

Uigilant Youthful Thorough Inspiring Spiritual



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CONTENTS – TURINYS

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS	Rev. Albert J. Contons	3
USE OF STRAW REVIVES LOST YULETIDE ART ...	Norma Lee Browning	4
JOHN UNITAS FOOTBALL UPS AND DOWNS	Tony Yuknis	6
LIETUVIŠKOJI KULTŪRA	Lietuvių Kultūros Komisija	7
FEMININE FAIR — MERGAIČIŲ PASAULIS. Redaguoja	Veronika Kulbokienė ir Joanne H. Neviera	8
KALĖDOS IR VYČIAI	J. Savelis	11
OFICIALUS SKYRIUS		12
VYČIAI VEIKIA — COUNCIL ACTIVITIES		18

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THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

REV. ALBERT J. CONTONS



Of all Christian feasts Christmas is the one that most touches our hearts. No matter how old we are, we become young again as we reflect on the mystery of the Babe of Bethlehem. We are reborn, our lives are renewed by the grace of the new born Child.

Yet it is easy for us to lose sight of the Infant Saviour in the hustle of preparing for Christmas. Shopping, wrapping of gifts, decoration of trees, mailing of cards, the commercialized blare of Christmas music, countless details of preparing the feastday meal — all tend to distract from the central mystery of Christmas.

Only on our way to Midnight Mass do we seem to disentangle ourselves from the worldly trappings of the feast. Darkness, crisp air, pure white snow, reverent and devout caroling, simple and humble manger, tastefully decorated altars — all are reminders that soon the Christ Child will be in our midst by His Eucharistic presence.

Our minds go back two thousand years to Bethlehem. "And there were shepherds in the same district living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them and the glory of God shone round about them, and they feared exceedingly."

"And the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there has been born to you today in

the town of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among men of good will'."

These simple yet forceful words of St. Luke reveal clearly the basic meaning of Christmas.

Going to Midnight Mass we see many homes whose windows are decorated with Christmas lights to remind us that Christ is the Light of the world. This custom began in Ireland during the time of the persecution to help guide priests into the homes of the faithful so that the priest could secretly celebrate Holy Mass there. To their persecutors the Irish explained that they left the burning candles in the windows so that Mary and Joseph, looking for a place to stay, could be guided to their homes. The English persecutors regarded this as a superstitious practice and did not interfere.

Indeed the heart and the climax of our Christmas observance is the Sacrifice of the Mass. It is to the Mass that we can fittingly apply the words of the prophet Isaias, "Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just; let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior."

The altar becomes, as it were, a second Bethlehem — "House of

Bread." The words of consecration are pronounced and the Body and Blood of Christ becomes present on the altar. In the Sacrifice of the Mass we can relive each day the mystery of the birth of our Lord.

Christmas night Mary and Joseph adored the Child with joy and love. Shepherds came and knelt in wonder. Magi brought precious gifts. They came to Jesus, prayed, marveled. But Jesus not only comes to us, He comes within us in Holy Communion. He becomes our joy, our hope, our consolation.

Christ gives Himself to us; we give ourselves to Christ. This is the "wonderful exchange" of Christmas. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity, God, became man, that we, by His grace, might become sons of God. This mystery is symbolized in the Mass when the priest at the Offertory adds a drop or two of water to the wine in the chalice and prays,

"O God, who has established the nature of man in wondrous dignity and even more wondrously hast renewed it, grant that through the mystery of this water and wine, we may be made partakers of His divinity, Who has deigned to become partaker of our humanity, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord..."

Christmas has a profound meaning. Christ was born in Bethlehem. By His grace we are reborn.

Christmas may have its trees, tinsel, cards, and carols. But the heart of Christmas is the Child Who comes to us in Christ's Mass.

USE OF STRAW REVIVES LOST YULETIDE ART

LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS TREES ARE A HIT

BY NORMA LEE BROWNING

Čia paduotas aprašymas yra tilpęs Chicago Daily Tribune 1959 m. gruodžio 21 d. Pažymėtina, kad Rožė Mazeliauskienė, veikli ir daug nusipelnusi Čikagos vyte, apie kurią čia rašoma, yra šiais 1960 m. spalio 19 d. mirusi.

The Christmas heroine of Chicago's Little Lithuania, around 30th and Halsted sts., is a perky, twinkly eyed 78 year old lady whose new nickname is Šiaudinukų Motina — Mother of the Straw Ornaments.

Her real name is Mrs. Roze Mazeliauskas. She is a tavernkeeper's widow and you would think she had just been named prima donna of the Metropolitan opera. Making Christmas tree ornaments out of soda straws has become the biggest thing in her life.

Not for Sale

This isn't a commercial. You can't buy this little lady's soda straw dreams. She stays up all night spinning new ones and then gives them away. She'll give them to you, to President Eisenhower, to anyone — as long as people keep bringing her soda pop straws.

The result is that a great many American homes these days are displaying Lithuanian Christmas trees.

Mrs. Mazeliauskas' fairy tale ornaments have revived a lost art in Lithuanian folklore and made the Lithuanian Christmas tree the most spectacular in the yuletide pageant of trees of all nations. There is one on the White House lawn and one in Chicago's Science museum in Jackson park.

