

VIENYBĖ

Volume two

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1938.

Number Fortieth

FALL FESTIVALS NEEDED IN LITHUANIA

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Despite the hustle and bustle of our American life, we have somehow struck a happy medium in our way of life and thus have preserved our national sanity. While we may have our American "swing" with its none too graceful dancing by our adolescent and youth-minded adults, we have also cultivated an interest in the ballet and the more sober kind of music, and from this sustained public interest, there may emerge a distinctive American ballet, opera and symphony.

This year has been a milestone marking in the interest that the work-a-day man and woman have shown in the arts and music. A good demonstration of this has been in the vast throngs that have gathered at rustic, sylvan and aquatic settings in or about our large urban centers to hear symphonies conducted by outstanding conductors and see ballet and theatrical spectacles with little or no expense to the audience.

In August of this year, there was a unique spectacle held at Silvermine, one of the most rustic of Connecticut villages, so called because of the nearby site of America's first silver mining venture. Here was a medieval festival of art in its typical setting, inspired and executed by the artists themselves for an admiring public. The artists themselves pitched in and did their bit. The sculptor dropped his chisel to take up the ax. The writer forsook her pen for the sickle. And out of their labors grew a four acre clearing in the forest.

The artists did things like this in the 15th century in Europe, gathering at a chosen spot to jointly hear the creative work of musical composers and exhibit their artistic work for a few days. Such then was the festival of the Artists Guild of Silvermine with its featured exhibits of paintings, etchings, sculptures and composers contests. Here is a worthy idea for some Lithuanian Artist Guild to follow in furthering the artistic talents of the Lithuanian masses.

There was another outstanding musical event held in the adjoining state of Massachusetts which is worthy to mention and that was the Berkshire Symphony Festival held in the latter part of this summer at the Tanglewood in Berkshire. In this case the newly dedicated "music shed," made possible by the labor of 600 volunteer workers, was the scene of the fifth season of the musical festival. Here was heard the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Serge Koussevitzky in the orchestrations of renowned musical masters. Performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony marked the openings of the concert series. It may be of interest to note that the only soloists to be heard throughout the festival were the quartet which sang the "Ninth Symphony" at the initial performance: Paul Althouse, tenor; Norman Cordon, base; Jeannette Vroeland, soprano; and our own Lithuanian singer who aspired to Metropolitan Opera, Anna Kaskas, contralto.

Here, again, is a suggestion to develop the stagecraft and symphonic ventures in the rural districts of Lithuania. Here is a sphere where the Catholicized Lithuanian, the Germanized Lithuanian and the Lithuanized Jew can collaborate as a united people, each contributing in his own way something to the culture of the Lithuanian nation.

L. J. Esunas.

NO HOMESICKNESS AT WORLD'S FAIR

Homesickness will have no place at the New York World's Fair 1939. Visitors hailing from near or far corners of the country will be able to dispel nostalgia by dropping into Home Town Restaurant, Inc., where food specialties from different localities will be served and people from each section will foregather.

