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Alptus



GYVOJI VYČIO DVASIA

Alfa Sušinskas

Vytis, Lietuvos Vyčių organizacijos narys, laikdamasis Dieviškojo Mokslo, savo katalikišką prigimtį yra apaštalas arba, kitais žodžiais betariant, katalikas veikėjas.

Aiški ir gyvenimiška vyčio pasaulėžiūra verčia jį būti akcijos, veiksmo, žmogumi. Vytis pats turi degti savo idealais bei idėjomis, ir, bedegdamas pats, turi uždegti ir kitus. Vytis turi pats šviesti bei spindėti savo asmenybe, ir, bešviesdamas pats, turi apšviesti ir kitus žmones...

Vytis, būdamas moderniu šių laikų apaštalu, su didžiu dėmesiu turi rūpintis susiformuoti vytišką apaštališką charakterį, kuris pasižymėtų tinkamais savumais, jo vytišką darbą kuo sėkmingiausiai padarant.

Kurie tad turėtų būti vyčio charakterio savumai, kurios žymės?

Pirmoji pagrindinė vyčio kaip katalikų veikėjo žymė, sakytumė, dorybė, yra tikėjimas. Katalikas veikėjas, neturėdamas tvirto, gilaus ir nepalaužiamo tikėjimo į Dievą ir į Jo Bažnyčią, neilgai teišters savo apaštališkame vytiškame kelyje. Gilus, tvirtas, uoliai praktikuojamas katalikų tikėjimas yra vadinė ugnis ir neišsenkanti jėga, kuri suka viso gyvojo, katalikiškojo veikimo mašiną. Deja, vis dėlto kartais pasitaiko vadinamųjų net "didelių" katalikų veikėjų, kurie tik lūpomis veikia, tik dėl kurios nors naudos, patys neturėdami tikinčios, tikrai krikščioniškos širdies. Atėjus sunkiam, bandomam ir kritiškam momentui, jie pasitraukia nuo viso to, ką dar vakar jie skelbė. Taip atsitinka dėl to, kad šitokie "katalikų veikėjai" neturi tikrojo, gyvojo tikėjimo.

Gyvenimo taurumas ir širdies gerumas yra lyg ir antroji tikro apaštalo vyčio žymė arba dorybė.

Daug daugiau nuveikiama ir pasiekama gera širdimi, negu be geros, be mylinčios širdies vien tik kietu, šaltu protu triuškinant kitaip galvojančiojo argumentus bei nusistatymus. Vytis, katalikas veikėjas, nebūdamas savo gyvenimu taurus ir geros, mylinčios širdies neturėdamas, yra panašus į divišmenį kalaviją, kuris į visas pusės viską kerta bei naikina, o nieko nepritraukia ir nejungia.

Vytis turi būti valios žmogus. Silpnos valios veikėjas vytis iš pradžios gal ir daug apžios, bet vėliau maža nukas; ką pradėjęs jis neišvays iki galo. O kliūtys, iškilusios jo vytiškame darbe, galutinai sutriuškina ir jį patį, silpnos valios veikėją.

Vytis yra švelnus savo būdu. Būdo švelnumas yra didelė jėga laimėti žmogui; būdo švelnumas yra lyg šilti, gaivina pavasario saulės spinduliai, kurie ištraukia iš kietos žemės naujus, gaivius daigus; švelnus vyčio apaštalo būdas dažnai atidaro bei laimi ir kiečiausias širdis.

Bet gi veikėjas vytis, būdamas švelnus savo būdu, neturi būti ištižęs savo veiksmu: jis turi turėti ir reikalingo griežtumo; žinoma, tik tada ir tiek, kada kiek reikia. Griežtumas yra lyg druska valgiui. Tačiau reikia išmanyti, kiek į kurį valgį dėti druskos, kad nepersūdžius.

Ir sunkiausiais momentais vytis nenuleidžia rankų. Jis yra daugiau optimistas, negu pesimistas. Jis tikisi laimėti net tada, kada, atrodo, jau nebėra jokios vilties laimėti. Kartą pralaimėjęs, jis siekia ir tikisi kitą kartą laimėti. Savaimė suprantama, vyčio veikėjo optimizmas neturi būti naivus: jis turi

gerai žinoti, kad storos mūro sienos kakta nepramuši...

Daug daug bloga žmonėms padaro liežuvis, ypač organizaciniame darbe. Liežuvio nevaldant neįmanomas joks tikras, katalikiškas veikimas ir nepasiekiamas joks katalikiškas laimėjimas. Liežuvavimas ir tarpusavio rietenos dažnai net visai supaaližuoja darbą.

Vytis turi degti meile Dievui, savo organizacijai, savo draugams vyčiams ir žmonėms, tarp kurių jis gyvena. Niekas nėra taip greit pajaučiamas, kaip meilė ir neapykanta. Su meile skelbiamos tiesos įgauna nepaprastą, patraukiančią jėgą.

Vytis neturi laikyti savęs aukščiau už pačią Vyčių organizaciją. Kad ir koks šaunus ir gabus narys jis bebūtų, jis neturi pamiršti, kad jis tėra tik mažytė organizacijos dalelė, tik mažyltė dalis. Puikybė ir pavydas yra, tur būt, patys blogiausi reiškiniai ir gyvajai vyčio dvasiai jie yra labai kenksmingi. Organizacinė drausmė yra tas dvasinis cementas, kuris palaiko organizacinę kūną. Drausmingas vytis yra naudingiausias savo organizacijai. Pagaliau tarp vyčio žodžių ir darbų turi skambėti darni harmonija...

Tik būdamas gyvos, apaštališkos dvasios vytis bus vertas savo garbingosios Lietuvos Vyčių organizacijos vardo.



Gimtoji Kalba

KAIP AŠ IŠMOKAU LIETUVIŠKAI

Mildred Chinik

Jeigu kas nors anksčiau mane būtų pakvietęs tarti bent keletą žodžių lietuviškai kokiam nors susirinkime, aš būčiau tarusi: "Aš negaliu kalbėti lietuviškai — verčiau kalbėsiu angliškai." Bet kartu gerai atsimenu, kiek daug kartų aš pati esu rašiusi: "Be Lithuanian!" "Think Lithuanian!" "Speak Lithuanian!" Tai mane stiprina lietuviškoj dvasioj, lietuviškoj kalboj. Ir kai aš grįžau namo iš labai gražaus ir įdomaus Pittsburgho Vyčių banketo, kuris įvyko š. m. gegužės m. 4 dieną, aš sumaniau šiuos žodelius jums visiems parašyti.

Aš nesu niekadęs lankiusi lietuviškos mokyklos ir ištikrųjų, formališkai niekur nesu lietuvių kalbos mokiusi. Žmonės dažnai manęs klausia, kur aš išmokau lietuviškai kalbėti ir suprasti. Ir aš čia jums pasakysiu mažą sekretą, paslaptį — aš lietuviškai išmokau lietuviškam veikime, ypač iš lietuviškos dainos ir dramos, lietuviškų koncertų ir lietuviškų teatrų, vaidinimų, kurių dažnai buvo mano jaunose dienose. Gaila, kad šiandien nėra tiems dalykams jau tokio ūpo ir energijos, kaip tai buvo seniau. Pati nežinau kas čia kaltas, ar mūsų jaunimas jau tais dalykais nesiinteresuoja, nesidomi, ar tai kaltė mūsų vadų?

Kai aš augau, tai savo namuose mes visados kalbėjome lietuviškai. Čia tai ir buvo pradžia mano lietuviškos kalbos. Taigi, šeimos vaidmuo lietuvių kalbos išlaikyme yra labai didelis. O jei dar prisiminsime, kad mes lietuviai esame dideli dainos mėgėjai, tai turime pasistengti šito palikimo (heritage) neužslopinti, neleisti jam išnykti, bet su lietuviška daina gaivinti lietuvišką dvasią.

O kaip geriausiai mūsų lietuviškumą išlaikyti? Nagi dalyvauti lietuviškam veikime, jaunimui dėtis į Vyčių organizaciją, kur yra vartojama lietuviška kalba, kur skamba lietuviška daina ir kur taip pat veikia lietuviškas teatras, vaidinimai.

At convention time NORKUNAS liked to do something special for his organization. We too will do something special by sending in a little gift in his name. Contributions can be sent to Joseph Boley, 5 East 62nd St., New York, N. Y. Your gift will be the beginning of the NORKUNAS MEMORIAL FUND.

Do it now, please.

KONGRESAI

LIETUVAITĖS PAS ŠVENTĄJĮ TĖVĄ

Šių metų balandžio mėn. 15-26 dd. Romoje įvyko Pasaulio Katalikių Mergaičių Federacijos ir Pasaulio Katalikių Moterų Organizacijų Unijos kongresai, kuriuose dalyvavo lietuvės atstovės: Dr. N. Bražėnaitė, stud. U. Karvelytė, p-lė M. Macevičiūtė ir p. B. Šlepetytė - Venskuvienė. Iš užimtų kraštų tik vienos lietuvės buvo pilnateisėmis atstovėmis.

Mergaičių kongreso tema buvo "Gyvasis tikėjimas moderniam pasaulyje". Šalia 3 paskaitų ciklo bendra kongreso tema, kurias skaitė pasižymėjęs pamokslininkas Tėvas Carrė, vyko visa eilė darbo ratelių. Vienas jų buvo skirtas atvaizduoti religinę padėtį pavergtuose kraštuose. Priimta visa eilė rezoliucijų pavergtųjų kraštų klausimu. Kolizijoje visos kongreso dalyvės ėjo Kryžiaus Keliu ir meldėsi persekiojamų kraštų intencijai.

Balandžio mėn. 16 d. įvyko tautinių pasirodymų vakaras, kurio metu lietuvės atstovės padėklavo ir padainavo partizanų ir tautinės dainėles ir sušoko porą lietuviškų šokių. Ypač sujaudino gausią publiką U. Karvelytės padėklamuota, parnešta iš Sibiro "Tremtinių daina".

Balandžio mėn. 19 d. Šv. Kalisto katakombose įvairių kraštų kapelionai laikė mišias. Lietuvių būrelis išklausė Šv. Kazimiero Kolegijos kunigo Dabrovolskio mišias.

Užbaigiamajame posėdyje U. Karvelytė pasakė kalbą, sukėlusią daug simpatijų įvairių tautų atstovių tarpe. Ją paminėjo italų spauda.

Moterų kongreso bendroji tema buvo "Pasaulio taika ir katalikių moterų įnašas". Jo metu šalia keletos įdomių paskaitų buvo svarstomos šiandieninio pasaulio religinės ir moralinės bei ekonominės ir socialinės problemos. Lietuvės atstovės savo kalbose atvaizdavo tėvynėje ir ištrėtimuose kenčiančios lietuviškos moters einamą kryžiaus kelią, jos nepalaužiamą tikėjimą, skiepijamą nežiūrint baisių persekiojimų jų vaikuose. Atstovės susilaukė daug simpatijų ir užuojautos už geležinių grotų kenčiančioms lietuviškos moters. Jų kalbas įvairių kraštų atstovės paprašė atsiųsti jų spaudai. Kongreso dalyvės meldėsi už persekiojamą tautas. Vienas rezoliucijų skyrių buvo išimtinai pašvęstas persekiojamioms tautoms.

Audiencijų pas Šv. Tėvą metu U. Karvelytė mergaičių ateitininkių ir Šv. Kazimiero seserų mokyklų auklėtinių vardu įteikė Jo Šventenybei tautinį kilimėlį, išaustą p. Tamošaitienės Kanadoje. Įteikdama dovaną ji pasakė trumpą šio turinio



Viršuj: U. Karvelytė įteikia šventajam Tėvui tulpių kilimėlį lietuvių mergaičių vardu.

