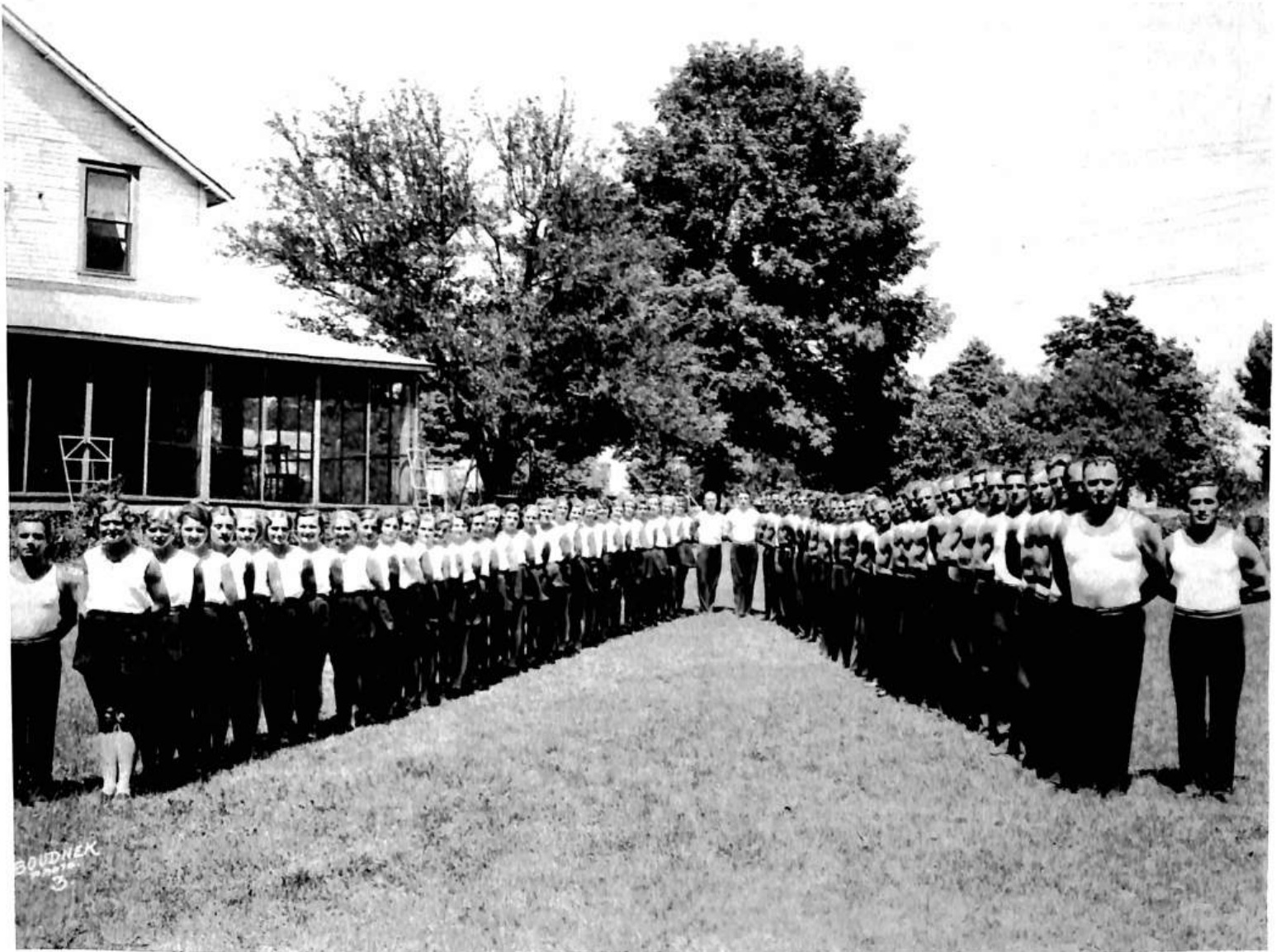


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ASO Teacher's Course

South Haven, Michigan

June 1933

~ Archival Photo ~

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From Your Editor...

May is a busy Sokol month. Classes are drawing to a close and there are gymnastic competitions, District Slet activities, awards ceremonies, meetings, etc. Though all Districts do not do things in the same way, their goals are the same – to perpetuate the Sokol ideals. This summer the A.S.O. is once again holding a National Instructors' School, this year at Sokol South Omaha. The school also perpetuates Sokol ideals. In my gym, we have always felt it important and necessary to try to send as many of our Juniors to these instructor schools as possible, because even if we come out with just one instructor, it is preferable to having none. So encourage your Juniors to attend the school, find money in your unit to assist them with tuition. It's worth it!

