



TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

By Vitalis Buknaitis

Your New York correspondent did not quite sympathize with the attitude of those among us who last week excitedly threw their hats in the air shouting "Galim nurimti—Vilnius jau atvažduotas!"

Let's look at the situation coldly, impassionately. Lithuania was, and still is, in a tough spot. Lithuania refused Russian assistance in the dispute which arose about a year ago with the late, but not too lamented Poland.

Lithuania is still on the map of Europe. Vilnius, Lithuania's historic capital, is once again a part of Lithuania.

Meanwhile, shall we sit around, hopelessly, waiting for the worst? Or shall we make a sincere effort to assist the land of our origin? War-torn Vilnius and her suffering 100's of thousands of Lith. have been returned to their Tėvyne.

Moterų Vienybės Dinner-Dance October 29

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—"Moterų Vienybė", the local women's club which has won for itself the admiration of Lithuanian Americans in Greater New York as one of the leading organizations devoted to philanthropic, educational and benevolent activities, will celebrate its fifth anniversary by presenting a dinner and dance Sunday, October 29, at the Triangle Grand Ballroom, 117-111 Myrtle Avenue, Richmond Hill, New York.

Because of the unprecedented demand for tickets, guests who plan to attend the dinner are urged to make their reservations as far in advance as possible. Although the Triangle Grand Ballroom is a huge place, a capacity attendance is envisioned by officials in charge of the sale of tickets.

Lithuanian Films at the Citizen's Club Tonight

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Recently photographed natural-color movies of Lithuania will be shown by Cameraman J. Januškevičius, Jr., at the Lithuanian American Citizen's Club of Brooklyn, tonight, tomorrow and Sunday evenings, October 20, 21 and 22.

Costumed Visitors Get Free Entry to Fair Monday

WORLD'S FAIR, N. Y.—The New York World's Fair has established the evening of October 23 as International Night, and is inviting the participation of all national costumes, singing, dancing, and musical groups.

CHEERS, JEERS AND REFLECTIONS

(Excerpts from letters received by the editor)

ALL-AMERICAN S.L.A. SLATE?

ANSONIA, Conn.—The recent letter appearing in your "Cheers and Jeers" section re: an American-born slate of candidates for the coming Lithuanian Alliance of America (S.L.A.) nominations and elections intrigued me no little.

Carole as Cartoon



Carole Lombard's individuality as charted with a free pen by Artist Eugene Widhoff. Carole will next play in "Vigil in the Night" with Brian Aherne opposite.

'LITHUANIAN CULTURE' SUBJECT OF STAFF WRITER'S RADIO INTERVIEW

Vytautas G. Vizbara Guest of Biosophical Institute Broadcast October 5th

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Vytautas G. Vizbara, VIENYBĖ Staff Correspondent, was interviewed by Frank Merchant during the Biosophical Institute program on station WINS Sunday evening, October 5th.

The subject of the fifteen minute interview was "Lithuanian Culture".

Mr. Merchant: Mr. Vizbara who is the national hero of Lithuania?

V. V.: Vytautas The Great, whose name I bear, is the ancient national hero. His statue may be seen by visitors to the Lithuanian Pavilion at the World's Fair.

World's Fair has so successfully demonstrated. In view of the troubled situation abroad this demonstration takes on the added poignancy and point.

1410, thus enabling the people to enjoy peace after several centuries of fighting against invaders. The pagan Lithuanians were regarded as legitimate prey by so-called Christian Knights.

M.: Then Lithuania is not a state created after the World War but existed centuries ago?

V. V.: That is correct, Mr. Merchant. Lithuania is paradoxically one of the oldest known nations in the world and one of the youngest, if you consider its rebirth as Feb. 16, 1918.

The Lithuanians then lived in clans without any central governing body. The nation was united by Mindaugas in the thirteenth century and further strengthened and enlarged by succeeding Grand Dukes.

After the death of Vytautas the Great in 1430, the Polish influence in Lithuania became stronger and finally a treaty of union was signed in the 16th century. This marked the decline of the Lithuanian nation.

Continual warfare with outnumbering foes drained the nation's strength, and in 1795, with the Third Partition, Lithuania lost its independence.

national and cultural endeavors were stifled. The Lithuanian press was banned for forty years. Possession of any book printed in Lithuanian meant imprisonment or exile to Siberia.

In spite of all these persecutions, Lithuanian leaders reunited the nation in a cultural and political battle for independence. Out of the ruins of the World War arose a new and independent Lithuania.

M.: I am curious to know whether members of your family experienced any of these hardships under Russian rule?

V. V.: Yes, my grandmother had a very bad leg-scar from a saber thrust received when she hid from a seaching party in a hay-stack. She happened to have forbidden Lithuanian literature in her possession and took the saber cut without a murmur rather than reveal her hiding-place.

