

Cedar Rapids Centennial Banquet



C.S.P.S. HALL

Saturday, October 20, 1973



CONGRATULATIONS

On Your 100th Anniversary



Western Fraternal Life Association

LIFE INSURANCE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

HOME OFFICE: 1900 FIRST AVENUE N.E. CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52402

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, the Cedar Rapids Sokol Association is an integral part of the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and
- WHEREAS, the members of the Cedar Rapids Sokol Association have entered into many community activities and
- WHEREAS, the Cedar Rapids Sokol Association has provided community leaders from its ranks to serve in other organizations, and
- WHEREAS, through the leadership of the Cedar Rapids Sokol Association a strong physical fitness program "A Sound Mind in a Healthy Body," has been maintained, and
- WHEREAS, the Cedar Rapids Sokol Association has survived and prospered for one hundred years,
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Donald J. Canney, Mayor of the City of Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa, do hereby proclaim Saturday October 20, 1973 A.D. as

CEDAR RAPIDS SOKOL DAY

in the City of Cedar Rapids and urge all citizens to recognize the many contributions of the Cedar Rapids Sokol Association to our community. Further, I urge everyone to participate in the Cedar Rapids Sokol Centennial Celebration.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Seal of the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa to be affixed. Done at Cedar Rapids this 10th day of October in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred seventy three.

Donald J. Cannay Mayor

BLAHOPŘEJEM k 100 letému výročí Tělocvičné Jednoty Sokol Cedar Rapids

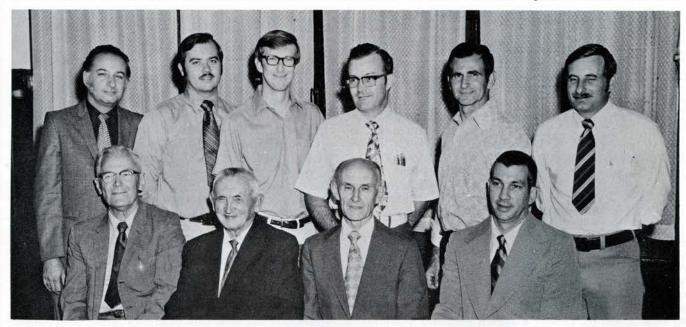
S

Pavel Jeřábek

a jeho stoprocentní Sokolská Rodina v CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

NAZDAR!

Officers, and Board of Instructors members of the Sokol Gymnastic Ass'n.:



SITTING, l. to r., Chas. Kriz, treasurer, Fred Anthony, vice-president, Jos. Pazour, president, Don Pulkrab, recording secretary and small boys instructor.

STANDING, l. to r., Dennis Hrabak, financial secretary, Richard Bartunek, director of men, Errol Lindsey, B.O.I. member, Richard Kittrell, organizational director, and instructor of small boys, Thomas Novak, instructor of junior boys and men, Ronald Boyer, B.O.I. member.

MISSING, T. B. Hlubecek, Educational director.

Congratulates

Cedar Rapids Sokols

on their 100th Anniversary

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THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF SOKOL GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

The latter part of the last century, and the first part of this century witnessed a heavy influx of Czech immigrants to this country seeking better opportunities they knew this country offered to those willing to work. With them they brought their customs and ways of life, and without hindrance in this free country, they proceeded to build the institutions they deemed necessary for their form of living. The churches, insurance societies, cemeteries, schools, libraries and dramatic organizations of all kind attest to the vigor and strong desire of the newly arrived to mold their environment according to their needs, along the lines they were accustomed to in the old country.

In 1862 a new and electrifying idea was developed in what is now Czechoslovakia, by Dr. Miroslav Tyrs, and his co-worker, Jindrich Fuegner. It was the Sokol idea, designed to advance the Czech people, physically, mentally and with enhancement of the nationalistic spirit and offering ethical guid-

ance.

The physical development aspect of the idea envisioned physical development for the masses, not just a few individuals; and it was accompanied by a well worked out system of physical education, complete with especially designed terminology of body movements that is still with us today. Without this terminology and the annual instructor schools to teach it, the Sokol idea would not have been usable on the national scale. The translation of this terminology to English in recent times has not been entirely satisfactory as Tyrs used special terms and the translator often cannot find English words that have the correct meaning.