Now an Institution

The Lithuanian Christmas tree has become an institution. And only a few years ago no one had ever heard of it.

In the first place, old time Lithuanians didn't have Christmas trees. In the second place, when they adopted them in this country, the trees were American style tinsel — until Mrs. Mazeliauskas began weaving her memories from the fragile, lacy patterns of the past.

This reporter found the Mother of Straw Ornaments in her three room, second floor rear flat in south Union street, the residential heart of Chicago's Little Lithuania.

She was virtually entombed in tangled cobwebs of twine and a fantastic fairyland of fragile, airy soda straw ornaments in every conceivable shape and design.

Sent Out Widely

No, the rush was already over, she said. She had already sent huge carton to St. Louis, Washington, Arizona — any place there was anyone who wanted a Lithuanian Christmas tree. No charge.

"These are for you," she said. She scooped them into a carton, which cleared the table so she could start over again.

She likes making soda straw ornaments. It gives her something to do, especially at night. She is a nocturnal creature, sleeps only about two hours, and spends the rest of the night spinning her memories of Lithuania into the lacy patterns of her crocheting, tatting, or her soda straws.

"Do you drink? Say yes," she said quickly, then unwound herself long enough to fetch a quart of home

made krupnikas — made from boiling spirits, honey, water, and herbs.

"It's my own recipe. Boiled it six hours," she said. "You have to know how to make this — like the straws."

She poured the krupnikas into two dainty liquor glasses, lifted her glass, and said, "Sveiks! (To your health.)"

"Now," she said, "I show you how I dream straws."

Many Fantastic Designs

She first cuts the soda straws (she buys boxes of 500 for 35 cents) in various sizes, then threads a big fat home made needle with twine, and starts sewing. What comes out is a myriad of fantastic geometric patterns and designs windmills, bird cages, bells, stars.

"Special for you, a football," she said, holding up a delicate, fairylike, fretwork straw mobile art object.

She never dreams up the same design twice. She never tires of her creative doodling. As a matter of fact, she says, it's much easier than the ornaments she used to make in Lithuania from real rye and wheat straw.

Part of the credit for reviving the lost art of Lithuanian straw ornaments must go to Mrs. Josephine Dausvardis, wife of the Lithuanian consul in Chicago.

Fourteen years ago Chicago's Science museum called on Mrs. Dausvardis to help decorate a Lithuanian tree for their Around the World Christmas tree exhibit.

LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ
ir
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ
linki

**Lietuvos Vyčių Centro Valdyba
ir "Vyties" Redakcija**



J. E. Vysk. B. Flanagan.



Jokūbas Stukas



Kun. J. Tamulevičius

~
Jie kalba į vyčių seimo
dalyvius
Worcester, Mass.

Six Month Search

Mrs. Dauzvardis spent six months searching for someone who might recall something of the early traditional Lithuanian ornaments.

One day she casually mentioned it to Mrs. Mazeliauskas. A spark of recollection lit up her eyes.

"Why, yes... I had forgotten," Mrs. Mazeliauskas said. "Fifty years ago, as a child in Lithuania, I made ornaments of straw, eggshells, and paper to decorate our home for the holidays." (There were no Christmas trees; the ornaments were hung around the house.)

Without more urging, Mrs. Mazeliauskas made the ornaments. She was a little frustrated at first because Chicago had no rye and wheat straw but she tried her handiwork on soda sippers and found them to be more durable and satisfactory than real straw.

Three Days of Work

She spent three solid days and nights making enough straw trinkets for the Science museum's tree and then with the consulate family trekked into the museum laden with enough cartons for a safari — and labored 12 hours to get them strung.

The Lithuanian delegation departed with some apprehension, wondering whether their tree might not seem too simple and unassuming in the forest of other glittering and gaily bedecked trees.

The Lithuanian tree, dressed only in white airy splendor, became an overnight sensation — and so did Mrs. Mazeliauskas.

She began demonstrating her work at clubs, museums, schools, and out of her original samples grew an entire new art project, now carried on by students at the Maria High school and headed by Sister M. Gratia Listaitė, art instructor at the school.

With Mrs. Mazeliauskas' guidance, Sister Gratia learned the art of straw ornament making and has carried it into the classroom.

This year and for the last few years the museum's Lithuanian tree has been sponsored and decorated by Sister Gratia and her Maria High school art students.

They also made the decorations for President Eisenhower's Lithuanian tree in his pageant of peace display of Christmas trees of all nations. They also have created new Lithuanian designs of exquisite and fragile beauty, unmatched by anything modern industry has devised.

But it was Mrs. Mazeliauskas who rekindled the lost art from cobwebby memories of her native soil; and her most cherished Christmas gift is the name her people have bestowed on her — *Siaudinukų Motina* — Mother of the Straw Ornaments.

TONY YUKNIS

JOHN UNITAS FOOTBALL UPS AND DOWNS

John Unitas (Jonaitis) 195 lb. star quarterback of the Baltimore Colts who is the most prominent Lithuanian American athlete today.



