

Heritage Happenings

Newsletter of Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery

Winter Issue ~ Vol. 7 No. 3

January 2011

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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What's New with Friends of BNC

Do you get ready for Thanksgiving by polishing the silverware or shining the glassware for the special meal? In so many ways, it seems that Friends is trying to do that same thing, especially in the Large Ceremony Hall, also known as the Chapel, of the Crematorium.

If you ever went to a funeral there and saw the

casket rising out of the velvet drapery around the casket lift, you might have



noticed how faded and worn the velvet drape was. Perhaps you would not have realized that

what looked like black metal posts holding it up were really beautiful brass, but thanks to our Friends volunteers, **Linda Kostuba** and **Patty Volkman**, those brass holders are shining again, and with MANY yards of heavy velvet fabric fed carefully into their sewing machine, they also created a brand new drapery. Our deepest thanks to you both, and we are more than

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Live from BNC

Our historic water tower is close to being functional again. The installation of the liner in the water tower was completed. The cistern was cleaned, the intake system was rebuilt, and the cistern pipes were fitted with new gaskets, custom-made by **Hollub**

Heating and Air Conditioning of Chicago. After the completion of all this, an electrical problem with the pumps was discovered. **Tom Quick** the electrician was contacted, and he sent someone from his firm to correct the problem. The

tower is now ready for a test fill; for this to happen, the company that installed the liner has to have a person present, and the outside temperature has to be above freezing.

The cemetery now has another snow blower to

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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, HC 69 Box 16, Sapello, NM 87745-9602 or emailed to her at cjsmetana@msn.com.

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Open & seeking a volunteer

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from the editor's laptop

In early December, fifty-mile-per-hour winds fanned a "controlled burn" on a neighboring ranch into an out-of-control fire that threatened to move down our valley.

Advised to be prepared to evacuate, I spent a couple of hours packing up my Subaru Outback. (The next morning

I received an all-clear and resumed my holiday preparations.) What were the first items in my car? Family photo albums and boxes of genealogy records. Then my extensive collection of reference books and pamphlets, including BNC histories and dozens of rare volumes about Czechoslovakia; documents and clippings for a book I'm writing; my laptop (holding family trees and research notes); and finally, some clothes. Artwork remained on the walls, dishes and collectibles remained on the shelves (although I did take a moment to say goodbye to a few dishes that belonged to my grandmothers). But it was the difficult-to-replace items essential to my passions - research for my book and the papers and photos documenting my family ancestry - that I knew I had to save.

That same passion for history and family motivates my membership in and volunteer work for Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery. BNC is a unique repository of personal and public history. It reveals not only how people died but just as importantly how they lived. Its records chronicle individual stories within the narratives of community, city, and nations - the "New Land" and the "Old Countries" of the immigrants. Friends is dedicated to preserving the cemetery and sharing its stories.

I have recently taken over managing our website. Sue Zielinski did an excellent job and provided valuable advice as I embarked on this new learning experience. Visit our website at www.friendsofbnc.org. You will find back issues of our newsletter, information about upcoming events, and even a small store section (on the home page, click on the Site Map button located on the left side under "Other Information" and then click on "Gift and Book Orders").

In coming months, look for expanded sections and more information. What would you like to see on our website? Let me know.

Na shledanou!
carol jean smetana

Děkuji Vám!

Pat Satek

for creating the logo for Mayfest, our 2011 spring fundraising event (see it on page 7).

Sue Zielinski

for creating, setting up and nurturing our Friends' website over the past 5½ years!

Welcome to Our New Members!

Frank Mazanec, Jr. ... Lombard, IL

Marilyn Sidlo Stuewe ... Willowbrook, IL

What's New with Friends of BNC

(continued from first page)
delighted to have used restoration funds for the materials!

This idea of shining and refurbishing is really the heart of the "enhance the beauty and preserve the artistic heritage" components of our mission statement.

The Ceremony Hall/Chapel is an impressive place, used not only for funerals and sad events but also for some of our meetings, a stop on tours, a venue for concerts, and a magnet for visitors from the Czech Republic. The beautiful real gold-leaf decorations created by Czech artist John Mallin so long ago need work. We are getting quotes from restorers and plan to begin

serious fund-raising to allow us to do that much-needed restoration.