Apačoj: Nijolė Bražėnaitė ir Birutė Šlepetytė-Venskuvienė įteikia Šv. Tėvui leidinį iš "Moterų Dirvos" komplektų.

kalbą: "Šventasis Tėve, teikitės priimti šią kuklią dovaną, kaip ženklą prisirišimo ir visiško atsidavimo lietuvių katalikių mergaičių, kenčiančių už geležinių grotų ir ištrėmimo. Sidabriniai šio kilimėlio siūlai atvaizduoja jų ilgesį; įvairiaspalvės tulpės, kurios kadaise žydėjo laisvėj, šiandien laistomos skausmo ašaromis." Šv. Tėvas paklausė: — Ar gaudate žinių iš Lietuvos? — Labai retai, nes tai pavojinga. — Žinau, suprantu ir meldžiuosi, — pridūrė Šv. Tėvas ir suteikė prašytą palaiminimą lietuviams katalikams mergaitėms.

Pasaulio Lietuvių Katalikių Organizacijų Sąjungos vardu Dr. N. Bražėnaitė įteikė Jo Šventenybei leidinį **Mūsų Keliai**, atspausdintą Romoje J. E. Vysk. V. Padolskio rūpesčiu ir Kanadoje Lietuvių Katalikių Moterų Draugijos lėšomis, su šiais žodžiais: Jūsų Šventenybe, lietuvių katalikės, išsi-skaidžiusios po visą pasaulį, neseniai šventusios 40 metų jubiliejų išleido šį leidinį, kuriame aprašė savo veiklą Lietuvoje ir svetur. Jos prašo Jūsų Šventenybės priimti šią knygą, kaip visiško atsidavimo simbolį ir suteikti palaiminimą visoms lietuviams katalikams moterims, kenčiančioms baisių persekiojimų ir priespaudą dabartinėje Lietuvoje, iš-istremtoms į Sibirą ir išblaškytoms po visą pasaulį. — Šv. Tėvas vartydamas leidinį palingavo galvą ir pasakė: — Žinau Jūsų kančias... Vargšės dukros... Aš jus visas laiminu...

B. Šlepetytė - Venskuvienė įteikė Jo Šventenybei Amerikos Rymo Katalikių Moterų Sąjungos gražiai lietuviškai įrišto mėnesinio žurnalo **MOTERŲ DIRVA** 1951 metų komplektą, apibūdindama, kad tai lietuvių katalikės, išemigravusios iš Lietuvos dar prieš Pirmąjį Didįjį Karą. Šv. Tėvas suteikė Sąjungai specialų palaiminimą. (Moterų Dirva tampa bendru katalikių organu, kuriame vis daugiau atvaizduojamas tarptautinių ir lietuvių katalikių organizacijų veikimas).

Jo Eminencijai Kardinolui J. Pizzardo buvo įteikti Šv. Kazimiero A. AIDAI, jubiliejinis leidinys **MŪSŲ KELIAI** ir Amerikos Rymo Katalikių Lietuvių Moterų Sąjungos 25 metų veikimo leidinys, o **TĖVIŠKĖS ŽIBURIAI** su Moterų Skyriumi buvo perduoti jo bibliotekai.

J. E. Vysk. V. Padolskis ir prel. Tulaba dalyvavo kongresų atidarymuose ir uždarymuose ir padėjo mūsų delegatėms visu nuoširdumu, už ką Pasaulio Lietuvių Katalikių Organizacijų Sąjunga yra giliai dėkinga.

Pasaulio Katalikių Mergaičių Federacijos Kongreso išvakarėse įvyko kapelionų susirinkimas, kuriame nuo lietuvių dalyvavo kun. Dr. Balčiūnas.

Į pirmojo kongreso atidarymą ir tautinių pasirodymų vakarą atsilankė Lietuvos atstovo Italijai žmona p. Lozoraitienė.

VISI Į VYČIŲ SEIMĄ

Lietuvos Vyčiams didelis įvykis bus šiais metais Rugsėjo m. 11, 12, 13 ir 14 dienomis Dayton, Ohio.

Vykime į Vyčių Seimą visi kas tik galime! Vyčiai, pasirodykite čia dideliu skaičiumi, gražia lietuviška dvasia ir giliu lietuvišku nuoširdumu. Taip pasirodykite visame Vyčių Seime, jo darbuose, diskusijose ir visuose Vyčių organizacijos reikaluose.

Veikėjai, vadai atvykite į Vyčių Seimą su naujais sumanymais, su nauja medžiaga dar geresniam Vyčių veikimui.

Dvasios vadai, kunigai atneškite naujos ugnies mūsų dvasiai, kad mes galėtume išeiti į darbą vis didesniu dvasios atgimimu, kad mes įstengtume dirbti Dievui ir Tėvynei vis didesniu pasiaukojimu.

Vyčiai, per šį savo Seimą dar tauriau susijungkime didžioj Vyčių šeimoj, dar daugiau pasiryškime ir užsimokime dirbti. To iš mūsų reikalauja Vyčių idealai ir dabartinė kova už Lietuvos laisvę.

A. Vasiliauskas,
Lietuvos Vyčių Centro Pirm.

Š. m. gegužės mėn. 3-6 dd. Paryžiuje įvyko XII Tarptautinės Mergaičių Globos kongresas, kurio metu buvo atšvęstas ir Prancūzių Mergaičių Globos Draugijos 50 metų jubiliejus. Kongreso tema buvo "Modernioji aplinka ir šiandieninė globa."

Šiame kongrese nuo lietuvių dalyvavo Lietuvos atstovo Prancūzijai žmona p. O. Bačkienė ir Pasaulio Lietuvių Katalikių Organizacijų Sąjungos delegatės Dr. N. Bražėnaitė ir B. Šlepetytė - Venskuvienė.

Kongreso metu įvairių kraštų atstovės išklauė keletos įdomių paskaitų apie moderniąją aplinką ir jos įtaką į jauną mergaitę. Šalia kitų kraštų atstovių mūsų delegatės turėjo progos nušviesti Mergaičių Globos darbus Lietuvoje ir iškelti sunkumus, pavojus ir žiaurų vargą, su kuriais lietuviškosios susiduria kęsdama persekiojimus, baisią priespaudą ir ištrėmimus. Iš užimtų kraštų pilnateisėmis delegatėmis buvo tik lietuvių. Jos buvo šiltai priimtoms.

SEIMAS ARTI

ĮGYVENDINKIME SUVAŽIAVIMŲ NUTARIMUS

L. Valiukas, Dayton, Ohio.

Kiekviename visuotiname suvažiavime yra priimama visa eilė nutarimų bei rezoliucijų, pavedant jas kuopoms ir Centro Valdybai įgyvendinti. Tačiau, kiek jau teko patirti, dauguma tų nutarimų bei rezoliucijų palieka popieryje.

Savo teigimą pailiustruosiu pavyzdžiais.

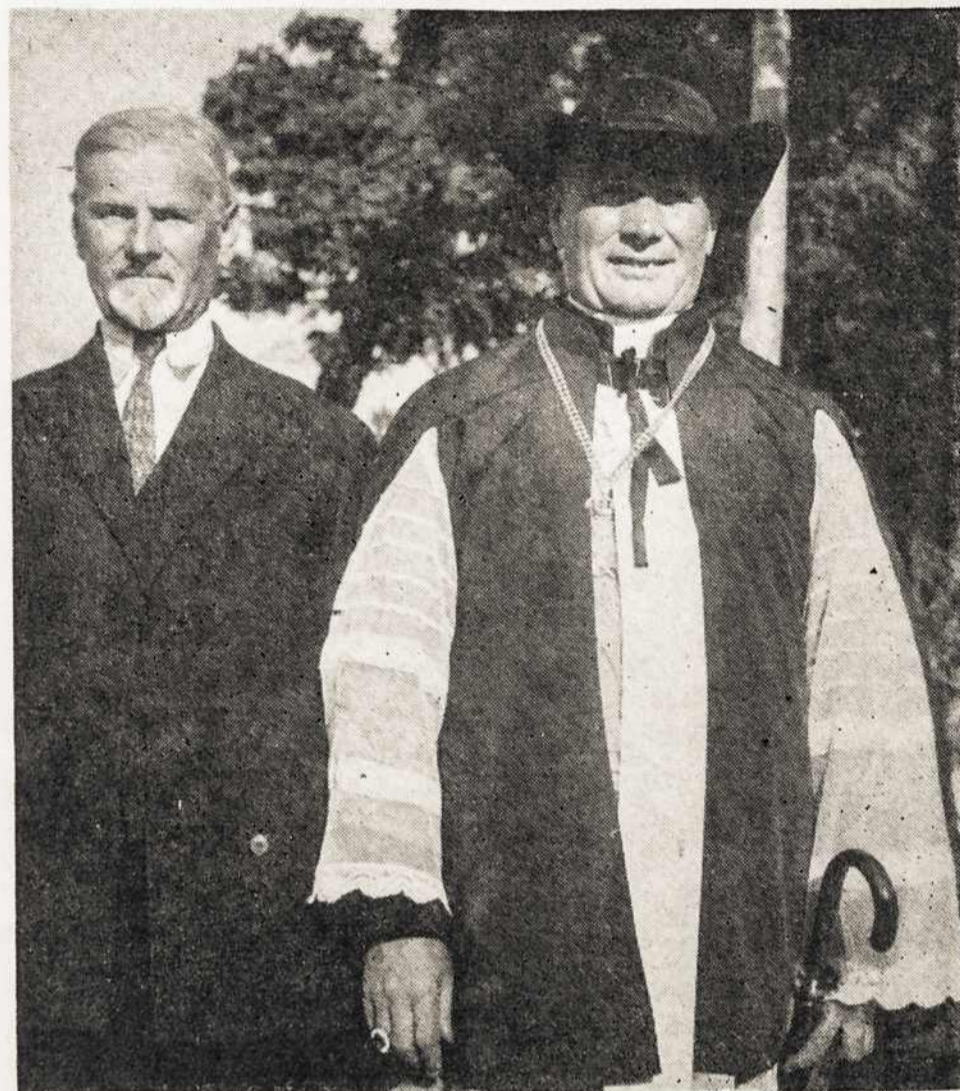
Chicagos seime (1950 metais) buvo nutarta išleisti angliškas leidinėlis apie Lietuvą. Iki New Yorko suvažiavimo nepavyko tai atlikti. Paskutiniame suvažiavime tas nutarimas buvo pakartotas ir papildytas ta prasme, kad be minimo leidinuko būtų taip pat kartkartėmis išleidžiami panašūs kiti leidiniai — knygutės apie terorą Lietuvoje, trumpa Lietuvos istorija, geografija, literatūra ir pan. Ir štai, per dvejus metus nepavyksta niekaip išvesti į dienos šviesą nors pirmąjį leidinuką.

New Yorko suvažiavime nutarta, kad kiekviena kuopa paaukotų iš savo kasos bent po \$0.50 nuo kiekvieno nario Centro Valdybai, tuo įgalinant ją pilniau praveisti visus planus. Neseniai apie tai užsiminiau Centro Valdybos kasininkui. Ir ką pasakys, tik kelios kuopos tą prievolę yra atlikusios. Tai nedovanotinas kuopų apsileidimas.

Taip pat Chicagos ir New Yorko suvažiavimuose nutarta paremti ALT-bos ir BALF-o veiklą. Labai mažas kuopų skaičius ir pavienių narių procentas į šį paraginimą yra atsiliepęs.

