

american **SOKOL**

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OCTOBER 2000

CONGRATULATIONS!



Bro. Fred Kala (left) and Bro. Roy Zitny receive the prestigious Czech Sokol Organization Silver Medal

This past June, Bro. Fred Kala and Bro. Roy Zitny were each presented the Czech Sokol Organization Silver Medal for their dedication to the Sokol program. The award ceremony took place at Tyrsuv Dum in Prague, Czech Republic. Bro. Zitny is the first non-Czech born Sokol to receive this honor.

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From Your Editor...

You've had to wait a while for this issue and I appreciate your patience. Technology is great, until it goes on the fritz. Now, my computer is back on track and publication of the American Sokol will be also. The Sokol office has successfully moved and our newly elected officers are settling into their routines. We're brand new all around. Challenges abound, but we're up to the task.

NA ZDAR!

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

CALENDAR of EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 4 Central District Annual Meeting at Sokol Milwaukee
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 12 Sokol Minnesota Pancake Breakfast, Bake & Craft Sale
- 17 Sokol Grtr. Cleveland Fish Fry
- 17-19 Holiday Folk Fair - Milwaukee
- 19 Central District Women's Volleyball Tournament

DECEMBER

- 2 Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky St. Nick's Dance
- 7 Sokol Minnesota Children's Christmas Party
- 9 Central District Skills Day
- 10 Sokol Milwaukee Holiday Luncheon
- 16 Central District Rhythmic Competition
- 17 Milwaukee Public Museum Czech Traditions

**XX AMERICAN SOKOL SLET
JUNE 27-JULY 1, 2001
DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

THOUGHT STARTERS

from Sis. Joan Sedlacek, A.S.O. Educational Director

"The absurd man is he who never changes."

~ AUGUSTE BARTHELEMY

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.

Bro. Fred Kala and Bro. Vladislav Slavik Receive Jan Masaryk Gratias Agit Award from the Czech Republic

In 1997, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic founded a new and special award called the Gratias Agit. The award's official name was changed in 1999 to the Jan Masaryk Gratias Agit Award.

The award ceremony is organized every year by the Ministry to be held at the beginning of July, usually symbolically connected with the celebration of St. Cyril and Methodius Day on July 5th. The Jan Masaryk Gratias Agit Award is annually bestowed upon outstanding personalities or collectives, both from the Czech Republic and abroad. The award is intended as a means of expressing appreciation for their immense contribution to the spreading of a positive image of the Czech Republic abroad and/or deepening mutual relationships between the Czech Republic and other countries in the world. Primarily, the award is to honor activities the awardees developed in the sphere of science, education, arts or public life, side by side to their professional career.

On June 28, 2000, Czech Foreign Minister, Jan Kavan, presented this year's awards to 11 chosen individuals. The ceremony took place in Prague, at the very beautiful Cerninsky Palace. In this



special millennium year, the award was bestowed upon two Czech-American activists: Bro. Fred Kala, President of the American Sokol Organization and Bro. Vladislav Slavik, President of the Eastern District of the American Sokol and Sokol New York. Their contributions to deepening Czech-American relationships and to the restoration of democracy in the Czech Republic has been exemplary, going far beyond their professional and Sokol activities. A third American awardee was

the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas for its support of Czech-American student/scholar exchanges. American Sokols attending this impressive ceremony were Michael Dropka, Bro. Elmer Kulousek, Bro. Paul Lebloch, Bro. Stanley Mergl, Sis. Irene Mergl, Sis. Patricia Satek, Sis. Anna Slavik, Sis. Norma Zabka.

Congratulations to Bro. Kala and Bro. Slavik on their receipt of this honor.

MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT IN SOKOL

Fitness takes center stage as thousands celebrate Czech vigor.

From "The Prague Post" July 12-18, 2000 - By Staff Writer, Frantisek Bouc

There are few events like it in the West. Or even in the world.

During what might have resembled the world's largest aerobics class, generations of fit Czechs from around the planet did jumping jacks in the summer heat.

