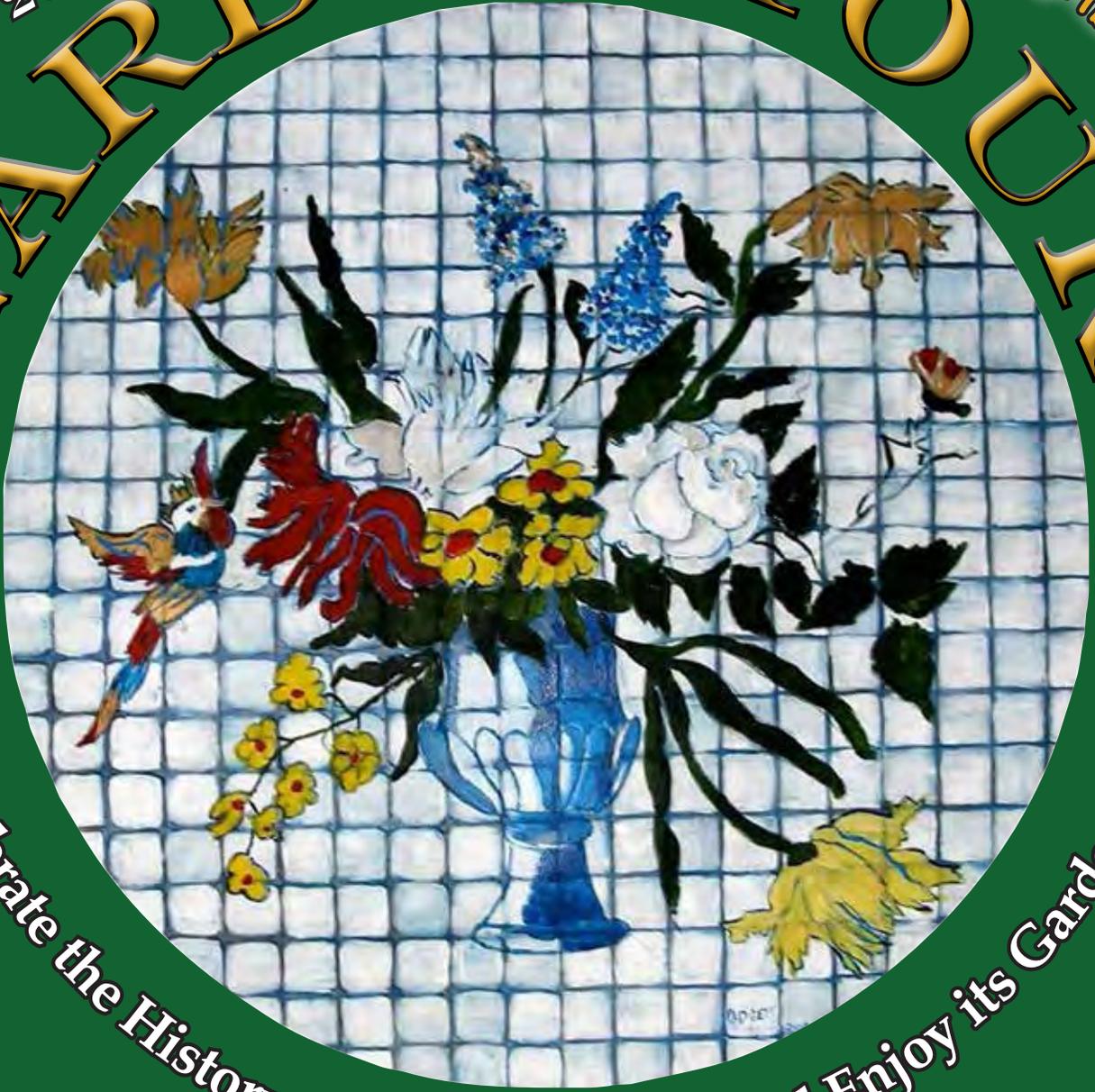


JUNE 10TH
2017

GARDEN TOUR

West End
Neighbors



Celebrate the History of Little Bohemia and Enjoy its Gardens



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Ten years; 150 + Gardens Thousands of visitors to the West End

This year marks the tenth year of our West End Neighbors Garden Tour featuring residential, commercial and public yards and gardens. We refer to the area within West Seventh Street or Old Fort Road, Grand Avenue, 35E and the railroad to the west as Little Bohemia, one of the first neighborhoods of Minnesota. Early immigrants arrived via horse-drawn carts, the Mississippi, and the railroad. Some settled along the river out to Randolph Street, then known as the flats—even “Bohemian Flats.”

The first Czech and Slovak immigrants arrived in the 1860s, and soon a cultural, linguistic even commercial community developed, centered at St.Clair and Seventh Street. They built their homes and soon both their first church (St. Stanislaus–1872) and hall (C.S.P.S. Hall–1879 and 1887). Their housing included small frame, brick and limestone worker cottages and larger three-story homes. Horse-drawn streetcar tracks were laid in 1872 out of the city center, and completed out to Fort Snelling in 1891.

Many of these homes remained with families for generations and the Little Bohemia neighborhood remained a working class, family-oriented community for many years. Unfortunately, like many urban neighborhoods in the latter half of the 20th century, when the older generation died their homes were often converted into rental properties. Toward 2007 and 2008, the Great Recession magnified the abuses of landlords who extracted value then abandoned them.

But all was not lost. A committed group of neighbors created what is now the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association. Working hand in hand with the Fort Road Federation/District 9 Community Council development arm, neighbors implemented a plan to renovate housing and green spaces and create an attractive and welcoming community for residents, businesses and outdoor enthusiasts. Many of the gardens you will visit on this tour are a direct product of the community activism of the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association.

Welcome to the 10th Annual West End Neighbors Garden Tour Please observe these guidelines for the enjoyment of all

Please observe garden courtesy when visiting! Wander appreciatively on paths and lawns; surfaces may be uneven so care should be taken. Do not enter the gardens, pick the flowers, take seeds or cuttings, nor lift plant markers. Interiors of homes are not on the tour; rest rooms and refreshments are not provided. Inquiries should be brief, and critiques/suggestions not appropriate. Pets and insect repellents are not permitted.

Tours are today only, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Appreciation and compliments are always welcome!

We warmly welcome feedback, either at the two staging areas or via email: gardens@josfland.com

West End Neighbors Garden Tour

Plant Sale

indoors and outdoors
vegetable and flowering
perennial and annual
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
974 7th Street West



*If all the flowers in the world
were gathered on one tree,
And were out here in the garden
where all the world could see,
It would be a pretty picture,
yet it wouldn't have the charm
Of one single little blossom—
like the one upon my arm*

Harry P. Taber

MAGAZINE SECTION *St. Paul Globe*, Sunday, May 8, 1904

A hammock is the most important feature of a garden to the souls who are interested in mere creature comfort. Nothing is more delicate than to drowse away a summer afternoon in some cool and shady garden nook rocked by the passing breezes and soothed by the fragrance of flowers.

The Saint Paul Globe, April 20, 1902

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all about raising
MASON BEES!



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271 Sturgis

This delightful, whimsical side garden is a collaborative effort among the longtime residents of this apartment. Every year it kind of happens by accident. And it always makes for good conversation as people walk by. It's the main attraction on Sturgis Street and a mini oasis in the city. Every day something new happens, and it's exciting to see what pops up. The gardeners have varying style but it always somehow comes together in a cohesive, bohemian kind of way. Bonnie has praying angels,

while Sue has the headless Roman statue. Sue likes poppies and cacti. Bonnie likes pink petunias, pink impatiens, pink everything--even pink pots! They creatively use every inch of the space, and create an overall colorful, uplifting attraction with hanging garden art and wind chimes.



