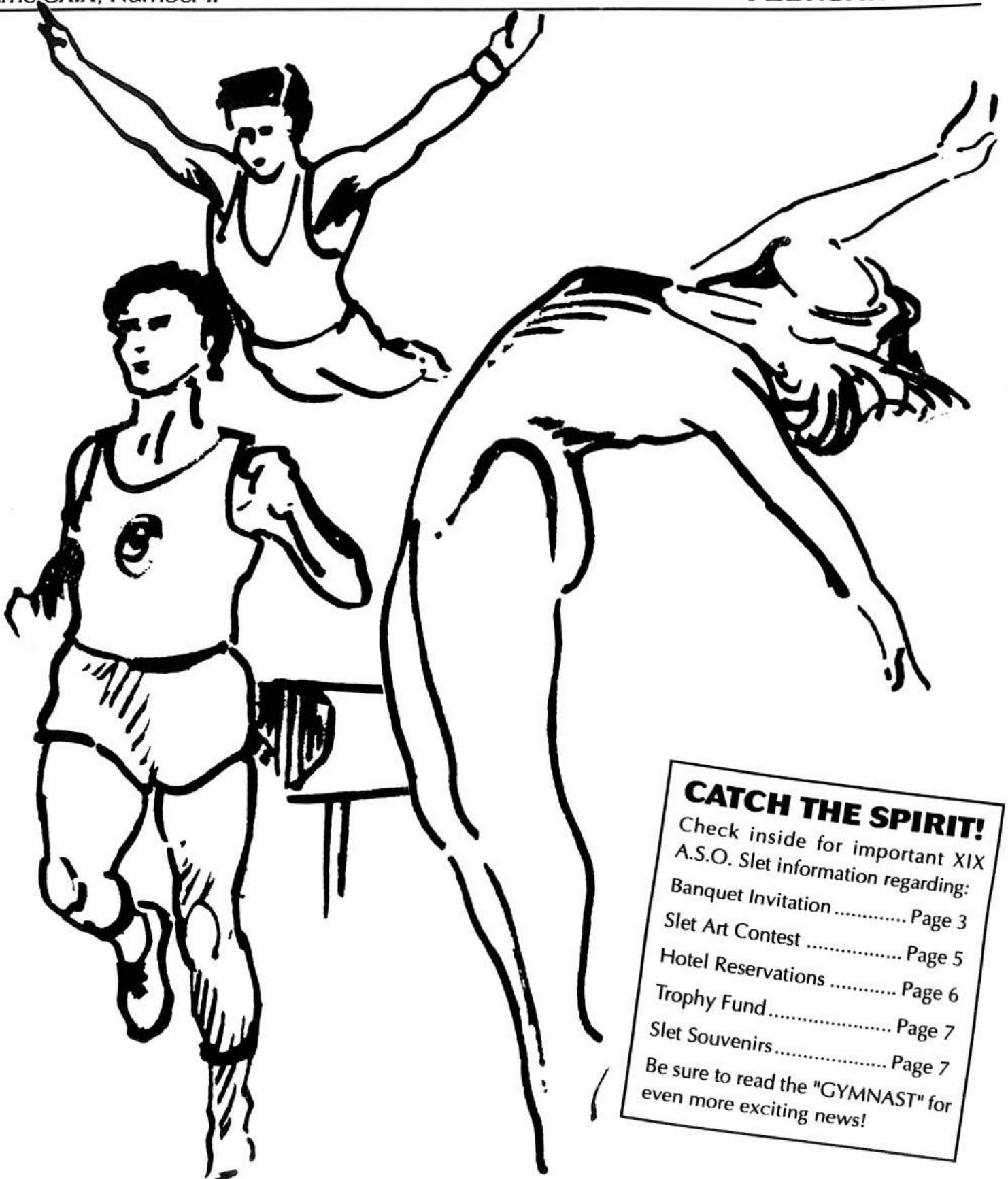


american **SOKOL**

Volume CXIX, Number II

FEBRUARY 1997



CATCH THE SPIRIT!
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even more exciting news!

American Sokol

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EDITOR - PATRICIA SATEK
46 Northgate Rd. - Riverside, IL 60546-1639
708-447-8382

THOUGHT STARTERS

from Sis. Ellie Babka

"A closed heart
can only be opened
from the inside."

From Your Editor...