They were attending the July 1 and 2 gathering of the international chapters of Sokol at Prague's Strahov Stadium.

The second Sokol festival since 1948 provided more than a massive spectacle of motion and discipline. As it did in the years before communism, before the patriotic athletic event was suppressed, the festival celebrated physical fitness, healthful living and national pride.

The Sokol festival was the first ever held in the smaller of the city's two Strahov stadiums. Sokol organizers built the larger stadium for the 1934 gathering at Strahov, which the Guinness Book of Records calls the world's largest - with space for 240,000 spectators.

This year, more than 22,000 gymnasts participated in the various exercise activities, entertaining and amazing about 43,000 spectators.

The Sokol celebrations drew men, women and children of all ages.

The men's routine was tailored

mainly for pensioners. Wearing traditional black trousers and white sleeveless shirts, male gymnasts' performances mirrored old Sokol styles.

A women's routine blending bolero dance with aerobics illustrated the modern, mass appeal of Sokol. In the performance, more than 2,800 energetic women let their hair down.

Children in bright outfits brought a fresh and joyous spirit to the stadium, performing exercises that ignored special field marks designed to keep participants in uniform lines.

Afterward, organizers were satisfied and relieved. "The gathering was a great success," said Sokol chairman Vratislav Svaton. "Originally, I didn't want to step down and wanted to keep the gathering at the big stadium ... but the great atmosphere on the ground and in the stands evoked the desired atmosphere perhaps even better."

Sokol (Czech for falcon) was founded 138 years ago. Local chapters held their first festival in 1882. Subsequent festivals were held every few years. This year's celebration was only the 13th, the second since 1989.

With a tradition of bringing people together, strengthening physiques, heightening morale and forging a sense of

nationhood, Sokol festivals were enormously popular before being banned by the communists.

Prime Minister Milos Zeman, who attended the Sokol night session July 1 with his wife, praised the event's unique feeling. "Everyone who thinks Sokol is somehow old-fashioned should come and see," Zeman said. "In fact, the festival is modern, up-to-date and beautiful, [and] an indispensable part of our society."

Of all the Sokol gatherings, two were historically unforgettable.

In 1938, on the eve of the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, more than 2 million people filled Strahov for four days to watch 350,000 men, women and children - many in military uniforms - provide a vivid demonstration of the nation's vitality. The festival reached a climax during the men's exercises, as planes flew overhead and 28,000 muscular patriots pledged their readiness to defend the republic. This dedication terrified the German occupiers, so they imprisoned more than 200,000 Sokol members and sent 5,000 to concentration camps.

Following the communist putsch in February 1948, the Sokol festival turned into a giant act of defiance against the new regime. During the opening and closing

Continued on Page 5.

MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT IN SOKOL

Continued from Page 4.

parades, thousands shouted for the return of deposed President Edward Benes and when his communist replacement took the state, many jeered.

Soon after, Sokol was denounced as a "bourgeois" organization and its leaders were arrested. In the 1950's, the movement officially ceased to exist and the communists replaced Sokol festivals with Spartikiada - a similarly monolithic event, but stripped of Czech patriotism. Meanwhile, some member of the persecuted Sokol community emigrated and set up Sokol branches in other countries, where Czechs could meet and chat in their native tongue.

The latest Sokol event attracted more than 1,300 gymnasts from abroad, with 800 taking part in exercises. "Sokols" came from as far as Australia and the United States.

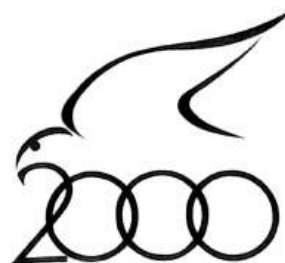
One dedicated Sokol at this year's festival was 75-year-old Vladislav Slavik [President of the Northeastern District American Sokol and Sokol New York], who emigrated in 1948.

Slavik said only about one-third of the U.S.-based Sokol members can speak Czech. Nevertheless, "Sokol in America is still alive."