The most publicized and talked about football player of the day is Johnny Unitas of the Baltimore Colts. This may be the unchallenged fact today, but a less determined soul would have accepted football oblivion instead. He would have resigned himself to taking that steady job at the local gas station. You see Johnny was at the precipice of football oblivion a number of times as Notre Dame, Indiana and the Pittsburgh Steelers of the National Professional Football league rejected him in his humpty-dumpty career. The determined Unitas was so confident in playing pro football and in his abilities that he even resorted to playing semi-pro football at six dollars per game awaiting his chance.

Unitas was neither a snarling bulldog or a physical monstrosity as demanded by some coaches. Instead he was a calm, level headed, amiable and typical collegian. Soft speaking Johnny towered 6 feet and one inch in height. Every once in awhile he displayed a friendly grin. Perhaps this apparent lack of fire deceived many a football coach. He certainly was too nice a boy to travel in big company. Is that so?

As a 145 lb. stringbean football player at St. Justin high school in Pittsburgh, which had an enrollment

of about 300 boys and girls, Johnny gave a good account of himself on the gridiron. He made the all-Catholic football team for two years. After completing his prep career Unitas yearned for a football scholarship at Notre Dame. However Bernie Crimmins rejected Unitas on the grounds that he is too light. Next Johnny tried the University of Indiana which held up its nose even more so in passing up this aspiring football star. All was not lost for John Unitas when his former prep coach, Jim Carey, tipped him off that the Louisville University desperately needed a passing backfield man. So Johnny entered Louisville despite the fact that the university had 15 players declared ineligible due to low grades.

At Louisville Johnny made good throwing 21 touchdown passes and gaining 2,000 yards for a weak team. One of his teammates said that Unitas was on his back half of the time because of the lack of protection he got from his teammates. Meanwhile Crimmins had become the coach at Indiana and after being chided for passing up Unitas once, offered Johnny a scholarship. After thinking the matter over Johnny decided to finish out at Louisville. He starred for the team like the great Jay Berwanger once did for the Univer-

city of Chicago — a one-man team. Unlike Berwanger, who made All-American, Johnny did not make any sectional team.

Everything seemed to be rolling along fine when in 1955 the Pittsburgh Steelers drafted Unitas. He made a good showing in the intra-squad games. Then the bad news came once again. Unitas was released. He contacted Paul Brown of Cleveland for a trial, but was told that Otto Graham, their passing star, agreed to come out of retirement and play one more year. Brown told Johnny to contact him the following year. Believe it or not this slight ray of hope kept Johnny's hopes alive.

John had married the former Dorothy Hoelly and moved in with her parents. To keep sharp Johnny played semi-pro football with the Bloomfield Rams at six bucks per game. This he promptly brought home to his loving wife after each game.

Finally, in 1956, the Baltimore Colts found out about Unitas and signed him up, for \$7,000, to be a sub for their young passing star, George Shaw. In the fourth game of the season Shaw was badly hurt in a game against the Chicago bears. Unitas was rushed in and promptly threw a pass that was intercepted

LIETUVIŠKOJI KULTŪRA

LIETUVIŲ KULTŪROS — LIETUVIŠKUMO KOMISIJOS PRANEŠIMAS

I. KAS PADARYTA.

LKK 1959 - 1960 metais planavo, svarstė, rengė vadovą, registravo kuopų ir apskričių Lietuviškumo Vadovus. Šis prisirengimas ėjo labai lėtai. Pažanga padaryta puiki.

1) Dauguma kuopų ir apskričių jau išsirinko savo LK vadovus. 25 kuopos ir apskritys tai padarė. Jų vardai paskelbti "Vytyje". Mes turime turėti kiekvieną vytišką vienetą gyvą, veiklų, ypač turintį veiklų vadovą lietuviškumui varyti. Kol to neatsieksime, tai veltui eitu visi kiti mūsų planai ir sumanymai.

2) **Lietuvių kalbos mokymasis.** Lietuvių kalbai mokytis vadovėlio ir plokštelių parengimas eina visu įtempimu. Tam tikslui specialiai išrinktas p. P. Gudelis puikiai darbuojasi. Lietuvių kalbos mokėjimą laikome pirmiausiu ir svarbiausiu vytišku uždaviniu. Bet čia norime pažymėti, kad tas uždavinys yra sunkiausias. Lietuvių kalbos svarbumą vyčiams reikėtų visuomet ir visur laikyti mūsų organizaciniu credo.

3) **Lietuviškumo Vadovėlis.** Trumpesnis LK vadovėlis buvo parengtas, bet nelaimingai žuvo. Jis bus artimoj ateityje atkurtas. Norime išleisti abiem kalbom. Numatyta ir platesnis vadovas. Centro Valdyba tą darbą priėmė ir rems jo leidimą.

II. KAS DARYTINA.

Gražiausi ir naudingiausi planai ir sumanymai lieka negyvi, kol netampa gyvenimu. Lietuviškumo numatyta programa jau paskelbta ir priimta keli metai, bet ji netapusi gyvenimu. Todėl dabar vytiškoji dvasia rei-

kalauja įgyvendinti. Tikime, kad vyčiai supras, kad šiai programai įgyvendinti verta, būtina, garbinga ir Vytiška aukotis, dirbti, dirbti... Todėl čia keli LKK prašymai:

1) LKK prašo Vyčių apskričių varyti Lietuviškumo programą kuopuose. New York ir New Jersey apskritis parodė puikų pavyzdį. Jie išleido net savo "District Cultural Committee Manual". Mes giriame tokią iniciatyvą ir prašome visų kitų apskričių ir kuopų panaudoti savo sumanumą ir veiklumą jų pavyzdžiu. Nereikia laukti iš Centro paraginimų, bet dirbti daugiau savo sumanumu ir iniciatyva.

