

VILNIS

American Lithuanian Weekly

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1944

KANSAS CITY COMMITTEE OPENS SPORT SCHOOL IN SOVIET LITHUANIA

(Special to Vilnis)

MOSCOW — VIA Press Service, Soviet Information Bureau

From Soviet Lithuania comes the news that a sport school for youth has been opened by the Kansas City Committee on Physical Cultural and Sports. The school will have the following departments: tennis, gymnastics, skating, field track sports, football and boxing. Its object will be to help high schools and sports societies in carrying on sports activities among youth. It will also train masters in various forms of sport. The period of tuition in the school has been fixed at two years and youths and girls between the ages of fourteen and sixteen will be admitted to it. Cultural institutions are also being organized in rural areas.

Houses of culture, clubs and reading rooms are being organized in all rural areas of Soviet Lithuania. The plan provides for 24 houses of culture of which two are already functioning; one in Trakai and another in Seredžiai. Throughout Lithuania there will be 605 reading rooms and clubs opened. In Trakai County 15 reading rooms have already been opened and are provided with literature and newspapers. Amateur art circles have been organized and reading rooms opened.

11 Women's Trade Schools In Kaunas

Work has begun in 11 women's trade schools in Kaunas. Here pupils are taught various trades: in first course sewing is taught, in second, knitting, in third, embroidery, in fourth, millinery and corset making. Never before has there been such a big influx of pupils as in 1944. More than 400 applications have been received for 300 vacancies in school and new applications are continuing to arrive daily.

To this trade school are admitted girls with four grades of elementary school. Preference is given to girls between fourteen and sixteen years of age. But there are also among the pupils, girls who have graduated from secondary school and from high school. Among pupils are residents not of Kaunas, but also girls from provinces. Pupils are accommodated in hotels and are provided with

breakfast, dinner and supper free of charge.

The principal of the school is Shleivyte, an artist. She was formerly director of the fifth industrial school.

Opening Nurses Training School in Kaunas

A nurses training school has been opened by the Red Cross Society Lithuanian SSR in a splendid building on the corner of Laisves Aleja and Vitautas Street.

During the German occupation many Lithuanian nurses were shot or shipped to slave labor in Germany. Now, when the consequences of the German rule are being rapidly obliterated, an acute shortage of medical cadres is felt in public health. This school has been opened to provide for lack of nurses and 200 young energetic girls have sent in applications for admission to school. The first lectures in school were delivered on November 15th while practical work commenced earlier.

Nazis Slaughter 465,000 in Lithuania

MOSCOW — During the German occupation of Lithuania, 165,000 Red Army prisoners and over 300,000 civilians were slaughtered. This report, to which today's Moscow papers are devoted was made by the Soviet Government Commission on German Atrocities.

The report tells of Ponari village, five miles from Vilno, which contained something like 100,000 bodies. Witnesses described how they were compelled by the Gestapo to dig up the bodies of people who had been shot, and burn the corpses by using incendiary bombs.

At Fort No. 9, a few miles northwest of Kaunas, which local people now call the Fort of Death, the Germans shot over 70,000. Among the victims were Budjinskiene, deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and Zebetis, deputy of the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania.

Other well known Lithuanian citizens who were victims of fascist terror include Academician Kuzma, the famous surgeon; Binkis, the playwright; Professor Albinas Rimka; the artists Dinjiokas, Menchinskis and Samuels; the composers Shimkus and Karnyichos.



Remains of a church bombed by the retreating Nazis from the city of Siauliai.
(Courtesy of Com. to Aid Lithuania)

ARTISTS' COMMITTEE TO STAY IN POLITICS

In the spirit of President Roosevelt's words "... but when the ballots are cast, your responsibility does not cease," leading Americans yesterday united for organized political activity as the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions.

The new committee announced at a Hotel Astor press conference by Jo Davidson, chairman, is an outgrowth of the Independent Voters Committee of the Arts and Sciences which put on a four-star campaign for President Roosevelt's reelection.

"The battle for peace and security is still ahead," said sculptor Davidson. "The immediate future period presents a challenge that is as great if not greater than that presented by the election."

The committee's goals are swift and complete victory, a

lasting peace, full employment and a decent standard of living, and strengthening of international unity through interchange of ideas between artists and scientists and professionals of this country and United Nations.

Expect 100,000 Members

Members of the arts, sciences and professions are eligible to join the committee and participate in activities. It is expected that the membership will reach 100,000 within the next six months, said Dr. Davidson.

In outlining the immediate program, Dr. Frank Kingdon, radio commentator, said the committee will issue a regular publication along the lines of the Independent, issued during the election campaign; conduct meetings and forums, produce weekly radio programs and participate in legislative campaigns.

Many GI's Plan to Return to School

A War Department survey of troops at home and abroad, showed that 500,000 of the approximately 6,750,000 enlisted men now in the Army definitely plan to return to full-time college or other studies after the war.

Additional 300,000 are seriously considering resuming their education on a full-time basis, but are undecided or have conflicting plans, it was found. Still another 1,200,000 men said they were thinking of attending part-time school or college.

These estimates were based on surveys among white enlisted men only. A slightly smaller percentage of Negro soldiers have plans for full time schooling.

The report lists huge numbers of factories, railway bridges, tunnels, homes, libraries, etc., which were destroyed by the enemy during the retreat from Lithuania.

Women of Finland Organize to Fight Reaction

WASHINGTON — An organizational conference of the women of Finland, sponsored by the Democratic Union of the Finnish People, was held recently, a Khabarovsk broadcast in Russian said. The broadcast, reported to the Office of War Information by the Federal Communications Commission, said that many representatives of the women of Helsinki and of provincial towns were present.

"The conference took place in an atmosphere of enthusiasm," the broadcast said. "It was decided to organize a democratic union of the women of Finland and join the Democratic Union of the People of Finland. It was also decided to call a women's conference of the entire country. The aim of the new union will be to struggle against Fascism and reaction."

TRACING OUR FAMILY TREE

By Laukuviškis

"It Pays to be Ignorant."

No, I am not going to talk about the popular radio program by that name, but will try to explain how painfully slow was education in the land of our ancestors some centuries ago.

