

EIGHT THE HARTFORD COURANT MAGAZINE Sunday, October 16, 1955



FIRST PRESIDENT of the Home was Joseph W. Simka.



POLISH NATIONAL HOME of Hartford first opened its doors in October, 1935.



CURRENT PRESIDENT is Joseph W. Kallinowski.

Heart Of Hartford's Polish Community

National Home On Governor St., Which Today Celebrates Silver Anniversary, Is Busy Hive of Constant Activity

IN 1937 a group of Polish businessmen located the old 30 City Hall building, 100-102 on Governor and Woodbridge streets. The building, which had been abandoned since the church built a new edifice, was converted into a large hall with stage and balcony. Here the city's various Polish groups held their meetings. It was named White Eagle Hall.

The business men, however, were having some trouble with the structure of a large Polish-American center to serve as a headquarters for local Polish groups. Ten years later, when a committee, a building fund was organized through some of these men, various social functions, including the city's annual Polish dance, were held in the building. The original Polish dance band was the Krasnowska Orchestra, that lasted for many years in the program, and at the dances held over there a week.

The Polish National Home as the building has become known, has had a long and busy life. Many types of activities have taken place at the home. In the early years, Polish films were shown there. Plays were staged by a Polish-American dramatic group each winter. Also, each year, fashion shows, rallies, banquets, and many other functions are held there by various Polish-American organizations.

The center regularly for many years has been the site of the annual Polish Home day. The Polish National Home has also opened its doors to other groups. The home has also hosted military groups, social as well as other functions.

Twice yearly a statewide or national contest to observe the day of the signing of the Polish Constitution of 1794 and to observe the death of Count Czajkowski is held at the home. Polish films are shown there. Plays are staged by a Polish-American dramatic group each winter. Also, each year, fashion shows, rallies, banquets, and many other functions are held there by various Polish-American organizations.

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PROUD PARADER recently was Louis Gradinski.

WHEN PLANS for the home first were discussed, Edward P. Yelinski was named chairman of a building committee. Through the efforts of the committee, a building fund was organized through some of these men, various social functions, including the city's annual Polish dance, were held in the building. The original Polish dance band was the Krasnowska Orchestra, that lasted for many years in the program, and at the dances held over there a week.

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STEPPING ALONG in recent Polish Day Parade are (L-R) Mayor Dominick DeLuca of Hartford; Senator Prescott Bush, Congressman Antoni Sulicki and Mayor James P. Casey of Bristol (Courant Photo—Arthur Warmley).

PNH History

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