

Heritage Happenings

Newsletter of Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery

Fall Issue ~ Vol. XIV No. 2

October 2017

carol jean smetana, editor

Mission Statement:

Promote the historical significance, enhance the beauty, and preserve the artistic heritage of Bohemian National Cemetery

Vision:

Create an appreciation of BNC in local, national, and international audiences



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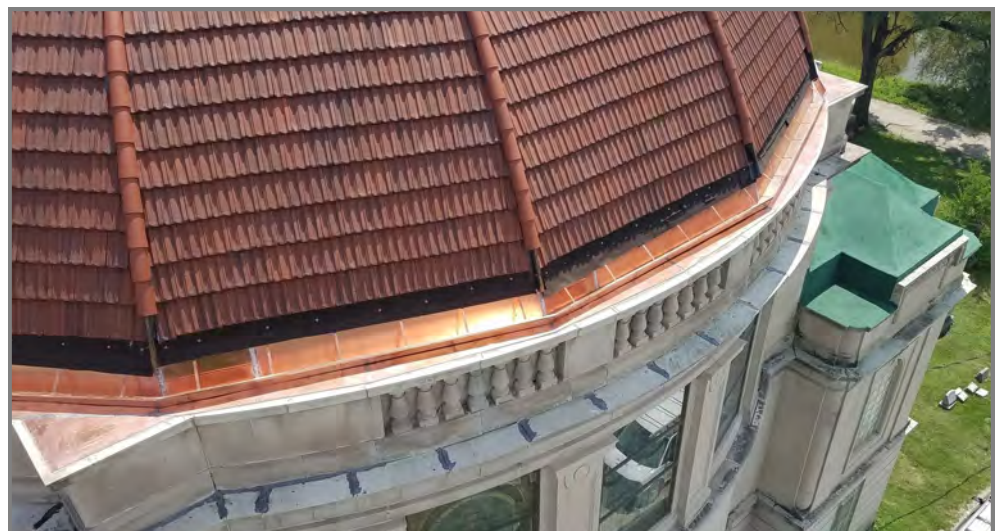
Roof Work on Columbarium Dome Completed

by Chuck Michalek

As outlined in the July 2017 issue of *Heritage Happenings*, repair work commenced on June 20, 2017, on the dome roof of Bohemian National Cemetery's historic crematorium/

columbarium. Fortunately, good weather and only one minor work addition to the proposed contracted work resulted in Knickerbocker Roofing and Paving

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What's New with Friends of BNC

Finished! Isn't that the best feeling when a long-term project has been completed? We are so delighted that the crematorium/columbarium dome roof repairs have been finished with only a little over \$2,000 in expenses beyond those in the estimate, not a small feat in repairing a 100-year-old building. Read more about the project in the article above. Special thanks to **Chuck Michalek** for photographing the work and signing off on the final inspection.

Gathered around the "Beyond the Vines" columbarium, we learned more about the Eternal Skybox, envisioned by its creator, **Dennis Mascari**, at our summer meeting on August 20th. This replica of the Cubs' ballpark outfield wall features ivy, a home plate, seats, and even grass and a bench from Wrigley Field. The stained-glass design in the wall shows a clock at 1:20, the traditional starting time for day games at Wrigley.

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Heritage Happenings

Heritage Happenings is published quarterly by Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Manuscripts, articles, photographs, and advertisements for *Heritage Happenings* may be submitted to carol jean smetana, 167 County Road A4A, Sapello, NM 87745-5026 or emailed to her at editor@friendsofbnc.org.

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from the editor's laptop

The leaves on the trees are turning - beautiful golds and oranges, but no reds like in the Midwest. Last week we had our first frost and first snowfall (it quickly melted). It can only mean the flu and cold season is on its way!

Here in northern New Mexico, there is a strong tradition of herbal remedies. One of my friends woke up with a tickle in her throat a few days ago, and she opened her well-worn copy of *Medicinal Plants of the Mountain West*, by Michael Moore, to find a treatment. She settled on osha root after reading that "for sore throats and bronchial inflammations, the root in any form will soothe and anesthetize almost immediately." Are you skeptical of the potential efficacy of osha root? Perhaps the rest of Michael Moore's description will convince you to try it: "this is especially useful for laryngitis and hoarseness caused by singing, yelling, or a hybrid, all-night rave plus Czech singalong at a Sokol hall in suburban Chicago!"