NA ZDAR!

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

CALENDAR of EVENTS

JULY

- 10 Sokol Greater Cleveland
Cesky Den at DTJ Farm
- 30 Sokol Detroit Czech & Slovak
Festival, Yack Arena

AUGUST

- 14 Sokol Detroit Sokol Camp
Picnic, Sandy Bottom Lake
- 14-21 Sokol Fresno Family Camp in
Dinkey Creek
- 20 Sokol Greater Cleveland
Clam Bake

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky Class
Registration
- 11 Sokol Detroit Grape Festival
- 18 Sokol South Omaha Czech
Festival

JULY 2-6

**XII All-Sokol Slet
Prague, Czech Republic**

**JULY 24-AUGUST 7 ASO
Instructor's School at Sokol
South Omaha**

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

*Nicknames stick to
people, and the most
ridiculous are the
most adhesive.*

❖ *Thomas C. Haliburton*

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 Sokol Educator

Bro. Paul C. Lebloch, A.S.O. Educational Director

VYSEHRAD – THE HIGH CASTLE

Vysehrad, according to legend, was the first Czech castle and the home of Princess Libuse. Libuse ordered her father's soldiers to go out into the country and find a peasant who "eats on an iron table," i.e., a table made from a plow blade. Her soldiers found a handsome ploughman, Premysl. They dressed him as a king and brought him back on a white horse to Vysehrad. The romantic union of royalty and peasantry took place resulting in the first Czech dynasty, the Premyslid Dynasty.

Vysehrad attracted Charles IV, the monarch who made Prague the capital of the Holy Roman Empire, the home of the first university in Central Europe and one of the most vibrant cities in Europe. He started his coronation procession at Vysehrad. Inspired by Premysl, he donned peasant sandals and satchel to symbolize that he considered himself no better than his lowest subject.

The Hursite Wars destroyed most of the buildings in 1420. The Swedes attacked Vysehrad during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). In 1874 Emperor Franz Josef ordered segments of Vysehrad destroyed.

After the European revolutions of 1848, a movement of Czech nationalism flourished among

intellectuals. Miroslav Tyrs and Jindrich Fuegner, the founders of Sokol, were part of this group. The resulting national revival sought to promote the history of the Czech lands and language, both of which had been suppressed by the Hapsburgs.

Reviving Czech history included renewing the myths surrounding Vysehrad. In 1860, the idea of establishing a Czech National Cemetery at Vysehrad was put forward by a group of Czech writers. The project was completed in 1908. The more you know about Czech history, music and letters, the more you will appreciate the cemetery's mass of cultural and artistic monuments. The collection of sculpture atop the graves and frescoes are worth seeing.

The cemetery's surrounding archways come to an artistic climax at the monumental Pantheon, which houses the remains of 50 of Czech cultural elite. The two statues on either side of the Pantheon, designed by Josef Mucida, represent rejoining homeland and mourning homeland.

For those attending the XII All-Sokol Slet, Vysehrad might be a welcome respite from the busy center of Prague. The easiest way to get to Vysehrad is by metro. Heading south on Line C (Red) from the center of town, get off at the stop Vysehrad. You will see a magnificent panorama of Prague from the spot where Libuse made her prophecy.

Continued on Page 7.



CONVENTION

By Bro. Vladislav Slavik, President, Eastern District A.S.O.

With a very successful XVIII Slet of the American Sokol Organization behind us, we ought to turn our attention to the upcoming XVI General Convention which will take place in June 1995. To be sure, the American Sokol Organization is going to notify each unit and district of the exact date of the convention with a reminder that any proposition or amendment to the present By-Laws must be sent to the office of the ASO 120 days prior to the convention. In the 120 days preceding the convention, the members of the By-Laws Committee, six in total – one each per district, examine and study proposals, amendments and motions. They must consider and scrutinize all matters to be fully acquainted with their intent, form and contents. In the three days before the convention, when the By-Laws Committee is called to session, the members should be so well-versed in all issues pertaining to the By-Laws that they can easily discuss merits and form an opinion on any motion or amendment.

Ideally, the By-Laws Committee should print all important motions and proposals in the official

publication to appraise all units and their delegates of the issues they are called upon to deal with. It is extremely difficult, at times even perplexing, if not impossible, to form an opinion or take a stand on some new or thorny proposals within several hours, at most within three days. In the early years of our organization, the units kept themselves quite informed. In an effort to seek common ground, important proposals were circulated throughout the organization. They tried to forego any surprises. In the '40's through the '80's, our organization was still doing quite well. The membership was content, did not seek any great changes, except for financial security of Sokol future in America.

