

SOKOLSKÝ VĚSTNÍK

Bulletin of
Gymnastic Association
Sokol San Francisco

P.O. BOX 4006
MENLO PARK, CA. 94026-4006

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Issue No: 4

BEDRICH SMETANA and ANTONIN DVORAK ANNIVERSARIES:

It is not the first time when our Vestnik is interested in the history of the Czech culture. Today we will remember two famous composers who not only confirmed musical tradition of our nation, but also were the founders of modern Czech music and that way placed our nation in the foreground of the world's artistic activities.

It is Bedrich Smetana and Antonin Dvorak whose birthday and death anniversaries we will remember. It was in Litomysl, a town about eighty miles southeast of Prague that became known as the birthplace of Bedrich Smetana. He was born one hundred and seventy five years ago on March 2, 1824. Smetana died May 12, 1884 at the age of 60 years. Dvorak died 20 years later on May 1, 1904. Both were true and honest Czech patriots and for that we will dedicate them the following article.

Bedrich Smetana is the founder of modern and original Czech music. He wrote us many famous compositions - the operas, symphonies, songs, concerts and many others. All compositions he wrote are expressive Czech. Everybody can hear in them what is given to Czechs and what is difficult to express with words.

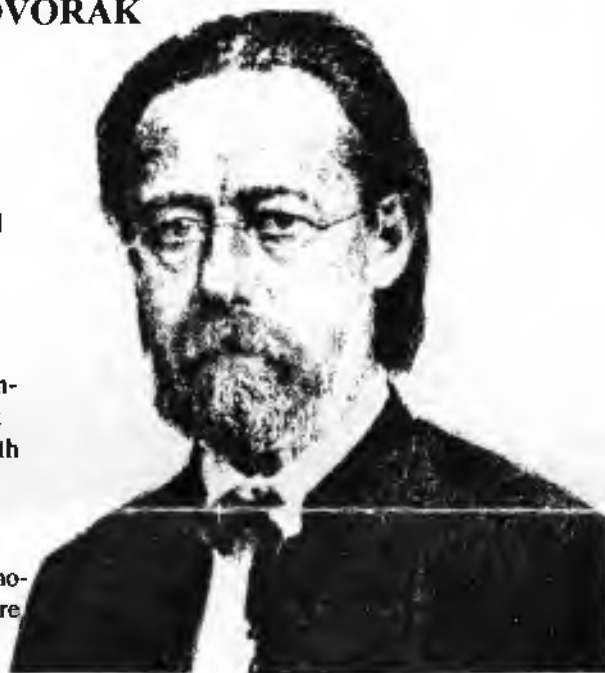
Smetana's first opera "Brandenburgers in Bohemia" (Branibori v Cechach) 1866 was based on a true part of Czech (Bohemian) history. The reason why he wrote "Prodana Nevesta" (Bartered Bride) was to prove that Czechs could compose music as well as Germans. Next was "Libuse," the symphonic poem, glorifying Prague and chieftain's wise and beautiful daughter, who become the queen and lived in a castle on Vysehrad. Smetana would not have "Libuse" performed at the Provincial Theater and held it back, possibly for the firsts showing at the National theater which was in the process of being built.

He began to work on "Ma Vlast" (My Country) in 1874. It is a six movements symphony about the Bohemian forests its valleys, streams and people. In it Smetana tried to depict the scenes of beautiful Bohemia with its highlands, River Vltava and lovely forests. It has remained one of Smetana's best known pieces of work.

It wasn't his enemies that forced his resignation as Conductor of Provincial Theater. He had become deaf. He did have the pleasure of being at the opening of the National Theater where a performance of "Libuse" was given - and it was a gala occasion. It was pitiful to watch him following the movements of the musicians as they played their instruments. Even the Crown Prince Rudolf, who attended the opening, embraced him and showed compassion for the composer who could no longer hear his music.

