

GARSAS • Lithuanian U.S. Alliance of America

English Section

LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC COMMITTEE APPEALS TO THE WEST

Pope John Paul II has been requested by Catholics of Soviet Lithuania for moral support on behalf of the agnostic exiled human rights activists, Academician Andrei Sacharov.

The request is contained in Document No. 30 of the Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights (CaCDBR). The document is among a half-dozen recently smuggled out to the West.

The CaCDBR was formed in 1978 by five Roman Catholic Lithuanian priests to attain rights for Catholics equal to those of atheists. Lithuania, annexed by the U.S.S.R. in World War II, is the only predominantly Catholic republic in the U.S.S.R.

The members of the CaCDBR themselves are often targets of government oppression, repeatedly threatened with arrest.

CaCDBR Document No. 30, addressed to Pope John Paul II, pays tribute to Sacharov, especially for his defense of human rights for persecuted Catholic Lithuanian believers, priests and prisoners of conscience, such as Petras Paulaitis, who at 75 is in his 32nd year in a Soviet labor camp.

Document No. 31 requests Leonid Brezhnev to release the secretary of the Christian Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights, Viktor Kapitanchuk, from prison. "The time has come to give full religious freedom to Soviet citizens... The first step toward goodwill by the government would be to return freedom to the noble sons of the Orthodox Church — Rev. Gleb Yakunin, Rev. Dimitri Dudko, Viktor Kapitanchuk and others imprisoned for their faith..." reads the document.

In Document No. 32, the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party is petitioned to drop charges against four religious activists: Povilas Buzas, Anastazas Janulis, Genovaitė Navickaitė and Ona Vitkauskaitė. They were reportedly arrested for involvement in reproduction and dissemination of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, an underground publication whose forty-four issues to date have documented the violation of human rights in Soviet Lithuania since 1972.

Document No. 32 further asserts, that "there would be no need for a *Chronicle* to register instances of discrimination against believers and the Church" if the elementary human rights of believers were observed and if the Soviet authorities did not interfere in Church affairs.

Document No. 33, also addressed to the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party, argues that even minimal religious freedoms guaranteed by the Soviet Constitution are not honored. Allegedly, a Soviet citizen has the right to profess or not to profess any religion, to conduct religious worship or to possess religious articles, such as religious cards, prayer-books, etc. Yet during 40 years of Soviet rule, only one catechism has been published in Lithuania: a limited edition of very poor quality estimated to have reached only 2% of the 2 million Catholics of Lithuania.

The CaCDBR also reports that children are forbidden to take part in religious processions, churches must pay six times the national average for electricity, and when the Pope visited Poland, people from neighboring Lithuania were expressly forbidden to go see him.

The Catholic Committee further testifies that many religious freedoms vital to the Church and its members are stringently denied, such as the right to propagate one's faith freely, to acquire and utilize church property, to create educational, cultural, charitable and social associations, to enjoy the cultural benefits of Catholic television and radio broadcasting and the publishing of books, newspapers and periodicals, and to have religious organizations and seminaries free of state control.

The five-page statement ends with a suggestion that the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party review these problems and inform the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. of the demand by Lithuania's Catholics — full religious freedom along the guidelines of the "Declaration of Religious Freedom" adopted by the Second Vatican Council.

Document No. 34, published in Issue 44 of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, appeals to the signatories of the Helsinki Final Act and all people of goodwill to bring up the plight of Petras Plumpa-Pluiras at the Madrid Conference. Pluiras was sentenced in 1974 to 8 years in a strict regime labor camp for reproducing the *Chronicle*. He has

been kept in isolation for over a year, cut off from all communication with his family. In poor health he cannot meet work quotas and as a result is often punished. Needed medical care is reportedly not provided.

Document No. 35 is addressed to the Ordinaries of the Lithuanian Catholic Church and the rector of the only existing seminary in Lithuania, located in the city of Kaunas. In light of recent events, it voices the grave concern of Lithuania's bishops and priests over the fate of the seminary.

One of the most recent issues is the order given by the Director of Religious Affairs in Lithuania, Petras Anilionis, to expel seminarian Aloyzas Volskis for associating with "clerical extremists", a term often directed toward members of the Catholic Committee. Such a demand, reports the CaCDBR, is in violation of Soviet law.

Further evidence of state interference in Church affairs is the fact that 17 of the 36 candidates accepted by the seminary administration were rejected by the government's Council for Religious Affairs.

