

SOKOLSKY VESTNIK
 Bulletin of Sokol San Francisco Inc.
 Gymnastic Association
 P.O.BOX 4006
 Menlo Park, CA 94026-4006



JUNE 2001



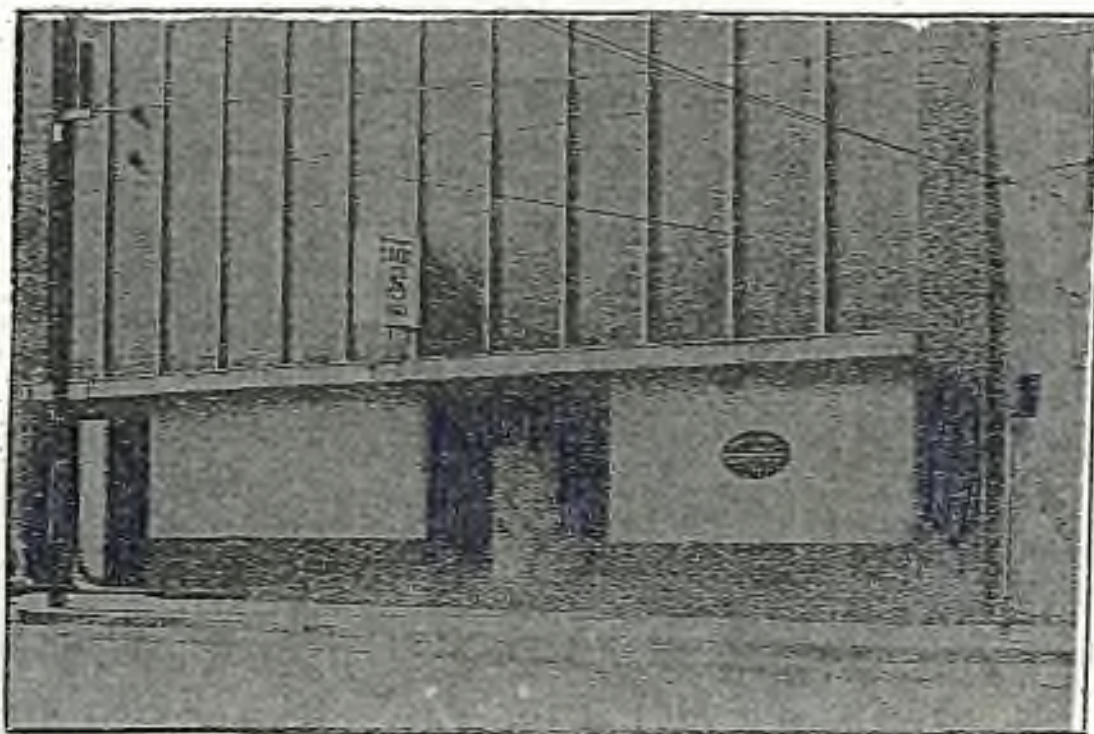
SAN FRANCISCO SOKOL

THEN AND NOW ! !

See history on page 3

1904

(Top) 739 Page Street, San Francisco (Below) 849 No. San Mateo Dr., S.M.



1974

SOKOL OFFICERS-2001

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Auditing Committee: Dagmar Rus, Jarka Dusatko, Marta Sehnal
Budget & Financial Committee: Paul A Burda, Edmund Teyrovsky
Reconciliation Committee: Edmund Teyrovsky, George Spanek, James Frolik
Membership: Jarka Dusatko, George Spanek, Edmund Teyrovsky
Zupa Representative: Paul A Burda, Frank Dlask (ex-officio)
Legal Advisors: James Frolik, (Esq.), Ondrej Kojnok (Esq.)
Entertainment Committee: Georgina Teyrovsky, George Spanek, Jarka Dusatko, Paul A Burda,
Joe Chroma

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2001

SEPTEMBER 22: SOKOL Picnic, San Mateo Elks lodge
October 27: Independence dance, San Mateo Elks Lodge
Annual meeting: December 2nd, San Mateo Elks Lodge
Children's St. Nicolas Party: December 9th, San Mateo Elks Lodge
End 2001 Celebration: December 29 Fort Mason, S.F.

Invitations will be sent out.

SOKOL MONTHLY MEETINGS: 2nd Tuesday of every month-7:30 P.M.
Bayside Corporate Center
433 Airport Blvd., 1st Floor Conference room
Burlingame, CA 94010

ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR QUESTS ARE WELCOME!