No doubt you have heard us older folks say this Lithuanian is "dzukas," another is "žemaitis," still another "kalakutas" or "kapsas", etc. That is why immigrant Lithuanians speak different dialects. And it would not surprise me if you wondered how in the world we can understand each other when up until the later part of the last century we didn't have any written common language!

Culture as we know it was supposed to have been brought to Lithuania along with Christianity. But that is only half-true. We already know that pagan Lithuanians did not leave any written word. The written word, true, came with Christianity, but it wasn't Lithuanian! The language of the Catholic Church is Latin. All the neighboring Slav nations, who were already split away from the Roman Church, had a common language. Lithuanians called that language Byelorussian, or Gudishka. And of course, the masses didn't understand it. But that was the first written language which was used at the time of the Grand Duke Vytautas. In that language were recorded all the court procedures, state papers, etc.

Another source of "education" was the Catholic church. Naturally, all the first priests were either Polish, German or some other nationality. And the first schools in Lithuania were operated by the priests. Most of the priests held the Lithuanian language in contempt — a language of the "Pagans." So we can easily imagine what kind of education your cousins received in the distant past.

The primary purpose of these so-called schools was to teach children how to pray and what would happen to them if they slipped on the right answers of voluminous catechisms. There were no three R's in schools in those days.

Tilted gentry sent their children to Cracow, St. Petersburg, Heidelberg or Paris to get their education. But as for the masses, it was thought that "it pays to be ignorant." So thought the civilian ruling class and so thought the leaders of the church. And, by the way, to the Catholic readers this will be news: priests and even bishops for Lithuanians were appointed not by the Pope, but who ever happened to be the civilian ruler

at the time. Pope only confirmed the appointment of bishops and bishops in turn confirmed the appointment of priests.

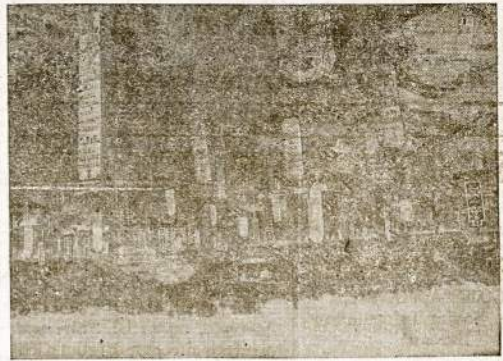
And just as the Catholic church leaders thought they had the Lithuanian kids "in the bag", a wave of Protestantism struck from the west. Protestant Prussian - Lithuanians started to print books in Lithuanian. Catholics of Greater Lithuania had to combat the "evil" with "evil." They began to print books in Lithuanian too. But protestantism in Greater Lithuania didn't find fertile soil and soon died out. With it went out, for a while at least, Lithuanian literature.

But the masses had acquired a taste for education and it was hard to hold them back. They made demands on church leaders to teach them in their native language. Of course, nobody ever thought of periodical literature then as we now know it. But some books printed in Lithuanian began to appear about the first part of the last century. Compared to present day literature, they were very primitive.

At that time on our dark national horizon appeared two bright stars: *Simonas Daukantas* and *Bishop Motiejus Valančius*. Daukantas wrote his first historical masterpiece, "*Darbai Senovės Lietuvių ir Žemaičių*" in 1822. And how fast were our ancestors to grab at the first ray of light is proven by the fact that Daukantas' book was published only in 1929! 107 years after it was written!

Motiejus Valančius was the first real Lithuanian bishop. Bishops before and after Valančius, tho of Lithuanian birth, were strangers to Lithuanians. Valančius wrote many good books and not all of them on religion. Best known in Lithuania 50 years ago was his "Palangos Jezė." If you should happen to get a hold of a copy of "Palangos Juzė", dig into it as you never dug into anything else before. In it, like in a mirror, you will see how your ancestors lived, their quaint customs, their celebrations of various events, etc.

"Palangos Juzė," the hero of the story, is a travelling tailor (before the sewing machine was invented.) He travels across Lithuania and at isolated villages, stops and makes clothes for the simple folks. And he is not only a good tailor, but chronicler too. He writes down folk songs, describes christening and wedding parties. You would never think the book was written by a man



A cemetery where many thousands of murdered inhabitants of a ghetto in Kaunas, Lithuania, were buried. (Courtesy of Com. to Aid Lithuania)

TWO IMPORTANT DATES IN CONNECTION WITH WITHHOLDING TAX

WASHINGTON — Joseph D. Nunan, Jr., Commissioner of Internal Revenue, called attention of employers and employees to the fact that January 1 and January 31, 1945, are important dates in connection with withholding of income tax from wages.

January 1 is the effective date for the new rates of withholding prescribed by the Individual Income Tax Act of 1944. By terms of that Act, the new rates apply to all wages paid on and after January 1, regardless of when the wages were earned. The new rates are intended to adjust each employee's with-

holding more closely to his actual income tax. The new rates, average about the same as the old rates, but vary in individual cases. Employers already have received detailed instructions in Circular WT-Rev. 1944, additional copies of which may be obtained at any collector's office.

January 31 is the deadline by which the law requires employers to furnish each employee a Withholding Receipt on Form W-2 (Rev.), showing how much wages were paid him and how much income tax was withheld from his wages during the calendar year 1944. These receipts have a special importance this year, because the new law authorizes most employees to use their Receipts as simplified income tax returns. This new feature is explained in an official leaflet, entitled "How to Use Your Withholding Receipt as an Income Tax Return", and employers have been asked to distribute copies to their employees.

Commissioner Nunan also urged employers to be especially careful, when preparing each Withholding Receipt, to show the employee's home address and social security number, as well as all other required information. The home address and social security number are vital for identification purposes.

An employer is required to make three copies of each Withholding Receipt. He must give two copies to the employee, so that the employee will have one copy to use for his return and another copy to keep. Also by January 31, the employer must send the third copy to the Collector of Internal Revenue in his district, together with the regular withholding tax return (Form W-1) for the last quarter of 1944, and a statement on Form W-3 reconciling the wage and tax amounts as shown by the quarterly returns with the similar amounts as shown on the Withholding Receipts.