The acceptance of the Sokol was immediate and the growth continued until 1947 when the Czechoslovak Sokol, in a nation of some 12 million, had 3,361 Sokol Units joined into 52 Districts, with around a million members. After 1948 it was dis-

banded by the Communists.

The Sokol idea was brought to this country in 1865 only three years after its founding overseas. The first Sokol unit in the United States was established in St. Louis, Missouri. We now have some 72 units scattered coast to coast, joined in 6 Districts, all joined together in the Americal Sokol Organization, with Headquarters in Berwyn, Illinois.

Here in Cedar Rapids, the Czech Reading Society, (Ctenarsky Spolek) founded in 1868, and the oldest of our Cedar Rapids Czech organizations, often referred to as the father of our Czech organizations, is also the father of our Sokol.

The Reader's Sokol Branch came into being on June 8, 1873. The purposes of the group were list-

ed as follows:

 To cultivate physical fitness classes, promote outdoor gatherings and social activities.

To cultivate a progressive educational program.

3. To assist sick members financially.

The first officers and functionaries were as follows:

Tomas Bosan - President, Manager

Jan Vosmek - Secretary Josef Svab - Supervisor

Pavel Maly - In charge of gym apparatus and other teaching aids

Pavel Maly - Vice-President Karel Bednar - Treasurer Karel Polansky - Instructor

This newly organized Sokol Group was very active not only in the gymnasium but also engaged in a variety of social activities, such as picnics, dances and dramatic activities; providing the newly arrived the means of getting acclimated to the new world. According to the records, the group was rather highly self-disciplined and to miss a monthly meeting meant a fine of 20 cents, and to miss a picnic outing resulted in a \$1.00 fine. These were levied only after the member had a chance in a regular meeting to state his reason for absence. Those present in the meeting decided if the excuse was a valid one.

They also had a Sick Benefit that was paid to a member beginning with the second week of illness and lasting for five weeks. If the illness lasted longer than five weeks the contributions to the sick member became voluntary. During the member's sickness, 10 cents per week was collected from the members and the money was turned over to the

sick member.

In the minutes of the Reader's Sokol Branch one finds that the group had parade uniforms, and it was common for the group to march to their destination and in special events, often with music.

The location of the Reader's Sokol Branch was in a building on the corner of 5th Avenue and 1st Street S.E. After eight years of functioning as Branch of the Readers, it became independent as of July 3, 1881, taking the name, Telocvicna Jednota Tyrs, in honor of the Sokol Founder, Dr. Miroslav Tyrs.

Oddy enough, and the reason for this is not known, a second Sokol Unit was organized on April 2, 1876 under the name of Cedar Rapids Sokol. It can be theorized that there were individuals who felt that the Sokol should be independent and not a branch of another organization. Their home was in the Magnus Hall on the corner

of 10th Ave. and 1st St., S.E.

As these two organizations functioned independently, it became apparent that they would be better off if they joined ranks, and efforts toward this end were started and continued for quite some time. Finally, on March 13, 1888 the two Units merged and became incorporated under the name, Jednota Tyrs, Cedar Rapids Sokol. The new name was the combination of their former names, as

(Continued on page 14)

CONGRATULATIONS to the SOKOLS

*

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and

BEST WISHES

on your

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100th ANNIVERSARY

LINN COUNTY
ABSTRACT

OFFICERS - RENATA TYRS



Front row: left to right, Mana Zlatohlavek, Betty Petrzalek, Libbie Melsha, Beverly Kittrell. 2nd row: left to right, Renata Hruska, Marge Nejdl, Mary Ann Pochobradsky, Kveta Smith.

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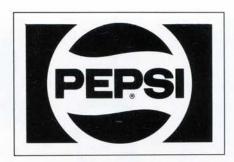
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Ralph E. Brown - Secretary

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To

Cedar Rapids Sokols



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CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52402

CEDAR RAPIDS SOKOL CENTENNIAL BANQUET

C. S. A. HALL, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Saturday, October 20, 1973

6:00 P.M.