It is difficult to evaluate all of the good work and support given to the Unit by the officers and members who are deserving of our thanks. Our SOKOL work is not only for this Unit, but also for the whole Pacific District. Above all, we want to promote and continue the Tyrs Sokol ideas and the Masaryk ideal for democracy and co-existence.

George Spanek
Former President of Sokol San Francisco

THE HISTORY OF SOKOL SAN FRANCISCO

This year we are celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the San Francisco Sokol. This event is significant, not only for our American Sokol Organization, but for the entire Czechoslovak colony of Northern California. Seventy years is not a long period, yet many successful Sokol episodes can be credited to our Unit. It has achieved outstanding solidarity in citizenship.

Sokol San Francisco was founded August 22, 1904 by Brothers J. J. Justice, Frank J. Lustufka, Boh. Kantner, A. Matlach, F. F. Budinsky Karel Kotal, Josef Fousek, Josef Widerman, Jan Zak, and Vaclav Storek. The Unit was organized when the singing choir "Hlajol" was disbanded and the property with \$263.23 in cash was transferred to the Sokol treasury. In July, 1905 the Sokolice San Francisco was organized.

Originally the gymnastic classes drilled in the German Turn-Verein Hall. This hall was destroyed in 1906 by the earthquake and fire. The gym classes were moved to Eintrach Hall.

The idea of building a Sokol Hall became a reality in 1912 and marked the beginning of vigorous activity. The fine new hall on Page Street housed not only our Sokol Unit. For many years it was the seat of the Pacific District. Many other Czech, Slovak, and Slavic and Slovak organizations enjoyed the building.

Then came World War I. Most of our youngsters were drafted and many never returned to our ranks. During this period our Sokol Unit devoted its efforts to raising funds through bazaars, benefits, and dances to support the T. B. Masaryk fight for the independence of Czechoslovakia. It was in the Sokol Hall that we hosted the various delegations and dignitaries who formed the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

During World War II Sokol San Francisco contributed in the same way to the victory of the Czechoslovak cause. The Communist coup d'etat in Czechoslovakia had a depressing effect upon our entire Czechoslovak-American people. However, the influx of immigrants generated new life for the San Francisco Sokol.

With great pride we remember the day in 1960 when Sokol San Francisco unveiled a statue of the Czechoslovak National hero and first president, T. G. Masaryk. This monument was erected by our unit in a prominent place in Golden Gate Park. This was an historic moment, living proof that Sokol has been influenced by the Masaryk ideal.

For many decades Sokol Hall served as the center for varied Sokol activities, as well as for many patriotic functions. When disturbances engulfed the area where Sokol Hall was located, the membership voted by secret ballot (94%) to sell the building and to leave the seat of so many memories.

SAN FRANCISCO SOKOL MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING June 19, 2001 at Bayside Corporate Center, 433 Airport Blvd., Suite 106, Burlingame, CA 94010

1st Vice President Sister Georgina Teyrovsky called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call of Officers taken.

The minutes of the March 13, 2001 Meeting were approved as read. Ten members were present. There was one application for membership, Mr. Thomas Slavisky from Menlo Park. Sister Millie Forsythe sponsored him. Motion MSC to accept him into membership and he took the Sokol oath.

Correspondence: 1) Report of ASO Pacific District Meeting from Pres. Ludeen.

Reports: Financial – Brother Burda reported a beginning balance of \$1,649.11 with inflows of 369.00 and outflows of 595.84 for a balance of \$1,422.27. Discussion regarding removing funds from our account of \$125, 000.00, used for expenses, to our Vanguard Account which yields a higher interest. Motion MSC to transfer approx. \$60,000 subject to best rate at World Savings to our Vanguard Account, 2/3 to a Jenny Mae and 1/3 to a Money Market Account. Treasurer Report showed funds available of \$1,422.27.

Entertainment – 1) Sister Teyrovsky reported on the Picnic of May 18-20 at the Linhart's. 20 people attended and all had a good time. Henrietta Ronken played the accordion and piano, Mrs. Linhart played the piano also. 2) September 22 will be the picnic at the San Mateo Elks Club, cost \$12.50 + tax for food. Discussion ended with details to follow. 3) October 27, 2001 Independence Day Dinner/Dance at the San Mateo Elks Club. Tentatively the Von Neck band will play. Discussion followed. 3) December 29, 2001 is the Year End Dance at Fort Mason in SF. 4) March 4, 2002 tentatively set for the San Mateo Elks Club for the Masaryk Dinner/Dance. 5) Annual Sokol meeting December 2, 2001 at the San Mateo Elks Club. 6) St. Nicholas Party December 9, 2001 at the San Mateo Elks Club.