But history is merciless. No sooner did our ancestors get on the right road to education and culture, when dark clouds cast over Greater Lithuania. On the 6th day of September, in 1865, the Tsar of "All the Russias" forbade publishing and distribution of Lithuanian books!

If your parents came from Lithuania and if you ever get the urge to call them "ignorant", bear in mind that to them learning in their own native tongue meant years of imprisonment or even exile to Siberia. You see, Lithuanians fought for and finally won the right to read and write in their native tongue only recently, very recently. To be precise, on May 7th (old Russian calendar April 24th), in 1904.

A 40 year period of almost complete darkness, at least a part of it is still fresh in my memory. Therefore, I won't even have to look for reference for next weeks article.

(that couldn't thread the needle — a Bishop!

Yessiree, it has been many, many years since I read "Palangos Juzė." And I have read countless books since. Most of them I have long ago forgotten. But not "Palangos Juzė!" In fact I would pay a good price for a copy of it now — preferably the first edition.

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Women of Azerbaijan

By CHIMNAZ ASLANOVA

Vice-Chairman, Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of USSR

The question of appointing women to responsible positions in various economic, social and political fields of the country has occupied the center of attention during the years of Soviet power. Many wonderful changes have taken place in the lives of Russian women during these years.

But perhaps the most significant changes are to be observed in the lives of the women of the East, who in bygone days were considered creatures of a lower order. The life of the Azerbaijanian woman, free now from age-old oppression, from the stifling veil she was forced by custom to wear and from her narrow, walled-in existence, is a striking example of these changes.

The Azerbaijanian woman of today participates in the economic, political and social life of the country and has the opportunity of keeping pace with her most progressive countrymen. In opening the era of general democracy, the Soviet Constitution gave all citizens, men and women equal rights. There are now 72 women among the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan Republic. In many cases the post of chairman of the executive committee of the Regional or District Soviet of Working People's Deputies is filled by a woman. As judges and members of Supreme Court of the Republic, women have carried out their duties with success. They are heads of more than 20 Health Departments.

A cultural revolution took place in Azerbaijan during the years of Soviet power. The school attendance during 1943-1944 was high and 165,000 of the total of over 600,000 school children were Azerbaijanian girls. In Baku alone in the two years before the war, 50 schools with accommodations for 40,000 pupils and 150 colleges, scientific research institutes and technical schools were built. These did not exist in former times. There is also a wide network of other cultural organizations. All these created unlimited opportunities for the Azerbaijanian woman to grow culturally and politically and to develop her creative abilities.

We remember the days when our mothers were not allowed to turn to a doctor for aid. Now we have over 50 women military doctors, besides civilian doctors.

Dilshad Mugalinskaya, an Azerbaijan woman who holds the degree of Doctor of Biological Sciences, is assistant director of the Azerbaijan Zoological In-

stitute. Heirance Alieva and Karanfil Agamirova, two women who recently submitted theses for their Master's Degree at the Chemical Institute, have done research which has contributed greatly to this defense industry.

Never before has Azerbaijan yielded so much oil and benzene as during the war. Many of the engineers in the oil fields are women.

Radical alterations have taken place in the appearance of the oil city which Maxim Gorky once called a Dante's inferno. Public gardens, boulevards and parks have been laid out in places that were once unsightly wastes and garbage heaps.

If anyone had foretold a quarter of a century ago that the women of Azerbaijan would one day be driving trains, piloting vessels, steamers and airplanes, solving scientific problems and directing oil fields, he would have been termed a romantic dreamer.

But reality has proved far more wonderful than any fantasy. The women of Azerbaijan have taken an active part in these occupations. The head geologist at the Scientific Research Oil Institute is a woman, Dunya Agalarova. The chief engineer of the oilfield, exploitation department of Azneft-Kombinat is a woman, Yurga Gaibovai. Foreman and engineer Gussanova trains housewives in the work of the oilfields.

Important successes have been achieved in agriculture by Azerbaijanian women and the woman collective farmer has become a decisive force in the countryside. Only last year 3,200 women completed courses as tractor drivers and took up that branch of work. There are 300 women working on harvesters and combines. The area sown to grain has been extended in Azerbaijan to 140,000 hectares and the production of tea has been doubled.

Not only on the home front but also on the battlefield have Azerbaijan women won glory for themselves. Ziba Ganieva, a student, went to the front as a volunteer and became a splendid sniper. In one skirmish she killed 21 Hitlerites. Leila Safarova is very dear to the Azerbaijan people. This girl, a stretcherbearer, carried more than 150 wounded men off the field. Two close friends, S. Pavyeva and Sakina Alieva, who are only 18, have carried more than 180 wounded off the field. Once, both these girls were wounded by mine fragments. Neither attended to her own wounds until she had taken all the wounded to safety.

Thus the women of Azerbaijan

Women Still Needed In War Work



CHICAGO, ILL.—From all fighting fronts come urgent requests for more war material production. An example of the varied work of women, is shown above by the girl using the metalizing process that has overcome the serious replacement parts bottleneck and effected new savings in reclaiming scrap parts like new. Mogul metalizing gun shown in action sprays metal, melted by an oxy-acetylene flame, on a worn shaft. After the shaft is metalized it is then machined down by conventional methods and ready for installation. Metalizing, a wartime necessity will find ready applications in postwar-maintenance and production jobs.

Finkelstein From Brooklyn

By MEYER LEVIN

WITH THE THIRD ARMY IN FRANCE (ONA). — Dear

Noel Coward: ♪

Perhaps all has already been said about your Brooklyn remarks, but they are just getting around the front, and I have a last word from the boys.

At an M. P. post this morning I picked up a hitch-hiking GI who had one arm in a sling under his combat jacket. He admitted he had caught a slug in his shoulder. I asked him when.

"Oh, a couple days ago, Tuesday," he said.

"Why aren't you in a hospital," I asked.

"Oh, I ain't gonna lay around no hospital," he said. "They had me there and bandaged it up, it's a good clean flesh wound and the doc said he wouldn't have to check it again for several days, so I took off. I've got a lot of buddies in the MP's, I used to be an MP and my old camp is stationed in this area. I know all the boys, so I'm just touring around."