My father was forced to flee to America due to his activities in the smuggling of books from Germany and participating in anti-Russian organizations. It was only thru the existence of secret patriotic societies, secret schools in homes, and smuggled books from Germany and America that the Lithuanian language was kept alive.

M.: Now that the Lithuanians are free to read what they will, has the desire for knowledge diminished or is it as strong as ever?

V. V.: Judging from the large number of newspapers, periodicals, and books published, I would say that their thirst for knowledge is still very strong. There are over 200 newspapers and periodicals published in Lithuania and an average of one thousand literary works annually.

M.: In order to make your figures more impressive, Mr. Vizbara, will you give me some idea of the size of the country?

V. V.: It is difficult to convey a clear conception of size by mentioning square miles. So I shall compare Lithuania with other small but better known countries.

V. V.: I referred to Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, and the two bordering provinces. On Oct. 7th, 1920, Poland and Lithuania signed the Treaty of Suwalki.

effect a satisfactory compromise.

Therefore, relations between the two countries were severed, frontiers remained closed, and no diplomatic relations maintained until March 31, 1938.

You may recall headlines in the American newspapers about that time stating that Poland's armies stood massed on the Lithuanian frontier ready to invade their small neighbor. In the ultimatum presented to the Lithuanian government, Poland demanded resumption of normal relationships between the two countries.

M.: Has any effort been made to regain this territory?

V. V.: Only indirectly. An organization of young men, called the Iron Wolf, had been working toward this objective by peaceful means until the government stopped its activities in keeping with the agreement signed with Poland to improve friendly relations.

You may think that "Iron Wolf" is an odd name for a patriotic group, but there is an old legend behind it. Grand Duke Gedeminas founded Vilnius after having a dream in which an iron wolf showed him where to build a large city. It is said that if any fortune befalls Vilnius, that an iron wolf will appear on the edge of the forest and by its howling proclaim the return of the city to its own.

All that is left to the members of this organization is the hope that in the readjusting of the map of Europe after the present conflict is over, that Vilnius and its adjacent territory will be returned to Lithuania without obligating that nation to any foreign power.

M.: Are there any other organizations of young Lithuanians, other than the Iron Wolf?

V. V.: Yes, several of them. The Šauliai, or Sharpshooters, resembles our own National Guard. Their purpose is to be trained and ready to defend their country in the event of invasion. This group played an important part in the early days of Lithuania as an independent republic.

or "Lithuanian Youth Sporting Organization" are worthy of mention.

There are also many song groups. Lithuanians are great lovers of songs. Not only are song festivals held throughout the country but young village people will form groups evenings and go from village to village singing the simple but melodic strains native to Lithuania.

CAREER STORY



RICHARD DIX was born Ernest Carlton Brimmer, Jr., in St. Paul, Minn., whither his parents had traveled from Los Angeles just six weeks prior to his birth. Young Dix received his early education in Minnesota and graduated from the St. Paul High School. He was interested in all sports and in dramatics, appearing in practically every play produced by the school.

VIENYBĖ "World's Oldest Lithuanian Newspaper" WEEKLY ENGLISH PAGE Edited By VITALIS BUKNAITIS

PAGALVOK APIE RYTDIENĄ! Nėra žmogaus, kuris nesirgtų ir nemirtų: Susirgus — kiekvienam reikalinga pašelpa. Numirus — reikalinga pagelba likusiems šeimos nariams. Bet ne visi žmonės tuo apsirūpina, kol sveiki ir kol nelaimė jų neįstinka. BOK rūpestingai! PAGALVOK apie savo ir savo šeimos likimą — rytdieną! APSIDRAUSK save ir savo šeimą didžiausioje lietuvių apdraudos ir pašelpos organizacijoje. APSIDRAUSTI galima nuo \$100 iki \$5,000. LIGOJE pašelpa galima gauti nuo \$6 iki \$12 savaitėje. NARIAI priimami nuo 2 iki 60 metų amžiaus. SUSIVIENIJIME yrš apie 15,000 nariu. BOK tos didelės lietuvių šeimos nariu! ĮSIGYK SLA Jubiliejinį Albumą. Tai graži, didelė, istoriška knyga, kurioje telpa virš 1,000 paveikslų — jų giminis ir pažįstami. SUSIVIENIJIMO turtas — virš \$2,000,000. BOK to turto dalininku! SUSIVIENIJIMO kuopos randasi visuose didesniuose lietuvių centruose Amerikoje. ALBUMO kaina \$5. SLA nariams — \$2.50. PRISIRASYK prie artimiausios tamtai kuopos! INFORMACIJAS galite gauti: LITHUANIAN ALLIANCE of AMERICA 307 West 30th Street, New York, N. Y.