Apparently, last year, eleven highly qualified candidates were prevented from entering the seminary. The Council for Religious Affairs blocks the admission of the best candidates, substituting the less qualified, often recruiting them into service of the secret police as informers.

The final selection of candidates is determined by the government, not by religious leaders.

Lithuanian Information Center

TRIALS OF TERLECKAS, SASNAUSKAS AND STATKEVIČIUS

The UPI, quoting Moscow dissident sources, reported on September 20, 1980, that **Antanas Terleckas** and **Julius Sasnauskas** were tried in Vilnius earlier in September and sentenced to jail terms and exile. According to the *USSR News Brief* (Brussels, No. 16, 1980), a court in Vilnius decided to send **Algirdas Statkevičius**, member of the Lithuanian Helsinki Group, to a special type psychiatric hospital for compulsory treatment.

More than 100 "supporters" gathered at the courthouse in Vilnius with flowers for Terleckas and Sasnauskas, but were dispersed. The defendants were found guilty of violating an article of the LSSR criminal code that bans the spreading of "knowingly false fabrications defaming the Soviet political and social system." Both men have signed last year's Baltic Memorandum, denouncing the Hitler-Stalin Pact. They were also charged with organizing press conferences for foreign journalists.

Antanas Terleckas, 52, was sentenced to three years in jail and five years of internal exile. An economist and journalist, he has provided auto-biographic information in his protest statement to the KGB Chairman **Yurii Andropov** (see *The Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church*, No. 21). He has been subjected to constant police harassment and spent two terms in labor camps, in 1957-1961, and 1973-1974 (for trumped up charges of "theft of state property"). Terleckas was arrested on October 30, 1979, in Vilnius.

Julius Sasnauskas, 20, received 18 months in jail and five years of exile. He suffers from meningitis. He was one of the seven students expelled from the A. Vienuolis High School in Vilnius on June 17, 1976, for engaging in patriotic activities. In an open letter addressed to N.K. Dybenko, the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian CP, he protested against the distortions of Lithuania's history and suppression of Lithuanian culture. Sasnauskas was arrested on December 11, 1980, in Vilnius.

Algirdas Statkevičius, 57, was imprisoned for 9 years (1951-1960) for participating in the Lithuanian resistance movement. In 1970 he was accused of authoring three "anti-Soviet" books and was detained in a psychiatric hospital for two-and-a-half years. He was working as a physician in Vilnius when he was arrested on February 14, 1980.



Cathedral of Kaunas at the present time.

"PASTOGĖ" (SHELTER), NO. 1 — NEW UNDERGROUND CULTURAL JOURNAL

The first issue of *Pastogė* (Shelter) was published in 1978 and took more than a year to reach the West. As a journal of ideas, however, it is not dated at all. It is youth-oriented and its concerns are philosophical, religious, literary, with the political overtones that are inevitable in a Soviet-occupied country. The goals of the journal are expressed in its editorial: "Free creation," cultural and religious "renewal," a demonstration that a "different" road is possible. Religious discrimination in Lithuania is analyzed and compared with the more liberal conditions elsewhere in East Europe in an article by the late **Mindaugas Tamonis** (d. 1975) who is eulogized as one of the "pillars" of the postwar Lithuanian youth. The journal contains poems by **Tamonis** and **Mykolas Šilaitis** (pseud.?) as well as a story by **Vincetas Rimša** (pseud.?). A large portion of the journal is devoted to excerpts from the works of **O.V. Milosz-Milašius** (1877-1939), a visionary Lithuanian poet who wrote in French. There are some critical comments on contemporary Lithuanian literature. Excerpts and summaries follow

THREE YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF MINDAUGAS TAMONIS

"... Let us forget those who wanted to see a sick man in him. Those who are the really sick ones, because normal people could not have tortured their fellow human being as they have... his henchmen or tools of henchmen..."

"Today we are beginning to realize that he was a man... to whom our everyday scale is not applicable... He knew his generation more deeply than anybody else — the generation born during the war years, growing up in the stuffiness of the postwar era, the technocratic generation with a rickety world view. It was to this generation that he dedicated *Zinia* (The Tidings), the main work of his life, as well as to the coming ones, those born in the 1950's, the new and mysterious generation of our hopes that gave us **Romas Kalanta**. (Kalanta was a Lithuanian student whose death by self-immolation in May, 1972, in protest against the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, triggered massive riots in the city of Kaunas. Ed.)