Brother George Spanek announced that Honorary Czech Consul General Pivnicka's wife Barbara has been named Honorary Consul for the Slovak Republic in Northern California on 6/7/01.

Brother Burda reported on a letter he received regarding miscommunication with the Pacific District. Copy of letter attached.

Discussion followed with Brother Burda and Brother Spanek leading it regarding ASO in Chicago and our information in their Vestnik. Motion MSC that Brother Burda will write a letter to ASO regarding corrections to our roster and regarding our activities.

Brother Spanek reported on a teacher in Menlo Park who teaches gymnastics. Discussion followed Brother Spanek will check it out to see if she can help Sokol.

Monthly meetings of Sokol will be negotiated after July to see if we can have them at the San Mateo Elks Club.

Brother Burda presented for approval, articles for the June or early July mailing of the Vestnik. He asked for articles and ads for future Vestniks.

New Bylaws were distributed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.



AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION PACIFIC DISTRICT

2733 East Garland Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726-6733

Tel. (559) 222-2555, FAX (559) 222-7104

May 28, 2001

Bro. Paul A. Burda
Pacific District S.F.V.P.
213 Westvale CT.
San Ramon, CA 94583

Dear Bro. Burda:

There seems to be some misunderstanding and I will try to explain it by starting at the beginning: Due to unforeseen circumstances, the official minutes of the last meeting of the Pacific District of March 17th are still missing along with the attendance sheet. With the help of tapes, I tried to reconstruct the minutes the best I could but found missing the name of the newly elected Vice President to represent L.A. on the District. Thus as I often do, I turned to Sis. Cheri for assistance as she has been longer on the District board than anyone of us and knows many more Sokol members from different units than I do. As far as S.F. unit is concerned it was clearly stated in the previous minutes from the November meeting that you were unanimously appointed as the V.P. from S.F. to serve on the District level. I needed no further information regarding S.F. Sokol to finish the minutes. Thus I am truly sorry about the confusion.

Meanwhile I will try to answer some of the other questions asked in the e-mail correspondence:

1. Problem with communication: We have discussed this difficult problem on the national level and I would suggest it is placed on the agenda for the next meeting for the Pacific District along with any other major problems. That would allow everybody to participate in the decision making process. Meanwhile it would be helpful if each officer or his alternate delegate serving on the Pacific District board could attend the Pacific District board meeting or at least send a written report. Besides there is a need to follow the line of command whenever possible. As usual, I would suggest that all official mail be send by mail or FAX, if it is an urgent matter.

2. Location of the next ASO Pacific District Meeting: As you previously suggested, we did discuss the topic thoroughly during our last meeting. The details of the discussion will appear in the minutes. If I remember correctly it was decided that the three units in the Pacific District take turns in hosting the meetings and each chose the location for such.

S. F. SOKOL UNIT ACTIVITIES

PICNIC IN SOULSBIVILLE hosted by Peter and Ivanka Linhart on their property. Many Sokol members and friends of Sokol with children present had a wonderful time thanks to gracious hospitality of the hosts. We all thank them for their invitation in the shade of their estate garden and 372-year-old chestnut and live oak trees.

David Livingston-barbecued successfully and diligently chickens, steaks and kielbasas. With all other goodies and salads it was delicious. Our hosts also invited Henrietta Ronken, skilled accordionist playing for pleasure of all participants. She continued her concert on the piano inside the home at night. We all were happy and most of the people decided to stay until Sunday, sleeping only in the sleeping bags under the stars of warm and peaceful night. On Sunday some of us decided to visit North Fork of Tuolumne River nearby and cool our self in the natural deep brook in the woods. Thanks and many happy returns.

There will be another SOKOL picnic in San Mateo Elk's Lodge grounds (229 West 20th. AV.), on September 22nd. Delicious menu will be served with swimming opportunity of all participants.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Lily Wildova from Mill Valley, long time friend and Sokol supporter, died shortly and suddenly at age 77 due to the blood clot after a broken knee surgery at the Kaiser Permanente hospital on July 7, 2001.

We will miss you Lilly very, very much!

Georgine J. Smerhovska, our long time Sokol member



Your kind expression of sympathy
is deeply appreciated
and gratefully acknowledged

Miroslav Josef Kemr was born on April 7, 1924 in Nechanice, Czechoslovakia and raised in the beautiful town of Karlovy Vary.

