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*"Laiškai Lietuviams" klišė*

GERIAUSIŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

# M i d n i g h t M a s s

*Rev. Albert J. Contons*

"Silent Night, Holy Night..! As the soft strains of this heart touching Christmas Carol echo through the Church on Christmas Night we relive a wondrous event in the history of mankind: the birth of Jesus Christ.

## *Christ and the Night*

The stillness of the air, the blackness of the night, the twinkling of the stars, and the glistening of the snowy blanket which covers the fields and paths cast their magic spell. Our hearts are eager with anticipation. Through our minds run the prophetic words of Wisdom, "For while all things were in quiet silence and the night was in the midst of her course, the almighty word leapt down from heaven from thy royal throne." The heavens indeed opened up on that first Holy Night and gave forth the Second Person of the Trinity to take up Flesh and to dwell among us.

Even though men are accustomed to act during the daytime, many of the major events of Christ's life took place during the silence of the night. Christ chose to be born in the darkness of the cave in Bethlehem. During His public ministry He spent many nights in prayerful communion with His Father. He chose the evening hour to institute the Holy Eucharist. It was under cover of night that Christ prayed in the Garden of Gethsemani when the forces of evil were unleashed against Him by the traitorous kiss of Judas. A strange darkness engulfed the hill of Golgotha when Jesus drew His last breath. It was the early morning darkness of Easter that witnessed the glorious Resurrection of the Savior. In imitation of these mysteries of the life of Christ, the early Christians were wont to gather at night to relive the Sacrifice of Calvary in the Breaking of Bread and to pass nocturnal vigils in prayer. To this day some religious communities rise in the darkness of the night to chant their canticles of praise to the divine Savior.

## *History of Midnight Mass*

The custom of celebrating Midnight Mass arose among the Christians of Jerusalem in ancient times.

To commemorate the birth of the Christ Child these early Christians would gather at the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem for a Midnight Mass. After Mass they would return to Jerusalem and await the dawn. Then they would proceed to the Church of the Resurrection to attend a Mass which combined the idea of the Nativity and the Resurrection. Finally these Christians assembled at their own Church for the solemn celebration of the feast.

This threefold commemoration of the Birth of Our Lord was gradually imitated by the Christians of Rome. For Midnight Mass they would gather at the Chapel of the Nativity in the ancient Basilica of St. Mary Major. The Mass of the Dawn was celebrated at the Church of St. Anastasia which served as the chapel of the Byzantine court officials who at that time ruled Rome in the name of the Emperor at Constantinople. This was the Pope's way of paying his compliments to the imperial officials in Rome. It is interesting to note that the Church was originally called the "Anastasis" which in Greek meant "Resurrection". Obviously it was named after the basilica of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. Finally the solemn Mass of the feast was offered at St. Peter's. However, because of the distance, in 1143 the Pope discontinued going to St. Peter's and instead celebrated Mass at the main altar of St. Mary Major.

When it became the custom for priests to celebrate the Sacrifice of the Mass each day, the privilege of celebrating three Masses on the feast of the Nativity was granted all priests. In modern times the only other day that priests may celebrate three Masses is the feast of all Souls on Nov. 2.

According to St. Thomas the three Masses on Christmas Day are symbolic of the triple "birth" of Christ: in eternity, in time, and in the soul. This symbolism is born out by the prayers of the Missal for each of these three Masses.

## *Meaning of Midnight Mass*

The theme of the Midnight Mass prayers is Christ, the light of the world. The eternal birth of the Second Person of the Trinity in the bosom of the Father is majestically proclaimed during the

first Christmas Mass. The Introit Psalm declares, "The Lord hath said to me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee." The Collect prayer reveals the spirit of the Midnight Mass by praying, "O God, who hast made this most holy night to shine forth with the brightness of the true light, grant, we beseech Thee, that we who have known the mystery of His light on earth, may attain the enjoyment of His happiness in heaven." The Gradual Psalm repeats the theme of the Mass by declaring, "in the brightness of the saints, from the womb before the day-star I begot Thee." The darkness of the Christmas night is symbolic of the eternity into which the Second Person was begotten. The stillness of the night was pierced only by the angelic hymns rejoicing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will." Even the shepherds of the night must stand off and are not yet allowed to be witnesses of the new born Savior. Mary alone of all human kind appears on the stage with the eternal Son of God. This is the mystery of the Midnight Mass: **AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH.**

#### *Christmas In Every Mass*

The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of **GIVING** and **RECEIVING**. Mary gave of her own flesh, and received God. She gave of her weakness, and received Omnipotence Itself. She gave of her poverty, and received the Treasure of Heaven. She gave her word of consent, and received the Word of Heaven. She gave of her humanity, and received the Divinity. This is indeed the "marvellous exchange" of which the liturgy speaks. Man gives but the shadow, he receives the Substance.

Every Mass involves a **GIVING** and **RECEIVING**. During the Offertory the people through the priest give to God the gifts of bread and wine. These are symbolic of all that we give; our prayers, our sacrifices, our sorrows, our joys, our tears and our labors. During the Consecration our gifts of bread and wine are transubstantiated: they become the Body and Blood of Christ. During Communion we receive from God: the Body and Blood of Christ. We share in the sacrificial banquet which is the Mass. We receive Divine Food. This is the marvellous exchange of the Mass: we give bread and wine, and receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Every day can be Christmas Day for the K. of L.'er devoted to Holy Mass. Make the sacrifice of attending daily Mass. Prepare in your heart a cradle to receive the Christ Child in Holy Communion. **GIVE** of **YOURSELF**, and you will **RECEIVE** **GOD**.



### **THE TRUTH FOR YOUTH**

*Life ... IS a movie ... of our own.*

*The reels will show which we have shown.*

*The scenes are at our church, our home,*

*Where we work, study, or roam.*

*The play, we write with our free will*

*Heaven's or Hell's goal to fulfill.*

*The acts ... we do, the set ... we stage*

*The script, each page, ... is us .. Each age.*

*The heros, heroines ... we know*

*Are our good sides we want to show.*

*The villain, is ... has always been*

*The weaker we ... we fight within.*

*That is our play, a sober drama, viewed by God as  
Panorama.*

*God grant all lovers, without screen,*

*May be in love as God has been,*

*As God loves now and ever will,*

*Such love no human could fulfill.*

*May musicals which soothe the mind*

*Become more heavenly in kind,*

*For choral voices at each Mass*

*Is music of the highest class.*

*May dramas of today-tomorrow,*

*Show real joy follows real sorrow.*

*And those who prefer mystery*

*Dwell on those of the rosary.*

*Life's drama is ... some gain, some loss,*

*While we all struggle with our cross.*

*We hope that our finale be,*

*In our last act, dear God, with thee!*

*FRANK N. PENSIVE.*

---

*Berankiai, bekojai lietuviai karo invalidai trem-  
tyje laukia Tavo pagalbos. Aukok jiems!*

*"A broken bellows and a  
Winter's might  
Led to their writing a  
Carol all night."*

## Legend of a Carol

by  
William V. Gorski

It was in December, 1818, that the little church in Oberndorf, Austria, found itself without organ music. Mice had chewed through the bellows.

And it was close to Christmas, now. Festive observances at St. Nikolaus' Church surely would be lacking without the resounding influence of organ music.

It was a hard blow for the pastor to take. He — Father Josef Mohr — knew that nothing could be done for quite a while to repair the damage. Money was hard to come by in the little Alpine village.

Even his friend and church organist, Franz Xavier Gruber, felt the pinch of the problem. He sensed the keen disappointment of the pastor as they discussed the dilemma one evening inside the church.

Outside, a biting and blustery winter's wind was swirling over the valley town of Oberndorf. But as Father Mohr and the organist left the church, the wind subsided and then drained off. The night became breathlessly still. Overhead the stars twinkled merrily in the crisp night air.

Looking up, the dejected Father Mohr was moved by the sparkling heavens and the heavy stillness around him. He then uttered four words that were destined to be forever repeated at Christmas time by millions the world over.

"Those are very beautiful words," said Gruber. "They would befit a Christmas carol."

"Yes, my friend, maybe you are right," exclaimed Father Mohr, with sudden animation.

With the tingling excitement of a newborn idea, the two men hurried anxiously to Gruber's home. There, throughout the night, they worked with vigor writing the verses and melody of one of the most inspiring of Christmas carols.

On Christmas Day, the villagers streamed to their church to help celebrate the birth of Christ. And it was there that Father Mohr and Franz Gruber led them in the first singing of their carol.

To the accompaniment only of a guitar, the parishioners warmed quickly to the song and repeated it over and over again. Later, in their homes, the villagers and farmers, along with their families, continued singing the Christmas carol.

Bargemen, too, who floated salt down the Salzach River to Germany, were caught by the

magnificent power of the song, and repeatedly sang it as they worked.

Not until 1830, however, did the carol begin to spread beyond the Alps. It was in that year that an organ builder came to St. Nikolaus' Church to repair the long-neglected instrument. When the work was finished, the Church organist tested the organ. He played the Christmas carol.

Listening intently, the organ - builder was overwhelmed by the composition he heard being played. It led him to memorize the verse and melody, and carry it to other villages beyond the mountains. Here was the beginning of the carol's spread throughout the world.

Great symphonic and philharmonic orchestras played it, as did small musical groups. Over and over they played the song, year in and year out. In cathedrals, churches, and chapels the one works of Father Mohr and Franz Gruber was perpetuated.

And one of the world's great sopranos — Madame Ernestina Schumann - Heink, sang it each Christmas, even after her retirement, until her death.

Yet, the authors never were to know of their song's great fame. Father Mohr died in poverty in 1848, and fifteen years later his friend, Gruber, passed on. They were two simple men, but they left the world of music a wealth of incomparable Christmas spirit.

The village of Oberndorf, as they knew it, also died. Fire and flood ravaged the small community and its church. The new Oberndorf now stands farther down the valley .

Strengthened heavily by contributions, mostly from the United States, a new St. Nikolaus Church was built on the original site just prior to World War. II.

In this chapel, just as it was done 136 years ago, church goers again will gather for Christmas observances. To the accompaniment only of a guitar, they will sing the Christmas carol that Father Josef Mohr and Franz Xavier Gruber wrote almost out of despair.

They will sing a carol that was born when Father Mohr looked to the heavens, one winter's night, and said:

"Silent night, Holy night..."

# NEUŽGESTANTI ŠVIESA

Alfa Sušinskas

## 1. Netikros Kalėdos

Kalėdos! Visi krikščionys jų laukia ir visai ruošiasi jas sutikti. Bet daugelis krikščionių savo kalėdinį lūkestį suveda į dovanas, į blizgučius, į svečiavimąsi ir į puošnų pasimažinimą, visai nuošaliai palikdami tikrąją Kalėdų prasmę: Viešpaties Jėzaus Kristaus gimimą ir žmogaus nusilenkimą Viešpačiui bei susitaikymą su Juo. Įvairūs pirkliai ir pelno žvejotojai puikiais reklamų spalvomis ir rėkiančia muzika skelbia kalėdinį metą, ieškodami savo kišenės papildėjimo, o ne Viešpaties garbės ir ne žmogaus sušventėjimo. Daugelis krikščionių, praradę savo dvasinį krikščioniškumą, laukia Kalėdų kaip metinės, socialinės progos, kada jie, išpuošę savo namus ir patys išsipuošę, galės sėstis prie skaniais valgiais apkrauto kalėdinio stalo su svečiais, kada jie galės lenkti įvairių gėrimų taureles ir kada galės šnekėti linksmus niekus apie viską, tik ne apie Viešpatį, tik ne apie Kristaus gimimą, tik ne apie žmogaus laimę būti krikščionimi... Šitokie žmonės turi Kalėdas ant savo stalo, bet ne savo širdyje: šitokie žmonės pamiršta, kad kalėdinis džiaugsmas glūdi ne išoriniame puošnume, bet žmogaus širdyje, pilnoje kalėdinės meilės Dievui ir žmogui, pilnoje kalėdinio šventumo, kylančio iš žmogaus taikos su Dievu.