I want to apologize for the lateness of the November/December issue. We experienced a mailing problem which held things up for several weeks. The U.S. Postal Service has complicated the bulk rate mailing process and we are adapting to the change. Hang in there. The information in the magazine is worth waiting for!

NA ZDARI!

Sis. Patricia Satek
46 Northgate Road
Riverside, IL 60546-1639

CALENDAR of EVENTS

MARCH

- 1 Sokol Brookfield Spaghetti Dinner
- 8 Sokol Tabor Exhibition
- 8 Sokol Milwaukee Vecirek
- 15 Sokol Stickney Exhibition
- 21 Sokol Naperville Exhibition
- 21 Sokol Greater Cleveland Fish Fry
- 22 Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky Exhibition

APRIL

- 5 Sokol Brookfield Exhibition
- 5 Western District Children's Competition at Cedar Rapids
- 12 Sokol Chicagoland Exhibition
- 19 United Sokols of the East Junior/Senior Competition at Sokol New York
- 19 Sokol South Omaha \$5K Giveaway
- 19 Central District Special Number Competition

APRIL

- 20 Sokol Greater Cleveland Apollo's Fire Concert
- 26 Northeastern District Competitions

MAY

- 4 Sokol South Omaha Mini-Steak
- 4 Sokol Greater Cleveland American & Czech Vintage Fashion Show/Brunch
- 7 Sokol Greater Cleveland Card Party
- 10 United Sokols of the East Children's Competition at Sokol New York
- 16 Sokol Greater Cleveland Fish Fry
- 18 American Sokol Little Ferry Pork Dinner
- 19 Sokol Milwaukee Exhibition and Awards Night

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 American Sokol Organization

requests the pleasure of your company at a banquet in celebration of our

XIX American Sokol Slet

on

Friday, June 27, 1997

to be held at the

Lisle/Naperville Hilton Inn Regency Ballroom

3003 Corporate West Drive ~ Lisle, Illinois 60532

Reception (Cash Bar) 6:30 PM

Program 8:30 PM

Dinner 7:30 PM

Dancing Following

Banquet tickets are \$45.00 per person.

Tables of 10 (ten) persons each are available.

Table assignments/tickets can be picked up at the entrance.

We look forward to your joining with us in celebration of this special occasion.

Nazdar! Slet Banquet Committee

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Sokol Unit/Organization _____

No. of Tickets _____ *@ \$45.00 each*

Total \$ _____ *(Check Enclosed)*

Make checks payable to: American Sokol Organization.

Deadline: June 13, 1997

Mail to: American Sokol ~ 6424 W. Cermak Rd. ~ Berwyn, IL 60402

MEMBER HONORS

BRO. EDWARD JELINEK, Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky, has been promoted to Marketing and Sales Director of CSA Fraternal Life. CSA President Vera Wilt notes that this is the first time CSA has promoted to this position from within and the first time CSA has a Marketing and Sales Director of the same heritage as our founders. Bro. Jelinek is a 30-year member of Sokol Berwyn (now Berwyn-Slavsky) and served as Instructor, Member of the Board of Directors, Men's Director and President of Sokol Berwyn. He is also a 30-year member of the United Moravian Societies. CSA, the nation's oldest fraternal benefit society, provides life insurance and other financial and organizational support to help their members nationwide perform educational, cultural, patriotic and benevolent activities that benefit individuals and institutions in their local communities, states and nation. The Czechoslovak Heritage Museum provides a sample of the culture, customs, traditions and history of Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic and Slovakia).

Congratulations and Nazdar! to **BRO. RICHARD PTACEK**, former A.S.O. National Men's Director and **SIS. ELLIE BABKA**, both of Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky on receipt of the 1996 Central District Presidential Recognition Award for service to the Central District, their home unit and Sokol in general. The award is presented annually and is nominated and voted on by the Unit Presidents of the Central District.

Congratulations to **BRO. JIM "KUBA" TRAVNICEK**, Sokol South Omaha, who was presented the Knights of Blanik award and to **SIS. IVENE BIRKETT** and **SIS. ALICE MARYSKA**, both of Sokol Wilber, who received the Ladies of Libuse award at this year's Wilber (Nebraska) Czech Festival. The Knights of Blanik award and its counterpart, the Ladies of Libuse award, is presented to individuals who have, by their contributions or efforts, contributed significantly to the preservation, enhancement or development of the Czech heritage, as promoted by the Nebraska Czechs of Wilber.

