

SOWING THE SEED OF FRATERNALISM

Sermon by the Rev. Magr. John Balkūnas, P.A., for the 68th Convention of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance, June 12, 1981, St. George's Church, Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Members of the Alliance and Friends

The Gospel just read in the Mass today has a deep meaning and a clear message to this convention. The Parable of the Seeds has great meaning to the Jewish people, for farming was one of their major occupations. Where the Autumn rains came in November, they would begin to break up the soil with a kind of rough plowing and set out to seed. Christ mentions in the parable, that some seed fell on a footpath. The typical Jewish farm was a criss-crossed by many footpaths, they were a common sight. The birds in Palestine, especially the sparrows, are most voracious. Frequently a sower can be seen followed by a swarm of birds ready to eat any seed he may drop behind him.

The second type of soil on which the seed fell was rock ground. This too is very typical in Palestine. The ground here is a thin layer of humus soil with large patches of limestone showing through in many places. The seed that would fall on this limestone would soon wither away after it had sprouted.

The third type of soil on which seed fell was among thorns. Thorn bushes were a constant menace to the Palestinian farmer. His light plow was unable to cope with the heavy briars and thorns that infested his fields. Seed that fell among these thorns would naturally be choked off.

The last type of soil mentioned was good soil. Seed landing there grew and yielded grain a hundred or sixty or thirty fold.

Meaning of the Parable

Christ taught this parable to the Galileans while seated in a boat only a short distance from shore. He did not explain its meaning to them at the time. However, when the disciples were with him alone, they asked him its meaning. Christ went on to explain.

The sower is Almighty God. The seed is God's message to men. The footpath on which some seed fell represents the man who heard God's message but did not understand it. The birds, representing the evil one stole it away from him.

The seed falling on patches of rock signified the man who hears the message, but worldly anxiety and the lure of Money choke it off. Such a man produces no yield. The seed sown on good soil represents the man who hears the message and takes it in and bears fruit giving a yield hundred or sixty or thirty fold.

Minutes of the 68th Convention of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance

(Continued from page 5)

The Foundation now has \$6,071. The Foundation now has the ability to accomplish a very meaningful task. The ALC membership and directors have greatly helped and cooperated in the establishment of the Foundation!

**Leonardas J. Simutis
July 12, 1981**

Motion by Dr. Vladas Simaitis to accept the report of Dr. Leonard J. Simutis, second by Vyto Jucius. Motion accepted unanimously.

Mrs. Patricia Mack of the Benevolent Committee reported on how important it is for Fraternalism and Benevolence among our own members, and that this is an important factor throughout the entire organization.

Motion by Casimir Kizis to accept Mrs. Mack's report, second by Albina Poska. Motion carried unanimously.

American Lithuanian soil

To draw a lesson from this parable, ask yourselves what kind of soil the Lithuanian Communities had in the past. Our Catholic Alliance came into existence 95 years ago. This year is the 75th anniversary of incorporation as a fraternal organization. Many Springs have past, many drives have been made. Many of the finest sowers of our nationality have been in the field. In sweat, tears and blood, so to speak, worked hard to unite, teach and drill members for a better life, higher standards and equal opportunities. Indeed we are proud of our heritage. But can we boast of large membership, imposing accomplishments, indeed, memorable deeds and impressive heights reached? Yes and no.

Dear Delegates: I shall not venture into the past. That belongs to the Convention floor. But I should aim for a better understanding of our aims and purposes. Conventions are called for such purposes. Sowing of the seed of brotherhood and fraternity is always in season. The past seed was good. The past sowers were experts. If the yield was not satisfactory then we must look into the ground. The soil could have been: on crossing pathways, rocky or thistles thorns or good soil. The fraternity ideals should have taken deep roots in our Lithuanian life.

What is a Fraternity?

What do we mean by Fraternal Benevolence Alliance? The primary function of fraternalism is to bring together men with kindred interests, thoughts and ideals. So that mutual benefit may be enjoyed Fraternalism is to be valued for what is in it, and not for what may be gotten out of it. Fraternalism owes its enduring power to the fact that it develops friendship. With a friend you do not have to be on your guard. You do not have to be careful, he understands, he is like fire, that purifies all you do. He is like water, that cleanses all you say. He is like wine, that warms you up to the bone. Yes, in fraternity you find oneness, agreement, help and support.