"You realize, Noel Coward, I can't use this boy's name as the names of wounded are censored for a period until their families have been notified, but I can tell you he's from that place you know so well, Brooklyn, and his name isn't Israel Finkelstein. But you know, Noel, it might as well be Finkelstein, because there are a lot of Finkelsteins from Brooklyn at the front.

This Finkelstein had been

jan are defending both on the fighting line and on the home front the political and economic rights which were guaranteed them by the Stalin Constitution.

wounded before, caught some shrapnel in Brittany. That laid him up for a few weeks, but Finkelstein was soon back in the line.

Incidentally, he got transferred from the MP's because he wanted a crack at the Jerries, and since most MP's want this it's tough to get transferred from the MP's. But, as Finkelstein says, anything can happen in the Army if you make out enough papers and wait long enough.

As for the slug in his shoulder, he caught it in the Maginot Line 45 minutes after the jump-off the other day. During that time he used up two handliers and all his grenades, helped capture a pillbox, 12 men and two officers.

I saw another Finkelstein Noel, and that's not exactly his name, either. He was lying on a field with a coat covering his face. I pulled back the coat to look. This time maybe you were right because through the dried mud on his face there were tear tracks where this Brooklyn boy had cried. I guess when he was hit, Noel, he cried tears of blood before he died.



ELI BACK — Meet Paul Walker, Yale's candidate for All-America back. Big fellow stands 6 feet 3 and weighs 215 pounds. He hails from Oak Park, Ill.

LITHUANIAN-AMERICANS WE ARE PROUD OF

Having Tough Time With Clubmobile In France



LILY JANOKAITIS

Perhaps the readers of the "Vilnis" English Section would like to know some news about Lily Janokaitis, of Berea, Ohio. Well, after spending ten months in England and Scotland, she now is in France. She's having a tough time driving her Clubmobile through the deep mud. In fact, it has been raining almost continuously since she's been there.

In her last letter written Nov. 26, 1944, she wrote of having met Lt. Donald Uzusanis, from Wisconsin, who is an L. D. S. member there.

Among her collection of souvenirs, is a German parachute, made of silk, and a German officer's overcoat.

She has praise for the good-naturedness of the American soldier, for she writes, "You can always recognize a soldier of the United States, for, no matter what his wounds may be, he always has a smile on his face and is usually wise-cracking and joking."

Paid a Surprise Visit



CPL. ART YASULAITIS

Cpl. Art Yasulaitis who is with the Artillery Corpse, surprised his home folks in Roseland when he came in unexpectedly December 10. He left for duty December 23.



RAYMOND C. MALESH S 2-c

Raymond Malesh came in from Washington, D. C. to spend a few days with his parents. He came in on December 18th and left December 25th to resume his studies as a boat-swain.

Enclosed is a snapshot of her, in her Clubmobile Red Cross uniform.

Sincerely,
Ruth Janokaitis

The Escort Writes—



AL KLAUD

Dec. 12

Hello Mr. Yonik :

Just dropping a few lines before we start on another trip out to the vast expanse of ocean waters!

Am stopping at present in San Diego for a little while. Thus our taking in the surrounding scenery. This town is really swell—mainly for its atmosphere. It really is a town for servicemen to spend good liberties. This place has one of the largest Navy Training Centers in the U. S. It reminds me of Chicago so much!

At this present time the weather is pleasant and the people are doing their Xmas shopping very early. The U. S. O's spend much time and effort in helping out the servicemen in mailing and wrapping their respective gifts.

Spent last Sunday by taking a trip "South of the Border" down Mexico Way. Since Tia Juana is only 15 miles away it was very easy to get there.

When I arrived at the border all our money had to be changed to a certain type of money order money—\$2 bills were okay to use. The town of Tia Juana seems to be mainly for tourists. The stores are just cluttered with souvenirs for the Americans to buy up. I want to point out this for the women—they have a brand of Nylon hosiery there! Imagine Nylons! Most anything can be purchased there which is rationed in U.S. But when a person wants to get through the line again a tax has to be paid for any values over \$7.50—I just came under that tax(?).

However, Mr. Yonik, since I had written you last I have travelled many water miles. If you have read the papers recently you can just about know where I had been. Some of the islands I passed by were Manus I l i t h i, Eniwetox, Majuro, Guadacanal, Admiralty and Hawaii.

Coming back to San Diego is

really good after almost 4 months out on the ocean. Being able to see people—drink beer—Go to a real movie, etc. Imagine how good it is for the fellows after serving 2 years or more overseas.

Received a flock of English Section issues and noted news I really wanted to see. Plenty servicemen coming home on leave. I see—Bowling season on again, but sad not to read any news of them. After all, I did devote much of my writings about bowling. Mrs. Valeria Urbikas is doing a wonderful job singing and writing. I also noticed Tony Guzauskas has finally chosen to "waltz the aisle" with Aldona Grazulis—who, by the way was one of the mainstays of the Redwings and the L.K.M. Chorus.

Also read that Jessie (Shai-ko) Vesely is visiting Chicago. I expected to see her in Frisco, but since we came to San Diego, that plan went astray. Maybe some time in the future I will be able to come to Chicago and view the changes.

So until I have more news to relate, I will bid adieu.

Your Pal,
Al "Escort" Klaud.

VETS FINALLY MEET

W. R. Etheridge, after 26 years, finally met the man — Robert J. Trantham — who saved his life in France in World War I. The pair met at the recent national convention of the Disabled American Veterans in Denver.

SYMBOL OF FRIENDSHIP

The Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation has been presented with a Kiwi Bird Trophy by New Zealand as a symbol of "good will and friendship existing between the disabled veterans" of New Zealand and the United States.



CHILLY FOXHOLE—Crouching down in a snow-filled ditch, these Second Division infantrymen seek shelter from German artillery barrage somewhere in Germany. Members of the U. S. First Army, these men are stemming tide of Nazi winter counter-offensive which is breaking through into Belgium and Luxembourg.

U. S. Signal Corps Photo



WED—Veronica Lake, formerly famous for that lock of hair over one eye, with Andre de Toth, film director. They were married recently at the home of Ed Gardner, the radio star, in Hollywood.

The Vilnis English Section

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What Will It Bring?