280 Sturgis

This is a new garden started in 2016, and still very much under development. The theme we're working toward is "Woodland Fairie meets City." It will incorporate a variety of flowering and non-flowering plants for the birds, bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects, while also incorporating natural aspects to help reduce unwanted pests naturally. Additionally, it will feature a small vegetable garden, along with traditional medicinal and sacred herbs and plants, and flowering plants for

emotional well-being and prosperity, like Lily of the Valley and Star Gazer Lily. Overall, this garden is attempting to honor and combine the raw beauty and subtle energies of Nature right here in the city.

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295 Sturgis

This home was built in 1884. The landscaping is still a work in progress. This year the focus is a newly created memorial garden in the front yard. Jenny created this garden in loving memory of her mom, Shirley Mae. Mom's bird bath and other accessories are woven into the design, as are several plants transplanted from her yard. On Mother's Day, as Jenny was digging in the yard to prep the garden, she unearthed a plaque with hearts and "Mom" tiled into it. It's truly a magical, ever-changing garden that is home to birds, bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other critters--and always friendly spirits. Every time Jenny gardens in this special place, she has wonderful memories of gardening with her mom. Looking out the kitchen window at the garden, especially at sunrise, is a beautiful way to start each day. The horse chestnut tree in the front is an interesting, rugged feature as well. It's undergoing a natural transformation from life to death and rebirth; neighbors endearingly refer to it as the Spirit Tree. It's home to many creatures who play in the memorial garden.



524 Superior

There are two perennial gardens in the northwest corner of the yard and a mix of annuals and perennials along the west side of the house, along with potted plants set around the patio. Vegetables are in straw bales and pots along the east side of the house. Tomatoes are in back. This is a perfect example of an urban homesteading garden. Every inch of space is constructively and efficiently used for optimal food production.



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- June 19 - Needle Felting
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- June 20 - Watercolor on Location
- June 27 - Hypertufa Stepping Stone
- June 27 - Garden Salads & Soups
- June 27 - Free Tour Showcase!
- June 28 - Basic Floral Design
- July 11 - Old-Fashioned Jams
- July 17 - Spiralizing Healthy Meals
- July 25 - Sweet Corn Treats
- August 1 - Summer Fruit Tarts
- August 15 - Tomato Bounty

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242 Erie

Our little “English Garden” is a work in progress. It started years ago with a patch of hostas that have been divided and replanted numerous times into undulating patterns across the front yard. Perennials, like daylilies and sunflowers have been added, and annuals—like marigolds and petunias - are planted each year for an extra splash of color. Our lilac bush hedge has been shaped to wrap around the wrought iron arbor that leads into the garden. We were told that there is only one other hedge in the City with a similar design.



287 Erie

This backyard forest garden has been 40-some years in the making. Much of it looks wild. Bill thinks of himself as simply the gardener, with God as the designer and property owner. Lilacs, sumac, trees and vines provide privacy. Water run-off from the roof and the alley fills ravines. Paths and bridges crossing the water here and there have been enjoyed by generations of kids. There are lots of perennials, including lilies, roses and hydrangeas, with found objects incorporated throughout. Nothing is thrown away. In addition to the usual birds, squirrels, rabbits and snakes, this yard has been visited by raccoons, deer and red fox. Bill likes to garden because it’s good exercise, he likes nature, and “it’s a good escape from reality.”

Congratulations

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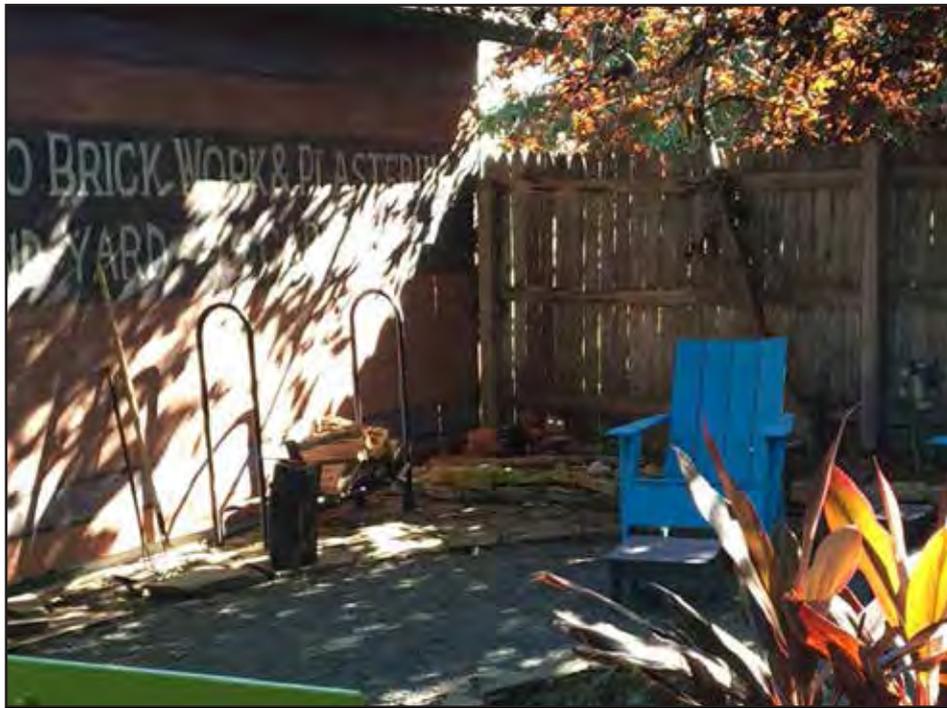
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74 Garfield

Our active family spends as much time outdoors as we can, which means that we need to use every part of our yard. We found a shady spot where we had difficulty growing grass or a garden and instead created a private place to gather and relax year-round. This cozy corner features shade-loving plants, a low-profile fire pit and a ghost advertising sign created by local artist Nance Derby Davidson that recalls the history of the property and the earliest days of Little Bohemia.



89 Garfield

When Jean first moved into this corner lot, the boulevards looked “like crap,” so she tried re-seeding and even re-sodding them, to no avail. Adding that to the fact that she is no fan of manicured lawns without a purpose, she started systematically ripping out grass as she could afford to replace it. Her first garden area replaced the postage—stamp—sized lawn in front. The equally small and rocky backyard was replaced by a patio

ringed with gardens and hanging plants. After nine years of chipping away at it, Jean no longer has a lawn mower. Many of the plants have been donated. Plants here must be hardy – it’s survival of the fittest. She uses as many perennials as possible, adding annuals for color, with no herbicides or pesticides, keeping it all bee-friendly.

Congratulations
*to the neighbors of Little Bohemia
 for all your efforts and contributions
 toward making your community
 strong, vibrant and beautiful*

From the board of the
West 7th Business Association

We are a coalition of local businesses and neighborhood residents. We believe that an attractive, safe, well-built and clean neighborhood is more vibrant for businesses and visitors, more livable for neighbors and enhanced for all. Building on our rich history, we will continue to foster the efforts of local businesses, non-profits and individuals by organizing, publicizing and seeking assistance to implement our goals

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73 Western

As you approach the front of the house you will find a sunny boulevard garden with drought-tolerant and low-maintenance perennials—mostly lilies and coneflowers—designed to attract pollinators. To the right of the house there are two raised beds for veggies. Behind those raised beds, you can enter in the gate to our “Secret Garden.” Inside the fence is a yard and garden area designed by and for children and adults. There are perennials and annuals lining the fence with smaller fairy gardens sprinkled around. There are stepping stone paths for children to explore the garden and a playhouse in the back. There is also a patio and fire pit area.



528 Harrison

Since purchasing the home four years ago, the front yard and boulevard have been stripped of grass and now feature an abundance of perennials. The raised planting beds in the side yard are home to vegetables and herbs. Hops wind their way up to the top of the fence and are starting to run around the back yard. More raised beds with straw bales can be found in the back garden, along with apple, peach, and pear trees.