Kalėdos be Kristaus ir be žmogaus religinio susimąstymo yra netikros Kalėdos: jos viską atiduoda pasauliui, nieko nepalikdamos Kristui ir žmogaus siekiamajam.

## 2. Tikroji Kalėdų dvasia

Kalėdos yra grynai religinė šventė ir turi labai gilią prasmę bei aiškų tikslą. Besiruošiant Kalėdoms ir jas besvenčiant pirmoje vietoje turi šviesti Viešpaties Jėzaus gimimo faktas. Visą kalė-



dinį žmogaus gyvenimą turi apimti religinė, krikščioniška dvasia. Visai tinka, kad krikščionis stengiasi švęsti Kalėdas kuo iškilmingiausiai, visais galimais būdais ir išoriškai jas minėdamas. Tačiau tikras krikščionis nepaskęsta išoriniame Kalėdų minėjime, religinę jų prasmę nustumdamas į kampą, arba ją pamiršdamas, ar net ir visai jos neturėdamas. Kalėdos neturi būti paverstos vien prekybos, dovanų pasikeitimo ir pasaulinių pramogų švente. Krikščionybės pradžioje Kalėdos buvo vien religiskai švenčiamos, nieko pasauliško į jas neįterpiant; visas pirmųjų krikščionių gyvenimas Kalėdose tesisuko vien apie Kristaus gimimą, ir jis buvo pilnas religinio džiaugsmo bei maldų, kuriomis krikščionys dėkojo Viešpačiui už Atpirkėjo atsiuntimą į žemę žmonėms atpirkti ir išganyti. Suprantama, gyvenimui įvairėjant ir komplikuojantis, į Kalėdų šventimą pateko daug pasaulinių papročių ir iškilnių. Visa tai nėra bloga tol, kol grynai religinė Kalėdų prasmė yra svarbiausiu centru, kol Kalėdų minėjime vyrauja religinė dvasia.

Nereikia stebėtis, kad paskutiniu metu ne tik U. S. A., bet ir daugelyje kitų pasaulio kraštų katalikai pradėjo varyti plačią akciją už Kalėdų sukrikščionini-

mą... Tai keistai skamba, bet pagoniškoji dvasia, besiskverbianti į Kalėdų minėjimą, iššaukė šią akciją.

## 3. Meilė ir širdies grynumas

Tikroji kalėdinė dvasia reiškiasi krikščionių meile Viešpačiui, tarpusavio meile ir savo širdies apvalymu. Tinkamam Kalėdų šventimui meilė ir širdies grynumas yra ypač būtinos žymės. Be šventos meilės ir be širdies grynumo Kalėdos netenka savo prasmės, ir jos tada lieka tik iškilmingos ceremonijos, nepasiekiančios žmogaus širdies, nes toji žmogaus širdis jau yra mirusi visai kalėdinei prasmei. Kur yra tikra kalėdinė Viešpaties ir žmogaus meilė, ten yra ir atleidimas, susitaikinimas, nusizeminimas, pamaldumas, ten yra veiksmingas noras iš savo privatinio gyvenimo pašalinti visa, kas nesiderina su Atpirkėjo Evangelija, kas yra priešinga Kūdikelio Jėzaus dvasiai... Kalėdas tinkamai švenčia tas krikščionis, kuris savo kalėdinį išgyvenimą išreiškia krikščioniška meile bei širdies skaidrumu, sujungtu su išoriniu galimu iškilmingumu.

Kalėdinė Žvaigždė skleidžia pasauliui negestancią šviesą, kuri yra išganymas tiems, kurie keliauja žemės kelionę jos spindulių apšviesti.



# Lietuvos Vyčių Istorija

Ignas Sakalas

(tęsa)

40-ji KUOPA

Ankstyvesniuose kuopų sąrašuose, kurie būdavo Centro sekretoriaus skelbiami "Vytyje", yra pažymėta, kad 40-ju numeriu kuopa veikė Girardville, Pa., ir E. St. Louis, Ill., tačiau nepažymėta, kuriais metais ji buvo įsteigta vienoje ir kuriais kitoje vietoje.

"Vyties" nr. 1 (1916 m.) rašome iš Girardville, Pa., tų metų gruodžio 12 d. kuopos susirinkime nutarta įsteigti vakarinius kursus. Anglų kalbos mokytoja sutiko būti kp. narė E. Bieliauskutė, lietuvių kalbos — kun. dr. P. Augustaitis.

Iš vėlesnių žinių galima daryti išvadą, kad kuopa veikė nepilnus trejus metus, nes 1919 m. Centro sekretoriaus naujame kuopų sąraše 40-ju numeriu jau pažymėta nauja kuopa, įsisteigusi E. St. Louis, Ill. Kuopos steigimu rūpinosi tuometinis parapijos klebonas kun. S. E. Kolesinskas ir varg. J. Blažys. Rašyta, kad kuopon įsirašė 54 nariai ir nustatyta veiklos programa.

Kuopa pasižymėjo dideliu veikimu ir lietuviškumo žadinimu savo brolių ir sesių tarpe, ypatingai Antanui Živaičiui paėmus veikimo vairą. Visą nuo sunkaus darbo laisvalaikį A. Živaitis pašventė jaunimo reikalams. Įsteigė dramos ratelį, būdamas šiek tiek susipažinęs su muzika suorganizavo ir chorą. Dažnūs vakarai buvo įvairiomis programomis: lengvi vaidinimai, dainos, deklamacijos ir k. įvairumai. Scenoje, chore ir vaidyboje, nepamainoma talkininkė buvo jo žmona Liudvika ir dukrelė Elzbieta. Pastaroji ypatingai mokėjo deklamuoti ei-

lėraščius apie karo žiaurumus ir Lietuvą. Žmonėms taip patikdavo, kad ir scenoje ir užkulisyje (privaičiai) jai buvo teikiamos įvairios dovanos. A. Živaičio šeima buvo variklis, kuris suko visą tos kolonijos kultūrinį gyvenimą.

Iš kitų kuopos veikėjų pažymėtini J. Simonaitis, P. Ražas, K. Jablonskis, O. Kandulienė, E. Bartininkienė, O. Mockienė, P. Linkmoniūtė ir k.

1924 m. A. Živaitis pasiryžo grįžti į Lietuvą, kuriai visą Amerikoje buvimo laiką dirbo ir aukojasi. Išsiruošė su visa šeima. Skaudamomis širdimis vyčiai suruošė atsisveikinimą. Visi jautė, kad netenka vienatinio variklio ne tik kuopos, bet ir visos kolonijos veikimui pirmyn judinti. Ir tikrai. Živaičiui išvykus į Lietuvą, kuopos veikimas apsnūdo, o ilgai, dar keliems veikliams nariams išsikėlus į kitus miestus, ir visai užmigo.

Senieji lietuviai vyčių kuopos gyvavimo laikotarpiu mini, kaip vieną gražiausių E. St. Louis lietuvių gyvenime. Koncertai, vakarai, įvairūs subūvimai ne tik dvasiniai atgaivindavo tautiečius po sunkaus fizinio darbo, bet kartu juose palaikė ir kūrė tėvynės meilės ugnį. Vyčių veikimas ne tik neleido kolonijai dirvonuoti bet pasėjo tautinį grūdą, kurio nenustelbė visokios raugės. Tautinė sąmonė lietuviuose išliko, o nuvykus ten klebonauti žymiam tėvynainiui kun. dr. A. Deksnui ji dar labiau pasireiškė ir labai sustiprėjo.

Nors ir neilgas E. St. Louis Lietuvos Vyčių kuopos gyvenimas, bet jis yra išvaręs plačią vagą tautinėje ir kultūrinėje lietuvių dirvoje.

## VYTIES PLATINIMO VAJUS

VISI VYČIAI IR JŲ PRIETELIAI Į DARBĄ!

- Vyčių Centro Valdyba ir VYTIES Redakcija skelbia VYTIES platinimo vajų nuo š. m. gruodžio 1 d. iki 1955 m. kovo 1 d. Daugiausia surinkusiems VYTIES prenumeratorių paskirta 13 dovanų: trys dovanos pinigais — \$25, \$15, \$10 ir dešimt dovanų knygomis.
- Dovanoms skirti \$50 paaukojo kun. Dr. J. Prunskis "Draugo" Redaktorius, Chicago, Ill. O dešimt knygų apie Fatimą Mariją Kalbą Pasauliui Kun. M. Vembrė, Stoughton, Mass.
- Tat, Vyčiai ir jų prieteliai, aplankykite visus pažįstamus ir kiekvieną lietuvišką šeimą!! Pasistenkite nuoširdžiai atlikti šį gražų Vyties platinimo darbą ir laimėti paskirtas dovanas.
- Tenelieka 1955 metais nė vieno jaunuolio-ės, kuris neskaitytų jaunimo laikraščio VYTIS!



# LAIŠKAS I ANAPUS

J. Lapšienė

Mano Broli,

jau čia pat Kalėdos, tas palaimintas laikas, kada dangus priartėjo prie žemės ir atnešė neramiai žmogaus dvasiai ramybę ir gyvenimo šviesą.

Ateina Kalėdos ir mano širdis trokšta nors minutimis nukeliauti pas Tave, trokšta pereiti begalinius tolius, prasiveržti pro visas užtvaras ir pasiekti anapus, į kur nukirsti visi keliai...

Juk visada Kalėdų metu mes sugrįždavom į gimtuosius namus, palikdavom savo darbus, kasdienes rūpesčius ir reikalus ir tyro džiaugsmo ir namų ilgesio apimti keliaudavom tėviškėn švęsti Kalėdų.

Kur Tu dabar, mano Broli, neužmirštamais vaikystės ir jaunystės drauge? — Skrenda mano mintys ieškodamos Tavo. Gal Tu esi tėvų žemelėj, krauju ir ašarom srūvančioj, ar tolimoj šiaurėj, pasmerktas vergo darbui ir kančiai? Gal Tu šventą Kūčių vakarą būsi prirakintas prie požemio kasyklų, o gal kur žūsi miškų tankmėj, šalčio ir nuožmaus vargo kamuojamas? O, kad Tavo širdis, apkartus ir apmirus, pajustų šventą Kalėdų dvelkimą, kad Tavo akys, krauju ir prakaitu aptekusios, išvystų Kalėdų žvaigždės spindėjimą! —

Aš žvelgiu į savo turtingo ir gražaus miesto gatves, matau namų langus puošniais Kalėdų žiburiais padabintus, matau visur blizgėjimą, šviesų ir spalvų daugybę. Regiu žmones skubančius, neramius, nešančius glėbius brangių pirkinių Kalėdoms. Girdžiu aplinkui šventišką krykštavimą, linksmybę ir lengvą juoką, ir šventas giesmes, besimaišančias su prekyvietės ūžesiu... Gražus ir turtingas čia kraštas ir jo žmonės moka save lepinti ir džiaugtis įvairiais pomėgiais. —

Broli mano, aš jaučiuos benamė ir vieniša toje puikių kalėdinių puošmenų gausybėj, begaliniis liūdesys suspaudžia širdį, ir noris eiti nuo tos linksmybės, nuo to viso aplinkumos blizgėjimo, nuo lengvo juoko, nuo prekyvietės ūžesio...

Ir grįžta tada pas mane mūsų gyventų Kalėdų atminimai, paliečia mano širdį — ir kasdienybė pranyksta. Visos mintys skrieja į šalį, likusių ana-



pus, lyg mirusiųjų krante. Ieško jos tėvų namų, ieško Tavo, mano Broli, ieško visų tų, su kuriais sėdėjau prie švento Kūčių stalo...

Ateina tos mūsų gyventos Kalėdų dienos, sustoja prie manęs, kaip laimingi vaikai ir žiūri šviesiomis nekaltomis akimis. — Minkštos snagės krinta, tiesiasi baltas rogių kelias, skamba varpeliai lygių laukų platumoj... Mūsų kelias veda pro mišką miegantį žiemos patalę, vingiuoja pro kaimus, panirusius mėlynam pavakarės rūke... Šen ten jau mirguliuoja languose žiburiai, girgžda svirtys, iš kaminų vingiuoja dūmai, tolumoje suloja šunes, sužvengia žirgas... Ir vėl viskas nugrimsta į paslaptinę tylą, kurioje gali girdėti, kaip krenta baltos sniegulės ir žemę vynioja į skaistų rūbą.