In their wisdom, but also through their love of Sokol, the preceding generation of American Sokols instituted a system of funds that has sustained our activities even if a steady decline of membership has created a considerable drain on our general fund. Without the Special Assessment Fund, our gymnastic activities would be seriously curtailed. The Convention Fund guarantees each unit, even the poorest one,

a voice at the convention. The Future Sokol Leaders Fund is first a monument in memory of dedicated Sokol believing in forever perpetuating Sokol ideals and second a source of money underpinning those ideals.

Only at the last convention in Fort Worth, Texas, have we embarked on quite an unusual course. First, in order to seek sources of funding our Sokol activities, we established a Sokol Foundation. This foundation "shall stimulate contributions to the organization and accept real or personal property by way of gift, bequest, or devise by any person, firm, trust or corporation." This certainly is a worthwhile purpose, especially that it may attract corporate or trust sources, providing we do find ways for such attraction and do not underestimate our own shortcomings.

Second, in order to seek a voice in the Executive Board and influence the daily activities of our organization, some delegates felt that we must replace the President's Conference (held once in five years) with a Board of governors. This board is to interpret "policies laid down

REFLECTIONS

by the convention....," review the administration and especially all financial matters. It is also to hire and guide the Executive Director.

As it so often happens, we created a body, the Board of Governors, that would increase the input of the districts because we felt that the Executive Board is too much Chicago-oriented, but at the same convention we elected half of the members of the Executive Board from the Western and Southern Districts. Needless to say, that the true load of Sokol work is still carried by the Central District.

Additionally, the last convention created another position, that is the Executive Director. We saddled this position with so many duties that it is very difficult to find a person who would satisfy the Article 7 of our By-Laws. As we all know by now, this position is now unfilled for the simple reason that the organization has no money to fund it. Adding to our financial problems, the convention based the income in the next five years on an assumption that the activities of the Executive Director or the Sokol Foundation

will augment our treasury by a substantial amount of money, when in reality, no money came in.

Generally speaking, there were two elements that caused our present financial straits. First, we brought about changes seeing only their bright side, neglecting to prepare an alternative plan in case of a miscalculation. Second, those who opposed the changes failed to stand up for what they believed was right. All changes of our By-Laws were adopted unanimously. Being a delegate to the last convention, I bear full responsibility, just like any other delegate. I was led to believe that the Executive Director and Sokol Foundation would save the organization. The proposal was undoubtedly of a great merit, the Executive Director was going to be an individual of unusual talent and wisdom, with a 24-hour work day, seven days a week to satisfy the Article 7 of our By-Laws. Yet, the all-important ingredient of any successful undertaking was missing: funding. As an afterthought, we may add that we expected too much from a mere mortal.

A success has many fathers; disaster is an orphan. However, the purpose of my writing is not pointing a finger but rather to reform our faulty convention procedure. Fundamental changes cannot be run through a convention, lest they be publicly proposed several months ahead of time. Each delegate represents either her/his unit or district or executive committee, but her/himself. Accordingly, delegates must be instructed by the membership of their units or districts. The committee on laws must inform units of all proposals that substantially change the present By-Laws or their purpose or spirit.

Only with this procedure we may hope that our convention will assemble delegates fully informed who will be able to discharge their responsibility in a manner that should satisfy every member of our organization. We owe it to the American Sokol and to all our young members who hope that our next convention will lead them into the next century.

◆ MEMORIAM ◆

LAWRENCE NIKL

JULY 9, 1901-MAY 8, 1994

Lawrence Nikl, Sokol Racine, was the son of Joseph Nikl, one of the original signers of the Sokol Racine charter in 1892. Bro. Nikl was an active member for over 70 years. He was a long time instructor in Sokol Racine, instructing both males and females in various divisions. He actively coached the Junior Boys' division in competition well into his 60's. In 1932, Bro. Nikl was selected to represent the Central District as a coach and competitor in the international Slet held in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Bro. Nikl was a good athlete; an avid bowler and golfer, he was inducted into the Racine Bowling Association's Hall of Fame in 1989. He bowled a 300 game and made a hole-in-one in golf, both after the age of 60.

In 1948, after his first wife had



passed away, Bro. Nikl met and married Lois Tobinski. Together, they had two sons, Larry and Thomas, both of whom were involved in Sokol Racine while growing up. Bro. Nikl is survived by his wife Lois, his two sons, and three grand-children. Bro. Nikl was very proud of his Czech and Bohemian heritage and also proud to be a lifelong Sokol. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

~Submitted by Thomas Nikl

**GREETINGS
TO ALL
MOMS AND
DADS FOR
A HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY AND
FATHER'S
DAY!**

FUTURE SOKOL LEADERS FUND

Purpose: To train and educate young people to assure able administrators, the best of idealistic instructors and educational directors for Sokol Units and Districts.

