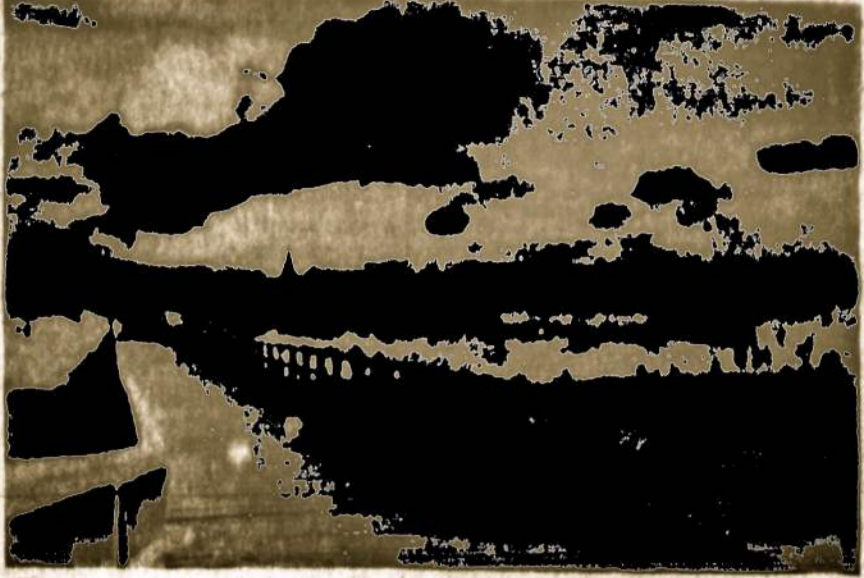


GARSAS • Lithuanian U.S. Alliance of America

English Section

Edited by P. P. CINIKAS, M.I.C.



The causeway to Palanga Seashores

Arizona and California are still...
IN MISSIONARY COUNTRY

When an outsider visits in Arizona or California, he is made to feel he is in missionary country. All the good points about living in those states are demonstrated and noted in a very detailed manner. The host might even spend a full day showing you about to further convince you that Arizona or California is the place to live: the smog is not as bad as the smoke in Chicago and the heat of Arizona is dry and disappears with the setting of the sun. My host had to turn a lot of pressure on because the days I spent in those parts were cool, and the inhabitants wore top coats or jackets. I did not need a jacket because 53 degrees is warm weather for a Chicagoan.

Since my business was church related, I boarded at St. Casimir rectory, the headquarters for the Lithuanian people of Los Angeles, California, where Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Kucingis is pastor. He is an enthusiastic man and true convert to the "I love California sect". And he should be because Los Angeles has been good to him and Msgr. Kucingis has been good for St. Casimir's parish. He has spent twenty five years of his life there and the parish plant is truly a show-case of good organization and parish administration. It is one of the youngest Lithuanian parishes in the United States, the only organized Lithuanian parish west of the Rockies.

Msgr. Kucingis is proud of his parish and he walked me about the confines of the parish during the long evening strolls. Some of the best and finest pieces of property and buildings are

owned by his people, who have come to California after a longer or shorter stay in the Eastern states. And the stay in the East was prefaced by years in displaced persons camps of Germany. A majority of his parishioners are well trained and educated.

The Shadow of Hollywood
Even though this was my second trip to Los Angeles, I have yet to see Hollywood. Still, the shadow of Hollywood was just across the street from St. Casimir parish church.

While walking about I noticed a group of nine cute cottages: four on each side in a row and one at the end between the rows. The cottage has a small tower and each of the other cottages reminded me of a fairy tale, because each is so cute and pretty. Between the rows there was a wide plot of grass with a path down the middle and in the center of the plot a circle of flowers.

All cottages are inhabited by families and they are owned by the Ruta Corp. They were bought from the Disney Corporation after they were used in a movie. And the Ruta corporation is established by a group of Lithuanian investors, who erect buildings and own other kinds of property for investment.

On a walk about the parish with Msgr. Kucingis, we noted a number of multiple dwellings, like Trakai Apartments and Amber Court, which were built and now managed by parishioners.

Msgr. Kucingis inherited the parish from the founder, Msgr. Macijauskas, who began serving the people of California from his residence where he used two larger rooms for a parish church. Later a protestant church was acquired and gradually a square block of property was taken over by the parishioners. All of this was followed by a parish school and a new church.

