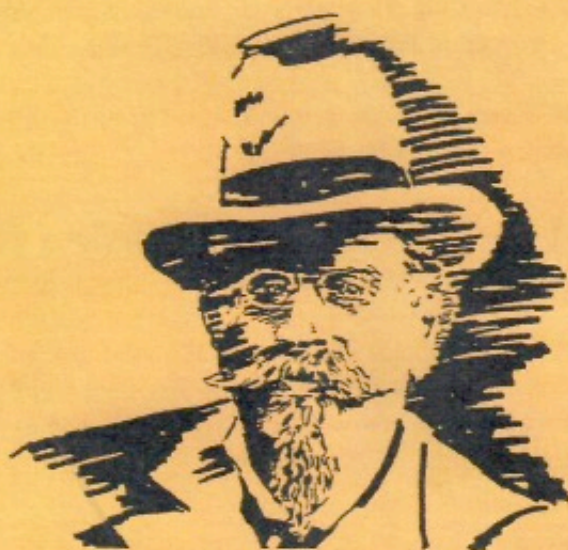


RUSSIAN HERITAGE
NEWSLETTER



WHO WAS PETER DEMENS ?

APRIL 2000

N-7

April 11: Meeting of Russian Heritage

**Business Meeting. Annual Reports for 1999-2000
Election of Officers for 2000-01**

We encourage all members and friends of Russian Heritage to attend this meeting to help plan our direction for the future.

Program. Viewing of a 28-minute video produced by "TV Channel 5" in St. Petersburg, Russia about St. Petersburg, Florida. Included in the coverage are Mayor David Fischer, Professor Antole Sokolsky, Professor Bill Parsons, Igor Novosilzov, Dr. Konstantin Artzibushev, and other members of the Tampa Bay community. The role of Peter Demens is also explored in this program.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Room 103 of the All State Campus of St. Petersburg Junior College (3200 34th St. South, St. Petersburg, Florida).

Russian Foods and Russian Music a Hit

More than 50 people attended the Third Annual Russian Songfest on March 14th. This year we included a Russian potluck with our singing, and there was much delicious food for all. We want to thank all who brought food for this event, and especially our hosts Konstantin and Zhana Sidorenko. Boris Lebedinsky delighted us with his music, and we all seemed to enjoy joining in with the singing of Russian songs.

Peter Demens Day in St. Petersburg, Florida May 1, 2000

It is time to plan for a special MAY DAY CELEBRATION!

Monday, May 1 is the day devoted to celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Peter Demens, the Russian aristocrat who left Russia in 1881 and came to Florida. He was an American entrepreneur who became a millionaire, and he was a writer and journalist who wrote many articles to explain how Russians and Americans could better understand each other. For more details about the life of this remarkable man, see the brief article beginning on page 1 of this newsletter, come to the events of the Peter Demens Symposium listed below, and plan a trip to the St. Petersburg Museum of History to see the special exhibit devoted to Demens (see p. 4).

PETER DEMENS SYMPOSIUM
AT ECKERD COLLEGE
MAY 1, 2000

- 11:30 Welcome Luncheon. President's Dining Room, Eckerd
Introduction to Peter Demens. Professor Bill Parsons
- 1:30 "Was Demens a Precursor to Frederick W. Taylor as a Pioneer
of the Management Techniques?" Dendy Auditorium
Professor Igor Bogachek, St. Petersburg, Russia
- 2:30 Trip to Downtown St. Petersburg.
- 3:00 Dedication of Historical Marker with Mayor David Fischer
and City Leaders. Entrance to Demens Landing.
- 3:30 Walking Tour of the Demens Places in St. Petersburg with
Professor Ray Arsenault. Entrance to Demens Landing.
- 4:00 "Why did Demens Give Up His Life as a Russian Aristocrat?"
Inna Povedskaya, Curator of Demens Exhibit, Tver, Russia
Presentation at the St. Petersburg History Museum
- 5:00 Return to Eckerd College
- 6:00 Symposium Dinner
- 7:30 Round Table Discussion. Dendy Auditorium, Eckerd
Moderator: Professor Bill Parsons
Participants: Ray Arsenault, Bill McKee, Inna Povedskaya,
& Peter Demens Tolstoy.

"Why is our city named St. Petersburg? Did you know it
was named after the capital of Imperial Russia?"

"What did Demens write about the differences between
Americans and Russians? Was he a Russian Tocqueville?"

"How is Demens remembered in Russia and America?"

The Round Table Discussion will answer these and other
questions about relations between Russia and America, and about
the "two" St. Petersburgs in the nineteenth and twentieth cen-
turies.