2) **Pranešti** savo darbus apskričių LK vadovams, kurie savo keliu praneša centriniam vienetai LKK. Tuoju siųskite savo darbų aprašymus, kad galėtumėm pradėti vykdyti LK numatytus uždavinius.

3) Vėl iš naujo perskaityti LK programą ir svarstyti kaip ir kiek 1960-61 m. bus galima įvykdyti. Nežiūrint kiek, bet turi būti veikama.

4) Prašome sudaryti stipresnę LK Komisiją, bet ji turėtų koncentruotis apie vieną vietovę. Po visą Ameriką išsiskirstę Komisijos nariai negali sėkmingai veikti.

5) **Jaunieji Vyčiai** turėtų imtis tos programos visa savo jauna energija.

6) **Kviesti talkininkus.** Kiekviena vietovė gali kviesti sau talkininkų Lietuviškumui vykdyti. Tokių pagelbininkų visur yra, tik reikia nebijoti pasikviesti, susitarti. Juo daugiau dirbs — juo naudingiau bus.

Jokubas J. Stukas, Pirmininkas
Kun. Stasys Raila, Vice-Pirmininkas
Juozas Janulaitis, Narys

and ran back for a touchdown. And at another time Unitas fumbled the ball enabling the Bears to hang a 58 to 27 defeat on the Colts. This did not destroy Johnny's composure nor his confidence.

Proof of this is in the final game of the season which he pulled out of the fire by a last minute touchdown against the Washington Redskins and is credited with saving coach Ewbanks job by some sports writers.

The following year, in '57, Unitas had won the regular quarterback job and established himself as a great passer and field general. He threw 24 touchdown passes and gained the Western division title for Baltimore. Unitas was voted the most valuable player in the National Football League.

At the end of the season the Uni-

tas clan bought a tri-level home in Towson, Md. and eventually had a family of three children. With his salary now upped to five figures he could afford all of this.

The year of '58 saw Unitas pitched the Colts to the championship. He led the league in touchdown passes. At the end of the season Unitas was presented with a Corvette sports car by Sports magazine for his distinguished play.

After a shaking start the Baltimore Colts repeated as the league champions in '59. By this time Unitas had a new league record going by tossing touchdown passes in 37 consecutive league games. The records of Cecil Isbell and Sid Luckman fell by the wayside. It is no wonder that Unitas was named as the top pro player of the year by

the United Press-International and by the National Football League writers.

On January 17th, 1960, in the Pro Bowl game at Los Angeles Unitas threw three touchdown passes to lead his West team over the East. He was voted the most valuable player of the game.

Then in August he helped defeat the College All-Stars in Chicago by throwing another three touchdown passes.

The cool-as-a-cucumber Unitas continues to roll on from there. He can throw a soft or hard accurate pass. He has the ability to fake the defenders away, to time his throws, to call his own plays. He has an uncanny ability to see the weakness in the opponents defense as well as to spot an open receiver. So this is Johnny Unitas.

feminine

fair

Mergaičių Pasaulis

Redaguoja Veronika Kulbokienė ir Joanne H. Neviera

SIBIRO LIETUVĖS TREMTINĖS LAIŠKAS
KALĖDŲ SVENČIŲ PROGA

Šis laiškas ir fotografijos yra pri-
siųstos iš Sibiro vienos lietuvaitės,
dirbančios priverčiamųjų darbų sto-
vykloj. Redakcija

MIELOJI SESE,

Kai Tyliąją naktį Užgimusi Kristus
Linksmi pasibels ir į Jūsų širdis, ..
Lai džiaugsmas širdyse ir laimė nevysta —
Kaip mūs padėka Jums per amžius nevys! ..

Tą naktį speiguotą tarp sniego ir vargo
Užgims ir pas mus Kūdikėlis lūšnoj ...
Užgims širdyse mūs, kurios nepavargo,
Nei skurstant, nei laukiant šviesios ateities!!!

Besiartinančių šv. Kalėdų proga, nuoširdžiai
sveikinu Tave Brangioji, šiais iš gilumos širdies be-
siveržiančiais žodžiais ten toli už kalnų, miškų ir



Sibiro lietuvių tremtinių trobelės, toli nuo Lietuvos
ir dar toliau nuo Amerikos lietuvių, niūrių kalnų pelkė-
tuose slėniuose.



vandenynų, gyvenančių laisvu, pilnu gėrio ir gro-
žio gyvenimu. Šiuos mano sveikinimus perduok ir
kitoms laisvame pasaulyje gyvenančioms lietuvai-
tėms. Teatneša Jums užgimęs Kūdikėlis daug
džiaugsmo, sveikatos ir laimės!