The high priest, horrified by such sacrilege, prophesied calamity as a result, threatening that with the children of Birute and Kestutis, the glory of Lithuania would end. Strangely enough, the prophecy was fulfilled for while Vytautas, one of their two sons, was the greatest ruler Lithuania ever possessed, raising her to a mighty power, after his death the kingdom began to split up and the day of its downfall was foreshadowed.

Birute, the beloved Grand Duchess, returned to Palanga after the death of her husband Kestutis, and was buried in the hill which bears her name. She died a pagan, but since she symbolized the very spirit of Lithuania, the people revered her as a saint; and local tradition has it, that no matter how deep the snow lies on the hill, there is always a pathway to the little Christian chapel which has been erected over her tomb...

(Vyta, May 1973)

The Family Spirit
To spend a Sunday morning at St. Casimir parish is a unique experience. The time to go is to attend the parish Mass (Suma). After Holy Mass the parishioners do not jump into their cars and go to their homes. The parishioners gather on the huge parking pad between the old church and the new school building. There a visitation of the various families goes on for about an hour and a half. Some wander into the hall under the old church for a breakfast or a cup of coffee.

(Cont. on next page)

BALTIC STATES LEADERS ARRESTED IN HELSINKI

Little countries of Europe are constantly seeking their place in the limelight and as 35 foreign ministers gathered in Helsinki for the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian emigres from United States, Canada, Sweden and Great Britain met in Helsinki to lobby for the freedom of their own countries.

The Latvian organizations sent: Uldis Grava and Ilmar Pleer, both United States citizens and Dr. A. Teivens of Sweden; Estonia was represented by Paul Reinharas, a British citizen and J. Kahar, a Canadian; Lithuania was aided by Dr. J. Valiunas, Dr. J. Genys, Miss A. Zilionis, Dr. Peter Vileisis, all citizens of the United States.

This group co-operated quite closely and co-ordinated all of their efforts for the cause of the Baltic States. They made many contacts with foreign correspondents and leaders of foreign countries. The above mentioned Baltic leaders are well known in their own national communities and have been working for their causes for many years. These dedicated people were determined to bring the attention of the gathered delegates around to the plight of the Baltic people behind the Iron Curtain.

Confrontation with Gromyko
On the 4th of July, 1973, Mr. Uldis Grava, President, World Federation of Free Latvians, visited the reception held by the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) in Helsinki. At the reception Mr. Grava asked the Soviet Foreign Secretary Gromyko why the Soviets are occupying the Baltic States and not giving freedom and independence to the Baltic people. Mr. Gromyko answered that, as far as he knew, the people in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were satisfied with their present status and did not wish to seek independence.

On July 5 the officials of the Baltic World Federation asked Finnish authorities for permission to hold a press conference at Hotel Intercontinental. The permission was granted for 6th of July. The Baltic leaders asked several delegations at the Conference on Co-operation and Security in Europe for visits which were granted. They presented an 80 page memorandum documenting the Soviet occupation of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to four foreign ministers and other delegates.

The 24 Hour Hunger Strike
During the 5th of July nine officials of the Baltic World Federation were arrested in their rooms and hallways of the Hotel Intercontinental and held for 24 hours without any charges. While Mr. Ilmar Pleer, President, of the Estonian American National Council was being arrested and led away by the Finnish police, Secretary of State Mr. William Rogers was passing by. Mr. Pleer called out to him: "I am an American Citizen and am being arrested!" Mr. Rogers followed the police, woke up the Finnish Foreign minister and obtained the release of the four American citizens held. No release was granted for the Canadian, British and Swedish citizens of the Baltic delegation. The American citizens refused to leave until the others are freed too. During the interrogation of Mr. Grava, and Dr. J. Valiunas, President, Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania, by the Finnish police a non-Finnish German speaking observer who asked if Mr. Grava had attended the East German reception and had spoken to Mr. Gromyko. The Finnish officials tried to discredit the arrested Balts by implying that they had carried false documents, had distributed leaflets and had terrorist intentions. The Finnish police on the other hand was sympathetic and asked not to be blamed for the arrests which were carried out on orders from above.