Now, true to my Bohemian heritage, I make a pot of garlic soup to chase away colds, and I drink Becherovka for throat ailments, but with that kind of recommendation, perhaps I'll have to give osha root a try!

Na shledanou!

carol jean smetana

Děkuji Vám!

Chuck Betzold for a fascinating explanation of "Beyond the Vines" dressed in Cubbie blue for our August 20 meeting. He also helped set up chairs and tents for shade at the "Beyond the Vines" wall where we met that afternoon.

Gerry Gaydusek and **Chuck Michalek** for cleaning and setting up the gatehouse for our September 23rd tours.

Mary Syrup for bringing the delicious treats and serving at the tours.

Judie Mason who has served as our publicity chair. We appreciated her work especially with Facebook.

Chuck Michalek for supervising the roof repairs. aided by **Jerry Gaydusek**, and for Chuck's wonderful pictures.

What's New with Friends of BNC

(continued from first page)

Dennis wanted a place where REAL Cubs fans (and this was long before they won the World Series last year) could show their loyalty and have their ashes inurned. He has now passed away, so this iconic wall belongs to the cemetery. **Chuck Betzold** brought the urn he received when his dad bought his "skybox" and a baseball glove to illustrate his excellent talk.

This meeting featured elections for the 2017-18 year. The changes to our officers included **Judie Mason** stepping down from Publicity Chair and **Jim Trnka** stepping up to fill the director vacancy left by the passing of **Evelyn Fergle**. All other officers were willing and elected to serve another year.

Our tours on September 23rd had 40 people in the morning and 30 in the afternoon. We heard great reports on **Albert Walavich's** leadership, as usual. Once again the professor of anthropology at

Northeastern had his students attend our tour and then do research on notable features of the cemetery and/or notable people such as Anton Cermak.

Roland Weiss of Evanston Funerals hosted funeral directors (who paid their entry fee) on our tour, which served as a continuing education credit for their licenses.

Friends enjoyed the BNCA picnic on July 9th, which was a nice day. Our contribution was the bakery table, and all proceeds went directly to the cemetery. We also offered our book table, which was well received. If you have never attended a BNCA picnic, put it on your calendar for next summer—probably around the second Sunday in July.

The Czech Republic's new ambassador to Washington, D.C., **The Honorable Hynek Kmoníček**, came to the cemetery with the Chicago Consul General **Bořek Lizec**, Borek's wife **Kateřina**, and Hynek's wife **Indira Gumarová**, for

a tour led by **Chuck Michalek** and **Chuck Betzold**. I was there to welcome them on behalf of Friends of BNC. They were most gracious and seemed to be really impressed with the cemetery. As usual for these visits, they laid flowers at the Cermak Mausoleum.

We look forward to seeing you at the celebration of 140 years sponsored by the **BNC Association**. Please respond if you can come (only for members) to our secretary **Helen Gaydusek** via email jhgaydusek@comcast.net or phone 630-739-5598. See "Upcoming Events" below for more information.

I am truly honored to continue to serve as president of this organization that is so active in achieving our mission of promoting and preserving Bohemian National Cemetery. Thank you for my re-election.

Marge Sladek Stueckemann
President

Upcoming Events at Bohemian National Cemetery

Tombstone Tours by Flashlight guided by **Chuck Betzold**

Friday, October 20; Sunday, October 22;

Friday, October 27; Sunday, October 29.

Meet at the gatehouse at 5 pm. Cost \$15. Sponsored by BNCA.

Sunday, October 29, at 1:00 pm ~ Reception

to celebrate the 140th anniversary of Bohemian National Cemetery Association - will include rededication of Memorial Bell, refreshments. Business dress attire please; no charge but RSVP to Helen Gaydusek at jhgaydusek@comcast.net or call 630-739-5598. Deadline is October 15th, but there might be room for last-minute reservations.