The uppermost thought in our minds as we approach the New Year is, what will it bring? We all hope that there will be happier news from the war front. The German counter-offensive has shaken all of us into the realization that the war is not yet won and that we must not let up on war production nor in any of the other war efforts, such as buying war bonds, visiting the Red Cross both for the purpose of giving blood and helping to supply the hospitals with the much needed bandages.

It is well to reflect on the lessons of the German attack. A short while ago many looked forward to the spending the holiday season with a feeling that we had gotten the war pretty well over. The high casualty figures of November, the order stopping reconversion, the resumption of the draft on a wider scale—all this foretold a longer war than most people suspected. It was clear that we would fight in Europe through the winter. But the German attack brought home to the people more than any thing else that we cannot afford to relax our war effort anywhere until the enemy is completely smashed.

A Ray of Light

We as Lithuanians can meet the New Year with the thought that this year the people of Lithuania, those who were fortunate enough to escape torture and death at the hands of the Nazis, will have a merrier New Year that they had in 1941-1943, for the greater part of Lithuania has been freed from the clutches of the Nazis. The people of Lithuania are again rebuilding their cities, preparing their land for the spring harvest. As you will read in this issue of the VES, sports schools are being organized, houses of culture and schools of nursing will be opened. Gradually the people of Lithuania will again start a normal life.

We can now send letters to our relatives and friends in Lithuania. Yes, we can send them our helping hand as well. We can get behind the Committee to Aid Lithuania and help it send clothing, medicine, food supplies to Lithuania. These are the thoughts we must think and these are the resolutions we must make as we usher in the year 1945.

One Other Thought

As editor of the VES, I personally hope that the young readers of the paper will on this New Year resolve to help make the VES a Youth Section as well as an English Section by contributing more material that would be of interest to the young readers. Many more letters from our servicemen and women could appear if more of those who correspond with them would send them in.

Brotherhood Week in Army and Navy Camp

The need to keep America free of racial prejudice and bigotry is a "solemn duty", said President Roosevelt in a message to the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

In releasing the message through the Religious News Service, Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the conference, disclosed that plans are in the making for Brotherhood Week to be held in Army and Navy camps throughout the country Feb. 18-25.

Underground Report Shocks Mrs. Roosevelt

In her regular column in the New York World-Telegram of December 4, 1944 entitled "Public Health," Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt commented briefly on The Camp of Disappearing Men, inside report on the Oswiecim Concentration Camp recently published in this country by Poland Fights, the Polish Labor Group. Below we quote a few paragraphs from the aforementioned column:

John Groth, an artist-correspondent just returned from overseas, a pamphlet entitled "The Camp of Disappearing Men," for which he did the illustrations. It is a story of German atrocities in Oswiecim, and is published by the Polish Labor Group . . . it should certainly be given wide distribution. The story is made vivid by the illustrations.

It is a tale to fill you with horror, worse than almost anything your imagination can conjure up. And the end—the picture of how in desperation a man went gladly to a death that he knew awaited him—leaves you with a determination that such cruelty and such treatment, with men turned into beasts, must never again be allowed to occur in this world.

Any system which can train men through discipline to do the things which were done in Oswiecim must be so completely eradicated that there will never again be a resurrection of it.

DEMAND PLACE TO LIVE

Six hundred women representing housewives and war workers marched to the Commons in London to demand 4,000,000 temporary and permanent houses in five years.

BETTER BUY A PIPE

Because of the manpower and machinery shortage, it looks like there will be a shortage of cigarettes for some time. If, as some of the manufacturers say, there is a shortage of leaf tobacco within the next year and a half the famine might continue on into 1946 and 1947. So you better buy a pipe.

As We See It

By VINCE RUDIS

The French government has exchanged representatives with the Polish Lublin Committee, according to Tass, the Soviet news agency.

Czechoslovakia was expected to follow France's example.

This is the beginning of the end of the emigre Polish government in London. It will hardly surprise anybody. The emigre Polish government did every thing to knock itself down. Polish Pany have never shown an extraordinary intelligence. They seem to possess an evil talent to act wrongly whenever Poland is in a difficult situation.

Like Shakespear's Glendower, they boast of being able to perform miracles but the power to do it doesn't come at the right moment.

Stanlyslaw Mikolajczyk who was able to see a little farther than any of the Panowie in London was too much for them. They replaced him by pan Arciszewski who is, as some one said, a "finest mind of the 14th century".

Not only do these gentlemen hate to see the Soviet Union as she is today, but they hate everybody who sees her as she is.

They dream of Poland many hundreds of years back.

They have their reasons to love Poland of old. It really pleased Count Potocki to have countless acres of land. And it is not pleasant for him to see this land being given to 1,500 Polish peasants who too love their land and who know how to till it, but who did not have the land because the Potockis and the Zaluskis and others had too much of it.

In 1920 when the Soviet Union was weaker, Polish army, aided by the French army, took a large piece of Ukrain Byelo-Russia and about one fourth of Lithuania. The Ukrainian, the Byelo-Russians and the Lithuanians struggled bitterly. They fought fiercely against their oppressors. The Pilsudski's government sent "Punitive Expeditions" to towns and villages, and the towns and the villages were destroyed because the people refused to betray their leaders, their fighters against the oppression.

These people were only too glad to see the Red Army coming in 1939. This was their only chance; this was their only hope.

They will never go back to Poland unless they are brutally forced to do so.

They are not Poles. They are Ukrainians, Byelo-Russians or Lithuanians. They don't want the Polish government.

Even Great Britain did not want Poland to get these lands. Lord Curzon, then British foreign minister, who knew Europe better that time, made a plan as to where the Polish-Soviet border should be. That is how the "Curzon Line" originated.

Soviet government now accepts the Curzon Line. Of course there are some Poles east of the Curzon Line as there are some Ukrainians west of the line. The Soviet's propose to "expatriate" these people provided they are willing to go to Poland or vice-versa.

The emigre Polish government however wants to continue to oppress those Ukrainian, Byelo-Russians and Lithuanians. It is still dreaming of the empire "Od morze do morze" (from Baltic to Black sea). They will be left in London dreaming.

The Hearst papers are shedding crocodile tears that even our government has "betrayed" Poland. But that will not help the Polish ex-colonels and ex-land owners much.