After an 24-hour strike they

There are legends about...
BEAUTIFUL PALANGA SHORES

The Palanga resort was and is the most popular bathing place of Lithuania, a pleasant drive north from the port city of Klaipeda on the Baltic Sea. When Lithuania was independent, it was an enjoyable drive to Palanga over the smiling country, studded with prosperous farms. The homesteads were of brick and were tiled, and took the place of the familiar timber and thatched houses. Belts of trees lined either side of the high road, and wide fields stretched to the horizon with herds of black and white cattle grazing under the care of sturdy, lint-haired boys. Many windmills spread their sails against the sky and the freshness of the Baltic Sea was never far from the roadway. Horses still had their place in Lithuania, and one would meet continual strings of the long country carts.

Palanga is not only a delightful holiday resort, but it is also a well-known spa. The nervous and anaemic, the despondent and bronchial may all take heart: for the pure air and excellent climate, the sheltering dunes which protect the town from strong breezes, the tang of the sea and the resinous breath of the pines — all combine to heal mind and body. Palanga has a pier, and a splendid beach of firm, white sand, and the bathing is safe and warm. Just north of the town is the curious Hill of Naglys, a Viking

barrow of sandy ground, crowned with seven tall pines which stand out strangely in the sunset. The legend runs that long ago, a huge black bird, the Naglys, came out of the west, made its nest on the hilltop and from there ravaged the flocks of the country side. This is probably a symbolic reference to the actual sea pirates, who used to cross from the western shores of the Baltic and harass the coastal regions. It seems certain that the Naglys Hill is an ancient Viking grave.

There is another hill, peculiarly sacred in the eyes of Lithuanians, about half a mile south of Palanga in a beautiful park. This Hill of Birute — Birutes Kalnas — is associated with the most beloved woman in Lithuanian history. Overgrown with pine-trees, it is the only hill in the district, which from very early times, was a sacred mound. Day and night the fire of oak branches burned here, tended by vestal virgins, under the guidance of the pagan high priest, in the depths of the oak grove which then stood upon it. It was on this spot that in the middle of the 14th century, a lovely novice, Birute by name, performed her sacred duties. On the very day when she was to take her final vows, it chanced that the son of the reigning Grand Duke was hunting in the forest with his friends. Kestutis saw Birute as he passed and was filled with love for her.

Birute refused all his passionate pleading, but Kestutis was determined to win her. He waited all day in the forest until the hour came in the evening light when the high priest, with prayers and chanting, was preparing to throw the white robe over the head of the novice which would vow her to eternal virginity. Kestutis then suddenly appeared, flung the white robe which he snatched from the high priest's hands on the fire, and throwing the maiden over his shoulder, rode off with her.

Upon the Occasion of the European Conference at Helsinki...

A MEMORANDUM ON THE BALTIC STATES

The undersigned Baltic democratic organizations in exile fighting for restoration of freedom and human rights to Baltic States, submit the following standpoints and proposals to the Governments taking part in the European Security and Cooperation Conference.

We are convinced that security and peace in Europe can be maintained only if all European Nations including Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, who by aggression of the Soviet Union, have been deprived of their national freedom and independence, regain those rights that are theirs under international law.

1. The forcible annexation of the Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania 32 years ago by the Soviet Union as a result of the notorious Molotov-Ribbentrop

Stockholm, November 1972

Birger Hagard
Chairman of the Baltic Committee in Scandinavia

Valdemar Ginters
Chairman of the Latvian National Foundation

Tonis Kint
Chairman of the Estonian National Council

Valentinas Vilkenas
Chairman of the Lithuanian Society in Sweden

Corollary to the theses:
ad 1.

Thirty-two years ago, on June 14-16, 1940, the armed forces of the Soviet Union invaded the territories of three independent Baltic Republics: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. One month later, after having staged illegal "elections" in violation of the Constitutions and Electoral Laws of these three States, the Soviet authorities forcibly annexed Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania contrary to the sovereign will of the peoples.

The occupation and annexation of the three Baltic Republics to end the military occupation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

B. We hope that the Conference will be able to bring about a uniform understanding as pertains to international relations, the recognition of the general rights of peoples and their fundamental individual liberties.

We hope that the aim of the Conference will be to secure genuine improvements in reducing the barriers within Europe and within the Baltic area, especially by promoting freer movement of persons, information and ideas across the frontiers and by developing co-operation in its various aspects between Eastern and Western Europe.

