Glockenspiel Lease Signed

Joyce Tesarek (left) and Martin Ziegler (center) combined their acute and enthusiastic business skills to fashion and agree upon a three year lease between Sokol Minnesota as landlord, and Ziegler Enterprises, Inc. as tenant, for the Glockenspiel Restaurant. The lease signing on February 8 was both preceded and followed by brainstorming opportunities the new collaboration will bring. In the negotiation, Joyce represented our Finance Committee, and Martin his role as owner of both Ziegler Enterprises, Inc. and the Glockenspiel Restaurant. Sokol President Joe Landsberger (right) happily looked on at this achievement and the camera.

Flavors of Slovakia

Sunday Dinner March • 25th

$12.- Adult and $5.- for children under 7

holupky (cabbage roll) halušky kapusta (dumplings and cabbage) pirohy, pickled beets, green beans caraway rye bread, dessert and coffee

Gift Shop will be open 12N - 3p

1st seating-12:30
2nd seating-2:30

Reservations Required by March 20th Call:
651.777.3660 or 612.869.3502

Limited seating
President Komentář/President’s Note
By Joe Landsberger
Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters!

Spring is on its way and Sokol activities are building toward the lull of summer. Various committees are busy as well. At its February meeting, the Board of Directors (BOD) focused on membership and discussed what might encourage people to join, and what members’ interests are. Activities and membership go together! One challenge is communications. Your new Slovo is one vehicle, but nothing grows interest like personal contact. Toward that end, the BOD created a Membership Committee with Nancy Imbrone as convener, and Norm Petrik as Membership Chair. Several tasks are on their plate: updating the membership rolls and roles, and strategizing how to match interests with activities and chores.

We had a great time at Šibřinky: the hall looked festive, the food was great, and the band played on. Dancers of all ages entertained, and guests kicked up the rug and danced. Surprise guests included the lead singer, Jill Mikelson, and two band members from the Ordway’s Love, Janis now running to April 15 in St. Paul’s McKnight Theater. They curiously stopped in after dinner at the Glock, and were so impressed with our hall that they returned after performing that night!

Of special mention as we look ahead is our participation in the Festival of Nations May 3 - 6. Remember that anyone who works gets in free! My special memory last year was workers from other food booths who shared their treats, as we did ours. For more information, call this year’s chief organizer, Joyce Tesarek, and don’t forget to join us this month with the plays and the dinner “Flavors of Slovakia”.

Nazdar,
Joe Landsberger

Membership Report
By Norm Petrik

At the February membership meeting eight new members were accepted. They are Janet Nemmers from St. Paul who wants to learn more about Czech language and cooking; Jason and Rachel Gorski from St. Paul who have interest in Czech language, films and music; Deborah LaChapelle of W St. Paul who wants to further his knowledge of his Czech culture; Paula Vukonich of Chisholm who has interest in regional Czech traditions, costumes, dances and dinners, and has helped with a number of events already; Pam Brokaw of Hudson, Wisconsin who has interest in learning more about her Czech heritage; and Edita Mansfield of Prescott, Wisconsin who is Slovak, and has children involved in the children’s dance group.

Welcome to these new Sokol members, and I hope we see them at many events and our membership meetings.

Correction: The January Membership Report incorrectly reported the name of Bro. Steve Shimer.

Deepest sympathy is sent to Sokol Board Director Daniel Brown and family on the death of his father, Phillip E. Brown of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, on February 3. The elder Brown received the Purple Heart for his service during WWII in Europe.
This photo of some of our founders hangs in the third floor of the C.S.P.S. Hall. The Publications Committee of the Slovo invites you to submit Czech, Slovak, and Moravian immigrant and family stories for possible publication that relate to our history. Send your photos with captions and articles to publicrelations@sokolmn.org or to:

Publications Committee/Slovo
Sokol Minnesota
383 Michigan St.
St. Paul, MN 55102.
Thank you!

Around and About Sokol Minnesota

By Lucille Pavlicek

Missing my column last time, many members like to hear what is transpiring where they were educated in Sokol. I have been teaching, holding office, and for over 50 years have been active. Current teachers were in my classes when they were four, and they are doing a fine job. I am active in other organizations and promote Sokol that way as well.