Štai jau pasiekiam palaukėj rymantį kryžių, pro snaigijų mirguliuojančią uždangą regim iš tolo šviečiančius tėvų namų langus. Štai baltas beržas prie vartų, ir kryžius po langais, ir sodo gale išlaki eglė, sunkia sniego skara apsidengusi... Kaip lengva ir šviesu sieloje — Kalėdų žvaigždės spinduliai liejasi į tą baltą Kūčių vakaro prieblandą...

Ar atmeni, mano Broli, kaip mes pilni džiaugsmo laukdavom slėpiningo Kūčių vakaro ir balto Kalėdų ryto, kada lygiais sniego keliais lengvos rogutės, prisėdusios keleivių, skubėdavo į ankstyvasias Bernelių mišias. —

Ar meni, kokia šventė stodavo mūsų namuose Kūčių dieną? — Mama ir seserys rengdavo Kūčioms valgius: kepdavo šližikus, sunkdavo aguonų pieną, dėdavo į lėkštes liepomis kvėpiančią medų, gamindavo avižų ir spalgenų kisielius, virdavo geltonus it auksą kviečių grūdus ir daugelį kitų Kūčioms valgių. — Artėjant vakarui visi darbai būdavo baigti, visa šeima šventadieniškai apsirengus laukdavo Kūčių vakarienės.

Tėvas atnešdavo kvepiančio, geriausio šieno gabanėlę ir lygiai, dailiai paskleisdavo ant stalo, o motina užtiesdavo ant to šieno baltą lininę staltiesę, savo meilėmis rankomis gražiai išlygindama jos klostes. Ir abu darydavo visa tai iškilmingai ir rimtai — tarytum jie rengtų guolį ateinančiam į žemę Šventajam Kūdikiui. —

Ir ant to, taip nuostabiai padengto, stalo sudėdavom visus Kūčių vakarienei paruoštus valgius. O į pačią geriausią stalo vietą būdavo dedama lėkštė su baltomis Kūčių plotkelėmis — tai Bernelio duona.

Ir kai viskas jau būdavo gatava, visa šeima susirinkdavo prie Kūčių stalo: tėvai, vaikai, tarnai iki mažiausio piemenėlio. Sustoję, švento vakaro rimties apimti meldavos, trokšdami savo širdyse būti taip vienybėje visada, iki mirties. —

Ir tėvas, baigęs maldą, šventos rimties pilnu balsu tardavo: "Garbė Jėzui Kristui!" O mes visi, pagarbaus jausmo apimti nulenkę galvas jam atsakydavom: "Per amžių amžius!"

Atsimeni, Broli, kokių meilium žvilgsniu žiūrėdavo motina į mus ir kaip drebėdavo mūsų tėvo balsas, kai jis tardavo šiuos šventus pasveikinimo žodžius? Ir po to jis paimdavo baltą plotkelę, duodavo motinai ir vaikams, — ir taip mes visi vienas su kitu dalinomės plotkele — tai buvo meilės ir vienybės išreiškimas.

Po tos iškilmingos pradžios eidavo Kūčių vakarienė. Kaip būdavo lengva ir miela, kai visi vaikai sėdėdavo savo vietose, pasakodavo apie savo gyvenimo dienas, klausydavo kitų ir klausinėdavo.

Baigę vakarienę dar sėdėdavom prie šventės stalo, klausydami pasakojimų apie Kūčių nakties slėpinius. Prasiverdavo mūsų vaizduotei tolimųjų amžių glūduma ir mes išvysdavom Betliejaus žvaigždę, spindinčią virš menko tvartelio, o tame tvartelyje regėdavom prakartėlę ant šieno paguldytą šventės Vaikelį, meiliai bežiūrintį į klūpančius piemenėlius.

Tyli laimė apimdavo mus. Norėdavom visą vakarą ir naktį sėdėti prie to šienų padengto Kūčių stalo ir išgyventi visus nuostabius dalykus įvykstančius šventą Kalėdų naktį.

Norėdavom budėti ir laukti vidurnakčio, kada vanduo pavirsta saldžiausiu vynu, kurio atsigėręs jau niekada nebejausi kankinamo troškulio... Ir tą valandą gyvuliai savo tvartuose prabyla žmonių kalba ir pasako niekam nežinomas paslaptis, kurias išgirdęs žinosi, kaip rasti gyvenimo prasmę.

Jau ir vėjo pūtimas ir žvaigždžių mirgėjimas tą naktį turi paslaptinę reikšmę. Ir traukdamas iš po staltiesės šieno žoleles gali sužinoti savo gyvenimo

paslaptis: jei ilgą ištrauki — dar ilgai gyvensi, jei trumpą — trumpos teliko pasaulyje tavo dienos.

Mieliausia būdavo klausyti pasakojimus, kaip Kūčių vakare ir Kalėdų naktį visi keleiviai gali saugiai keliauti, niekas nepaklysta ir nežūva savo kelionėj. Ir visi benamiai vargšai ir valkatos užėina šiltą namų židinį, kur randa sau poilsį, užuojautą, meilę...

Mums rodėsi, kad esame anie mažieji Betliejaus piemenėliai, nes Kalėdos atnešdavo brangiausią dovaną — tikėjimą į paslaptį ir didžią meilę gimusiam Pasaulio Išganytojui...

Broli mano, ar Tu jauti, kaip anų dienų šventas Kūčių vakaras surišo mus nesutraukiamais giminytės ryšiais? Daug prabėgo metų, skaudžių ir sunkių kaip uolos, daug jie sugriovė ir sunaikino, bet niekas negali sunaikinti tų atminimų, kurie mums tebėra gyvi ir brangūs.

Kai ateis Kūčių vakaras ir balta Kalėdų naktis, aš jaučiu, kad ir Tu mąstysi tas pačias mintis, kaip ir aš. Į Tavo sielą ateis tie patys vaizdai, atgys tie patys žodžiai, iškils Tavo akyse tie patys veidai, taip brangūs, niekada nepamirštami.

Broli mano, kai Tu minėsi mūsų gyventas Kalėdas, ir Tavo sieloj atsivers nepagydomo skaudaus atsiskyrimo žaizda, žinok, kad ir mano širdis tą patį gyvena ir jaučia, kaip lašas po lašo srūva gyvas širdies kraujas...

Žvelgiu pro langą, kur skaisčios visų spalvų šviesos mirga gatvėse, kur dangoraizgiai stiepiasi liekni į vakaro ūkanas. Iš gatvės pasiekia mane linksmos Kalėdų giesmės garsai.

Virš miesto dunkso sunkūs sniego debesys — ir sniegulės pradeda lengvai kristi ant Kalėdų žiburiais mirgulinuojančio miesto.

Pro tas šviesas, pro aukštus miesto namus, mirksinčius šviesos užrašais, pro tyliai plevenančias sniegules skrenda mano mintys ir ieško Tavęs, Broli mano!

Tai šen, tai ten pro tamsių debesų tarpus švystelėja žvaigždėlė.

O gal tai Tavo akys žvelgia į mane iš anapus.

Tavo Sesuo.



## CHRISTMAS IN LITHUANIA

(In Grandmother's and  
Grandfather's Time)

*Antonia M. Wackell*

The Christmas Holiday, in Grandmother's and Grandfather's time, was the merriest holiday of the year. It began the day before Christmas, known as *Kūčių Diena*, when the entire household arose at three o'clock on a dark, silent and snow-covered morning, and began preparations of Christmas. Everyone had something to do. The baking and the wonderful smells, the roasting, and the songs filled the cottage. Young people took turns grinding the poppy seeds until a foamy white liquid appeared. The seeds were spilled into a deep earthenware vessel, and strong young muscles rolled and pulverized the seeds with a wooden instrument similar to a pestle, until all the seeds were ground. It was a slow process but the result, when mixed with honey and cool boiled water, was delicious.

Hard, square, little bite-size biscuits were put into the poppy-seed milk and left to soften. The biscuits were baked in the morning's work. A "gruce" made from barley, cooked into a thick pudding-like substance also went very nicely with the poppyseed milk. *Kisielius*, a jellied type of pudding made from cooked oats (not the instant variety) was served with sweet syrup. Several kinds of fish herring took the place of meat for the day.

"*Kūčios*" supper at Christmas Eve began at six, when the sun had disappeared. The table had been carefully covered with clean fragrant hay. A heavy linen cloth was put on the hay, then a finer woven, white linen table cloth was spread over all the table. The hay is a symbol of the hay-filled crib made for the Child Jesus at His Birth. The blessed Christmas wafers on the prettiest dish held the center of the table. Having blessed themselves, eaten the wafers, the "*kūčios*" began. There was no hurry anywhere; the families were gathered together to cele-



brate the Christ Child's Birthday in quiet, in happiness and in the warmth of their homes.

When everyone had eaten as much as they could, the younger members of the family began to pull blades of hay from beneath the white linen. As each one drew a blade, the others waited eagerly, because the length of the hay signified to what height his or her crop will reach the following year. Every member in the family plants flax seeds and glories in the yield of the tall stemmed blue flowers, which means a long linen thread for weaving all their clothes, undergarments, sheets, tablecloths.

After the supper, the countryside rang with the laughter of the young people. They were all out — binding the new slips of fruit that had been grafted onto trees. The grafted slips were bound with softened straw braided together to form bands. No one knew why that was done; no one inquired; and yet, the old custom was persevered, without curious questioning, simply because there was joy in doing it in the peaceful moonlight night.

Then shortly after, murmurs and good-natured mumbles were heard. Everyone was busy counting and paring off fence pickets. If one counted the pickets and ended in pairs, that meant that the counter would marry a single youth or maid. When a moan was heard, that was the disappointment of the counter because he or she had ended with a single picket — he or she was certain to wed a widow or a widower. The youths did not complain at such a result but the maids would become annoyed. No one cared to wait until midnight to hear whether the animals would talk because tiredness suddenly enveloped them all. They willingly returned to their homes because, on Christmas morning, everyone had to rise at three in the morning, dress warmly in "*kailiniai*" fur jackets and coats, made from

the hides of the family sheep, and be in church to hear Mass at six o'clock. Church was ten miles away by horse and sleigh.

The sleighs, filled with sweet-smelling hay, thick woolen blankets, with families, friends and neighbors, glided over the crisp white snow in a convoy, meeting other sleighs ahead. Sometimes deep drifts had to be broken through. The morning air tingled the cheeks and nipped many a nose. The rungs of the sleighs sang over the sparkling snow and the bells, attached to the harnesses, jingled many scales all the ten miles. There was no noise, some dozed, others spoke in low voices. Wolves were prowling about but disappeared when they heard the jingling bells. "*Ant šventoriaus*" in the churchyard, the sleighs and horses remained until the mass was ended.

On entering the church, red kerchiefs predominated. The girls had saved their cherished red colored kerchiefs just for this occasion, for this was the part of Lithuania that loved color and wove the bright, glowing colors into their garments and their linens. The red kerchiefs were never worn during advent, and so the wearing of the red kerchiefs and ambers, corals and beautiful beads, were a symbol of joy to them at this time.

After mass, everyone lined up in an orderly fashion. On the corner of the altar, the Holy Family, the animals and the crib had been placed. From the tiny, old-fashioned crib, ribbons were tied and hung in streamers. Each one waited patiently for the joy of rocking, ever so gently, the Little Christ Child in His crib, and leaving a gift of money beside it.

The return trip was cold but mother had a large pot of fragrant tea, made from mint, and chamomile tea blended with various leaves, just waiting on the huge stove. There was sugar, a large cake of it, which had to be broken into pieces. Tablet sugar and saccharin was to be



had but they were not as sweet as the block of sugar.

The Christmas dinner table was laden with everything good to eat. A handsome golden-roasted suckling pig, stuffed with sweet white bread, home-churned butter, eggs, salt, pepper, and flavored with browned onions brought forth many an Oh! and an Ah! A clear mushroom broth with delightful, flavorful "baravykų" (best variety of mushroom) that had been dried in the summer sun and now boiled to a plumpness, teased the nostrils and stimulated the palates of everyone.