Reprints of Early Czech Cookbook Available

To mark the occasion of the first Fort Bend County (Texas) Czech Fest in 1976, the current mayor of Rosenberg, Texas, Dorothy Ryan and two other local women, Mrs. Cyril Humpola and Mrs. Louis O. Senkel, translated into English a Czech cookbook entitled Narodni Domaci Kucharka. The cookbook, originally brought to this country in 1904 by Marie Rosicka, has been out of print for several years. Due to popular demand, the Fort Bend Museum in Richmond, Texas, has reprinted the cookbook and is offering it for sale. The cookbook contains over 90 recipes, with titles in both English and Czech and is available for \$6.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling for each book ordered from: Fort Bend Museum, P.O. Box 460, Richmond, Texas 77406-0460. The museum also accepts phone orders with major credit cards at 281-342-6478.

31ST ANNUAL NATIONAL POLKA FESTIVAL



The National Polka Festival held each year in Ennis, Texas, will be held May 30 to June 1, 1997. The National Polka Festival in Ennis is traditionally one of the largest Czech festivals in the United States. It features a Saturday morning parade through downtown, street dancing, costume contests, klobase eating contests, arts and crafts, rides for the kids and, of course, an assortment of Czech music, dancing and food. One daily admission will gain entry to all of the festival activities. Call 972-878-2626 or 972-878-4748 for more information.



The Sokol Educator

Bro. Jerry Milan, A.S.O. Educational Director

XIX AMERICAN SOKOL SLET ART CONTEST

THEME: Sokol - Sokol Gymnastics - Sokol History and Culture

Contest is open to American Sokol Organization members, juniors and children and members of guest Sokol organizations participating in the Slet.

Category 1	1st Class	Ages 6-9
Category 2	2nd Class	Ages 10-12
Category 3	Juniors	Ages 12-16
Category 4	Seniors	Ages 17 & Up

Original artwork and photographs with the above mentioned Sokol theme may be entered. Size of finished artwork is to be no smaller than 8"x10" and no larger than 30"x40". All fine arts and photographs are to be properly mounted and protected for display purposes. The following materials may be used: oils, watercolors, acrylics, ink, colored pencils, poster paints, crayons or collage of sculpture.

ENTRIES ARE DUE NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 1997.

Include your name, address, phone number, age and Sokol Unit name. Send entries to this address:

**American Sokol Organization
6424 W. Cermak Road - Berwyn, IL 60402
ATTN: Educational Committee**

No more than one entry per contestant will be accepted. Judges reserve the right to accept or reject any entry. Winners will be announced during the Slet, with awards to be given. Works will be returned, if requested.

The American Sokol Organization reserves the right to photograph or reproduce the entries for whatever use they wish.

The New Presence

Subscriptions for "The New Presence," the Prague Journal of Central European and World Affairs, are now available for \$15/6 Months, \$29/1 Year. "The New Presence" is a monthly magazine that features the best Czech and international writers analyzing events in the Czech Republic and Central Europe. The magazine is a direct translation of "Nova Přítomnost," the Czech Republic's most distinguished magazine. Send all orders to:

A.L.L. Production, P.O.B. 732
111 21 Prague 1, Czech Republic
Tel: (422) 769 837
Fax: (422) 766 040
E-Mail: allpro@mbox.vol.cz

THE VOICE

Reader Quips, Comments & Queries

I'd like to compliment you on your magazine; I always find so many interesting history and other information articles. Our Unit is not active gymnastically, but does meet once per month and together with WFLA #67 hold Czech dances every Saturday night with Czech bands playing and a lot of folk dancing done. Periodically, we have done gym (Sokol) work over the past seventy years at our Unit.

NAZDAR! LaVerne Benda
Educational Director
Sokol Karel Havlicek
Yukon, Oklahoma

XIX American Sokol Slet

CATCH THE SPIRIT!