And as the Strahov event proved, the fitness movement is as vibrant as ever in Sokol's homeland.



**American
Sokols on
parade in
Prague,
Czech
Republic
during the
All-Sokol Slet**



Masaryk Statue Finally "Home" in Cedar Rapids

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (Cedar Rapids) recently received one of the most significant artifact donations in the history of the organization. Jiri Jilich and his wife, Anna, donated a life-size, 600-pound bronze sculpture of Tomas G. Masaryk, first president of Czechoslovakia.

The history of this statue is as intriguing as the man it represents. It was crafted in the late 1930's, about the time of Masaryk's death. Soon after it was complete, the Germans ordered it destroyed. Besides containing desirable metals, the statue represented a figure who was detested by the Nazis. Jilich's father-in-law, Vaclav Ilk, purchased the statue to prevent its destruction. He gave the sculptor a comparable amount of metal to fool the Nazis and buried the statue in the garden of his villa. Over the course of World War II, Ilk reburied it three times to prevent its discovery. If his deception had been discovered, he would have been killed.

At the end of the war, the statue was excavated and cleaned for

placement in a local town square. The statue was to be Ilk's gift to the community and serve as a monument to show their gratitude to Masaryk.

Before the statue was placed, the Communists took over and incarcerated Vaclav Ilk as an enemy of the Communist Party. They confiscated the statue and no one knew its whereabouts for years. Twenty years later, Ilk read an article that mentioned there were three statues of Masaryk at the National Museum in Prague. He approached the authorities and representatives of the National Museum and was able to prove one belonged to him. Following a long legal battle, the statue was returned to Ilk.

Following the events of Prague Spring in 1968, Jiri Jilich and his wife moved to the United States and the statue of Masaryk was hidden in the Ilk's cellar for another decade. In 1977, when Mrs. Ilk was issued a visa to Brazil, she was also granted permission to take the statue with her. The statue arrived at the Jilich's home in California in early 1978, where it remained crated in

their garage for another 22 years.

In 1990, museum representatives met with Mr. Jilich to discuss the statue. However, at that time, Mr. Jilich was not ready to part with it. Jilich approached the museum again this spring when they decided to return to the Czech Republic.

Despite offers from other prestigious institutions, Jilich chose the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library as the appropriate home for the statue. It felt it was important that the statue be appreciated in a community settled, in part, by hard-working Czech immigrants. Thus, over 50 years after Vaclav Ilk intended to donate the statue to a local Czech community (in Czechoslovakia), Jilich fulfilled his father-in-law's goal and gave the statue to Cedar Rapids.

The statue is currently on exhibit at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in the permanent exhibition "Homelands: The Story of the Czech and Slovak People."

*From "Our Czech Heritage"
by Carmen Langel*

FUTURE SOKOL LEADERS FUND

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

In Memory of Jeri (Svarc) Stemson from Mildred Barcal\$50.00
In Memory of Ethel (Patera) Nemecek from Mildred Barcal\$25.00
In Memory of Lou Tramba from Irene Ruzicka\$25.00



AMERICAN SOKOL
GYMNAST

EDITOR: Sash Dumanovic • 2419 Scoville • Berwyn, IL 60402



World Sokol Federation Camp 2000

Prague, Czech Republic



Top and back: Tom Aubrecht With hat on.
Third from right,
Middle row with arm up: Julia Hickey. **Front Left:** Jenny Aubrecht.
Front Right: Teresa Skrivanek. **2nd Row on Left:** Carissa Aubrecht.
Picture Taken after slide down Jested hill.