"His *Zinia*... is a confession... a mirror in which we see our own road... something we may call longing for God... *Zinia* has vitality, moral and intellectual power, which makes this work an authentic document and monument of his

generation. His destiny was to complete his human journey and to reach that fullness which only a few do attain..."

"Like a clairvoyant... he could not be silent. How else can one understand his last letter to the Central Committee — in our eyes, a hopeless and meaningless letter. The more so that in this letter he does not ask and does not demand but warns. He warns about the possible dehumanization and about the consequences of state atheism..."

"**Mindaugas Tamonis** and **Romas Kalanta**, and those who will follow them are the pillars marking the road traversed by young Lithuania in the postwar era. They are ourselves, they belong to us — for all times to come." (Tamonis died in 1975 under mysterious circumstances, probably at the hands of the KGB, after a forcible incarceration in psychiatric hospitals and treatment with mind-bending drugs. Ed.)

STORIES AND POEMS

A short story, "The Black Stars," by **Vincetas Rimša** (pseud.?) is dedicated to the memory of the *knjgnešiai* (book smugglers), Lithuanians who defied the Tsarist government's, ban on books in the Lithuanian alphabet (1864-1904) and smuggled literature into Lithuania from East Prussia. Parallels with the present situation are obvious.

Poems by **Tomas Kuršys** (pseudonym of the late **Tamonis**) and **Mykolas Šilaitis** (pseud.?) are on religious topics. One is dedicated to the memory of the Lithuanian emigre poet, **Henrika Radauskas**.

O.V. MIŁOSZ-MILAŠIUS: THREE LIVES

The First Installment of a Study on **Milosz's Life and Work** by **Algis Galinis** (pseud.). The study reveals that while the reputation of **O.V. Milosz** (1877-1939) is gradually increas-

ing in France, in Lithuania his creative work remains "inaccessible" because of the "language" barrier as well as for ideological reasons. His poetry is known a little, but his "metaphysical prose, the poetry of his thought, remains off-limits."

Official Lithuanian critics, such as **V. Kubilius**, who "reject the metaphysical explorations and went to distill the literary essence of his work, and nothing else," or who want to put his writings into a different context, run the risk of losing the "universal fulcrum" of **Milosz's** creation — "the Christian concept of man."

The conservative and neo-Thomist circles of the Roman Catholic Church have also been rather reserved towards **Milosz**. But this attitude seems to be changing, as attested by certain articles in the French Catholic press: "in our view, this is required by the present situation of the Catholic Church, when Catholicism's center of gravity tends to shift eastward, and **Milosz's** significance in this historic turning point is truly exceptional."

A BRIEF NOTE TO ROMUALDAS GRANAUSKAS

Julius Guoba (pseud.?) praises **Romualdas Granauskas** as the "most alive, authentic, vital, and... uncorrupt" among the best writers of the younger generation. His play, "The Rose Blooming at Night," however, is criticized for its "contrived and forced" portrait of the parish priest, who is simply another stereotype of a corrupt clergyman. The omission of "divine love" from the list of various types of love is a typical manifestation of the "ignorance" of the "entire generation of the forty-year olds with their sterilized roots." The play's "infantile and, therefore, irreproachable atheism" makes it suitable for printing. Question: is the official publishing house, **Vaga**, the only solution?