Šitiems negalavimams atitaisyti siūlyčiau šių priemonių:

1. Nutarimų bei rezoliucijų skaičius neturėtų būti perdidelis;
2. Visi nutarimai ir rezoliucijos suglaustai ir neišmėtytai atspausdinamos "Vytyje" tuoj po suvažiavimo ir pakartotinai atspausdinamos bent porą kartų vėliau;
3. Centro Valdyba be atodairos turėtų gerokai paspausti kuopas ir tuos asmenis, kurie uždėtų pareigų bei pasiimto darbo laiku neatlieka;
4. Dauguma ne tik kuopų narių, bet ir kuopų valdybų narių menkai supranta lietuviškai, o apie skaitymą lietuviškai tai nė kalbos nėra. Tad, suvažiavimų nutarimai ir rezoliucijos dėtinios "Vytyje" abiemis kalboms ir
5. Daugiau energijos šiame reikale turėtų parodyti Centro Valdyba. Kiekvienas Centro Valdybos narys turėtų bent kartą į metus aplankyti savo rajone esamas kuopas, neleisti joms visiškai nusigręžti nuo lietuviškųjų reikalų

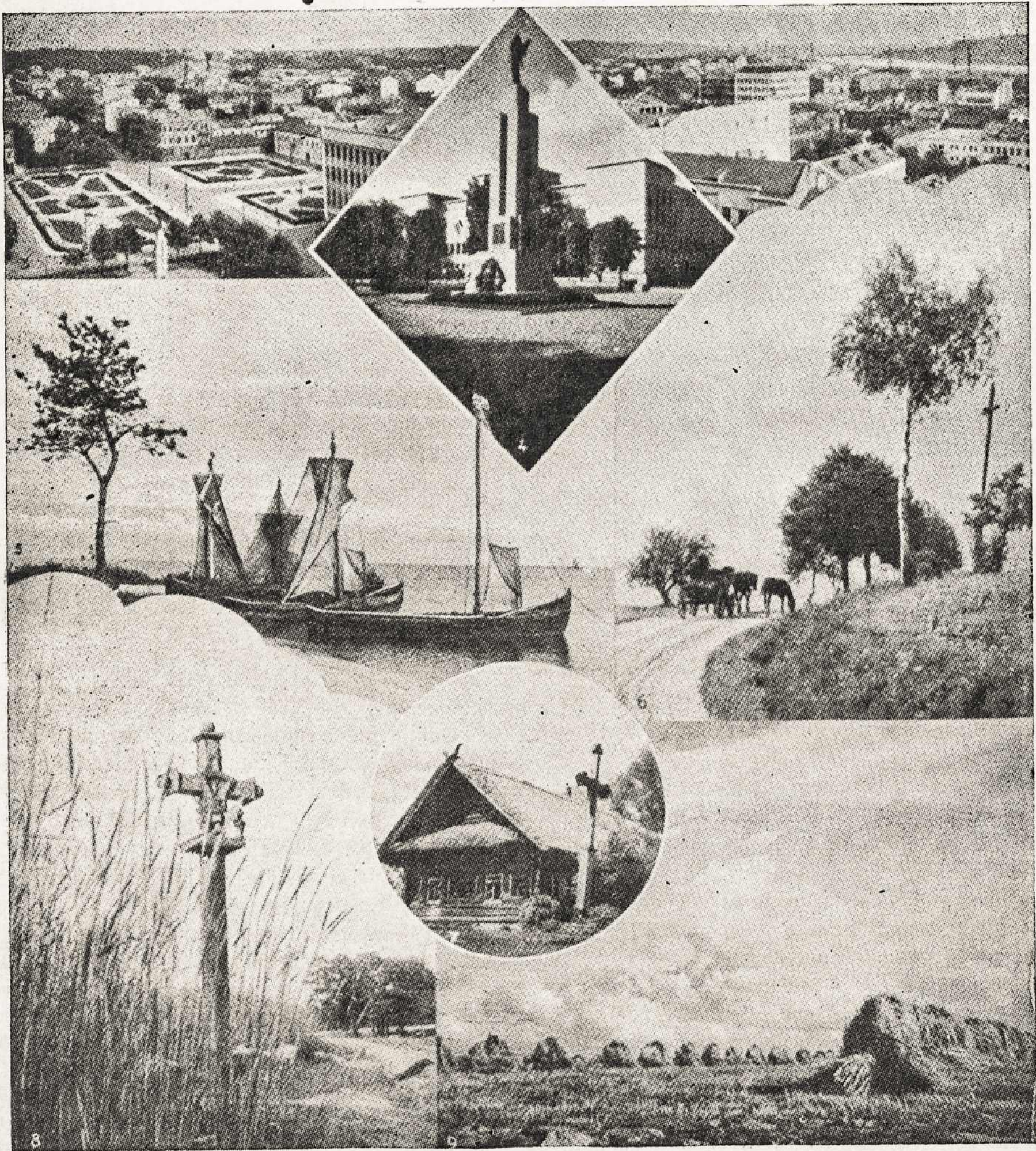


MIRĖ LIETUVOJE

KAN. VINCAS ALEKSANDRAVIČIUS

Gauta liūdna žinia, kad š. m. balandžio mėn. 15 dieną mirė Lietuvoje kan. Vincas Aleksandravičius, žinomas lietuvis veikėjas, Prof. A. J. Aleksio, Vyčių Garbės Nario, brolis. Pastaruoju laiku jis buvo Gudelių parapijos klebonu, Mariampolės apskrity. Gudeliuose jis ir mirė. Čia paveikslė mes matome a. a. kan. Vincą Aleksandravičių su savo broliu Juozu, kurs yra tėvas Lietuvos armijos pulkininko Vinco Aleksandravičiaus, bolševikų išvežto į Sibirą, kurio žmona Daktarė Adelė Aleksandravičienė, vaikų ligų specialistė, dabar yra Prancūzijoje ir dirba, kaip gydytoja, ligoninėje.

Pažymėtina, kad a. a. kan. Vincas Aleksandravičius buvo aktyvus lietuvis veikėjas, ypač daug dirbo lietuvių tautiniam atgimime. Jį gražiai pamini ir Vincas Kudirka savo raštuose. Jis buvo labai uolus 1905 metais Lietuvoje įvykusiame Didžiajam Vilniaus Seime, kurs, vykstant revoliuciniam judėjimui, sprendė Lietuvos išsilaisvinimo iš Rusijos priespaudos reikalus. Lietuvos Enciklopedijoje, minint Didįjį Vilniaus Seimą, galima dažnai užtikti ir a. a. kan. Vinco Aleksandravičiaus pavardę.



Mūsų Lietuva



Lietuvis Pas Indėnus

J Žemaitis

Prieš kelias savaites tarnybiniiais reikalais nuvykau į Cucutą, Kolumbijos šiaurinio departamento Santander sostinę. Miestas, visai arti Venezuelos sienos, pagal 1951 m. gyventojų surašymą turi 88-640 gyv. 1871 metais žemės drebėjimas beveik visai sunaikino. Dar ir šiandien riogso apžėlę griuvėsiai. Gatvės plačios, iš abiejų pusių apsuptos gražių aukštų palmių, kurios miestui teikia ypatingą atspaudą. Vienok, tą viską nustelbia tropinis klimatas. Šis miestas randasi vos 215 metrų virš jūros lygio ir nuolat turi 27 laipsnius karščio. Nors viešbučiuose randama moderniški įrengimai, kaip ventiliatoriai, šaldytuvai ir dušai, bet karštis vis dėlto slegia ir naktimis yra sunku miegoti. Kai tik atsiguli, visas kūnas paskęsta prakaitu.

Cucuta yra garsi savo kava. Ten aukštumose auginama labai gera kavos rūšis, kurią vadina "café de Cucucuto". Ji transliuojama į visus pasaulio kraštus.

Mano šeimininkas labai turtingas ir malonus kolumbietis, čia gimęs ir augęs. Jis daro viską, kad nejausčiau nuobodumo. Aprodė man miestą, supažindino su savo draugais, nuvežė prie Venezuelos sienos ir, staiga, vieną dieną pasiūlė aplankyti indėnus, gyvenančius apie 85 klm. nuo Cucutos. Sutinuku, nes tokia proga dažnai nepasitaiko.

Ankstų rytą sėdame į mašiną ir važiuojame pas indėnus. Šitoji indėnų giminė, vadinama Motilones, gyvena džiunglėse, į kurias juos įstūmė baltieji šio krašto užkariautojai ispanai. Miškai ir džiunglės tęsiasi nuo Atlanto vandenyno per visą Kolumbijos bei Venezuelos kraštą iki Brazilijos ir dar toliau. Džiunglės užima tūkstančius kvadratinį kilometrų. Kiek jose gyvena indėnų — niekas nežino. Žmonių surašinėjimas būtų beprasmis, nes indėnų tautelės nepripažįsta jokių valstybinių sienų ar vyriausybių ir beveik visados juda iš vieno krašto į kitą.

Važiuojame greitu tempu. Aplinkui nieko nematyti, nes viskas paskendę dulkių debesyse. Priva-

žiavę arčiau Venezuelos sienos, ties perėjimo punktu pasukam į šalį. Kelias pasidaro blogas ir mašina smarkiai krato. Saulė taip kaitina, kad prakaitas sunkiasi net per lengvus rūbus.

Važiuojame per žmogaus nepalietą mišką. Medžiai tokie aukšti, kad vos matosi viršūnės. Ant žemės privirtę milžiniškų medžių, apaugusių žole ir kitais augalais. Nesimato nei vieno takelio ir negalima įsivaizduoti, kad kas galėtų per tą mišką vaikščioti.

Staiga mašina sustoja. Mano draugas kolumbietis aiškina, kad ką tik pervažiavome vieną iš nuodingiausių Pietų Amerikos gyvačių. Atsargiai išlipame iš mašinos, nes ta gyvatė, būdama sužeista, puola kiekvieną, kas tik juda. Nieko nepastebėjom. Gal būt, kad kol mašina prisiartino, ji spėjo pasitraukti. Lipame atgal ir pradėdame pamažu judėti pirmyn. Staiga iš vieno krūmo žaibo greitumu kažkas atsitrenkė į mašinos ratą. Truputį pavažiavę sustojome ir, šit, ant kelio guli, sutriuškinta galva, gyvatė, bet jos uodega dar smarkiai daužosi. Man pasidarė nejauku, kai pagalvojau, kad prieš tai, jos beieškodamas, buvau nuėjęs netoli to paties krūmo.

Kuo toliau važiuojame, tuo kelias darosi blogesnis ir šilima nepakenčiamesnė. Turėti dabar stiklėlių vandens su ledais būtų didesnė laimė už milijoną dolerių. Apie tai čia tegalima tik svajoti. Nebeliko nieko kito, kaip iš portfelio išsitraukti kitą nosinę ir šluostytis prakaitą, nes jau penkios nosinės taip sušlapo, kad jas pilnai galima gręžti.

Staiga visus sunkumus pamirštame. Pastebime pirmuosius indėnus kažką ant galvų užsidėjusius ir traukiančius siauru miško taku, į mus jie beveik neatkreipia dėmesio, lyg vaizdas jau jiems būtų įprastas. O gal jie mano, kad neverta kreipti dėmesio į tuos baltuosius žmones, užkariavusius jų kraštą ir juos išstūmusius į miškus ir džiungles? Stebiuosi jų eisena. Nors ant galvos nešama našta neatrodo lengva, bet kiekvienas eina tiesiai, lyg Lietuvos kareivis parado metu.

Vienoje miško aikštelėje pasirodo pirmosios lūšnelės. Tai indėnų Motilonų kolonijos pradžia. Šeimininkas man paaiškino, kad toliau važiuoti negalima, nes nėra kelio, o per mišką eiti pėstiems yra pavojus būti užpultiems žvėrių ar indėnų. Tad čia ir apsistojome. Išlipame prie vienos lūšnelės. Trobelė maža, primityviai pastatyta ir labai nešvari. Pirmieji, kurie mus čia pasveikina, yra gauja indėnų šunų, kurie su didžiausiu triukšmu nori mus pulti, tačiau nedrįsta arčiau prisiartinti. Pasirodo ir indėnai — vyrai, moterys ir vaikai. Vaikai nuogi ir labai nešvarūs. Trys iš indėnų kalba ispaniškai.