We have also learned from many of our professional members. Joe Pavlicek (Pavlíček) came from Novy Mesto (Nový Město) in 1908 and attended the University of Minnesota. He was a chief accountant for the City of St. Paul and a long-time member and officer of Sokol, president of the Northern District of the American Sokol Union. He actively promoted both the Sokol summer camp and the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Many Sokols’ parents came to the hall. Frank Dvorak’s retired twin daughters, Blanche and Violet, are now retired from St. Paul Public Schools, and Frank Verner’s son Miro is retired but not tired. It seems we have members in all the states. Helen Lander of Texas reports her son flies helicopters. I recently received a letter from Wally Schovanec who lives in Boise, Idaho with his professional daughters. Lad Loss, 98, sends pictures from Washington, and still sings all the Czech songs. Frank Loss and his sister Anne Neubauer both sing at the hall. Georgiana Dolejsi carries on her family’s musical traditions.

The Chlebecoks, Jim and George work hard for Sokol. It takes lots of expertise to keep Sokol going. I haven’t forgotten all the wonderful members that keep us going. The building has aged as the rest of us, and now new members can teach us how to advance our organization.

The weather has been keeping us very cold—no snow. Let’s pray hard for a beautiful spring. My good friend Babe Vanyo prayed for me every day. Now she has passed, but her memory will live on.

Sharon Wyberg our editor: good luck and also good work, Ken. Thanks.

With a Sokol Nazdar!
Lucille
Czech News
Gathered by Sharon Wyberg and Mark Bigaouette

Embassy Honors Freedom Defenders
On November 14 at the Czech Embassy in Washington D.C. Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom Awards were given to Edwin J Feulner, President of the Heritage Foundation, and posthumously to Milada Horakova. Horakova was a pro-democracy advocate who was found guilty of treason and executed by the Communist regime in 1950. Horakova’s daughter Jana Kanska, accepted the award on her mother’s behalf.

Budějovický Budvar, via Anheuser-Busch
After a century of disagreements over trademark rights to the Budweiser brand, Czech brewer Budějovický Budvar and Anheuser-Busch jointly announced Anheuser-Busch will become the U.S. importer of Czechvar Premium Czech lager. Czechvar will continue to be brewed in České Budějovice, though added to the Anheuser-Busch’s European high end imports.

Czech-American sculptor, Albin Polasek
Following World War I, the main railroad station in Prague was named for President Woodrow Wilson in honor of his role in the creation of Czechoslovakia. Nearby, a statue by sculptor Albin Polasek of Wilson stood nearby but it was destroyed, either by the Nazis or Communists towards the end of World War II. The statue’s restoration is being researched as the station is undergoing renovation.

Looking for more Czech News?
The Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs finances Radio Praha’s website at www.radio.cz This international service has all the latest news, business, sports, ABC of Czech, arts, books, history, music, science, spotlights and much more. Languages include English, Česky, Deutsch, Français and Español.

News of the Czech Republic can also be found at its Embassy’s website www.mzv.cz/washington or through its newsletter CZECH the News, the newsletter of the. Order the newsletter: Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant
Contestants sought
Young women, ages 16-26, of Czech, Slovak, or Moravian heritage are invited to compete for the state title of Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota. Pageant winners receive cash awards and crowns, and participate in memorable events throughout Minnesota. The Minnesota Queen also travels to the National Miss Czech Slovak USA Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska. Applications are due March 15. For more information call Loraine David (507) 364 5384, Colleen Pavek (507) 364 8025, or Cindy Taylor (507) 364 5524.

The 18th annual pageant will take place April 14, 2007 at the American Legion Club, Montgomery, Minnesota. Festivities include ethnic dinner, Montgomery Czech Singers, pageant, reception, and dance. Advance tickets for the dinner are available through Loraine (above). Pageant and dance tickets are available at the door.

The “Czech” Miss World
Tatana Kucharova, an 18-year-old student from the Czech Republic, is the reigning Miss World, a title she won in February 2006.
A Trip for Learning: My Summer Vacation!

By Doreen McKinney

This past summer I traveled with my family throughout the Czech Republic, participated in the Sokol slet in Prague, stayed two weeks on a family farm, and ended up in Dobruška as a scholarship recipient to study the Czech language. Quite a summer vacation!

Dobruška is located in Eastern Bohemia and is known for the language branch campus of the Univerzita Karlova v Praze/Charles University in Prague. Our group of 67 ranged in age from 18 to 77 and represented 42 countries. They included a South African ostrich farmer, an architect from India, and a Czech restaurateur from Venezuela. Besides study, the faculty encouraged us to dine, sing, dance, tour Eastern Bohemia and to make Czech connections with one another and become our own ambassadors of the countries that we represented. However, the universal language spoken was English!