As a young boy, at about the age of 12 years, he saw a picture of the Golden Gate Bridge in a school book. That was the start of his dream, like so many others, of coming to the United States and specifically San Francisco. At the age of 28 years, he escaped from Czechoslovakia. He traveled to Sao Paulo, Brazil where he lived and worked for eight years before he was eligible, under the quota system, to come to the United States. While in Brazil he learned to read, write and speak Portuguese. When his time came to leave, his boss tried to convince him to stay But Miro still had that dream of seeing San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge.

In 1960 he first arrived to the United States in Florida. He traveled across the states to San Francisco. Right away he fell in love with the city. However, at one point, he had the opportunity to go to Guatamala, which he did, and stayed for almost two years. There he learned to read, write and speak Spanish. He then returned back to San Francisco. That is when he met his future wife, Joan. They were introduced by mutual friends at the Russian River. After a year and a half of courtship they were married on August 6, 1966 in San Francisco. They continued to live in the city for the next 34 years.

He worked 24 years at GTE WESCO in Belmont as a ceramic engineer in the Research & Development department.

One of the proudest moments in Miro's life was when he became a citizen of the United States which took place on January 20, 1970. That meant so much to him. However, he never forgot his homeland. Both Miro and Joan were lucky enough to take several trips back to the Czech Republic to visit their families.

Not only did Miro love fishing and the outdoors, he became a big fan of the San Francisco Giants and the 49ers. He was an active member of Sokol San Francisco and CSA, Golden Gate Lodge #252 until his illness.

Miro passed away in San Francisco on April 12, 2001 at the age of 77 years.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

SOKOL DUES 2001 ARE DUE AGAIN:

Sokol San Francisco thanks to everyone for continuous support. Our Unit has 48 males and 48 females officially registered. So far, 41 out of 96 paid 2001 dues up to date.

Your dues payment, should be sent by your check or Money Order to:

Sokol Gymnastics Association- Sokol San Francisco Inc.

P.O. BOX 4006- Menlo Park, CA 94026

Please, enclose coupon provided below and keep the stub for your records. Your support is greatly appreciated. Please, disregard if you already pay your dues.

According to Sokol by-laws, **there is \$5 reinstatement** fee for membership drop out , and later reinstatement of the membership. Also, your membership should be unfortunately canceled automatically if dues are not paid **normally to the first quarter of every year**. If you did not paid the dues our Unit however, is keeping you active without cancellation to the first half of the year. ASO in Chicago is very strict, requesting quarterly portion of dues payment for every active member from our Unit.

Sokol Unit also received following tax deductible Vestnik donations in 2001:

R.S. Heckman	5.00
J. Stroleny	25.00
G. Spanek	12.59
H. Husak	10.00
V. Machacek	5.00
K.A.Skapa	15.00
A. Rosasko	12.00

Total \$: 84.59

SEND WITH YOUR PAYMENT:

2001 DUES are \$25

Membership Dues \$.....

Donation/Contribution \$.....

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

Sokol Dues 2001

Date sent:

CHECK No.

Try This Multiple-Choice Questionnaire of Czech Words

1. *zmrzlina*
 - a. A girl's name
 - b. A dessert
 - c. A street in Prague
2. *tycinka*
 - a. A hockey stick
 - b. A stir stick
 - c. A bread stick
3. *puget*
 - a. An inland bay
 - b. A floral arrangement
 - c. A French auto
4. *ufo*
 - a. A Czech union
 - b. An unidentified flying object
 - c. A dog's name
5. *smradlavý syr*
 - a. A fortune teller
 - b. Something to eat
 - c. Smelley and stinky
6. *zarovka*
zarivka
 - a. Russian ballet dancers
 - b. Lights up the dark
 - c. Russian rulers
7. *zasuvka*
 - a. Related to *zarivka*
 - b. A vacuum cleaner
 - c. A drink straw
8. *ruskie*
kladivo
 - a. A nut cracker
 - b. A hammer
 - c. A brick
9. *gruntová*
 - a. Housework
 - b. Labored breathing
 - c. Grudging answer
10. *vysavač*
 - a. An argument
 - b. Vacuum cleaner
 - c. An agreement
11. *prevodovka*
 - a. Water works
 - b. A walkway
 - c. Auto transmission
12. *nafta*
 - a. U.S. trade agreement
 - b. Cleaning fluid
 - c. Diesel fuel
13. *ups*
 - a. Something you say when you spill something (pronounced oops!)
 - b. Overnight delivery firm
 - c. Political party
14. *coop*
 - a. Pen for chickens (pronounced coupe)
 - b. A sports car
 - c. A grocery chain

