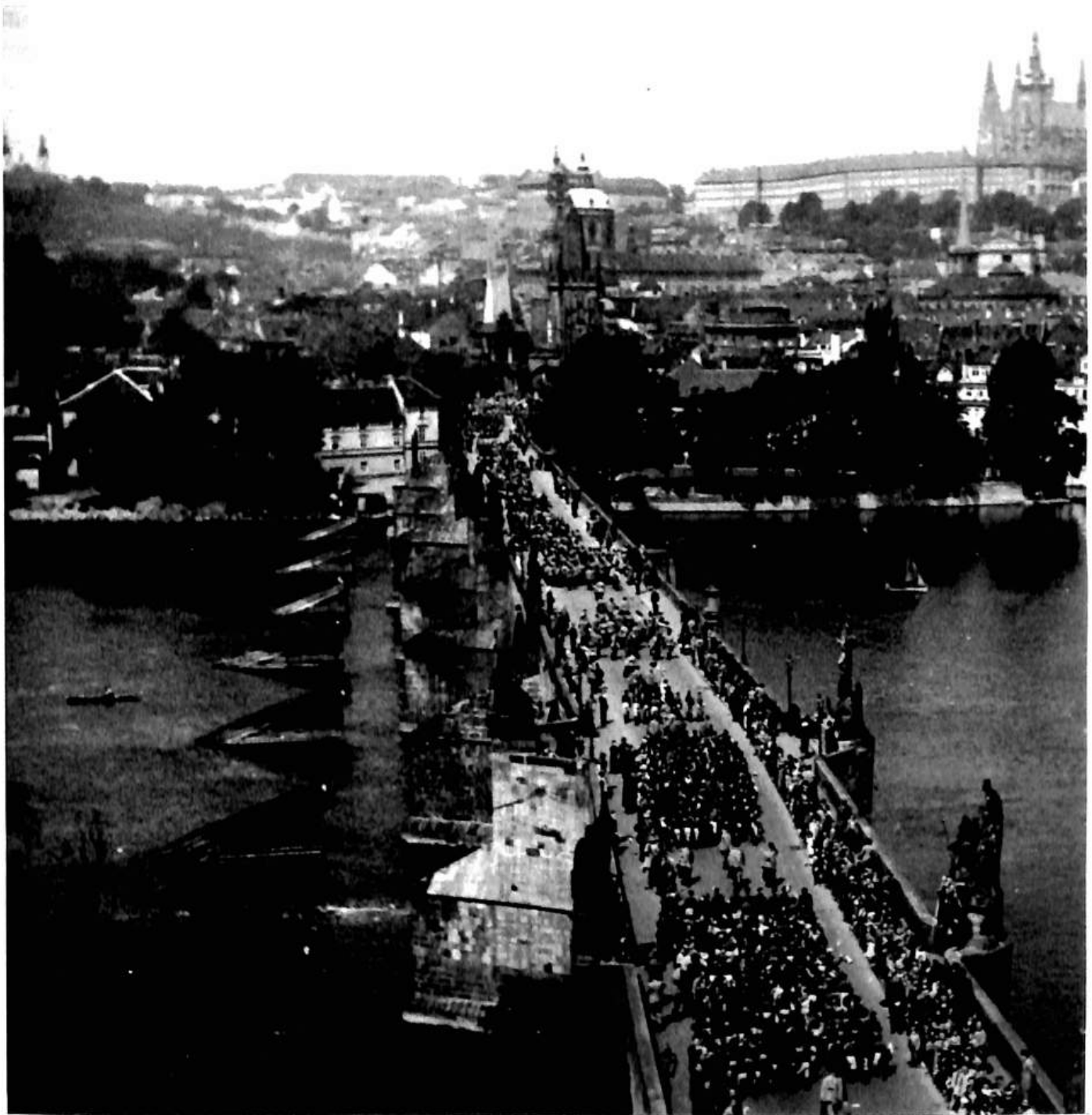


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10th of the month prior to published month.

From Your Editor...

Welcome Spring! It sure seems like it was a long time in coming. Now the Sokol year heads toward its finale, with all Districts planning Slets and competitions. All our instructors, directors and class participants are to be congratulated for their many hours of hard work and dedication. Next time you're at your gym, take time out to thank your instructors and especially your directors; they keep our program alive and are all too often taken for granted. Let me take this opportunity to thank those of you who have sent in articles for publication. Without your input, these pages would be pretty barren. I still wish I would hear more from our many units. You must be doing many fun things. Take pictures and send them in with a brief explanation. I'll be sure to publish it.

NA ZDAR!

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

CALENDAR of EVENTS

MAY

1 Sokol South Omaha Mini-Slet
4 Sokol Greater Cleveland
Spring Card Party
7 United Sokols of the East
Competition
12 Sokol Detroit Rummage Sale
7&14 Central District Competitions
16 Sokol Milwaukee Exhibition
and Awards Night
20 Central District Marching
Competition
21 Central District Slet
22 Central District Awards Picnic

JUNE

3-5 Southern District Slet
5 Sokol Greater Cleveland
Exhibition
5 Sokol Baltimore Exhibition
9-12 Western District Slet
11-12 Combined Eastern District &
Sokol USA Slet
12 Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky Picnic
12 Northeastern District Slet

**JULY 2-6 All-Sokol Slet, Prague,
Czech Republic**

A.S.O. FAX: 708-795-0539

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.