There will be a new Poland.

Announce Daughter's Engagement



CONNIE J. MISEVICH

Mr. and Mrs. J. Misevich of Roseland announce the engagement of their daughter Connie J. Misevich to Pfc. Louis W. Barna, tail gunner on a B-24 bomber.



PFC. LOUIS W. BARNA

Pfc. Louis W. Barna is at present training for combat duty. Before entering service he was an aviation instructor at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Navy Pier and was a member of the Civil Air Patrol.

Date of the wedding has not been set.

Negro Refuses Uncle Tom Role

Cleveland — Tiny Bradshaw, Negro orchestra leader, refused to play the part of Coon in a proposed million-dollar Walt Disney comedy, Uncle Remus. "The part is one that would bring discredit to my race. I will accept no role that ridicules Negroes and presents such false pictures of my people," declared Bradshaw.

The orchestra leader could certainly use the thousands of dollars which the part would bring, he continued, but "a role like that would set my people back hundreds of years."

Bradshaw's Hollywood experience adds another chapter to the long bitter history of film interpretation of Negro men and women in America.

CHICAGOAN VISITS ANCIENT CHURCHES OF ROME



CPL. A. M. GURSKI
Dec. 7, 1944
Italy

Dear Mom and Dad:

I just returned recently from Rome and found all your letters from home. One contained photographs of you two. Thanks for everything.

Well, since I have been stationed in Italy I have visited the following cities: Naples, Bari, Foggia and now Rome. Rome is one of the most beautiful cities that I have ever visited. It certainly reminded me of being back in the states. The people there are dressed clean and they have street-cars and automobiles running around. It doesn't seem like they have gas rationing. The people there don't beg, but try to buy articles from the G. I.'s. They offer as high as one dollar for a package of cigarettes, with the cigarette shortage being as it is, besides, it is a court-martial offense to do any blackmarketing.

When I arrived in Rome, I found myself a nice place to sleep. The place that I boarded at was a private home consisting of a family of three: mother, father and a boy about 14 yrs. old. They certainly were very hospitable people and treated me very well. One day the boy missed going to school so he could show me St. Peters Church. We certainly did a lot of walking that day because we climbed to the very top of St. Peters Church dome. If you'll notice the small ball on top of the dome, that is the ball that I climbed into. Although it looks so small, it really is 9 feet in diameter. One certainly gets a beautiful view of Rome from the top of the dome. I believe I haven't seen anything so beautiful in all my life as St. Peters. The pictures on the inside are made of mosaic and that is small, tiny stones of different colors placed together so they form a picture. So you can

imagine the tedious work involved.

St. Peters is so large that you could place ten average churches on the inside. The statues there were made mostly by Michael Angelo and they really look true to life. St. Peters is very old, but everything looks brand new and seems that it will stay that way for centuries to come.

In the afternoon I had the privilege of meeting the Pope. He speaks American quite well. I was able to see the Pope because it was raining that day, and there weren't too many soldiers visiting the church. All through St. Peters they have Swiss guards dressed in splendid, colorful uniforms. The guards carry the Pope to the altar and then later on carry him back to the Vatican. St. Peters is one place that will remain in my memory as long as I live.

While in Rome I also visited St. Pauls. St. Pauls is also very beautiful, but it does not have as many statues as St. Peters. All around the interior of the church there are pictures of all the Popes that were ever in existence. These pictures are all done in Mosaic.

One place of interest that I visited was the Catacombs at the St. Sebastian. The street leading to the Catacombs was built before Christ. It was here that I saw the original footprint of Christ on a block of cement. The Catacombs have nine miles of underground tunnels. It is here that they used to bury the dead in the ancient days of Rome. For a guide we had an old Monk lead us through the underground passages just to make sure that we wouldn't get lost. It was here that we saw the original burial spot of St. Peter and St. Paul before their bodies were moved to the location of their churches. On the ancient walls there are epistles of St. Peter and St. Paul.

After leaving St. Sebastian, I visited the Coliseum, which is one of the eight wonders of the world. It is here that the Romans had their big shows such as feeding the Christians to the lions or watching man fight beast. I also visited Mussolini's former headquarters and stood on the balcony where he used to make his speeches, and wondered what a fool he was.

I visited numerous historical spots, but the oldest building of all that I ever entered is the Pantheon. It is over 2000 years old and it stands sturdy as though it was built yesterday. The huge doors built before the birth of Christ are in excellent

condition. The top of the Pantheon is solid concrete and it was formed into its spherical shape by having the interior of the Pantheon filled with dirt and then having it removed when the concrete dried. It took many slaves to build a building like that. The huge pillars came from Egypt.

I bought some souvenirs in Rome and shall send them home soon. It rained most of the time while I was in Rome, but I managed to get some pictures taken. I will send them to you as soon as I get them printed. That will be all for now and I hope I hear from you soon. Here's hoping you are all well and happy.

Love,
TONY

LKM Chorus News

LKM Elects New Executive

Instead of the usual rehearsal last Tuesday the LKM Chorus held its annual meeting at the Lithuanian Auditorium. After taking up all business matters, the chorus members went about electing a new executive to serve during the year 1945. The new executive will be as follows: G. Kwain, chairman; J. Guzauskas, vice-chairman; J. Bendokaitis, minutes secretary; P. Dauderis, financial secretary; J. Stulgaitis, treasurer. P. Mazola was elected a one man committee to take care of the music. J. Bendokaitis was elected correspondent or reporter for the chorus.

To keep in touch with all the sympathizers and supporters and to keep them posted on what the chorus is doing in the way of new entertainment, we elected a special committee of the following members: J. Stulgaitis, J. Bendokaitis, A. Garšinskiėnė, B. Guyer and G. Kwain. The following members will audit the books of the chorus: A. Povelonis, B. Guyer, J. Schneider.

After some discussion, we decided to enact a comedy for the Young Lithuanians' Benefit Club (Jaunuju Lietuvių Pašalpos Klūbas). Now let's all be at the rehearsal next Tuesday, January 2, 1945. J. D.B.