C. The overwhelming majority of the Baltic peoples expects that the Conference promote the restoration of all the rights of the Baltic nations and of the independent Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and find a solution and path towards security for all Euro-

peoples international treaties and agreements, as well as of the inalienable rights of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian peoples.

The treaties and agreements violated by the Soviet Union are:

1. Treaty of Peace between Russia and Estonia, signed at Tartu on February 2, 1920;
2. Peace Treaty between Lithuania and the Russian Socialist Federal Republic, and Protocol, signed at Moscow on July 12, 1920;
3. Treaty of Peace between Latvia and Russia, negotiated at Moscow, completed and signed at Riga August 11, 1920;
4. Treaty of Non-Aggression between the Republic of Lithuania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, signed at Moscow on September 28, 1926;
5. Treaty of Non-Aggression and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between Estonia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, signed at Moscow, May 4, 1932, extended in 1934 for a term to last until December

London, July 3, 1933, between Romania, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Persia and Afghanistan;

7. Convention between Lithuania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the Definition of Aggression, signed at London, July 5, 1933; extended in 1933 for a term to last until April 4, 1943;
8. Treaty of Non-Aggression between Latvia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, signed at Riga, February 5, 1932;
9. General Treaty for Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy, signed at Paris, August 27, 1928, to which 63 States are parties among them the Soviet Union and the Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania;
10. Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, signed at The Hague, October 18, 1907, to which 49 States are parties among them the Soviet Union.
11. Convention relating to the Establishment of the Concilia-

tion of the three Baltic Republics to end the military occupation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.



St. Casimir parish church, Los Angeles Calif.

The parish bookseller drives his car onto the parking area between the school buildings and opens up his trunk full of books and displays his collection for the crowd. He has all of the latest books published by the various Lithuanian printers of the world. After examining the collection of books it can be noted that he keeps only the latest books, very few are more than two months old. It was surprising to see how many books were pre-ordered and waiting for the purchasers. The seller always has his subscription book handy to renew subscriptions to the various papers of the United States and Europe.

Here too the visitors to Los Angeles can meet their old friends and make new acquaintances. The usual question asked of the visitors is: "When are you moving to California?" It would seem that everyone should move to California. The threat of smog, earthquakes and crowded conditions rarely come into the discussion. Everyone seems to be a missionary for the population explosion to California. They can not believe that anyone could not like California and especially the Los Angeles area. There is a sincere friendliness amongst visiting parishioners of St. Casimir. While walking away from the gathering and back to the rectory, I mused to myself: "How typical this Lithuanian community is? The ubiquitous cameraman was there too. My picture was snapped at least five times and maybe even more often when I was not looking, because in weeks that followed my return to Chicago, I received five prints of myself with various groups.

Meeting Old Friends

A lively parish like St. Casimir's is quite active and every Sunday the parish hall has something doing. This Sunday was the day for the annual Lithuanian R.C. Women's Alliance banquet. Msgr. Kucingis asked that I make an appearance there for a short while before flying off to Arizona.

That visit was a real treat in many ways. Before I was able to sit down at the table a few ladies approached me and introduced themselves as former Chicagoans. A few I was able to recall and it was interesting to note the great changes that had taken place in their attitudes

and the U.S.S.R., signed on June 18, 1932;

12. Mutual Assistance Pact between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Estonia, signed on September 28, 1939;

13. Mutual Assistance Pact between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Latvia, signed on October 10, 1939;

14. Mutual Assistance Pact between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Lithuania, signed on October 10, 1939;

15. The Covenant of the League of Nations, came into force on January 10, 1920. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became Members of the League on September 23, 1921 and the Soviet Union on September 18, 1934.

and appearances. They were enthusiastic about California and their suntanned complexions gave evidence of their outdoor life. It was nice to know that someone remembers you even in far-of California after many years.

The style of banquets does not change even in California. It was regular Lithuanian style banquet: good food and many speeches. But the surprise of the event was the music that followed the program. I expected a sophisticated surprise because the clothing of those that attended was a rung or two above what is usually seen in Chicago at such women's banquets. The orchestra was a three man band: violin, concertina and... I can not find a name for the third instrument: it was about four feet high, with one string that bounced on a metal plate to produce the rhythm for the other players. The music they produced was rhythmic and very danceable. The tunes were catchy and familiar. The people left their tables and swirled about in a very happy mood. I wanted to talk to the performers and ask about their backgrounds and how they got together for such interesting music, but it was too close to my flight time. It goes to prove one point: even sophisticated Los Angeles does not need a name band to have a good time in the pleasant surroundings of St. Casimir parish.