There were six levels of language learners and two at the beginner’s level. One beginners-level teacher translated her Czech lessons into Spanish to the Latin contingent. Some students grew up speaking Czech but had never seen the language in print while some studied the written form and had never spoken it. Starting in the morning, Charles University professors taught classes from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, followed by cultural programs and home work. Educational excursions on the week-ends took us on castle tours and hiking adventures through national parks. Campus living accommodations were comfortable and a life line home was the computer lab with internet access.

In class I sat next to a lawyer, Paola, from Lebanon. She left the day before her city and airport were bombed, and admitted that her concentration during class was challenged. She persevered despite the uncertainty of her family and country’s future. The story of Paola and her hardships spread quickly to the Prague media, and reporters and TV crews frequently appeared in our class. Local media also made their annual visit to the College to document and interview us as visitors and students.

A few weeks after I returned home to Minnesota I received an email from Paola inviting me to her lecture at the Brno University about the situation in Lebanon. At the end of the month she would be returning to Beirut “before facing the big mess over there.” Paola acknowledged the hospitality and support her classmates gave her plus the opportunity to be a spokesperson for her country while in Brno. Paola was already an ambassador.

My Aussie (Australian) classmate Suzan was also touched by our course experience and wrote “Czech was the highlight of my 1 year-9 month world trip. It is everything European, historically and culturally but better because it still retains its own character while being unassuming and affordable to truly enjoy. This is a journey I hope to do again, with visits now possible to all my new ‘Czech+something else’ friends in their homelands”.

continued on page 11
Songs of the Month
Submitted by Georgiana Dolejsi

“Hej, Slované” from the songbook “Naše Pisničky” (no date) assembled by A. Machek for Czech schools in America.

English lyric: Olga Paul

MORAVO!

Arranged by: H.A. Schimmerling

---

Hej, Slované ...

Moderato.

Hej, Slované,
ještě naše slovanská
řeč žije,
pokud naše
věrné srdce pro náš
národ bíje.

Žije, žije,
duch slovanský, bude žít
na věky:
[.Hrom a peklo,
marné vaše proti
nám jsou vzteky!:]
Thank You!

Donations

General Fund:
Caroline Pearson
Minnesota Sokol Camp Association

In memory of Cecilia (Babe) Vanyo
Doreen McKenney
Joyce and Norm Sladek
Frank Loss
James and Mary Jo Chlebecek
Louise and Chuck Wessinger
Ken and Sharon Wyberg
Norm Petrik and Joyce Tesarek
George Chlebecek
Richard and Linda Nicoli
John and Mildred Greash
Ralph and Mary Halbert
Kathleen Keenan
Donald and Doris McKenney

Donations to Elevator Fund:
In memory of Cecilia (Babe) Vanyo
Tillie Dolejsi
Georgiana Dolejsi
Elsie Roepke
Susan and Steven Fritze

Donation to Window Fund
In memory of Cecilia (Babe) Vanyo
Anne Neubauer

Donation to the Slovo
Sokol Town of Lake

Donation to the Gym
Center for Rural Policy & Development

Total donations: $980
Sokol Minnesota thanks you!

Old to Some; Treasure to Others
Spring, spring cleaning, and discarding the old is right around the corner! Think of Sokol’s garage sale Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14. Besides shopping for “new”, you can drop it off your “old” at the CSPS Hall first floor elevator.
Questions? please contact:
Doris 952.881.6715 or Dorothy 507.645.4793

Readers Write
Enclosed is a donation to help defray the cost of printing and postage for your Sokol publication which you kindly send to our unit regularly. Our members look forward to receiving your news bulletin containing information on the activities of your unit. Thank you for making it available to us. Sokolu szar!
Mildred Mentzer
Secretary, Sokol Town of Lake

Fun Fact
The first theater in the world to be electrically lit (1882) was the Municipal Theater in Brno, now known as the Mahenovo Divadlo. Thomas Edison was on site to help with the installation.
Koláče (koláče) baking

The wonderful aroma of the kolace baking class permeated the C.S.P.S. Hall Thursday February 1. Hana Matousek, assisted by Louise Wessinger, Doreen McKenney, and Joyce Tesarek instructed a full house of 13 bakers in the fine art of making the yeast dough, and shaping and filling kolace. We are sure the gymnasts next door were tempted by both the warm kitchen and delicious offerings, including the kolache pie. Interest was so great that the class was filled beyond capacity, and even a few were turned away.

On the weekend of February 23, a cadre of bakers led by Doreen McKenney, created hundreds of kolache and raised hundreds of dollars to support Sokol: Děkuji!