From July 5th to July 18th, 2000, four campers from American Sokol participated in the First Annual World Sokol Federation International Camp 2000 in the Czech Republic. The campers from American Sokol were Carrisa and Teresa Skrivanek, and Jenny Aubrecht from Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Julia Hickey from Sokol Tabor. Their instructor and chaperone was Tom Aubrecht from Sokol Minnesota. All of the campers participated in the XIII Slet in Prague prior to the camp. Here is Tom Aubrecht's report from the trip:

Our trip got off to a great start after we were met at the Prague airport by Judita Rohava and her mother Camilla with flowers and kolaces? Judita's family hosted Jenny's older sister Kate and her mother Judy during part of a scout trip to the Czech Republic in 1996. Judita, Zusanna Masinova and four Czech Boy Scouts visited the St. Paul, Minnesota area in 1998 for scouting activities and home stays.

We were thrilled to participate in the Saturday afternoon Slet performance of the Loyal Guard Prostna. During the introduction of the Slet, we stopped our entrance marching in the stadium tunnel. We couldn't hear what was being said until we heard the last two lines of the Czech national anthem. When we joined in singing, our voices reverberated loudly in the tunnel. The variety of performances during the Slet was impressive.

Jenny, Carissa, Colleen Cahill (from Sokol Minnesota and traveling with a group of Venture Scouts and leaders) and Petra, a Czech girl (name unknown), participated in the Slet relay Saturday evening and enjoyed it a lot. It was Jenny and Colleen's first track event, and to have it be in a large stadium with thousands of people watching was quite special.

We marched in the Sunday morning parade with American Sokol. Nearly all of the participants in the Slet paraded, so it was a large group. The marchers shouted "Nazdar!" to the large crowd watching and they shouted the same to us. It was quite moving to see numerous elderly women and some elderly men crying. We imagined it brought back memories to them of World War II and the Cold War.

In Prague, we toured Wenceslas Square, Old Town Square, Hradcany Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, and the Golden Lane. We found these, as well as many other different stops, very impressive. On the Charles Bridge we all rubbed the statue of St. Vitus, the patron saint of dancers, for good luck. Shopping was also a popular activity with our group.

We made a day trip from Prague to see the puppet museum in Chrudim. The museum was great. We saw the first of many "Plague Columns" in the central square. Religious services were held outdoors around these columns during the plague to try and reduce its spread.

On July 5, we joined most of the campers for the chartered bus trip from Prague to the COS Camp Velke Darko (large lake). The camp is near Polnicka and Zdar nad Sazavou in the Ceskomoravska Vrchovina (Czech-Moravian hills). Jarinna Zitna, Women's Director of COS, was the head of the camp. Jarina wrote the flag routine for the 2000 slet. She was very ably assisted by several other instructors and camp staff from the Czech Republic. There were 22 campers from the following countries and states: Czech Republic (5), Slovak Republic (1), Poland (4), Denmark (4), Canada (2), New York (3), Illinois (1), and Minnesota (3). Most of the campers were accompanied by instructors/chaperones. All instructions were provided in Czech and English. There wasn't a common language among all campers making communication difficult at times although some instructors did help with translations when necessary.

Honor Guard,
from left to
right: Teresa,
Julia, Camilla,
and Maria all
concentrate
during the flag
ceremony.





Enjoying themselves with some new friends At the Kutna Hova Silver mine are, **back center:** Tom Aubrecht. **Second row, 1st from left,** Teresa, **3rd from left,** Carissa, **4th from left,** Julia. **Third row at left,** Jenny.

The campers were divided on the first day into four cross-nationality game groups. Each group accumulated points in games and contests throughout the camp and took turns helping with food preparation and washing dishes. All campers and instructors helped with gathering wood from the forest and preparing it for use in cooking, the evening campfire, and showers.

A typical day at camp started with rising at 7 a.m., exercise (2k run, stretch, or calisthenics), tent inspection, and a flag ceremony with announcements of the day's activities, all before breakfast. One of the lead instructors woke us on two mornings with his harmonica playing as he strolled through the camp. One of the two songs was a variation on tancuj (sp), which Carissa, Teresa, and Jenny have danced many times.