June 25-29, 1997



American Sokol Organization

6424 West Cermak Road
Berwyn, Illinois 60402
(708) 795-6671 Fax (708) 795-0539

XIX American Sokol Slet

XIX A.S.O. SLET 6/25-29/97

INDIVIDUAL/GROUP RESERVATION FORM

For Accomodations at SLET HEADQUARTERS, Lisle Hilton Hotel

NAME _____ SOKOL UNIT _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE # () _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

TYPE OF ROOM ___ SINGLE ___ DBL ___ TRIPLE ___ QUAD (check One)

COST PER NIGHT, INCL. TAX PER ROOM \$ 80.66 X _____ NIGHTS _____ TOTAL

ROOM WITH 1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

REQUEST: Handicapped _____ Non-Smoking _____ Smoking _____

ALL ROOMS MUST BE GUARANTEED FOR ONE (1) NIGHT \$ 80.66 BY:

CREDIT CARD # _____ CARD TYPE _____

CHECK MADE OUT TO LISLE/NAPERVILLE HILTON AND SEND TO A.S.O. OFFICE

6424 W. Cermak Rd., Berwyn, IL 60402 c/o Slet Reservations.

ROOMS WILL BE HELD UNTIL JUNE 4, 1997 - IF NOT CANCELLED WILL BE CHARGED

FOR ONE (1) NIGHT. ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE SENT TO THE A.S.O. NOT TO

TO THE HOTEL, WITH ONE (1) NIGHT PAYMENT PER ROOM.....

John M. Satek
XIX A.S.O. Slet

June Pros
XIX A.S.O. SLET

Housing Chairman



AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

GYMNAST



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

1997 SLET

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday - June 25, 1997

Coaches' Information Meeting -- Afternoon
Fun Run -- Late Afternoon / Early Evening
Opening Ceremonies and Special Number
Exhibition -- Evening

Thursday - June 26, 1997

Golf -- Morning
Gymnastic Competitions -- All Day
(Adv. Boys, Adv. Girls, Jr. Boys, Jr. Girls, Men,
Women)
Jr. Girls and Women Rhythmic Competitions --
Evening

Friday - June 27, 1997

Jr. Boys and Men Volleyball -- All Day
Jr. Girls and Women Volleyball -- All Day
Bowling -- Morning
Swimming (All Ages) -- Afternoon
Competitor Social -- Evening
Slet Banquet -- Evening

Saturday - June 28, 1997

Children's Gymnastic Competition -- Morning
Team Marching Competition -- Morning
Team Calisthenics Competition -- Morning
3-on-3 Basketball -- All Day
Championship Optional Exercises -- Afternoon
Awards Presentation and Dance -- Evening

Sunday - June 29, 1997

Slet Program Rehearsal -- Morning
Slet Program -- Afternoon
After Slet Social -- Evening
All Sokol Forum - Evening

"Catch the Spirit"

**It's Not Enough
to Just Come to the Slet
and Participate in the Events:**

**Mass Calisthenics
Folk Dance
Gymnastics
Rhythmics
Volleyball
Team Calisthenics
Team Marching
Swimming
3-on-3 Basketball
Fun Run/Walk
Golf
Bowling
Special Number**

**Everyone should begin NOW to
work on their calisthenics
exercises, their apparatus
routines, their special numbers,
the rules and proper techniques
of the event or sport and don't
forget:**

**Practice
Practice
Practice
Preparation
is what really counts.**

SOKOL, PARTNER OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION

In June 1996, on the initiative of the National Center for Health Fitness at the American University in Washington, the International Institution for Health Promotion (IIHP) was established. Its inaugural meeting, June 2-5, 1996, was attended by 35 representatives of 25 nations, or one-third of the 75 worldwide partners who during preliminary discussions indicated that they would cooperate with the institute. They include university institutions, research institutions dealing with health and sports, physical education organizations, sports federations, as well as private centers, half of whom signed a partnership agreement with the American University during preliminary discussions. One of the partners was also the Czech Sokol Organization (Ceska obec sokolska--COS)

The promotion of health is understood not only as the prevention of illnesses or their cure, but as a combination of health education and appropriate institutional, political and economic interventions promoting changes and an environment beneficial to the mankind. The concept of health, therefore, means not only the opposite of illness, but a balance among physical, mental and social well-being, based on the principle of personal responsibility.

Components of the balance include: physical fitness, fight against smoking, proper nourishment, weight control, stress control, mental health, climate of the society, support of employment, work safety, ecological influences, prenatal care, personal care for one's own health and care for the aging population. All these components lead to a common goal--human well-being.