Terrace Horticulture Books, 25 years in business in Little Bohemia at 503 St. Clair will not be on tour this year! Proprietor Kent Petterson will be attending the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries June 6-10. He invites all to visit and browse his extensive collection of garden books including picture and how-to, specialty and collection, hard-to-find and out-of-print, used and rare books. He wishes all great weather and tour!

532 Harrison

This garden is in its 8th season. It has been organic from the beginning, and mostly native, to keep it safe and inviting for birds, butterflies and bees. And there are tons of birds and bees! Cheryl especially loves hummingbirds, so she planted honeysuckle, which they love. Now sometimes early in the morning from inside the house, she can watch them enjoy it. There are flowers on the boulevard, and mostly veggies in the back, along with raspberries. The area around the pine tree out front was a challenge, until Cheryl came home from a mother-daughter road trip with columbine seeds from George Washington’s house. The columbines seem to love the pine tree and have thrived. This year’s additions to the backyard include a fence, a deck and sliding French doors—which may necessitate more honeysuckle out back to lure the hummingbirds into view.



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Growing Science at Keystone's West 7th Community Center

Students of the Biology Department of the University of St. Thomas are partnering with Keystone's West 7th Center to explore ways that urban agriculture can engage citizens in local food production without harming natural systems. Their initiative, Growing Science, combines urban agricultural research with educational and outreach activities. Their project tests whether coffee chaff, a waste product from coffee production, is an effective mulch in an urban setting. Students will compare how well chaff increases vegetable yields and soil properties. The coffee chaff will come from Tiny Footprint Coffee, a local coffee roaster that donates a portion of its proceeds to fund reforestation in Ecuador's Mindo Cloud Forest. In addition to this research, St. Thomas students are looking forward to getting involved in educational and outreach events in our neighborhoods!



Dr. Adam Kay is Director of Social Innovation and Associate Professor of Biology at the University of St. Thomas. His research is on "Stewardship Science," which combines environmental science experiments with community service. Most of this work involves urban agriculture and urban ecology. Adam is the co-founder and director of BrightSide, a sustainable business for delivering fresh produce to urban corner stores, and the UST Stewardship Garden, a community garden that integrates biological research with a food donation program.

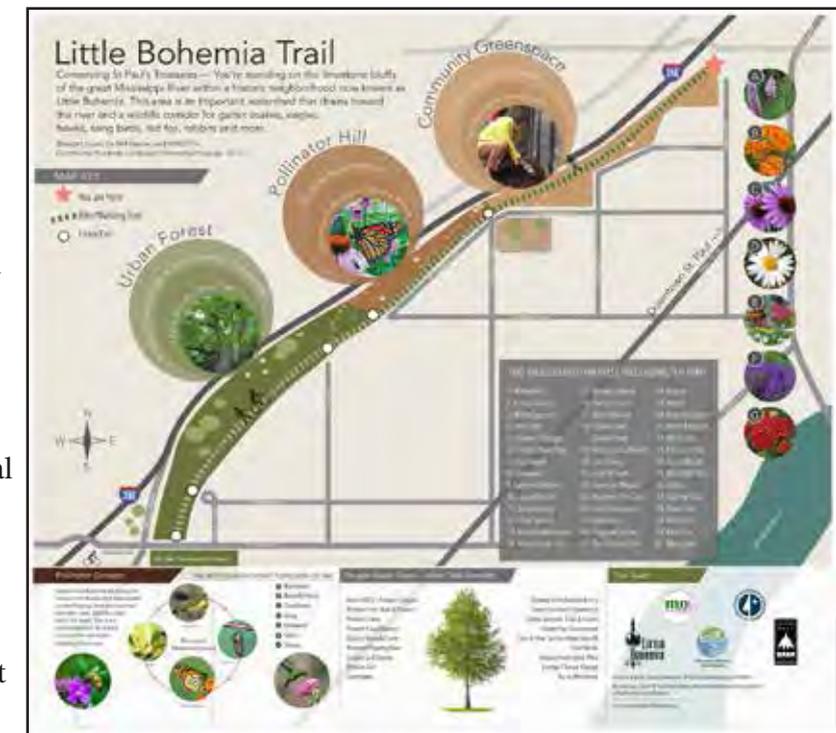
Looking for stewardship or educational volunteer opportunities? St Paul Natural Resources has "stewardship" volunteer programs for urban forestry, parks and gardening. The DNR and U of M have urban forestry, garden and pollinator stewardship programs. Little Bohemia is home to many Minnesota Tree Care Advocates (MTCA), Citizen Pruners, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and other active volunteers. Little Bohemia Trail hosts monthly gardening opportunities every fullmoon 6-7 PM, and all are welcome!

Little Bohemia Trail

The 35E bike path is a great community amenity, connecting neighbors to transit, the Mississippi River, the West 7th Community Center, local shopping, and each other. Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association (LBNA) has renamed the section that runs along the freeway wall between Grand and St. Clair "Little Bohemia Trail."

At the trailhead at Grand Ave., we encourage you to pick up a Tree Trek map to find and learn about various tree species as you stroll along the trail. In addition to the Tree Trek, you will experience several pollinator perennial gardens and Pollinator Hill; a newly planted fruit tree orchard; and a wall of hops.

Thanks to significant partnerships with MnDOT, the City of St. Paul and others, major improvements to the trail and its landscape will continue over the next few years, to enhance the beauty and safety of the trail for all who use it.



Pleasant Place



Pleasant Place is an urban green space reclaimed by neighbors working together through MN Nature and Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association (LBNA.) When we began, it was a neglected, overgrown, unused area. We envisioned it as the beautiful community gathering space it is today, a welcoming place to exercise, play, experience nature, and relax.

Pleasant Place was officially dedicated in October 2010 with the installation of public art pieces that serve as fitness stations. Over the next few years, with the support of partners, LBNA adopted two large planters, sponsored a trash container, and added a welcome garden with a new sign identifying the "park".

Since then, we have worked with partners to create and install benches, and to add two more perennial gardens, a fruit orchard, and many new trees and plants as part of the MN Nature, MNDOT, and Pollution Control Agency enhancement project along the Little Bohemia Trail. We invite you to stop by and enjoy it anytime!



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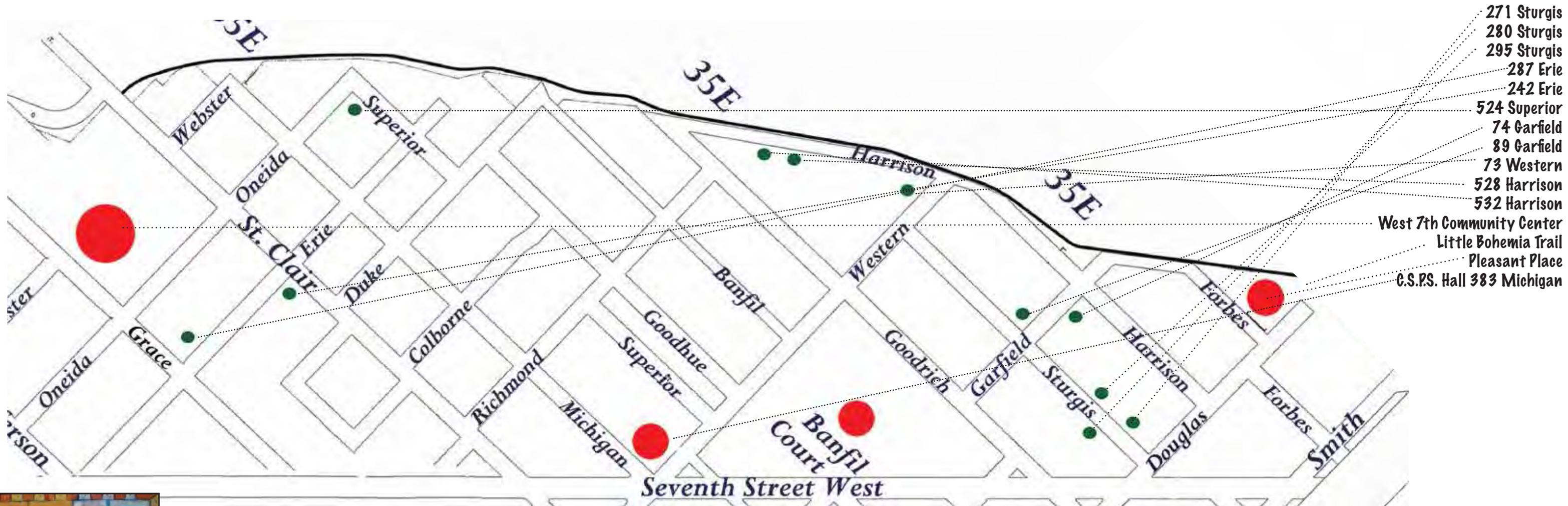