There was lamb and sausage; chopped cabbage slaw, pickled beets and spiced cucumbers; chopped sweet red beets mixed with small pieces of fried salt pork; dried yellow peas from the summer's crop, boiled in a huge pot then drained dry, was served with butter (the drained pea water was used to soften the straw for the grafted fruit slips). Horseradish tinted with beet juice, produced many a flow of tears until it was grated. There was sour milk, golden-speckled cheeses, and homemade "pyragų" favorite Lithuanian Christmas bread filled with raisins and topped with poppyseeds.

Beverages were milk, coffee, tea or "saldes" a sweet drink made from rye, ground on the stove to point of sweetness — which point was most important, because it could easily become sour — then boiled water was added to it. It was left to stand for two days in a small cask made especially for it. The result was a pleasant sweet drink. Hand-carved wooden bowls contained fruit from the family orchard and nuts for all who had space within them.

There were no gifts to exchange. Father asked each one: "will you stay with me next year?" and at the young person's affirmative answer, he would smile and place a fifty cent piece in the palm. The boys tied the fifty cent pieces onto their

shirts and thereafter sported their precious pieces on every shirt they wore.

After dinner everyone sang every Christmas song they knew, from hymns to carols. Children learn to sing songs almost as soon as they learn to say their prayers and catechisms. There are so many songs to learn in this part of Lithuania — songs for every holiday; songs for hoeing and reaping, harvesting and hunting. Songs for weddings, births and funerals. Songs of love and songs of war; songs of forests and flowers; songs of animal and songs of birds; for this is the country of songs. Many years later, one of these young people, grandfather's cousin, was invited to go to Kaunas to sing all the songs she knew. She sang 180 songs — some unheard of and others long forgotten. Unknowingly she had attained fame because she had such a deep love for songs which began in her youth at Christmas time.

When the family dinner and the family singing is ended, the young people dress and visit their neighbor's house where the hymns and songs are repeated again; then visits are made to all the houses and no house was excluded. Then the children go sliding on the hill or skating on the river while the older folk take this time to say their rosaries and their prayers.



When the evening falls, the house having musicians, accordionist and violinist is the center of Christmas games and folk-dancing. The night finds the youth still singing and dancing even though they had been up since three o'clock that morning. But now, it is midnight, and a joyful Christmas Day has ended. And as they separate to go their ways, their farewells and their songs still vibrate through the calm and beautiful countryside — in Grandmother's and Grandfather's time. For it had, indeed, been a very merry and a blessed Christmas to them, and to their families and friends.

SKAITYK  
IR  
PLATINK  
"VYTI"

## MARIJOS GARBEI

\* 1954 metų spalio mėn. 13 dieną Fatimoje buvo užbaigti Marijos Metai. Pasauly jie baigti gruodžio mėn. 8 dieną.

\* \* \*

\* Chicagoje Marijos gimimo dienos minėjime buvo susirinkę 260.000 žmonių. Tai buvo didžiausias samburis per 32 metus Soldier Field aikštėje. 1944 metais prezidento F. D. Roosevelt pasiklausyti buvo susirinkę 200.000; krikščionių susivienijimo kongrese dalyvavo 125.000.

Buvo pastatyta 16 pėdų Marijos stovyta.

\* \* \*

\* Belgijoje, kur 1932 metais buvo pasirodžiusi Marija, pastatyta didinga statula su aukso širdimi. Minėtais metais Marija 30 kartų buvo pasirodžiusi 5 vaikams. Marija prašė melstis, labai daug melstis už nusidėjėlių atsivertimą.

\* \* \*

\* Father Thomas McGlyn, O. P. Fatimoje dirba 16 pėdų Marijos statulą, sulig sesers Liucijos nurodymais. Ji bus dovanota Fatimos bazilikai Amerikos katalikų vardu.

\* \* \*

\* April Oursler Armstrong, duktė žinomo konvertito ir garsaus rašytojo, neseniai išleido knygą apie Marijos apsireiškimus Fatimoje, pavadintą "Fatima — kelionė į taiką". Joje randama paskutinės žinios apie Liuciją, kuri kalbėdavosi su Marija apsireiškimų metu.

\* \* \*

\* Viena, Austrijoje irgi buvo pastatyta didelė N. Marijos širdies statula, dalyvaujant daugiau negu 30.000 žmonių. Kard. Innitzer pasakė pamokslą senoje Habsburgų aikštėje.

\* \* \*

\* Melkitai pagerbė Mariją. Methuen prie Lawrence, Mass. apylinkės melkitai, arkiv. R. J. Cushing leidus, turėjo vakarines šv. mišias Bizantijos - Melkitų apeigomis ir atkalbėjo Marijos Metų maldą ir pasiaukojimą.

Ta proga buvo pašventinta ir šv. Bazilijaus seminarija, vienintelė tokios rūšies visame Vakarų pasaulyje.

# A PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY

(composed by Pope Pius XII and recited by him for the first time, November 1, 1954, at coronation ceremony)



*Out of the depths of this valley of tears, through which suffering humanity painfully struggles — up from the billows of this sea, endlessly buffeted by the waves of passion — we raise our eyes to you, most beloved Mother Mary, to be comforted by the contemplation of your glory and to hail you as queen and mistress of heaven and earth, queen and mistress of mankind.*

*With legitimate filial pride, we wish to exalt your queenship and to recognize it as due to the sovereign excellence of your entire being. O most sweet true mother of Him who is king by right, by inheritance and by conquest.*

*Reign, O mother and mistress, by showing us the path of holiness, and by guiding and assisting us that we may never stray from it.*

*In the heights of heaven, you exercise your primacy over the choirs of angels, who acclaim you as their sovereign, and over the legions of saints who delight in beholding your dazzling beauty. So, too, reign over the entire human race, above all by opening the path of faith to those who do not yet know your Divine Son.*

*Reign over the church, which acknowledges and extols your gentle dominion and has recourse to you as a safe refuge amid the calamities of our day. Reign especially over that part of the church which is persecuted and oppressed; give it strength to bear adversity, constancy never to yield under unjust compulsion, light to avoid falling into enemy snares, firmness to resist overt attack, and at every moment unwavering faithfulness to Your kingdom.*

*Reign over men's minds, that they may seek only what is true; then over their wills, that they may follow solely what is good; over their hearts, that they may love nothing but what You yourself love.*

*Reign over individuals and over families, as well as over societies and nations; over the assemblies of the powerful, the counsels of the wise, as over the simple aspirations of the humble.*

*Reign in the streets and the squares, in the cities and the villages, in the valleys and the mountains, in the air, on land and on the sea; and hear the pious prayer of all those who recognize that yours is a reign of mercy, in which every petition is heard, every sorrow comforted, every misfortune relieved, every infirmity healed, and in which at a gesture from your gentle hands, from death itself there arises smiling life.*

*Obtain for us that all who now, in every corner of the world, acclaim and hail you queen and mistress, may one day in heaven enjoy the fulness of your kingdom in the vision of your divine son, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. Amen.*

# VYČIŲ SENDRAUGIŲ SKYRIUS

Redaguoja Ignas Sakalas

## Mirga Marga Iš Sendraugių

*Vytis* — tautinių grupių vadas Antanas Rudis, Rockwell Engineering Co., prezidentas ir žinomas lietuvių veikėjas, išrinktas Chicagos tautinių grupių politinio komiteto pirmininku. Komiteto tikslas buvo padėti Paul H. Douglas, Illinois valst. senatoriui, laimėti rinkimus. Kaip žinome, sen. Douglas yra daug pasidarbavęs Lietuvos laisvinimo reikalui. A. Rudis su žmona priklauso sendraugių kuopai. Sen. P. Douglas rinkimus laimėjo.

*Išleido plokštelių albumą.* Antanas Petrusis, Lietuvos Vyčių veteranas ir žymiausias darbuotojas prie Vyčių namo Chicagoj, finansavo buv. Lietuvos operos solistės Vincės Jonuškaitės įdainuotų plokštelių albumą. Albumas jau pasirodė rinkoje. Patartina vyčiams įsigyti šį plokštelių albumą. A. Petrusio adresas: 4420 So. Talman Ave., Chicago 32, Ill. A. Petrusio žmona Kazimiera taip pat yra žymi vyčių sendraugių veikėja.

*Sendraugiai pirmieji.* Vyčių Namų labai nutarus daryti didelį namo-salės remontą, pakeičiant priekinės dalies išvaizdą, kuris kainuos apie \$5,000, sendraugiai pirmieji atėjo su pinigine pagalba. Spalio 12 d. susirinkime nutarta iš kuopos išdo paaukoti \$200. Iš pavienių narių Antanas ir Kazimiera Petrusiai paaukojo \$100. Tokiu būdu tik viename susirinkime sendraugiai namo remontui paaukojo \$300. Tikimosi, kad atsiras ir daugiau narių, kurie paseks Petrusių pavyzdžiu.

*Šauniai pasidarbavo.* Tradicinis sendraugių "avies kepimo" pobūvis šiemet įvyko Vyčių namo sodelyje ir salėj spalio 3 d. Nors iš ryto smarkiai lijo, tačiau popiet išgiedrėjo ir vakarop sodelin prisirinko nemažai narių ir svečių. Gryno pelno padaryta \$101.15. Kuopos susirinkime nuširdžiai padėkota komisijos narėms: E. Širvinskienei ir Petrusienei, kurios ne tik visą dieną darbavos, bet dar ir stambiomis aukomis prisidėjo. Be jų, dar aukojo A. Skrabutienė, O. Paukštienė ir J. Petkūnienė. Svečiams patarnavo be čia suminėtu narių dar M. Jakaitienė, U. Žemaitienė, P. Zakaraitė, V. Paukštis ir k.

*Ruoš Naujų metų sutikimą.* Sendraugių kuopa, kaip ir kitais metais, ruoš Naujų metų sutikimą Vyčių salėj gruodžio

31 d. Spalio mėnesio susirinkime išrinkta komisija iš E. Norbutienės, S. Pavienės ir E. Samienės žada suruošti idomią programą.

*Užsisakė du stalus.* Kun. Ign. Albavičiui pagerbti jo pakėlimo į prelatus proga ruošiamam bankete gruodžio 12 d. Midwest viešbutyje, sendraugių kuopa rezervavo du stalus (dvidešimts vietų). Jei tų bus permaža, banketo komisija užtikrino, kad prie jų galima bus prijungti dar vieną arba du stalus. Banketo bilietai (po \$5.00) numeruoti.



*Laimėjo banką.* E. Samienė, veikli sendraugė, taip pat viena žymiausių veikėjų Katalikų Federacijoje, Balfe ir kitose organizacijose, pastarajame sendraugių susirinkime laimėjo "banką", kuriame buvo jau susidarę \$15. Iš tų pinigų ji \$3 paskyrė naujam "banko" įdėliui. Bankui laimėti laimingas numeris iš dėžutės traukiamas po kiekvieno susirinkimo. Jei ištraukto numerio narys nedalyvauja susirinkime, "bankas" gražinamas į išdą ir jis sekančiame susirinkime būna paaugęs \$1.

*Besportuodamas nusilaužė koją.* A. Petrusis ir K. Petrusis, pavyzdinių sendraugių, sūnus bežaisdamas krepšinį nusilaužė koją, kuri jau baigia išgyti. Tuo pačiu metu ir Petrusienė buvo sunegalėjusi, bet dabar jau pasveiko ir vėl įsitraukia į veikimą.

*Įsigijo namą.* Ignas ir Sofija Sakalai, ilgai gyvenę ir veikę Aušros Vartų parapijoje, prieš porą mėnesių persikėlė į Marquette Park, kur įsigijo nuosavą namą adresu 7354 So. Campbell Ave.

## CHRISTIAN MILITIA

The most curious phenomenon in the Indo Chinese war was the emergence of the Christian Democratic independent army, the Christian Militia.

One would imagine himself to be hurtled back to the time of the Crusades and Godfrey de Bouillon to see the soldiers of the Christian Militia with their big crosses suspended from their necks, imbued with a burning religious zeal similar to that of medieval days.