The day proceeded with the game groups rotating to four stations for instruction in camping, work on the evening activity (Game Group and National evening presentations), lunch,; free time, field games, timed athletic events, supper, evening presentations and mixer games, and a flag ceremony including announcements of the next day's activities and Jarinia Zitna's thought for the day. Her thought for the first day was: "One is nothing, the whole group is everything." Hiking was involved in many days' activities, including a hike to a glass factory for a tour and a 22km round-trip hike to the top of the largest hill in the area.

On July 12, we left camp and took our chartered bus to Telc, where we went on the castle tour. We then bussed to Votice, where we stayed at the Sokol hall for three nights. Our evenings at the hall were filled with floor games, informal gymnastic practices, and the preparation and presentation of humorous skits by the game groups.

While based in Votice, we took a day trip to Tabor for guided tours of the tunnels, the Hussite Museum, and a visit to the Edward Benes gravesite. On the way back, we stopped and hiked through a large peat moor. On a second day trip, we went on the Ceske Krumlov castle tour. The painted figures on the ballroom wall of townspeople looked realistic, and were especially fascinating. Several of us walked further up the hill to the revolving Bohemian Theater. We also visited the large square in Ceske Budejovice.

On July 15, we bussed to Kutna Hora, where we toured the beautiful St. Barbara Cathedral and the Silver Mine. We then bussed to Cesky Dub (Czech Oak); our lodging there was also at the Sokol hall. That evening, the campers competed in a game involving exploring the city with several of the girls from the town.

The Cesky Raj (Bohemian Paradise) was our first destination on one of our day trips. We hiked to the Hruba Skala castle overlook through beautiful sandstone formations like the Needles area in the Black Hills of South Dakota, but more accessible. We also toured castle Hrad Kost.

On an especially memorable day, we were bussed partway up Jested, tallest hill in the area, with the intention of hiking 7 km on the road over the top to our waiting bus. Heavy rain, fog, and increasing wind caused a change in plans. We instead slid down a long (several kilometers), muddy trail to the bottom of the mountain. Because of the uncertainty about the local bus, we then hiked on the road back to Cesky Dub, for a total trip of 12 km in the cold rain!

On the last evening in Cesky Dub, there was the ending ceremony with game-group team, and individual awards. The evening concluded with a square dance with caller and a rock dance.

On the last day, July 18, we bussed to Liverec, where we had two hours to walk and shop. We then continued on the bus to Prague, where we said "Na Shledanou!" to our new friends. On the bus, I was very honored and pleased to receive from Jarina Zitna, a Masaryk pin from a festival in his honor this summer.

We were all honored, delighted and thankful to be chosen to go on this "once in a lifetime" trip! It was a tremendous opportunity to learn about the culture, history, geography, and Sokol activities of the Czech Republic and of all the participating countries.

We would like to express our deep appreciation to the groups and individuals noted below for all of their work towards, and support of, our participation in the International Camp and Slet. We apologize to anyone we inadvertently missed. For the camp: The World Sokol Federation. Ceska Obec Sokolska, especially Jarina Zitna and Hana Bargerova. Sokol Votice. Sokol Cesky Dub. American Sokol, especially Jan and Chuck Kalat, and David Harlan. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, especially Mary Cahill and Jay Fronkert. For the Slet Prosna: Ellie and Bernie Babka of Chicago and Joan Sedlacek and Doreen Mckinney of Sokol Minnesota. Barb Topincky and Barb Barnes of American Sokol for their assistance with the Slet relay coordination.

American Sokol, along with its units and members, wish to both congratulate, and thank you all for representing American Sokol at the International Camp 2000. We hope that it was fun, adventuresome, and educational. Many thanks also go out to our wonderful host, the World Sokol Federation, and all those dedicated people who worked hard to make it a great success.

The Sokol Festivals "Slety"

From Marie Provaznik: Her Life and Contributions to Physical Education,
by PETE DUSEK, JR.; Cleveland, OH; Copyright 1981

FINAL INSTALLMENT #5

See January 2000 for part one, February 2000 for part two,
April/May 2000 for part three, June 2000 for part four,
September 2000 for part five.