*The only way to
have a friend is
to be one.*

❖ *Ralph Waldo
Emerson*



FOR THE RECORD

Minutes of the March 22, 1994
meeting of the A.S.O. Executive Board

NOTE: The minutes which appeared in the March issue should have been dated February 22, 1994. Following are the March 22, 1994 minutes.

The meeting was called to order by President, Bro. Charles Borvansky at 7:27 p.m. and the pledge to the flag was recited. Members in the office were Bros. Borvansky, Babka, Lebloch, Michalek and Satek and Sis. Pros, Kourim, Jurew, Satek, Kalat and Pajeau. Members on the phone were Bros. Dalton, Masek, Kalat and Podhrasky and Sis. Dalton. Bro. Milan and Sis. Sedlacek were excused.

Motion made by Bro. Borvansky and seconded to accept the February minutes with the following corrections. Second paragraph from the bottom of the first page should list labels were not requested by Western District, but from Sokol Omaha. First paragraph on second page should state that the Sokol in Europe plans to build a hotel and requests that people traveling to Europe use this hotel, Bro. Slavik will respond that all we can do is recommend travelers use this hotel. Fourth paragraph should state that the ASO was requested to give information about Norma Zabka. Eighth paragraph should state that Bro. Slavik letter to the Czechoslovak Associations of Canada that we are happy with the situation at this time and do not intend to change anything. With these changes, the minutes were approved.

District minutes the office has received are the February 16 Central District and the March Director Newsletter.

A letter from Bro. Basta informing the board that due to failing eyesight he will no longer be able to be on the auditing committee. Bro. Babka moved that Sis. Mildred Pinc be asked to join the committee to replace Bro. Basta, seconded and passed.

A letter from Bro. Slavik about the 1994 Slet in Prague. Bro. Lebloch moved to accept Bro. Slavik's letter to invite President Vaclav Havel to meet with the ASO during the XII Slet in Prague in July. Bro. Babka moved to authorize a tribute gift to the COS from the ASO, with a final decision to be made at the April meeting, seconded and passed.

Bill for our Business Owner's Insurance for \$525. Bro. Babka moved to contact our insurance broker for other rates from other insurance companies regarding our business owner's policy, seconded and passed with one opposed. Bro. Babka moved that the Executive Board have permission to make the decision to pay business owner's insurance bill or to select another company at a reduced rate, seconded and passed with one opposed.

Sis. Kalat read the BOI report. The BOI purchased small American Flags to be used in the parade in Prague during the Slet activities. Bro. Babka moved to pay bill of \$63.72 for 236 small American Flags, seconded and passed. A calisthenics clinic was held at Sokol Greater Cleveland. Many changes and information will be sent to all interested units and districts. The ASO will have participants in the Loyal Guard, Karneval and the men's calisthenics. The American Folk Dance Special Number was to be performed the evening that there are other activities

scheduled. There will be one men's and one women's volleyball team. Work continues on a special T-shirt and junior parade outfit. Each unit or district should bring their own flag and make sure there is someone to carry the flag in the parade and other events. The ASO will bring the American flag and everyone will march as one group.

There was no membership report. Sis. Wojcik had no report.

Bro. Lebloch read his educational report. He has taken care of correspondence coming from Europe. Many of the current letters are regarding accommodations, travel services and camps. Sokol Milwaukee is doing a historical research of their unit and putting all information on a computer. They are welcome to come to the office and look in old publications for additional information. Bro. Lebloch is sending for a free copy of a Moravian magazine. Bro. Lebloch moved to send March issue to PAS, seconded and passed. Secretary will send a copy of the March issue of our publication to a company looking for Czech organizations in the U.S. to have Czech entertainers visit. Bro. Lebloch has been invited to be the English speaker at the Bohemian National Cemetery Memorial Day service. Reminder that each District was to hold an Educational Seminar before our next Convention with their agenda sent to the ASO. So far, we have not received any information about any District having this seminar. The Educational Committee will meet on March 30. There are 42 people signed up for the tour.

Bro. Millan reported attending U.S.

Continued on page 10.

A.S.O. Educational Director Offers Sokol Lecture



At the October meeting of Lodge Betsy Ross #151 Czechoslovak Society of America, guest speaker, Bro. Paul Lebloch, Educational Director of the American Sokol Organization, made an impressive presentation of the Sokol movement founded on Dr. Miroslav Tyrš' concepts. It was a

detailed history of the evolution of the Sokol development to the emigration to the United States. Brother Lebloch presented Deborah Zeman, Vice-President of the CSA Fraternal Life, with a bust of Miroslav Tyrš (as pictured) and a flag banner as a token of gratitude for allowing the display of Sokol artifacts, memorabilia and collective displays at the CSA Offices during the Sokol Slet held in the Chicago area this past summer. In addition, Bro. Lebloch showed a very light-hearted video of Czech Sokols with the Kmoch Marching Band. During the video, the audience joined in the singing of the various Czech Sokol songs. It seemed that emotions ran high that afternoon, as many were wiping away tears from the exhilaration.

~Val Lovitsch

Editor's Addition: Bro. Lebloch repeated his lecture in February at Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky, where it was also very well received.