Aside from the political and military organizations of Christian Democrats in Viet Nam, the greatest success among the working population was scored by the Christian Trade Unions.

In 1953, 20 delegates representing various local trade unions from all provinces of Viet Nam held a national conference in order to form a central Christian Workers Organization. It is the first of its kind in Asia and is called the Confederation of Christian Vietnamese Workers.

Despite its name, only a small minority of the members are actually Christian. In certain Unions over 90% of the members are either Buddhist or Confucianist. This success among non-Christian workers can be explained by two factors. One is that Christian principles are compatible with the moral philosophies of both Buddhism and Confucianism, in this respect, and secondly this new-born Viet-Nameese nationalism is feverishly looking for ideological content, as well as for leaders, who would inspire it with both faith and enthusiasm. Here, the West can offer Viet Nam the principles which consolidated Western civilization, the principles of Christianity, the only force which can ideologically oppose the temptations of so well developed a philosophical system as Marxism. The Christian principles which in Viet Nam are becoming the major political force in the Christian Democratic movement and in the Christian Unions are a great asset and hope for the free part of Viet-Nam as it enters into battle to win the people of Viet-Nam over to the side of the Free World.

# LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY

By *Msgr. J. Balkunas*,  
President of the Lithuanian Community  
of the United States

Outside the borders of Lithuania itself, Lithuanians live in 19 countries. The United States of America has the greatest number of people of Lithuanian descent, nearly one million. With the homeland in peril of obliteration, Lithuanians everywhere are uniting to save their language, culture, custom and traditions. They are also preparing to rebuild Lithuania when it is freed, and to re-establish educational and cultural facilities. In the United States, as elsewhere, the Lithuanian Community is being formed.

The fundamental purpose of the Community is to preserve Lithuanianism in the Lithuanians. By Lithuanianism we mean our national culture, language, customs, religion, literature, etc. The Community has to find ways and means of drawing all Lithuanians into the work of protecting and expanding these points. The work of unification is not easy but quite complicated. Nevertheless, the Community exists, and must remain non-partisan and non-political in all respects.

The cornerstone of Lithuanianism is the Lithuanian language. If we forget and ignore our language, we will die as a nationality. We can keep the language through our families, churches, organizations, newspapers and other means. We must take counter-action against anyone who obstructs the use and maintenance of the Lithuanian language.

The preservation of Lithuanianism is possible only if the entire Lithuanian public enters this project. It is not possible for individuals, or separate organizations to achieve this goal unless they all

act together. A good, well laid out plan is necessary. The goal is the same, so why not work together?

The Community is not a new organization. It is not necessary to enroll in it. Every Lithuanian belongs to it, regardless of when and where he was born, whether he wants to be a member of the Community or not, whether he speaks Lithuanian or not, whether he is an asset or liability to the Community, whether he is just born or is already stepping into the coffin.

The Lithuanian Community of the U. S. covers all Lithuanians, therefore it is universal. It does not conflict with existing organizations nor does it hamper their activities. Rather, it helps and strengthens existing organizations.

To achieve its goals and purposes, the Community elects its governing bodies on a local, regional and national basis. It is affiliated with the Lithuanian Communities of other countries through the World Lithuanian Conventions and the Supreme Council. In this manner a unified effort for Lithuanianism is carried on throughout the free world by the World Lithuanian Community. This does not make us internationalists, nor does it lessen our allegiance to the United States.

The work of organizing the Community has been started by the Temporary organizing Committee which invites all Lithuanians of good will to establish local groups wherever a larger number of Lithuanians reside. We would like to see established a network of local and regional groups so that we could have elections to the first governing council of the Lithuanian Community.



## VYČIŲ JAUNIMAS

Lietuvos Vyčiai sudaro didelę šeimą. Toji šeima yra graži, jauna, ugninga. Uolių vadų tvarkoma, ji gali išaugti į labai brangią dirbančio jaunimo organizaciją. O ji išmokys savo narius iškilti augščiau vidutiniškumo pamėgtose jaunimo srityse. Tik reikia noro; priemonės atsiras.

Jei dabartinėse L. V. kuopose yra nedaug 16-20 metų jaunuolių, pakaltinti reikėtų vadovybės neapdairumą: jaunuoliams reikia sudaryti progų reikštis organizuotai ir pavieniai mėgiamoj srityje. Ne visi gali būti vaidintojai, ne visi bus dainininkai; kai kurie tik bus palinkę į meną, muzką, tapybą; kiti gali veržtis pažinti geriau savo amatą, užsiėmimą, darbą, su mintimi pagerinti, padidinti gaunamą algą; dar kiti gali kibti į įvairius jiems rūpimus mokslus ir galop daug kas gali norėti panagrinėti savo pasaulėžvalgą, religijos teorijos ir praktikos klausimus. Gražioj L. vyčių šeimoje, sudarius bent kelis minėtų sričių ratelius, kuopeles ar kitais vardais pavadintus padalinius, — tuoj atgytų susidomėjimas L. Vyčių organizacija ir pagyvėtų visa veikla.

Žinant, kad lietuvių jaunimas daug kame yra gabesnis už savo kaimynus, vadai turėtų rasti, paruošti organizatorius, ar vien paskatinti ir paremti jaunųjų Vyčių kultūrinės pastangas.

O jaunimo tarp 16-20 metų amžiaus nėra mažiau kaip 25-30 metų. Visas organizacijos veidas pajaukėtų, jei pajėgtume jaunuoliams duoti kuopose tai, kas jiems naudinga, gražu, būtina. Patartina pasitarti keliamais klausimais valdyboms, paskui sušaukti platesnį pasitarimą, pasiskirstyti darbą ir realizuoti L. V. organizacijos užduotį — visą lietuvių jaunimą suburti į Lietuvos Vyčių kuopas.

*Kun. K. A. Matulaitis, MIC.*

30th ANNIVERSARY, LINDEN, N. J. — Shown above at the celebration of the Knights of Lithuania, Council 113 are, front row, Rev. A. Kasper, Rev. B. Shimkus, Rev. L. Seiser, OSB., Rev. E. Kozlowski, Very Rev. Msgr. J. Balkūnas; second row, Joseph Sable, John Tratulis, Aldona Cesnovich, Victor Guzewicz, president, Steve Bundonis, Agnes Dobilas, Algirdas Bundonis and Edward Pribush.



## TOP THIS

*(If You Can)*

- Woman: Father, I have a problem. I'm getting married in three weeks.
- Priest: (Lifting an eyebrow) Is that such a problem?
- Woman: Well, you see, Father, I have false upper teeth. And I'm in a quandary. I don't know what to do.
- Priest: (Becoming a bit impatient) I still don't see what is troubling you. What's your problem? What are you in a quandary about?
- Woman: It's this way, Father. My boyfriend is a nice fellow, but if I tell him about my false uppers before we're married, he may ditch me. If I tell him after we're married, he'll probably leave me. What can I do?
- Priest: (About to explode) For heaven's sake, woman! Get married. And after you do, just **KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.**

*(The editors invite K. of L. readers to contribute to this department by sending in their own humorous anecdotes, jokes, or plain corn. Include name and council of sender so proper credit can be given. Address to TOP THIS editor, 201 K St., So. Boston 27, Mass.)*



# SPORTS OF ALL SORTS

by  
Phil Carter

- Q. In baseball how far does the strike zone extend?
- A. In Official Baseball Rules as revised 1954, Rule 2.67 says, "the strike zone is that space over home plate which is between the batter's armpits and the tops of his knees when he assumes his natural stance."
- Q. What is the record for being hit by a pitcher in one inning?
- A. Three. In fact, this was tied on June 30, 1954, when Tom Morgan of the Yankees hit three players of the Red Sox team at Fenway Park.
- Q. Can a baseball thrown by a pitcher travel a hundred miles an hour?
- A. Yes. This has been done quite a few times.
- Q. What is the speed that a skier can attain?
- A. Skiers sometimes reach a speed of 60 miles an hour.
- Q. What is the modern strike-out record?
- A. The record is 18, set by Bob Feller in August 1937.
- Q. What was the longest baseball game ever played in the major leagues?
- A. The 26 inning game at Boston on May 1, 1920, when the Braves and Dodgers battled for 3 hours and 50 minutes until darkness for a 1 to 1 tie.
- Q. Is golf losing or gaining in popular interest?
- A. There are more people playing golf now than at any time in the history of the country, according to a field director of the National Golf Foundation. Some 190 new courses are now under construction and over 350 others are in the planning stage.
- Q. What was the fastest speed ever recorded for the Stanley Steamer?
- A. The Automobile Manufacturers Association states that a Stanley Steamer's highest speed was recorded in 1906 when a speed of one mile in 28½ seconds or the equivalent of 127½ m. p. h. was achieved. This was reported in "British Motorist" for February 4, 1942.
- Q. In what year did the Army-Navy football teams play their first match? Who won?
- A. The first Army-Navy game was played on November 29, 1890, at West Point, New York. The score was Army 24, Navy 0.

- Q. How much fish is caught each year throughout the world?
- A. The United States Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 26 million tons of fish is caught each year throughout the world.
- Q. What was the longest World Series baseball game?
- A. The 14 inning game between Boston (A. L.) and Brooklyn (N. L.) at Boston on October 9, 1916. The longest game in point of time lasted 3 hours and 28 minutes, went 12 innings, and was played at Chicago between the Cubs and Detroit Tigers on October 8, 1945.
- Q. What is the total of Willie Pep's professional boxing matches?
- A. He fought 191 fights in his professional career, from 1940 to the end of 1953.
- Q. Does the favorite horse win a race more often than not?
- A. According to statisticians, over a long period favorite horses win over 40% of the time, and there may be a wide variance during any particular racing day.
- Q. What are the Queen of England's racing colors?
- A. The royal colors are purple, scarlet and gold. They will be displayed when Queen Elizabeth's black colt, Landau, competes in turf racing at Laurel, Maryland, in November.
- "To brag little to lose well  
To crow gently if in luck  
To pay up to own up  
To shut up if beaten  
Are the virtues of a sporting man."*

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Mr. and Mrs. Felix "Phil" Carter of Cranston, Rhode Island, have been blessed with a son, Michael, born September 29th. "Phil" Carter, our regular Sports writer, and his wife, Aldona (nee-Norvilas), formerly of Dorchester, Mass., are two active K. of L.'ers.

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## “VYTIES”

### GARBĖS PRENUMERATORIAI

- \$20.00 Rt. Rev. Constantine Vasys, Worcester, Mass.  
A Friend  
Rev. John Zuromskis, So. Boston, Mass.
- 15.00 Rev. Anatolijas Stanevičius, Chicago, Ill.
- 10.00 Most Rev. Vincent Brizgys, Chicago, Ill.  
Rt. Rev. Ignas Albavičius, Cicero, Ill.  
Very Rev. John Balkūnas, Maspeth, N. Y.  
Rev. Albert J. Contons, So. Boston, Mass.  
Rev. Benedict Gauronskas, Ansonia, Conn.  
Rev. Albin Janiūnas, Lawrence, Mass.  
Rev. A. Jutkevicius, Shelburne Falls, Mass.  
Rev. J. A. Jutkevicius, Turner Falls, Mass.  
Rev. John Jutkevicius, Worcester, Mass.  
Rev. Vladas Karalevičius, Bayonne, N. J.  
Mr. John G. Kaslaitis, Cicero, Ill.  
Miss Mary Kober, Port Washington, N. Y.  
Rev. Joseph Naudžiūnas, Cambridge, Mass.  
Rev. Felix Norbut, Norwood, Mass.  
Rev. Jonas Pakalniškis, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Rev. Jonas Švagždys, Brockton, Mass.  
Rev. John Vyšnauskas, Chicago, Ill.  
Rev. Walter Washila, Southold, N. Y.  
Rev. Albin Yankauskas, Athol, Mass.  
Lith. Minister Povilas Žadeikis, Washington,  
D. C.