In memory of Christine Poncar

From Ethel M. Nemec \$20.00

In Memory of Lawrence Nikl, Sokol Racine
From sokol & Sokolice Racine Members & Friends:

James & Arlene Fetek	\$25.00	Charles & Lorraine Vignieri	\$25.00
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Elizabeth M. Hansen	\$5.00	Lillian Lopour Cooper	\$5.00
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AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

GYMNAST

Editor: Chuck Kalat -- 2401 Bluebonnet Dr., Richardson, Texas 75082



Gymnastic Skills Program Usage

Since the reorganization of the American Sokol Gymnastic Skills Programs in 1992, they have been more enthusiastically received and have enjoyed a resurgence of usage. The Skills Programs have faced elimination from lack of use for most of the time since their inception. Some members of the National BOI, however, steadfastly supported continuation of the programs with a series of both content and administration revisions to find the right combination. The old, more cumbersome, American Sokol BOI controlled, programs were replaced by more flexible programs which left more control at the local unit level. No longer is it required to notify the national organization of skills testing results in order to receive skills awards for distribution to program participants. Instead, the program is 'package' oriented; with each package including sets of skills for various levels of accomplishment, instructions, a set of individual progress cards to record participant progress, and a set of awards for the unit to use whenever it deems that a participant has met the requirements of the particular skill level.

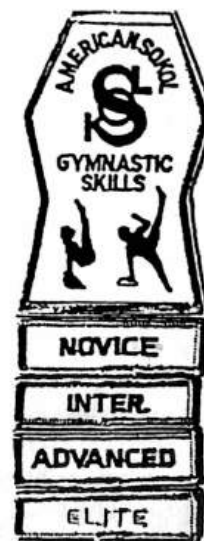
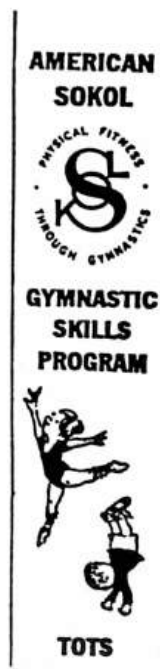
There are actually three distinct skills programs: Tots, Girls, and Boys. The Tots Gymnastic Skills program has only one level with 4-5 skills in each of 6 categories: Tumbling, Rings, Vault, Balance Beam, Hand Apparatus (ball), and Marching/Calisthenics movements / positions. After achieving / demonstrating the appropriate level of proficiency of the designated skills, the participant is awarded a bright, rainbow colored, ribbon of achievement.

The Girls' Gymnastic Skills Program has 5 levels (Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Elite) with 4-5 designated skills on each of 6 events (Vault, Beam, Bars, Floor Exercise, Dance, and Conditioning). An embroidered patch is awarded for proficiency at the Beginner Level with an additional embroidered 'bar' awarded for each successive level of proficiency.

The Boys' Gymnastic Skills program is comparable to the girls' program with the same 5 levels and skills on 7 events (Floor Exercise, Pommel Horse, Rings, Parallel Bars, High Bar, Vault, and Conditioning/Flexibility). It utilizes the same embroidered patch/bars awards as the girls' program.

According to reports at the 1993 District Directors Conference for the 1992-93 season, 14 units purchased Tots Skills Program packages for use; 26 units purchased Girls' Skills Program packages; 8 units purchased Boys' Skills Program packages. In addition, several units also ordered individual Skills Program materials (participant cards, awards, etc.) to supplement previously purchased 'packages'.

To further enhance the Skills Programs, the primary patch award and the Tot's ribbon award have recently been redesigned.