In true friendship there must be both: give and take. Patience and forbearance are its essential characteristics. We should not ask too much if we expect to keep friendship, and most of all, we must be ready to give ourselves at our very best to meet the needs and expectations of our friends.

The power of fraternalism lies in concerted action. Without unity and cooperation there can be no progress. The tremendous expansion of industrial combination the great aggregation of capitol, the increasing tendency to form clubs, societies and organizations for specific ends, and, most insistent of all, the demand for a Federation of Nations, all these demonstrate the growing conviction that in con-

certed action alone lies the power of mankind to effect great and enduring results. That was the kind of seed our Alliance was sowing to this time.

Expectant Results

What are the results? The seed, no doubt, was good. But what about the soil? From experience we know that we have neutral people, doubting persons, fearful or objecting ones, much good will was

shown by many. The good soil was the patriotic, religious American-Lithuanian elements, amongst the hard working populace.

Farmers after sowing the seed wait for good weather, sunshine and warm rains. They also pray for a good harvest. So also we pray gathered here in Rochester that our sowing in fraternal fields would be blessed by God. May the Holy Spirit inspire us and guide us during these convention days.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF LITHUANIA'S TRAGIC JUNE DAYS

Just 40 years ago on the night of June 13th-14th, 1941, a horrifying experience awakened hundreds of Lithuanians from their sleep. It was the beginning of a dreaded nightmare, the first massive exile from their beloved homeland. Between one and four of the wee hours of the morning they were given less than an hour to gather a few necessary items for their unknown destination.

Between the 14th and 22nd of June, 1941, over 30,000 men, women, and children were hauled in box-cars to Soviet slave labor camps. The plan had been to deport 700,000 Lithuanians, about a third of the nation, but the onslaught of the Nazis interrupted the operation. It was after the defeat of Hitler that the Communists resumed the deportations to reach their quota.

Because the Soviets were on the winning side when World War II ended, they succeeded in keeping their heinous crime away from the knowledge of the civilized world. It was more important at the time to condemn the Nazis. But the outrageous acts of the "Red Holocaust" must not be forgotten for many of the same reasons that the Nazis or "Black Holocaust" must be remembered.

The persistent policy of the atheistic government of the Soviets in Lithuania has been, from the very start, to destroy the nation by destroying Christianity. The faithful, as shown in the underground *Chronicles of the Catholic Church*, are

subjected to persecution and harassment. Many Christians, to avoid discrimination in education and work areas, are forced, to practice their faith under "catacomb" conditions as Christians in the early days of persecution. It is only when the whole truth is known that the civilized world will realize the exorbitant price paid by the Lithuanians who retain their faith in God.

It has been discovered that deportations from the 3 Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia had been planned by the Soviets while the countries were still free. Preparations for mass deportations of the Lithuanians, called the "purging of Lithuania" were initiated soon after her illegal incorporation into the Soviet Union on August 3, 1940.

Lithuanian deportees were chosen from all walks of life and represented all ages, not excluding infants, pregnant women, or the very sick and very old. According to the data collected by the Lithuanian Red Cross, 34,260 persons were deported during the Tragic June Days. Forced from their homes and taken to railroad stations, they were loaded into freight cars, 50 to 60 per car, although only 25 persons was considered the limit. Husbands were separated from their wives, and, in many cases, children from their mothers.

The victims, locked in box-cars lacking air, without food or water, were forced to linger under inhuman conditions for

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL INFORMATION

Asian Convention Supports Lithuanian Freedom

The World Anti-Communist League held its convention on August 3-5 in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan. Taking part were Mr. Peter Wytenus, President of the American Friends of Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations and his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Lauraine, who represented the Lithuanian American Council. They introduced a resolution requesting freedom for Lithuania, which resolution was adopted by the convention. The resolution expresses a desire that the members of the United Nations grant membership also to Lithuania because that country was a member of the League of Nations. The resolution also encourages the free nations to exert pressure that the Soviet Union restore independence to Lithuania.

Resolution Concerning V. Skuodis

Senators Charles H. Percy and Alan J. Dixon have introduced Resolution No. 200 into the U.S. Senate concerning the Lithuanian political prisoner Vytautas Skuodis-Benedict Scott. The resolution states that V. Skuodis was born in Chicago on March 21, 1929 and he is by right of birth a citizen of the United States of America. He was a member of the Lithuanian Helsinki Group and now is condemned to seven years in a hard labor camp and kept in the Mardovian ASSR.