A Visit To "Lithuanian Days"

Besides, the Catholic parish in Los Angeles, the Lithuanian community is proud of its monthly magazine, known as "Lithuanian Days". This is a "Life" type of a magazine, that tries to depict the cultural life of the Lithuanian people of the United States. The profuse use of pictures and detailed stories of the cultural life of Lithuanians makes it one of the more popular magazines in the United States.

The magazine was founded by Anthony Skyrius. He publishes it from his tiny print shop, where he does odd print jobs for the Lithuanian community.

Mr. Skyrius came to the United States in 1939 to participate in the World Pax Roma Congress. After the congress he and a small group of students from Lithuania stayed on. Soon the rumors of war in Europe rumbled across the United States. They entered colleges and universities to while away the time. Mr. Skyrius studied for a year at Marianapolis Prep School, Thompson, Conn.; then spent some time with the Catholic press in Chicago. A short time later he married and left for California where he studied realty and opened his own office. Later he began the publication of the magazine, "Lithuanian Days". It still has not attained the circulation of the now defunct "Life", but it has attained an important spot in the Lithuanian community of the United States.

It has the distinction of being one of the few Lithuanian magazines that has an English section, which includes English

translations of Lithuanian short stories or excerpts from Lithuanian novels. (Lithuanian Days, 4304 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, Calif. 90029) The present editorial staff is composed of the following: Dalia Mackialis, Pranas Gasparonis and Vacys Prizgintas.

A Second Visit to Tucson

Thirty years ago, while on a vacation trip, I visited a retired U.S. Army chaplain, Rev. G. Jonaitis, who lived in Tucson, area. That was my first taste of the southwest. Fr. Jonaitis lived in the desert on a huge ranch that was owned by a rich widow who maintained a chapel for her Mexican workers. It was known as St. Rita of the Desert. The rectory was spacious and comfortable. His hospitality was outstanding. We traveled far and wide. There was one amazing thing about his car: he had an automatic shift because of his injured right elbow that was shattered by shell fragments. Over thirty years ago he had one of the few Oldsmobiles with automatic shifting.

This second trip of mine was to visit with newly converted Arizonians, who thought I was crazy because I had the nerve to go back to Chicago. As soon as I landed the entire family began preaching and extolling the beauties of the countryside and the wonders of the climate. I expected them to be missionaries, but that night they were missionaries in top coats and heavy sweaters extolling the wonders of the desert climate. The temperature was flirting with the 50 degree mark.

My hosts were friends of some thirty five years and they could not do enough for me. Their swimming pool was not complete, but their home was large and beautiful and air conditioned. The night was short because there was a meal at a beautiful restaurant, cooling drinks on the closed-in porch and many things to be talked about and remembered.

A Desert Can Be Beautiful

After a late breakfast, an all-day trip was planned because there were churches, museums and movie site to be visited. The best argument that my host used to convert me was this: the desert is beautiful. My report was: it is beautiful to look at from an air conditioned car that occasionally stopped for refreshments.

I must admit that I always liked the desert but under my own conditions and that morning we were visiting the desert under my conditions.

One of the most startling sights of the entire day was seen at a distance. "The White Dove of the Desert," the St. Xavier mission church of Tubac was truly gorgeous. It looked like a huge white dove, with wings spread, ready to take off in flight across the desert. This is an ancient mission church that was renewed and is kept in perfect condition. The right hand tower is unfinished and according to traditions, the architect fell from that tower and the workers did not finish it, as a memorial to the architect. Long hours could be spent

examining the ancient interiors and statuary of the mission, but my host wanted to hurry me on to other things with the remark: "You will be out soon and you will be able to take a longer look at this wonder of the desert".

It takes some time getting used to the desert scenes, because the mesquite shrubs, cactus and saguaro can not replace the trees, leafy bushes and green fields of our countryside. My usual remark was: "This reminds me of scenes of the western movies."