Mano šeimininkas paaiškina, kad čia esą iš tolimo krašto atvykęs lietuvis, kuris nori juos aplankyti ir perduoti sveikinimus. Tada vienas iš jų pasakė trumpą pasveikinimo žodį indėnų kalboje, kurią ispaniškai kalbant indėnas mums išvertė. Klausau, kaip jis pabrėžia, kad čia atvykęs garbingas svetys iš tolimo krašto, vadinamo Lietuva. Ji esanti viena iš didžiausių Šiaurės Amerikos kraštų. Ten, esą, žmonėms nieko nereikia dirbti, valdžia viską apmokanti ir todėl jie gali keliauti per viso pasaulio kraštus. Baigdamas jis kreipėsi į mane, kad aš praneščiau savo vyriausybei, kad ji paveiktų šio krašto žmones pasitraukti ir gražinti jų žemę. Be to, kad prašyčiau Lietuvos valdžią atsiųsti jiems pinigų. Norint atsakyti į tą gražią kalbą, turėčiau viską taisyti ir sugadinti visų didelį įspūdį. Pasakiau jiems tik "širdingą ačiū" už gražią kalbą ir atsisėdau.

Tuo tarpu spietėsi vis daugiau žmonių. Suaugusieji turi gražias ir aukštas figūras. Veidai rodo tikrą mongolišką išvaizdą su mažomis akimis. Iš visko jiems atrodė, kad mes atvažiavome prekybiniais reikalais, nes čia dažnai atvyksta įvairūs vaizbūnai. Jie atveža degtinės, prigirdo vargšus indėnus ir duoda jiems nešti prekes į Venezuelą. Iš ten grįždami, atneša pigias prekes į Kolumbiją. Vyriausybė visomis jėgomis kovoja prieš šią kontrabandą, bet indėnus pagauti neįmanoma. Jie slenka slaptais, tik jiems žinomais, takais. Sakoma, kad Cucutos miestas tik per kontrabandą yra praturtėjęs ir dar šiandieną iš to tebegyvenąs. O kokį užmokestį gauna vargšai indėnai už savo sunkų darbą? Bonką degtinės ir nieko daugiau. Taip juos dar ir šiais laikais baltieji žiauriausiu būdu išnaudoja.

Indėnai Motilonai yra garsūs tuo, kad jie gali sumažinti nukirstas priešų galvas iki obuolio dydžio, nepakeisdami veido bruožų, kurie lieka tokie, kaip kad gyvo žmogaus. Sakoma, kad jie ir šiandieną dar tą patį darą. Žinoma, už tokią prekybą Kolumbijos valdžia smarkiai baudžia, bet tas mažai padeda. Man paklausus, ar jie tokių galvų turi perduoti, vienas jų atsakė, kad šiuo momentu neturįs, bet laikas nuo laiko esą galima gauti. Tai žiaurus Pietų Amerikos didžiųjų miškų paslapties

ženklas. Kas žino, kas darosi tose džiunglėse, kur baltųjų žmonių mažai tėra buvę.

Matau, kaip vienas vyresnio amžiaus indėnas nuolat žiūri į mano galvą. Šaltas šiūrpas pereina per mano išilusį kūną. Pradėjau vaizduotis, kaip gražiai tiktų žemaičio galva jų kolekcijoms.

Dar prieš dvidešimt metų čia negalėjo pasirodyti nei vienas baltasis. Indėnai jį tuojuo nužudydavo. Vyriausybė tuo laiku buvo pasiuntusi kariuomenę, kuri daug indėnų iššaudė, bet jie atsikeršydami prislinkdavo prie sužeistųjų kareivių ir jiems visiems nukirsdavo rankas. Po to valdžia atsiuntė vieną mokytoją, bet po kelių dienų jį rado pririštą prie medžio ir nužudytą. Pagaliau atvyko Tėvai Pranciškoniai, kuriems šiaip taip pavyko įsikurti, įsteigė mokyklas ir laikė pamaldas. Bet dar ir šiandieną atsitinka, kad jie nužudo vieną kitą baltąjį prekybininką, jeigu jiems atrodo, kad jis juos yra apgavęs.

Maitinasi jie bemedžiodami, bet Tėvai Pranciškoniai pamažu juos pripratino auginti kukurūzus ir gaminti kitus maisto produktus.

Labai įdomus jų laiko suskirstymas. Dieną ir naktį jie skirsto į 17 valandų: pirmoji gaidystė, antroji gaidystė, trečioji gaidystė, aušra, pirmoji šviesa, atsikėlimas, saulės užtekėjimas, pusrytis, priešpietis, pietūs, popietis, puspopietis, saulės nusileidimas, po saulės nusileidimo laikas, sutemimas, naktis ir priešvidurnaktis.

Jų bloga ypatybė, kad jie visi kramto Koka augalo lapus, iš kurių gaminamas kokainas. Šiais produktais jie varo didelę kontrabandą. Indėnai Koka augalą laiko šventu. Vienas senas indėnas man aiškino, kad tų lapų kramtymas jiems teikia jėgų pernešti visokiems gyvenimo sunkumams. Aišku, šis įprotis juos veda į degeneraciją, ypač kai dar prie to prisideda degtinė. Jų tarpe siaučia įvairios užkrečiamos ligos, nuo kurių daug jų miršta. Kolumbijos valdžia yra išleidusi įvairių įstatymų jų gyvenimui palengvinti ir juos atitraukti nuo Koka lapų kramtymo. Tačiau, kol nebus padaryti realūs žygiai, tol visi įstatymai liks beprasniais.

Vėlyvą popietį su indėnais išsiskyrėme. Važiuojant galvoje kilo įvairios mintys. Kas dabar beliko iš indėnų tautos, kuri buvo pasiekusi aukštą kultūros lygį, kad net dabar stebimės jų menu, mokslu, jų įstatymais ir turtais? Ar čia baltasis žmogus nėra padaręs didžiausį nusikaltimą prieš indėnų tautą? Ar jis galės kada už tai atsakyti?

Berašant šį straipsnį š. m. rugpiūčio mėn 8 d. Kolumbijos laikraščiai pranešė, kad indėnai Motilonai užpuolė San Pablo kaimą, kur vieną baltąjį nužudė, o kitus du sužeidė. Grąšindami visus sunaikinsią, jei jie neapleisią jų žemės, indėnai pasitraukė. Tuo tarpu kaimo valdyba prašo, kad valdžia apsaugai atsiųstų kariuomenę.

"Kolumbijos Lietuvis".

Partisans Behind the Iron Curtain

(The last installment of our free translation of "Partizanai už Geležinės Uždangos", you recall, ended with a question: Where would the Russian bandits strike next? Well, this is the answer.)

The Incident at Prienai.

A certain group of Russians made it a point to come to the town of Prienai quite regularly to do a bit of stealing and plundering. After each robbery they would stop at the home of a Mr. Gelčis, whose daughter soon became their "hostess". The Russians would spend several hours at this house drinking and singing and being entertained by Miss Gelčis. The Russians, of course, shared their ill-gotten goods with her and her father.

Once the Partisans learned of this, they took it upon themselves to put a stop to this gang's thievery and to the collaborationism of the Gelčis family. They sent out Gaidys (The Rooster) to get the lay of the land, as it were. In the meantime, Viesulas (The Storm) contacted four men and made preparations to liquidate the Reds at the Gelčis home. Gaidys, dressed in civilian clothes, set out in the moonlight to reconnoiter. He silently approached the house, and in the moonlight in the yard he saw three saddled horses, while from the kitchen came noises of singing and the shrill laughter of the girl. He could not see what was going on inside the house because the windows were covered from within.

When Gaidys returned and gave his report, Viesulas, Šarūnas, Naktis (The Night), Žvaigždės (The Star) and himself hurried back to the Russian revelers.

There were the three horses eating away at their hay. The noises from the house were just as Gaidys had said, perhaps it sounded more boisterous was the dogs. As soon as the Partisans drew near, the dogs were aroused and began barking like mad. This gave the Partisans away. They could see someone pull back the shade and look out into the moonlit yard, then suddenly drop the shade back into place. The Russians had noticed the Partisans outlined in the silvery moonlight. The noise stopped, the lights in the house were extinguished. Three Partisans rushed for the door, while the rest surrounded the house.

Viesulas, the leader, knocked at the door pre-

tending he was a neighbor, asking for something or other. But the Reds were not tricked. Instead of opening the door, they opened fire, shooting the panels full of holes, instantly killing Kariūnas (Cadet) and injuring Viesulas, himself. Then Naktis (The Night) shouted to all the civilians in the house to come out. They would not be harmed. Only the girl came out the back door. Then the Partisans began shooting and tossing their hand grenades. In this way they killed two of the bandits. The third jumped out of a window and began running for the forest. Gaidys shot after the fleeing figure and hit him, but the Red, not minding his wound kept right on running. From the bloody trail he left, it was clear that he was seriously wounded. Since the Partisans were heavily bundled up in heavy winter overcoats, they could not keep up with the Russian. Gaidys and two companions, however, followed the trail of blood to a nearby farmhouse, where the trail mysteriously vanished. The farmer who lived there said the Red soldier kept right on running. But, no footsteps could be found to prove his story. The Partisans dropped their chase, instead of searching the farmhouse.

A few days later it became clear that the farmer had been lying, forced to it by the Russian at gun point. The Red had been hiding under a chicken incubator, his revolver pointed at the farmer's wife, threatening to kill her if the farmer told the Partisans of his presence there. The next day the Russian died of his wounds and then the truth came out.

At Nuotaka Hill

One December day, I was visiting with some friends when all of a sudden the dogs began barking.

"Oh, oh. What's this? The dogs are barking so loud, it must be the Russians," said Paul going to the window. I dashed over, too. Sure enough, there were several Ivans in the back yard.

"Your dogs are right. Some "guests" have just arrived," I said, as I looked around for a place to hide.

Seeing my worry, Paul said, "Wait a minute, don't lose your head. Maybe they won't come into the house. I'll go into the yard and find out. You stay here and watch. If you have to hide, take cover under this pile of wood-shavings. They'll never think of looking there."

This time, fortunately, my fears were groundless.

When the Reds saw the owner come out they commandeered him and his wagon to take them where they were going. There were 12 NKVD soldiers, one of whom looked as though he was wounded, because he was being half-carried, half-dragged by the others. We were wrong. He was only drunk, dead drunk.

Paul came back to the house and explained that it was a group of "requisitioners", visiting the farmers to force them to give over their grain to the Red Army. He got into his sheepskin and was off.

"Wait till I get back," he shouted as he went out the door.

The reeling, cursing soldiers piled into Paul's wagon and rode off. Even the dogs seemed to yelp with joy at seeing the Reds disappear.

As the sun was setting the rest of the family returned from their duties, but Paul did not show up. Shortly after supper the crisp, cold air was shattered by gun shots from the direction of Prienai. Then silence again. In a few minutes we could hear the rat-tat-ta of a machine gun, which went on for a few minutes. Finally, there was a series of explosions of hand grenades.

"The Partisans are peppering the Ivans," I said to myself.

Paul's mother grew more and more uneasy as the minutes dragged on.

"God, help Paul," she prayed. "I hope nothing happens to him."

"Don't you go worrying about Paul, now," I said trying to reassure her. "He's clever. He knows how to take care of himself."

But, to tell the truth, I scarcely believed my own words. I had the strangest feeling that all had not gone well with Paul. To be riding in a wagon with a dozen drunken soldiers of the NKVD was enough to put anyone in the gravest danger. Anything could happen, and the worst usually did take place.

I went outside to see if I could, at least, hear something that would be encouraging. Only the stillness of the cold night surrounded me.

A good hour passed before we heard the gallop of the returning horse and wagon. Paul came into the house without saying a word, sat down at table where his supper was waiting.

"Paul, dear, where were you? What happened to keep you out so long?" asked Paul's mother.

"Please don't ask me, Mom. Just thank God that I am home alive tonight," he replied.

Later he told us the whole story.