USA Must Expand Information

The Honorable James A. Courter, Congressman from New Jersey, in the House of Representatives on July 13, 1981, stated that the Soviet Union every year distributes 180 million books and pamphlets around the world while the U.S. distributes about 200,000. In 1981 the Soviets offered some 4,500 college scholarships for Latin Americans, the U.S. 181. The Soviets broadcast over 2000 hours a week in 82 different languages; our Voice of America broadcasts 891 hours a week in only 39 Languages.

Life insurance is actually an estate builder in providing a fund to be payable in the event of death.

GOLDEN JUBILEE FOR SISTER MICHAEL MARIE

Sister Michael Marie Vershauskas celebrated her golden jubilee as a Sister of Jesus Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother.

Sister is the daughter of the late Anthony Vershauskas and Dorothy Miskas Vershauskas. She has two sisters living in Pittston; Mrs. Anna Banos and Mrs. Margaret Keen; a sister Kathryn Bently living in Florida and two brothers Frank and Anthony of New Jersey.

Her elementary days were spent in Saint Mary's of the Assumption School in Pittston. She then entered the Religious Community at Elmhurst, Pa. and completed her high school and college at Marywood, Scranton.

Sister served the community in teaching assignments in Mass., Conn., Kansas and Pa. Among the Pennsylvania missions she has served in the following parishes: St. Casimir's, Lynwood; St. Mary's Annunciation, Kingston; Holy Trinity, Wilkes Barre; St. Casimir's Pittston; St. Joseph's, Duryea; St. Michael's, Scranton; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Carbondale.

Sister is presently stationed at Saint Mary's Villa Nursing Home in Elmhurst, where she is director of Novenas for the Pennsylvania area.



Sister Vershauskas

To mark the occasion, a Celebrated Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated in her home parish, St. Casimir's Pittston, on June 7, followed by a reception at Convention Hall.

Sister renewed her professional vows with other jubilarians at the Motherhouse of their Religious Community in Brockton, Mass. on June 20. This ceremony was followed by a reception at Christos, Brockton, Mass.

several days until all were entrained. As might be expected, the anxiety and apprehension engendered by waiting, and the long, tortuous journey into exile killed the weak and the sick. Those who survived the ordeal faced starvation, disease, and the pain of a frigid climate which killed most of the enslaved people. Very few survived to bear witness to the crimes perpetrated against them in the northern wastelands of Siberia and the Soviet Far East.

Dalia Ginkevicius (now 54) a former physician in the village of Laukva, who had survived the ordeal, lived to tell it like it was. Understanding and speaking Russian she wrote of her

experiences in an article (1979) in the second volume of the Russian publication, "Pamiat" (Memory). Collected by Russian dissidents in the Soviet Union the articles were sent to the West. Written in Russian, it was translated into Lithuanian and then into English.

Her story "The Frozen Inferno" most vividly and simply portrays her experiences when, as a girl of 14 years she met suffering and pain with her people in a living death, the Red Holocaust. The tragic June days will, sooner or later, alert the world that the Soviet crimes equaled those of the Nazis in their efforts at genocide against nations.

Sister Virginia Vytell, CJC

An offer to join the LITHUANIAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Everyone is saving some money for the future. Most of us depend on the local branches of major banks and savings associations to keep our hard earned money and to pay us an adequate rate of interest. But is the interest on our savings adequate and does it keep up with the rate of inflation? We have a better solution for your money problems — become a member of a Credit Union,

A LITHUANIAN CREDIT UNION!

This is what we have to offer for you:

1. **7% INTEREST** on regular "day of deposit to day of withdrawal" passbook savings accounts. (That's 1.5% better than what you get in a bank).

2. **12% INTEREST** on Credit Union Share Certificates that are especially attractive to small depositors.

You can obtain Share Certificates for as little as \$500 or \$1000 or in larger sums (in \$500 units) for 3 months, 6 months or longer periods of time. The annual yield is in excess of 12%. (Isn't that better than the 5.5% for Savings Banks accounts?)

