening of its triumph and tradition. (1991)

The American Sokol Organization Education Committee recently reviewed this 55-minute videotape. Although there are a few errors, the video presents an accurate, sympathetic picture of the country where Sokol was founded and where many of our members trace their heritage. We recommend this videotape to our Units, Districts and members who have an interest in Czechoslovakia. It is an excellent educational tool for Sokol meetings and courses. It is available from the American Sokol Organization, 6424 W. Cermak Road, Berwyn, IL 60402-2386 for \$30.00, including postage. Make checks payable to: American Sokol.

~ Bro. Paul Lebloch

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