The careers of Antonin Dvorak and Bedrich Smetana followed different course. The younger Dvorak came into the musical world after Smetana had forged a way for Czech music, and had suffered poverty and little recognition in his lifetime. Dvorak went out into the outside world and found fame and fortune in England and the United States.

Smetana brought this great wealth of music into the world and he died in an insane asylum on May 12, 1884. As the funeral procession left the Church of God in the Old Town Square, they held high lighted torches as they proceeded on their way to Vysehrad Cemetery where he was buried. It was a day of national mourning in the whole country.



SAN FRANCISCO SOKOL MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING March 9, 1999 at Bayside Corporate Center, 433 Airport Blvd., Suite 106, Burlingame, CA 94010

President Frank Dlask called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the February 9, 1999 meeting were approved as read. Ten members were present.

Applications for Members: Petr Linhart & Ivanka Lindhartova. They were accepted for membership provided they pay fees and take the pledge.

Correspondence: President Dlask read portions of a letter received from Ms. Jindra Stroleny- tentative picnic date in Richmond of 8/15/99, co-sponsored by Jindra and Sokol. No expense to Sokol. Same as last 38 years. She will send information 6 weeks before the date.

Sister Jarmilla Dlask circulated the Treasurer's report- Balance 2/28/99 \$3,251.48.

Brother Paul Burda presented the Financial Report. Inflows for the month were \$1,313.98 with outflows of 934.94 for a positive cash flow of \$379.04. He created a report for tax purposes. Sokol profit for 1998 was \$13,640 of which approx. \$8,000 is taxable income. He will be preparing a tax return after consultation with the tax man. Brother Burda reported that SF Sokol dues were paid up to date and he has received confirmation from ASO. \$1400 was paid for the last quarter of 1998 of which a small portion was for a convention fee from 1995. He also reported that a deposit of \$1,000 was made for Zupa dues with a letter to Brother Liska asking for notification of any amount owing. A list of present members with a letter was sent to ASO. (See attached) All members should now receive the Vesnik from ASO. Note: Members should be made aware of this through the SF Sokol Vesnik and to notify the Board if they do not receive the ASO Vesnik.

Sister Georgina Teyrovsky gave an entertainment report. 1) The Masaryk dinner/dance March 6, 1999 at Fort Mason Officers Club was a success with 75 dinners and an additional 14 people for the dance. Dr. Henzl gave a 10-12 minute speech about Masaryk. Brother Dlask, Sister Teyrovsky, Sister Duffey and Brother Burda were thanked. Brother Burda offered comments from the Manager of the Club. Discussion followed 2) Next Sokol sponsored event will be a picnic at Ardenwood Farm in Fremont. A motion was made, seconded and carried as follows: At the picnic, Ardenwood Farm, Fremont; Sokol members with paid dues and children (who arrive between 10:30 and 11:00 am at the entrance) will be free (Paid by Sokol). Others will pay the full price. 3) Next dinner/dance at Schroeder's, SF on May 14, no reservations necessary. Svickova will be offered for regular price of \$21.95. No invitations will be sent only advertised in SF Sokol Vesnik.

Brother Spanek reported that there were no available dates in May for the Wine Train. He will check out early September. He also made known two more places for dinner/dances: The French Club in SF and the Basque Center in South SF. He will get further information.

Sister Teyrovsky announced the Czech Festival in Orinda September 25-26, briefly discussed.

Brother Spanek made a statement that the future of Sokol depends on the younger generation of Sokol, that we owe it to the people who worked for Sokol over the years to capture back our youth with gymnastics. He called 6 or 7 gymnastic organizations on the Peninsula and when he spoke to the Twisters in Mountain View he found the director had been in Sokol years ago in Philadelphia. Brother Spanek passed out information about the Twisters to be reviewed by the Board Members. Discussion followed.

Brother Teyrovsky reported about a young boy from the Czech Republic who was brought over here for an operation and it was a success. A video concerning his stay here is being made.