MULTI-NATIONAL LEARNING DAY

On February 1, 1994, Sokol Baltimore was invited to participate in a multi-national learning day at Oliver Beach Elementary School in Baltimore County, Maryland. They presented four 25-minute presentations to small groups, grades K-5. Bro. Pete and Sis. Dolores Gentes described the history, culture and heritage of the country through their pictures and display items. They also taught the children some Czech greetings. The Sokols were also introduced, represented by Sis. Annette Conlon and Bro. Joe Vrzalik, who performed a variety of acrobatic skills and spoke of Sokol in Czechoslovakia. Following the presentation, each student was given a pamphlet containing the

words they had learned and pictures to color. The presentation was very well received; even some of the teachers participated. The children sent thank you notes, several of which are represented below.

~ Bro. Joe Vrzalik



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Gentes,

Ahoj! Jak se mas? I am fine. Dekuji for coming to my school and showing my class all of the neat things like the Sokols and the neat dishes and toys. Prosim come back to our school and show us lots more neater things. Nashledanou.

From, Sara Lindemore

P.S. Dekuji again.

Dear Joe and Annette,

Jak se mas doing? I'm doing fine. Dekuji for coming to our school. I thought you did a Dobreaty job. I hope you can come again.

Love, Chris Alfred



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Gentes and Joe & Annette,

Ahoj! Jak se mas? I wanted to thank the 4 of you! I really enjoyed watching Joe & Annette while they do Sokol acrobating. I also like seeing Czech plates & cups. I think Czechoslovakia is cool.

Dekuji!!

Sincerely, Rachael Dudak

NAPOLEON IN MORAVIA

THE BATTLE OF AUSTERLITZ - 1805

Editor's Note: Sis. Libbie Krivanek, former Sokol Slavsky Educational Director, sent me this article with the following note: "It occurred to me when I read the official tour of American Sokol in the February issue of *American Sokol* that I had written about the Battle of Austerlitz about 10 years ago. It may be apropos to print it in your next edition, for those going there and for others who have never heard this story." Thanks, Libbie!



A few miles east of Brno, Czechoslovakia, amid rolling farmland and little hills, there is a hill with two trees on it. If you would go there on a cold and snowy day, when the land lies bleak and the trees are bare and there is a morning mist and a red sun, you would see the battlefield of Austerlitz as Napoleon saw it on December 2, 1805.

That particular spot known to Moravians as Slavkov, was called Austerlitz during the time of the Hapsburg reign and was the scene of one of Napoleon's greatest victories. The battle that was waged here is known as "the battle of three emperors," because it involved the armies of Alexander I of Russia, Francis I of Austria and Napoleon I of France.

When the sun rose on December 2, 1805, two great armies faced each other, Napoleon's Grande Army

and the combined armies of Austria and Russia - a total of 158,000 men and 400 cannons. When the sun set, 11,000 Russians, 2,000 Austrians and 1,300 French lay dead on the cold earth. The Russian Tzar was preparing to retreat toward Russia and the Austrian emperor hastily agreed to a truce.

Historians have wondered for years how Napoleon managed so many victories (60), since he really had no set formula. The fact that Napoleon used modern, concise and precise methods and also that he was a gifted mathematician probably answers some of the questions. Every battle was fresh. He always sought to concentrate his forces and once that was done, he would sit back and wait for the enemy to make a mistake. Austerlitz was the classic example. The Russians weakened their center line to attack his flank; he saw the weakness and made his counter attack right there, thus binding up the Russian army.

What is perhaps most interesting to us Czechophiles is the scattering of French surnames still to be found in Moravia. It appears these names were left by numbers of French soldiers who were either wounded and left behind or defected from Napoleon's army, unwilling to fight on. They married Moravian maidens and began humble dynasties of blacksmiths and farmers.

❖ MEMORIAM ❖

Louise Anna Novotny, charter member of Sokol Belcamp, MD, passed away on February 6, 1994. She was born in Zlin, Czechoslovakia on June 4, 1902 and attended schools there. An active member of the Orel organization, she attended gymnastic classes and participated in the Orel Slet in Brno. She loved the theater and opera and with her lovely soprano voice sang at masses, weddings and funerals in Zlin.

In 1926, she married Charles J.

Novotny and in 1934 she purchased a building site in Zlin and arranged to have a home built there. In 1939, along with other Bata personnel, she, with her husband and daughter, came to the United States to establish a Bata Shoe Co. factory in Belcamp, Maryland.

During WWII, Louise, her husband and daughter, Eliska, were volunteers of the Army Air Force Aircraft Warning Service. For many years, she was a member and officer of the Harford Memorial

Hospital Ladies Auxiliary. She was active in their fairs by baking and selling Czech pastries and making toys for the young hospital patients. Sis. Novotny was also active for many years in Sokol Belcamp. Throughout her life, she was a happy and friendly person who loved people and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

The members of Sokol Belcamp extend their deepest sympathy to her husband, daughter and other relatives in the U.S. and abroad.

THE FORGOTTEN MASTER OF "LVI SILOU"

Near Praha, in Hostivice below White Mountain, a memorial plaque with a relief of the composer of the Sokol hymn "Lvi Silou, Vzletem Sokolim," Frantisek J. Pelz, appears on the post office building. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of his death in 1932, the local Sokol unit unveiled it as a memorial to the teacher, writer and great Sokol who was born on August 23, 1848 in Zbraslav.

In what was then a picturesque suburb of Praha (now part of Praha), Pelz began attending school. Later he attended a German gymnasium in Praha's Mala Strana and in 1866 acquired a teaching certificate to teach in country village schools.