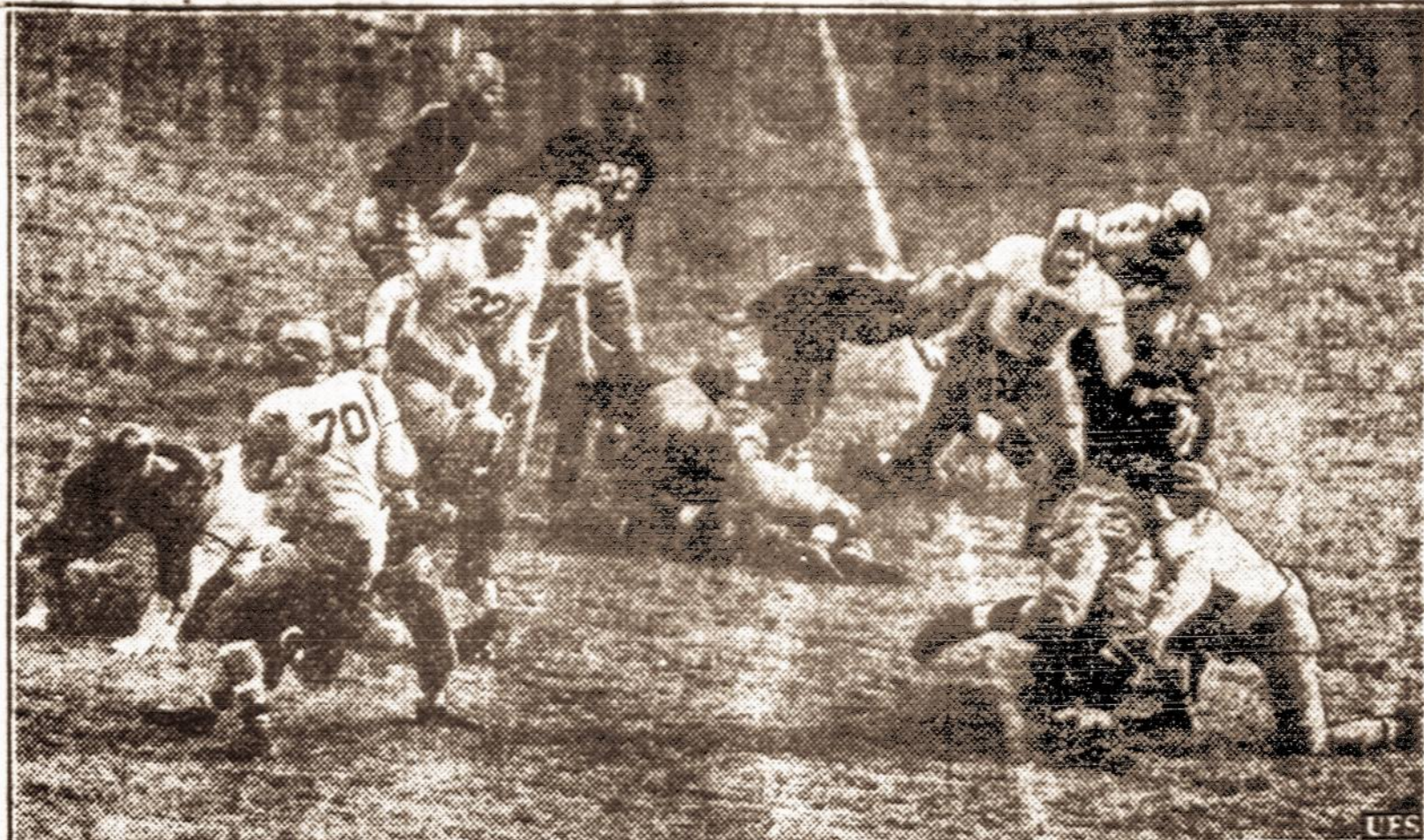
Such is the intention of the organization which has signed contracts with the Fair Corporation for 53,000 square feet of space in the main exhibit area, according to an announcement made the other day (Tuesday) by Grover A. Whalen, President of the Fair Corporation. The circular site comprises the center of Lincoln Square, the major junction at the south end of Rainbow Avenue between the Foreign, State and Industrial exhibit zones, and the vast Amusement section surrounding Fountain Lake.

Twenty major breweries scattered throughout the country are participating in Home Town Restaurant, which will be operated by National Hotels Management, Inc. Each concern will occupy a segment in the circular building. Each segment contains an indoor restaurant and also gives onto a garden area surrounding the structure, where meals can be served in the open air. At each segment will be served those regional dishes for which the traveler has a particular craving.

Boston baked beans and other "down east" specialties will be offered in the Boston section. The wanderer from New Orleans will find shrimps creole prepared with all the delicate flavors of home. There will be fried chicken Maryland; Philadelphia pepper pot; Chicago beef; Milwaukee sausage; Cincinnati wienerschnitzel; steaks from Kansas City, than which there are no better in the esteem of Kansas; and bogan, that stew of rich aroma, from Missouri. The restaurant entire will provide a kind of gastronomic map of the United States.



SEEKS DIVORCE—Martha Delaney Davis, shown in Reno, Nev., where she is seeking a divorce from J. Richard (Dixie) Davis, lawyer for the Dutch Schultz gang and star witness against James J. Hines, Tammany leader, in the recent trial in New York. When Davis was arrested in Philadelphia, he was in company with Hope Dare, former show girl.



IRISH BEATS THE ARMY—Notre Dame football team struck twice in the final quarter of the game with the army in New York, and came through with a 19-7 victory, as more than 79,000 spectators in Yankee Stadium watched the contest. This action picture shows Piepul, Irish fullback (71), making a gain of 11 yards. Army hasn't beaten Notre Dame since 1931.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. JOHN S. LOPOTTO'S TESTIMONY

"Ages of subjugation, centuries marked by foreign intrusion and exploitation, have not caused the Lithuanian people to surrender anything which was vital to their perpetuation as a distinct people in language, customs, or traits.—for Lithuania, prior to 1569, was free and independent; it was a powerful country and by the strength of its arms the Teutonic pressure towards the east was arrested at Tannenberg in 1410; moreover, Lithuania, in the middle ages, saved western civilization from destruction by repeatedly rolling back the Mongolian hordes.

"But the union with Poland in 1569 had a very sad meaning to all Lithuanians—they will never permit its recurrence; this union widened the gap between nobility and peasantry; the former carried favor with the Poles and permitted Polish penetration; the latter were reduced to serfdom.