Pasimelskite truputį ir už mus, Brangieji, nes
pas mus tos Šventės mažai skiriasi nuo paprastų
dienių, nebent jos būna sekmadieniais; tada ir mes
paminime jas kitaip. Ankščiau buvusios šventės
"išėjo iš mados", gyvename tikrai jų prisiminimais.
Kadangi šis kraštas nori praturtėti, tad be sekmadie-
nių švenčia tik tris šventes: Spalio, Naujus Metus
ir 1 gegužės. Sešias savaitės dienas dirbame mums
valdžios paskirtus darbus, o sekmadieniais plušam
visi prie savo "ūkių" — miškuose pjauname ir džio-
viname žolę čia labai trumpu vasaros metu, o žie-
mą pašalusiais keliais, nes čia vasarą visur ištvi-
nusios pelkės - balos, vežame rogėmis prie barakų
karvutei pasišerti, sodiname, ravime daržus, kau-



Sibiro lietuvių tremtinių kunigas, kurs pats yra tremtinys, kartu dirba su kitais sunkius darbus ir rūpinasi lietuvių dvasiniais reikalais. Šis kunigas yra Sibire miręs kankinio mirtimi.

piame saulėtose kalnų pašlaitėse, miškų plėšiniuose pasodintas bulves, apsisivalome barakus, susilopom drabužius ir kita.

Kai ateina didžiųjų švenčių metas, prisimename jas ašarodami, kad negalime duoti vaikams to džiaugsmo, kokį mes savo tėvynėje turėjome. Bet stengiamės kaip įmanydami sudaryti esamų švenčių nuotaiką. Kūčias, kad ir be kalėdaičių — plotkelių — pasiruošiam "puikiausias". Turim džiovintų grybų, iš bruknių išverdam raudono kisieliaus, susitaupom miltų šližikams, o jei pavyksta gauti silkės ar žuvies, tai jau ko ir betrūktų kūčių stalui; šieno turime lyg valiai stalus užkloti. O naktys tai jau mūsų. Sėdam visi dideli ir maži prie kūčių stalo apverkdami artimuosius, kurie išblaškyti po visą platųjį pasaulį. Vaikų tą naktį jau negalime suvaryti į lovas, kai pamato ant eglutės pakabintų saldainiukų, mamytės iškeptų sausainiukų ir "vove-rytės" surinktų riešutukų. Tai jų džiaugsmas begalinis!

Pereitą sekmadienį išgyvenome neapsakomai didelę laimę. Po dešimties metų pamatėme vėl kaip kadais sutanuotą savo tautietį (kunigą). Jis atvyko čia iš tėviškės iki šiol praėjęs sunkių išgyvenimų, kaip ir mes, aštuonerius metus išdirbęs sunkiųjų darbų stovykloje. Suprasdamas dvasininko pareigas bendro likimo draugams, savu noru pasitelkęs kitus, atvyko mūsų pagosti ir dvasios sustiprinti.

Dirvos čia plačios, o artojų nėra. Jis dirba miškuose drauge su mūsų vyrais ir tuo pat laiku yra mūsų klebonas. Bažnyčia paverčiam bet kurį didesnį kambarį. Įrengiam altorių, išpinam vainikais, išpuošiam gėlėmis, net ir žvakių pasigaminame patys. Daugeiui čia vedusių porų tik dabar suteikiamas palaiminimas ir per krikštą čia gimę vaikai įrašomi į Katalikų Bažnyčią.

Vasara čia aukštuose kalnuose, kur mes gyvename yra trumpa, augalai gali augti tik tai tris mėnesius, paskui jau šalnos pakanda. Tad turime skubėti su vasaros darbais ir pasiruošti ilgai, septynių mėnesių žiemai. Rodos, dar taip neseniai gegužės pabaigoje tirpo sniegai, o baigiantis rugsėjui vėl sniegas apklojo žemę iš naujo. Žiemos mėnesiais, kai šalčiai spaudžia per 40°C. gyvenam su paršais ir vištom vienam kambaryje. Malkų kurui pasirenkam apylinkės miškuose.

Daug būtų ką rašyti apie visą mūsų gyvenimą, bet pabos Jums skaityti. Kitą kartą parašysiu vėl, jei domėsitės mūsų vargais. Apie linksmybes nė nerašau, nes nedaug jų turime.

Be galo domina mus laisvojo pasaulio ir drauge Jūsų asmeninis gyvenimas. Džiaugiamės, kad rūpinatės mūsų tėvynės ir visų mūsų likimu.

Dar kartą linkiu Jums džiaugsmingų Kalėdų ir laimingų Naujų Metų!

Išsiilgusi Jūsų

Marytė

Sibiro lietuvių tremtinių paruoštas altorius atvykusiam lietuviui kunigui pamaldas laikyti. Panašius altorius lietuviai paruošia savo gyvenamose patalpose, kur tik aplanko juos kunigas. Bet tokios progos yra labai retos.



THE TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS

JOANNE H. NEVIERA

There is no festival on earth like Christmas, none so vital or universal, none celebrated by so many people for so many centuries in so many lands. Around the season, exulting in its meaning and demonstrating its joyfulness, great numbers of rituals and legends and customs have developed, both religious and secular. It is with sad heart that we look about us and see so often the secular customs replacing the religious; the great "god" materialism replacing the little babe wrapped in swaddling clothes; the cynical, sarcastic words of mockery replacing the words of the angel of the Lord who joyously told the shepherds in the field:

Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord...