Answers to Multiple-Choice Questions

1. *Zmrzlina* - ice cream. 2. *Tycinka* - salted breadsticks, sold in most *hospody*. 3. *Pugot* (pronounced poo-zhot), a French automobile. 4. *UFO* (pronounced oo-foe), unidentified flying object. 5. *Smradlavý syr* - a heavenly baked dish of some smelley and stinky cheese, meat and eggs, that is best cooked in an oven removed from the kitchen, but is great tasting. 6. *Zarovka* - electric light bulb. 7. *Zasuvka* - related to *zarivka*, it is a electric power plug. 8. *Ruskie kladivo* - in cracking walnuts it was found that striking the walnut on its tip with a small brick was an easy way to get at the meat, hence our friend called it a "Russian hammer." 9. *Gruntová* - taking the English word for "grunt" work and applying it to housework or spring-cleaning. 10. *Vysavač* - vacuum cleaner. 11. *Prevodovka* - automobile transmission. 12. *Nafta* - diesel fuel. 13. *UPS* (pronounced, oops) is the overnight delivery firm United Parcel Service. 14. *Coop* (pronounced coupe) - are the renamed *Jednota* grocery stores (some still carry that name) as "Coop," which the Moravians pronounce as above.

Sokol Information, History and Education

The essence of education is to pass on information accurately to the next generation. As parents, you are the next generation's information source. As Sokol instructors we teach your children forward rolls, pyramids, games, exercise, calisthenics, competition routines, volleyball, and a full spectrum of physical activities designed to develop physical prowess.

However, there is another aspect to the Sokol program that only surfaces on occasion at some units and more frequently at others, the history of Sokol. The why, how, and what-for of this grand organization is a subject that is a part of the European and American history of physical education in our public schools and private athletic clubs.

If you are a history buff, you might want to read through some of the literature that is held at our national headquarters at the CSA building at 122 West 22nd St Oakbrook, IL. The CSA also houses the Czech and Slovak Museum. Whether your heritage is or isn't an important factor in your life many of us want to know a little about where we came from and where we are going. History has a way of making the future a little clearer.

Some recommended pamphlets are Sokol & the Sokol Ideal, Our Task, Aim and Goal, and Highlights of Czech History. You may also contact your unit Education Representative for more information.

Nazdar!

Lynda Filipello Central District Education Director

American Sokol Library-Archives Now Ready For Your Visit

The American Sokol Library-Archives is now located at 122 West 22nd Street, Oak Brook, Illinois and is now ready for your visit. Hours are by appointment and can be easily made by calling (630) 368-0771 and speaking to the office staff.

The purpose of the Library-Archives of American Sokol is to catalog and preserve documents, photos, art, books, collections, merchandise, technical materials, and articles that are inherently valuable and significant to Sokol, its founders, members, history, culture, philosophy, and creed.

Both members and guests are invited to make visiting arrangements. The Library-Archives is an excellent resource for cultural and academic research, dissertations, and of course for anyone with an interest in Sokol. There is also a Sokol display in the CSA museum alongside many of the precious CSA exhibits.

The Library-Archives is easily found and located on 22nd Street in Oak Brook, Illinois. It is accessible to major highways and intersections. Please call or email the American Sokol office for further information or to arrange a visit. The phone number is (630) 368-0771 and the email address is aso@american-sokol.org.

The American Sokol Organization (ASO), a non-profit educational and physical culture association with headquarters in Chicago, IL is in final preparations for the XX American Sokol Slet, to be held in the Detroit Area from June 27 through July 1, 2001.

Sokol (the Czech word for falcon -- a symbol of independence, strength, and the fearless defense of its domain) has an unprecedented history: in 1862, Dr. Miroslav Tyrš created the society in Prague during a time of oppression toward all non-German nations of the Austrian Empire. Tyrš and his friend, Sokol co-founder Jindrich Fügner (1822-1865), understood that only physically fit, mentally alert, and culturally educated people could form a healthy, strong nation. Thus, they followed the Ancient Greek credo of a sound mind in a sound body.

Sokol was soon introduced to the United States by Czech immigrants. The first branch was established in St. Louis on February 14, 1865. Within a few decades, the American Sokol grew into 75 local units organized into six geographical districts (zupy in Czech) with more than 15,000 members. All members are united in the American Sokol Organization. In addition, ASO closely cooperates with other similar organizations of different nationalities, including the Polish Falcons of America, the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the U.S.A., and the Russian and Ukrainian Sokols, among others.