His first teaching position was a one-room schoolhouse in not too distant Slivenec (now part of the city of Praha), where he taught only for his lodgings. He had to earn his subsistence by writing and music. He was a talented musician. He had mastery of several musical instruments and he earned money playing at dances and at funerals. He had already begun to compose, but his first compositions have been lost.

Pelz's second place of work was a school in Unetice, again near Praha, where annually he received the princely sum of 160 gold pieces. Next, he taught in Unhost, where he made himself known as the conductor of the singing group "Lipa." He functioned also in the civic social club, giving lectures and dedicating himself to the

children outside of formal classroom instruction.

In 1873, he married and had seven children for which to care. Even though he continually managed to keep the wolf from the door, he requested an increase in pay. The school board recommended it, but the county turned it down, undeniably because he had a forthright nature and told everyone to his face what he thought. Therefore, he was often transferred from one school to another. He taught in Nenacovice, after that in Horni Mokropsy, Trnov and lastly in Holubice near Kralupy nad Vltavou.

Composing came easily to Pelz. He wrote compositions, vocal and instrumental, choral works, songs, waltzes, polkas, flourishes for trumpet compositions and for musical scenes. Their number is estimated to be about 100, but many are unaccounted for. He composed serious dance compositions, which bands near and far played. Pelz willingly lent them, but often they were not returned to him. It is probable that they were played under another name or as a composition by an unknown author.

Above all, this happened to his most famous composition, "Lvi Silou, Vzletem Sokolim" (The Strength of Lions, the Flight of the Falcons). Pelz composed this march in Holubice in 1884, inspired by the first All-Sokol Slet and dedicated to the Sokol in Kralupy. The march was well-liked and band masters

assiduously copied and played it. It found its way to foreign countries.

Frantisek Kmoch added most to the popularity of the march. He inaugurated all his evening band concerts at the Ethnographic Exhibition held in Praha in 1885 with the march. He rearranged the composition a bit to meet the needs of his orchestra, but he never made known the rightful author. Therefore, the march was taken to be his work. The whole painful incident got all the way to the courts and Pelz won. However, it was of no value to him. Kmoch was a well-known and favorite composer, meanwhile no one knew a poor country teacher. And so, even in later printed editions, the author was taken to be Frantisek Kmoch.

In 1893, Pelz returned to Hostivice, as a teacher and cultural worker and remained there until 1911, when he retired. He lived in a home behind the church on a street which today bears his name. His uncompromising nature brought him into conflicting situations which embittered his life. However, his Sokol unit, where he devoted much of his free time, valued him. He lectured on various interesting topics to the members of Sokol and to the local citizenry and prepared speeches for celebrations. He spoke German, French and Latin.

In his old age, embittered, he became a recluse. He sat in the inn with a glass of beer, a burnt cigar

Continued on page 7.



Sokol Gymnasium Program Participation -- 1992-93 Season

Below are reported enrollment figures for the 1992-93 gym season. Even though statistics were submitted from each district, the reports do not include statistics from all units. These statistics show an increase in all classes except Tots and 6-9 Yr. Old boys; however, this should be expected as 1993 was both a Slet year and the year following the Olympics which normally see an increase in participation. The figures also show the impact of competition from other sports/interests as the participants get older (10-12 and Juniors) and until they reach adulthood.

The numbers in parentheses () indicate the change from the 1991-92 season figures.

	# Units		6-9 Boys	10-12 Boys	Junior Boys	Men
Central District	10(10)		171 (+21)	62 (-6)	27 (+9)	90 (+22)
Eastern District	2 (1)		45 (+3)	4 (+4)	12 (+4)	15 (+12)
Northeastern District	2 (2)		22 (+3)	10 (-2)	14 (+4)	43 (+4)
Pacific District	2 (2)		2 (+2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	17 (+5)
Southern District	7 (6)		42 (-4)	27 (+5)	15 (-2)	14 (+4)
Western District	4 (4)		34 (-3)	9 (-11)	17 (-5)	7 (-10)
American Sokol			275 (-19)	153 (+31)	115 (+20)	169 (+37)

	# Units	Tots	6-9 Girls	10-12 Girls	Junior Girls	Women
Central District	10(10)	248 (+11)	308 (+5)	209 (+14)	151 (+57)	133 (+25)
Eastern District	2 (3)	47 (-66)	64 (-19)	25 (+16)	24 (-5)	5 (-20)
Northeastern District	2 (2)	31 (-6)	37 (-13)	19 (+9)	34 (0)	79 (+8)
Pacific District	3 (2)	1 (-2)	3 (-2)	3 (-2)	1 (-1)	31 (+4)
Southern District	7 (6)	82 (+17)	157 (+46)	65 (+12)	34 (-10)	24 (+4)
Western District	5 (5)	86 (+18)	118 (0)	97 (+16)	62 (+2)	18 (-5)
American Sokol		495 (-18)	687 (+17)	418 (+65)	306 (+43)	290 (+16)

It should be kept in mind that these results are directly affected by the accuracy and completeness of the annual reports submitted each year.

Play's Hidden Purpose: Teaching Preschoolers

Where is the secret garden of children's lives in which they wonder, discover, create, experience and try to make sense of all that big world they live in has to offer? That garden is found in play, where young children spend much of their time. According to a study done by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 1985, approximately four hours of every day of the 3-5 year old child's life is devoted to play compared to approximately two hours daily for the 6-8 year old.