When the Russians left the house they did not

go directly to Prienai, but stopped at farmer P's place, where they remained for a couple of hours, occupied at the pastime at which they were masters: drinking. They mixed business with pleasure this time, because they had arranged to have several disobedient farmers brought to P's farm to be indoctrinated with the importance of handing over to the Russian agents the quota of grain imposed upon them by the authorities. These poor farmers who could not or who would not supply the demanded quantities of grain were threatened with severest penalties if they failed, and as a matter of fact, they were beaten up right then and there and then sent home.

At dusk, the Reds, now as drunk as could be, decided it was time to ride on to Prienai. On the way they burst into song, if you could call their raucous shouting a song.

The Partisans had been warned of this group of NKVD terrorists, so they were on the look-out. At Nuotaka Hill they ambushed the passing wagon. From well hidden and fortified positions they opened fire. The slightly more sober Reds lost no time in tumbling out of the wagon and dashing for cover. Paul, too, jumped down from the driver's seat and sprawled on the ground in a roadside ditch. Luckily, it was not quite dark at the time, and the Partisans did notice that he was in civilian clothes. They did not fire at him, but kept shooting at the Russians in uniform whom they chased deep into the forest. Not one of the twelve got away. In the fray, one of the horses was shot to death.

After several minutes the Partisans returned, Paul identified himself, and helped the Lithuanians gather together the guns and ammunition that the Reds had left behind them. This was an important addition to their arsenal, but more important than the rifles and revolvers that they took from the dead Communists, was the list of the "disobedient" farmers. Now these farmers could live at ease for a few months, since the Russians had no records as to who gave and who did not give grain in that sector.

Paul was glad that the brutal Russian beside him had been punished. He had complained that Paul was not driving fast enough, so he beat Paul with his rifle — but and took the reins himself.

When Paul finished his story, he went out to the yard and brought in the blood stained harness.

"Gee, I'm sorry they got the road. He was a good horse."

"You're lucky you're alive. Thank God for that," said his wife.

Translated by

A. A. JURGELAITIS

SOS! To The Free World

Collective cry for help of the suffering Lithuanian Nation.

L. Valiukas

The Editors of News Bulletin of ELTA, a news agency of the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania in Western Europe, met a group of Lithuanian freedom-fighters who recently had fought through the iron curtain and reached the free world. Their coming through and all their sufferings are just of yesterday; everyone can read in their eyes the tortures of crucifixion of the Lithuanian nation and also an unconditional determination for the freedom of Lithuania. They were asked by the editors to answer several questions.

Is Soviet Russia Prepared for War?

Yes, Communist Russia is preparing for war without any interruption since 1945. Communists are making ammunition day and night. The Communist menace is greater than anybody thinks in the free world. Communists, when ever an opportunity offers, tell the people that Soviet Russia will sweep off the whole world. They say they will arm China which has more people than the Americans have bullets. Chinese and Russian armies, as they state, would leave no stone upon stone in the United States of America. And if those armies failed to do that then they would send fifteen millions of secret police which without any doubt, according to the Communist propaganda, would finish the task.

Is The Voice of America Heard in Lithuania?

Yes, it is. Only the people of the cities have an opportunity to listen to it, because country people have neither radios nor electricity. Many people listen to the Voice of America even though they risk their lives. Only the prewar radio sets have short waves. All those sets are to be registered at local Communist party secretariats, and a certain tax is to be paid. New radio sets have no short waves and they are also too expensive for working people. A radio set cost from 800 to 1.200 roubles (about \$300). The Voice of America is heard best at seven o'clock in the morning. According to those men, during those broadcasts of the Voice of America too much is talked about the terror behind the iron curtain, living conditions in Russia, etc. That is already known to the people behind the iron curtain. They would like better to know what is being done in preparation for liberating enslaved nations, moods in the free world, etc.

Are National and Religious Monuments Left by Communists?

All the monuments of Independent Lithuania are pulled down. The monuments of **Virgin Mary in Plungė** is broken to pieces, the face of the statue is defaced with tar. The beautiful students' church in Panevezys has been turned into a warehouse, and the Marian church — into barracks. Protestant cemetery turned into a playground. Lithuanian shrines, crosses, and crucifixes are pulled down and desecrated everywhere.

What is the fate of Lithuanian bishops and priests?

Out of fourteen bishops only one is left. There are many parishes and churches without priests. The priests are arrested and deported to Siberia. Many churches are closed because parishioners were unable to pay taxes. Tax for a church is about 60,000 roubles (\$15,000). Last year a bishop's representative visited Klaipėda (Memel), gave sermons, and administered confirmation, but when he came back to Telšiai, he was met on the train by officers of the secret police, arrested, and deported. Religious life is still alive; on Catholic holy days the churches are overcrowded by people.

Do the people know anything about freedom-fighters?

Yes, the freedom-fighters are known in the country, but nobody talks about them publicly. They do a great job. They operate in small groups. It is very hard for them to get some ammunition, etc. Those who help any freedom-fighters are imprisoned at least for 25 years.

What are the people's moods, do they wait for a war?

The people are very low-spirited. If this situation continues for a longer time, all the people will go crazy. Everyone is waiting for war. For example, people start talking that the war will break out on a certain day. But when that day comes and there is no war then they become sad and fix new dates for war.

Do the Communists still carry out mass deportations of Lithuanian people?

Last time mass deportations were executed in 1949 and lasted for several days. Now they have changed their method and do that more secretly, arresting people during night time. Thus the people are continuing to disappear by hundreds and thousands after every single night.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

of Lithuanian History, Worcester, Mass. (26)

By Vytautas Adomaitis

Who are the Lithuanians?

The Lithuanians are one of the most ancient of various peoples belonging to the Indo-European or Aryan race.

Together with the Latvians, and now extinct Old-Prussians and Yatvegians, they form the Aistian group of the Aryan family of nations. The Aistians lived on the eastern and southern shores of the Baltic Sea in the region that now lies between the Dvina River and the Vistula River.

From where did the Lithuanians first come?

The Lithuanians first came from Asia together with the other Aryan nations of Europe many thousands of years before the Christian Era. The Lithuanians once lived in what is now Russia: between the Volga and Dnieper, around the Okos, Upos, and Desnos rivers. Many of the place names in these areas are of Lithuanian origin.

That the Lithuanians once lived in the Balkans

and around the Black Sea coast may be seen from the ethnological study of the DAINA—ancient Lithuanian folk songs. Nearly all of us are familiar with the phrase in a popular Lithuanian folk song "Siurtė mane motinėle į Dunojų vandenėlio parnešti!" Also some of Asia Minor. The **Lion** is frequently mentioned in Lithuanian mythology and its figure was carved often in the ancient pagan places of worship.

Archeologists state that there is definite proof that people lived in the Nemunas Basin nearly 10,000 B. C. It is thought that the Lithuanians were among the first, together with the Celts and Greeks, to reach Europe.

How old is the Lithuanian language?

H. W. Krieger, of the United States National Museum, states that the Lithuanian language is one of the oldest of the Aistian branch of the Indo-European language, the parent speech of west European peoples.

Do the Communists Russianize the country?

Better jobs in factories and offices are taken by Russians regardless of their ability to do that. For example, in the major cities of Vilnius, Kaunas, and Klaipėda about one-half of all the people are Russians. In Klaipėda — more than one-half. Better houses, clothes, etc. are for Russians only. In the place of deported Lithuanians are brought Russians and settled down, giving them citizenship papers and also Lithuanian names.

Who lives the most miserable life in Lithuania?

Though Lithuania is ruled now by "working-class", but the same working-class has to live the most miserable life. By working-class it means all those who work on collective farms (kolkhos), small farmers and factory workers. They form almost the whole Lithuanian population.

How about those electric lamps with the name of Lenin on collective farms? Many times the Communist press and radio have stated that almost every collective farm has electricity.

That is a big lie. Lithuanian people are under such a yoke that they have not even dreamt about that before. Day by day they have to rack their brains what they will put on, where they will find a shelter, what they will have for appeasing their hunger next day. They have even no material to

stop up holes in roofs; electric lights are out the question. Many people start to think about Russian type of houses — caves in earth. There they could be safe from rain, and those houses would not need any repairs.

How about the Labor Control?

If somebody is late five minutes he may be very easily fired. Usually, for being late to work the first time they subtract 25% of monthly wage, second time — 50%, the third time — fired from work and sent for six months to labor camps. Prisons are crammed; labor camps are in following cities: Vilnius, Pravieniškiai, Klaipėda, Šilutė, Akmenė, and Telšiai. Nobody is allowed to change his working place.

Are the people united?

Yes, they are. They have only one enemy — the Communist. They are anxious only how to hold out themselves and how to protect their nation that it would not be swept off the earth.

How are you doing in Western World?

We are as in a dream. After we escaped the internal terror and suddenly became free men again, first we want to pass on the collective cry for help of our brethren Lithuanians and other enslaved peoples to the free western world: SOS!

Since it is the most pure branch of the great Indo-European family, many scientists hold that the Lithuanian language and Lithuanian culture are the keys to the origin of all Indo-Europeans. The Frenchman **Meillet**, and the Germans **Schleicher** and **Goethe** frequently used to tell their ethnology and language students: "If you wish to know how your ancestors spoke, go to a Lithuanian village."

Since when have the Lithuanians inhabited the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea?

As is the case with the early history of nearly all nations, much is based on legend and tradition. It is highly probable that the Aistians (including the Lithuanians) lived in this region as early as 10,000 B. C., just after the decline of the glacial period. There have been archaeological findings dating back to about 1500 B.C. indicating a high level of culture. Since there is no basic cultural change to be observed, it is nearly certain that the Lithuanians lived in approximately the same region as today 150 centuries before Christ. In other words, they and the other Aistians were the aborigines.

..Did the ancient Aistians have much contact with other peoples of the world?

Because of extensive primeval forests and impenetrable swamps, the Aistians had little contact with the other races during the first ten centuries of the Christian era.

The ancient Phoenicians visited the Baltic area now and then. About 500 B. C. these aborigines of the eastern Baltic maintained trade relations with Greece. Amber, wax, honey, furs and salt were the principal exports. Imports were primarily weapons and jewelry.

The Greek geographer **PTOLEMY** mentions some Baltic clans whose names have survived to this day. References were made to the eastern Baltic shores (first by Herodotus (fifth century B.C.), Polybius (second century B. C.), Pliny the Elder (first century A.D.) and finally by Ptolemy (second century A. D.)

However **TACITUS**, a Roman historian, is the first to specifically mention the Aistians as living in the lands now inhabited by the Lithuanians and Latvians. In his historical treatise about the Germanic peoples, he briefly discusses the religion of the Aistian, their occupations and their general manner of life. Recent archaeological excavations have definitely proven the statements of Tacitus. It is now clear that the modern Lithuanians and Latvians are the direct descendants of the ancient and noble Aistian race.

During the fourth and fifth centuries A. D., the Aistians also had some contacts with the Goths. Some outlying clans were partially subjugated by

Hermanaric, a Gothic king. Also it is recorded that the Aistians sent a gift of amber to **Theodoric**, ruler of the Ostrogoths and conqueror of Italy.

In the sixth century, **Jordanes**, bishop and historian of the Goths, wrote that the Aistians were "a very peaceful race of men." At this time, when their neighbors were still barbarians, the Aistians 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 survivors.

What other known records are there about the Aistians?

As mentioned, the Roman historian **Tacitus** describes the Aistians (the Lithuanians and their racial brothers the Latvians and the Old-Prussians) as having a greater knowledge of agriculture 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 valued by the ancient Romans, Greeks and Egyptians.

The Old-Prussians were specifically mentioned in a Bavarian geographical work in the middle of the ninth century. A French monk **RIMBERT** in the ninth century, first mentions a Lithuanian town in contemporary records. The town was "Apulia"—the modern village of "Apulė", the citadel that was being excavated by Lithuanian and Swedish archaeologists before the war and had furnished much precious prehistorical material.