Slet Practice

By Norm Petrik

Please consider joining us to prepare for the Sokol USA Slet in Pittsburgh July 1. Slet is a field exercise in which participants come together to perform the activities they learned in their home unit. We will be preparing, under the direction of our instructor Doreen McKenney, for the All Sokol Special Number, which gives persons of all ages an opportunity to be on the field together, some doing “Aerobic” and some doing “Non-Aerobic” parts. So I especially invite younger people, teens on up, to join us in doing this American Sokol Special number. Sokol USA, the group hosting us in Pittsburgh, is not part of American Sokol, but has more Slovak origins.

We also hope to practice the Senior II program which was developed by Sokol USA, and if we can learn them both, more power to us! But our first priority is to learn the American Sokol Special number as a way of attracting younger people, and of course people of all ages. So come and try us out, 1st and 3rd Mondays, in the Gym from 6 pm to 7:15 pm, until the Slet. Please join us, or call Norm Petrik, Men’s Physical Director, for further information. 612 822-6147.

Books for Sale at Krásné Darky/Beautiful Gifts Shop

Sokol Minnesota Sings
Book ($8.00) includes 178 anthems, patriotic, popular Sokol marching, folk and Christmas songs. In Czech, Slovak and English. Two “working” cassette tapes ($7.50) of piano music for each song. Combined: $15 including postage.

Sokol Minnesota Cookbook
$17.50 per copy including postage 351 pages of Czech, Slovak, Moravian and American recipes with folklore.

Gateway to a New World: Building Čech and Slovak Communities in the West End (2003). $10 ($11 including postage) Co-authored, compiled, and edited by Joe Landsberger, and published by West 7th/Fort Road Federation Documents and celebrates the contributions of Czech and Slovak immigrants and families in the West End of St. Paul since the 1860s

Make checks payable to ‘Sokol Minnesota’; mail to:
Krásné Darky/Sokol Minnesota
383 Michigan St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
Czech and Slovak Geography

By Jay Fonkert

It’s time to go back to school – like, back to the old days when they taught geography!

Since most are readers are either a) from the Czech or Slovak Republics, b) of Czech, Moravian or Slovak heritage, or for various other strange and mysterious reason fascinated with things Czech or Slovak, we thought we’d offer a little introduction to the geography of that part of the world.

This month, we’ll focus on mountains and rivers. In future issues, we’ll take up climate, agriculture and economic geography.

In geography, everything is relative. We used to think of the former Czechoslovakia being part of “eastern Europe.” Today, we’re as likely to say “central Europe.” That probably has something to do with the breakup of the old Soviet “eastern bloc,” and also with the movement of the Czech Republic and Slovakia toward the European Union.

The Czech Republic and Slovakia hold down the interior of Europe, but Prague is only about 600 miles from the English channel and only about 300 miles from the Baltic Sea – making it a bit less continental than Minnesota!

Modest mountain ranges ring most of the two countries, helping define their borders. On the northwest, the Ore Mountains (Krusne Hory) separate the Czech Republic from the part of Germany that used to be the communist Democratic Republic. To the southwest, Šumava mountains rise to 4,000 to 5,000 feet above sea level along the border with German Bavaria.

The Krkonose, with their weird limestone fork formations, rise up in the north along the Polish border. Farther east, the more serious snow-capped Tatra mountains separate northern Slovakia from Poland. The Tatras are part of the larger Carpathian mountain system that arches from northern Slovakia eastward to Romania.

The mountains are beautiful, but not high or rugged enough to have protected the region from military invasion. They do, however, direct the course of the regions’ great rivers. Much of the Czech Republic and Slovakia are higher in elevation than surrounding regions. The Czech Republic is tilted toward the north, while Slovakia drains to the southeast.

The Šumava and the uplands in the southeast Czech Republic divide the Czech lands from the Danube, which works its way east through northern Austria and through Bratislava and Budapest on toward the Black Sea. The great Hungarian plain and the Danube were a pathway for cultural and political influence from Hungary and southeastern Europe in centuries past.

The blue Danube has its famous waltz, courtesy of Johann Strauss, but it is the Vltava (or Moldau in German) that caught the fancy of Czech composer Bedrich Smetana. The symphonic poem entitled Vltava is the second part of his famous composition Ma Vlast (“Fatherland”). The music describes the Vltava as it rises in the Šumava region of southern Bohemia, curls beneath the castle at Česky Krumlov, and flows through the heart of Prague. The Vltava merges with the Elbe in Germany, reaching the Baltic at Lubeck.