The dues on the storage area are being increased per Brother Burda. Discussion followed regarding the sorting and disposal of some of the items as to allow a smaller storage area. President Dlask suggested several members sort and bring information back for discussion at a meeting and then act upon the decision.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

**San Francisco Sokol invites you
to all day visit and picnic to Ardenwood Historical Farm,
34600 Ardenwood Blvd, Fremont, CA 94556.**

*Directions: from 880 Freeway - exit on Decoto Rd. (toward Dumbarton bridge)
exit again on Ardenwood Blvd.*

On April 24, 1999, Saturday.

Nowadays Ardenwood-farm invites you to experience farm life, as it was near turn-of-the century. Draft horses still pull wagons, railcars and plows. The land still grows the kind of crops the original owner George Paterson tended 100 years ago. The farmyard is still full of animals. The staff and volunteers attired in Victorian clothing are on hand to show farm you through Patterson family home, to explain the social graces of the Victorian era, and to carry you by wagon around the 205-acre farm. There are other attractions.

Also available is Farmyard CAFÉ-food service. Period food and drinks are served there, with cooking demonstrations.

Meet at the entrance at 10.30 a.m. till 11.00 a.m.

**San Francisco Sokol members and children of all ages will be guests of
San Fran. Sokol Assoc., free of charge.**

Let's make it Sokol's picnic!

(Otherwise the entrance fee is \$5 adults, \$4 seniors & students.)



**INVITATION TO SAN FRANCISCO SOKOL MAY DINNER AND
DANCE PARTY ON FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1999**

Live music by "Joe Smiell band" from 6.00 p.m. 'till 10.00 p.m.

At Schroeders Restaurant at 240 Front Street, San Francisco

Between Sacramento & California Sts. - Park at Embarcadero I or II - reasonable rates

Dinner served from 6.00 p.m. 'till 8.30 p.m.

Svickova with dumplings or many other choices

Include soup, salad, main course, dessert & coffee at regular price \$29.95

Special price for Sokol members and friends \$21.95

FULL BAR

No reservation necessary.

Just come, eat, drink and dance and enjoy the night!

Highlights from SOKOL Board of Governors:

- 1) Investment activity in Sokol units
Sokol Chicagoland bought a lot for 1.5 million \$ and will build a hall for 2.5 million. They have money ready amounting to 1.5 million. The rest will be covered by loan.

Sokol Baltimore sold their hall and are looking for a lot to build a new one.

Sokol Ennis rebuilt their hall after a fire for 1.5 million and have a loan of about \$ 400,000.
- 2) Non-profit Status. Conducting a Czech school or including the neighborhood into Sokol program helps to get a non-profit status. Similarly, it can become the reason for applying for grants with local authorities.
- 3) ASO assistance to units in financial and legal matters. Bro. Kal, President of ASO, is willing to give advice in financial and legal matters pertaining to units. He stated that the rules of the Corporation Code are excluded by the Sokol oath.
- 4) Video tape about Sokol was made by ASO and distributed to District educators. Pacific District will make copies and mail them to units.
- 5) How strong is ASO. It has 5,300 adults members, 1000 boys and girls in classes, 350 juniors in classes. Sokol Fresno has 61 members, Los Angeles 145, San Francisco 99.

Regular monthly meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 P.M. at :

**BAYSIDE CORPORATE CENTER
433 AIRPORT BOULEVARD, #106
BURLINGAME, CA 94010**

Brothers and Sisters the time for payment of Sokol dues is **N O W**.
You can use the below preprinted card.

1999 Dues --Pay Now Send Your Dues - \$ 25.00 per Member to GYMNASTIC ASSOC. SOKOL SAN FRANCISCO P.O. Box 4006 MENLO PARK, CA 94026	Enclosed check - Money order in the amount of \$ My membership dues for the year 199.....\$ Donation - Contribution (if any).....\$ Name..... Address..... City.....State.....Zip.....
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FAKTA

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ČÍSLA

o přípravách

XIII. všesokolského sletu 2000

XIII.
VŠESOKOLSKÝ SLET

5.