The Inaugural meeting was attended on behalf of COS by Prof. MUDr. Stanislav Doutlik, member of the COS Executive Committee and chairman of the Department of Foreign Affairs. In his remarks he acquainted attendees from Asia, Europe and the Americas with the history of Sokol and its spread to most parts of the world. He stressed the priorities of the Sokol movement whose program includes improvement of physical fitness, as well as activities influencing mental and moral characteristics and the social life of its

members, all of which contribute to their well-being and the improvement of their quality of life. Physical fitness aimed at individuals and those less physically fit or of older age is a field where COS offers an exchange of experiences and participation in the organization of international seminars and schooling.

The Inaugural meeting of the International Institution for Health Promotion (IIHP) established a program for the immediate future and agreed on the following formulation of its mission:

"In response to the universal aim to improve the quality of life, the IIHP provides a cooperative forum for health-related organizations. The IIHP seeks effective solutions to challenges for the advancement and application of health promotion concepts. The IIHP will accomplish this through the facilitation and development of collaborative strategies, research and education initiatives, and communication networks."

Of great importance for future cooperation is the fact that the World Sokol Federation was included among potential partners of IIHP along with WHO (World Health Organization), Red Cross, World Bank, European Union and such others as insurance companies, hospitals, churches, and foundations.

The last session of the Council of the World Sokol Federation, in Prague on October 12-13, 1996 was informed about the possibility of cooperation with IIHP, especially in the United States. Establishing a connection with Prof. Robert Karch, a leading representative of IIHP, could assist in obtaining additional information.

There is no doubt that various events of international importance, such as the planned Instructors Course, to follow the XIXth American Sokol Slet in 1997, could be publicized also through the IIHP or could possibly be held under its sponsorship. Several similar events were already publicized in regular newsletters distributed by IIHP.

During the next several months activities are expected to expand and increase in intensity. An important condition for their expansion is the improvement of means of communication, among them the utilization of the Internet--as was also agreed to by the attendees of the last meeting of the Council of the World Sokol Federation.

*Translated by Belka Bednar.
Reprinted from Sokol Times, Dec. 12, 1996.*

1997 SLET COMPETITOR SOCIAL WILL BE AN "ENCHANTED" AFFAIR

The Competitor Social, Friday, June 27th, will be a fun filled, active event held at the Enchanted Castle Entertainment Center located about a 20 minute ride from the Lisle Hilton Hotel. Besides the activities below, the evening will include Karaoke and an "all-you-can-eat" meal of pizza, pop, and ice cream. Admission and game access are already included in the Individual Competitor Entry Fee for Juniors, Seniors, and Children, so there's no excuse for not going and having a good time.

Enchanted Castle™

Restaurant & Entertainment Center
Chicagoland's Largest Indoor Entertainment Center
 Over 46,000 Square Feet of FUN!!

Q-ZAR

GET INSIDE THE GAME!
 The World's Hottest Laser Tag Game!
 Psych up for the best action-packed adrenalin
 rush you've ever experience!



**Your Pulse is Racing!
 Your Body's on Alert!**

Introducing The RAGE--
 The Million Dollar Movie 'n Motion Ride.
 Guaranteed to make you Laugh . . . Scream
 . . . Cringe . . . and BEG for More!!

Krazy Kars



Wild and Crazy Fun with Bumper Cars!
 Just like a Mini-Indy 500!!



Young jesters will be head over heels in fun,
 exploring Toby's two-story, indoor playland.

MINIATURE GOLF



Get "Up to Par" on our 9-hole miniature golf
 course complete with waterfalls and fountains.



VIRTUAL SPEEDWAY

16 of the "Hottest"
 Multi-Linked Virtual Racing Games!!



Plus--

**Over 280 Sport, Video, and Redemption Games &
 1,000s of Prizes in Redemption Center!**

Waltz

Your Way Into Wellness

Ballroom, Country Western, Latin,
and Swing Dancing
Are All Great Aerobic Workouts!

A writer for *Sports Illustrated*, reports that he lost 20 pounds and developed a flat belly and noticeable biceps by participating in an activity recently sanctioned as a temporary form of competition by the International Olympic Committee. What is this miracle exercise? It's ballroom dancing.

At the competitive level, ballroom dancing can give you as much of an aerobic workout as cross-country skiing or running. But beginners can benefit from a 20-minute aerobic dance session.