3. **HIGHEST INTEREST ON MONEY MARKET CERTIFICATES.** These Savings Certificates are issued for \$10,000 deposits and pay not a penny less than the bank issued Certificates.

4. **ALL DEPOSITS ARE INSURED UP TO \$100,000** by National Credit Union Administration. Your money is just as safe here as in any bank.

5. **CONVENIENT LOANS** to all members at the lowest possible interest rates. You can borrow money to buy a new car, to repair your home or for any other worthwhile project. Credit Union is always here to help you.

6. **FINANCIAL ADVICE**, for you and for your family — free of charge service for all Credit Union members.

The KASA Lithuanian Credit Union in little more than a year has reached one and a half million dollars in deposits! Through advertising, donations and services it helps the Lithuanian community and its individual members.

You should be one of us and you are welcome to join us. Come in, write or phone to KASA LITHUANIAN CREDIT UNION, 86-01 114th Street, Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11418. Tel. (212) 441-6799.

For your convenience our offices are open every working day from 9 AM till 9 in the evening. Fridays till 6 PM and Saturdays till 5 PM.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

WYOMING KLONIO ŽINIOS

NEW EXHIBITION AT PITTSTON'S GALLERY OF ARTS

Landscapes, seascapes, city scenes and space exploration depicted in art are on display through September at the Gallery of Arts, 381 N. Main St., Pittston.

Included in the exhibit are works of local, nationally known, European artists and private collectors. A highlight of the display, according to Gallery director Dr. Bronis J. Kaslas are two landscapes painted by Vaclavas Kosciuska, descendent of Polish patriot and American freedom fighter, Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

Another highlight of the exhibit are works of Blakely artist Frank Wyso.

Works by Roger Clough, a Philadelphia resident who loves to sketch this area, include Campbell's Ledge, the Mill

Street Bridge, which spans the Susquehanna River between West Pittston and Pittston and a railroad bridge connecting Duryea with West Pittston.

Wilkes College Professor Chester Colson joins other local artists in contributing works for the exhibit. He presents "Magic Landscapes," a cubist piece of art and "Low Tide," a typical seacoast cottage scene, according to Dr. Kaslas, a retired Wilkes College history professor and author.

Astronauts walking on the moon, portrayed on canvas by Pittston native artist Richard Howe, now of New England, surrounded by color space exploration photographs, gives the exhibit a modern touch.

The display also contains a work of the German 19th century master Adolf-Frederik Erdman Menzel who lived 1815-1905.

Dr. Kaslas, a native of Lithuania, says he established the Gallery of Arts in an effort to support local artist who might never have had the chance to exhibit their works.

He adds since the Gallery's inception, the public has warmly received each exhibit.

In addition to the present display, a display of rare books, some dating to the 1500s is featured as are collections of gaily colored Easter eggs and samples of decoupage.

The Gallery is open to the public free of charge Sundays from 2-5 p.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Two more members of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance have attained the distinction of having outlived the Table of Mortality on which Whole Life Insurance was computed.

Mrs. Agnes Zoba (Agnieska Mackeliūnienė Zoba) celebrated her 96th birthday on February 10, 1981. She was born in Lithuania, emigrated to the United States at the age of 19; settled in Coaldale, Pa., where she lived for many years. She also lived for a while in New Philadelphia, Pa.

Two marriages were terminated by death of her spouses. First husband was Kazys Mackeliūnas and second husband, Andrius Zoba. Both marriages were childless, but she adopted three children — Nellie, Anne and Frank Zantres. Nellie is now Mrs. Thomas Brennan and lives in Pottsville; Anne is Mrs. Fischer residing in New York, Frank is now deceased. He lived in California.

Mrs. Zoba is alert, her eyesight is good and she is able to perform some chores for herself. Until a few years ago, her greatest enjoyment was attending Lithuanian Day picnics at Lakewood Park in Barnesville, Pa.

Presently she is a guest at the Geriatrics Center of Coaldale State General Hospital.



Mrs. Agnes Zoba

She has one living sister, Mrs. Eva Wensky, age 93 and very alert, who lives in Minersville. Mrs. Zoba originally enrolled in the Alliance on November 19, 1928 and was affiliated with Lodge 18 in Tamaqua.

Aleksandras Yekalis was born June 17, 1885 in the village of Katliniskas and baptized in the parish church in Katoviskas.