Sokol members have always stood at the forefront of Czech national aspirations: they were among the most sincere and brave supporters of Tomas G. Masaryk's Czechoslovak independence movement during WW I, and later formed the core of the anti-Nazi

resistance movement. In fact, the very possession of a membership in the Sokol organization was cause for great suspicion from the Nazis and thus, many Sokols were sent to concentration camps. Only a short while later, the strength of the Sokol ideology was clearly realized by the Communist regime, as well. Immediately after the Communist takeover in February of 1948, the Sokol organization was closed, its leaders imprisoned. Many took refuge in the United States, where they continued the fight for democracy and human rights back in their old country. Not surprisingly, in 2000, Czech Foreign Minister Jan Kavan bestowed the Jan Masaryk Gratias Agit award upon two American Sokol leaders, Vladislav Slavík and Fred Kala.

Within the Sokol community, the Slet is the climax. Slet, originally a Czech word, means much more than a gathering of people: Slet means huge gymnastics performances, mass calisthenics perfectly designed to demonstrate physical fitness, spiritual unity, and the patriotism of its members. The American Sokol Organization's Slets are organized every four years, though individual districts hold their contests on an annual basis. A worldwide gathering of all the Sokols takes place in Prague, usually at six-year intervals.

Hosted by Sokol Detroit, the 2001 Slet will serve as a unique opportunity for those

who have never had the chance to watch the great performances of hundreds and thousands of disciplined athletes, or experience the rich cultural program, great food and friendly people that a Slet offers. For further information, please visit the American Sokol Website at: www.american-sokol.org or contact Ms. Anne Eisner at 313-382 0406.



Dr. Miroslav Tyrš, founder of Sokol

Teige Exhibition Opening Attracts Many Visitors



Opening of exhibition "Dreams and Disillusion" Karel Teige at the Gey Art Gallery of the New York University attracted over 400 visitors on the night of April 30. The artist's home in the center and the next day's lecturer was Dr. Rosislav Svacha of the Academy of Sciences in Prague, a respected scholar of Karel Teige and the Czech Avant-Garde and coauthor with Dr. Eric Dluhoš of the book "Karel Teige: Infant Terrible of the Czech Modernist Avant-Garde" published by MHI Press in 1999. Among other honored guests of the opening were Cathy Keif, director of The Wolfsonian Institute of the Florida International University and curator Marieanne Lamont from the same institution which organized the exhibition and premiered it in Florida last fall. Also present was "Kenneth Frampton" specialist on modern architecture Czech Consul General Petr Gandalovic, Director of the Czech Center New York Premysl Reta and many others. The Czech Center assisted with organization of Dr. Svacha's lecture on Karel Teige and the Architectural Avant-Garde and also prepared an exhibition of Czech Posters Between the Wars on view in the Czech Center gallery May 9-June 22.

The First Lady of the Kingdom

(Article in "The News of the Czech

Center" of Houston, TX - Fall 2000)

This is a story of the Czech Renaissance at the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries when in the year 1567 an exceptional lady was born. Her name was Polyxena and she belonged to one of the most significant aristocratic families in the Czech lands - the Pernštejn family. Her father known as the Magnificent Vratislav, who counted Czech kings among his personal friends was at home in the highest circles of the European aristocracy. During a visit to Spain he fell in love with the beautiful Maria Maunique de Lara of the Mendoza family. They wedded and over the course of many years, she gave him no less than 21 children.

The Pernštejns converted to Catholicism in the 16th century and Madame de Lara's arrival served to strengthen the family's ties to the Catholic faith. She also established Prague's first salon in Pernštejnský Palace. No doubt she hoped that such a social institution would help her to marry off her daughters. The children were brought up hearing the sounds of the many languages spoken at the international court of Rudolf II, such as Spanish, German, Italian and French. In fact, their father was the only person who spoke to them in Czech.

Polyxena received a perfect upbringing in the splendid world of the Pernštejn family. In time, she grew to be admired not only for her grace but also for her intelligence and the breadth of her knowledge. She seemed to have been blessed with talent and good fortune.

But when Polyxena turned 15, tragedy struck. Her father died suddenly, leaving his family with huge debts. Faced with this drastic situation, the Pernštejns were forced to gradually sell off much of their property until all they

had left were the chateau in Litomysl, a palace in Prague, and several unmarried daughters.