The proceeds from the Friends of BNC Mayfest Gala on May 1st will kick off the campaign. Using a type of shorter-than-usual Maypole, the **United Moravian Society Omladina dancers** have agreed to be our entertainment, which will include at least one authentic Maypole dance. The silent auction will again feature some of the BNC history books. **Ashton Place** in Willowbrook is a lovely place run by a Czech family, and although the menu will be more continental, we will have some very special Czech touches and celebrations of spring. Don't miss it! Invitations will be coming out in February.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our January 23rd meeting at **Klas Restaurant**. See the back of this newsletter for all the details. Since we will be welcoming as many as 20 people from an online meet-up group plus an ethnic dining group that afternoon, I hope that if you see an unfamiliar face, you will join the board in being extra friendly. It is great to have new people interested in what we are doing and always fun to make new friends.

Šťastný nový rok – Happy New Year to everyone!

Marge Sladek Stueckemann

Upcoming Events at Bohemian National Cemetery

Sunday, June 12th at 1:00 pm ~

Tour of the Tombstones guided by Albert Walavich.

Sunday, August 21st ~

**Summer meeting of Friends:
Watch future issues for program details.**

**Saturday, September 24th at 10:00 am
& 1:00 pm ~**

Tours of the Tombstones guided by Albert Walavich.



Stories of the Stones

by carol jean smetana

An advertisement in the 1900 Adresář (a directory of Bohemian Chicago) asks, “Which Bohemian, living today, is now the most famous person in the United States?” and answers, “Without hesitation, it is most definitely Josef Triner.” Triner, born in Bohemia in 1861, founded the Josef (Joseph) Triner Company in Chicago in the early 1890s, which manufactured Triner’s Medicinal Bitter Wine and many other

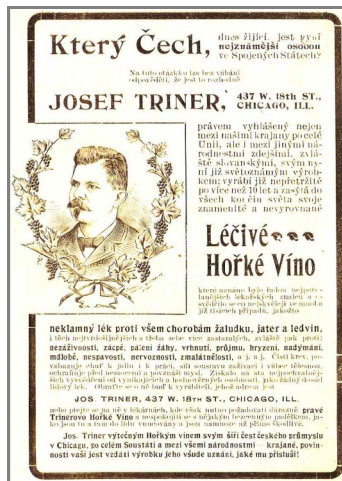
purported remedies and preparations. The ad proclaims that Josef Triner is renowned not only among Bohemian-Americans but also among other nationalities for his celebrated cures, which he sends “to all corners of the world.” Triner’s Bitter Wine, according to the ad, is unrivaled in treating all disorders of the stomach, liver, and kidneys, while providing protection from illness. A 1907 advertising poster by Alfons Mucha (one of only two commercial product ads he did during his American stay) extols Triner’s Bitter Wine as “an Unequaled Stomach Tonic and gentle Laxative.”

But apparently Triner did not have a formula to guard against every illness. Josef died from arteriosclerosis in 1918 at the age of 57. His *Denní Hlasatel* obituary cited his membership in a wide

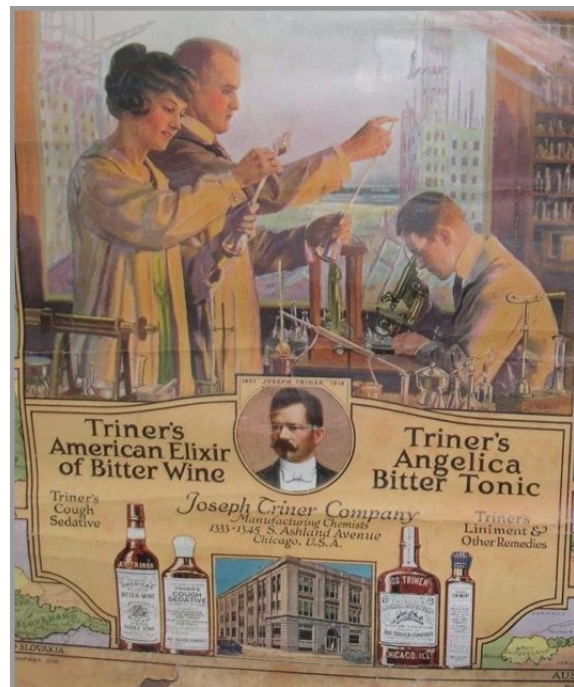
range of organizations, including the Bohemia Club (Česká Beseda), the Dobrovský Club (comprised of prominent members of Bohemian Masonic lodges), the Bohemian Arts Club (Umělecký Klub), and the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association, as well as identifying him as a founding member of the Bohemian Old People’s Home and Orphanage.