They Said Last Week

The following are statements of some of the Nobel Prize winners, made on the occasion of the Fourth American Nobel Anniversary Dinner held on December 10th in New York City:

Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel Prize winner in Literature, 1938:

"The only practical education for peace is education for what brings peace. It is impossible to educate for peace in a world where peace is impossible. Peace can only come as the fruit of proper human relationships and adequate human security. Thus, to educate for peace, we must educate men and women to assume the privileges and responsibilities of self-government, as free peoples. To educate for peace, we must educate peoples to provide economic security for all. We must want peace enough to want that which alone can bring peace."

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University, Nobel Prize Winner for Peace in 1931:

"Peace between nations like peace between individuals is a matter of morals. The use of force, other than the policy power, whether between individuals or between nations is war. There can be no sovereign nation just as there can be no sovereign individual. Only the moral law is sovereign. When the principles of morals are violated, whether on the part of an individual or a nation in order to gain power or advantage, war has taken the place of peace."

Dr. James Franck, Nobel Prize Winner in Physics, 1925:

"Science is often misrepresented. It is praised as the benefactor of mankind because all of the achievements in the field of technology and medicine are based on it, and it is condemned as mankind's enemy because the weapons of destruction become more and more formidable with the progress of science. Actually it deserves neither that laudation nor that blame. Scientific research is devoted to the studies of the law of nature. Whether mankind uses the knowledge for promotion of health and happiness or for death and destruction is a question of mankind's education."

Dr. Victor Francis Hess, Nobel Prize winner in Physics, 1936:

"I should like to emphasize that education for peace has to begin in elementary school. The girls and boys in the grammar and high schools have to be taught that war is a horrible thing, brought about by human greed and utter disrespect for the divine law. Every attempt

should be made to avoid in textbooks hero worship; that is worship of aggressors and conquerors. Patriotism has nothing to do with fostering the spirit of aggression. In all schools and colleges, racial and religious intolerance should be eradicated as the most dangerous germ of war."

Dr. Otto Meyerhof, Nobel Prize Winner in Physiology and Medicine, 1922:

"Aggressive nations who will not accept the fundamental doctrine of justice must be forced by utter defeat to abandon their philosophy of domination, lest the peaceful nations be continuously endangered by them. But the democracies also should constantly ask themselves whether their teachings and their deeds conform to the principles of unselfishness and good will. Our generation will have the singular opportunity to promote this ethical law in the coming peace conference."

F. L. I. S.

Chicago Greek Americans Praise Stand of State Dep't on Greece


Wholeheartedly endorsing the stand of our State Department in defending the right of self-determination of liberated European countries, 1,000 American citizens of Greek extraction meeting here last week adopted a resolution deploring the recent tragic events in Athens and calling for an end of the civil war in Greece.

The meeting, held under the auspices of the recently-organized Greek-American Committee for National Unity, was addressed by Basil Vlavianos, editor and publisher of the daily Greek National Herald of New York. He substituted for Stelios Pistolakis, EAM leader, who was unable to be present.

The resolution, copies of which were sent to the State Department, Illinois Senators, and the representatives of the Allied governments, protested the attempt to enforce by the sword and unpopular government upon the people of Greece and said:


"This committee entreats you in the name of those British soldiers who shed their blood fighting Germany to protect Greece, to use your good influence to prevent a continuation of the present bloodshed and to urge a formula based on understanding to avoid the present pitting of brother against brother and British soldiers against an unfortunate, half-starved people just emerging from years of torture and slavery

SPORTS
OUT OF
ADAM'S HAT




HAD ENOUGH?

IN 1902 PENNSYLVANIA, BEHIND 11-0, GOT MAD AT CORNELL'S OFFER TO SHORTEN THE GAME—CAME BACK, ALLOWED CORNELL ONLY 15 YDS FROM SCRIMMAGE IN THE 2ND HALF AND WON THE GAME 12-11!



F. J. O'BRIEN WAS VOTED A 2 IN 1913 AS ONLY HARVARD MAN EVER TO SCORE FOR YALE—THINKING HE WAS MAKING A STRATEGIC TOUCHBACK, HE RAN BACK OVER HIS OWN GOAL LINE FOR AN AUTOMATIC SAFETY!



ERNE NEVERS ONCE SCORED 40 POINTS IN ONE GAME—AGAINST THE CHICAGO BEARS! ADAM

THE VETERAN'S FRIEND

Q. Is there a place that makes and keeps a record of honorable discharge papers?

A. Usually the County Recorder or Clerk will be able to make a record of your discharge.

Q. How long will the government be paying beneficiaries of World War I?

A. Actuarial estimate is that the last veteran of World War I will die in 1996. Many dependents will survive him, however, and receive benefits long after that time.

Q. Is mustering-out pay subject to federal income tax?

A. No.

Q. Does the G. I. Bill of Rights provide any schooling privi-

leges for veterans who entered the service after they were 25 years of age?

A. The Act provides that veterans with more than 90 days of service may have one year of refresher or retraining courses in cases where they are not eligible for general provisions because they were not in school, or were over 25 at time of induction.

Q. How can disabled veterans participate in the new service officer training course sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans and the U. S. Veterans' Administration?

A. Complete information can be obtained from any DAV service officer or your nearest Veterans' Administration office.

Send questions with self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Veterans' Friend, Disabled American Veterans, 1423 E. McMillan St., Cincinnati 6, Ohio.



Howley

JEST FUN— MOSTLY!

A certain newspaper editor had cause to admonish his son on account of his reluctance to attend school.

"You must go regularly and learn to be a great scholar," said the fond father encouragingly, "otherwise you can never be an editor, you know. What would you do, for instance, if your paper came out full of mistakes?"

"Father," was the reply. "I'd blame 'em on the printer." And then the father fell on his son's neck and wept for joy. He knew he had a worthy successor for the editorial chair.

Blonde: "I am going on a picnic with a young sailor. What do you think I should take?"

Friend: "Care."

At the wedding, Sandy McTavish, the groom, looked so troubled that the best man was moved to inquire, "What's up, Sandy? Hae ye lost the ring?"

"Nae."

"Then hae ye lost the railroad ticket."

"Nae, mon, it's a muckle worse than that."

"Hoot, mon! What is it?"

"Ah hae lost ma enthusiasm!"

She: "What do they mean by horse sense?"

He: "The state of mind which keeps horses from betting on people."