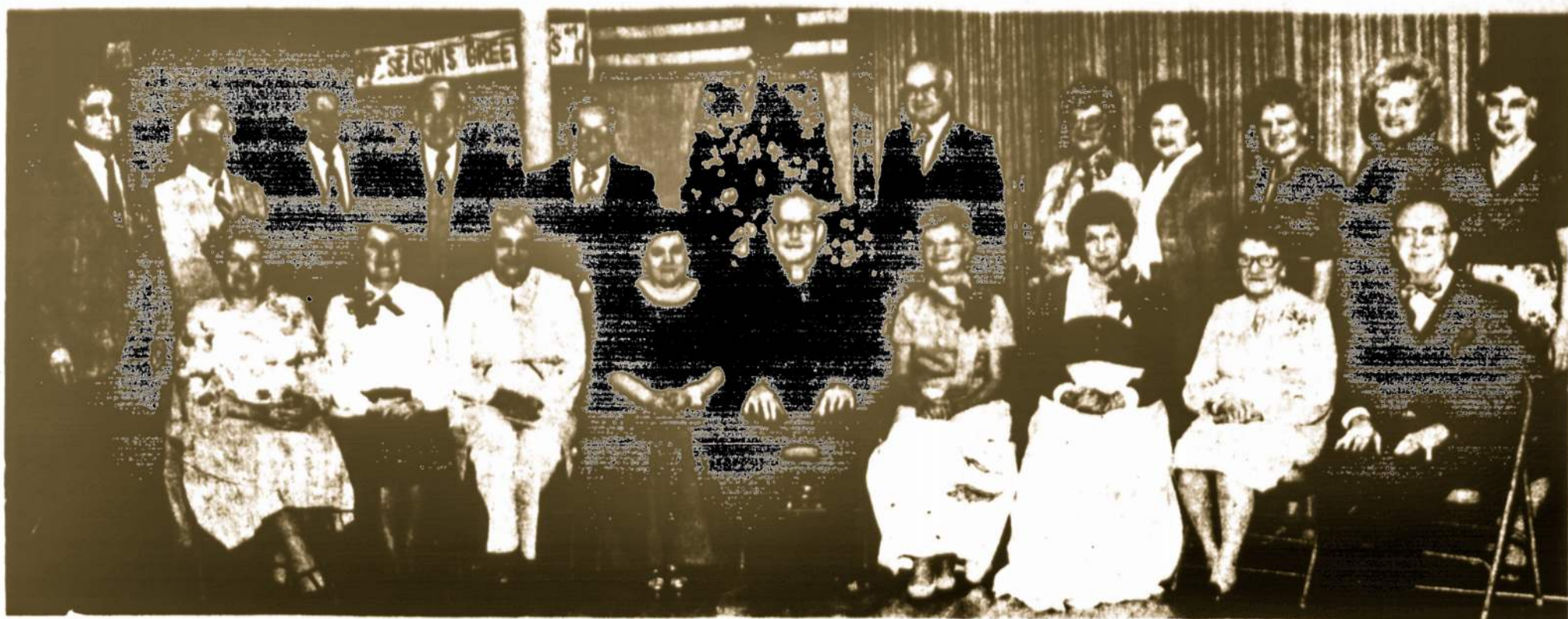
Nauja lietuviškų valgių receptų knyga

LITHUANIAN COOKERY

Anglų kalba paruošė agronomė **Izabelė Sinkevičiūtė**

Su plastikiniu aplanku; 316 puslapių. Puiki knyga lietuviškų valgių mėgėjoms ir šauni dovana draugėms amerikietėms. Kaina 8 doleriai

Užsakymus siųsti: "Garsas", P.O. Box 32 (71-73 So. Washington Str.), Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18703



St. Casimir's Parish sponsored the annual Christmas dinner-dance, held recently in the parish auditorium, which was artistically decorated by the committee. A catered dinner was served. Later in the evening, the Spot Dance and Grand March were held. Santa Claus presented gifts to the persons who held the lucky door admission ticket. "Lenny Pals" Charney Orchestra furnished music for dancing. Pictured seated, from left, Anna Rose, Jule Keder, Roselle Savakinas, Marian Chepalis, Rev. Peter Alisauskas, pastor and honorary chairman; Mildred Shuckstes, chairlady; Marian Tribendis, co-chairlady; Helen Nagy and George Nagy, ticket chairmen. Standing, Onofrio "Pep" Orlando, co-chairman; Joseph Rinkavage, who portrayed Santa Claus; Albert Bartush, Frank Keder, Al Chipalis, Frank Gerosky, Anna Walatkas, Rosalie Kizis, Helen Drew, Ruth Rinkavage, Mary Ann Rinkavage.

WYOMING KLONIO ŽINIOS

POLES HERE WORRY ABOUT FATE OF KIN

As the Russian bear prances boldly along the Polish border, thousands of Polish-Americans here in Wyoming Valley wait nervously for what very well could be the military takeover of their motherland.

The frustration is rooted in the knowledge there is very little the United States can do if the Russians decide military force is the best way to handle their errant satellite-bloc neighbor.

And there is obvious concern for relatives still living in Poland who must suffer the consequences of a Moscow takeover of Warsaw.

Latest census figures indicate at least 6 percent of the local population was either born in Poland or had parents who were. The percentage of second, third and fourth-generation descendants is obviously larger.

Dr. Bronis Kaslas, a professor emeritus at Wilkes College and a scholar on Eastern European politics, says the current crisis in Poland must be viewed within the framework of Soviet thinking.

"The Russian system," says Kaslas, "is based on the dogma that the Communist Party has found the ultimate solution to solving the world's problems."

Anyone who defies that system — in this case the Polish trade unions — is branded a criminal by the ruling Russian Politburo.