On the square in front of the old town hall, high above the passing procession, a reviewing stand was erected for Gottwald and members of the government. Next to him stood Josef Truhlar, the Sokol president, a puppet appointed by the new regime. He was an old man with a good reputation and many of the paraders waved at him. To the foreign diplomats, press, and photographers it seemed that they were paying their respects to Gottwald. Noticing this, Marie Provaznik summoned one of the true ushers and advised him to place two men at the entrance to the square and to inform each approaching group as to where he was seated (Provaznik, 1975-1977). In the presence of the entire diplomatic corp and leading world journalists, the Sokols showed their contempt for the government. When the columns of Sokols paraded by the stand where Klement Gottwald and the other government officials were located, they passed without displaying the usual courtesy of dipping the colors and instead of performing the customary "eyes right," looked the other way (Fikar, 1959). Only after passing the reviewing stand and nearing the tomb of the Unknown Soldier did they lower the banners and salute. As the columns of Sokols filled the historic square, they began to chant, "Long live President Benes." Many thousand others surrounded the area, some clinging to rooftops and scaffolding of buildings damaged in the uprising of May 1945 – all joined in calling, "Benes, Benes, Benes!" The Slet was over and the communists were in a frenzy.

Replacing the traditional pageants at the eleventh Slet was a Festival closing scene exhibiting folk art, utilizing native costumes, music, dances, and games. Sister Provaznik recalled the celebration of the harvest in the agricultural communities, when the laborers thanked the farmer by offering him a wreath of grain. A Slet was also symbolic of a

harvest, the result of a great deal of toil.

Poet Jaroslav Seifert promised to develop verses better than anything he had written before. They imagined such scenes as a huge flag suspended somehow, somewhere in the sky; a band of junior girls handing the dozinkovy venec (harvest wreath) to the President; a song in which the entire audience would join in singing; and a dance where the spectators would merge with the performers romping and frolicking down to the city, dancing through the night till sunrise. There was no limit to their fantasy, enthusiasm, love, and devotion.

However, the coup d'etat changed everything. There was nothing to thank the new President for. Gymnasts refused to participate and only some folk dances were presented.

Customarily, a large commemorative book was published in conjunction with each Slet. It was a digest containing a summary of activities, many pictures, and information pertaining to the nature and history of the Sokol movement. A similar printed publication was planned for the eleventh Festival in 1948, but then came the coup. The committee responsible for preparing the account was supervised by a censor. For example, the names of Marie Provaznik and other functionaries were eliminated, only their titles were used, and reviews written by individuals who had already escaped abroad were omitted. The primary concern of those charged with contriving the book was to get it issued; therefore, they conceded to the demands of the critic. When the type was set and ready for printing, they were refused and allocation of paper. This was only a pretext, for whenever the communists objected to something being published, they arranged a stoppage of material. Before the setting was destroyed, the printers, who were Sokols, turned out about five copies of the entire text, one of which was smuggled out of the country to Sister Provaznik.

Continued on Page 10.

2001 Kroj Calendars Available!

The Czechoslovak Heritage Museum has produced its first Kroj Calendar, featuring different authentic Slovak and Moravian folk costumes each month. The attractive calendar has full-color photos of CSA Fraternal Life and Sokol members, including:

Marvin Lanzel of Illinois

Irene Hamous of Iowa

Don and Jeanette Pafko of Minnesota

Louise Wessinger of Minnesota

Jennifer Zeman of Missouri

Gerianne Kopac of Missouri



and other CSA members and friends.

The calendars sell for \$12 each, bulk discounts available.

Contact the Czechoslovak Heritage Museum at
(630) 472-9909 for more information.

American Sokol Organization and Southern District
(Zupa Jizni), Brother Lawrence Laznovsky - President

Sokol has boldly progressed to reach the Zenith status, also the determination to forge ahead in this millennium to be the hallmark of unity and love of country.

Tyrs and Fugner, with tremendous integrity, enormous intelligence and wisdom gave us the building blocks for this masterpiece of achievement.