Dancing of just about any type -- ballroom, swing, jazz, folk, belly, or country-western -- qualifies as aerobic exercise. You can get results alone or with a partner, at home or at a club. Even if you think you're clumsy, try taking your turn around the dance floor. You'll quickly learn to be more graceful, and you'll be happier and healthier too!

AEROBIC ADVANTAGES

To make dance an effective aerobic workout, you need to get your heart rate into the proper target zone. This is known as zone training. For the greatest aerobic conditioning, your dance sessions should elevate your heart rate to 65 to 85 percent of its maximum rate (A simple rule of thumb for determining your maximum heart rate is to subtract your age from 220). A slower pace -- 55 to 65 percent of your maximum heart rate -- gives you multiple health benefits and is more comfortable if you have not been exercising regularly. This slower pace also allows you to exercise longer, which helps you burn more calories and lose more weight. Even a moderate ballroom dance session can help you burn up to 300 calories an hour.

MANY HEALTH GAINS

The pluses of dancing go beyond improving cardiovascular function and burning fat. Dancing relieves tension, improves circulation and posture, tones and defines muscles, regulates breathing, and develops strength, endurance, and flexibility.

Some researchers speculate that dancing may even make you mentally sharper. Aerobic exercise may increase the release of neurotrophins, which act as a kind of fertilizer for nerve cells, slowing the death of brain cells that accompanies aging. When exercise involves a series of complex and coordinated movements, as in dance, the brain may prevent the connections between its neurons from wasting away as you age or produce a greater number of connections.

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

There are so many dances to choose from, all great for your heart and soul. The jitterbug and lindy keep your heart and legs pumping. The elegant fox-trot and waltz are low-impact dances that nevertheless give you a cardiovascular workout. To jump-start your heart rate, try the turn-intensive Viennese waltz. Latin dances such as the rumba, cha-cha, mambo, and salsa can really get your hips moving. You can also try country-western dancing -- the two-step, down-home waltz, polka, and line dances give you a great workout as well.

So start dancing. It worked as real exercise for the *Sports Illustrated* reporter, and it can help you be healthier too!

INFORMED Health Today, Winter, 1997.

SPEAKING OF DANCING

Why not give the 1997 Slet Folk Dance a try? Its for males and/or females. Its not very difficult. You don't have to have a whole circle or even need a partner. And , ladies, you won't have to dress like a guy.



Hey! Now! There's yet another way to "Catch the Spirit" and, apparently, it can also be healthy too.

1997 ASO SLET TROPHY FUND

Contributions to the TROPHY FUND are being solicited and will be graciously accepted. Any size contribution is acceptable. No contribution is too small, because our goal is to help, encourage and reward others to do their best. In addition to our gymnastic events, we will be introducing some inaugural sports at the 1997 Slet to expand the scope of our activities. Please make checks payable to:

AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION and forward to:
 ASO Trophy Fund
 c/o Bro. Bob Kucera
 208 W. 5th Avenue
 Naperville, IL 60563

Can we add your name and contribution to our growing list of supporters? The following generous contributions have been received so far:

MCI Telecommunications (Corporate)	\$500.00
Sis. Joan Smolik (Central District)	\$10.00
Sis. Blanche Wysocki (Central District)	\$5.00
Sis. Vivian Mizia (Central District)	\$15.00

THANK YOU for your supportive efforts toward a successful 1997 American Sokol Slet and NAZDAR! We will continue to list all contributors in future publications.

CATCH THE SPIRIT!

1997 XIX ASO SLET SOUVENIRS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

We are now offering souvenirs for the upcoming 1997 XIX ASO Slet for sale by mail order through the ASO Office. These items feature the "Catch the Spirit" Slet logo and make excellent gifts for the holidays. Complete the order form below and mail to the ASO Office, 6424 W. Cermak Road, Berwyn, IL 60402. You will be billed for the cost of the items, plus UPS shipping charges. Show your Sokol spirit! ORDER TODAY!