„Co si o nás myslí veřejnost“

Z druhé části výzkumu, který věnoval GFK Praha - institut pro výzkum trhu jako svůj dar XIII. všesokolskému sletu 2000:

Zjistili jsme, že Sokol je organizací pro naši populaci známou, a že je většinou chápán jako tradiční český spolek spojovaný s tělovýchovou a sportem. Přesto naprostá většina dotazovaných (59%) konstatovala, že sice jméno Sokol zná, ale moc o této organizaci neví.

Pouze čtvrtina buď ví dost o historii i současnosti Sokola, nebo zná Sokol a ví, že působí v místě jejich bydliště.

5% dotazovaných sdělilo, že buď oni sami, nebo někdo z rodiny je členem Sokola.

Sokol je spojován hlavně s pravidelným cvičením všestrannosti, dále pak s nářadovým tělocvikem a turistikou. Okolo šestiny dotazovaných jmenovalo další odvětví - tradiční sporty, atletiku, „velké“ sporty (kopanou, hokej), pobyt v přírodě, aerobik a zdravotní tělesnou výchovu.

Důležitým zjištěním je, že přes 29% dotazovaných by mělo zájem o členství v Sokole - samozřejmě za podmínek, že činnost bude odpovídat jejich požadavkům. Desetina má zájem o pravidelné cvičení všestrannosti, 8% o aerobik, 7% o turistiku, mezi 6 - 2% o další činnosti.

Největší zájem je mezi lidmi ve věku do 29 let, z měst s 20 000 - 99 999 obyvateli, spíše z nižších příjmových skupin.

Naprostá většina (přes 69%) vyslovila kladné postoje k hromadným tělovýchovným vystoupením. Přitom šestina kategoricky tvrdí, že „tradice je správná, ale tato vystoupení musí být zcela moderní, nová“. Proto také téměř polovina (47,5%) se vyslovila pro zachování

Velkého strahovského stadionu i pro hromadná tělovýchovná vystoupení.

Výsledky výzkumu je možno označit za pozitivní. Jen se opět prokázalo, že pokud činnost i moderní směřování Sokola nebudou dostatečně propagovány na veřejnosti, nelze očekávat růst zájmu o sokolskou organizaci.

XIII. VŠESOKOLSKÝ SLET

Preparations are underway for the 13th All-Sokol Slet to be held June 26 to July 2, 2000 in Prague. The major part of the Slet will introduce the interconnected performances of callisthenics of the Czech Sokols, Sokols from abroad and guest performances of other sport and physical educational organizations. No words or illustrations describe the masses of gymnasts performing in the stadium with the largest surface area in the world. It can truly be expressed as a magnificent show of beauty and joy, a real symphony of motion with music, created by thousands of performers. The best advice the article gives is to be present and to see it.

American Sokol

What is the Value of One Member!

Ten little members standing in a line
One disliked the Vice-President, then there were NINE

Nine ambitious members offered to work late
One forgot her promise, then there were EIGHT

Eight creative members had ideas good as heaven
One lost enthusiasm, then there were SEVEN

Seven loyal members got into a fix
They quarreled over programs, then there were SIX

Six members remained with spirit and drive
One moved away, then there were FIVE

Five steadfast members wished there were more
One became indifferent, then there were FOUR

Four cheerful members who never disagree
Till one complained of meetings, then there were THREE

Three eager members! What do they do?
One got discouraged, then there were TWO

Two lovely members: our rhyme is nearly done
One joined a bridge club, then there was ONE

One faithful member was feeling rather blue
Met with a neighbor, then there were TWO

Two earnest members each enrolled one more
Doubling their number, and then there were FOUR

Four determined members just couldn't wait
Till each won another, then there were EIGHT

Eight excited members signed up sixteen more
In another six verses, there'll be a

THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR!