The secular traditions of Christmas are many — and many of them are pagan traditions. But, providing we keep in mind the true meaning of Christmas, we can rejoice in the secular traditions which demonstrate the joyfulness of the season. What do candles in a window mean? Where do manger scenes come from? Why do children hang up their stockings? What is the meaning of gift-giving at Christmas? How does the poinsettia come to be the flower of Christmas? Sometimes we can be sure of the facts; sometimes we cannot. It makes Christmas richer if we understand what is known of its glorious history.

Why do children hang up a stocking on Christmas Eve?

The first Saint Nicholas, a real person who was a bishop in Asia Minor in the fourth century, is probably the source of our present Saint Nick who fills the stockings of good children on Christmas Eve. The story is that the bishop heard of a

poor man who was about to sell his three daughters into slavery because he could not provide a dowry for them. Saint Nicholas saved the daughters, one by one, with gifts of gold. One version of the legend is that, in order to remain anonymous, he threw the gold down the chimney, rather than presenting it. And when the gold was going down the chimney, it fell into a stocking that was hung there to dry. And so it is that children still hang up their stockings, and often find — in the toe — some treasures to represent a lump of gold.

Where did the use of Christmas seals originate?

In 1904, a postal clerk in Denmark devised a plan for selling special stamps at Christmas to indicate to others that users had given charitably to some worthy cause. It seems to be a modern equivalent of ancient Christian giving to the needy, when none were turned away at the door during the Christmas season.

How does the poinsettia come to be the flower of Christmas?

The poinsettia as a symbol of Christmas is a completely American development in the annals of the day. In 1836 it was brought to the United States when our first Minister to Mexico returned from there; his name was Dr. Joel R. Poinsett and the flower was named for him. As it grew in Mexico it was a wild, small, and imposing weed, but cultivation has produced the brilliant and flamboyant blossom we know today. Lovely legends surround the development of the flower. One such story is that a poor child who wished to give a gift to the Virgin Mary was heartbroken because she had nothing of value or beauty. As she approached the Mother of Jesus, in desperation she pulled some of the scrawny flowers at her feet, merely to make a

gesture of love. As she did so, the flower was transfigured into scarlet brilliance.

What do candles in the window mean?

For centuries, the light of candles has symbolized the enlightenment that Jesus brought to the earth.

An old German belief was that the Virgin Mary and a host of angels passed over the countryside on Christmas Eve. A candle was placed in the window to guide them to a home where they might come in and eat, if the window to guide them to a home where they might come in and eat, if they wished; and it was traditional to leave food upon the table.

What is the meaning of gift-giving at Christmas?

The gifts given by the Wise Men to the Infant Jesus are, of course, very probably the source of our present-day custom. We give, thus, to those we cherish.

The custom of gift-giving brings about the perennial, thought-provoking question of "what to give?" Give **yourselves** at Christmas; there really is no more wonderful gift. Out of the pretty box you give can fly all sorts of rare intangibles, once the ribbon is off and the lid is lifted. Affection, nostalgia, laughter, shared memories — all these can crackle in the tissue paper with grace and generosity. **I was watching**, a gift can say: last summer I could see you needed a better tennis racket. **I was listening**, a gift can tell: I heard you say you liked antique jewelry... or Beethoven... or adventure stories.

A gift can remember something delicious that once happened, and a gift can speculate: **I am aware**, it can imply, that you wear simple blouses, but here's one astounding ruffled blouse; I think you have a

(continued on p. 17)

KALĖDOS IR VYČIAI

J. SAVĖLIS

Kalėdų visi laukiame ir džiaugsmingai jas švenčiame. Bet ypač Kalėdų laukia jaunimas ir vaikai — mat Kalėdos jaunimo šventė. Gal ne tiek dėl to, kad per Kalėdas jaunuoliai gauna daug dovanų, geresnių valgių, įvairių prašmatnybių, bet dėl to, kad Kalėdos yra Kristaus pasaulin atėjimo šventė. To Kristaus, kurio žmonija tūkstančius metų nekantriai laukė, apie kuri pranašai tiek daug kalbėjo, apie kuri Šv. Rašto Senajame Testamente tiek daug prirašyta. Kristus yra žmonijos centrinis asmuo: jis perskyrė žmonijos istoriją į dvi dalis: senovės pagoniški laikai ir naujoji krikščionybės era. Kristus savo gyvenimu, savo mokslu paskelbė naują įstatymą, meilės religiją: mylėti Dievą, savo artimą, mylėti neturtelius ir paniekintuosius, daryti gera net tiems, kurie tavęs nekenčia, šmeižia, kerštuoja.

Nors ir nemalonu, bet reikia pripažinti, kad mūsų laikų sumaterijalizėjęs pasaulis dažnai pamiršta tikrąją Kalėdų prasmę. Labai dažnai įvairūs prekybininkai iš Kalėdų švenčių stengiasi padaryti tik didelį biznį, tik daro įvairiausia reklamą norėdami kuo daugiau parduoti savo prekių ir kuo daugiau surinkti pinigų. Visai neprisimena tikrosios Kalėdų reikšmės, Kristaus gimimo, jo gyvenimo, jo paskelbtojo mokslo. Dažnai vengia minėti tą patį žodį „Kalėdos“, o pasitenkina ta proga pasakę „Sezono šventės“, „Sezono sveikinimai“. Tai vis sumaterijalizėjimo ir nukrikščionėjimo ženklai. Ir tai reiškiasi labai plačiai visur, taip pat ir mūsų Amerikoje. Betgi reikia džiaugtis, kad paskutiniaisiais laikais atsiradę žmoniai ir net organizacijų, kurie per spaudą ir gyvu žodžiu pradėjo skelbti šūkį: Gražinti Kalėdas Kristui.