Kaslas, a native of that area of Lithuania now within Poland's border, was asked his opinion of the recent announcement by the Russian-controlled Warsaw Pact that it was confident the Polish Communist Party could overcome its "present difficulties."

"Those statements are only for world opinion," the professor said. "What the Russians will do isn't known now. If they feel their dogma is being threatened, they'll attack."

Military intervention, Kaslas concedes, would undoubtedly result in bloodshed.

"Russian heavy tanks and troops would move swiftly from

not only the Soviet Union, but from East Germany and Czechoslovakia as well," he said.

In order to prevent Russian intervention, says Kaslas, the trade union movement in Poland must allow itself to revert back to being an instrument of the Communist Party, not the workers its represents.

"I don't believe the labor unions will push their independence so far, it could destroy the system. The unions may end up settling for the knowledge that they have opened the eyes of the party to the plight of the working class," he said.

With guarded optimism, Kaslas predicts the tragedy of a military invasion will not take place.

But, he warns, the emotions between the Russians and the Poles are running high.

"The Soviet Union might think this is the time to settle the Polish matter once and for all," he said.

Dr. Helen Rushin, of Nanticoke, president of the Wilkes College Polish Room Committee, says in her opinion it is highly unlikely the Russians will use military force to quell the unrest in Poland.

A native of Poland who left Europe 27 years ago, Dr. Rushin bases that belief on Russia's entanglement in Afghanistan.

"The Russian army will watch Poland along the borders, but they won't use guns," she said. "The situation is coming down to a war of nerves."

Chester Stasyszyn, president of the Polonia Heritage Association, doesn't agree with Mrs. Rushin's assessment, claiming



Dr. Bronis Kaslas

instead that the Polish people's desire for freedom will force the Russians to intervene.

"Close to 90 percent of the Polish are Roman Catholic," he says. "They want to be independent, free to choose their own leaders." Should that military intervention come, says Stasyszyn, the Polish will try to retaliate the invaders.

And what should the role of the United States be if such an invasion took place?

I'd like to see not only this country, but the entire free world, help out Poland," he says, admitting such an action would probably result in World War III.

Mrs. Jule Znianiecki, past president of the Polish Room Committee, perhaps sums up best the resignation felt by the Polish-American community here when she says. "The bravery and courage of the Poles is not much against the armed might of the Russians."

BONSAVAGE ELECTED TAURAS PRESIDENT

Nomination and election of officers took place at a meeting of the Taurus Club of Luzerne County.

The following were elected to serve for 1981: president, William Bonsavage; vice president, Paul Skiptunas; secretary, Leonard Pallas; treasurer, Joseph

Sukoloski; financial secretary, John Timalonis; directors, Frank Nadwodney, Leo Petrowski, Michael Sendrick. The new officers will be installed in February.

INTERNATIONAL PEN FRIENDS

"International Pen Friends" has members in 135 countries dedicated to promoting international harmony by means of their friendly correspondence. Through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), they also endeavor to financially assist the underprivileged children of distressed nations.

International Pen Friends members may correspond through English, French,

CHRISTMAS EVE IN LITHUANIA

Scranton. Before the Communist Regime of atheists submerged the Baltic nation of Lithuania under its domination, Christmas Eve had been one of the most important Lithuanian family holidays. It was a day of peace, goodwill, and intimate family spirit.

The Kūčios, or Christmas eve dinner, was the highlight of the day. The table was spread with sweet, fresh hay (as a reminder of Christ's manger), and covered with a snow-white cloth reserved for the occasion. A crucifix and a plate of holy wafers (plotkelės) would be placed in the center of the table. The special feast began with the appearance of the evening star in the heavens. It was the sign heralding the birth of their Savior.

The head of the family began the meal with a prayer of thanksgiving for all the blessings of the past year and he included a fervent petition that the family remain intact during the approaching year. He next broke and shared the wafers with each member of the family and they, in turn, with each other. It was a moment of love and reconciliation.

The menu usually consisted of 12 courses symbolizing the 12 apostles: soup, fish, vegetables, small hard biscuits served with poppy seeds and honey sauce, sweet-sour oatmeal pudding, and other delicacies. It was a leisurely meal with conversation flowing in an atmosphere of peace and goodwill.

Because of the mystic aspect of the evening, old traditions, superstitions and legends were revived. Straws were drawn from under the tablecloth; the length of the straw determined the length of life; or, to the young, the length of the single life. Children ran frequently to the well to taste the water to see whether it had changed to wine, or they ran to the stable to eavesdrop on the animals. At one mystic moment on Christmas Eve, the water was believed to change into wine and the animals would converse in the

tongue of man.