Towards the end of the same century, **WULFSTAN**, a traveler who had visited the eastern Baltic coasts, gave a detailed description of the customs and government of the Old-Prussian branch of the Aistian race. During the tenth century also, **Ibrahim ibn Jacob**, an Arabian-Jewish merchant, comments about the Old-Prussians while visiting northeastern Germany.

In 1009 the name of Lithuania specifically appeared in German records; as also in 1040 in the writings of monk **Nester** at Kiev in Ukraine. In the eleventh century, **Bishop ADAM** of Bremen, the Apostle of the North, said of them: "How many praiseworthy things could one say of the customs of this people, had they only been Christians!"

In the twelfth century, the Arabic geographer **IDRISI** mentions another Lithuanian city, that of "Kabnu"—the recent provisional capital of Lithuania, **Kaunas**. In general, records of the pre-Teutonic Knight era describe this people of hunters, fishers and farmers as being peaceful and hospitable. The name of the Lithuanians as such was first recorded in the eighth century by the scouts of **Charlemagne**, the ruler of modern France and Germany.

Did the Viking era (800-1000 A. D.) affect the Aistians?

In their violent raids upon the coasts of Europe, the Scandinavians also fought with the coastal clans of the Old-Prussians and Latvians. Rimbart (c. 870) states that Swedish forces landed at Libau in 850, marched to Skuodas and stormed the castle at Apuotė. The chief purpose of the Vikings seems to have been the control of the Dvina-Dnieper River route to Byzantium.

What are the physical characteristics of the ancient Lithuanian?

The typical Lithuanian is described as tall, muscular, well-proportioned, blonde and with clean-cut features and blue eyes.

What are the chief attributes of the character of the ancient Lithuanian?

The ancient Lithuanians, as well as the other Aistians, are described as an industrious people, positive in their outlook on life, energetic, and great lovers of liberty and personal freedom.

They had a very high family and moral standards. Their agricultural methods were in advance of their neighbors. Their pagan religion was so amazingly developed in its theological and practical principles as to approach Christianity closer than any other known non-Christian way of life.

Originally being an extremely peaceful people, the Lithuanians had no military system. However, with the beginning of aggression from the West and the East, they learned quickly and created a highly efficient military force that continually fought on two fronts.

There is some evidence of RUNICS as a medium of written exchange, but all is lost due to the violent turn of events that took place after the contact of the Lithuanians with the Germans, Russians and Poles.

How large is ethnic Lithuania?

It is about the same area as occupied in ancient times: basically the territory inhabited by the Lowlanders (Samogitians), Highlanders and the remnants of the Yatvegians—the Sudavians.

The western portion of this territory is designated as Lithuanian Minor or Prussian Lithuania, while Lithuania proper is called Lithuania Major. Of course, a large area of Lithuania Major was occupied by Poland after the sneak and brutal attack of Zeligowski. In general, the relations of Lithuania with Poland have been tragic. Poland in defiance of its Catholic principles, slaughtered thousands of Lithuanians, White Ruthenians, and Ukrainians in a policy of ruthless extermination of minority groups.

Where is historic Lithuania?

Historic Lithuania comprises the Vitoldian Empire that stretched from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea.

Historic Lithuania included not only ethnic Lithuanians but also Russians, Ruthenians, Poles, Ukrainians, Tartars, Rumanians, Greeks etc. Its imperial policy of local autonomy was many hundreds of years in advance of the times.

How large was Historic Lithuania?

In medieval times, Historic Lithuania was the whole territory lying between the Baltic Sea in the north, the Black Sea in the south, medieval Poland in the west and Moscow in the east.

The southern portion of this immense territory was mostly inhabited by Ukrainians, Ruthenians and Tartars.

Under Vytautas the Great (1350-1430), Lithuania attained its widest territorial extent. This empire was governed by Lithuanian Grand Princes from the capital of Vilnius.

What is the geography of ethnic Lithuania?

Lithuania is not a mountainous country, however there are many beautiful scenic views. Rich fertile pastures and rolling hills dominate the country. There are many beautiful rivers and deep lakes. Once the forests were the wonder of Europe, however due to violent invasions, they have been severely damaged. The pre-war Lithuanian Government had a program to reforest many beautiful areas. The impenetrable forests were once a natural fortress, a factor that has contributed to the nation's fierce love of independence.

North and eastern Lithuania is a small Switzerland. The terrain is similar to the Berkshires of Massachusetts with many hills and lakes.

What are some important rivers in Lithuania?..

The River NEMUNAS (about 600 miles) is the largest, most important, and greatly honored by the people as a symbol of their beautiful land. It flows through Lithuania to the Baltic Sea and thus makes Lithuania the Nemunas basin country.

Other large Lithuanian rivers are tributaries of the NEMUNAS: Merkys, Nėris, Nevėzis, Dubysa (tributaries on the right) and Šešupė (left tributary).

The Convention will learn who remembered our long - time friend Mykolas Norkunas. Will your name be among the contributors to the NOR-KUNAS MEMORIAL FUND?

Officialus Skyrius

NOTICE TO CONVENTION DELEGATES AND GUESTS

September 11, 12, 13, 14, 1952, Dayton, Ohio

The room reservation cards issued by the Dayton Biltmore Hotel show no schedule of single rooms. Some single rooms will be available, however, for our convention. Rates start at \$6.00. It is suggested that hotel reservations be made as promptly as possible.

Further information regarding any phase of the convention may be secured from the secretary

of the convention committee, Petronella Zelinskas, 169 Rita St., Dayton 4, Ohio or from the undersigned.

Advance reports indicate that the 1952 National Convention will be well attended from all sections of the country. We trust that every council will be actively represented to fittingly observe the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Lithuania.

Frank Gudelis

Convention Committee Chairman



1952 K. OF L. NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE, DAYTON, OHIO

First row left to right — Mary Ann Ambrose, Anne Gudelis, Michael Petkus, Mary Lucas, Petronella Zelinskas. Second row left to right — Leonard Valiukas, Frank Gudelis, Father Walter Katariskis, Charlie Vangas, Stanley Lucas.



PHIL CARTER of Providence, R. I., N. E. District K. of L. Sports Director and Leadership Chairman. Regular contributor to the VYTIS, fourth degree member.

BROKEN PROMISES

One of the quickest ways to tie a tag on yourself saying "Unreliable" is to make promises that you can't keep.

Some think that an unkept promise is condoned because something "unexpected" happens. But even the best reasons why a Council Affair is missed or messed up fails to erase the fact — you promised and you did not come through.

No leader of the K. of L. can dare to become known as unreliable. And that's the tag they'll tie on you if you keep on failing to keep promises.

Sell your K. of L. members on the importance of keeping promises they make and of not making promises they can't keep. Set the example. Become

known as one whose promise can be relied upon and who expects the same from those under him.

1. Don't imply YES just to postpone facing your responsibility.

2. Don't promise without investigation — You may not be able to deliver! Make your intentions and promises known by careful statements.

3. Don't straddle or create agreements by vague and implied pledges. Reputations depend upon what you actually do as measured against what you say you will do.

4. A K. of L. leader who is known to keep his word must know when to say NO.

Phil Carter, Leadership Chairman
New England District

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT PICNIC A HUGE SUCCESS

It was a rainy day, to be sure, May 25th, the day of our district's Annual Picnic at Marianapolis. New England weather was as usual — unpredictable. After three rainy Sundays, the picnic committee had every right to expect a bright, sunny day. But it rained all day long. In spite of this the picnic was held on schedule.

When the first wave of workers arrived, one of the Fathers at Marianapolis remarked "Well, I guess we don't have a picnic this year." The answer to that was typical of K. of L. spirit. "Father, we'll be in business in fifteen minutes."

And they were. Hamburgers were frying (and they were good ones, too — all fifty pounds of them), coffee was driplating and all the rest were set out on the tables draped with beautiful powder blue plastic table cloth.

When the busses arrived with K. of L'ers from Brockton and Cambridge, gaily decorated with appealing signs and banners, the chefs had a difficult time feeding the hungry picnickers.

During the hours that followed, more and more guests kept arriving in spite of the torrential down-pour. Soon the picnic committee was calling the outing a "Carnival", for such it became. The huge gym provided ample space for all the fun and festivities.

So, Boston, Council 17, presented a program of Lithuanian Folk Dances. St. Casimir's Church Choir of Providence, R. I. under the directorship of John Beinoris sang several songs. Dancing to Al Davis' melodious music began and continued until late that night. The only one of the scheduled events to be cancelled was the Soft-Ball game. If the picnic committee chairman knew this, he would have arranged a water polo match!

By the time late afternoon came, well over 300 people arrived and all enjoyed the outing or carnival, if the wonderful spirit seen all over the gym was any indication.

Another achievement was the fine team work evidenced among the workers. This was due to the fine planning of the picnic committee headed by Phil Carter. There were so many volunteers that no one was called upon to work more than an hour or two.

The book ends in the rustic "Vytis" design were won by Joseph Gumaskas of Providence, R. I. (103).

Marian Fathers were quite pleased with the success of the outing and with the financial assistance received.

Sincerest thanks are due all the workers, donors and guests who attended and turned a probable failure into a proud success. It would be impossible to list all the names here, but the Picnic Committee wants it known that every bit of assistance was truly appreciated and is most gratefully acknowledged.

Phil Carter, chairman

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT SPORTS NEWS

At the N. E. District Sports meeting held June 15th in Worcester, Mass., PLANS and RULES were drawn up regarding the coming Bowling Season.

All councils desiring to participate in the district bowling league MUST submit their entries by mail before **August 31, 1952** so that the scheduling of matches may be completed before the opening season in October.

Councils interested in taking part in any other sports, please send your suggestions to the undersigned.

EDMUND RUDIS,

N. E. District Sports Director

753 E. 7th St., So. Boston 27, Mass.

MOTERŲ IR MERGAIČIŲ KATALIKIŲ VADOVĖS

Pasaulio Katalikių Moterų Organizacijų Unijos kongreso metu balandžio mėn. 21-26 dd. Romoje buvo išrinkta nauja Unijos pirmininkė prancūzė p-lė Marie du Rostu ir generalinė sekretorė p-lė Françoise de St. Maurice, o Pasaulio Mergaičių Federacijos kongreso metu išrinkta ta pati buvusi pirmininkė p-lė Christine de Hemptine.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Council Standings

Councils	Points
1. Worcester, Mass. (26)	45
2. So. Worcester, Mass. (116)	31
3. Cambridge, Mass. (18)	27
4. Pittsburgh - Esplen, Pa. (62)	24
5. Linden, New Jersey (113)	16
6. Chicago - Town of Lake, Ill. (13)	15
7. Gary, Indiana (82)	15
8. Athol, Massachusetts (10)	12
9. Portland, Oregon (137)	11
10. Ansonia, Conn. (135)	11
11. Chicago, Illinois (Seniors)	11
12. Los Angeles, California (133)	9
13. Chicago - Roseland, Ill. (8)	9
14. Chicago - Brighton Park, Ill. (36)	9
15. Pittsburgh - South Side, Pa. (19)	6
16. South Boston, Mass. (17)	6
17. Waterbury, Conn. (7)	6
18. Dayton, Ohio (96)	6
19. Newark, New Jersey (29)	6
20. Providence, Rhode Island (103)	6
21. Westfield, Mass. (30)	5
22. Hartford, Conn. (6)	3
23. New York, N. Y. (12)	3
24. Norwood, Mass. (27)	3
25. Grand Rapids, Michigan (43)	3
26. Detroit, Michigan (102)	3
27. Chicago - Marquette Park, Ill. (112)	3

Where are the rest of the Councils?

This is just to remind all of our K. of L. members that the membership drive is nearly over. In order to give everyone an opportunity to clean up the loose ends, the drive is extended to the end of July. So get those applications and dues to Tillie Gerulis, Supreme Council Financial Secretary by no later than August 1st. Let's give the membership a boost this final month and really make it a DRIVE!