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies	Edward R. Kuba
National Anthems	Chicago C.S.A. Chorus Professor Frank Kubina, Directing
Welcome	Joseph Pazour Starosta, Sokol Cedar Rapids
Proclamation	Honorable Donald J. Canney Mayor of Cedar Rapids
Greetings	Edward Pavoucek President, Western District Sokol
Songs	Chicago C.S.A. Chorus Professor Frank Kubina, Directing
Recognition of 50 Year Members	Joseph Pazour, Starosta
Gymnastics	Members of Cedar Rapids Sokols and Sokolky
Address	
Acknowledgments	
Memorial	Edward Pavoucek President Western District Sokol
Closing Songs	Chicago C.S.A. Chorus Professor Frank Kubina, Directing
God Bless America	Chorus and Assembly
Dismissal for Dancing	

Fred A. Anthony Fred J. Anthony Chas. Bartunek Richard Bartunek Vincent Bartunek James Benda David Benesh Arthur A. Bezdek William Bilsland Ronald Boyer Terry L. Brosh Robert Brosh William L. Broulik Louis E. Brown Stewart R. Bruzek Karel Bulicek Chas.J Bulicek A.C.Burd Les Burianek Vaclav Cada Sr. Vaclav Cada Jr. David T. Carlstedt Walter D. Cheney John Cimburek Jerry Cincara John F. Claflin Geo. Chmelicek Jos. Chmelicek Mark Cook Willim Cuhel Jack C. Davis Duane Dostal Jerry Drahovzal Frank Filip Keith T. Fleck James Forcht William E. Grow Robert W. Hach Carol Hayek Walter Heabel James Heeren Herbert Henry Keith Hicklin Theodore Hlubucek Richard Holden Dennis Hrabak Joe Hradek Bob Hruska Stanley Jarosh Jerry Jasa Alois Jedlicka Paul Jerabek Sr. Paul Jerabek Jr. George A. Joens

James W. Joens Chris Kacerovsky John S. Kadlec Elmer Karasek Herbert Killian Richard Kittrell Leo J. Klinger Patrick Wm. Koch Frank Kohoutek Lumir Kolarik Charles Kopecek Dr. Edward Kopecky Vaclav Kopecky Frank Kosek Ernest Kosek Jos. Kralik Chas. Kress Chas. Kriz Vernon Kriz Edward R. Kuba John Albert Kuba Edward R. Kuba Jr. James H. Kurtz Milton Langer Joe Lebeda Errol Lindsey Frank Lorenc Jr. Edward Machacek F. Nando Marolt Joe Melichar Robert D. Melsha R.J.Mitvalsky Les G. Moucka Lodge Mrkvicka Milo Naxera Edward Neidl John N. Nelson Robert E. Nelson Darrell Netolicky Chas. Novak Melvin Novak Thomas Novak Q.A. Novotny Jos. Pazour Emil Petranek F.R.Petrzalek Clarence Pochobradsky Milton Polehna Andrew Polehna Earl Pospisil Marvin Pospisil Karel Prchal Roger Prasil John Prastka

Robert Prucha Jr. Don Pulkrab Ernest Reisa Robert Reu Marvin Rigel John W. Schmoldt Albert Sindelar Milo Sindelar Leonard D. Smejkal Donald Smith Bernard Smrcek Dr. James Smrha Rafael Snitil Sam C. Sonka Arnold Soukup John Spacek Chas. Spicka John Spicka Jr. John Spicka Sr. John Stanek Godfrey Stejskal Rudolph Stepanek L.W.Stritesky August Sulcik Jerry Svoboda Lester Sykora Theodore Trefny Stanley Travnicek Geo.T. Tresnak Joe Tomasek Philip A. Topf Adolph Topinka Philip J. Torticill Edward. L. Uridil Edwin Vacek Dennis Valenta Frank J. Valenta Lester Valenta Dr. Lumir Vane Alex Varvaris Emil Vellek Jos. Vondracek Jr. Jos Vondracek Sr. Lumir Vondracek Wesley Vondracek John Vosatka Chas. Vyskocil Rich. W. Vyskocil Chas. Warner LeRoy Webster Raymond Lee Webster Steve Yeast John Zlatohlavek