Kaip gražiai Kalėdos būdavo švenčiamos Lietuvoje! Visas advento laikas būdavo praleidžiamas ramiai: be dainų, be šokių, be didesnių pasilinksminimų, susilaikydavo nuo mėsos ir kitokių gausesnių valgių.

Tikrai nepaprasta, mistiška nuotai-ka susidarydavo pačią Kūčių dieną. Visi švenčių pasirengimai tą dieną jau baigiami ir vakare visi šeimos nariai su samdiniais susėda prie iškilmingai paruoštos kūčių vakarienės, kuri paprastai susidėdavo iš 12 nemėsiškų valgių. Kūčių vakarienė yra išlikusi iš pirmųjų amžių krikščionybės laiku, kada krikščionys, baigę vigiliją ir pasninką, parsinešę palaimintos duonos, bendrai sėdavo prie stalo valgyti.

Po Kūčių vakarienės, arba Kalėdų pirmąją dieną uždegama papuošta eglutė ir vaikams padalinama dovanos. Kalėdinės eglutės paprotys atsirado, palyginant, ne taip senai. Ją pirmą kartą įrengė Vokietijoje grafienė Brieg 1611 metais. Paskui tas gražus paprotys labai greit paplito Vokietijoje, Rusijoje, Prancūzijoje, pietų Italijoje, Anglijoje ir angli sakso kraštuose. Kalėdų eglutės krikščioniška prasmė yra medis, kuris, pagal legendą, išaugęs iš Adomo burnos ir reiškias Kristų, arba kaip amžinas žalumas, — dangaus vilties ženklas. Zvakelės ant eglutės reiškia Kristaus šviesą, eglutės papuošimai ir dovanos — Kristaus gimimo dvasinės dovanos.

Prie kalėdinių gražių papročių reikia paminėti Kalėdų tvartelį arba prakartėlę, kaipo Kristaus gimimo simboli, kur įvairiomis figūrėlėmis plačiai pavaizduoti Kalėdų įvykiai. Prakartėlės prasidėjo 16 šimt. Italijoje. Vieni prakartėlės įvedėju laiko šv. Pranciškų, kiti jos kilmės ieško misterijų vaidinimuose bei gotikos altorių skulptūrose. Ypatin-gai gražios prakartėlės įrengiamos Prancūzijoje, Italijoje ir Bavarijoje. Pietų Vokietijoje yra ištisi miesteliai, kurių gyventojai užsiima vien tik prakartėlių figūrų gaminimu; ypač tuo garsus Oberammergau miestas, turįs 4500 gyventojų.

* * *

Vyčiai, vienintelė Amerikoje gimusio jaunimo organizacija, kuri už poros metų švęs 50 metų savo gyvenimo jubilėjų, daug kuo gali prisidėti prie tikros kalėdinės dvasios sugražinimo į lietuviškas šeimas, į lietuvišką bendruomenę. Vyčiai neabejotinai parodė, kad jie visą laiką ištvermingai stovi po savo garbinga vėliava ir kad jie uoliai vykdo taip kilnų savo obalsį „Dievui ir Tėvynei“. Nors dauguma iš jų nėra matę savo tėvų ar protėvių žemės, bet jie gyvai ja domisi, uoliai skleidžia svetimtaučių tarpe Lietuvos vardą, dabartinę jos vergiją, uoliai reaguoja į neteisingas žinias apie Lietuvą. Vien tik 1959 m. vyčiai yra parašę virš 12.000 tokių laiškų įvairiems vyriausybės nariams, redaktoriams bei žymiesiems amerikiečių visuomenės veikėjams. Jie kasmet prisideda prie Vasario 16 minėjimo, prie šv. Kazimiero šventės surengimo; aktyviai dalyvauja Birželio tragiškųjų dienų, Pavergtųjų Tautų dienos minėjimuose. Tik Vyčiai sušaukia savo metinius seimus, kurie praeina pilnai lietuviška dvasia ir atkreipia Amerikos visuomenės dėmesį! Kokia kita lietuvių organizacija įteikia svetimtaučiams atžymėjimo medalius už Lietuvos reikalų ginimą? — Tai tik Vyčiai!