By looking at what children do when they play, we can better learn how best to teach and work with them in nonplay settings. When playing, children act out adult roles, make sounds, and give life and meaning to the inanimate objects that they play with. They take risks, make choices, use their imaginations, pretend, problem-solve, and imitate older children and adults.

When playing and learning, toddlers and preschoolers show that they do not learn linearly, but are fragmented learners. They are easily distracted from a task, but soon return to it. They use their senses to mentally sort, arrange, and rearrange the input they are taking in. All is subject to the "taste, touch, see, hear, feel, smell" test. Socially, young children begin life very self centered. They believe that the world revolves around them, and that everything they succeed in doing is wonderful. "Watch me" is a common imperative among preschoolers. The term cooperate is as foreign to them as nuclear science, for cooperation involves a planned and mutually acceptable cognitive outcome.

By watching children at play, we can ascertain not only how they best learn, but equally important, what teaching methodologies work best to facilitate that learning. When we look at a developmentally appropriate gymnastics motor development curriculum for young children, we must remind ourselves that the process must titillate the senses, be fun and must involve continuous activity with the instructor teaching in one of several ways: Guided Exploration and Discovery, Problem-Solving, Teacher Directed Learning, and Free Exploration and Discovery.

Guided Exploration and Discovery

In this style, the instructor creates a learning environment that is relatively new to the child, relative to some very specific outcomes that the instructor wants the class to achieve. The focus of the lesson should be placed on the process of discovering the outcome, since the process is equally or more important than the outcome itself. For example, the focus of a lesson may be to have children discover the different locomotor movements which they can travel with. Asked to think of the special ways they can move on their feet, students usually come up with most of the 8 locomotor movements we know to be possible, (walk, run, gallop, jump, hop, skip, leap, slide). They can then explore all the different ways they can do each of these movements and decide which to use as they move through an obstacle course. Through the process of discovering the outcomes for themselves, learning retention is greater; the children become aware of locomotor movements, and have explored ways that each can be used.

The teacher can maintain children's interest level during guided discovery by doing several things:

- Use change of action words to create a new and different response from the children

- Ask the child what they are doing, rather than telling them what to do
- Use "who can" questions to help children determine the possibilities as well as limitations
- Encourage and reward children with praise when they take risks. When children respond, "I can't" to a challenge, get down to their level and reply, "Show me what you can't do." This will usually elicit a positive response!

Problem-Solving

The problem solving style involves concentration and thinking skills. The instructor acts as encourager and facilitator to that process. For example, you might say, "Let's go to the floor beams." Rather than telling the children how to walk across without falling off, encourage them to discover what they must do with their body parts to maintain balance. They will usually solve the problem in more ways than one. To help keep children's interest as they work in this style, try these tips:

- If the solution is not readily apparent, give "hints" to help them solve it.
- Encourage children during the thinking process. Remember, there is no "right" or "wrong" in problem-solving and discovery: only more efficient.
- Keep in mind how long it would take students to come up with a solution; think in terms of building block concepts, not necessarily the end result.

Teacher Directed

This style is to be used when a skill is totally new to the child, when there is only one way to do the skill correctly, or when safety is a major factor. Many teachers use the teacher directed mode of teaching heavily because it is easier to be a leader and have students follow and imitate, or because they are looking for end results and outcomes rather than focusing on the process. Restrict this method for when no other method will work effectively.

Free Exploration and Discovery

This method can be frightening for a new teacher who may envision themselves being overrun with a totally out of control bunch of little people! Free exploration and discovery is similar to guided exploration in that the instructor sets the stage for children to explore and discover possibilities, but it is different in that the goal is not to have every child discover the same outcome at the same pace. Free exploration also differs from free play in that the instructor has an active role in structuring the environment and determining what students may discover. For example, activity station could be set up using a variety of mats, equipment, and apparatus and the children could be challenged to move freely from one station to another to discover many movement possibilities. When using this style, it is important to remember these points:

- Young children are sensory learners. Setup a stimulating environment that is appealing to the senses and will encourage children to explore.
- Change direction, equipment, or parts of an activity station if children appear to be growing bored.

The preschool gymnastics instructor plays an important role in the motor development of young children. The instructor is there to provide basic "building block" motor opportunities to explore movement options and develop body management skills that will be used in later life.

Excerpts from "Play's Hidden Purpose: Teaching Preschoolers," by Nicki Geigert, February, 1994 *Technique*

Prague Watch

- **Slet Performance Dates:** Contrary to rumors that there will only be one Slet performance, Bro. Slavik reports that **THERE IS NO CHANGE and never will be for the two main Slet performance days.** Rain or shine they will be July 5 and July 6.
- Sokol Greater Cleveland conducted a very successful and well received Prague Slet Calisthenics Clinic on the weekend of March 5-6th with some 100 participants representing the ASO Northeastern District, ASO Eastern District, ASO Central District, ASO Southern District, Sokol Canada, and Sokol USA. Calisthenics demo videos of 'full' formations, produced during the clinic, are now available through the ASO national office. The next Prague Slet Calisthenics Clinic will be conducted by Sokol Canada in Toronto, May 14-15th. Information has been distributed to unit directors.
- Sis. Georgia Jencik of Sokol Greater Cleveland has distributed her interpretations of Czech language instructions for Loyal Guard **WOMEN ONLY** blocks. Women only block position assignments have also been modified upon request of the COS.
- **Gala Praha:** There will be an international Gala Program, featuring the best gymnasts from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, France, etc. Besides gymnastics, there will be performances of acrobatic gymnastics, gymnastics on wheels, and a few other very modern shows of physical fitness. Place and time to be announced shortly -- perhaps Sunday evening July 3rd.
- Bro. Waldauf reports that the seating at Strahov Stadium was adjusted for a smaller than usual number of spectators (41,000). The main 'West' bleachers with 11,500 numbered seats have three price categories and are mainly reserved for spectators from abroad; "East" and "South" bleachers are designated for spectators from the host country; "North" bleachers are for performers.
- Bro. Waldauf also offers the following schedule of theater events (admissions \$25 - \$10):
 - ◆ National Theatre:

Saturday, July 2	The Kiss	2pm
	Bartered Bride	7pm
Sunday, July 3	From Tale to Tale	2pm / 7pm
Monday, July 4	The Servile of Two Masters	7pm
Tuesday, July 5	Netherland Choreography	7pm
Wednesday, July 6	A Year in a Village	2pm / 7pm
Thursday, July 7	A Year in a Village	7pm
Friday, July 8	Rusalka	7pm
Saturday, July 9	Bartered Bride	2pm / 7pm
 - ◆ Estates' Theatre

Saturday, July 2	Cloud and a Waltz	2pm / 7pm
Sunday, July 3	Magic Flute	7pm
Monday, July 4	Marriage	7pm
Tuesday, July 5	Double Inconstancy	7pm
Wednesday, July 6	Concert from Czech Operas	11am
	Magic Flute	7pm
Thursday, July 7	Magic Flute	7pm
- **A final Prague Slet survey will be taken in late April.** All participants are expected to have committed to travel arrangements by that time. Final numbers and positions **MUST** be submitted to the COS at that time so they can "fill" any holes in our formations. T-shirt sizes/orders for the official ASO Prague Slet T-shirt will also be needed at that time

**Excerpts -- National Director of Women's Annual Report
District Directors Conference -- October, 1993**

1993 American Sokol Slet

Most of the BOI's, the BOI secretary's, and my own activity centered around preparations for the 1993 American Sokol Slet in Chicago:

- All Calisthenics, Artistic Exercises, Rhythmic Exercises, and other text/rules/procedures were prepared for inclusion in the Slet Manual distributed to all unit/lodge/district directors in October 1992. \$300 in sponsorship money was obtained to defray the cost of the Slet Manual
- Master audio tapes were prepared, copied, and distributed to all womens directors with their Slet Manuals. A misunderstanding of the USGF's capability to copy audio tapes resulted in a delay in the distribution of Manuals and audio tapes.
- Master video tapes were prepared, copied, and distributed to all district directors with additional copies available to others for cost upon request.
- Revisions to the Slet Manual for exercise changes resulting from the 1992 Directors Conference were prepared, copied, and distributed to all Slet Manual holders.
- Insurance information request letters were prepared, distributed and responses processed.
- Slet Surveys were prepared, distributed, and responses processed.
- Competition entry forms were prepared, copied, distributed and responses processed.
- Final arrangements were made, after considerable delay, with Naperville Central HS for use of its facilities for competitions.
- The BOI cooperated with the Slet Committee in planning for the Competitors Social and Awards Night activities.
- Competition and activity schedules were prepared and constantly updated to reflect changing estimated and indicated participation
- With the help of Sis. Gilivo, arrangements were finally made for USGF Womens judges for Levels 5,6 and championship.
- The many, preparation details were identified and monitored utilizing a special 'Slet Action List'
- A BOI Slet budget was prepared for use in determining competitor entry fees that would financially cover the technical aspects of the Slet.
- Special packets were prepared and distributed to each unit/lodge, judges, competition directors, field leaders
- A detailed report on the Slet has been prepared by key members of the BOI.

In general, I think we all did a really good job with the planning and administrative preparations for the Slet. Unfortunately, when the Slet actually got here some of those plans and preparations never came to fruition during the Slet week itself. There were many things that went well and I think most people enjoyed their Slet experience. There were, however, also some problems which tend to overshadow the good things. Perhaps more delegation should have been done; perhaps too much was done to too few. Planning and preparing for a Slet from 900 miles away proved quite difficult.

Tots / Girls Gymnastic Skills Program

The new format of the program seems to have encouraged a little more participation in the Skills Program. For the 1993-94 season, we have redesigned the ribbon used for the Tot's Skills Program. These rainbow colored ribbons with new design are now available in the Tot's Skills packets. We are also considering upgrading the current Skills patch for both the Boys and Girls Skills Programs.

Merit Awards

For 1993, there were 6 new award recipients @ \$500 each (2-Central; 1-Eastern; 1-Northeastern; 1-Western; 1-Southern) and 6 renewals @ \$750 each (2-Central; 1-Northeastern; 1-Pacific; 1-Southern; 1-Western). The time payment reimbursement from the 1991 recipient for failing to maintain grade point average has been completed. One additional reimbursement of a 1992 renewal for failure to maintain grade point average was required and has also been made.

Jan Kalat

MASARYK STATUE

Illinois First Lady Brenda Edgar and Vera Wilt, President of the Czechoslovak Society of America, admire a replica of the statue honoring Thomas G. Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic. The statue is a Blanik Knight on a horse, symbolic of the struggle of the Czech peoples. March 7th was the 144th anniversary of Masaryk's birth. The statue that this replica is modeled after is located on the campus of the University of Chicago.