Item	Size	Cost	Quantity
Slet Pins		\$3.00 Each	_____
Slet Patches		\$3.00 Each	_____
Slet T-Shirts	Adult S, M, L, XL	\$10.00 Each	_____
Slet T-Shirts	Adult XXL, XXXL	\$11.00 Each	_____
Slet Sweatshirts	Adult S, M, L, XL	\$15.00 Each	_____
Slet Sweatshirts	Adult XXL, XXXL	\$16.00 Each	_____
Coaches Shirt	Adult M, L, XL	\$15.00 Each	_____
Coaches Shirt	Adult XXL, XXXL	\$16.00 Each	_____

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Send order to:
AMERICAN SOKOL
 6424 W. Cermak Road
 Berwyn, IL 60402

BOHEMIAN NATIONAL HALL CENTENNIAL - 1997

Bohemian National Hall, home of Sokol Greater Cleveland, will be celebrating its centennial in 1997 and plans are underway for a yearlong centennial celebration.

The hall was built at the turn of the century by Czech immigrants to serve as a social, cultural and educational center for one of the largest Czech communities in the United States. The community grew up around the steel mills of the Cuyahoga Industrial Valley. The hall was an important place of refuge for those immigrants, where they could meet to share a common heritage, tradition and culture in the new world. For all of its 100-year existence, the building has always been owned by Czech-Americans and their descendants.

The building, which was dedicated on September 26, 1897, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has also been designated an Historic Landmark by the Cleveland Landmark Commission. The building's architecture is an example of a transitional style between Romanesque Revival and Second Renaissance Revival.

In 1975, Sokol Greater Cleveland purchased Bohemian National Hall

as its home. The next twenty years were spent in the meticulous and loving restoration of the historic building. A most remarkable aspect of the restoration was the 35,000 hours of volunteer labor donated by the Sokol Greater Cleveland members. Today, the building looks much as it did when it was dedicated a century ago. A float

gymnasts on the flatbed and the Sokol Greater Cleveland Dancers marching alongside.

It took 3 months, 10,000 tissue paper squares, a lot of volunteers with a lot of patience just to create the panels in blue and white poms reading Bohemian National Hall and the dates 1897-1997.



commemorating the centennial was entered in Cleveland's Bicentennial Celebration, November 1996.

The construction of the float was a challenging and interesting project and a great example of what can be done when people work together, set a goal, exchange ideas and approach a project with open minds.

Preparations began in February 1996 with the donation by a member of his truck cab, flatbed and warehouse facility. The float was to be a replica of Bohemian National Hall, with a live brass band and

Another group of volunteers set to work painting the side panels of the replica depicting activities (dancer, gymnast, musician) and architectural details (brass chandelier, ballroom woodwork details and the frieze that borders the ballroom) of the hall. The front

panel depicting the facade of Bohemian National Hall was painted in authentic colors.

A week before the parade, a large group of float workers assembled at the warehouse and the actual float started to take a tangible form. With little actual float-building experience, it was an interesting task, a lot of trial and error and a lot of screws!

November 30, parade day, finally arrived. It was cold, windy, rainy. The float, disassembled,

Continued on Page 10

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 GEORGE C. BASTA, Past ASO President, 1st Vice-President, Treasurer:

Jerry & Henrietta Milan, Sokol Ft. Worth	\$25.00	Sokol Los Angeles	\$50.00
In Memory of Otto Randa, from Sokol Town of Lake		\$25.00	
In Memory of Vlasta Kirchman, from Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky		\$5.00	
In Memory of Marie Kaucky, from Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky		\$5.00	
THANK YOU to Bro. Fred Kala for Installation of Officers from Sokol Town of Lake		\$20.00	
Donation from Bob Barcal, Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky; Sash Dumanovic & Ted Polashek, Sokol Tabor.....		\$50.00	

◆ MEMORIAM ◆

Bro. Ed Pavoucek

The Sokol organization had been an important part of Bro. Pavoucek's parents' lives in Czechoslovakia and in the United States, and their enthusiasm was passed down to Ed. He had accompanied his folks on many occasions to the Sokolovna, but the special day he had been looking forward to was the day he started gym classes in 1929 at the age of 5. He loved gym classes and the challenges they provided. He attended many District and National competitions, coming home with many awards. Bro. Ed attended Czech School at the South Omaha Sokol hall. In high school, Ed helped organize the ROTC program. He loved sports and lettered in football, track and wrestling. He credited his successes to his Sokol training and discipline. In 1945, Ed married Beatrice Broz. He always felt most fortunate that his wife was of Czech parents and had the same love for the Czech heritage as he did and adapted herself to the Sokol program as though it had always been a part of her life.