Given Josef Triner’s stature as a businessman and civic leader, the magnificence of the Triner mausoleum at

Bohemian National Cemetery is not surprising. But he was not the only prominent family member. His son



1900 Adresář advertisement



1919 advertising poster





Joseph, born in Chicago in 1894, was, fittingly, a pharmaceutical chemist and took over the presidency of the Joseph Triner Company after his father's death. In 1919 he established the Joseph Triner scholarship in chemistry at the University of Chicago. To qualify, the student had to be of Czechoslovak descent and a graduate of Carter H. Harrison High School.

Son Joseph did not restrict his activities to the family business of "manufacturing chemists and manufacturers of patent medicines," as it was described in the 1923 Chicago city directory. He organized American tours for athletic and cultural groups from Czechoslovakia. He was secretary of the Czechoslovak Group of the 1933 Chicago World's Fair Commission, chairman of the State Athletic Commission of Illinois, and president of the Czechoslovak

National Council. Czechoslovakia reportedly honored him with the Order of the White Lion. Joseph Triner died in 1969.

The style of the Triner mausoleum is Egyptian Revival, which had been popular in the mid-nineteenth century and came back into vogue after the discovery of King Tutankhamen's tomb in 1922. Art Deco design of that era also incorporated many Egyptian Revival elements.

A hallmark of Egyptian Revival architecture is found above the Triner name - a winged sun disk with twin cobras, denoting death, on either side. Another common motif is the lotus flower, an element of creation in Egyptian mythology. The lotus, as both an opened flower and a closed bud, appears on the metal doors of

the mausoleum, the capitals of the columns, and the urns on either side of the building.

An Art Deco stained glass window in the back of the mausoleum can be viewed through the doors. Here, too, are lotus flowers, flanking the square and compass symbol of the Freemasons.

Family members memorialized in the mausoleum, in addition to father and son, include the elder Josef's parents Anna and Matej, his wife

Katherine, her parents Katherine and John Vecker, Josef and Katherine's son Leo, and their daughter Ella Triner Lagorio.



Donations

Patrons (\$500—\$999)

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph
Ceithaml
Robert Kubicka
Joseph & Linda Svehla

Sponsors (\$100—\$499)

Albany Bank & Trust
Company
Kathy Babcock *in memory*
of Henrietta Skala
Bartizal
Gwy Benda
Paul Blecha
Christopher Borman
Charles & Martha
Cervenka
Cicero Rebekah Lodge
#44
State Representative John
D'Amico
Edward Dellin
Drost Kivlahan McMahon
& O'Connor LLC
Yvonne Faggi
Lani Gill Flesch *in memory*
of Marilyn Karkosh Gill
Janice Flynn &
Ann Marie Wolosin
Elsie Grossman
Tony Hanuska
Helen Hanzalik
Joseph Hasman
James Kisela
Paul & Susan Kucera
Paul & Shirley Lawrisuk
Lodge Yankee Jungmann
#77
Judy Lovaas
Mary Ann Nutil
Peterson Pulaski Business
& Industrial Council
Paul Pirok
Henrietta Bartizal Pons
Rose Slaninka

Robert Teska *in honor of*
Dr. David Dieterich
Judy Baar Topinka
Sharon & Apostol Triffon
Jean Uhlir
Linda Uhlir
Joan Zuffrano

Donors (\$25—\$99)