Bro. Frank Veselka Celebrates 85th Birthday



Bro. Frank Veselka, only living charter member of Sokol Corpus Christi, Texas, was honored on his 85th birthday on February 20, 1994. Sokol Corpus Christi was founded in 1930. Bro. Frank is still very active at Sokol Corpus Christi. He received letters and cards from many Sokol districts and units as well as greetings from many dignitaries, including President and Mrs. Clinton, Senators Gramm and Hutchinson, etc. All the members of Sokol Corpus Christi wish Bro. Frank many more birthdays. Keep up the good work, Bro. Frank!

~Bro. Jerry Elzner, Sokol Corpus Christi, TX

Pictured left to right are Bro. Jerry Sijansky, Bro. Frank Veselka and Bro. Jerry Elzner.

"Lvi Silou" *continued...*

in his mouth, frowning and not talking. Undoubtedly, it was a result of frustration of his entire life's artistic efforts. He died December 30, 1922 and on January 2 of the following year he was buried in Praha-Bubeneč with a number of Hostivice citizens in attendance.

His memorial plaque was carefully

hidden away during the war and was placed in its rightful place on May 9, 1969 by the Sokols. The cheek on the relief recalls to the passer-by the real author of the Sokol hymn - not Kmoch, but Pelz!

Recently, a Sokol song book was published (Vzlet-Praha 1992). In it,

"Lvi Silou" was credited to Fr. J. Pelz. The tune was arranged according to the tune of the French anthem. His composition is the most beloved of all the Sokol marches.

Adapted by Bro. Robert Baumruk, Sokol Slavsky Educational Director, from articles by Jiri Novotny and Dr. Josef Polak appearing in VESTNIK COS in the Czech language.

WORLD SOKOL FEDERATION

By 1904, the Sokol movement had been taking roots all across the Hapsburg empire, Serbia, in the United States and Paris. To coordinate all Sokol activities, but also to show the anti-Slav Austrian government its strength, Bro. Josef Scheiner, the president of the COS, conceived the idea to form Slavonic Sokol Union. This organization became a backbone of all Sokol activities around the world and a true source of support to underpin Sokol units in an environment not conducive to Sokol ideals.

The American Sokol Organization, being the first Sokol union of several units and founded in 1879, ten years before the Austrian rulers allowed Czech Sokols to organize themselves, was not an official member of this federation. Yet, it support it ardently, realizing that the American Sokol needed help as much as any Sokol units abroad. The delegates of the American Sokol Organization attended all meetings of the World Slav Union as guests and contributed heavily with ideas, work and money. On the other hand, the Slav Sokol Union sent in gymnastic and educational material and many highly skilled instructors, Bro. Jarka Jellinek among them, who helped to keep the American Sokol Organization vibrant with activities and moral commitment.

Hitler's Germany during World War II and the Soviet Union shortly after

the war combined to destroy the Sokol movement as well as the Slav Sokol Union. It came as no surprise, however, that at the first meeting of the American Sokol Organization and newly reborn COS in July 1990 in Prague, they both agreed to resurrect the World Sokol Organization that would embrace all Sokol in the world which profess Tyr's philosophy without any reservation. In subsequent meetings with Sokol USA and Sokol Abroad a new Sokol Umbrella organization was shaped in Organizational Order, ready to promote and support a true Sokol movement anywhere in the world, without interfering with by-laws and independence of member organizations.

The first meeting of the World Sokol Federation took place in the historical meeting room of the Tyr's House on October 30, 1993. With all five charter organizations being present, Bro. Stanislav Douthlik, president of the COS, opened the session, outlining the order of the day. First, he asked the 10 delegates present to review the opinion of their organizations as far as the Federation is concerned.

Delegates of the COS, American Sokol Organization, Sokol USA, Sokol Abroad and Sokol in Slovakia gave their views and reports. All of them stressed a common desire for unity and mutual help, unwittingly echoing wise words of

Bro. Charles Prchal, who at the X. All Sokol Slet in Prague in July 1938 declared: "United we stand, going alone we'll live to see the end of us."

The Board of Instructors of the COS followed with an abbreviated report on the Slet preparations. All statistics seem to agree that the final number of gymnasts at the XII. All Sokol Slet will be no less than 20,000, but also may not reach 25,000. Considering the difficult road to democracy, more than 20,000 volunteers represent a fairly good progress of the Sokol movement in the Czech Republic. As usual, all sport competitions or tournaments must be concluded before the Slet, with the exception of volleyball and gymnastics. These two tournaments will be held during the Slet. The gym meet will have only one division, championship class for men and women with at least FIG 1B. According to the European rules, there will be a competition for boys and girls in champion class, ages 10-14.

The Czech Government supports the Slet. The Ministry of Education will shorten the school year in Prague schools to be used to house Czech Sokols. The Czech Army will send a military band and a parade regiment into the Sunday great Sokol Parade. The Mayor of Prague promised all help during the Slet.

STEPS FORWARD

~Bro. Vladislav Slavik

The Slet will be opened officially with the performance of Smetana's Bartered Bride. The president, members of the government, military high brass and Prague diplomats, as well as all Sokol leaders are expected to attend.

After a lunch break, the meeting continued with small changes of the Organizational Order of the Federation, mostly changing words in a Czech version. Delegates discussed the duties of the Federation officers, which did not take long, as there is only a president and two vice-presidents to elect.