L.A.Prastka

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Carol Ankney Bessie Anthony Janet ault Gladys M. Balous Bernadene Bartunek Blanche Bartunek Cheryl Bartunek Patricia Beer Barbara Benda Bonnie Sue Benesh Sharon Spina Benesh Georgiana Bezdek Sylvia Bezdek Emma Blahnik Mary Blazek Arlene Boddicker Anna Bohac Rae Jean Böyer Molly S. Bredl Bessie Brown Jacqualine Ann Bucklin Marie Cada Diana Cecil Marilyn Chmelicek Mary Chmelicek Helen Cimburek Rose Cincara Vera Conway Emma Cuhel Julia Davis Dorothy Ditch Carol De Bower Bessie Dochterman Frances Doonan Ars. James Doty Mildred Drahovzal Dorris Dyal Margaret Fiala Juanita Furnish Carolyn Ann Gosse Rhonda Gerber Vera Grow Mitzi Gugenbuel Jane Haerther Shirley Hahn Irene Hamous Susan Hanson Vera Lanson Julia Hekl Betty Henry Lillian Heral Mary Hlubucek Helen Hrabetin Vlasta Eradek Favla Hromadka Emma Svoboda Hruska Renata Hruska Vlasta Huston Jarmila Hutchinson Emma Jadrnicek Lillian Janousek Berta Jasa Emilie Jedlicka Julia Jerabek Nancy Jerabek Josephine Jiricek Bela Jiruska Carol A. Joens Henrietta Jun Kathy Kelly

Maxine E. kinch Merillie Kinch Beverly Kittrell Roberta L. Klima Doris Klinsky Zora Klinsky Elizabeth Kloubec Bernus Kooreman Helen Kopecek Vlasta Kosek Vera M. Kosin Martha Kralik Marcella Kristan Celestine L. Kriz Clara Kriz Jeri Kriz Josephine M. Kuba Rose Kubicek Rose Kubovec Vera Kurka Blanche Lagos Ruth Lamb Irma Landergott Mary Jo Langer Jennie Lanka Patricia Lofler Josephine Lorenc Betsey McCalley Anna Machacek Mary Machacek Mary Machacek (Mrs. Wencil) Frances Manak Rose Marek Mary Markham Cecilie Masha Joanne J. Melsha Libbie Melsha Darlene Merklin Mary Jane Miller Anna Mitvalsky Suki Morrissey Kay Moscrip Bessie Naxera Elsie Naxera Marjorie Nejdl Sheryl Nejdl Vilma Nejdl Bernice Nelson Libbie Nemec Hermina Netolicky Joyce Netolicky Sue Netolicky Ann Gray Noblett Della I. Novak Ellyne Novak Lois Novak Marie Novak Bessie M. Novotny Libbie Novotny Mildred Ortner Libbie Packard Libuse Pauk Viola Picek Pazour Frances Pecina Alice Petranek Betty Petrzalek Bessie Plistil Mary Ann Pochobradsky

Mrs. Caryle Podzimek Janet Fodzimek Rose Podzimek Joyce Polehna Rose Polehna Victoria Polehna Lottie Pospisil Evelyn Prasil Rose Prastka Barbara Pulkrab Agnes Reeder Hermina Rigel Jr. Fatricia Rizzio Dr. Vera R. Rogers Anna Samek Jitka Schaffer Georgia Schneider Frances Secl Marjorie Secl Olga Sedenka Marjorie Sindelar Kveta Smith Rose Smrcek Mrs. John Spacek Terry Spacek Alice Spevacek Carol A. Soukup Libbie Spicka Anne Spina Evelyn Spina Gabriella Spjut Mary Ann Stanek Stella Stanek Marcia Stark Libbie Stastny Lillian Stejskal Marjorie Straka Lois A. Sumner Hattie Svec M. Melvina Svec Emma Technik Marie Tezner Mabel K. Thiessen Lenore Topinka Karen Tousey Bette Trefny Hermina Trejtnar Alma A. Turechek Phyllis Usher Emma Vacek Anna Valenta Helen Valenta Anna M. Vanous Bonnie M. Varvaris Mary Varvaris Marie Vitek Alma Vokolek Shirley Votroubek Lillian Vyskocil Joyce Webster Joan Webster Julia Webster Marie Webster Susan Wood Sharon K. Wright Karen Young Mana Zlatohlavek

Anna Podzimek

neither group would give up its name. The resultant organization was stronger and more able to

pursue the Sokol goals.

Both of the Cedar Rapids Sokol Units were among the first ten that formed the first national organization in 1878, the NARODNI JEDNOTA SOKOLSKA (N.J.S.) This was the beginning of the Sokol Units in the United States to organize on the national level.

The early gym activities involved mostly men, as in those days the climate was not quite right for wholesale participation of women. They were there nevertheless and certainly did their share to advance the Sokol and organize the women's Sokol Units along those of the men. Our women's Unit, Sokolice Renata Tyrsova, formally came into being in 1900.