### KALĖDŲ DOVANA “VYTIES” FONDUI

Mr. William Kolicius, Jr.  
3522 Marge Drive,  
Pittsburgh 34, Pa.  
Gerbiamas p. Kolicius:

Norėdamas padėti katalikiškam, lietuviškam  
jaunimui, siunčiu savo KALĖDŲ DOVANĄ “Vyties”  
Fondui.

a) \$10.00 auką, kaip “VYTIES” GARBĖS PRE-  
NUMERATORIUS

b) \$..... auką, kaip “VYTIES” RĖMĖJAS

Vardas .....

Adresas .....

Miestas ..... Pašto Num. .... Valstybė .....

### LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ IR GERIAUSIŲ NAUJŲ METŲ!

Daug sėkmės ir laimės visiems vyčiams  
ir jų prieteliams linki Kristaus gimimo  
švenčių ir Naujų Metų proga

**Lietuvos Vyčių  
Centro Valdyba**

“Vyties” žurnalo bendradarbius, skai-  
tytojus bei rėmėjus ir visus vyčių prie-  
telius nuoširdžiai sveikiname Kalėdų  
švenčių ir Naujų Metų sulaukus. Tegul  
Dievo palaima lydi Jūsų gyvenimą ir  
darbus ir tegul bendras mūsų darbas  
stiprina “Vytį” ir visą gražų vyčių  
judėjimą.

**“Vyties” Redakcija**

## LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

COUNCIL 133

At a regular meeting held November 7, 1954, the following new officers were elected: Mike Wisneski, president; Helen Nashlenas and Anthony Kunickas, vice presidents; John Antanawich, secretary; Ann Laurinaitis, treasurer; A. F. Skirius, correspondent; and L. Valiukas and Joe Guest, sergeants - at - arms. The meeting was held at the home of Vytautas and Marcelė Augevičius, who also served refreshments. We thank our hosts for their wonderful hospitality.

### Activities

*Installation of new officers* will take place on December 11th, at one of our largest L. A. hotels — Biltmore or Ambassador.

*A Christmas Drawing* is planned for December 19th at St. Casimir's parish hall. Among the members who donated valuable prizes, are Anthony Kunickas — case of “degtinės” — \$62; Alfred Manovas — a wrist watch — 25; Mike Wisneski and others — turkey — \$12.

A Valentine's Dance will be held on February 5, 1955 — in one of the most modern halls in Hollywood — BACES HALL. Arrangements are being made to procure Biltmore's AL GAYLES orchestra.

In the near future, we expect to form a Junior Council, also award Ritual degrees to qualified members. *Corr.*

### K. of L. CALENDAR

December 19 — Amsterdam, N. Y. (100)  
Christmas banquet.

December 25 — Brooklyn, N. Y. (41)  
Christmas Dance.

1955

January 15 — New Jersey District,  
*Winter Festival*, Lithuanian  
Catholic Community Center,  
6 Davis Ave., Kearny, N. J.

January 29 and 30 — Athol, Mass. (10)  
Winter Carnival.

February 5 — Los Angeles, California  
(133) Valentine's Dance,  
Baces Hall, 1528 N. Vermont.

# VYČIAI VEIKIA



# COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

## ILLINOIS - INDIANA DISTRICT

### DISTRICT NEWS

Our compliments to the Editorial Staff of "Vytiš" on the fine post-convention issue. The articles and pictures were all very good. Our pet picture is the "Lost Battalion." We would like to ask Tony Lubert of Council 112, Chicago, and Diane Shatas, of Boston, our beautiful and talented national secretary, (I am going back to school now, since she is a teacher) and another gentleman who seems to favor the last row in pictures, and is holding the banner in the official picture. The question is — "How did you manage to be in both pictures?" No need to say they add much to both pictures.

The "Lost Battalion" reminds me of an incident which happened at the Chicago White Sox Ball Park. The announcer on the public address system stated he had a little boy about 6 years of age, who says his daddy is lost. However, since the official picture shows the largest number present, then the "Lost Battalion" was truly named, or perhaps they had to stay after school.

Messrs. Jack Jatis and John Jesulaitis attended the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation Convention at Cleveland. We were happy to see about thirty K. of L. members from other cities also in attendance at this convention, making up about a third of people present. Incidentally, Mr. Jatis, of "Lost Battalion" fame, and chairman of the past convention, was favored with an escort, and during his stay in Cleveland never took a wrong step. Plans are to revoke his membership in the "Lost Battalion".

Election of new District officers will take place at the November meeting.

The heavy rains in Chicago (in October), caused considerable damage in the basement of the K. of L. building in Chicago. We had about three feet of water in the basement earlier, and the heavy rain over the weekend of Oct. 16th and 17th filled the basement again, to almost five feet, covering the heating system

almost completely. All the motors had to be repaired. Fortunately, after drying out, the heating system worked all right. We were not the only ones to suffer damage, as practically every basement (cellar) in the city was flooded.

A belated "thank you" to Pittsburgh council, host to the last convention. They have gone far and beyond the call of duty to receive and ENTERTAIN the delegates and guests. The Friday evening affair was particularly grand, when the voices of several hundred were raised in Lithuanian songs. The setting was ideally suited. Congratulations to Mr. Onaitis, chairman, his aides, and council members for a difficult task, WELL DONE.

WINDY

### CHICAGO, ILL.

#### COUNCIL 112

Two K. of L.'ers were re-elected to the Municipal Court of Chicago on Nov. 2nd. Judge, John T. Zuris was re-elected to a six-year term.

Knights from the various local councils were well in attendance at the Annual Dance of the Don Varnas Post 986 of the American Legion. Chairman of the dance was our member, Commander Adam Anderson. He received splendid co-operation from his fellow K. of L.'ers.

Our hard-working Dolores Kuksta is taking a well deserved vacation. Her entire trip will be by plane. She is covering the southern parts of Italy, France and other European countries.

A pre-election dinner honoring Senator Paul H. Douglas was held at the Morrison Hotel. Anthony Rudis, member of the Senior Council, had the privilege of introducing the celebrant. He paid special tribute to the work in behalf of the Lithuanian cause sponsored in the United States Senate by the honored guest. More than twenty K. of L.'ers attended this event.

Alexander Kumskis and John G. Evans of our council were co-chairmen of a Sports night sponsored by the Cardinal Mundelein Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Al G. Mockus, financial secretary, is a bona fide Insurance Broker. Any members

needed flood insurance contact Al.

The worse rain-fall in 69 years hit Chicago the weekend of Oct. 9-10. Flooded basements caused heavy damages to our many home owners and to the K. of L. Youth Center. Members feeling there wasn't anything they could do about the flooded basements decided to attend the 30th Anniversary banquet of C-112. Vyt Lubert did a wonderful job as toastmaster. The success of this affair goes entirely to the women of our council. When the men showed a lack of initiative in sponsoring the affair the women took complete charge of the committee.

Father Leonard Vaisvil was in charge of the November meeting dedicating it as the Marian meeting. We appreciate Father's active participation at our meetings and his spiritual guidance.

Early in 1955 the stork will be visiting a few of our members. We shall report their names and the arrivals after the blessed events take place.

Our members wish to greet the Supreme Council officers and all their member Knights with a lietuvišku "Linksmų Kalėdų" ir "Laimingų Naujų Metų" visiems!  
Biruta

### CICERO, ILL.

#### COUNCIL 14

Was nice to see AL ZEMAITIS (C-13), JEANNIE's future, join us for our quarterly Holy communion.

JEANNIE PAVIS rehearsed walking down the aisle as an attendant at her uncle's wedding in Youngstown, Ohio.

DOROTHY and PETER NOVINSKY were enthusiastic workers for the Cana Conference held at our Parish on Nov. 7.

Welcome to the "SYNDICATE," ED ANDERSON — replacing NELEN GUDAUSKAS.

Did you hear that REV. STANLEY GAUCIAS rolls the same type of ball as Ned Day — round and black...?

Speaking of bowlers — we got them — at a recent mixed doubles DICK PRATT came in first with a 726 series. Other winners included ED ANDERSON (648) and MARIE ANDRIS (575).

Our council members had a wonderful time at Northside's and Brighton Park's dances.

REGINA COUBLE is a very busy person — she attends evening classes, is in the Navy Reserve and also works with the Girl Scouts.

MARIANNE KELPSAS, VIRG CERKS and STELLE WAITEKUS attend classes at the Art Institute.

Hear RUTH DAUKAS had a very Happy Birthday!

MARI, what's the interest in Effingham?

We wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS... And a HAPPY NEW YEAR....

*Three Coins in the Fountain*

## CHICAGO, ILL.

### COUNCIL 36

A Joyous Christmas Season to one and all from Council 36 members!

Birthday Socials! In September we celebrated the birthdays of Jeronimas Jankevicius, Irene Sankus, Vivian Slazas, Estelle Miller and Kasys Latonas. In October, the birthdays of Philamena Rekasius, Sophia Zukas and Sylvia Montville. In November, Regina Federavicius, Vyto Gestautas, Balys Brazdzionis, Stanley Petrauskas and Valeria (Shadis) Shaughnessy. Happy Birthday to all!

We were happy to hear that Al Kassel is recovering from his serious illness. We hope he will be back with us in time for the Mid-Western Bowling Tournament.

Recently Bernadette Paukstis and John Balauskas, both of our council, became engaged. They plan to marry this coming Spring. Congratulation!

Valeria Shadis of our council was married to Richard Shaughnessy of Springfield, Illinois on October 23rd. Our sincere best wishes to both. May be Val and Dick, with Vyto's assistance, will be able to re-establish the K. of L. council in Springfield.

Our council has three teams in the Illinois - Indiana District Bowling League. They are the *Aces* (Ed Pratt, Al Pratt, Leona Martinkus, Barbara Janulis and Ed Williams), the *Beavers* (Bernadette Paukstis, Philamena Rekasius, John Balauskas, Loretta Kasse and Ray Bulka) and the *Cardinals* (Estelle Miller, Irene Sankus, Al Gudis, Peggy Zakaras and John Janus). The substitutes are Dolores Paulikas and Vyto Gestautas.

On September 18th, we had the last wiener-roast of the year at Swallow Cliffs. The committee consisted of Philamena Rekasius and Al Pratt. They did a commendable job.

Although the October 8th Pancake Party wasn't a financial success, all who attended had a wonderful time. Sophia Zukas was wearing a lovely orchid and we all helped her celebrate the occasion with a beautiful birthday cake. Our sincere thanks to the cooks, Philmena Rekasius, Mrs. Latonas and Estelle Miller.

The Immaculate Conception Parish blessed the cornerstone of the new school building on October 31st, the Feast of Corpus Christi. Msgr. D. A. Mozeris thanked the council for its donation, which made us Special Patrons of the Building Fund.

Our Fall Festival Dance was held at the Youth Center on Saturday, November 6th. Music was furnished by the capable Wee Three. The committee consisted of Sophia Zukas, Estelle Miller, Iren Sankus, John Janus and Vyto Gestautas. In addition to the committee, Bernadette Paukstis and John Balauskas helped with the decorating. A very excellent bartender was John Janus. (You have a steady job now, John. At all of our dances!)

Council 36 members and friends attend the Lyric Theatre presentation of the Opera on Friday, November 12th. They saw the presentation of "La Traviata" with Algird Brazis of the K. of L. in the cast. All who attended enjoyed the entire evening (before, during and after the Opera). More of these parties are being planned (including Sport events). Anyone interested in joining us may contact anyone of our officers.

During the November meeting our attendance prize winner again was among the ranks of the missing. It was Joe Bagdonas! Better luck next time, Joe. The prize will be increased for the December meeting.

Congratulations to Judge John Zuris (C-36) and Judge Alphonse Wells (C-112) on their re-election to the Municipal Court bench.

Welcome back to one of our servicemen, Frank Petkunas. We hope Frank will again be an active participant in our affairs. *Red-Wing*

## NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY DISTRICT

### GREAT NECK, N. Y.

#### COUNCIL 109

On October 23rd, six of our members—Josie Rusas, Mary and Toney Kober, Starcy and Al Wesey and Ricky Marks attended the Linden, N. J. council's 30th

Anniversary Dinner and Dance. It was a very nice affair—good food, interesting speeches and a wonderful dance orchestra.