Bro. Stanislav Doutlik asked for the nominations for the office of president. Sokol Abroad initially asked for the consensus on Bro. Jan Waldauf. However, Bro. Waldauf respectfully declined, citing mostly the fact that as long as the seat of our Federation is in Prague, the executive officer should live in Prague. Bro. Slavik nominated Bro. Karel Syrový, a vice-president of the COS since 1991. Bro. Syrový was unanimously elected.

Next, Bro. Doutlik called for the nominations of two vice-presidents. The COS nominated Bro. Slavik; he declined. The Sokol Abroad nominated Bro. Rudolf Fiala, Sokol in Slovakia nominated Bro. Vlad. Voloscak and both accepted. Bro. Waldauf nominated Bro. Slavik once again, due to the pivotal

importance of the American Sokol. Bro. Slavik accepted. Election: Slavik 4 votes, Fiala 2, Voloscak 1, Waldauf (Write-in) 1. Bro. Slavik and Bro. Fiala were elected. According to the Organizational Order, a secretary is not elected, it is named by the COS. Sis. Dana Gallatova was named to be secretary of the Federation.

Under new business, Bro. Slavik brought up the Slovak question with the intent to merge the two Sokol organizations in Slovakia. Bro. Steve Banjak explained that Sokol USA offered to mediate between these two Sokol groups. Regrettably, its offer was not responded to. The Slovak delegates expressed a hope that the situation may improve, as several large units switched to Sokol in Slovakia. Additionally, a successful Slet in Prague may induce both organizations to seek a merger.

As to the future activities, it was decided to sponsor an 8-day instructor course right after the Slet in Tyršov Dum. Also, the COS Board of Instructors will prepare a list of English speaking instructors interested in teaching in Sokol units abroad.

Our Federation is beginning to receive letters from newly forming units in Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Poland, Ukraine and from the Elbe-Slav territory. The Federation will turn its attention to all these units

right after the Slet. There are very encouraging reports that most of these units will be present at the Slet. In fact, one unit in Bulgaria is learning the Slet calisthenics.

On that positive note, the first meeting of the Sokol World Federation came to a close. It was well past 6:00. A very simple dinner party for the delegates and COS officials was held in Stara Zbrojnice, today called Hotel Kampa. By 9:00 p.m. everyone left for their homes.

On Sunday, October 31 at 9:30 there was a press conference with a good many reporters asking all kinds of questions about the Slet, the two Sokol organizations in Slovakia and about Sokol Abroad, particularly about the American Sokol. Right after the conference I was asked to go "live" on Aqua Radio Station. As I reported previously, Czech people like anything coming from the United States (with the exception of violent movies). During the afternoon, delegates chatted informally about their mutual problems. By late afternoon the Tyršov House was empty.

I would like to thank the Eastern District for insisting that the American Sokol Organization should be represented at this meeting of the Sokol World Federation. The Eastern District paid my fare and I paid the other expenses. It sure was worth it.

Na Zdar!

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Minutes of 3/22/94 A.S.O. Executive Board Meeting *(continued)*

Gymnastic meetings and is looking into getting a VCR that converts back and forth between U.S. and European video formats for the office at a reduced price.

Sis. Satek reported that the March issue is in the office and will be mailed out shortly. Sis. Satek was then excused from the meeting.

Sis. Pros had a financial report for the month of February. Also, our savings/checking account balance as of March 22, 1994. She looked into a new phone and it would be very expensive. Need to get 3rd and 4th Quarter money from units into the office.

Bro. Masek reported that he had a Foundation Fund meeting and they are looking into 25 companies that give to foundations. Foundation Fund committee member Colleen Kenny has resigned and Bro. Borvansky asked for a copy of her letter of resignation to be sent to the office.

Sis. Kourim has been sewing and selling uniforms. Bro. Borvansky took care of regular business and

participated in Sokol Stickney's exhibition.

Bro. Podhrasky has submitted By-Laws to be approved by the Executive Board. Since the recommendation of a committee is similar to a motion, Bro. Masek seconded that Sokol Zizka, Dallas, By-Laws be approved and it was passed. Sis. Kalat seconded that Sokol Slavsky's By-Laws be approved and it was passed. Bro. Masek seconded that Sokol Detroit's By-Laws be approved if suggested changes are made at their next annual meeting, passed.

Items for the computer sent to the office by Sis. Filipello have been lost by the Post Office. A claim has been filed. Bro. Babka moved that the disk and instructions book for PageMaker be sent to Bro. Kalat, the new editor of the Gymnast, seconded and passed.

There followed a long discussion about the financial report given last month by Bro. Satek and Bro. Zitny.

The report suggested some ways to

cut expenses and ways of raising money. It was felt that each area that has a budget should come up with ways to cut expenses and/or ways of raising money. Since the Executive Board does not have the authority to make budget changes, but the Board of governors can make changes, the Executive board need to recommend things to change to the Board of Governors. Some other ideas were a letter to the membership explaining the problems, a committee be formed to look into expenses and revenue making projects and to realize that we cannot fix in one year what has taken years to form.

Sis. Dalton moved that each department that has a budget make recommendations to the Executive Board on how they could trim their budget and/or raise funds, which will then be sent to the Board of Governors. This should be completed by the May 24, 1994 meeting, seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Sis. Nancy Pajeau, Secretary

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