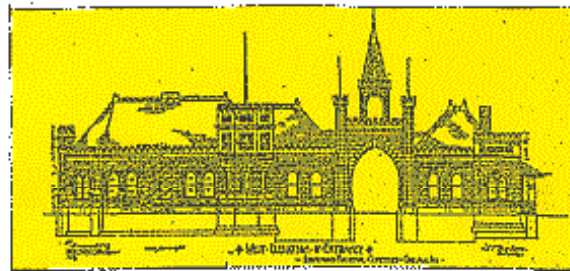


HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

Newsletter of FRIENDS OF BOHEMIAN NATIONAL CEMETERY

Volume 1 No. 1

May 2004



Architect's Drawing of Cemetery Entrance, 1904

Our Beginnings

By Evelyn Kranck Fergle

The group, Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery, has evolved from a combination of forces set in motion by our longtime ardent supporter, Albert Walavich. His suggestion was to start a Friends group to "make people aware of BNC and its historical/artistic/architectural importance." Second, Joe Vesicky, attorney for Bohemian National Cemetery Association, in his speech at the 2003 Memorial Day ceremonies, enthusiastically encouraged the formation of such a group. Third, at the June, 2003, BNCA delegates meeting, approval was given to organize a Friends group. I agreed to serve as temporary chairperson to get it started. More encouragement and advice came from Dr. Joseph Cejthaml, BNCA Trustee, and from Helen Solair, noted cemetery historian.

Nineteen interested people attended the first meeting in August, 2003. Many more planning sessions followed to work on mission and vision, a constitution, by-laws, etc. Permanent co-chairs, Mary Ellen Panach-Zuro and Marge Sladek Stueckemann, Treasurer, Bill Hosna, and Secretary, Juli Nelson all agreed to serve as the first officers with me as Member-At-Large.

So far the Friends organization (FoBNC) has sponsored a successful November 1st cemetery tour attended by 77, and has sent 1800 donor solicitation letters. As of April 1st, this letter campaign has raised over \$5,000. Two May 1st tours of the cemetery are planned. Our growing membership includes these CHARTER MEMBERS (those joining in 2004). JOIN US! FORM ON THE BACK!

Barbara Borvansky
Andrew Bultas
Roy Capek
Charles & Martha
Corvenka
Evelyn Kranck Fergle
Lani Gil Flesh
Richard Holik
Bill Hosna
Linda and William
Hudecek
Mazic Jensen
Randy and Colleen
Kadlec
Richard and Galen Krupka
Tom Kuchvalek

Riverside, IL
Wilowbrook, IL
Elmhurst, IL

Downers Grove, IL
Clarkston, MI
Libertyville, IL
Olcro, IL
Berwyn, IL

Berwyn, IL
Berwyn, IL

Riverside, IL
Traverse City, MI
Berwyn, IL

Juli Nelson
Carl Nemecek
Paul Nemecek
Mary Ellen Panach-Zuro
Leona Sauer
Helen Solair
Marge Sladek Stueckemann
Rob and Mary Syrup
Scott Sykora
Albert Walavich
Chris Visconti
Laddie Vitek
Joe Vesicky
Jarmilla Zemla
Susanne Zellnais

Hinsdale, IL
La Grange, IL
La Grange, IL
Hinsdale, IL
Berwyn, IL
Chicago, IL
Libertyville, IL
Riverside, IL
Hinsdale, IL
Chicago, IL
Hoffman Estates, IL
River Forest, IL
Elmhurst, IL
La Grange, IL
Downers Grove, IL





MEMORIAL DAY - MONDAY, MAY 31ST JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL DAY!

8:15 - 9:00 A.M. Coffee and refreshments in office at cemetery
9:00 Parade starts in front of office - Walk to Chapel for ceremony which will feature Albert Walavich-English speaker, and Jerry Jirak, Czech radio announcer-Czech Speaker. Music by Half and Half Singers, Juniors of Sokol Berwyn/Slavsky plus 2 students from T.G. Masaryk Czech School will take part in the ceremonies.

FAMILY HISTORY AT BNC!

JOSEFA PANCNEROVA- HOW HER GRAVESTONE INFLUENCED ME!

By Marge Sladek Stusskemann

As a child, my Babi, mother and I made trips to BNC to plant flowers on grandpa's and my great-grandparents' graves. Never much interested, I ran around and amused myself looking at and wondering about all those pictures on other monuments. Years passed, and since my family did not live in a Czech neighborhood nor keep up with any traditions, I hadn't been there since 1965 when my grandmother died. Somehow my mother and I never went to her grave. I suppose when mom did go, she went with her sisters. It was 2001 and I came to BNC because of my new interest in genealogy. After much searching, my husband and I found the graves and I was amazed to see my great-grandparents' headstones were very large and in Bohemian, no less! This set me off trying to translate the words. I ended up going to Sokol Berwyn with my husband to their Stamp Collector's meeting, and here I met Pat Biormann who introduced me to the Czech Genealogy group, CSAGSI, and invited me to Czech class in the Brookfield Sokol. From that encounter I was able to translate the gravestones. Not only that, as I looked around and took part in the tour in November, I realized how very special this place really was. So it was Josefa who bought 10 graves in 1907, who started her descendent on the path to helping preserve and enhance this treasure!

NOTE: We would like to have your family story related to BNC in our future newsletters. Submit to msl@bncok.com or mail to address below.



JOIN FRIENDS OF BOHEMIAN NATIONAL CEMETERY - BE A CHARTER MEMBER TO HELP ENHANCE AND BEAUTIFY OUR CEMETERY, PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES LIKE OUR TOUR, ATTEND GENERAL MEETINGS, AND RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS!

Dues: \$25/individual \$20/senior/student \$35/family
Checks should be made out to Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery.
Send check with this form to FRIENDS of BNC, 611 Harvard Lane, Libertyville, IL 60048. Welcome!

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/ZIP _____

Email if available: _____