Walter R. Chinik, chairman

Membership Drive

UŽUOJAUTA

Vyčių Garbės Nariui Prof. Aleksandrui J. Aleksinui, dėl jo brolio Kanauninko Vinco Aleksandravičiaus mirties komunistų pavergtoje Lietuvoje, reiškia gilios užuojautos

Lietuvos Vyčių Centro Valdyba
ir "Vyties" Redakcija.

SVEIKINIMAS

Mūsų uolų, nuolatinį bendradarbių p. Leonardą Dambriūną ir p. Eleną Dambriūniene, sūneliui gimus, nuoširdžiausiai sveikina

"Vyties" Redakcija



PITTSBURGH, PA.

COUNCIL 19

With the summer months to look forward to most of the activity of the K. of L. will be directed to the outdoors. The first such get-together of our Council took place at the Lithuanian Country Club on June 12th. Sports are naturally in the limelight in the great outdoors and even though few were present at the first outing of the year a lively volley ball game took place. And were there refreshments? — Of course there were — With such worked up appetites it would have been unforgivable not to have any! Get-togethers will take place, every other week. Come one, come all—you don't have to be a member to come and join in the fun! There's lots of acreage on the Country Club grounds and somehow the refreshments always seem to go round.

The financial success of the Radio Banquet and Radio Picnic has assured the continuance of the Sunday K. of L. Radio Program over WLOA (1550) at 1:30 — for the time being anyway.

Concerning past events, somewhere along the line your reporter was asleep at the switch — William Kocius earned his Master's Degree this past February and since that time has been working on his doctorate. Congratulations, Bill!

Congratulations of a very different sort are in order for another one of our members. On Saturday, June 7th, Francis Marciukonis, upon completion of his course at St. Vincent's College, was ordained at St. Paul's Cathedral and so another one of our young men has been admitted into the priesthood!

Some of Council 19's members are active in preparing for the celebration of the Third Annual Lithuanian Day Program sponsored by the United Lithuanian Organization of Western Pennsylvania which takes place at a local park. Two of our members also serve on the Board of Directors.

June birthdays were celebrated by Tillie Kaupinis, Betty Ann Keraitis, Helen and Algirdas Kaselaitis. A Happy Birthday to you all!

A most successful bowling season was enjoyed by all the bowlers and we're hoping that many more of our members will sign up this summer for an early start next season. See Eddie Braze, Chairman, or Ray Bukauskas, vice president. Don't wait till Fall to decide. Now's the time to join. We guarantee you won't be sorry. A wonderful time was had at the Bowling Banquet on May 20th. Good food (more than anyone could eat), individual favors and novelty place cards added to everyone's enjoyment. The highest scores and prizes were as follows:

Men

1st. Andy Rozger	136.18
2nd. Eddie Braze	132.51
3rd. Bill Mareulaitis	126.20

Women

1st. Toni Comella	108.09
2nd. Alice Martin	105.54
3rd. Jean Walkauskas	104.49

Nellie Kountz was awarded the booby prize but she forbade me to publish her average. She did say, however, that she was on the team which came out in first place (Andy Rozger's)!

Are your dues paid up — We'd like 100% representation in Dayton come September! Don't let us down, gang!

Mitzi

BAYONNE, N. J.

COUNCIL 67

Summer has now come upon us. Normally, the summer torridness makes us feverish with inactivity. But not Council 67. On June 22nd, at 9:00 A. M. Mass held at St. Michael's Church, the entire membership received Holy Communion en masse for all the Lithuanian men, women and children who are victims of tyranny behind the iron curtain. They need our prayers now more than ever.

At our last meeting a Fall Dance was suggested and October 11th is the tentative date set. Marguerite Peters, chairman, will be assisted by the following committees: Tickets — Mary Bruzas; Decorations — Rita Miskewitz; Entertainment — Al Japcionis; Re-

freshments — Michael Grigalunius, and Reception — Joycelan Santa Maria.

Connie

HARTFORD, CONN.

COUNCIL 6

On May 11th we presented "Musu Kazuks". Rev. Francis Pranckus deserves the largest oscar for the excellent job he did as director of the play. Claire Grigaitis and Michael Kripas should be awarded oscars for their leading roles. They were excellent! The other members in the cast to be congratulated are Frances Ambrose, Joseph Becker, Joseph Bart, Regina Zaranka, Dorothy Yankauskas, and last but not least, our club president Daniel Medeska. The best scene in the play was the entrance of Claire, as Kazuks, dressed in her finery from head to toe — lovely straw hat trimmed with a red rose, pig tails, plaid navy and white blouse, figured skirt (a variation of colors), long white hose, topped off with ski boots! Oh yes, I must not forget her lovely fish bowl and black coat to complete her outfit. Can you picture it? Those who were lucky enough to see the play, I am sure will agree with me she really stole the show. We're really loaded with talent.

The play was followed by dancing and refreshments. Our thanks to Worcester, Norwood, Ansonia and New Haven for attending. Hope you enjoyed it.

Despite the weather on May 25th the district picnic took place. The rain didn't keep too many away. With a bus load from South Boston and two from Cambridge plus the Athol crowd, I can truthfully say-rain didn't scare them! That goes for Worcester, Ansonia and Waterbury.

In May, we held a strenuous Membership Drive. We take this opportunity to welcome all our new members. Just keep pitching fellows and gals, and we sure will have a large membership in our council.

Laurels to Vince Juselis for installing our television set in the clubroom. If anyone needs any help on TV installation, Vince will be glad to help you out.

By the way Vince, whatever happened to that other light fixture?

Holy Trinity Church was the scene of the wedding of Ann Zablaitis to Vincent Grazulis of Worcester on June 7th. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attired in a gown of white slipper satin fashioned with a beaded neckline and long sleeves that tapered at the wrists. She also wore a fingertip veil which fell from a beaded crown, and carried a white prayer book with orchid marker and lily of the valley streamers. The maid-of-honor chose a gown of aqua net with jacket and wore a head band of lilies-of-the-valley. The bridesmaids were attired in identical gowns of shrimp net and wore head bands of lilies of the valley. The attendants also carried orchid markers. A reception was held for their guests at the Holy Trinity School Hall. The bride and groom left from La Guardia Airport on a wedding trip to California. Congratulations and best wishes Ann and Vinnie. Ann-we'll miss you! Isn't that right, Stella? **M. E.**

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

COUNCIL 18

Added Attraction

Our clubroom was recently enhanced with a beautiful new Phileo television set. Its purchase was made possible due to the financial success of our annual spring dance. It was installed on May 21 and close to twenty members were present for the fistie dual between Jake Lamotta and Eugene Hairston. From all indications, fight nights are going to prove popular with our masculine sect.

Marianapolis Outing

Our annual district outing took place on May 25, at Marianapolis preparatory school, Thompson, Conn.

The hit song "Singing in the Rain" proved unusually popular, because "Mr. Weather" was having one of his off days and kept us constantly damp with a day long deluge.

Council 18's appearance with two filled busses of staunch K. of L'ers gave us the honor of having more council members present (collectively speaking) than any other council in the district.

Most of the day's festivities were held in the school's spacious gym. Pete Puzin, Vyto Pilkons, Vinny Savinsky, Al Marcin were seen operating the various wheels of fortune during the day, while Paul Zukas, Al Eurglunes and John Towski gave a hand at the food counter.

Clubroom Charter

Another one of our members, amiable

Frank Kaper, has departed for the Armed Forces.

On June 3rd, thirty-one of our members journeyed to Fenway Park to see a sell-out ball game between the Red Sox and the Cleveland Indians. Our Red Sox rooters were dissatisfied in their team when the evening ended in a 6-0 shut-out by the Indians.

Our usual monthly paper the "Amber Knight" will be discontinued for the summer months of July and August. This will give Editor John Towski and his staff a well deserved rest.

J. V. B.

AMSTERDAM, N. Y.

COUNCIL 107

"Junior Convention" Jottings

It all started at the last National Convention in New York. Our Amsterdam delegation invited the Providence and So. Boston delegations to pay us a visit some time. Months passed, and finally, it was decided that Memorial Day week-end would be the appropriate time. Invitations were written to our honored guests and we set about our preparations. Gene Gobis, chairman, was assisted by Sophie Olbie and "Bootsie" Jakaitis. Present K. of L. members, as well as charter council members, were contacted; a program was arranged; a banquet was prepared.

Early Friday evening Phil Carter, Joe and Mary Waitonis arrived from Providence. Our Council 100's Welcome Mat was out; our hospitality began, and reached its climax in a jovial banquet at the Colonial Inn. Thirty-five Knights and their friends attended. Father Balch, spiritual director, was present. Toastmaster was Attorney Anthony Stokna. Our charter members had places of honor. Our out-of-town honored guest sat at the head table.

After the delicious turkey dinner, Gene Gobis welcomed the guests and turned the rest of the evening over to Mr. Stokna, who in turn called upon Phil Carter, well known "Vytis" sports writer and columnist, to say a few words. "This sure is a surprise," were Phil's first words, after which he went on to urge all former members to come back to the organization, pointing out that there was a Senior section of the Knights of Lithuania in which older members could be active. Father Balch spoke and stressed the importance of belonging to a national Lithuanian Catholic organization in which members from different cities could get together, meet each other and exchange ideas.

Michael Kerbelis, one of our first re-organizers, gave a short resume of our council activities. Joe Waitonis said he would like "to reciprocate" and invited our members to Providence. Mary Waitonis, Supreme Council Trustee, stressed the fact that the Knights of Lithuania, as a national organization, offered a golden opportunity of keeping Lithuanian ideals and language alive, and of uniting Lithuanians all over the country.

After the speeches came music and folk singing with Father Balch at the piano. At this point, Steve Contons of C-17 So. Boston, Mass., arrived from Nyack, New York, and jovially joined our festivities.

Seeing that our Council never had an occasion like this before, we hope that everyone was pleased and delighted with the hastily planned reception.

1) As a result of our "Junior" convention, at least four new faces are expected to be seen at our next council meeting.

2) Who can explain why the fuse blew out during the singing? Phil Carter came to the rescue with an indirect lighting unit.

3) When some one suggested that it was kind of warm, air conditioning was provided by guess who? Phil Carter, again.

4) We wonder what took Steve Janekunas and Steve Mikolaitis so long to get home. Was the route to Lake George the shortest way home?

5) Now, we are all looking forward to a visit to Providence. We can easily get a bus to take us ALL up there.

6) Attention Jersey City Knights of Lithuania! Isabelle Dopkus, who is about to move from Manhattan to Jersey, plans to join your council.

Smile and Sparkle

K. of L. CALENDAR

August 3 — Norwood, Mass. (27) Beach Party, Ipswich, Mass.

August 10 — New York - New Jersey District K. of L. Annual Picnic, Miller's Grove, Kenilworth, N.J.

September 11-14 — 39th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, Biltmore Hotel, Dayton, Ohio.

October 11 — Hartford, Conn. (6) Annual Formal.

October 11 — Bayonne, N. J. (67) Fall Dance.

November 1 — Chicago, Ill. (5) Annual Fall Dance.

NORWOOD, MASS.

COUNCIL 27

With the theme of the month in mind, "Vienybe Su Kenciancia Lietuva", Father Peter gave a very enlightening talk on some of the tragedies which are taking place in the land of our fathers. We are sure that all members were very much impressed and would be interested to learn more.

Plans have been made to attend a night baseball game this month and a beach party at Crane's Beach in Ipswich on August 3rd. We are all looking forward to these dates.

After the meeting, we all went to the Dedham Driving Range to try our skill at the sport. Like professionals, we all took our places and began swinging and we do mean "Swinging".

Vin Kudirka deserves a blue ribbon for being the professional at driving the golf balls one right after another.

To Helen Pazniokas we present a jar of salve to sooth her wounded arm which she obtained by trying to get a bull's eye on the archery target.

Shipper — what were you doing with the golf balls in your pockets?