Public Invited. Free Admission.

This event is part of the College Program Series

WHO WAS PETER DEMENS?

A new exhibit at the St. Petersburg Museum of History "The People and Places of Peter Demens" will help to answer this question. Through a series of maps, charts, photographs, portraits, and other artifacts, the many activities of Peter Demens will be presented as a part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the birth of this remarkable man.

The official opening of the exhibit will be on Wednesday, April 26th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., at the St. Petersburg Museum of History (335 2nd Avenue North).



Russian Aristocrat

ПЕТР ДЕМЕНТЬЕВ

PYOTR DEMENTYEV

American Entrepreneur

PETER DEMENS

ПИТЕР ДЕМЕНС

International Journalist

П. А. ТВЕРСКОЙ

P. A. TVERSKOY

DEMENS LANDING AND THE HISTORICAL MARKER

Demens Landing is a beautiful city park that is located in downtown St. Petersburg on filled land that was once a railroad pier extending out into Tampa Bay. This pier no longer exists, but the park is named for the city founder who brought the Orange Belt Railroad to St. Petersburg in 1888.

The original pier was the terminus for the railroad, which extended from the lower St. John's River in eastern Florida to the west coast of Florida. The pier reached far enough into Tampa Bay to allow ships drawing 12 feet of water to load and unload cargo directly to and from railway cars. In 1977 the city park was named "Demens Landing" to honor the city founder who was responsible for bringing the railroad here and building the first railroad pier.

Mayor David Fischer and the St. Petersburg City Council have approved placing a marker at the entrance to Demens Landing. The application is now being reviewed in Tallahassee, and we hope to dedicate the completed marker on May 1, 2000. The full text of the proposed marker is on page 7 of this newsletter.

Peter Demens and Demens Landing

To many local people as well as to most tourists, the waterfront park in downtown St. Petersburg conjures up images of pirates and demons rather than one of the founding fathers of our city. The Board of Directors of "Russian Heritage", a local organization founded to promote Russian culture in the Tampa Bay area, has set for itself the goal to correct this false notion and to honor Peter Demens and his role in the city's history in this the 150th anniversary of Demens' birth.

Peter Demens (*pronounced de MENS*) was born on May 1, 1850 on the estate of his father in rural Russia. He came from an aristocratic background and he served in the Imperial Guards in St. Petersburg, Russia before retiring to his estates in the Tver province of Russia. He came to America in 1881 and settled in Florida. He brought the Orange Belt Railroad from Central Florida to the Gulf Coast in 1888, and was responsible for the naming of St. Petersburg, Florida in honor of the Imperial Russian capital. In 1889 he moved to North Carolina and he later took up residence in California.

There are at least four ways to remember how to pronounce Demens properly.

- 1) Think of the World War II general of France Charles DeGaulle, and remember that Demens also is stressed on the final syllable.
- 2) Reflect on his Russian last name Dementyev (*pronounced de-MEN-tyeff*) and replace the final syllable (tyev) with the letter (s), thus DeMENS from DeMENTyev.
- 3) The Demens' family offers the following humorous memory aid: Women go to de LADIES' room; Men go to de MEN'S room.
- 4) The following poem may also help you remember:

Call Him DeMENS

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. The family and friends
Of Peter Demens
As one recommends
We all make amends
And call him Demens. | 2. He's not Samuel Clemens,
He's not Peter Demens;
Don't say Seaman's Landing,
Don't say Demon's Landing. | 3. He's Peter Demens
To family and friends,
So let's make amends
And call him Demens |
|---|--|---|

Now that you have a good idea of who Peter Demens is and how his name should be pronounced, please spread the word. Don't let friends say "Demon's Landing", and remind one and all that Peter Demens brought the railroad to St. Petersburg and built a railroad pier on the land that is now the Demens' Landing in downtown St. Petersburg.

RUSSIAN EASTER IS APRIL 30

Easter is the major celebration for Russian Orthodox Christians. This year Russian Easter falls on April 30th. Special church services are held at St. Andrew's Russian Orthodox Church (4668 15th Avenue South) in Gulfport at the following times:

4/28 **Good Friday Services** 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

4/29 **Saturday Liturgy** 9:00 a.m.

4/30 **Easter Celebration** 12:00 midnight – 2:30 a. m.

4/30 **Sunday Vespers** 5:00 p.m.



Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес!