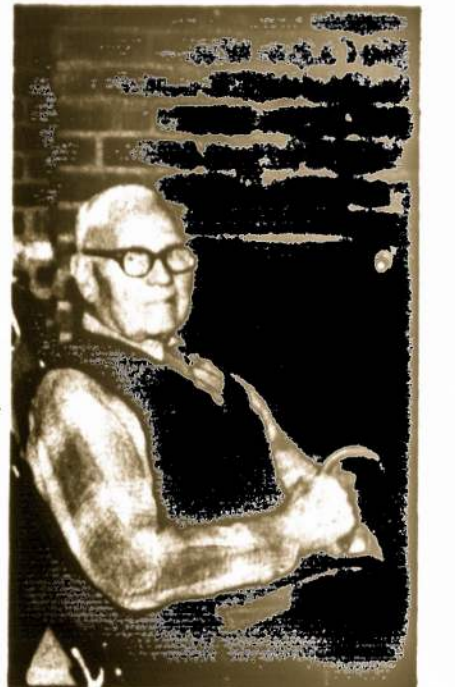
He emigrated to the United States in October, 1904. Married Veronica Bernatas in September, 1919, at St. Michael's Church in Simpson, Pa. They had five children: Leo and Stasia now living in Clifton, N.J.;

Stanley in Jacksonville, Florida; Rita Klimokoski in Chester, N.J., and Frances Fedor in Carbondale, Pa. Also 10 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Mrs. Yekalis was also born in Lithuania. She died in 1948.

Mr. Yekalis worked in the anthracite coal mines for 46 years.

He has made his home with daughter, Frances Fedor, since 1957. He is mentally alert, his general health and hearing are good. He keeps abreast of current events by listening to radio and television broadcasts. His favorite pastime is watching baseball on television. In favorable weather he enjoys sitting in the park in Carbondale, talking with people, and visiting with friends and senior citizens.

He has been affiliated with the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance since 1923. Heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Zoba and Mr. Yekalis!



Aleksandras Yekalis

TONY DOUGLAS SELECTED "PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR"

Tony Douglas, the pharmacist/owner of the Medicine Shoppe, Nanticoke, has been selected from hundreds of pharmacists across the country to be "Pharmacist of the Year." This nationally recognized award is presented to the pharmacist most involved in curbing drug abuse.

Exceptional dedication to state and community programs plus drug and pharmaceutical expertise distinguished Douglas. "If any man deserves an award, it's Tony Douglas," said Frank Patts, chief training officer for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Corrections.

Besides counseling teenage drug addicts, teaching at King's College, and lecturing community organizations about drugs, Douglas devotes considerable time to law enforcement training in drug abuse. He addresses local officers and park rangers meetings and assists with drug security inspections of Pennsylvania correctional institutions.

According to Patts "he quickly detects chemical highs" usually traced to cleaning agents, paint thinners, glue or other

household items. "I not only marvel at Tony's knowledge of drugs and pharmacology," said Patts, "but he knows the street language of drug users, too."

Commissioner of Pennsylvania Corrections, Ronald J. Marks, notes correctional employees have been "greatly

assisted by Tony Douglas' training and shared knowledge of drug related problems."

Douglas will be awarded the "Pharmacist of the Year" plaque at the National Association of Retail Druggists' convention in San Antonio, Tex., on Sept. 20. Park Davis, Inc., a pharmaceutical company sponsors the award that will honor the pharmacy school of Douglas' choice with a \$1,000 scholarship.

RITTER PRAISED BY AMERICAN ETHNIC GROUPS

Lehigh Valley Congressman Don Ritter has been singled out for special praise by two major organizations of American ethnics.

The Joint Baltic American National Committee presented him with its Baltic Freedom Award and the National Confederation of American Ethnic Groups, Inc., cited him for aiding ethnic Americans in Congress.

Ritter was one of only 14 Members of Congress to receive the Baltic Freedom Award, which recognized his strong support of the Soviet-occupied states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The citation from the National Confederation of American Ethnic Groups praised him for "meritorious service in Congress promoting the values and interests of Americans of European and Asian descent."

The second-term Pennsylvania Congressman also received a standing ovation late last month when he addressed the World Slovak Congress in Toronto.