At this writing, we are making final arrangements for our November 20th dance. Also at our November meeting, nomination of officers will take place. Results will be published in the next issue. *Rick.*

## PHILADELPHIA, PA.

### COUNCIL 3

#### Note of Thanks!

To the Pittsburgh Knights for the wonderful hospitality at the past national convention. Our eight wanderers all returned full of spark for the year ahead. It may be well to note that the convention brings many old and new acquaintances and revives in most the spirit of going on to make each year ahead a better one for his home council.

#### New Members

Since our return from the once smokey Convention City, our council has added such new faces as: Frances Majiakas, Eleanor Chebatoris, Anna Mae Wallo- wick, Robert Rinkus and Joseph Turanski. A sincere welcome to you all.

#### What — No Dogs!

The recent weenie roast was quite an affair when Blondie (the boys) suffered a slight starvation. Stacy and Joe Utkus were the heroes at the scene but poor Blondie still gets the razzing. Fr. Raila, who is now assistant at St. George's in Shenandoah, dropped by on his way back to his duties in Shenandoah and suggested that we take off and do a little exploring in the upstate region but not a soul was to be found. An interesting event of the evening may also have been when Bob Kriksciunas and John Mickunas got into the act of fooling the gals into a — running barefooted. It wasn't "Sadie Hawkins" day but it sure did look it.

#### Hazel's Visit

She surely was a humdinger we're glad to say her stay was short. Communication workers were well commended on their good spirit and service. Our council might well feel happy to know they have Emily Lukosius of A. T. & T. and Mary Grebloski of Bell among those commended.

#### For "Mary" —

The Rosary and Marian Year Prayer were recited at Our Lady of Vilna Church in Chester on Oct. 24th by our members. A cheerie note of thanks to our chauffeurs — Fr. Shimkus, Joe Utkus and John Mickunas.

### New Board —

To serve the year of 1955 are President Helen Shields, Vice President Joseph Budelis, Secretary Stacy Utkus, Financial Secretary Ann Olbikas, Treasurer Bob Kriksciunas, and Sergeant-at-Arms John Mickunas. Best of luck and may the coming year be as prosperous. Lest we forget, a note of thanks to the outgoing officers for the grand job.

### Just Recently —

A three-act comedy was presented by the Brooklyn Knights which brought many comments, and wanting for more activity in our council. We thank Brooklyn for such a wonderful performance and wish that some day we, too, can follow their good example and awaken the spirit of all youth to join the K. of L. ranks.

Several members attended the \$1.50 affair the evening after Brooklyn's visit, and it was quite surprising to see Joe Sable of Linden in the group. We hope he enjoyed the weekend in Philly and hope his good spirit be with him wherever he goes.

Frank Cofsky of Norwood, Mass. visited our fair city and was seen with Frances Majiakas.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. "Cuckoo Bird"!

### LINDEN, N. J.

COUNCIL 113

Thank you, one and all, for helping make our 30th anniversary dinner and dance the success that it was. Held on Saturday evening Oct. 23 at the Lithuanian Liberty Park, over 250 people attended including delegations from New York, Great Neck, Bayonne, Newark, Elizabeth, Kearny and Philadelphia councils. It was gratifying to receive such fine support from our K. of L. neighbors and we sincerely hope that they enjoyed the turkey with all the trimmings.

Father Kemezis of Elizabeth opened our program with a few words. Father Kasper, spiritual adviser, acted as toastmaster. Monsignor Balkunas of Maspeth was the guest speaker. His discourse on the enslavement of Lithuania and the cruel cunning of the Russian Bear injected a serious note in the festivities, a reminder that although we live in the light, the home of our ancestors is in darkness.

Other clergy present were Father Shimkus of Philadelphia, Father Lewis and Father Kozloski, pastor of the two Roman Catholic churches in Linden.

Joe Boley, former national president of the Knights, spoke of the more lasting effects of the K. of L. ideals and congratulated the Linden Knights on 30 years of continuous Lithuanian activity.

Mayor William Hurst of Linden in his speech had fine praise for all Lithuanians and the K. of L. in particular. He also congratulated the K. of L. for their many years of existence in the city.

Al Wesey, national president of the K. of L. also was called upon for a short speech. Taking a bow was Joe Matachinskas, formerly of New England but now residing in Whippany, N. J.

Dancing to the fine strains of Wally Kubas and his band wound up the evening.

A souvenir booklet was published for this occasion. This being the Marian year, it was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The bulk of the work on this journal was done by Aldona Cesnavich, Agnes Dobilas and Steve Bundonis. The entire affair was in charge of our co-chairmen Edward Pribush and Joseph Sable. We know that they put in many an evening of hard work.

In conjunction with our 30th anniversary, a Mass was offered for our deceased members and for the good of our organization. It was held at the St. Peter and St. Paul's Lithuanian Church in Elizabeth on the following Sunday. Our members received Holy Communion in a body. The Mass was said by Father Kasper.

Following the Mass, a memorial service was held at the Wayside Cross on the church grounds. Here prayers were said and taps blown for our deceased members. Also participating were Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Lithuanian Girl Scouts. The entire service was under the supervision of Father Kemezis, pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church.

Election of officers was held at our last meeting. Here is our "Brass" for the coming year: Victor Guzewicz, president; Steve

Bundonis, vice president; John Tratulis, treasurer; Al Bundonis, recording secretary; Aldona Cesnovich, financial secretary Agnes Dobilas, corresponding secretary; Vincent Cupervich, sergeant-at-arms; Edward Pribush, Joseph Sable and John Ashmont, trustees. Father Kasper will continue as our spiritual adviser.

Our next affair is to be a Christmas party. Steve Bundonis and Aldona Cesnovich are already at work planning the festivities.

The council's deepest sympathies go out to Joseph Sable for his father passed away in Jersey City last month. V. O.

### AMSTERDAM, N. Y.

COUNCIL 100

Our local council held its annual Halloween Masquerade Dance, Saturday, October 30th at the ALC Hall. We were pleasantly surprised at the arrival of guests from Syracuse — Frank Petrauskas and his buddy, Hal Davidson.

Dancing and refreshments were enjoyed, and prizes were awarded as follows: Most original costumes, Dr. and Mrs. Adam Kindar; most comical, Sophia Gavry; prettiest, Ann Creglis; best couple, Mrs. Kazimiera Orodecka and Bill Furman.

Judges for the event were Mr. and Mrs. Carmelo Constantine, Pauline Urban and Frank Petrauskas.

The hall was gayly decorated, and featured a scene depicting a very merciless witch busily brewing her evil potions in a large iron cauldron.

The dance committee was composed of Sophia Gavry, Sophie Olbie, Ruth Zostant, Pauline Urban, Connie Zygel, Ann Beleckas and Gene Gobis.

At the close of the dance, members of the committee decided to show our guests, Frank and Hal, some places of interest in Amsterdam. That merciless witch was brought along for company, also. Gene Gobis as an Indian lass, Sophie Olbie, as an attractive gypsy, and Sophia Gavry, as the comical clown, created quite a colorful picture when they took the guests around.

We must not forget to add that the first people to arrive at the dance were Bill and Vera Nikstenas who now reside in Cleveland, Ohio. Bill was a former member of our council. We were happy to see them.

\* \* \*

What have we here now... 'Tis a fact... Gene Gobis has gotten her driver's per-

mit and is planning to become one of our newest licensed drivers. We wonder if she will make it.

\* \* \*

Due to the fact that Father Peter Janaitis, Assistant at St. Michael's Church in Amsterdam, was coming to our November meeting to show us films, we rushed through the business meeting.

A report on the Halloween Dance was given by Gene Gobis.

All other matters were put aside until our December session.

We had the pleasure of having our pastor, Father Joseph Rashtutis, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kerbelis and granddaughter, Patricia, attend the showing of the film. The movies showed all the places of interest that Father Janaitis and Father Baltch visited during their past summer vacation.

As coffee and dessert were being served by our hostesses, Sadie Karbus, Pauline Urban and Ruth Zostant, we were pleasantly surprised by the arrival of Father John Griganavičius from Herkimer, New York.

We wish to thank Father Janaitis for coming with his movie equipment and making our gathering a very delightful one.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Helen Gustas, our vice-president, and her family at the most untimely death of her beloved mother.

*Smile & Sparkle.*

## BROOKLYN, N. Y.

### COUNCIL 41

Golly, have we been busy! The main project to keep us so busy was our three-act comedy, "Moterims Neišsimeluosi," which we presented on October 24th and which came off very well. What wonderful cooperation from the New Jersey council — they were all represented! The parish hall was bursting at the seams with people (rough estimate: 500), who all seemed to enjoy it very much. One good reason was our wonderful cast and pretty terrific director (Joe Boley). What a rugged bunch they are (rehearsed almost every night — and with no complaints)! The Bermuda - shorts darling of the Pittsburgh convention (Joe Sable) missed the first performance but made his debut (122 words) in Philadelphia on November 6th when the play was presented once again. It'll be repeated in Newark on November 14th.

In order to stress the religious angle of the K. of L., our council members voted to receive Holy Communion (as

K. of L.'ers) four times a year. The first time was the feast of Christ the King, October 31st, and we're going to decide on the other dates in the future (one Sunday in Advent, one in Lent, etc.). Our Juniors received with us, and it really made us feel good!

We're holding the district convention in Brooklyn in December and then there's the Christmas Dance on Christmas Day. Our committee (Joe Boley, Anne Schwabas and John Andrews) are planning to have the same arrangement as in the past few years — dancing to two orchestras in both parish halls. It should be fun! But there is still a lot of work ahead of us — at least enough to keep us busy as we've been!

## NEWARK, N. J.

### COUNCIL 29

During the past few months the following have been welcomed into council as new members, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Douches, Carmen Galan, Charles Stankunas, Louis Stukas, Mr. and Mrs. Pius Gouba.

Many members marched with Holy Trinity parish in the annual Holy Name parade held October 10th in our city.

At the yearly meeting of the New Jersey Lithuanian Council held at the Essex House on October 31st, representing Council 29 were Mrs. Anna Pocius and Frank Vaskas.

### Gay Nineties Nite

The evening was a huge social success and while the attendance may have not measured up to expectations in the eyes of some, it was quite a bit better than at some former affairs. Many thanks to all councils and friends who helped to make the night a memorable one.

A big hand and vote of thanks to the hard working committee of council president Edward Thompson, Al Jankauskas, chairman. Others who served were Vera and Daniel Lang, Joseph Montvidas and John Peldunas.

### Dance chatter

It sure was good to see so many of the old gang back for this shindig, among those observed cutting up a caper or two were, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Grimm, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pladis, the Ted Barkers, Augie and Edith Langs, the Menslers, and many others whose names the writer fails to recall at present time.

A barbershop quartet rendered several old time numbers. Those in this group consisted of Daniel Lang, Charlie Douches, Al Jankauskas and Louie Stukas. This group during course of evening offered free haircuts and shaves to the

customers but to date haven't learned if anyone accepted the offer.

An orchid to Helen Lang for all of her time and effort to put an artistic touch to the program. Her sketch of a young miss of the Gas Light era was sure a masterpiece.

Ask Tony Malakas about his visit to the Drabon in Union, after the hop.

Traditionally our council has put on a dance that is always remembered and this one surely lived up to the reputation of the past ones.

Many thanks to Ed Kidzius for aiding the community singing hour with his screen and machine.

The Shutter Bugs sure had a time of it snapping their cameras here and there most of the night, sure would like to see some of the shots they obtained.

Well, the Gay Nineties Nite has come and gone with the wind but it will linger long in the memory of all those who were there.

Being that this is last column for 1954 am taking this opportunity to wish all councils, as well as members and friends of the Knights of Lithuania a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. *The Wanderer.*

## ELIZABETH, N. J.

### COUNCIL 52

Anthony Markevicius, Ralph Kirvelevicius and Adam Medway were enrolled as members of our council on October 18th in the parish hall.

Joseph Sakevich of Newark, N. J., national vice president of the Knights of Lithuania, outlined plans for a nationwide membership drive.

Council members attended Mass for deceased members on November 21 in St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, followed by a breakfast in the Bavarian Room restaurant. Our council also held a barn dance on November 27 in the parish hall. Edward Anilonis and Norbert Wysockis were chairmen of both events.