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The West End Bohemian Community

Often through this narrative, one comes across “Bohemians” collectively referring to St. Paul’s Czech and Slovak people. Czechoslovakia split in 1993, and Bohemians and Moravians formed the current Czech Republic, and Slovaks the Slovak Republic. Bohemian immigrants tended to settle in St. Paul. Slovaks on the other hand settled by the West Bank of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis though their neighborhood was referred to as “Bohemian Flats.” The area of settlement in the West End centered on the C.S.P.S. Hall and the neighborhood is now referred to as Little Bohemia.

Goals of the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association:

- Provide community input in the Invest Saint Paul toward purchasing and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties.
- Coordinate the rehabilitation of the bike trail that runs along the 35E corridor.
- Promote and facilitate exterior home improvement.
- Promote involvement between landlords and the community by creating guidelines for rental properties that expresses our mutual interests.
- Foster an active neighborhood crime watch program.
- Work in partnerships with our city councilmember and city departments Police, Fire and Safety and Licensing and Inspection to ensure that problem properties are addressed effectively.
- Support of the Fort Road Federation and other neighborhood groups in the West 7th neighborhood to ensure that our community vision is represented in broader issues that impact our neighborhood.
- Sponsor and facilitate communications strategies and the National Night Out event.



1902 Picture of C.S.P.S portraits, compliments of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

BOHEMIAN FRATERNITY CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

Lodge No. 12, C. S. P. S., the oldest Bohemian order in St. Paul, celebrated its twenty-sixth anniversary at its hall, West Seventh street and Western avenue, last evening. The principal feature of the occasion was the unveiling of a mammoth picture containing the photographs of every member and officer of the lodge. The occasion was an auspicious one . . . and the hall, decorated elaborately with bunting and the national emblem, was more than comfortably filled with members of the order and their friends. T. Kral and J. Mares opened the meeting with a few appropriate remarks, after which followed the unveiling of the picture containing the photographs of the officers and members of the order. The unveiling was performed by a number of little school girls under the direction of V. Pícha, each giving a brief recitation and closing with the American and Bohemian national hymns. A brief address in English was made by F. Barta. At the conclusion of the programme the floor was cleared and the remainder of the evening was given over to dancing and the serving of refreshments. J. Mares is president, F. A. Krey, secretary, and “Vaclav Pícha,” treasurer. The order owns its own hall and is in a prosperous condition.

The Saint Paul Globe, September 28, 1902, Page 3

OLD SETTLER DIES

Michael Karták, First Bohemian in St. Paul, Passes Away.

Michael Karták, aged seventy-four years, died Friday evening at 317 Yankee Street, the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Frank Cranek . . . Heart disease was the cause of his death. Mr. Karták was born in Bohemia and came to this city immediately after landing in this country in 1859 and engaged in the fur business. He was the first Bohemian to settle in St. Paul, and was one of the organizers of the C. S. P. S., a Bohemian society organized twenty-six years ago. . . Mr. Karták also belonged to the Minnesota Grove No. 1, of the Druids, which he joined twenty-two years ago. Mr. Karták is survived by three sons and three daughters. The funeral will take place from the C. S. P. S. hall at 2:30 p.m. Monday, under the auspices of the C. S. P. S. society and Minnesota Grove No. 1 of the Druids. Interment will take place in Oakland cemetery.

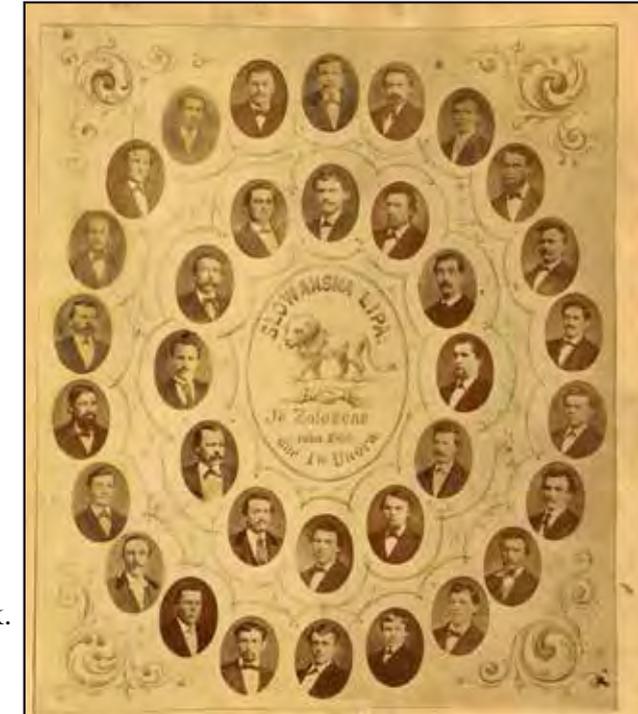
The Saint Paul Globe, February 7, 1904



They Came to Little Bohemia

When Michael Karták came with his Bohemian family to St. Paul on September 8, 1860, there were about six families living on the upper boat landing, a place later referred to as the Upper Levee. His first job was cutting wood for the winter but soon found a job as furrier. Two men were clumsily beating a wolf’s skin, so he took the instrument from the less skilled and proved his ability. One spoke to him in English, which he did not understand. They then communicated in German and eventually Karták began work as a furrier, thanks to the German. Czech lands were ruled by the German-speaking Austrians, and since German immigrants were more numerous, they provided access to better paying jobs in the trades.

The Bohemian community on the Upper Levee grew throughout the 1860s although the Czechs did not remain there long. The city directory of 1880 lists six families still on the flats: Benda, Hamr, Hazuka, Sterba, Tuma, and Vondra. However, by the end of the 1880s the majority had moved up to West 7th around St. Clair Avenue, now known as Little Bohemia, next to their German neighbors around Assumption Church. The river flats were left to the Italians to become Little Italy. When Michael Karták wrote his account in 1885 he estimated that there were about 300 Czech families in St. Paul. According to research by Karleen Chott Sheppard, the city directory of 1880 lists 257 Czech names, 241 in West 7th. In addition, many ethnic Czechs also had German (and Italian!) surnames, so the total number was probably much higher than the 257—300 families indicated by the city directory and Karták.



By the end of the 1880s, the Bohemians in West 7th established their own institutions—taverns, shops and stores. Their first organization was “Slovanská Lípa” or Linden Tree (1870—’90), founded as a Czech free-thought reading and discussion society. Early minutes and book lending records are still at the hall, as are all the proceedings of the various organizations. C. S. P. S. Lodge #12 “Czech” (1879-present) was established as the local insurance group. Sokol St. Paul (1872 - present as Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota) was founded as a gymnastic society, founded in Prague in 1862. All were centered in the C. S. P. S. Hall. In addition St. Stanislaus Kostka (1872-Catholic) and Cyril (1886-1958, Congregational) churches were established.

The neighborhood was charged with common speaking and strong cultural traditions brought by the Bohemians from their native land. Preservation of traditions and the historic hall continue to this day when many have been lost to fire, neglect and/or dissolution of their communities.

