

OCEL KLUBU.

Spojiti krajany československého původu v jednu nepolitickou a nesektářskou a nevýdělečnou družnu, aby tak umožněno bylo snadnější pěstování přátelských styků, pomáhati si vzájemně a vzdělávati se v československém i americkém směru k cíli státi se dobrými americkými občany. Podporovati bezvýminečně ústavu Spojených států amerických. Nebýti členy v jakékoliv organizaci ani politické strany, která by měla za účel pracovati proti ústavě Spojených států neb svobodnému občanskému životu pod touto ústavou zaručenému. Hleděti vybudovati československé středisko a k účelům klubovním zaopatřiti a vydržovati vhodnou budovu.

HISTORY OF THE CLUB

The American Czechoslovaks Social Club of Miami, Florida, is a nonprofit, nonsectarian and nonpolitical organization of some 160 resident men and women citizens of Czech and Slovak ancestry dedicated through amicable association to mutual self education in American, Czech and Slovak culture, traditions and freedoms, also welfare and local civic activities.

The charter of the club dates back to the year 1949 in which friendly association of many years, gatherings at local parks, beaches and affairs generated desires for a closer mutual association and resulted in a gathering at the residence of Edward L. Berounsky of Miami Springs, of some 20 representative Czechs and Slovaks, namely Martin and Katherine Plouzek, Rudolf and Frances Halen, Edward and Marie Berounsky, Steve and Frances Pekarek, Josef and Bessie Sykora, Rudolf and Bessie Nygrin, Michael Zimic, Marie Samens, John Boudis, and Emma Bozan, where a group with temporary officers, namely Martin Plouzek, President, Edw. Berounsky, Secretary, and Michael Zimic, Treasurer, was formed, which after several subsequent meetings resulted in the permanent organization of the club with headquarters at the Slavic Inn of Mr. Rudolph Klika, where permanent officers were elected, namely Martin Plouzek, President, Josef Sykora, Vice-President, Edward Berounsky, Secretary, Michael Zimic, Treasurer, and Edward Jost, Fin. Secretary.

Thereafter regular meetings were held and membership increased so that the meeting place became inadequate and it was decided that new quarters, preferably in property owned by the club, be sought.

Accordingly several properties were inspected. Among such one which seemed suitable was offered by a broker through Mr. Martin Plouzek, the President, and negotiations for its purchase were entered into. It consisted of a plot of some three and one third acres more or less situated at number 13025 Arch Creek Road, North Miami, Florida, on which was situated a main large building and a smaller building containing a garage and apartment. Negotiations lasted quite some time but suddenly without prior notice a final selling price was made which was deemed acceptable by the negotiating group. On account of growing competition for the property there was insufficient time to call a meeting to procure authority to purchase the property, therefore the group in order not to lose the property decided to purchase it in their own name and offer it to the club at the same price and terms and if the club did not desire to purchase it then to buy it for themselves.

Accordingly a contract was made with one of the group, Michael Zimic, as the purchaser and he paid the initial deposit. A meeting of the club was called and a resolution was adopted to purchase the property, with the understanding that if it was for any reason prevented from buying it the original group would buy it.

Then began the many activities necessary to enable the club to determine whether the property could be zoned for use as a club house, also if permission could be obtained from Court to increase the indebtedness of the club and finally if the club could finance it.

All these difficulties were finally surmounted, zoning changes made and funds raised by a first mortgage and the balance by selling bonds to members secured by a mortgage made to the trustees to secure payment of the bonds.

The club then had the task of making a club house out of a building arranged for one family. The grounds were covered by thick wild growth and a narrow road led into the property. However the members set to work devoting their time and labor, each what he was capable of doing and without compensation whatever the work was done. A large kitchen with suitable stoves, ovens, freezers, ice boxes, steam

tables, cooking utensils, dishes and all other necessary facilities were provided; the dining room enlarged to seat 300 persons, tables, chairs, etc. New plumbing and electrical work was done, a new bar room and rest rooms remodeled, the grounds cleared and landscaped where suitable and parking space for hundreds of cars provided.

Last year our indebtedness was paid off and the mortgage burned with joyful celebration. But overhead and other expenses must be provided for and they are a considerable item requiring the greatest economy. However with the support of the members and their guests, the services and co-operation by the members it is hoped the club can continue to face the future with confidence.

The club is opened for members and their guests every Saturday and Sunday and in the winter season on Wednesday afternoons, when meals are served.

A board of directors conducts the business of the club through committees elected out of it. Kitchen, Bar, Property, House, and Maintenance Committees each have their designated duties in the by-laws.

There is an entertainment committee which provides all entertainment on the various activities such as celebrations of holidays, anniversaries and the like. It is headed by the vice-president of the club. He with the assistance of the second vice-president is now preparing entertainment for the celebration of our present 10 year anniversary and also for the celebration on March 13th of the 110th anniversary of the birth of the great statesman, legislator, author and liberator Professor Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, the first president of the Czechoslovak Republic, before it was through treachery degraded into an involuntary vassal of Russia. The U.S. Government through the postal authorities will issue a commemorating stamp of 4 and 8 cent denomination in honor of the great Masaryk. A special train of participants of the celebration at Washington will take them to Miami, where they will attend the celebration of our club on March 13th, to which date we have postponed it in their honor.

These then are the highlights of our origin and hopes and activities. We would be remiss in our duty not to express our unbounding gratitude and thanks to all members who have unstintingly given of their time and services which have made it possible for the club to accomplish what it has

from its inception; also to those friendly guests of members, and all the friendly contributors through ads and otherwise who have helped us with celebrating the 10th anniversary of the opening of our club house.

The present officers, and Board of Directors are:

President, Steve Nemeč; First Vice-President, Fred Stepanek; Second Vice-President, William Jirasek; Secretary, Steve Pekarek; Fin. Secretary, Edward Jost; Treasurer, Frank Venzara.



DR. ALICE MASARYKOVA A PAN PLOUZEK.

Americko-Československému Společenskému Klubu v Miami:

Děkuji Vám za milé chvíle, které mi bylo popřáno ztrávit ve Vašem středu. Blahopřeji Vám k výkonu uplynulých let.

Do nového období Vám přeji zdraví, pilnou spolupráci a trpělivost plynoucí z lásky k národu.

Zvláště si cením toho, že jste vytvořili pěvecký sbor. Je to začátek. Tím povzbuzujete hosty ze všech stitů ke zpěvu. Věřte, to je přínos naší rodné země * Spojeným státům americkým.

*Alice J. Masaryková,
Vzpomínka a projevení duše národa - naší hlou!
"Od Šumavy k Tatrám" (Janostel
(Jan Sladký "Kozime) bohatým bral
privilegi (pobavili životy) a chotým dávat.*