Ritter represents a large number of ethnic communities and has been particularly active in soliciting the views of his ethnic constituents. Immediately after his election to Congress, he formed an Ethnic Advisory Council to assist in this.

Ritter also has been a strong advocate of human rights and, as a Helsinki Commissioner, has worked hard to win compliance with the 1975 Helsinki Accords, particularly in Eastern Europe.

"I'm proud to represent a Lehigh Valley rich in ethnic traditions," Ritter said. "And I'm deeply honored to have my work in this area recognized. I look forward to working with the Joint Baltic American National Committee, various Slovak organization and the National Confederation of American Ethnic Groups in the future. I hope to continue to earn their praise."

ST. CASIMIR'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST

St. Casimir's Holy Name Society held their Father-Son communion Breakfast, Sunday, June 14, following the 9 o'clock Mass. A catered breakfast was served in the church hall.

Five members that belonged to the Society for over fifty years, were honored with plaques presented by Frank Keder, recording secretary and Onofrio "Pep" Orlando, president.

Honorary members are: William Daileda, Casimir Kizis, Peter Shuckstis, Edwin Sites and Peter Yakaitis.

LCA MEMBER'S DEATHS

(Continued from page 7)

Mrs. Celia Slick Ritenburg — Lodge 2 — 1145 N. Main St., Forest City, Pa. 18421. Died: June 18, 1981. Buried: June 22, 1981 St. Anthony's Cemetery, Forest City, Pa.

Mrs. Katarina Koslap — Lodge 90 — 45 Shackamaxon St., Hamilton Square, N.J. 08690. Died: July 5, 1981. Buried: St. Gabriel's Cemetery, Hazleton, Pa.

Mrs. Joan Kristaponis — Lodge 222 — 3838 High Meadow Dr., San Angelo, Texas 76901. Died: July 12, 1981. Buried: July 15, 1981 Calvary Cemetery, San Angelo, Texas.

Mrs. Tessie Shumock — Lodge 198 — 418 West Pine St., Shamokin, Pa. 17866. Died: April 17, 1981.

Mrs. Mary Gailius — (Gailles) — Lodge 87 — 3524 Massachusetts Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212. Died: June 13, 1981. Buried: June 16, 1981 St. Casimir's Cemetery, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mrs. Kazimiera Sadauskienė — Lodge 8 — (Charlotte Sadowski) — 6800 Mayfield Rd., Apt. 309., Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44124. Died: July 26, 1981. Buried: July 29, 1981 Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio.

Mrs. Helen Lenkaitis — Lodge 183 — 335 Baltimore Ave., West Pittston, Pa. 18643. Died: August 1, 1981. Buried: August 4, 1981. St. Casimir's Cemetery, Pittston, Pa.

GUDAIS LANDS 28-POUND MUSKIE

Al Gudaitis, 51 Wilkes Lane, Wilkes-Barre, caught a 40 1/2 inch, 28-pound muskie recently while fishing the Susquehanna River near the Falls Bridge.

Gudaitis said he was drifting in a boat using nightcrawlers when the huge fish struck.

Mr. Gudaitis and his family are members of LCA Lodge 17, Wilkes Barre.

BRONIS VOVERIS BECOMES CAPTAIN

Bronis J. Voveris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bronis J. Voveris of 10 Center Street, Pittston, has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of captain.

Voveris is a security police officer at Hahn Air Base, West Germany, with the 50th Security Police Squadron.

He is a 1977 graduate of King's College, Wilkes-Barre.

LITHUANIAN WOMEN'S CLUB PRESENTS AWARD



Lithuanian Women's Club presented an award to Becky Butcofski, granddaughter of Mrs. Frank Butcofski, at a recent meeting at Hotel Sterling.

Shown at the award ceremony are from left: Mrs. Frank Butcofski, Becky Butcofski, recipient, and Helen Eagen, president.

Becky was graduated from Bishop O'Reilly High School and is attending King's College, while at Bishop O'Reilly, she was a member of the glee club,

strutter's squad and participated in other activities. She also has studied piano for 10 years. At King's she plans to major in the business field.

Meeting opened with prayer by Vern Trusko. Mrs. Kitty Szakalium reported on trips for members.

Prizes were awarded to: Helen Eagen; second, Florence Sitkeak; third, Carol Beauling. Meetings were adjourned for the summer until September.