Based upon Karták, Michael, Autobiography, 1886; Amerikán Národní Kalendár (American National Annual), 1886; Karleen Chott Sheppard—Czechoslovaks (Bohemians): Earliest Settlers in the West Seventh Street Area, St. Paul, 1979; Early Czech Settlers in Minnesota: Biographies and translations from Amerikán Národní Kalendá, 2002; Daniel Neces They Came to St., Paul, 2003.

C. S. P. S. Hall: Beginnings

By Karleen Sheppard, Slovo August - October 1978

When the second C. S. P. S. hall was ready to rent, Václav Picha moved into the corner store advertising “Wines, Liquors, and Cigars.” Although he came to America as a tailor in the early 1870s, he turned to saloon-keeping and his 25-year occupancy of the Hall is legendary.

Old Picha, as he was called, was full of fun. He knew lots of jokes. When anyone came in he started telling one, and then everybody had a good laugh. The saloon had a wide reputation, and when anyone came in from out of town, he knew where to go. At the end of the bar was a free lunch counter. A person could buy a big glass of beer for a nickel and go to the lunch counter and eat for nothing.

Picha was a free thinker, and his friendship with Father Jan Rynda, priest at Saint Stanislaus Church around the corner, was something remarkable. Father Rynda would become irritated with Picha when his parishioners stopped in the saloon on the way home from church, and some of Father Rynda’s parishioners were unhappy over their priest’s association with a nonbeliever. The men, however, had great respect for each other and spent many hours in conversation in Picha’s rooms back of the saloon. Vaclav Picha died at the age of 73 in 1914, and his funeral was held in his home, the living quarters behind the saloon.

This circa 1890 sketch of the C.S.P.S. (Česko-Slovanský Podporující Spolek) Hall also shows the first and second St. Stanislaus Kostka Churches.



The C. S. P. S. was a fraternal insurance group founded in St. Louis in 1859, and St. Paul’s lodge in 1879. Their first hall was a former school house that burned in 1886. The current hall was built in 1887 with a 3rd-level addition in 1917. In 1977 the C. S. P. S. Hall was declared a National and State Historic Site, Building #77000763. Its nineteenth century brick exterior is unchanged from the 1917 third level-addition.

In 1932 the C. S. P. S. merged with other groups to form CSA Fraternal Life (Czechoslovak Society of America in New York) and is America’s oldest Fraternal Society.



Česká Svobodná Škola Czech Free School

Taught by Vaclav Picha (at right) when Antonin Jurka relocated to New York in 1900 perhaps at the entrance of the first Jefferson School. Photo complements of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

What is Sokol?

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota could be considered the cultural and athletic organization of the Bohemian community in the West End. As an international fitness and free-thinking society, Sokol was founded in 1862 in Prague by Miroslav Tyrš and Jindřich Fügner. It rapidly spread around the world and to St. Paul in 1882. Immigrants joined St. Paul Sokol for its physical training activities and its theater and singing programs, and the organization helped to spread the idea of Sokol to neighboring states and other Minnesota towns. In 1906, women joined and formed a ladies’ auxiliary.

From those early days, the gymnastics program continues for all ages and skill levels, largely supported by neighborhood youth. However Sokol’s mission extended beyond gymnastics at its beloved hall. It’s theatrical tradition is reflected in a rare compendium of theatrical scripts—in Czech—that date to the early 1900s. In 1934 it was a charter member of St. Paul’s Festival of Nations. A tradition of dinners with authentic family recipes, of festivals, and of musical offerings continues to this day. In 1893, the composer Antonín Dvořák visited the hall, and in 1999 the dramaturge and Czech President Václav Havel. In the 1930s the Sokol Camp was built in Pine River on Cross Lake.

As steward, Sokol subsidizes cultural activities including a dance program, traditional instrument ensemble, and the office for the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic. Restorations have cost beyond \$500,000 and celebrated the addition of *Pajarito* restaurant featuring an elevated Mexican menu.



Anton Jurka was born in 1840 in Královice, Bohemia, and emigrated to the US in 1866. In Chicago he was active in the theater, and in 1867 moved to St. Louis as editor of *Pozor americké* and *Katolícké noviny*, and moved to Saint Paul in 1870. He taught German and was band leader at Humboldt High School, and he taught children's Czech languages classes at the C. S. P. S. Hall. He helped found the freethinking group that grew to be the C.S.P.S. Lodge Čech, Number 12, and was active in the national organization. He married Karolina Novak, and established his family in a small cottage at 16 Douglas Street. In 1900 when his teaching appointment was terminated, he became Executive Secretary of the Cech Benevolent Society in New York City. His daughter Blanche Yurka went on to become a star of stage and screen.



A Famous Jefferson Graduate

Blanche Yurka was born in the Jurka's Douglas Street cottage on June 18, 1887. When the family moved to New York, they immediately associated themselves with the local Čech Sokol where Blanche took singing lessons. Her first performance was in Balfe's *BOHEMIAN GIRL* produced by the locals, and she was an immediate success. She subsequently received a scholarship at age 15 at the Metropolitan Opera House to study under impresario Heinrich Conreid. However, her future lay in the theater, and she became a stage and film star, featured in such award-winning films as *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* (1944) and *The Song of Bernadette* (1943). She made her film debut in 1935 as the vengeful Madame de Farge in *A Tale of Two Cities* and was known to acting students for her teachings. She wrote her autobiography *Bohemian Girl and Dear Audience, A Guide to the Enjoyment of Theater*. She died in New York on June 6, 1974.



Blanche Yurka (as Gertrude) and John Barrymore (as Hamlet) in Act III, Scene IV of the stage production *Hamlet* at the Sam Harris Theater in New York City, 1922.

C.S.P.S. Theater Oldest in the State

Theatric productions and choral singing in the Czech language date from the 1870's. When the first hall burned (1879-1886), the second prioritized a stage. When the third floor was added (1917), the current stage and grand stair were reconfigured. Six old-style canvas backdrops on rollers and two complete scenic sets in panels were painted by Vic Hubal, Sr., in 1933.

A 2008 production of Václav Havel's best-known and well-received play, the *Memorandum*, drew upon absurdist traditions in theater. The play was presented by the Lex-Ham Community Theater on the C.S.P.S. Hall's stage.



Who built Our Capitol?

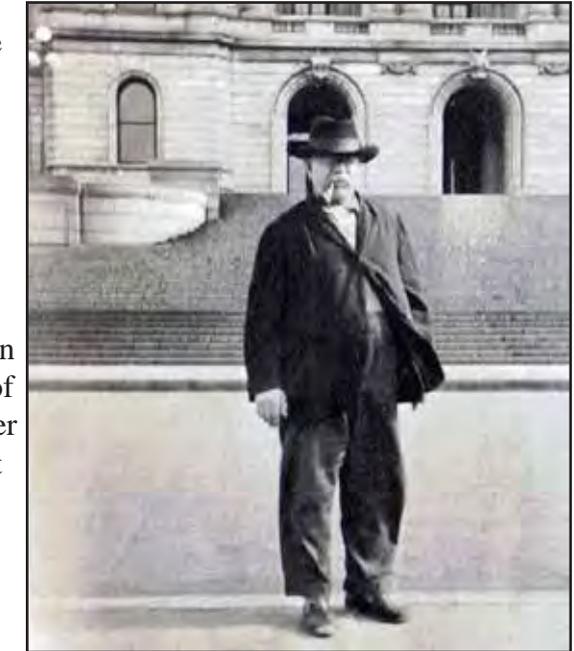
A family of early Little Bohemia contributed to building the Minnesota State Capitol Building

A documentary researched and produced by the University of Minnesota

Jan Rachač/Račač (1849–1936) was born in Mazic, Bohemia and apprenticed as a carpenter. His family arrived in the US in 1863 and he married Anna Shetck in Belle Plaine, Minnesota, in 1873 and relocated to Saint Paul. He built his house at 309 Harrison, where they raised their family of nine children. Rachač was a proud member of the C. S. P. S. — his portrait is included in posters of early members. He first worked as an independent carpenter, but in 1897 he listed Butler-Ryan as his



employer. Construction unions were flourishing at this time and Rachač's union book indicates that in October 1898 he joined Carpenters' Union Local 87 and went to work on the construction of the new State Capitol building. He was a member in good standing for the remainder of his life. At the capitol, his work included building scaffolds to finish carpentry in the governor's office. The carpenters would built wooden false work used to support masonry arches and the scaffolding needed by the bricklayers to set the stone during the early stages of construction. In March of



Jan Račač, Sr., in front of the Minnesota State Capitol

1902 Butler Brothers (successor to Butler-Ryan) got the contract for the interior finish work which included, the hanging of the interior doors and windows. At that time much of the work on doors and windows was performed on site and many carpenters, including Ročač, were employed for the job.