Anonymous
Dorothy Batka
Becvar & Son Funeral
Home
Ruth Borndahl
Jane Brown
Patricia Brown
Marcia Brownlie
Beatrice Cabanban
Elmer & Marilyn Cerny
Jerry Cicela
Anne Cicmanec
Mary Conroy
Eleanore Dachota
Richard & Marilee Davies
Steven & Bonita Depp
Dolejs Property
Management
Robert Doubek
John Dunwoody
Dolores Benes Duy
Mr. & Mrs. James Fergle
First Czechoslovak
Garden Club of
America
Arlene Goletz
Nadine Gorski
Kathryn Gray
Howard Habenicht
Earl & Winifred Hajic
Edgar & Carol Hajic
Mildred Halla
Harry Hanus
Glenn Haringer, MD
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LaVerne Havlicek
Harold Helenberg
Joan & Ray Hemzacek

Calvin Hochel
Richard Holubek
Mildred Homolka
John Iltis
S. Jecmen
Paul Kaderabek
Kadlec Durietz Family
Joy Kadlecik
Dr. & Mrs. Harry Kanta
Shirley Kenney
Ken & Jan Klouzer
Charles Knop
Barbara Kostka
Joseph Kovanda
Anne Kozak
Robert Kratky
Laverne Kriz
Dan Kumarich
Elaine LaMiaux
James Laska
Lodge Anton J. Cermak
#99 CSA
Diane Macdonald
Audrey Malan
Raymond Malecek
Carol Malin
June Malina
Katherine Mallin
Lorraine Marholz
Marie McBride
Vera McGuire
Alice & Tony Mika
George & Lois Morava
Marlene Capek Murray
Pat Nelson
Dolores Niewinski
John Persic, Jr.
Wayne Peterson
Laddie & Janice Polz
Mildred Potas
Adeline Pratt
Bess & Chuck Prazak
Franklin & Thalia
Puncochar
Jean Reichel
Florine Resico
J. Rock
Dolores Rosco
Barbara Rothbauer
Tom & Judy Ruzicka

Mildred Schalk
Ann Schatz
Eugene & Patricia
Sikorovsky
Melody Sikula
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Laddie Straka
Cheryl Svoboda
Betty Sykora
Arlene Szydlo
Marianne Tittl
Charles Tregner
George Valko
Adeline Vanerka
Lorraine Vasicek
Grace Vavrina
Beverly Verner
Rose Vytlacil
Jason & Leslie Wright
Frank Zedeck
Barbara Ziembra
Brian Zoufal

Thank You (\$1—\$24)

Cheryl & Michael Abbott
Sylvia Bombick
Janet Cundiff
Nada Dobias
Evelyn Fergle
Marilyn Hughes
Joseph Jesensky, Sr.
Frances Macich
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Musil
Betty Oppenheimer
Rebecca Patterson
Donna Zapp Reusing
Patt Salvino

***Thank you all for your
generous responses to our
2010 fundraising
solicitation. Your donations
help preserve and enhance
Bohemian National
Cemetery.***

Live from BNC

(continued from first page)

be used for cleaning the sidewalks when it snows. It was found when **John Illse, Linda Kostuba** and **Andy Bultas** cleaned out and organized the items in the garage next to the water tower. Although many items had to be thrown out, those that were still usable were saved and repaired as needed. The snow blower was one of those. After checking it out, **Chuck Cervenka** bought the parts it needed, and John Illse repaired it.

The Columbarium/Crematorium building was the scene of a lot of work this fall. The casket elevator was disabled when a casket that was being lifted into the Large Ceremony Hall shifted, jamming the elevator. As the elevator is decades old, it took a while to find someone capable of repairing it. Finally, a company called **ThyssenKrupp Elevator Americas** came out, looked at the elevator, and was able

to repair it. The elevator was out of service for over two months but is now in working order.

Patty Volkman and Linda Kostuba finished the drapery inside the Hall and cleaned out all the debris behind the stage area. They also repaired a couple of the benches in the Columbarium, cleaned the windows, and placed plastic covering over the jalousies to keep the wind from blowing in.