Sunday, April 29, 2018, at 1:00 pm ~

Tour of the Tombstones
guided by **Albert Walavich**

Saturday, September 29, 2018 ~

Tour of the Tombstones
guided by **Albert Walavich**



Live from BNC



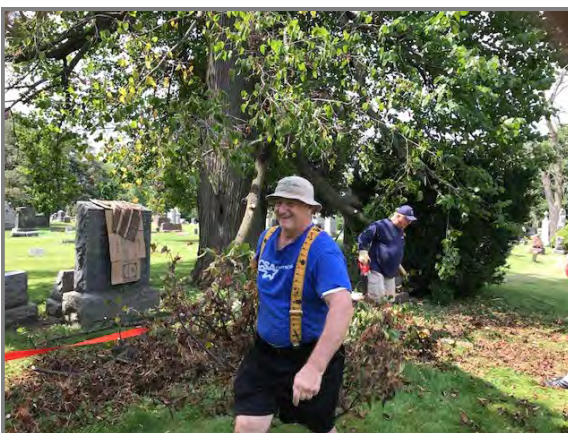
On September 29th, diplomats from the Czech Republic visited Bohemian National Cemetery. Above left to right: Hynek Kmoníček, the new Czech Ambassador to the United States; Indira Gumarová, wife of the Ambassador; Kateřina Lizec, and Bořek Lizec, Czech Consul General in Chicago



Above left to right: Chuck Michalek, BNC delegate and Friends board member, Ambassador Kmoníček, Consul General Lizec

New Czech Ambassador to the United States visits Bohemian National Cemetery on September 29, 2017

Left to right: Bill Hudecek, Vice-President of BNCA; Ambassador Kmoníček; Dave Pimm, President of BNCA; Indira Gumarová, wife of Ambassador Kmoníček



Volunteers at BNC

Volunteers continue to clear tree debris from the grounds. SavATree will return to the cemetery to remove more dead and diseased trees later this fall.



Tour of the Tombstones on September 16, 2017

All photos courtesy of Chuck Michalek

Columbarium Restoration Project...Next Steps

One can imagine the toll Chicago's extreme weather inflicts on the century-old exterior of BNC's BNC's finely crafted, ornate crematorium/columbarium building. With the recent completion of the repairs to the building's dome roof, the Columbarium Restoration Committee now turns its attention to further priorities recommended by historic preservation professionals in their assessment of the building. Significant building repairs still needed to restore the integrity of the building include:

- rebuilding the upper curved stone wall below the dome, including, as needed, the balustrade and cornices, and replacing the steel lintels (horizontal supports) above the art-glass windows;
- resetting the coping (sloping areas) at the projecting roofs and north and south walls;
- masonry restoration of the east, west and south walls, including replacing steel lintels.

To help raise the extensive funding required to complete this repairs, the Columbarium Restoration Committee is currently

discussing with BNCA's Board of Directors the idea of creating a donor wall to recognize outstanding

If you would like more information on how you can contribute to or be a part of the



financial donors to the restoration of the crematorium/columbarium building. Contributing individuals and organizations would be permanently inscribed on this wall and be memorialized as supporters who helped maintain the legacy and heritage represented by this historic building. Watch for future details.

crematorium/columbarium's restoration, contact carol smetana at editor@friendsofbnc.org or Chuck Michalek at michalekchas@aol.com.

Chuck Michalek
Chair,
Columbarium Restoration
Committee

Donations

Benefactors
(\$1000--\$9999)
Jerry and Helen
Gaydusek

Patrons
(\$500--\$999)
Jim Trnka

Sponsors
(\$100--\$499)
Paul and Angelea Pirok
Gerald and Carol Vovis

Donors
(\$25--\$99)
Mary Dohnalek
Peter and Julie Donalek
in memory of family
members
Jon Dvorak

Robert and Laura
Kunesh *in*
appreciation for burial
location research
Bonnie Lucas-Slavicek

Thank You
(\$1--\$24)
Louise Svehla

Thank you all for your generosity.
Your donations help preserve and restore
Bohemian National Cemetery.

Roof Work on Columbarium Dome Completed

(continued from first page)

Company successfully completing the roof repair by the middle of August.