A great part of our day was spent at the Arizona-Sonor Desert Museum. The thing that shocked me was the fee to enter this museum (\$2.25). It is located largely in the open desert with long marked trails displaying the desert flowers, cactus and saguaro found in the desert. I was amazed at the number of animals that inhabit the desert. Many of the animals are small and spend much of their time in holes and crevices of the desert, wandering out at night.

Movie Site

The High Chaparral movie site was our next stop and this was the most interesting part of our visit in the desert. That TV movie series is finished and the site is now a tourist attraction. All of the movie properties are still intact and the visitors have the time of their lives visiting the saloon, jail, sheriff's office village stores (good ice cream is served there). Of course, you may ride in a stage coach, buckboard or buggy. The actors stage a shoot-out and daring captures of badmen. One thing you must say about the site: it is very dusty and no place for fine city shoes.

We must admit we will be back again in Tucson, because our hosts are very gracious, the sun was warm and pleasant when it shone, the clean dry air was very easy to breathe and our hosts' swimming pool will surely be finished. Our hosts are enthusiastic about Arizona, but they do miss the hustle and bustle of the Lithuanian community with which they were deeply involved while up north.

They tell how they watch for the Lithuanian "Vytiš" decal on auto windows. They have one on their car and they tell of the pleasant surprise they had when another "Vytiš" decal owner stopped his car and motioned to them to stop because he wanted to meet a Lithuanian in the Arizona desert. That is the way a new friendship was started by two Lith meeting in the desert.

Their other contacts with Lithuanians are in Phoenix about a hundred miles to the north, where a former displaced priest from Lithuania established a Lithuanian mission in a nursing home. Holy Mass is offered in Lithuanian once a month. Grandma is taken there regularly.

I must admit that their missionary tactics got to me. I might not get a chance to move to Arizona, but I certainly will grab any chance to visit there. I do not know if I would like to spend an entire vacation there, because I can hardly imagine a good vacation without a dip in the ocean.

P.P.G.

PEOPLE EVENTS PLACES

Arnold Vokietaitis, recently of Chicago, Ill., made two appearances at Chicago's outdoor bandshell on Lake Michigan, Aug. 8th and 10th. Arnold started his singing career with the New York City Opera and since has sung with Chicago Lyric, Philadelphia Lyric, San Francisco Spring Opera, etc. He made his first appearance in Chicago under the sponsorship of the Lithuanian daily "Draugas" in 1958.

Teresa Zylis Gara, a veteran of the Metropolitan Opera, and Salzburg Opera Festival is scheduled for the Lyric Opera this season in the premiere production of "Manon" by Jules Massenet. The Lyric Opera of Chicago has one of the best attendance records of the world.

Paul D. Kasputis of Millbury, Mass., received publicity from the Associated Press for his unique hitch-hiking methods. He uses a huge florescent orange cardboard hand. He insists it shortens his waiting time which averages 12 minutes per ride.

Zhivila Roche (Slėkyte), Toronto, Ont. Canada, is touring Europe with the Royal Shakespeare company in Peter Brook's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

"Day of Shame" by Algis Rukšenis with a sub-title: The truth about the murderous happenings aboard the Cutter "Vigilant" during the Russian-American confrontation off Martha's Vineyard; is a big seller. It tells the story of how Simas Kudirka was refused protection from the United States when he tried to defect. It is published by McKay of New York and can be bought in most bookstores.

Romas Sakadolskis, formerly a member of the "Margutis" Radio Hour of Chicago, received an appointment with the Voice of America in Washington, D.C. Romas is also a member of the Board of Directors of the World Lithuanian Community.

Dr. Jonas Genys, Washington, D.C., received the "Dwight D. Eisenhower Meritorious Service Award" during the convention of ethnic groups of the Republican National Party for his work in the re-election campaign of President Nixon. He was congratulated by Julie Eisenhower during the reception that followed the awarding ceremony.

Illinois Lithuanian Doctors Society has announced the awarding of \$1000.00 for the writers of letters or articles that appear in newspapers of 100,000 circulation championing the cause of Lithuania. First prize is \$250.00; second is \$200.00, third, \$150.00 and four prizes of \$100.00 each. The contest is being supervised by the Lithuanian Journalists Society of America. The president of the society is Rev. J. Vainys, S.J. Copies of the articles or letters should be sent to J. Janusaitis of 2534 W. 69th Str. Chicago, Ill. (60629). The closing date is May 1st, 1974.