Prague Watch

- **Calisthenics Clinic:** The next Prague Slet Calisthenics Clinic will be conducted by Sokol Canada in Toronto, May 14-15th. Information has been distributed to unit directors.
- **Official Slet Opening:** Saturday, July 2nd at 1:30 pm in the National Theater with Smetana's Bartered Bride to follow. Tickets range from \$9-\$25 and may be obtained through the JASMIN Agency.
- **Extra Practice:** An additional practice session for the Loyal Guard calisthenics has been scheduled by the COS for Saturday, July 2nd from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. Further information (line-up time, etc.) will be distributed as it becomes available.
- **Flags:** Only one American flag will be carried at the front of the American Sokol group during the Prague Slet parade. Units or districts may bring their **unit/district flags ONLY** for the parade. Note: If a unit/district brings its flag to the parade, **IT MUST PROVIDE ITS OWN FLAG BEARER.** (Remember: the parade will last approximately 90 minutes)
- **Parade:** The American Sokol assembly point for the parade is just below the National Museum, above the statue of St. Vaclav. Get your Prague street maps out;
The tentative parade route is:
 - Vaclavske Namesti,
 - Ulice 28 rijna,
 - Narodni trida,
 - Narodni divadlo,
 - Smetanovo Nabrezi,
 - Krizovnicka,
 - Nam. Jana Palacha,
 - u1. 17 listopadu,
 - Parizska trida,
 - Staromestske namesti
- **Prague Slet T-shirt:** The design for the American Sokol Prague Slet T-shirt has been selected. Price of the shirt is \$8 plus \$2 handling/postage. The heather grey shirt has a large, red/blue design featuring "Talon" on the back and a small, blue Praha Slet identifying design on the front left breast.
- **Sokol ID Ribbon:** The Sokol ID Ribbon is a part of the uniform for the Loyal Guard, Karneval, and Mens Calisthenics. It should be placed as follows:
 - Mens Calisthenics / Mens Loyal Guard - center front, 6 centimeters from the top
 - Womens Loyal Guard - center front, 8 centimeters from the top
 - Karneval - front upper left shoulder, flush with the seamThe ASO currently does not have a supplier for these ribbons, so they may have to be borrowed until a supplier can be found.
- **Useful Information:** (from V. Slavik)
 - Although most medical plans do cover travel abroad, there are some that do not!!! Medicare is one of them. Check your policy. Don't forget any medications.
 - Make 2 photocopies of the first page of your passport and other important documents. Keep one copy at home; upon arrival in Prague, send the other copy to your relatives or keep it in a hotel safe. And, make sure that your passport is still valid.
 - While credit cards are accepted in many hotels and stores, there is no need to bring a whole stack of them. Sears, Penneys, gasoline, and other such credit cards should stay at home.
 - The COS informs us that the locker rooms at the Sokol Stadium will have no benches or any hangers. Gymnasts should bring with them plastic bags with their names to store street clothing. Consider coming to the stadium in gym uniform; then shoes would be the only thing needed to be stored away.

Become a Birthday Party Resource for Your Families.

Today, the current status in birthdays is to have the party at a place that is special. Consequently, many theme parks, roller skating rinks, pizza restaurants, toy stores, community centers, YMCA's, church centers, movie theaters, and others are offering birthday party programs for the general public. Since our sport has become the sport of the 90's, what better way to introduce children and parents to our gym than a birthday party. What an opportunity! Your student or their sibling who is having the party will be inviting 10-30 friends to come to your gym, see your facility, experience limited group gymnastics, and have a fun experience. Of course, each of them has received a party invitation that you addressed and mailed as part of the service you offer. They also receive party favors that have the name and phone number of your gym. In fact, it's nice to have all those pictures and trophies in the area where they begin the party, and the staff credential and certification bulletin board in the waiting area where the party ends. Be sure that as many party pictures as possible are taken. Should your party calendar fill, you may want to make it exclusive only to families with a student in your program, or by referral from a current family only. Be sure that you price the party fairly for all concerned.

Goals

To involve the whole family in an exciting and unique birthday party experience in your gym.

Calendar Scheduling

Available time - keeping in mind team workouts and holiday schedules. Friday, Saturday, or Sunday afternoons work well.

Staff

A dedicated and ENTHUSIASTIC Birthday Party Director is a MUST. He/she will need more assistants, depending on the size of the party. A 1 to 9 ratio works well. Assistants may be teenagers, team members, or interested parents.

Party Design and Format

A 90 minute Party will give 10 minutes of introduction time, 45 minutes of games and/or obstacle course, and about 30 minutes of cake and presents. Plan at least 45 minutes between parties to clean up and set up. Provide a room with permanent party decorations, tables and table covers, chairs, ice, disposable flatware, party favors, balloons, a Polaroid picture of the "Birthday Child," and invitations with your gym name included. (If your gym does not have a helium tank -- get one!!)

Food and Drinks

Cake and Ice Cream is best provided by the party family. Drinks may be mixed by your staff or provided by the family

Registration and Fees

Charging may vary anywhere from \$5.00 to \$12.00 per child attending. Generally, a \$50.00 deposit keeps your clients honest when reserving a party day and time. Keep an accurate reservation list.

Party Invitations

Print your own 'first class' invitations to be used for birthday parties at your gym. Be sure to include your gym address and telephone number.

From "Ways to make your gymnastic program important to the whole family," by Beau Biron, 1992 USGF Congress.