Eighteen members attended the 30th anniversary dinner and dance Saturday, October 23 sponsored by Linden Council 113, at Lithuanian Liberty Park, Linden.

Elizabeth Council 52 wishes to congratulate the Linden council on their 30th anniversary and six pioneer members who organized the council in 1929. They are Miss Adele Lauraitis, Miss Ethel Krotulis, Mrs. Petronele Butkus, Joseph Krotulis, Paul Miksis and Louis Zalin-kauskas. Miss Lauraitis spoke for the chartered group. *William Senkus*

## NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

### PROVIDENCE, R. I.

COUNCIL 103

We express thanks to C-19 for a most enjoyable national convention. The delegates from C-103 came home with much to say of the great hospitality the host had shown us.

The morning of Hurricane Edna, the K. of L. was invited to attend the wedding of Marian Cyronak to Richard Polaski of C-116. Congratulations to you both.

At our September meeting, the delegates to the district convention held in Norwood, Mass. were elected: Helen and Marion Belconis, Barbara, Cyronak and Beatrice Mathieu. Another interesting highlight of the meeting was Father Martinkus showing us some slides of Lithuania. The report from the national convention was read. A motion was put on the floor to have a social for the month of October. And it was voted upon to have a hayride, Monday night, October 11th.

We were glad to see guests from Waltham, C-26, C-116 and C-27 represented at our annual picnic which was held September 19th. Helen Belconis, chairman of the picnic wishes to thank all who helped to make it a success. Edward Wilkins was awarded the prize for selling the most tickets towards raffling of case of Canadian Club.

Congratulations to Joseph Kairys who was married October 9th. It was nice seeing Mr. and Mrs. Stan. Waitkus and their new son Mark, back in Providence.

Our council bowling began September 21st. We have twenty bowlers, who look quite energetic and ambitious. We're bowling at the Bowladrome Alleys on Wednesday nights. All are welcome to attend.

On October 11th, we had a hayride. Among those who seemed to be enjoying themselves was Father Jurgelaitis. We're all looking forward to seeing those pictures, Father. We welcomed a guest from C-27, also. After an energetic ride on the hay-wagon, we essembled back at cozy barn for a warm snack of hot dogs, pastry, and cider. Thanks to Vyto Kapiskas for an enjoyable hayride.

C-103's annual Halloween Party was held Sunday, October 31st. Prizes were awarded to those in costumes.

The welcome mat has been put down for Bill Farrar, Joe Russell and Charles Cyronak, who joined our council.

Thanks to all K. of L.'ers and guests who attended the annual Fall Dance held in Providence, November 6th. It was quite encouraging to see so many long, lost representatives from C-6, Hartford, at our dance. As usual, quite a few guests visited the Belconis' residence for their midnight snack. *EM-DEE*

### ATHOL, MASS.

COUNCIL 10

#### Surprise Party

A surprise party was held at Mary Gauronsky's camp on Queen Lake in honor of Dot Gulezian and Charles Pini-gis, preceding their marriage on November 27. A Salem rocker was presented to them from the group. When any K. of L.'er come to visit them, it will be their most popular chair.

Barbara Milosh, Nellie Melaika, Clara Zetkowsky, Maryann Rodski, and Betty Tarpey explored the land around the lake. Coming to a dead-end, they found themselves climbing a small mountain to get back to the main road.

Lennie Davidonis and Maryann Rodski tried a little fishing, but as the story goes "The big one got away."

Brownie Kukauskas and Gid Penny played some baseball in the hope that a Major League Baseball team scout would just happen to pass by.

After all this fresh air, everyone agreed he could eat a horse. Hot dogs and hamburgers were served and Mary Gauronsky made some "Kopustų" which was "out of this world." As usual, Slip Talakowski seemed to come in just as refreshments were being served.

We want to thank Mary Gauronsky for the use of her camp and for all the time she put into this affair to make it such a success.

#### Food Sale

A food sale was held for the benefit of the parish hall and a good sum was turned over to Father Yankauskas. The committee consisted of Nellie Melaika, Marie Sienkiewicz, Barbara Milosh, Maryann Rodski and Rita Besseck.

#### Notes

Nellie Melaika recently got her driver's license — Bill Wisnauskas is sporting a new 1955 car — Lennie Davidonis also has a new car. This seems to be catching. Stanley Sargut recently was elected president of the Lithuanian Outing camp in Gardner. Bill Wisnauskas and Gid Penny also were elected to the board of directors of the same organization. Nellie Me-

laika, Marie Sienkiewicz, Mary Gauronsky are going to cooking school. "Blondie"

### NORWOOD, MASS.

COUNCIL 27

We extend our sincerest thanks to all who attended our convention!

Welcome new members — Vin Kneizys, Ann and Pete Gaigle.

If there is anyone interested in Bowling within the council, contact John Stud, chairman. This activity will take place on Thursdays, 9:15 p. m., at Spots Center.

Tentative plans are being made for a New Year's Eve Party.

A "Welcoming Committee" has been formed and consists of: Ed Perednia, Helen Paz, John Vaikoza and Fran Kasetta.

The fellows and girls, who will participate in our District Bowling Tournament, are eagerly awaiting their first match, with the hope of bringing home a trophy this year.

As in previous years, the children will be given a Christmas Party. John Chervokas, chairman, and his assistants, Elaine Pupalaigis, Adele Antonites, Agnes Kulbok and Pat Spurr will conduct this affair.

Eleven members now form the Lithuanian Affairs Committee in our council. Feel certain that much will be accomplished. *Scribbling Scribe*

### LAWRENCE, MASS.

COUNCIL 78

I would like to introduce to our council members, those who have not already had the pleasure, "Mr. Spinner."

"Mr. Spinner" is a three speed Symphonic portable record player. We hope that our Knights and Ladies will take advantage of having "Mr. Spinner" in our midst.

At a recent meeting of the Boy Scouts of St. Francis Parish, Pauline and Helen served Hot Chocolate and Donuts to the troop. Here tell their names were mentioned for "Honorary Den Mothers."

WELCOME FATHER KLIMAS — Father Aloysius Klimas recently joined our parish here in Lawrence, and we, the members of C-78, wish him a hearty welcome. Father Klimas has a "Musical" play which he would like to put into production. If there are any Knights and Ladies who would like to demonstrate their acting ability, kindly step forward. You don't have to be a Mario Lanza, Risa Stevens or for that matter a Dean

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Martin and Jerry Lewis. Also, make-up artists, stagehands and curtain drawers are needed.

At our inter-council bowling match every week, Arlene Marcinonis came in with a 86<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> and Tony Kazlauskas with 88<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>.

How a farmer plants his seeds, so will he reap his harvest. So it will be with our council.

In order for us to obtain members who will be worthy of the Knights of Lithuania, we should plant our seeds well. Remember that wherever you go, whatever you do, you are a "Vytis" and you should always act accordingly. The Knights of Lithuania is not merely an organization for a good time. It is an organization whose purpose is to "strive to unite American Lithuanian youth into a strong organized force." If we follow the rules set down for us in the by-laws, we can't help but make our council a much larger and better organization.

"Knights of Lithuania encourage among the youth an attachment to the land of their fathers — Lithuania, and an affection for the Lithuanian language and customs. The Knights of Lithuania strive to spread education and culture among their members and among Lithuanians in general."

Seasons Tidings to all our fellow Vyčiai!  
"Vytiška"

## OHIO-MICHIGAN DISTRICT

### DAYTON, OHIO

COUNCIL 96

Seems like our council has gone Notre Dame crazy! Not only did we have a bus trip on tap, November 13th, but some of our members had already taken in sneak preview of the team. Pat Zelinskas, Annadel, Sally and Dorothy Miller rooted them in to win from behind on Oct. 16th against Michigan State. Joe Petkus had his fiancée, Lillian Clarke, help the team open up the season with a win against Texas. (P. S. Very, very, belated congratulations to you, Joe, on your engagement to Lil.)

Congratulations to Elizabeth Kubeleus on her marriage to Harold Winters Oct. 16th. She certainly made a lovely bride. The members who attended her reception enjoyed themselves immensely.

Lots of luck to Charles and Ann Guldick in their new home.

Congratulations to Rose Ann Ambrose on her engagement to Bob Fletcher.

Our dance held November 20th in the parish hall was well attended, particularly enjoyed seeing a representative group

from Chicago. Ann Scott was in charge of the dance and is to be commended.

Anyone who didn't make the October social really missed something. Mary Lucas was in charge, with her daughters assisting. She served Tuna a la King! An - out - of - this - world - salad and homemade pumpkin pies!

December 5th our members received Holy Communion in a body at the 8 o'clock Mass, followed by a breakfast.

*The Petkus'*

## CLEVELAND, OHIO

COUNCIL 25

At our October meeting, reports were given: Mr. Buknis and Mary Trainy gave a report on the outcome of our picnic held at Mr. Sadauskas' summer garden. We thank Sadauskas and his family for being such marvelous hosts. Also Adele G. and Joseph Sadauskas, delegates at the A. L. R. K. Federation Convention, gave a favorable report.

Glad to see Al Yatska attending our meeting once more. We also wish to extend our congratulations to the newlyweds — Al Yatska and Patsy Vaidukaitė (Chicago). The happy couple was presented with a gift from the council.

Following events took place: On November 17th, a group of members visited St. Joseph's Home for the Aged, served refreshments and presented the folks with gifts. On November 24th, a Card Party was held, and among our guests were members of the "Moterių Labdarybės draugija" and local "Moterų Sąjunga." On November 21st, many of our members attend the 25th anniversary banquet of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, whose pastor is Father Angelaitis. Fr. Angelaitis is also our spiritual adviser.

Our sincere congratulations and thanks to the editors of VYTIS for publishing all the highlights and pictures of the convention in one issue. It was a most interesting issue.  
"Grumpy"

## PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

### PITTSBURGH, PA.

COUNCIL 19

Now that the convention is over, one would think that the members of Council 19 would retire to some corner and do absolutely nothing for a while, but instead it seems that some people have forgotten what the world relax means. No sooner had the crowd scattered from the Roosevelt Hotel, other new plans were in the making.

First of all Ed Marculaitis, treasurer of the bowling league had to arrange a picnic to use up the balance of the bowling league money. That's the kind of treasurer we have — he sponsors all kinds of activities, and still has money to spare. The picnic was held at South Park and was open to all members of the council whether they bowled or not. The weather was fine, though a little cool; there was more food than could possibly be consumed; and a well-rounded out entertainment program was planned.

Next Bernard Labuskis and his family went to work to arrange the September social meeting at their home, and they certainly went all out. The weather was too cool for us to enjoy their beautiful garden as we did last year; but instead they had all kinds of carnival games and tricks prepared for us in their basement game room where everyone had a chance to try his luck and skill in many different ways, such as, pounding the nails, throwing darts, shooting the target, etc. All this strenuous effort gave everyone a good appetite and we certainly did justice to the wonderful buffet lunch that Mrs. Labuskis had prepared for us. The evening ended with the usual singing, dancing and picture taking, and I am sure everyone went home looking forward to the next time that we are invited to the Labuskis home!

In October, a spaghetti dinner and Halloween party was held, and on Sunday, October 31, all members received Holy Communion together for the fourth time this year, followed by a breakfast and a special meeting.

I have good news to report about the Saliunas family. Early in September they moved into their own home in Brentwood, and on October 6, Peggy and Joe became the proud parents of a darling little girl, Barbara Ann, who weighed in at 7 lb. 3 oz. Father, mother and daughter are all doing fine, and we are looking forward to seeing Peggy back in circulation again as soon as she finds a reliable baby-sitter. Heartiest congratulations to Peggy and Joe and the warmest welcome to little Barbara Ann.

More good news — a month ago two Council 19 members became engaged. Bernard Milewski presented Alice Beacon with a gorgeous diamond ring. Congratulations Bernard and best of luck to you Alice. It has been quite some time since there has been a wedding among our council members and we are all looking forward to the big day.

We welcome back Frank Baltakis who has returned to Pittsburgh after an absence of about a year.  
I. C. Aul