The scope of the work fulfilled by Knickerbocker included: inspection of and, where necessary, replacement of damaged red Ludowici field tiles; removal of the old copper gutters, drip edge and copper shelf on the top stone ledge; installation of Grace Ice and Water shield, a waterproofing

underlayment, around the dome's perimeter; and fabrication and installation of new 24-ounce copper gutters, drip edge and top shelf and downspout scupper boxes. Other work included removal of the original copper saddle and flashing around the large chimney, and installation of additional waterproofing material and copper flashing at the base of the chimney. Finally, repairs were made to the copper finial at the top of the dome roof. The sloped area

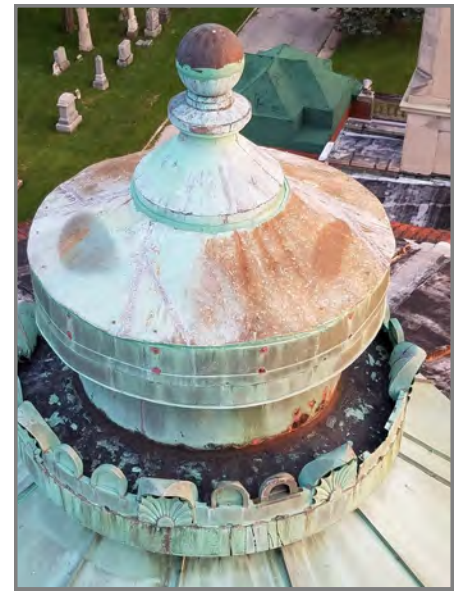
below the finial was repaired and covered with a patina green AlphaGuard membrane with reinforcing fabric.

When standing outside the building at ground level, it may be difficult to comprehend and appreciate the import of this project. The repair and renovation of the



Before photos (on left and right) and after photos (below) of the copper dome and finial on the crematorium/columbarium building.

Photos courtesy of Knickerbocker Roofing and Paving Co.

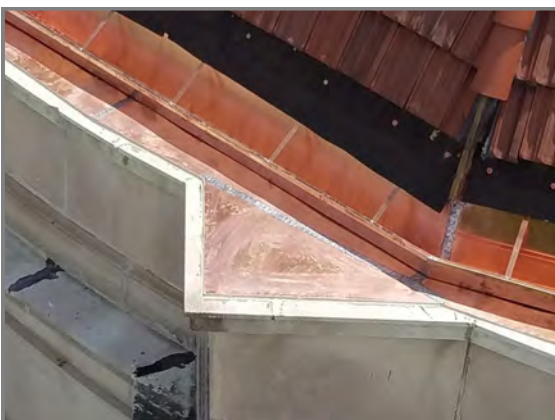


dome roof will substantially contribute to the **preservation of John Mallin's beautiful decorative** paint scheme on the interior ceiling and walls in the Ceremony Hall. Your support and contributions to Friends of BNC for the past years made these critical repairs and improvements possible. The board of the Friends of BNC thanks you and looks forward to sharing with you the next phases of the Columbarium Restoration Project.

Chuck Michalek
Special Projects Co-Chair



After removing the decaying materials (above), Knickerbocker installed new weatherproofing membrane and added 24-ounce copper features, including flashing, drip edges and downspout scupper boxes. Photos courtesy of Knickerbocker Roofing and Paving Co.



Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery

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Heritage Happenings

we're on the web
www.friendsofbnc.org



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Your membership in Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery is vital to the preservation of our cemetery. As a member, you will receive our quarterly newsletter and be entitled to discounts on merchandise and our "Tours of the Tombstones." Above all, you will enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to maintain, improve and beautify Bohemian National Cemetery.

Our membership year is January - December. This means that **all memberships, except those renewed for two years last year, will expire December 31, 2017.** New members joining in the last quarter of a year (Sept.-Dec.) receive those three months as a bonus, and their membership year begins the following January.

Please send in your renewal now!

Memberships:

One year: \$30 individual; \$40 family;
\$25 senior

Two years: \$55 individual; \$70 family;
\$45 senior

Send renewal form with check payable to
Friends of BNC or with credit card
information to:

Friends of BNC
P.O. Box 72746
Roselle, IL 60172-0746

Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip Code (+ 4)** _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Type of Membership _____

Friends of BNC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization. To make a donation to fund improvements at BNC, please write a separate check with a notation on the memo line. Thank you.