As was often the case, dedicated and knowledgeable gym teachers were hard to get, so the work in most cases was carried on by the staff members, and such is the case today. Without these seldom mentioned individuals, the activity in the gyms

would be sadly lacking.

There were individuals whose contribution was noted in history however. In the 1890s the N.J.S. traveling instructor recommended that our Unit secure the services of Ferda Engerthaler, and after him came Karel Jedrnicek, Bohdan Trefny, Frank Jirasek, Jan Novotny and the recently deceased Frank Visek. This takes us to about 1921. From before 1900 up to this time, and even later, the name Franta Filip looms very large. He was a prominent Sokol personality gymnast and teacher. His contibution to the Sokol in many areas of activity is well recognized.

In the first few years of the 19th century, our classes were at a high level of compentence and in the National Sokol Slet competition in New York, on August 27-28, 1909 the men's team won first place. The team reached its highest plateau in 1910 by winning the national AAU Championship in New York, thus becoming the champions of the

United States.

From the very beginning, the desire of the organization to own its own home was a pressing one. Finally in 1896, a 20 x 40 structure was located on 7th Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Streets S.E. and purchased. Adjacent land was also acquired and the building added on to and modified to suit the Sokol purposes. It was looked upon as an adequate and modern facility.

Even though the new facility was satisfactory, an offer to buy the building for \$23,000 was hard to resist, and the property was sold, leaving the

Sociev \$16,000 clear.

At this point some hard decisions had to be made and made promptly. The entire corner of 5th Avenue and 3rd Street, on which our present building stands, was purchased for the sum of \$14,500 and the present building was started. With the estimated cost of \$50,000 levied, the Society had a staggering debt to carry.

The present building was completed in 1908. The basement was not finished as it is now, but had

the dressing rooms on the same side as now, and on the opposite side was the coal bin and the boiler. In the middle of the basement was a small cement swimming pool, but the floor around it was dirt. As the pool had no filtration system it was in use only a short time, as it proved too expensive to constantly change water. It remained unused and later was filled in.

In 1921 the need for an instructor became a pressing one and Brother Frank Filip was authorized to establish a dialogue with the leader of the Czech men's representative team that was in this country for the American Sokol Slet. The negotiations with Brother Machovsky were successful and on September 22, 1922 Brother Machovsky, with his wife and two daughters, Mana and Vera, moved

to Cedar Rapids.

Brother Machovsky was a very talented individual in many respects. Not only was he a top notch gymnast and technician, with great ability to compose special numbers, but also an efficient organizer. He also possessed a highly developed theatrical talent, and when time permitted, he often helped out in the dramatic productions of the local dramatic societies. He was well liked, and the gym activities greatly improved. He taught all the classes, men and women.

SOKOL CAMP

The idea of having an outdoor facility, a sort of outdoor summer gym, with swimming facilities gained support and in 1931 it became a reality when some 20 acres near the Cedar River, 3½ miles south of Center Point, was donated to the Sokol by Brother John Hrbek.

As the main building was being erected and the grounds prepared, the site was a beehive of activity. The grounds were very attractive and the Cedar, with its fine sand beach was fine for swimming. Three children's cottages were added, ca-

pable of housing 48 children at one time.

There were some great times at the "Camp" and the "Village" of cabin-owners and the river's edge was a gathering place each weekend with the campfire going and the refreshments served during the evening. These were great times to look forward to, lasting many years. The cabin owners did a lot of work in the camp but the lion's share must be credited to Jim and Mary Benda, who donated their time and paid for at least some of the needed repairs and supplies connected with camp maintenance. Later electricity was run into the Camp and running water and refrigeration facilities installed.

The death of Brother Machovsky on February 26, 1943 was a real blow to all as we depended on him for so many things, and he was the head of the Technical Department for neary 20 years. His death, and the letdown due to war, with many entering military service, made it difficult for the Technical Staff to keep things going and the letdown was evident.