The years went by, and Polyxena was still unmarried when she reached the age of 20. Then one day, a man by the name of Vilem started to court the young daughter of the Pernštejns. Now, Vilem was certainly no longer young and he had outlived three wives already, but he had one great advantage going for him - he was the head of the house of Rozmberk. This is probably why Polyxena's mother did not hesitate for an instant and quickly consented to the marriage.

Giving up her girlish dreams of meeting a handsome knight in shining armor, she gave her hand in marriage to a man thirty years her senior. It may not have been a dream come true, but the chroniclers say it was a magnificent wedding with the guests eating 36 stags, 49 roebucks, 1,290 hare, 5,800 carp, 1,560 other game and drank 150 barrels of lager beer and 70 buckets of Rhine wine. Even the poor people were supplied with bread, pots of gruel and barrels of beer for three days. Emperor Rudolf II himself attended the wedding.

The aging Vilem was hoping that his young wife would provide him with an heir. Her new life with him was luxurious and since the emperor was a bachelor, the title of *first lady of the kingdom* fell to her as the wife of the kingdom's highest officer.

It seemed to many that her marriage to an older man was uneven and commented on that fact. Sadly to say, that after five years Vilem passed away before Polyxena gave him an heir.

Polyxena spent the next ten years searching for another groom, but as a widow, she had far

more freedom to make up her own mind. The salon was a central meeting place for Catholic noblemen from every corner of the Habsburg empire, and the beautiful, intelligent Polyxena attracted the attention of many of them. In the end, the flaxen-haired daughter of the Pernštejn family, who was still quite attractive at the age of 35, accepted a proposal from Zdenek Vojtech Popel of Lobkowicz. From portraits of him, we know that this man had a handsome face and sharply dark eyes. What's more, this time around Polyxena had found a man who was younger than her by one year.

They shared an ambition to assume and maintain the highest standing among the Catholic nobility, which they managed to achieve even during the stormy years of the early 17th century. Polyxena gave birth to a boy and named him Vaclav Eusebius, who turned out to be quite exceptional, no doubt since he had such an exceptional mother. Her abilities were recognized even by the representatives of the Protestant estates who had too much respect for her to invade the palace after she sheltered and tended to the wounds of the Catholic vice-regents who were defenestrated at Prague castle in 1618. The start of the thirty years war. (See related article.)

Throughout this dark period, Polyxena managed to enlarge her property and protect it from being destroyed.

A portrait of this exceptional woman can be found in the richest collection of Spanish portraits in the Czech lands housed in Lobkowicz Palace in Nelahozeves. This remarkable woman from the Pernštejn family died at the age of 75, outliving her younger husband by 14 years.

Czech Scenes

Sokol Brother John Cinatl has a favorite internet site for his screensaver sites. Recently when he checked back with Webshots.Com, he found a number of photos from the town of Trebon which is his Czech family's home town. John says anyone wanting to "Czech" it out, go to the following site to download the software and have Czech scenes as your screensavers:

<http://community.webshots.com/album/6852603iUjREdGwG>

<http://community.webshots.com/album/6811129DSaXmYkRgS>

<http://community.webshots.com/album/7337347uxOVBwbrOz>



*Honorary Consulate General of the Czech Republic
Honorární Generální Konzulát České Republiky*

April 20, 2001

George Spanek
1425 Broadway, Suite 11
Burlingame, CA 94010

Dear Friends,

The American Friends of the Czech Republic has undertaken an initiative to erect a statue of President Thomas Garrigue Masaryk in Washington D.C. opposite the World Bank headquarters. It is their belief that a Masaryk memorial in our nation's capital is a fitting remembrance of a friend to the United States and democracy. T.G. Masaryk spent six and a half months in 1918 in the United States, much of it in Washington D.C., drafting his principles for Czechoslovak independence using the United States' Declaration of Independence as a blueprint. His efforts led to his ascend to presidency of one of the new states in Central Europe. The bills S.B. 621 (a Senate bill) and H.R. 1161 (a House bill) would authorize the non-profit organization to support his memorial without any expense to the U.S. Government. The next hearing on this matter is scheduled for May 8th.

With the support of the U.S. Congress and the Administration, the American Friends of the Czech Republic believe that this project could be completed before the end of 2001. The placing of the statue cannot proceed until both the Senate and House bills pass.

Support from your organization and its members would provide the additional momentum needed for the speedy passage of the bills. Enclosed you will find a list of Congressman and Senators that are on the Resource Committee and are key figures who we must lobby in this effort. Additionally, you will find blank form letters for both the House and Senate which you may xerox onto your own stationery and proceed to have your organization's members send to each Congressman and both Senators listed. If you could send blind copies to the president of the American Friends of the Czech Republic, Milton Cerny, as well as back to me, this will enable us to get a better sense of the level of involvement and support in this effort.