The Czech and Slovak country-sides hold great beauty – although I’ve only seen small areas in person. Flying into Prague from the northwest, great green islands of forest are interspersed with valleys filled with farms and villages. Southern Bohemia’s rolling hills and farmlands remind me of southern Wisconsin – not as flat as most of southern Minnesota. I only know Slovakia from pictures The mountains in the north and east are stunning.

Next time, I’ll talk about climate. We’ll see just how the Czech Republic and Slovakia compare to Minnesota.
Dancing up a Sokol Storm
Story and photos by Jay Fonkert

Sokol Minnesota’s Taneční Mládež dance group proves that the Sokol commitment to fitness can be fun, too.

Taneční Mládež means “dancing youth,” and that is what you’ll find at the C.S.P.S. hall most Saturday mornings. About three dozen kids and teens are busy practicing for their annual performances at the Festival of Nations in May.

Louise Wessinger organized the “T. M. Dancers” in 1990 in order to “pass on our beautiful Czech and Slovak heritage to our children.” She estimates that more than nearly 200 dancers have danced with the group over the years.

In recent years, Louise has had enough dancers to add a separate teen-aged group. The children’s group has about 22 dancers aged 4 to 12, while the teen group numbers 14, including two boys. The separate teen-aged group has allowed older dancers to learn more challenging dances, keeping them interested in dancing longer.

Sixth-graders are offered a special opportunity – they can dance with the teens, but are required to also dance with the children’s group and help Louise teach.

The Festival of Nations is the featured performance of the year, but Taneční Mládež also dances at Sokol’s Czech and Slovak Festival in the fall and for a crowd of proud parents at the Sokol Childrens’ Holiday Party in December.

The group was honored to perform at the Masaryk statue in Washington, D.C., at the Czechoslovak National Library and Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and at Sokol events in Chicago and Omaha. The have also performed in front of both the Czech and Slovak Ambassadors and for President Vaclav Havel when he visited St. Paul in 1997.

A small parent band, featuring Debbie Keller on accordion, have provided live musical backup and recorded music for Taneční Mládež.

Authentic costumes (kroj) make Taneční Mládež performances a colorful treat. Babe Vanyo was a big supporter, contributing several kroj from her costume closet as her 11 children grew out of them. Parents and other volunteer seamstresses have helped keep the costume closet stocked.

Louise bubbles when she talks about her dance kids. “I’m so proud of the fine young people they have become,” she said. “I don’t know what they are all doing as adults, but several are teaching in other countries and several are in our armed forces.”

So, if you’ve never seen Taneční Mládež do a polka, watch for the next performance, or come down to the Festival of Nations at River Center in May.

… in order to “pass on our beautiful Czech and Slovak heritage to our children.”
Trip for Learning continued from page 4

For myself the month course amongst fellow Czechs with similar interests from all over the world would not only enlighten me but humble me in more ways than one.

Some of my fondest memories include baking Moravian and Bohemian koláče and bucty like grandmother did with a hand full of this and a pinch of that in the kitchen in one of my family’s ancestral farms. Other favorites included the hot air balloon ride at dusk over Český Krumlov with my family, meeting up with friends old and new, and partaking in Zaměl’s 650th year anniversary (one of my ancestral villages). I also came home with wooden bobbins and so now I weave lace!

I want to thank the following organizations and friends who recommended me for this scholarship. Past Sokol President Jay Fonkert, Sokol friends Louise Wessinger and Joan Sedlacek, CGSI President Gene Aksamit and Honorary Council Dr. Josef Mestenhauser.

Masopust

Villages of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia are known for their traditions of celebrating masopust, or carnival, from the Feast of the Epiphany to Ash Wednesday. Customs include wearing masks, welcoming the sun’s return, and dances just before Lent. The Sunday before “Mardi Gras” a traditional pork dinner with sauerkraut is served and celebrations begin. The main masopust celebration begins on Sunday with a rich dinner. It is then followed by dancing, entertainment and fun through the night. The next Monday morning, masquerades and parades begin, culminating on Tuesday/Mardi Gras with masopustní úterý with each village’s traditions.

Do you like your new Slovo?

The Publications Committee is looking for ideas and constructive criticism in building this new communications tool. We’ve already enlarged the body text to one similar to AARP’s publication, but would like more input.

Send comments to publicrelations@sokolmn.org or to the SLOVO Editor at:
5604 Morgan Ave So, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

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