BE CREATIVE WITH YOUR PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Teaching Fair Play: The Essence of Sport

The selfish nature of the human being must be changed in order to be able to participate in a cooperative society. Ethical principles must be developed in the family, the community, and in the school. Pressures to succeed (from teachers, family, other students, or the community) can tempt one to try to win regardless of principles. One of the best areas in which to work on the practice of ethical principles and fair play is in the area of athletics. Sports and games are highly motivating for young people, and they provide fertile ground to sow the seeds of good sportsmanship.

There is no question that winning is good. That's why we keep score. Sometimes, however, we lose sight of the greater good, and the more important educational principles, behind the inclusion of athletics in the curriculum.

Unfortunately, unethical behavior is found as often in sports as it is in other parts of our lives. Cheating, violence, steroid use (and other forms of doping), running up the scores of games, fights after the event, and parents attacking officials at little league games are but a few of the examples of poor sportsmanship found at all levels. We have forgotten (as admonished by Nehru, the former Prime Minister of India) "to play the game in the spirit of the game."

We need to look at the societal context of sport. We presently exist in a "self-centered" group, which is in conflict with the need of a benevolent and democratic society for a good amount of altruism. We forget that people are an end in themselves, not just a means to our own selfish ends.

We need to approach sports and the physical education curriculum with more emphasis on the individual. We need to emphasize mastery of oneself, rather than mastery of others (winning).

The International Committee for Fair Play has become an important organization for returning ethical principles to sport. Germany, Norway, and Australia are all actively working on returning principles to every level of sport--from amateur youth sport to professional. The United Nations Charter (International Committee for Fair Play, "Fair Play for All," Munich, 1992, p. 12) says that

human dignity always needs to be the main concern of sport.

American education should look to the example of these international organizations for guidance in teaching ethical principles through sport. Being ethical requires both high self esteem and a strong sense of the worth of others.

How can coaches, athletic directors, department chairpersons, and others in sport exemplify the principles of good sportsmanship? We set the climate in which sports are played.

Some suggestions are

- ♦ being certain that players have adequate, safe equipment
- ♦ assuring that contests occur among equal competitors
- ♦ providing equitable opportunities for boys and girls
- ♦ understanding, and **stressing**, that the primary purpose of sport is to educate for ethical success
- ♦ giving all players an opportunity to develop through participation
- ♦ adhering to the rules, and to the spirit of the rules, at all times
- ♦ tolerating neither violence nor doping

We can work together to set league rules to foster ethical standards. We are the ones who can best set the tone for the attitudes of the community toward sport. We need to examine ourselves and our own motives. Is there really a need to beat an opponent 60 to 0? Would a four touchdown lead that provides an opportunity for everyone to play be a more ethical choice?

What example are we setting when we teach our players to hold another's face mask or jersey in close line play? Is the mission really mayhem? Are we teaching students sports when we allow only the best to play?

As coaches, we must exemplify sportsmanship. We need to live the principles we teach and teach the principles we live.

Bob O'Connor, Pierce College

From: The United States Sports Academy's Sport Supplement, Winter, 1994, Volume 2 Number 1.

VYSEHRAD *(Continued from Page 2.)*

The stage curtain at Sokol Berwyn has been a historical contribution of art to the community. Painted in 1924 by Bro. Frantisek Ctrnacty, it shows Princess Libuse, daughter of Krok and husband of Prince Premysl, standing with her retinue and the elders of the people on the rocky precipice high above the Vltava River telling one of her many prophecies.

Alois Jirasek, 19th Century celebrated writer, describes the prophecy as follows:

Uplifted and transfigured, as though neither her husband nor court nor retinue existed for her, Libuse stretched out her hands toward the

blue hills beyond the river and, gazing at the forest that clothed them to the summit, gave voice to the spirit of prophecy:

"I see a great city, whose glory will touch the stars."

"There in the forest is the place, three short miles distant from here; the river Vltava encircles it."

"On the north side the brook Brusnice encloses it with its deep valley and on the south the rocky hill beside the forest of Strahov."

"When you come there you will find a man in the midst of the forest, hewing the threshold of a house."

"And you will call the castle you will build there, Praha, that is, the threshold. And a princes and chieftains bow their heads before the threshold, so shall they bow their heads before my city."

"Honor and praise shall be given to it, and it shall be renowned throughout the world."

Through the many years of service, the painting had become worn and faded until recently when a young artist visiting from Czechoslovakia, Petr Herz, agreed to restore this historic masterpiece. The curtain can be viewed at Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky in Berwyn, Illinois.

THE TALON MUG

A great fund-raising opportunity for your Unit!

These mugs feature our own "Talon the Falcon" informing everyone that "Sokol Gymnastics is Fun!"