The Gerulaitis Family of the West Side Tennis Club of New York is making its mark on the tennis world. Father of the family, Vytautas, was national tennis champ of Lithuania 1938-1940. 18 year old Vito was a high ranking tennis star among the 18 year olds in 1971-72 season. And now Ruta is being seeded among the top stars of 18 year old class. She made the finals in the Cherry Valley, L. I.N.Y. tournament and will be appearing in the Memphis, Tenn., U.S. Women's Tournament scheduled in the last weeks of July. (No results for this meet as we file our story). A more detailed story of this family will appear in later issues of this paper.

Alex Maseika, St. Mary High School, Clinton, Iowa, is a National Honors Society student and acclaimed top basketball star of the State of Iowa. He

averaged 38 points per game in his last year at the high school which had 23 wins and 2 losses for the season. He stands 6 feet ten and has been awarded a scholarship to Iowa State where he expects to study veterinary medicine.

Rev. Jurgis Gailiūsis, OFM., who has headed the Lithuanian Province of the Franciscan Fathers in the United States for 14 years, has been re-elected to another term. The fathers publish the "Darbininkas" (The Worker), a weekly Lithuanian in their printing plant in Brooklyn, N.Y. The religious community is campaigning for funds to complete their cultural center and new printing plant. The assistant provincial is Rev. Placidus Barius, OFM.

Rev. Edmund Montvilas, S.J., formerly of Cicero, Ill., is now a missionary in Dhanbade, India, amongst the lepers. Fr. Edmund taught philosophy at Detroit, U., for 16 years. He was a professor at Loyola U. of Chicago and Tokyo U. From there he went on to New Delhi, India, Nepal and Bengal. During the last six years he ministered to the lepers. He has been visiting with his brother during the last two months and in August he returns to his "dear people of Dhanbade".

Dr. Bronis Kaslas has edited the book: USSR-Germany Aggression Against Lithuania (R. Speller and Sons, Inc., N.Y. 543 pages, \$15.00). This volume is a collection of 250 annotated documents relating to the Soviet-Nazi plot to parcel out Lithuania as part of their division of Eastern Europe. This book is especially important in view of the European Security and Cooperation Conference in Helsinki.

"Sventasis Raštas-Naujas Testamentas", Lithuanian translation from the Greek, authorized by the hierarchy of Lithuania and reprinted by the Lithuanian R.C. Priests' League of the United States and subsidized by Msgr. J. Karalius of Shenandoah, Pa., can be purchased from Lithuanian daily "Draugas" bookstore for \$5.00. This newest translation of the New Testament is one of the best to appear on the Lithuanian booklists. In this regard, it can be said that the Lithuanian book catalogue of the "Draugas" is the most complete listing found anywhere in the United States. It also has a large list of English books related to Lithuanian subjects. A free catalogue can be obtained by writing to: "Draugas" 4545 W. 63rd Street, Chicago, Ill. 60629.

The Lithuanian World Community announced the results of its general elections for members of the Board of Directors and representatives to the World Congress which is scheduled for Washington, D.C., during the coming Labor Day weekend. About 11,000 members of the community cast their ballots and elected the following members to the Board of Directors: Dr. P. Kisieliūsis; Dr. Leon Kriauceliūnas; Dr. A. Razma; Dr. K. Bobelis; Att. Paul Zumbakis; Miss Juratė Jasaitis; Rev. G. Kijauskas, S.J.; Bronius Nainys; Jonas Jasaitis and Rev. Anas Trakis. Those were the top ten vote getters. The first five most popular Lithuanians in the community of the United States are professionals. The sixth, Miss Jasaitis is a college student and leader amongst the youth of the community. The members will elect their officers during the meeting at the World Congress of the Community.

Bishop Liudas Povilonis has been appointed auxiliary to Bishop Matulaitis-Labukas, the Apostolic Administrator of the dioceses of Kaunas and Vilkauskas, Lithuania. Bishop Ramaldis Kristėnas was appointed to the diocese of Panevėžis. His Holiness, Pope Paul VI made the announcements.



Msgr. J. Kucingis, pastor of St. Casimir parish, in the midst of his people.