Bro. Pavoucek became president of Sokol South Omaha in 1960 and served in the position for 14 years. He was responsible for the transition of meetings conducted in the Czech

language to the English language. During his tenure, membership increased from 90 to over 400. He also took charge of translating the Unit By-Laws into English and then updating them.

In 1963, Ed was instrumental in starting an annual South Omaha Sokol Day, the forerunner of our Sokol South Omaha's annual Czech Festival.

One of Ed's greatest joys was helping the children in the gym. He and his wife, Bea, helped start the Sokol South Omaha Gym Club, which raised money to help gymnasts travel to Sokol competitions away from Omaha. Ed and Bea served as Gym Club Counselors for many years.

In 1965, Bro. Ed suggested the establishment of the Sokol South Omaha Newsletter and served as editor for 14 years. Ed was elected Western District Vice-President in 1964 and in 1965 began a 17-year tenure as Western District President.

As Ed had a deep love for his Czech heritage and his Sokol way of life, he thought we should have a way to preserve this for future generations. In 1986, he presented a proposal to Sokol South Omaha to establish the

Sokol South Omaha and Czechoslovak Museum. Both he and Bea have worked tirelessly since then to make the museum the great success it is today. In 1988, at the 100th anniversary celebration of Sokol South Omaha, Bro. Pavoucek was made an honorary member of Sokol South Omaha.

Ed once wrote, "I would like to see Sokol south Omaha continue to involve the younger members as leaders with the senior members' support. We need to continue to increase the membership and resort to the memories of the past and build a solid future." He was an excellent example of his own words. He spent much time and love initiating many activities and traditions at Sokol South Omaha. Once they were established, he taught younger members how to take over and then he capably guided them as they continued his vision. For this reason, his love and work at Sokol South Omaha will live on forever.

He will be missed. We will never forget him or his love for us.

Nazdar! Sokol South Omaha

Bohemian National Hall Centennial *(continued)*

transported to the staging area and reassembled. Thought the weather was cold, no one really felt it because they were so excited and proud of what we had accomplished. It was thrilling to watch that beautiful little building move along the parade route, with all the colors, action and sounds. The dancers in their dance costumes marched, danced and passed out candy. The gymnasts tumbled and worked parallel bars. The brass band played on their little stage. Sokol Greater Cleveland was well received and the local TV station

did a good job of explaining what we are all about.

Sokol Greater Cleveland received a commemorative plaque from the Cleveland Bicentennial Commission for their participation in the celebration.

The sights, sounds and feeling of pride will stay with all of Sokol Greater Cleveland's members for a long time. This experience will be especially meaningful to the youngsters who played such an important part in the project. The most important thing the project

taught is that when people work together, exchange ideas and have open minds, anything is possible.

Throughout 1997, a variety of events will take place to celebrate Bohemian National Hall's 100th birthday. The culmination of all the year's activities will take place Saturday, September 27, 1997 with a Grand Ball. Reservations at \$50 per person are required. Contact Dorothy Cummings, 216-526-7730 for additional information.

~ Edited from information submitted by J. Skarepa and N. Monnin, Sokol Greater Cleveland

Sokol Corpus Christi Members' Orchestra Celebrates 100 Years

The Leo Majek Orchestra, of which many participants are members of Sokol Corpus Christi, is the most respected of all polka bands in the United States, according to many fans. The group spans four generations in its 100 years of existence. Originated in 1897 in Czechoslovakia as a one-man band, Leo Majek, Sr. immigrated to America in 1913. Czech historians say the Majeks are the oldest known family orchestra in the United States. The orchestra received the TPMA lifetime achievement award in 1992 for its dedication to the preservation of its heritage and polka music for the longest time period in Texas.

~ Submitted by Bro. Jerry Elzner, Sokol Corpus Christi

The ASO Membership Drive is coming to a close!

(Contest runs from January 1996 to March 1997.)

How many NEW MEMBERS have you introduced to Sokol?

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS

As Governor of the State of Illinois, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on the anniversary of your publication American Sokol.

The Czech American community is fortunate to have American Sokol as an excellent source of local, community and congregational news. For years, you have provided your readers with a newsletter that publishes information pertinent to the Czech American community. With your continued hard work, you will be able to serve your readers for many years to come.

On behalf of the citizens of Illinois, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable anniversary and much continued success.

Best regards,

Jim Edgar

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