As time went by, brilliant members with visionary ideals and great gymnasts who became World Champions, brought prestige and honor. This tradition of excellence should be cherished, thus we must articulate wisely, broaden our horizon, our destiny is to emphasize our devotion and dedication to our youth, so they can express themselves magnificently, nobly with greatness.

May this be a Grand Century. The Officers, may they have much success in their endeavor.

Nazdar! Walter Hosek

Bro. Frank Hokr Returns to Slovakia 56 Years After Being Shot Down in WWII

1944....

On December 17, 1944, Lt. Frank V. Hokr, Navigator, 461st Bombardier Group, 764th Squadron, was on his first mission, flying over Czechoslovakia toward Poland to drop bombs on a railway. The Germans were very active that day and the B-24 was hit with much flak. The overhead gunner reported to the pilot that one engine was out and the plane was on fire. The pilot ordered the crew to bail out. Lt. Hokr had taken off his parachute and laid it next to the table he was using to chart the flight. He had been hit in the leg with a bit of shrapnel, but was not seriously injured. He grabbed his parachute and put it on with the chute in front of his body. He jumped, pulled the rip cord and nothing happened! So, he started pulling it out by hand. When it opened, it was full of holes from the flak, and he landed in a tree, hanging with his feet about three

feet from the ground. He was found by the Nazis and taken to the town of Trencin Teplice and confined for several days and then was transported to a stalag near Frankfurt where he was imprisoned until the end of the war.

2000; 56 Years Later....

On July 9, 2000, Bro. Frank V. Hokr (President of Sokol Fresno), returned to Trencin Teplice, now of the Slovak Republic, by the invitation of the Mayor and the townspeople. The town has erected a memorial to the member of Frank's crew who was killed and in appreciation of the Americans who helped bring the war to an end. Bro. Hokr was met by three Slovak gentlemen who were members of a History Club who were researching the crash of Frank's plane. The town rolled out the red carpet. He was taken to the site of the memorial, where, with tears rolling down his face, he placed flowers in a vase,

stepped back and saluted the deceased airman. He then walked up the hill behind the memorial to where parts of his plane had been gathered over the years by the townspeople, and gather several pieces of the wreckage. By the time he returned to the memorial site, TV cameras had arrived and he was interviewed and videotaped. That evening, a formal dinner was served, with the Mayor joining later. Another highlight was a formal luncheon where grace was said in English, Italian and Slovak. After the lunch, the Mayor played the accordion and all sang many songs in English, Italian, Czech and Slovak. Additional meetings and another trip to the site followed before they headed back home to the USA.

As a result of this visit, plans were in works for a reunion of the surviving crew.

Submitted by Sis. Norma Zabka

SOKOL FAMILIES AT THE ALL-SOKOL SLET IN PRAGUE

The Milans, from Texas



The Eisensteins, from Michigan



"SLETY"

(Continued from Page 7.)

It was Marie's desire to have the book produced, but there were no funds. Along with Evzen Koppl, secretary of the Slet committee, who had also defected, they selected the best items and issued a small edition. Due to their lack of experience, it was not very well done, but it was something. Of the two-hundred copies that were printed, over half of them found their way into Czechoslovakia.

In 1968, when the new wave of refugees began to arrive in the Western world, they urged Sister Provaznik to publish a second edition. But again, there was no source of money and no publisher would take the risk.

Finally, in 1974, Marie came in contact with Petr Pasek, owner of the Konfrontation Publishing Company in Zurich, Switzerland. A book commemorating the eleventh Slet was prepared by Marie Provaznik and the poet Pavel Javor (1916-1981) and was published in time for the fourth Festival of the Czechoslovak Sokol Abroad at Zurich in July 1976 (Provaznik, 1975-1977).

The last Slet of the Czechoslovak Sokol Organization was conducted at Prague in 1948. From that time, Tyrs' noble ideals have been silent. (Name of source withheld by request.)

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