Rochač's two sons, John Jr., and Henry, worked in the construction industry as Rdraftsmen in the office of Cass Gilbert, the architect of the Capitol. Cass Gilbert took John, Jr under his wing and in late 1899 sent him to Paris to study at the École des Beaux Arts. Upon his return in 1902, Gilbert put him in charge of the design of the final finish work at the State Capitol, drawing plans that his father would soon execute in the new building. After the Capitol was completed John Jr., moved to New York with Gilbert's firm, changed his name to John Rockart to ease pronunciation, and worked with Gilbert for 25 more years. Prominent projects as "managing architect" included the Woolworth Building in New York, the Virginia State Capitol, and the U.S. Supreme Court building, which Rockart completed with Cass Gilbert, Jr., after Gilbert Sr.'s death. The marble-engraving at the Supreme Court Building lists his name as John Rachac Rockart at his insistence.



Jefferson/Journeys Schools

The first Jefferson School (1858–1866, not pictured) was the second school in the City of St. Paul, “fronted on” Pleasant Avenue. The school had eight classrooms and housed 450 students. When it burned, a second school was built in 1870 on Pleasant Avenue and Sherman, current site of United Hospitals. It housed 670 students, and with an addition in 1887 housed an additional 370 students in 18 classrooms. In 1923 the third Jefferson was built and the second became the Hammond School (1923–27), though the building was demolished in 1932 when the Lindsay School for crippled children was built.

The Saint Paul Globe, April 03, 1904

When a new administration began in 1900, five new public schools were built every two years, for more than 1,000 pupils each year with class sizes at 50. In 1900 the old Humboldt school, on the West side, was remodeled into the Edison school. Among useful improvements was the workshop as an addition to the Jefferson school, but built largely from material taken from the old Humboldt building. The workshop cost \$3,000. Two stories in height and 100 feet long, this structure, used for the general repair of school furniture and fixtures, is a useful adjunct to public school facilities.

The Saint Paul Globe, July 03, 1904, Golden Jubilee Edition

In 1904, *The St. Paul Globe* reflected that following the organization in 1856 of St. Paul’s schools and its board of education “interest in educational matters rather lagged, and there is an editorial reproaching the citizens for it and urging that in a city where there were ‘hundreds’ of children there was too little enthusiasm in the matter of schools.” By September 1857, the Washington school was completed and occupied; and in 1858 both Adams and Jefferson schools were finished. By June, 1858, there were 682 pupils attending the three schools and the curriculum included spelling, reading, arithmetic, history, algebra, grammar, writing and geography; “and at that time no attempt was made to give children anything but an elementary education.”

The Saint Paul Globe, April 03, 1900

Talent of Juveniles

It will be Displayed in “LAND OF NOD.”

The musical performance, “The Land of Nod,” to be given by the pupils of the Jefferson school next Friday evening and Saturday matinee, at the Central high school hall, will bring before the public some pupils of very exceptional talent.” (Blanche Jurka played the king (!) and with her brother Charles played violin in the orchestra.)

Graduation class 1900 of the first Jefferson School, Sherman Street and Pleasant Avenue. Banche Jurka/Yurka is standing top row, center.



The first State Convention of the Minnesota Branch, National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA!) and Mothers Club was held at the new Jefferson School at Harrison, Western and Sturgis when it was completed in 1923. The site was acquired in 1921 for \$37,776.52 and the building completed in 1923 for \$335,897; 1,200 students occupied 56,387 sq. ft. As student populations decreased in the 1970s, the building was reused for a variety of programs including an “Open School” and “Journeys Secondary School,” where students now “concentrate on academics in the morning and participate in career-and job-related activities in the afternoon, preparing them for life after high school.”

Teachers of St. Paul: School Gardens Should Be Encouraged

They Brighten Up the School

GARDENS IN ST. PAUL Several of the Schools Have Gardens

Hamilton W. Mable writes in his “Essay On Nature and Culture”: “Relationship with nature is a resource of inexhaustible delight and enrichment; to establish it ought to be as much a part of every education as the teaching of the rudiments of formal knowledge . . .”

The Saint Paul Globe, May 08, 1898



State Senator Sandy Pappas

Our State (District 65) Senator Sandy Pappas’ history in the West End of St. Paul began in the 1970s in community organizing. She worked for the Saint Paul Arts Agency, COMPAS, and with a neighborhood advisory committee called (FRAC, Fort Road Arts Committee). The committee hired Mary Longue to write a one-woman show “Fading Lilacs,” about Blanche Yurka, played by Pappas. She was especially interested from her mother’s Czechoslovakian/Slovak background. In addition, she organized an arts parade, a puppet play, puppet-making classes, a talent show, two years’ history calendar and the Yurka play. Pappas served as President of the Senate 2013–2016.

The Church of St. Stanislaus Kostka

The fourth Catholic church in Saint Paul was St. Stanislaus Kostka (1872) at 398 Superior Street built in 1872 by Polish and Czech immigrants, though Czechs soon predominated. The second “St. Stan’s,”—a large brick Gothic church—was built in 1886 by Father John Rynda, a Moravian immigrant priest. He remained the pastor for nearly forty years. The parishioners paid \$16,000 for the construction of the church, adorned with three beautiful altars and a large organ, and was proclaimed as one of the most beautiful churches in the city. In 1905, Father Rynda collected \$2,500 from the parish and decorated the church with oil paintings of beloved Czech saints, and he surprised them by donating the Stations of the Cross in oil colors. It was declared “Czech Heaven” by Archbishop Ireland.



In 1886 when Father Rynda finished the new church, the old church was converted into a school and three sisters of Notre Dame were the first teachers. School desks were made from the old pews. There were seventy children enrolled in the three-room school. A four-room brick school was built in 1902. The first graduation was held in 1911 with 10 pupils graduating. During World War I, 58 former students of St. Stanislaus School were in the United States Army and Navy.



The school children did their part by buying war stamps, making bandages, sweaters, stocking and scarves for the soldiers, and enlisting in the Red Cross society. During this time, a parish hall was also built to accommodate meetings and conventions.