(Continued on page 18)

WELL WISHERS

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Chmelicek Mr. and Mrs. Ted Trefny Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Topinka Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pospisil Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hruska Mr. and Mrs. Alex Varvaris Mr. and Mrs. Milo Naxera Mrs. Frank J. Stastny Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kopecek Ed. and Marge Nejdl Mr. and Mrs. Murl Madsen Mrs. Hermina Netolicky Mr. and Mrs. James Benda Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pulkrab Mr. and Mrs. Dan Pochobradsky **Ginsbergs Jewelers** Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Hrabak Libbie and Frank Melsha Mana and John Zlatohlavek Mr. Lumir Herman

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Congratulations

To the Cedar Rapids Sokol Association on 100 Years of Service to the Community



CONGRATULATIONS
SOKOLS
On Your 100th Anniversary

Federation of Czech Groups

Some realized that now we must follow a different course; get away from the idea of one teacher, and split the work among the staff members. This could be done at a fraction of the cost, and it would be a challenge to the young people that were graduates of the instructor schools. A further reason for this was the mounting evidence that another Machovsky that would have his type of dedication, would never be found. This became very true as time went by.

The running of the male classes now fell chiefly on the shoulders of Frank Sykora and Jos. Pazour with the help of other staff members. Although it was wartime, they maintained the classes in operation, and the annual events, such as the Akedemie and the New Year's Eve show were always on the program. Even conducting of children's camping was very successful at first, and in 1944 the camp was full to capacity. The following year near capacity. It was their intent not to take any step back, and great effort put forth to continue all activities.

In 1947 the services of Karel Vavra of Czechoslovakia were enlisted, but after about two years he resigned and moved to Cleveland.

In the mid forties, a move came about to remodel the basement and a committee headed by Paul Jerabek, Sr. and Jos. Hradek the builder, to set out to accomplish this task, the present basement facilities emerged and have served us well ever since.

Around the early sixties, the Camp has gradually become inoperative and the interest in that facility neared the vanishing point, the Camp was sold to the Wildlife Outdoor Club in 1965.

A Building Fund was started with the money from the sale of the Camp and continues to grow

from various donations.

The Sokol Bulletin, a monthly publication of our Unit, used by both Units, was established in 1953 by John Spicka, with assistance of Charles Vyskocil and others. For some time this publication was put out with the help of the ZCBJ Supreme Office equipment, but later, Brother Spicka and his family took care of the printing, assembly and mailing by themselves, until about 1968, at which time the Spicka family felt compelled to seek a release from this job due to age and other probems. Brother Jos. Pazour has been elected to the post of Editor and Brother Spicka continues as Honorary Editor.

As we raise our eyes, we see the new century drawing near, and we take one last look back at what was accomplished in the 100 years just passed. It was indeed a century of hard work by the membership and friends, and the work speaks for itself. Had we not been busy, we would not have been here today. Had the Sokol purpose been faulty, it would have fallen by the wayside long ago. With renewed public interest in physical fitness, a new and perhaps better record is in the making, and the problems of tomorrow will find individuals capable of coping with them, and carry the Society forward.

Congratulations

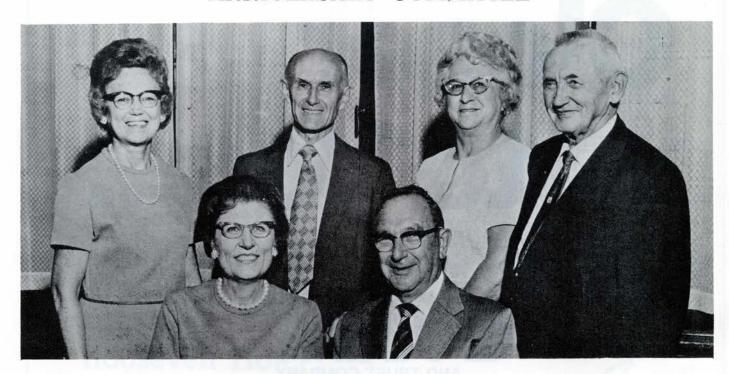
to the

Cedar Rapids Sokols

from the

MILTON LANGER FAMILY

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



Seated: Libbie Melsha, Edward R. Kuba.

Standing: Mana Zlatohlavek, Joseph Pazour, Libbie Stastny, Fred Anthony.

Not pictured: Marie Vitek, Theodore B. Hlubucek, Lodge Mrkvicka, Charles Vyskocil.

Congratulations and Best Wishes

to the Cedar Rapids Sokol Association

on their 100 Years of Dedicated Service to

the citizens of Cedar Rapids

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FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT

Armstrong's

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Continued Success
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CONGRATULATIONS!

Sokol Gymnastic Association

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The first Unit of our District to reach this milestone!

from

E. J. PAVOUCEK, President
LEO MACH, Vice-President
PHYLLIS JIRKA, Secretary
BLANCHE MASEK, Treasurer
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