HAVEL vs. VENTURA (no body slams allowed)

Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, will deliver a public address at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota on April 26, 1999. One of his hosts will be the new Governor Jesse Ventura. (By the way, Mr. Ventura's birth name is James Janos, and he is of Slovak extraction.) This news comes from the latest newsletter of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, which along with other Czech organizations in the area is helping to plan for President Havel's visit. Wouldn't you like to be the fly on the wall when the President and the Governor have lunch?

The Images Of Parents

*When I Was
4 Years Of Age
My parents could do anything!*

*When I Was
8 Years Of Age
They really don't know
quite everything.*

*When I Was
12 Years Of Age
My parents? They are hopelessly
old fashioned.*

*When I Was
21 Years Of Age
My parents? They are way
out of date.*

*When I Was
25 Years Of Age
Well, they might know a little
about it.*

*When I Was
35 Years Of Age
Before we decide, let's get
their opinion.*

*When I Was
50 Years Of Age
Wonder what they would have
thought about it?*

*When I Was
65 Years Of Age
Wish I could talk it over with
mom and dad once more.*

For All Those Born Before 1945

FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1945

WE ARE SURVIVORS IIIII...CONSIDER THE CHANGES WE HAVE WITNESSED!

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the *PILL*. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens. Before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes...and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of". Bunnies were small rabbits, and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during lent, and Outer Space was the back of the Riviera Theatre. We were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electronic typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness...not computers or condominiums. A chip meant a piece of wood. Hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

Back then, "Made In Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffees were unheard of. We hit the scene where there were 5 and 10 cent stores, where you bought things for five and ten cents. Sanders or Wilsons sold ice cream cones for a nickel or a dime. For one nickel you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$600...but who could afford one? A pity too, because gas was 11 cents a gallon!

In our day, grass was mowed, COKE was a cold drink and POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office. We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change. We made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today.

But, WE SURVIVED!!! What better reason to celebrate?

Křemešnická studánka

Na tu horu Křemešnickou cesta samý kámen,
Ve skále tam, ve studance křišťálový pramen.
Se skaly se dub stoletý ke studance sklání,
Ratolestmi, hustým listem, šetří jí a chrání.

Putoval jsem ke studance vzhůru pružným krokem,
Teď po ní jen toužím z hloubi zakaleným okem.
Toužím, hledím a vzpomínám, kam se děly časy,
Když kol ní se rozlehaly naše dětské hlasy!

Studánka však věrná sobě, věrná svému lidu
Snáší s nimi rok od roku tu pozemskou bídu.
S poutníky se unavená ku podzimu ztrácí,
Na jaře se zotavená poutníkům zas vrací.

Smutek v duši, cizinou se ploužím,
A studance mladí svého památkou jen sloužím.
Na tu horu Křemešnickou cesta samý kámen,
Neužším víc jak tam prýší křišťálový pramen.

Dne 13 března 1902.

Dr. Václav Petrů.



Česka veřejnost je spíše proti vojenské akci Severoatlantické aliance

Krizi v Jugoslávii se 25. března zabývaly dva bleskové průzkumy veřejného mínění. Oba prokázaly, že Češi se stavějí k útoku NATO naprosto nejednoznačně, ale přesto spíše negativně.

Z průzkumu agentury Factum vyplynulo, že s vojenskou akcí nesouhlasí takřka polovina (48%) občanů ČR. Pouze 36% dotazovaných se vyslovilo pro nálety. Zbytek respondentů nemá na věc jasný názor. Příčiny poměrně značného nesouhlasu vidí ředitel agentury Factum Jan Herzmann v tom, že udery nemají podporu Rady bezpečnosti OSN, a hlavně vyvolávají obavy z reakce Ruska.