John Illse, **Jerry Gaydusek** and **Chuck Michalek** caulked all the cracks on the concrete stairs leading from outside into the Columbarium. John and Chuck also replaced the door leading to the Columbarium roof, and Chuck built a canopy over the doorway to prevent rain and snow from entering into the Columbarium from the roof.

Mickey's Citywide Tree Service is removing the trees from around the lagoon. Assisting in this

work is **Mulroy Excavating & Demolition**. The cemetery feels that cleaning all the brush and trees around the lagoon will reduce the algae growth in the water. **Dugo's Lawn Service** has been cleaning up the leaves from the grave and road areas.

As a result of all this work, the cemetery looks very well-groomed. Many visitors have been complimenting how beautiful the cemetery is and how nice the Columbarium Hall looks. It really is a wonderful place to come to and see all the historical monuments and park-like grounds. I strongly recommend coming to Bohemian National Cemetery to visit your families' gravesites and enjoy the beautiful grounds. Even if you don't have any family in Bohemian National Cemetery, come anyway and enjoy a walk through a well-kept historical cemetery.

Andy Bultas



Join us on Sunday, May 1st at Ashton Place in Willowbrook, Illinois, for Mayfest, our spring fundraiser. This will kick off a multi-year project to raise funds to restore the Mallin paintings in the Large Ceremony Hall in the Crematorium.

Cash Bar/Reception with complimentary hors d'oeuvres at noon. Dinner with choice of entrees - vegetable Wellington, salmon, or peppercorn steak - at 1:00 pm. Cost will be \$75. The United

Moravian Society's Omladina Dancers will perform traditional dances including a celebration of the Maypole. We will again have our popular silent auction featuring 1952 history books of Bohemian National Cemetery and other rare, unusual and just plain fun items. Help ensure the success of our event. Purchase an ad in our Mayfest booklet to honor your ancestors, remember you family, or even advertise your business. Reserve an entire table (or two!) for your extended family, your fraternal group, your book club, your softball team - any group of people with whom you'd enjoy celebrating the arrival of spring in support of a worthwhile cause. Want to get involved? We need help promoting our Mayfest event and creating silent auction items. Call Marge at 847-362-9036 to volunteer.

More details will be arriving in your mailbox and on our website next month!

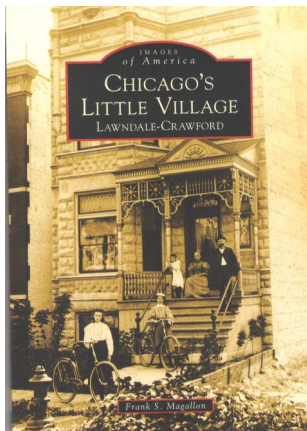
*Friends of Bohemian
National Cemetery*

611 Harvard Lane
Libertyville, IL 60048

Phone: 847-362-9036
Email: mdstueck@aol.com



we're on the web
www.friendsofbnc.org



**Join Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery at our WINTER MEETING
Featuring a talk on Czech California & Mayor Cermak
by Frank S. Magallon, author of**

CHICAGO'S LITTLE VILLAGE: LAWDALE-CRAWFORD

Frank S. Magallon is a historian focusing on the suburbs of Berwyn, Cicero, and the Czech neighborhoods of Chicago. An avid collector of rare photographs and memorabilia from these areas, he shares many never-before-seen images in this book. Magallon's connection to Little Village spans nearly three-quarters of a century, as both his father's and mother's families resided within the community.

Place: Klas Restaurant, 5734 W Cermak Rd, Cicero, IL
Date: SUNDAY, JANUARY 23RD 2011
Cost: \$25 includes LUNCH (meeting only = no cost)
Time: 1:00 pm for lunch, 2:30 pm for meeting only
More Info: Marge Stueckemann - 847-362-9036

Lunch Advance Reservations Required By January 17, 2011 – checks payable to FoBNC

For credit card payment (Visa, Master Card,
Discover, American Express), include:

Card number _____

Expiration date _____

Security code _____

Signature _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP+4 _____

Number Attending @ \$25 each: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Mail to: Juli Nelson, FoBNC, 300 Claymoor #2F, Hinsdale, IL 60521-5076