"After the Armistice, it was the valor of the ill-equipped Lithuanian army which prevented the union of Russian Bolsheviks and German Spartacists. The sense of property—owning is deeply implanted in the Lithuanian people; Lithuanians cannot and will not accept bolshevism.

"Lithuanians have shown the world what they can do in adversity: lack of food, medical supplies, rolling stock and every essential thing has not dampened their zeal for the establishment of a free and independent state.

"There are approximately 1,000,000 Lithuanians in America—mostly American citizens. They have served America's cause well; they have bought more than fifty million dollars' worth of Liberty Bonds; they have sent over fifty thousand men to fight for the cause of humanity. They have done this gladly, wholeheartedly, for they desire to maintain the prestige of America as a protector of the oppressed, as the liberator of subjected peoples," spoke Dr. Lopatto.

(Regardless of the efforts of Mr. Lopatto and many other well-wishers, the American Government on August 23, 1920 still maintained that Russia—the Russia of 1917—must herself be a party to any readjustment of her frontiers.)

It will be a Sunday well spent November 13 evening if you will attend VIENYBES banquet at Alliance Hall, beginning at 7:30. Admission \$1.50

BROOKLYN RADIO HOUR BACK ON WBNX

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Because of the popular demand for a more powerful radio station from which Lithuanian programs might be heard, William Matusевич, director of the Lithuanian Radio Hour has once again engaged the facilities of the far-reaching station WBNX (1350 Kcl.). Lithuanian Radio Hour programs may now be heard at nine o'clock every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning. The Radio Hour general offices are still located at 390 Lorimer Street, Brooklyn, and the telephone is still Evergreen 7-3787.

"JAUNIMAS" SUSPENDS OPERATIONS

CHICAGO, Ill.—Unconfirmed reports assert that Jaunimas, the only independent Youth publication on the Lithuanian American scene, had suspended operations. The sprightly monthly newspaper edited by Juozas Poshka was to have celebrated its second anniversary this month.

It has been impossible to discover whether Jaunimas had definitely folded up or whether it was in the process of reorganization. The only information available is that "Jaunimas packed up everything in its office and dumped it into Naujoji Gadyne establishment." VIENYBE's English page correspondent hopes to reach Mr. Poshka for a statement soon.

FAREWELL LIUTAS!

NEW YORK, N. Y.—At the October meeting of the Lithuanian Alumni-Students club held in St. Albans our esteemed "Scribe" said a hurried "Sudiev" and rushed off for last-minute steamer packing. Claude Liutas, son of Linden's well known clergyman, was leaving for Lithuania on a two-years scholarship to Vytautas The Great University in Kaunas. Claude was so intensely resolved to do "Big Things" that the native sons had better get into training to keep up with our hard slashing tennis player.

To offset this temporary loss of a loyal member, two pupils of Dr. J. J. Raymonds Columbia classes were welcomed to the group. Both Misses, Sharka and Pirstukas, have a good background of Lithuanian training and should help to keep alive the interests in Lithuanian history and culture that has heretofore existed in the club.

Victor Semon as new treasurer of the club made a grand slam by collecting most of the back dues. Why have you kept

all that talent hidden from us so long, Vic?

Vic and Pet Semon are to act as hosts at the November meeting.

Scriptor.

Baltic society elects officers

WASHINGTON, D. C.—At a dinner meeting of the Baltic-American Society of Washington at International Student House Sunday evening, October 23rd, the following officers were elected: Dr. Ellis Hawthorth, president; Ladislaus Joseph Esunas, secretary general; Mrs. Ruth S. Beckman, first vice-president, Mr. Esunas is Washington correspondent for VIENYBE's English page.

John W. Staggers, Washington attorney, related incidents leading to the creation of the Czechoslovakian declaration of independence. He also read a "declaration of common aims" which he helped representatives of twelve Eastern European nations draw up in Washington during the World War.

IN QUEST FOR LITHUANIAN WAYS IN LIFE

By C. R. Jurgela, following J. Aleksa and Dr. J. Matusевич

Even the Pope in 1477 exclaimed: "Let perish that evil black cross, let the Order be damned where a layman rules over clergy" (Deleatur ista pessima nigra crux, maledictus est enim ordo, ubi laicus regit super clerum).—when a Sambian bishop Theodore was starved to death, shackled to a wall underneath a church, by order of the Order's Grand Master.

The Teutons shattered our peaceful life and brought the "gospel" of sword and fire, slavery, cabal, lies and immorality. They ravaged our agricultural culture and brought barbarism. Yet the propagation of Gospel was used as a cloak, while the Order strove to maintain "paganism" in Lithuania as long as possible defensible conversion. In quest for lands and tamed serfs, the Teutons sought to destroy our culture, at the same time ably acting a role of "propagators of faith and civilization in heathen Lithuania."