Customer: "Have you a book entitled, 'Man, the Master of the Home'?"

Salesgirl: "The fiction department is on the other side, sir."

Junior: "What is a rare volume?"

Dad: "It's a book that comes back after you have loaned it."

And then there was the draftee who thought the harder he pulled the trigger the farther the bullet would go.

—NUF SED

A flexible, lifelike plastic, tinted to blend exactly with any skin pigmentation has been developed by a University of Illinois dental college professor, according to the Disabled American Veterans.

Special rail fares of 1¼ cents a mile have been established for discharged war veterans of World War II, the Disabled American Veterans reports. Special fares are good for one way coach travel from the point at which the service man or woman is released to any destination in the United States.

MOTOR CITY NEWS

The Morning After

O boy! What a Christmas Party the Aido Chorus had! That table sure looked nice with 40 of us seated and all that food. Well, first of all we had a crackerjack of a rehearsal for Sunday's Radio Program and for our New Year's affair, which promises to be a grand and glorious affair. It is to be held at the I. A. S. Hall at 24th and Michigan, with jokes galore, music, duets and of course the Aido Chorus in a body. So — everyone drop everything and come to our New Year's Dance and we promise you one swell time. Ring out the old year and ring in the new year with the Aido Chorus.

Now about our Christmas party. We had, tree and everything. It looked like one big happy family at that long table, with everything from soup to nuts. Thanks to our hostesses Stella Smith and Bertha Gerald and their assistants. That chile was grand and I guess everything else. And Frankie made sure we girls got our share of the champagne.

A. Daubar sure made a good looking Santa. She passed the gifts out and there sure were some laughs. Everybody was happy with all that gurgle, gurgle that was passed around.

And, oh yes! The mistletoe — it seemed like everyone had some and sure enjoyed that. And of course the singing and dancing.

Your correspondent is new at this job so forgive the wisecracks. I want to wish everyone a grand New Year and especially the Aido Chorus which I am lucky to be a member of.

A. E. K.

Contribute to USO
SMASH THE AXIS

LITHUANIAN MINORITY IN POLAND

Theodore Bayer discusses what will happen to the Lithuanian minority in Poland in Soviet Russia Today in answer to a question asked by N. S. N., of Chelsea, Mass.

Even in the present still formative stage of the post-war Polish state this problem of relationship between the two neighboring countries is being worked out in a friendly and cooperative spirit. Formerly the Lithuanian minority in Poland was oppressed and persecuted. The future relationship, therefore, between the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic and an independent and democratic Poland was recognized as one requiring immediate attention. The establishment of this cordial relationship required a very radical solution of the minority problems inherited from the pre-war regimes in Poland and Lithuania.

Accordingly the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the Lithuanian S.S.R. have agreed to mutually resettle their Polish and Lithuanian minorities. However, this resettlement is not made compulsory either for Poles living in Lithuania, or for Lithuanians living on the territory of Poland. Both states have agreed to facilitate the resettlement of Polish and Lithuanian nationals in accordance with the desires of the latter.

This agreement is in many respects unique in the history of resettlements. Thus, Polish and Lithuanian peasants who wish to return to their respective countries will be granted homesteads equal to their present land holding. They retain their right to take with them all personal belongings, even livestock and poultry. If, however, families prefer to leave some of their possessions behind them, a refund in money or kind will be made to them by their re-

spective governments at their new place of settlement.

Both States also guarantee to their resettled nationals employment in their respective trades or professions, and complete equality in every respect.

The landless Polish peasants who formerly resided in Lithuania will be allotted land in new Poland, in accordance with the recently enacted agrarian reform of the Polish Committee of National Liberation. The two states will, at the end of the readjustment, settle all accounts involved in financing the resettlement, compensation for property left behind, transportation, etc.

This resettlement agreement applies also to Jews who formerly resided in Lithuania and who would, for personal reasons, prefer to live in Poland. They will be granted Polish citizenship. Similarly Jews residing on Polish territory who now wish to live in Lithuania, may do so and become Lithuanian citizens.

This agreement includes the right of a Pole who formerly resided in Poland and who, again for personal reasons, prefers to live in the Lithuanian S.S.R., to resettle in Lithuania and become a Lithuanian citizen. The same right of choosing citizenship also applies to a Lithuanian who prefers to settle in Poland.

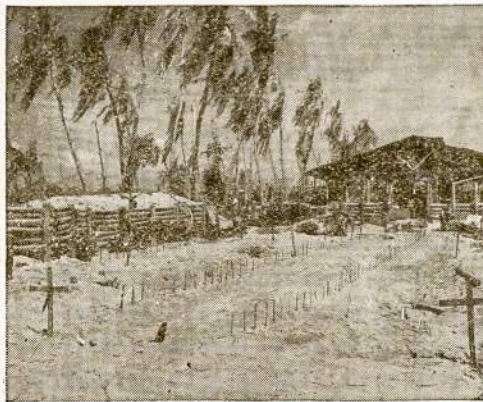
The agreement provides for the registration of those wishing to resettle, between October 15 and December 1, 1944. Actual resettlement will be carried on between December 1944 and April 1945.

One other feature involved in this resettlement is worthy of notice, for it illustrates the new fraternal spirit among nations liberated by the Soviet Union. Since there were no adequate railroad facilities between Poland and Lithuania, both parties to this agreement asked the neighboring Byelo-Russian S.S. R. to extend its facilities for the use of the resettlers. Byelo-Russia promptly gave its assent.

In addition to exchange and compensation for land, personal belongings or harvest left behind, the resettlers will be given in their new homes a monetary loan to the amount of 5,000 rubles or 5,000 zloty, which they can use in setting up their new household and other immediate expenses. The loan is to be repaid over a period of five years.

This agreement was signed on the authority of the Government of the Lithuanian S. S. R. by the Chairman of the Council of Peoples' Commissars, Gedvilas, and for the Polish Committee of National Liberation, by the Chairman of the Committee, Ossubka-Morawski.

Damaged Jap Headquarters



The wrecked building (right background) was a Japanese administration building on Tarawa before the bombs and shells started to fall and Marines land. The bomb-proof shelter (left) was for use of the officers who fled the building.