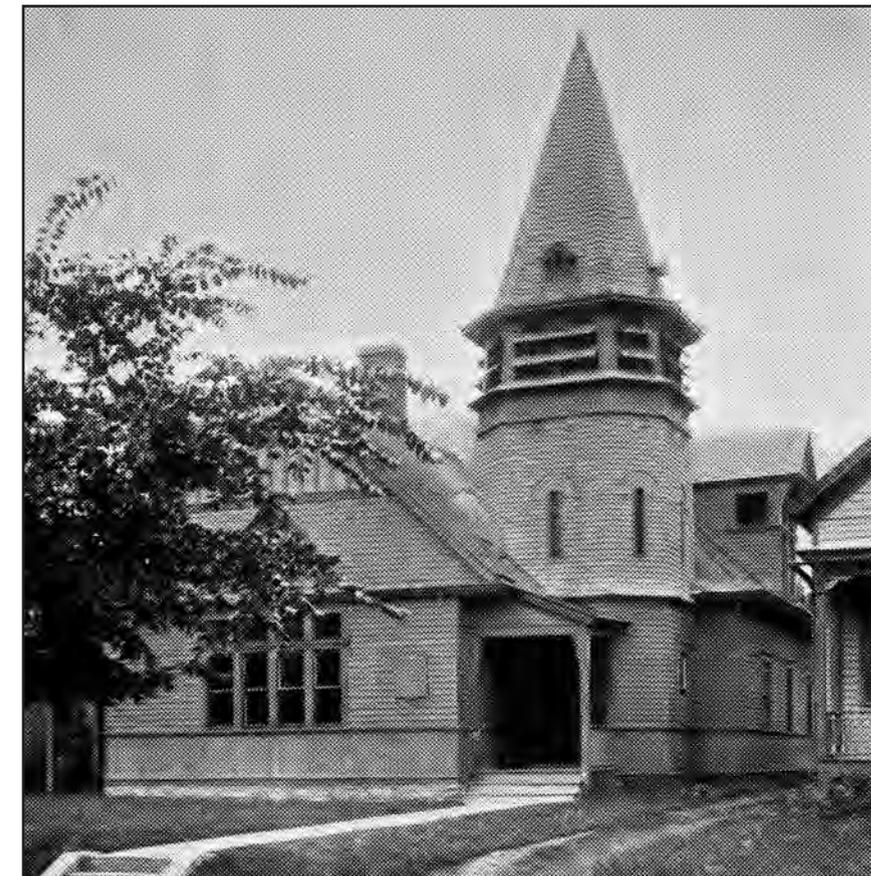
In 1975, Father John Clay became the first non-Czech priest at St. Stans. He brought in changes of Vatican II as English throughout the mass and the altar facing the people. The communion rail was made into a new altar, pulpit and kneeling benches. The baptistry off to the side was made into a reconciliation room and elevator, and the baptismal gate is now found at North High Bridge Park, a few blocks from the church. In 1982, the school became a Montessori daycare. The congregation is now a mixture of ethnicities and has grown to over 1000 families. The church’s mission today is to be a safe and welcoming parish for all. Fr. Clay is an author, including *Awesome Love, Surrounded by Love* and *Dear People Whom God Loves*. He is pictured at right on his 90th birthday.



The Goodrich Avenue Presbyterian Church

The Goodrich Avenue Presbyterian Church (formerly known as the Fort Street Presbyterian Church) at 306–311 Goodrich Avenue was design by the architectural firm of (Cass) Gilbert and Taylor in 1886. According to Cass Gilbert, *Life and Work: Architect of the Public Domain (2001)* “It was built as a mission of the city’s well-established House of Hope Presbyterian Church. Among those involved in organizing the church were Taylor’s grandfather, H. Knox Taylor and later Gilbert client W. B. Dean.” As originally designed, it was a shingle-style building with a massive corner entrance tower with a squat spire shaped like a witches hat. The German Presbyterian Bethlehem Church, organized by Niklaus Bolt, a native of Switzerland, met at the Goodrich Avenue Presbyterian Church until its own Cass Gilbert building could be constructed in 1890 at the foot of Ramsey Hill.

According to the 1911 Directory of Charitable and Benevolent Organizations, the congregation, led by the Rev. D. Diamond Mitchell (275 Harrison Street), numbered 150. The president of the Ladies Aid Society, Mrs. A. G. Wooley (344 Banfil) led church work within and without the parish. According to the “Churches of St. Paul Directory” (1976), compiled by Robert E Hoag, the Goodrich Avenue Presbyterian Church was enlarged and remodelled and dedicated Dec. 8, 1929. At that time the building was raised four feet for a basement, the exterior remodeled with



the addition of brick and stucco, and a second entrance added. All that remains of the original composition are the nave windows and lower portion of the tower.

The Apostolic Faith Temple (AFT) came to fruition in April of 1974 under the leadership of Elder AZ Jones, Sr. (now Suffragan Bishop Emeritus). Apostolic Faith Temple’s very first pulpit was donated as a gift from Mother Mattie Smith and the Shiloh Temple congregation. In April of 2011, Apostolic Faith Temple officially changed its name to Piercing Faith Church. “The newly formed congregation has now grown to 275 members, of which many have come from the margins of society and triumphed over various addictions, cycles of generation poverty, criminal histories, low self-esteem and expectations, and have become productive members of society.” A move to property on Pierce Butler is envisioned.

Holm and Olson to Superior Street Cottages

An Immigrant Gardening Enterprise of Little Bohemia:
“the largest flower-stores in America”

Holm + Olson
Since 1875

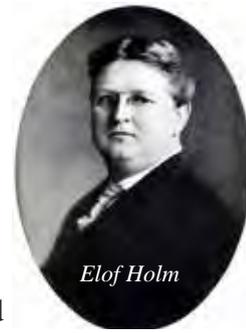
The first garden club in Minnesota, the St. Paul Horticultural Society, was founded on February 20, 1860. When we think of gardening and landscaping in years past, the tools required were shovels, pry bars and picks, lots of muscle and maybe a couple of horses.

In 1887 Peter Svenson Peterson emigrated from Abyholm, Blekingé, Län, Sweden and came to Minnesota. He sent for his family including his son Elof Holm, born just six years before (October 23, 1871). Elof worked farms, then a greenhouse—and was soon in charge. After a series of ownership changes, Elof bought a business in 1895. Olaf Olson also came to the U.S. with his family from Blekinge, Sweden at age six. In 1897 Holm and Olson (H. & O.) founded a retail store at 336 St. Peter Street, headquartered at 22-24 West Fifth Street in downtown St. Paul, and built a substantial forty-acre “floral crop growing range” at 159 Duke Street (1910). Flower displays were cooled each morning with blocks of ice, and deliveries were made by horse and wagon, or sleigh in the winter. On June 21, 1902, Holm and Olson even broke ground for a range of houses on Duke Street and employed 250 people.



The agent system faded when the trade and growing operations expanded in smaller markets or towns. H. & O. became known as the Summit Avenue Florist, as it serviced homes of the well-to-do who lived on the Avenue.

After 1920 succeeding generations of Edward Reid managed H. & O. until the 1950s when the son of Bohemian immigrants, Stanley Hampl started his career. His family lived in a Banfil Street apartment, a block from the Holm & Olson greenhouse. He eventually worked up to manager and then owner in 1967. His floral artistry was acquired from two Japanese Nisei (second generation) women who fled California’s WWII internment camps



Elof Holm

There were 26 St. Paul florists and six nurseries listed in 1890 edition of the “St. Paul City Directory,” offering greenhouse and bedding plants, bouquets, wreaths, crosses and decorations. Regional retailing expanded through a network of sales agents, funeral directors serving as agents through illustrated catalogs. H. & O. had over 400 such agents in Minnesota, North and South Dakota and northern Wisconsin, and their floral designers worked day and night shipping orders via Railway Express. The Twin City Florists’ and Gardener’s Club formed in 1907, and became the Minnesota State Florists’ Association in 1908. Elof served as its President 1913–15.

to Minnesota. He retired in 1981 at age 65 though continued visit the greenhouses and old friends from his home on Linwood, and took up painting and violin. He died in 1998.

Tom Frampton began working at H. & O. in high school in 1953 and in 1969 bought into the business. When Hampl retired in 1980, Frampton became sole owner and continues H. & O. landscaping operations to this day—an enterprise of 120 years.

Patricia Hampl, Stan Hampl’s daughter, is a Regents Professor and author at the University of Minnesota. Her book *The Florist’s Daughter: A Memoir* (Harcourt, Orlando, FL, 2007), accounts for her role as daughter of her sensitive Bohemian father and literary and troubled Irish mother and is a highly acclaimed telling of her family’s Little Bohemia and Saint Paul life.