After the meal the families living in the villages made every effort to attend the Piemenėlių Mišios (Shepherd's Mass) at midnight or at dawn. Those living in rural areas usually attended a later Eucharistic Celebration commemorating the entrance of divine Love into the world. Christmas day was spent at home or visiting the neighbors. The Lithuanian people's innate love for song found full expression as they sang their Christmas carols before entering the homes of friends or relatives.

Today, as far as can be

ascertained, the atheist overlords, have tried to replace the joys of Christmas with the celebration of Old Man Winter or that of Jack Frost, very sorry substitutes, indeed! Americans of Lithuanian descent, living in a land of freedom, pass the Christmas Eve traditions to their children and grandchildren. They keep alive among them the inspiring and beautiful, and sing their Lithuanian Christmas carols.

This last year, as in the past, Lithuanian Christmas Carols have been sung at the Everhart Museum, Nay Aug Park, on December 13th. The public was invited to join in the

"Garse" galima įsigyti šias knygas (Lietuvių ir anglų kalbomis)

Lithuanian Cookery, paruošė Izabelė Sinkevičiūtė. 316 puslapių, didelio formato. Kaina \$8.00

Amerikos Lietuvių Taryba, parašė Leonardas Šimutis. Kaina 3.00

Lietuvių — Anglų Kalbų Žodynas, paruošė B. Piesarskis ir B. Svecevičius. 512 psl., apie 27,000 žodžių. Kaina \$8.00

Anglų — Lietuvių Kalbų Žodynas, paruošė V. Baravykas. Apie 30,000 žodžių ir posakių

Kaina \$8.00
Šing-a-long and to admire the tree decked in Lithuanian ornaments, which were made out of pink and white straws. Kaina \$10.00

Popular Lithuanian Recipes, lietuviškų valgių mėgėjams Juzės Daužvardienės anglų kalba paruošta knyga. Kaina \$4.00

Vytautas The Great, kan J.B. Končiaus angliškai parašyta istorinė knyga. Kaina \$2.00

Lithuanian Self-Taught, M. Variakojytės - Inkenienės paruoštas rankvedis, prisilaikant Marlborough's sistemos. Kaina \$3.50

Vidudienio Sodai, Bernardo Brazdžionio eilėraščiai. Už šį poezijos rinkinį autorius laimėjo 1958-59 metų kultūros žurnalo "Aidų" literatūros premiją. Viršelio aplanką piešė dail. Telesforas Valius. Kaina \$4.00

Amerikos Lietuvių Vardynas, Jungtinių Amerikos Valstybių žinomesnių lietuvių biografinės žinios, su prof. Kazio Pakšto įvadu. 240 psl., kietais viršeliais. Kaina \$4.00

The Forty Years of Darkness, by Juozas Vaišnoras, translated by Joseph Boley. Suppression of the Lithuanian Press and how it was regained. Price ... \$2.00

Lithuanians in America, Dr. Antanas Kučas; translated by Joseph Boley \$6.00

The Brothers Domeika, a novel, Liudas Dovydenas; translated by Milton Stark \$6.00

Day of Shame, the truth about the murderous happenings aboard the Cutter Vigilant, during the Russian-American confrontation at Martha's Vineyard. The tragedy of Simas Kudirka, by Algis Rukšėnas \$9.00

Teismas Biržely, dokumentuotai aprašoma Nijolės Sadūnaitės teismas ir kaltinimas. Parašė Jurgis Gliuodis. Kaina \$2.00

Simas (The story of Seaman Simas Kudirka), by Jurgis Gliuoda. Translated from Lithuanian by Kęstutis Čižikėnas and J. Žemkalnis \$5.00

"Garso" Administracija
P.O. Box 32 (71-73 So. Washington Str.) Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18703

SŪDUVOS LEIDINIAI

A. Bendoraius — LIETUVOS GEOGRAFIJA. Kaina 3 dol.

Kun. J. Burkaus — TERESĖ NAUMANAITĖ. Kaina 3 dol.

Teisininko Pr. Šulo — KAIP SUDAROMI TESTAMENTAI. Kaina 3 dol. Su testamentine forma (anglų kalba) 3.50 dol.

Šias knygas galima gauti "Garso" administracijoje: P.O. Box 32 (71-73 So. Washington St.), Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18703.