A Protestant Church Also Plans Russian Theme

Lakewood United Church of Christ (2601-54th Avenue South) is also planning two special Russian programs for Sunday, April 30th. At the worship service at 10:30 a.m. there will be special Russian music and themes. At 5:30 p.m. a special educational program with Inna Povedskaya and Ksenia Malygina will discuss life in Tver, Russia in the Church's Fellowship Hall. Lakewood United Church of Christ has a sister-church relationship with St. Job's Russian Orthodox Church in St. Petersburg, Russia for the past ten years. All are welcome to these special events.

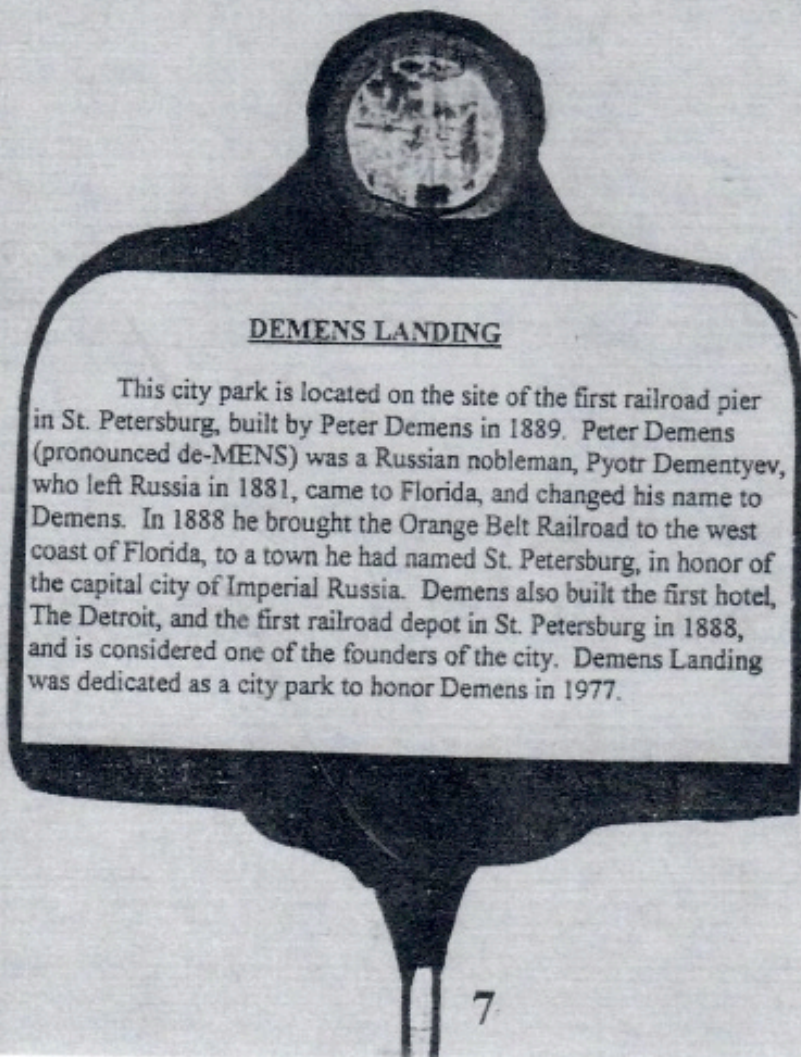
Violinists Eugene and Natasha Bazhanov to Perform

A special violin recital by Russian violinists Eugene and Natasha Bazhanov will be featured at the **Music at Eckerd** Concert Series in the Roberts Music Center at Eckerd College on Sunday, April 30th. The concert begins at 3:00 p.m. and will feature works by Prokofiev, Bartok, and Schnittke. The concert is free and open to the public.

Russian Ambassador to the United States, Yuri Ushakov, will Speak in St. Petersburg

Yuri Ushakov, the Russian Ambassador in Washington D. C., will be the graduation speaker at commencement for St. Petersburg Junior College at 7:00 p. m. on May 8th at the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg. He will also be awarded an honorary degree. Father Igor from St. Andrew's Russian Orthodox Church will give the invocation.

President Carl Kuttler has invited members and friends of Russian Heritage to attend this special graduation ceremony. If you would like an official invitation, please respond on the form enclosed.



DEMENS LANDING

This city park is located on the site of the first railroad pier in St. Petersburg, built by Peter Demens in 1889. Peter Demens (pronounced de-MENS) was a Russian nobleman, Pyotr Dementyev, who left Russia in 1881, came to Florida, and changed his name to Demens. In 1888 he brought the Orange Belt Railroad to the west coast of Florida, to a town he had named St. Petersburg, in honor of the capital city of Imperial Russia. Demens also built the first hotel, The Detroit, and the first railroad depot in St. Petersburg in 1888, and is considered one of the founders of the city. Demens Landing was dedicated as a city park to honor Demens in 1977.