This product is market-tested and virtually sells itself. This unique mug can be used over and over again, at home, at work, in the car, at the beach or at your favorite sporting event. Made in America, it can be used as a thermal mug for hot or cold drinks or use it as a can cooler. It even has a handy storage compartment on the bottom for keys, cash, credit cards, driver's license, tea bags, soup packets or cream & sugar packets.

Sales are and have been phenomenal by groups just like ours. Advertise your Sokol program through the sale of these mugs. The red/white/blue Talon mugs are available from the American Sokol Office, either individually (\$6.00 each, plus shipping & handling) or to Units as a fund-raising program at a special quantity discount price. Units should write or call for an information packet: American Sokol, 6424 W. Cermak Road, Berwyn, IL 60402, 708-795-6671.

\$6⁰⁰ Each

(Individually)

+ Shipping & Handling.
Units should contact
ASO Office for an
information packet for
fund-raising, including
quantity discount price.



CZECH WOMAN COULD HAVE BEEN GEORGE WASHINGTON'S FIRST LADY

Written by Sis. Lillian Prihoda, Sokolice Tabor - From an article published 2/17/91 in the Cicero/Berwyn Life Newspaper.

During an interim of the French and Indian Wars and a lull in defending the colonies, George Washington was a guest of the Frederick Philipse family at Manor Hall, Yonkers, NY. The first Frederick Philipse built Manor Hall in 1682. On a natural elevation, the manor commanded a clear view of the Hudson River in early times.

Young Mary Philipse was always enchanted of officers in uniform and Washington was no exception and he became deeply enamored of her. Philipse's brother, also named Frederick and known as Col. Philipse, became alarmed at the prospect of a courtship.

Philipse was of Czech heritage bloodlines, a descendant of Bohemia's aristocratic nobility the powerful Kinski/Kinsky family that fought and lost with the Bohemian Estates in 1620 at a site called White Mountain against the Austrian king's troops. Her ancestors in Bohemia had for some generations also held the office of Master Rangers of the Royal Forests. The insignia of the office was a jeweled badge representing a gold deer on a gold chain.

Having lost at the Battle of White Mountain, the Kinski/Kinsky family retreated to Holland and changed the family name to Philipse. Shortly thereafter, they emigrated to America.

Washington was not encouraged further by Mary Philipse, thus alleviating her brother's fears. Washington's pursuit of Philipse

was derailed by a number of factors. Besides his poor teeth, he was without a formal education and a pauper by the Philipse standard. Washington was at a disadvantage. That it privately rankled him he was to prove later.

Besides Manor Hall, Frederick Philipse built the Old Dutch Church in Tarrytown, NY. Believed to be the oldest church in New York state and still used for religious services, it is featured in the writing of author Washington Irving and his "Legend of Sleepy Hollow." He is buried in the cemetery of the church yard. In the manner of Czech nobility, the first Frederick Philipse and family members are buried in a crypt beneath the church. Washington didn't allow the church to be used for any type of service during the Revolution.

Mary Philipse enjoyed being the grand hostess of Manor Hall. She was aided at times by Eva Philipse, adopted daughter of the first Frederick Philipse, who became the First Frederick Philipse, who became by marriage a Van Cortlandt.

Although Col. Philipse was an American by birth, he took pride in his lineage of Czech nobility, which was most apparent at the wedding Manor Hall on January 19, 1758, of Mary Philipse to Capt. Robert Morris. Co. Philipse, who bestowed his sister's hand, was superbly dressed for the occasion and he wore the jeweled badge on a gold chain of the ancestral office of Master Keeper of the Royal Deer Forest of Bohemia.

The story is told that a tall Indian

wrapped in a crimson blanket appeared at the door of the wedding banquet and speaking clearly in English announced, "Your possessions shall pass from you when the eagle shall despoil the lion of his mane." The bride pondered on this rude prognostication for a long period of time.

It is a great pity Philipse didn't become the bride of Washington. The first lady of the land then would have been of Czech nobility and heritage and Washington's influence would have affected the politics of the Philipse family more favorably.

Four weeks after his marriage to Philipse, the groom purchased a commission as major in the 35th Regiment of Foot and was an ardent British soldier. As a newly appointed lieutenant-colonel, he commanded a battalion against Montreal.

On June 15, 1764, Morris sold his commission as lieutenant-colonel to Maj. John Spital and retired from service to enjoy his new home, the Morris Mansion of 19 rooms on 160th Street, New York City. When the War of Independence erupted, the Morris Mansion was one of the first seized by Washington. Morris escaped on a mail packet to England. He would have been hung for treason had Washington caught him.

Morris was retired from the king's service long before the War of Independence erupted. The Morris Mansion had a spectacular view as to the movement of British troops and ships in the river. However, there isn't any documentation of

Continued on Page 9.