Please address all mail concerning this page to the editor, 104-40 117th Street, Richmond Hill, New York. Manuscript should be written on one side of the paper and will not be returned unless accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope.

REBORN LITHUANIA

A new-old State

Lithuania is one of the oldest and at the same time one of the youngest states in Europe. She is one of the youngest because she is one of the "new" nations which will only attain their majority in 1939. Lithuania is one of the nations the name of which had been almost forgotten, a name once great, which had been brutally erased from the map of Europe. She is one of the "new-old" nations which, thanks to an essential vitality and energy, were able to make use of the political circumstances brought about by the events of 1917-1918 and miraculously regain their independence. Lithuania is one of the oldest nations because this young Baltic Republic is the heir of one of the most powerful empires of the Middle Ages, namely of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the territory of which stretched at one time from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

Ancient Lithuania

If it is true that happy people have no history, the Lithuanians must have had long centuries of happiness because very little is known of their origin. Since when have they inhabited the eastern and southern shores of the Baltic? Probably for thousands of years, for as far back as historical records go, they have been living in the same regions as today. A branch of the great Indo-European family, protected by their marshes and well-nigh impenetrable forests from the great folk migrations of the first centuries of the Christian Era, they were long able to maintain unmolested their ancient customs, their religion, Druidic in type, and their beautiful archaic language. According to the great French philologist Meillet, this language as late as the 16th century had forms as ancient, probably even more ancient, than the Vedic Sanskrit of two thousand years earlier. No wonder that Meillet once told his students: "If you wish to know how your ancestors spoke, go to a Lithuanian village." (Similar advice is said to have been given by the German philologist Schleicher).

Ancient writers speak of this people of hunters, fishers and farmers as being peaceful and hospitable. Tacitus describes the Aistii (the Lithuanians and their brother Balts—the Borussia or Old Prussians and the Letts) as being better farmers than their Germanic neighbors; he comments on the fact that their language recalled that of the Celts and that they alone collected amber, the famous Northern gold, so much appreciated by the ancients—Roman, Greeks and Egyptians.

The Greek geographer Ptolemy mentions certain Baltic tribes whose names have survived to this day. In the 6th century a Christian Bishop calls them "pacatum genus omnino"—(a wholly peaceful people). At this time, when their neighbors were complete barbarians, they showed a high state of culture: they did not recognize the right to wreckage and if ships were wrecked on their shores, their only thought was to aid the castaways. In the 11th century, Bishop Adam of Bremen, the Apostle of the North, said of them: "How many praiseworthy things could one say of the customs of these people, had they only been Christians."

(To be Continued)

Naujoji Gadyne Concert

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—After patiently waiting 1 1/2 hours after the advertised starting hour, the none too large audience at Grand Paradise Ballroom heard an excellent program, largely carried by the Lithuanian Ensemble. The leader, Miss Violet Tamkiute, not only conducted her group very capably but also accompanied on the piano other artists on the evening's program. The reason for the prize-winning Ensemble's success seems to be that each of the 11 members is capable of carrying his own part without depending on the others for support. The shorter of the two tenors made a decided "hit" with his gay, pleasing personality and carefree, cock-of-the-walk air.

Needless to mention that Mr. Vasilauskas was his usual frevoiced, confident self—easy on the eyes and ears.

The trombone solos of Mr. Berenis were 'thought' by some to be out of place on the program.

Two gypsies, so-called, skidded by on their previous reputation with several drawn-out picnic reliables.

Lyrates dancing group performed several numbers a la Russian style and dress, ending with remodelled Lithuanian folk dances. Suggestion to improve it's appearance—bridle the vigorous gum-chewing of the blonde, bespectacled member who passes on that arduous task to one of the other male members in the final number.

And the usual speech-making

ing: this time by Mr. Stillson, editor of Naujoji Gadyne Topic; read the free and unbiased N. G. and not the Kaunas dictated VIENYBE or the Moscow controlled "Laisve" or the Rome trumpet "Amerika". Some of us, however, still detect a strong communistic odor about this former bed-fellow of the very red "Laisve". You so-called champions of the workingmen (who doesn't work?) have a hard job convincing us that the pink in your sheets is only a natural glow of health and not a reflection of the Soviet's beloved flaming red.

We do agree with you, Mr. Editor, that it was piggish and unethical for another group to cut your attendance down by sponsoring another affair the same day. They probably call it good politics.

Vytautas G. Vizbara.



Captain W. Bruce Oakley of Brooklyn, N. Y., commander of the Uruguay, of the Good Neighbor fleet.