Spíše nesouhlasnou náladu veřejnosti potvrdil i průzkum konkurenční agentury STEM. Podle něj je ovšem dokonce čtvrtina občanů bez vyhraněného názoru. Postup NATO hodnotí kladně 35 a záporně 40% dotazovaných. Na otázku, zda by měla ČR pro vyřešení kosovské krize udělat víc, než vyslat vojenskou nemocnici, byly odpovědi ze dvou třetin pozitivní, z jedné negativní. Toho, že by se situace v Jugoslávii mohla rozrůst ve vojenský konflikt týkající se i ČR, se obava 62% lidí, většinou starších 55 let a se základním vzděláním.

I v České republice protestují lidé proti útoku NATO v Jugoslávii

Proti útoku Severoatlantické aliance proti Jugoslávii jsou většinou zaměřeny demonstrace a petiční podpisové akce, které se od počátku konfliktu konají v České republice. Nejvíce protestních akcí pořádají komuniste.

When I wrote the title article for this April Vestník, my memories slipped back "a few years" to my childhood in Obristvi, where there still lived some "Oldtimers" who remembered Bedrich Smetana personally. I want to share with you some of my memories in the following article:

Handful of Memories



Bedrich SMETANA and his music are closer to me than perhaps most of you. The reason for it is simple; he lived for a number of years, and composed at least parts of his best known works in our village Obristvi, which one part used to be called Lamberk. Why this particular village? Simple. The land around used to belong to the Austrian aristocrat Count Trautmansdorf --their castle was right in the village. Naturally, the holdings had to be managed by someone, the nobility used to come but briefly during summer to hunt and race the horses. -- The manager's name was Ferdinandi, and -- if you remember your history well, you will recollect that Smetana's second wife's name was Ferdinandi -- Bettina Ferdinandi, to be correct. They were married right in the village, in the old church of St. John The Baptist, where I myself was christened many years later. Many a time the kind old priest showed me proudly the old register with the signatures of Bedrich Smetana and Bettina Ferdinandi.

In my childhood there were still a few old people who remembered the couple well. I had the opportunity to listen to their stories quite often. How this came about is another story altogether. You see, my father widowed rather early -- I was only eleven years old when my mother died in a place such as ours, people still cared about each other. -- So, to help to ease our loneliness, a few of the neighbors started dropping over in the evenings. This soon developed into regular visits practically all the year around. -- I can still see in my mind all the old-timers, each of them a character in his own right, who comprised the little group. There was old Mister Kratochvil, retired master of the upholstering and saddle-making trade. In his youth, he was employed at the houses of the nobility, upholstering their carriages or making saddles and harnesses for their horses. -- There was Grandpa Landa a former overseer for the Trautmansdorfs. The next member of that group was "Mister Kocian", who used to be an itinerant millhand in his youth; that was before the rivers of my country were regulated -- a step which on one hand prevented the yearly floods, but on the other did away with all the old picturesque water-wheel mills -- and all charm and lore that went with them. "Mister Kocian" last job happened to be with the old master-miller Polivka in our village, on one of the last remaining mills in the country. -- When the mill closed down, Kocian decided call it a day, and stay right where he was. He bought himself a piece of land and cow and retired to a life of memories and story telling -- and some stories they were, you should have heard them....

The last member of that regular group was old Salansky, a coachman for Mr. Ferdinandi in his young years. .. He in particular remembered Smetana and Bettina vividly, and often spoke about them.

To go back to the gatherings I mentioned a while ago, they were an almost daily occurrence. In summertime the group would sit under the big linden tree in the yard. If you read Czech, perhaps you know the poem-book "In the Shade of a Linden Tree"? That's exactly how it used to be there; even the characters of the book resemble the people I just described. Perhaps the resemblance isn't so coincidental after all. The author of the book also lived in our village for eight years.

In the wintertime they would all gather in our kitchen, which was the only room in the house we could heat up. Those winter sessions were particularly hard on me. I was a student in those days at Kralupy gymnasium, and as such supposed to study hard the ways of the old Romans and Greeks, the conquests of Alexander the Great and the adventures of Caesar in Eastern Gallicia. -- It was hard, damned hard. -- There I would be sitting in one corner with my petrol-lamp and books, both fingers in my ears, trying to concentrate on my lessons, while in other corner the old codgers would be sprawling at ease, swapping yarns and trying to outdo each other with a more interesting story.