May I thank you in advance for your favorable consideration.

Gratefully,

Richard Pivnicka
Honorary Consul General
of the Czech Republic

Encl.



*Honorary Consulate General of the Czech Republic
Honorární Generální Konzulát České Republiky*

President of the American Friends of the Czech Republic

Milton Cerny
Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered
One Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20005-5802

Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic

Hon. Richard Pivnicka
201 Filbert Street, Suite 700
San Francisco, CA 94133

Senators

Hon. Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Diane Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman

Hon. Ken Calvert
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. David Dreier
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Elton Gallegly
2427 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Tom Lantos
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Richard Pombo
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515



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Washington, D.C. 20515

DRAFT- Senate Bill

Dear _____:

On behalf of _____ I would like to seek your co-sponsorship of S _____ introduced by Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE) which authorizes our American Friends of the Czech Republic to establish a memorial in honor of Thomas G. Masaryk, a friend of Woodrow Wilson and the first president of Czechoslovakia. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and your co-sponsorship of this bill would be greatly appreciated by the members of _____.

We believe that a Masaryk memorial in our nation's capitol is a fitting remembrance of a friend to the United States and to democracy who spent six and half months in 1918, much of it in Washington DC drafting his principle for Czech independence based on the United State's Declaration of Independence. S____ permits our American Friends of the Czech Republic, a non-profit organization, to support this memorial without any expenses to be borne by the taxpayer or the U.S. government.

Therefore we would appreciate your support of S_____ by co-sponsoring and supporting its passage by the U.S. Senate. Please let us know if you can support our request.

We would be most grateful

Sincerely,

April 2001

Dear Camper:

Enclosed is the registration package for the 2001 Sokol Family Camp at Dinkey Creek. The date this year is the week of **August 5-12, 2001**. Please note the change in procedures that has been implemented 3 years ago in 1998 and continues in effect:

To attend, you must pre-register and pre-pay.

Please note that only **complete** registrations will be processed. Incomplete registrations will be held and you will be contacted to supply the missing items. Depending on the interest in the camp, the delay could mean that you may not be able to get the accommodations of your choice or be able to attend camp at all. *Please do not come to camp without a confirmed reservation as you will not be allowed to stay.* This could cause you inconvenience or hardship.

Due to the increased interest in the camp **priority will be given to Sokol members and their relatives**. The **deadline for sending in your registration is June 30, 2001** if you are paying with a personal check. Registrations mailed in later will be accepted but payment must be made in the form of a cashier's check or money order. The final deadline for accepting applications is July 31, 2001. Make checks payable to "Pacific District of ASO" and mail to Cheri Riddle at the address given below. Direct all inquiries to Cheri Riddle (see contact information below).

REGISTER BY RETURNING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- 1) **A completed registration form**
- 2) **A signed Release of Liability/Agreement to Comply**
Please note that each adult camper must sign and initial where indicated before the registration can be processed. You may copy the form and have each adult sign individually on separate sheets if that is more convenient. However, no registration will be processed until all of the adults included on that registration have signed the liability release and agreed to comply with the Camp Rules.
- 3) **Payment IN FULL** in the form of a check (if being mailed prior to June 30) or cashier's check or money order (if being mailed after June 30). Your reservation will be confirmed by mail. Please note that you must have a confirmed reservation to attend camp.
- 4) **Permission to Attend/Minor Registration Form** signed and completed by the child's parent or legal guardian, applicable only if you will be bringing with you and chaperoning at camp a minor child whose parent or legal guardian is someone other than yourself (for example, your own child's friend or the child of a friend or relative for whom you will be responsible.) We must have a separate signed and completed form for each minor child attending without his/her own parent/guardian.

Mail registration/direct inquiries to: **Cheri Riddle**
113 2nd Street
Clovis, CA 93612
(559) 299-5807
email: CheriRsokol@cs.com

Thank you for your interest. We are looking forward to seeing you in camp!

A woman driving in one direction holds out her arm and yells "PIG!!!" to the man driving the car coming toward her on the opposite side of the road. The man yells back an obscenity to the woman. Just as he makes turn in the road he hits pig.

The moral of this story is: " When a woman talks to you, you better pay attention".

Two older ladies had been meeting for years in the park and spending time together. One day one lady says to the other, " Excuse me please, but I forgot your name. Would you please tell me what it is? The other lady hesitates for a while ad she replies: " How soon do you need to know?"