Thank you for a great honor by printing the article "Karneval" on the front page of the March magazine. I wish that not only participants, but also spectators will enjoy this beautiful composition. Na zdar!

Mirka Donnor
Sokolice Tabor

Dear Bro. Paul Lebloch,

I have just finished reading your article in AMERICAN SOKOL. As I read it, I kept wishing that you had been able to attend the Prague Clinic we held this past weekend. The spirit of Sokol brotherhood which prevailed was unbelievable. It kept reminding me of your remarks at the workshop in Chicago – "This has made us feel like true Sokols again."

Maybe participation in the XII Slet will help rekindle some of that Sokol spirit.

Congratulations on a fine article and hopefully it will touch enough people to make a difference.

In the meantime, Na schledano v Praze. Na zdar!

Dorothy Cummings
Sokol Greater Cleveland

George Washington *(Continued)*

Morris' spying activities. Was Washington's action revenge/retribution on the Philipse family for his aborted romance?

Mary's great-grandfather in Bohemia sided along with the Bohemian Estates in a revolution against the Austrian king and lost. Therefore, it is quite possible Col. Philipse's decision to side with an English king 155 years later in America might have been to avert an unfortunate family mistake similar to that made in Bohemia.

When the colonies won the War of Independence from England, the huge Philipse estates of 156,000 acres in Westchester County were seized in 1785 and sold at auction by the state of New York. Completely ruined, the nucleus of the Philipse family left with other royalists for England.

Author's addendum: Three generations all of the same name, "Frederick Philipse," built, managed and owned Philipsburg Manor. The first Frederick Philipse of Czech nobility emigrated to America by way of Holland. The second and third Frederick Philipses were American born and being owners of a "Patroonship" under the Dutch system in the Colonies of upper New York, did not miraculously change their bloodlines and heritage to being Dutch. Also, please note, the Kinski Palace can be seen in Prague, Czech Republic, with interior tours arranged by special appointment.

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ETHNIC PRIDE NOT CHECKED

Sokol Proud of Ties to the Old Country

By Sylvia Reyes – Reprinted from *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, Corpus Christi, Texas, Sunday, April 24, 1994.

Anna Marie Moss has become a grandmother all over again.

Last year, the Corpus Christi woman began corresponding with Jana Darmova, a 12-year-old from Prerov, Czechoslovakia, and she signs each letter "From your grandmother in Texas."

"When I was a young girl, I used to write to my grandmother in Czech. She died 20 years ago. Now this little girl halfway around the world is writing to me the same way I used to write my own grandma," Moss said. "She tells me about school, the cold weather and a horse she's crazy about that her grandmother keeps behind a cottage where she lives."

The two became pen pals after Sokol Corpus Christi, of which Moss is a member, adopted Sokol Prerov as its sister unit. Jana is a gymnast at Sokol Prerov.

The Sokol movement, founded in Czechoslovakia in 1862,

emphasizes gymnastics, patriotism and an appreciation of Czech culture. Sokol – Czech for falcon – is based on the idea that a sound body makes for a sound mind.

A Sokol unit was founded in 1865 in St. Louis. There are 49 units in the United States today.

Sokol Corpus Christi, begun in 1930, adopted its sister Sokol at the suggestion of Jerry Elzner, a retired postal worker who has been a local member since 1966.

Elzner learned about Sokol Prerov after reading an article in a Czech paper. He found the article so interesting that he contacted its author, Jaroslav Skopal, a Czech engineer and president of Sokol Prerov.

The two corresponded and met during Elzner's last visit abroad.

Sokol Corpus Christi donated money to Sokol Prerov to reconstruct their building, which suffered much neglect during the years of Communist rule.

On Saturday, Skopal and his wife, Dr. Astrid Skopal, arrived in Corpus Christi for a two-week

vacation. It is their first U.S. trip.

"I think it's good for both parties to learn about each other," Elzner said. "I have five kids who cared less about their heritage when they were growing up. Three years ago, one of my daughters went with me to Czechoslovakia and fell in love with the country. Now she has a vocabulary of 150 Czech words and is studying the culture."

Originally a Czech fraternal organization, Sokol Corpus Christi extends membership today to anyone who appreciates its culture.

"We have ethnic pride and we want to share it," said Frank Sacky, the city's assistant gas superintendent and vice-president of Sokol Corpus Christi. Adopting a sister Sokol "is one of the ways we can maintain our cultural ties."

Sokol Prerov has 700 members; Sokol Corpus Christi has about 150.

*Submitted for publication by
Sis. Norma Chudej Baker, President,
Sokol Corpus Christi, Texas*

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