H. & O. operated five retail floral stores in the St. Paul area, though in the later 1990s the greenhouses were cleared and in 1999 the Superior Street Cottages were built as a collaborative project of the West 7th/Fort Road Federation, St. Marks Lutheran Church and Lyngblomsten as independent senior rentals. The Cottages provide 23 senior citizen rental units to West 7th seniors who desire to continue living in West 7th but no longer want to maintain their single family homes. They were sold May 6, 2016 to local developer Shawn Devine of Next 7th Properties, LLC,.



A circa 1960 photograph by Charlie Metz of Holm and Olson’s growing operation at 159 Duke Street. Metz specialized in seasonal crops such as Easter lilies, poinsettias, etc. There was a Palm House for event rentals and fern rentals for funerals. Apartments were located on the top floor of the large building.

The Holm and Olson Catalogue (1912)

From 1911–23 Holm and Olson/The Park Nurseries published an annual marketing booklet of over 100 (!) pages that promoted their products and landscaping services. “Just on the border of the residence section of St. Paul, and adjacent to the boulevard that connects the Twin Cities, are the fields and packing-grounds of The Park Nurseries. It was a happy thought that induced the founders of the business to select a location convenient to both cities, for the Nurseries are extremely interesting to our friends who desire to know the trees, shrubs and plants that are hardy in this section.”

The fully illustrated catalogue was a how-to manual, not only for planting but also for planning commercial and residential landscapes. “The H. & O. Service: It is not necessary, under our system, to purchase plans for your grounds, for we complete the entire work.... Located close by the St. Paul Hotel, the H. & O. Stores are known throughout the country as “The Home of Flowers,” the largest flower-stores in America” The catalogue is illustrated with many homes in St. Paul, as well as major buildings including the Cathedral of St. Paul.”

Twenty H. & O. departments included Cut Flowers, Fruit Department, Hedges, Furniture and Settings, Tools, various plant types, roses, trees and shrubs—even a section on “Protect the Birds’s. Literally hundreds of trees and perennials are listed and described and priced by size of container.



FLOWER SHOW OPENS ARMORY HALL IS TRANSFORMED

Magnificent Exhibit of Rare Orchids, Chrysanthemums, Roses and Foliage Plants—Admirable Taste Shown by the Women of St. Paul in the Arrangement of the Decorations.

Chrysanthemums as tall as the pretty girls who sold the programmes... St. Paul's first flower show was formally opened November 10, 1902, in the Saint Paul Armory Hall: "Visitors, and they were numerous both afternoon and evening, found a transformed armory, whose bare walls and whose uninviting floor looked as if they had been touched with a woodland fairy's wand, so beautiful and woodsy did they seem. The roof of the building has been covered with strips of green and white bunting, which gives a bower effect to the hall. Holm & Olson, local florists, have an exhibit directly in front of the entrance. It is an attractive display of palms, chrysanthemums, roses and foliage plants. A feature of this collection is a floral device that represents the shield of Minnesota done in cut flowers.

St. Paul Globe, November 11, 1902

Here Are Instructions for Making a Genuine Old-

Fashioned Garden. "IN ORDER to achieve a successful garden, the greatest care must be taken in properly placing the shrubs, vines and flowers. Not only must they be set in soil and places best suited to their needs, but due consideration must be given to each flowering plant in its color relation to its neighbor, and the style, situation and color of the house whose grounds they are to ornament must be borne in mind. The early planning of each walk and driveway begins even before the plough has turned the ground, and the imaginary grouping of the plants to produce the best effect is as delightful as it is helpful."



The Saint Paul globe, March 06, 1904

Japanese Garden Reaches St. Paul

Dr. Rudolph Schiffmann's collection of Japanese trees, plants, shrubs and flowers, gathered at the St. Louis exposition to be planted in Como Park, arrived in St. Paul yesterday morning in care of two Japanese gardeners. The cars were quickly unloaded and the precious freight hurried to Como park, where it will be stored until spring permits the transplanting. The Japanese garden at the exposition was one of the features that attracted universal attention, and when it became known that it was to be taken to St. Paul the anger of the residents of St. Louis was as keen as it was futile. They had expected that the delicate trees, shrubs and flowers would remain there after the fair, and expressed disappointment when they learned that they were to be deprived of them.

When the Japanese garden is completed on the shores of Cozy (Como) lake in Como park it will be unique in the United States. Yukio Itchikawa, the imperial landscape gardener in the employ of the mikado, has designed the garden landscape, and the entrances which will be models of Japanese art. When completed Dr. Schiffmann is certain that the Como garden will be far superior to the one which attracted so much attention at St. Louis.

The Saint Paul Globe, December 10, 1904

A great note of thanks...

The committee of the West End Neighbors Garden Tour has been "organizing" for ten years!

The ten-year crew: Betty Moran, Dennis Morgan, Jeanne Morgan, Jo Craighead, Kent Petterson, Edie Meissner, Joe Landsberger, Maxine and Ken McKormick

Publications layout: Michael Padgett

Editing/Proofing: Jennifer Gehlhar

Printing Services: Insty Prints West 7th

Cover Art and illustrations: Deborah Padgett

Little Bohemians: Jennifer Gehlhar; Mark Fangmeier; Ericka Lager Hazelett; Sarah Gleason;

Nicki Nolan; Terrie Williams, Judith Gavin, Marit Brock

West 7th Street/Fort Road Federation Board of Directors

Becky Yust, President; Walt Wietzke, First Vice President; Jerry Ludden, Second Vice President; Erik Hare,

Secretary; Dave Bredemus, Treasurer. Area 1 Representatives: Andrea Marboe & Camille Morse Nicholson;

Area 2 Representatives: Denise Wickiser & Jeanne Farrell; Area 3 Representatives: Gary Brueggemann & Leonard Schwartz; Executive Director: Ed Johnson; Community Organizer: Betty Moran

And to our advertisers who made the tour and history possible.

Types from Bohemia

Homer the Father of the Dreamy, Eccentric and Ever Existent Tribe. Homer is recognized as the father of Bohemians. Dante and Tasso were Bohemians, and so was Cervantes, the greatest humorist the world ever produced. Plato, the philosopher, was one; so was Voltaire, the father of infidels, and so was Rousseau, the famous French sentimentalist. Boccaccio was one; ditto Moliere, the French dramatist. Shakespeare was an out and out Bohemian... Nearly all the French poets, novelists, journalists, actors and artists are Bohemians. Victor Hugo was a pretty live one in his younger days...

A Bohemian, to exist at all, must enjoy full liberty of speech... America has produced her share of Bohemians... Walt Whitman is as great a one as the world ever produced. Mark Twain and Bret Harte belong to the order, and so does Willie Winter, poet and dramatic critic.. The cleverest writers on our newspapers are men who are recognized as Bohemians out and out.

Are there any female Bohemians? Certainly. George Sand, the greatest of all French novelists, was a simon-pure Bohemian, and so was George Eliot, the greatest novelist England ever produced. Sarah Bernhardt is the cleverest of all female Bohemians, and a right brilliant one she is, too. Nearly all of our actresses are Bohemians; it's in their nature. Laura Don was a beautiful one, and Clara Morris is a great one. But enough! You know what a Bohemian is now."

St. Paul daily Globe. July 31, 1886 from the Cincinnati Enquirer

Bibliography:

Pages 12, 18 and 32: Padgett, Deborah, Floral images
Cover Image: Floral Tile Table design,

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota:

Page 20: C.S.P.S. Hall Portraits, 1902; Michael Karták, 1902

Page 21: Slovanská Lípa circa 1890

Page 22: Václav Pícha, 1902; C.S.P.S. Hall, 1890

Page 23: Sokol Gymnastics, circa 1930; Sokol Gymnastics, circa 1900; Česká Svobodná Škola/ Czech Free School, circa 1905

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