I don't mind admitting, now that my own sons are long time out of school, that I would often pull out one finger, just to find out what the talk was about. -- And when the subject was interesting, as it quite often was, soon I'd be sitting there listening intently, -- Caesar and Alexander the Great completely forgotten.

One of the stories I remember quite well, was the one Salansky used to tell. He was the coachman for Mr. Ferdinandi -- you remember? It seems that after his marriage to Bettina, Smetana would be a frequent guest at the Ferdinandi's home. -- He could be seen often, sitting in the summer house in the garden, staring out at the lovely countryside in front of him -- the fertile fields of Central Bohemia, with the mountain "Rip" sitting like a huge bell in the midst of them, or at the Melnik castle and vineyards which dominated the view to the right. Often he would snap out suddenly from his reverie, reach for the pen and paper and start composing. And I tell you, the countryside -- with her flavor, earthiness and beauty, can almost felt in his music. At least I can visualize it quite clearly listening to "My Country" -- perhaps because I knew the same country so well.

But back to the story. It happened one day that Smetana was due to arrive from Prague to nearest station Neratovice, on the last train late afternoon. The honor of bringing maestro home from the station fell on Salansky, the coachman. -- Since this was a big occasion, he went to a good deal of troubles: brushed the horses, polished up the harness and all the brass on the landau (which as you know, is a kind of carriage, completely enclosed and heavily upholstered inside.) Everything was spick and span, as he waited for the train. Finally the train pulled in, Salansky welcomed the composer, put him in the landau, wrapped a blanket around him and off they went at an easy pace. It was getting dark, but the horses knew their way well along the country lanes. -- This was late in fall, turning nippy, and a brisk wind was blowing from the fields. Salansky was sitting up in front, huddled in his coat, almost dozing off. when suddenly something seemed to dart out from the bushes by the roadside and run with a

strange noise directly in the path of the horses!! They reared back, and before Salansky knew what happening -- took off at full gallop across the fields, landau and all Salansky was holding on for dear life. -- Luckily, they did not go too far. The landau jumped a shallow brook and came to rest with the rear wheel against a plum tree which grew there. The wheel snapped off like a match, the axle buried itself into the soft earth and brought the horses to a halt in a hurry, -- there they stood, shaking all over, breathing hard. Salansky was shaken up and bruised, but he did not care about that...his only thought was for the well-being of his passenger. Still holding the reins in his hand he hurried to the door -- but Smetana was already stepping out, quite unhurt and seemingly amused by the incident.

"Are you hurt, Maestro?" inquired Salansky anxiously. "Of course not ---" replied Smetana calmly. "How could I be hurt, with all that upholstery around me? I hardly felt the bumps!" They stood and inspected the damage. ... The horses were still jumpy, and the landau was - of course - useless.

"What shall we do?" asked helpless Salansky, -- "I'll tell you what", said Smetana. "It's not too far to go and the walk will do me good. I'll go ahead, you stay with the horses and I'll send some help along."

And so it happened, that the honored guest came walking into the house at night, while the embarrassed coachman was brought back in a spare car-riage, which had to be sent after him. Naturally, poor Salansky was in for quite a bit of ribbing. He set out early next morning for the scene of accident, to get some clue as to what happened the night before "And what do you think it was?" he would ask us, as we were gathered in the kitchen. "Just a bloody clump of tumble-weed, (dry lebeda cluster) which the wind blew across the road! I found it there, caught in the bushes. Clump of tumble-weed, would you imagine?" He looked at us accusingly, spat out from the corner of his mouth and muttered an obscenity under his breath.

Those days are long gone. ... The old nobility has disappeared, the members of the old group are all dead.

Only the music remains, eternally fresh and young;.....the music and the memories it brings.....

Jan Kucera