Al Kazulis reports that he is building a 30x22 single-car garage and Helen, his wife, is busy keeping her garden free of weeds in hopes of producing vegetables.

Do you have a power lawn mover for sale? Ben Chervokas is interested in procuring one.

Already some thought has been given to a Minstrel Show and this year our Amelia Tulis is spending a month's vacation "Way Down Yonder in New Orleans" and will surely be back with dozens of ideas as well as the real McCoy. Have a nice time, Amelia!

Now that Eleanor Peshin has moved to Islington, we don't imagine we will be seeing much of her at the meetings; however, we do hope she will try to make some of the meetings.

Kay Saulin says she is full of ideas. How about letting us in on a few, Kay?

We bid a pleasant vacation to Bertha Bechunas who will be spending her summer in Hartford, Conn., this year.

As a new member, we welcome Eleanor Navickas. Hope you will enjoy being a K. of L'ers. "Ausie"

SKAITYKITE IR PLATINKITE
"VYTI"

WORCESTER, MASS.

COUNCIL 116

Our most important event in May, was the Annual N. E. District Picnic held May 25 on the grounds of Marianapolis College in Thompson, Connecticut. Many of our members attended and reported having a good time notwithstanding the bad weather.

Our all Boy Social Committee held a Bazaar in the parish hall. This affair was well attended not only by our own council members but also by some of our neighboring Council 26'ers. Hats off to the boys (Dave Vaskas, John Puras, Micky Siaurusaitis, and Billy Burdulis) for planning another completely new and different social.

The final Military Whist of the season was held on May 21 and drew an unexpectedly large crowd. The event was well planned by a fine committee consisting of: Al Krasinskas, Joe Krasinskas, Julia Sinkavich and Dot Sinkavitch.

For Mother's Day, girls of our council served breakfast to the members of "Moteru Sajunga" after they received Communion.

On May 19, a busload of C-116'ers went to Fenway Park, Boston, to watch the contest between the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox. Unfortunately, (I'm a Yankee fan.) the Red Sox defeated the Yankees. However, this made majority of those attending very happy.

This and That

Although June is traditionally noted to be the Month of Brides, May saw four of our members enter into Holy Matrimony. Bill Kissell, past president, took the vows; Nancy Stansky became Mrs. John Moss; Nancy Kerr and Tom Stevens (both members) said "I do".

Our the council wishes the three couples much happiness in their wedded life.

Graduated from Holy Cross College on June 12 were John Mazeika and Richard Wackell. By the way, congratulations to Dick on his recent engagement.

Also, much happiness to Charlotte Mitchell and Joe Dirsa on their engagement.

Sports

Our softball team is doing very well. I understand it has suffered only one loss so far. Good work!

Lately, tennis has been attracting many of our girls. Bernice Burdulis, Aldona Pauliukaitis, Rita Sinkewich and Grace Rackauskas, find this particular sport keeps them in trim physically.

"Taradaika"

SOUTH BOSTON, MASS.

COUNCIL 17

Many thanks to Athol council for its true Lithuanian hospitality on the occasion of the N. E. District Convention. Such cooks! All members are anxiously waiting for an opportunity to return to Athol.

At the New England Bowling Banquet we were served a delicious meal. The main course was steak and "Bean Soup".

Our girls received a third-place trophy. Our men? They couldn't even steal one! After the banquet, we invaded Cambridge council for dancing, games and more eats.

As usual C-17 was well represented at C-18's Dance at the S. B. L. C. Auditorium. Everyone had an enjoyable evening despite Worcester's parade during intermission.

On April 26, Nellie Svelnis became the bride of John Pezwick at St. Peter's Church. Two weeks later Frannie Kleponis walked down the same aisle to become Mrs. John Zinka. To the newlyweds, "Laimingu Metu."

On May 9, a multitude of well-wishers gathered at Angie Masonis' house to help Winnie Skudris celebrate her 7th birthday. Happy Birthday, Winnie!

C-17's Folk Dance Group made its debut at the N. E. District Picnic at Marianapolis on May 25. In spite of the rain a fairly large group attended and had a wonderful time.

Most of the N. E. District councils were represented at C-17's Spring Dance. Old friendship were renewed and new ones made. Proceeds from this dance go to the Center.

On June 8, for the first Sunday in two months it didn't rain. That was all we needed to make our annual Picnic a success. So, Boston's softball team defeated Brockton, 7 to 3. Our Folk Dance Group made its second appearance at this time.

Our Council newspaper "The Keyhole News" will not be published during the summer. Congratulations to the committee on doing such a fine job.

John Waygan has returned home after a pleasure jaunt to Rome and the Mediterranean. Welcome home, Seaman Waygan!

Stanley Yelmokas has left us to join the Air Force. Good luck, Stan.

The welcome mat is out for Dotty Pekerski, a recent transfer from Brockton. Also to our newest members Frank Krilevich, Al Rudziunas, Steve Roklan and Stanley "Kano" Andrukaitis.

Jo Jo

ATHOL, MASS.**COUNCIL 10****Convention Highlights**

Athol is just recuperating from the excitement of the New England District Convention which was held here in April. Our small hotel has never before seen such a deluge of guests. The Lithuanian Club was the scene of the pre-convention dance. After the dance a long line of cars headed for White Pond where Frank Anoris played host to a merry crowd of party seekers. The time change robbed the delegates of an hour of sleep but that did not prevent them from attending mass bright and early Sunday morning at St. Francis Church. After mass they assembled at the Lithuanian Club where they enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by the ladies of the parish. After the business meeting which was held at the parish hall under the capable direction of Joseph Lola, the group returned to the Lithuanian Club for a buffet supper and a bit more socializing before they returned to their respective homes.

A well-deserved vote of thanks goes to Mary Gauronsky and her committee for the wonderful work they did to make the convention a success.

Planning and Programing

With the excitement and work of the convention over, C-10 did not sit back and relax but promptly met the following Tuesday at the home of Mary Gauronsky to make plans for the Mother's Day program. Following the meeting Mary served refreshments. (Turkey sandwiches and coffee—m-m-m good!)

The program for the mothers took place in the afternoon in the parish hall. Refreshments were served and entertainment was provided by the young people of the parish.

The meeting at Mary's house proved so enjoyable that the next meeting was held at White Pond at Frank Anoris' camp. The television set was the center of attraction at this meeting. After the meeting Frank showed movies taken at the Winter Carnival. This was followed by refreshments. Marie Sienkewicz accompanied the group at the piano in a number of songs. Frank honored the group by singing several Lithuanian songs and an original composition of his own.

Trips and Travels

On May 19 two cars headed Worcester-way to attend the dance of our neighboring (?) council at Maironis Park. The dance was well attend.

On May 25th, undaunted by the rain, Mary Gauronsky, Rita Bessick, Janine Melaika, Nellie Melaika and Dot Gulezian traveled to Thompson, Conn. to attend the New England K. of L. Picnic at Marianapolis. They were surprised to find a carful of C-10 members from Gardner had also braved the downpour and had arrived before them. Although the picnic outdoors was cancelled the activities in the gymnasium provided enough entertainment for all. The group enjoyed themselves so much that they marked the 4th of July picnic at Marianapolis as a must on their social calendar.

Thinking of traveling reminds us of Nellie Melaika, lucky girl, who was able to take a two-week's vacation in Chicago recently.

Hot Dog!

On June 8th our members met at Queen's Lake, Mary Gauronsky's summer camp, for a sports day and weenie roast. The sports enthusiasts came equipped with fishing poles and insect repellent. Those who were wise enough to bring bathing suits found the water perfect for swimming and those who hadn't, enjoyed the water from the safety of Lennie Davidonis' motor boat. Lennie graciously played chauffeur in his boat and everyone enjoyed several rides — especially Aldona Butkus. Janice Melaika broke all records by catching more fish than everyone else put together. The afternoon on the lake provided everyone with an almost insatiable appetite but Eleanor Boutelle, chairman of the committee, having foreseen this had a table heaped with food. A hidden talent was discovered as Bill Wisnauskas turned chef. The hamburgers made were delicious. The evening ended with everyone contentedly munching pop corn roasted by Mary Sienkewicz and group singing accompanied by Lennie Davidonis on his harmonica.

Auf. Wiedesehen**BROOKLYN, NEW YORK****COUNCIL 41**

At our May meeting, the following members received their Ritual degrees: (1st) Rev. John Pakalniskis, Ade'e Bobin, Edward Kastor, Johanna Zemaitis, Joseph Bauzinskas, Antanina Frimakas and John Andrews; (2nd) Eugenia Karpus.

At the June meeting, we commemorated BAISUSIS BIRZELIS. Joseph Bauzinskas gave a simple but poignant talk on the first Russian occupation in 1940 and how many Lithuanians were sent to Siberia during that tragic month and months following.

Anna Bendoriute, new member, thrilled us immensely with the reading of Lithuanian verse.

We extend a hearty welcome to Antanas Frimakas, new member.

Since so many of our members desire to learn the Lithuanian language better, we now hold a short Lithuanian class following our regular meetings. We study the regular feature in VYTIS, written by L. Dambriunas, read Lithuanian poetry, books and magazines, and find ourselves gradually improving in the Lithuanian language.

We gained two future Junior K. of L'ers since the stork visited the homes of Eugenia and Algird Mikolaitis and Ronnie and Connie Kazlauskis.

We plan to hold a Fall Dance in September — Annunciation Parish Hall.

J. A.

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK**COUNCIL 93**

St. Casimir's Day was celebrated on March 9, at St. George's Church, with all members receiving Holy Communion in a body at the 8 o'clock Mass. Our guest speaker at the breakfast was Dr. Balunas, who told us of his adventurous trip to the Vatican City. Thanks to Ginny Pauza and Mary Vezelis for the delicious breakfast arrangements.

Our first social event after Easter was a Spring Dance, held at St. George's Hall. Due to the hard working committee, the dance was a success.

A bowling party was planned for May 18, but due to the Lilac Week, we've postponed it "Till." The lilacs were beautiful.

Now that the good old summertime has rolled around, all the K. of L'ers are looking forward to their first picnic of the year to be held on the 17th of June at Genesee Valley Park. Joan Gudas and Bernie Stukas are on the committee.

The meeting for June proved to be very interesting. Father Mockevicius answered all questions submitted in the Question Box. Freda Rimkus served refreshments following the meeting.

On June 4 Father Dominic Mockevicius celebrated his Fourth Anniversary in the Priesthood. Congratulations, Father.

We welcome into our fold our new members — John Danis and Joseph Staponaitis. Irene Savaitaite became the bride of Stanley Ilgunas on April 26th and wish them both much happiness in their wedded life.

Congratulations to our recent graduates — Lucy Apton (Nazareth Academy) and John Danis (Aquinas Institute).

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CHICAGO, ILL.

11220

PRAMATYK iš anksto savo atostogas Rugsėjo (September) mėnesio antram savaitgaliui **BŪTINAI** pasistenk atvykti į Lietuvos Vyčių Suvažiavimą Dayton'e, Ohio

RUGSĖJO (SEPTEMBER) 11 - 12 - 13 - 14 dienos visų Vyčių skiriamos praleidimui Daytone **NESIGAILĖSI** dalyvavęs šių metų Suvažiavime

IDOMŪS POSĖDŽIAI (SESSIONS)

1. Žymiai daugiau laiko bus skiriama organizacijos svarbių klausimų bei reikalų apsvaistymui, diskusijoms.
2. Žymūs kalbėtojai religine, patriotine ir organizacijos reikalais temomis.
3. Suvažiavimo dalyviai nevarginami ilgais pranešimais bei paskaitomis.

PUIKI MENINĖ PROGRAMA

Metropolitan Operos solisto **Algirdo Brazio** lietuviškų dainų ir pasaulinės muzikos koncertas suvažiavimo dalyviams.

NEPAPRASTA LINKSMOJI DALIS

Šokiams gros **Frank Jankovic**, žymus Amerikos orkestras, vadinamas **POLKA KING OF AMERICA**.