Švęsdami šiemet Kalėdų šventes visi vyčiai ir jų prieteliai turi pasistengti tas šventes sutikti ir praleisti tikrai krikščioniškoje dvasioje ne vien tik su materijalinėmis dovanomis, gausiai valgiu apkrautu stalu, bet tikra Kristaus meile širdyje, savo šeimos tarpe ir santykiuose su artimaisiais. Turime būti visados tikrais Vyčiais! Todėl šių metų švenčių proga kiekvienas vytis turi pasižadėti įtraukti kuo daugiau lietuviškos kilmės jaunimo į vyčių organizaciją, skaityti lietuviškus laikraščius, o ypač VYTI, susirūpinti jaunųjų vyčių organizavimu, aktyviai prisidėti prie laiškų rašymo lietuviškais reikalais ir pagaliau labiau suartėti su jaunųjų lietuvių organizacija Ateitininkais. Juk visi esame lietuviai, tos garbingos tautos ainiai! Teatsiranda kiekvienoje lietuviškoje kolonijoje aktyvių vyčių, kurie tikrai pajėgtų pagyvinti ir išjudinti visos apylinkės vyčių veiklą!

OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

K. OF L. HISTORY FUND

May I take time out and wish each member a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and, also thank each and everyone of you for the fine job you have performed for the K. of L. History Fund.

The K. of L. History Fund Drive got off to a flying start under the able Chairmanship of Joseph Boley and his Committeeman Larry Svelnis.

Recently your council appointed a solicitor for this Fund Drive. Please be cooperative and generous when you are approached. He or she will have a tremendous job to contact all members by Christmas and his or her report finished by the first of January.

"If a member so desires, any contribution of \$5.00 or more will be credited toward the purchase of a copy of the 'K. of L. History Book', immediately upon its publication."

Also it should be the aim of all councils to make a \$25.00 contribution from the treasury itself.

During the Christmas season, our work and living takes on a new meaning of all holidays and much joy, fun and worship will take place in each of your homes.

Let your Christmas donation to the K. of L. History Fund be your Heart's Grateful Response!

*Stan Vaitkus
K. of L. History Fund
Committeeman*

1961 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The local council elections are over; officers and committees have been selected but what provision has your council made to maintain and increase your membership this coming year?

Has your council appointed a Chairman to conduct this drive? If not, now is the time at your next meeting to take care of this most important job.

Our goal again is for more Junior members; the organization of new Senior groups and the re-organization of our latent councils.

To grow as an organization, we must become strong and to become strong, we need new members. I urge each and every member to pitch in and get behind this year's drive 100%.

RULES — 1961 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The drive will be conducted for a period of three months from January 1, 1961 to March 31, 1961. The prizes will consist of four awards:

- A — Individual
- B — Council (2 Awards)
- C — District

The individual awards will be calculated from a point system as follows:

1. Organizing a Jr. K. of L. council — 100 points.
2. Organizing a new K. of L. council—75 points.
3. Reorganizing a dormant K. of L. council — 50 points.
4. Each new member brought into the council — 10 points.

Council awards shall be divided into two categories:

1. Councils with 1 to 30 members.
2. Councils with 30 or more members.

A quota of 50% of the paid-up members as of December 31, 1960 will be used. This will give the councils with a lesser membership draw a better chance to compete with those councils having a greater membership draw.

The district award will be given to the district with the highest total of new members. This award is made in an effort to get the districts behind the drive.

The rules of the 1961 Membership Drive are as follows:

1. Only new members brought into the council between the months of January 1, 1961 and March 31, 1961 will count towards the drive.
2. Payment of one year's dues is required of the new members.
3. New members will be classed as follows:
 - a. People joining the K. of L. for the first time.
 - b. Former members rejoining the K. of L.
 - c. Jr. K. of L. members advancing into the regular K. of L.

4. Reinstated Members:
 - a. Individual (former member rejoining the K. of L. — 10 points).
 - b. Married couple (both former members being reinstated — 20 points).
 - c. Married couple (one being reinstated; the other a new member — 20 points).
5. Transfers from other councils do not count as new members.
6. The records of the Supreme Council Financial Secretary will be used in determining the winners.
7. Supreme Council Officers are not eligible for this award.

"WORKSHOP ON K. OF L. PROBLEMS"

A successful and informative panel discussion on K. of L. problems was held on the Friday afternoon session of the 47th National Convention in Worcester, Mass. The attendance and interest of our members in the problems that confront our present day organization were very good and gratifying. I hope that these results can be of use to our local councils in preparing their annual programs such as their membership drive and to our Supreme Council in planning the course which our organization must follow if we hope to maintain our position and continue to grow as the Knights of Lithuania.

Questions Discussed by the Panel:

1. WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR COUNCIL?

Spiritual — Social — Sports — Cultural.

Most council are fairly active in Spiritual, Social and Sports activities but some of our councils were lacking in Cultural activities.

In regards to Cultural activities, our membership would like to have more discussion on the following topics in order of their interest: Lithuanian customs; nature of Communism; music; international affairs; social problems of the aged; youth and education.

2. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE MOST PRACTICAL ORGANIZATIONAL SETUP FOR OUR GROUPS?

Junior Section: For youngsters in Junior High School.

For teenagers in High School.

Youth Section: For young people between 17 and 28.

Senior Section: For those over 28.

Young married couples may elect either of the latter two groups.

The majority of the group agreed that the Junior Section age limit should be to 17 years.

The organization should be divided into two groups, Junior and Senior — Junior up to 17 years — Senior over 17 years.

Another suggestion was that the Senior group should be from the age 40 and up.

3. WHAT, IF ANY, SHOULD BE THE ELIGIBILITY OF NON-LITHUANIANS FOR MEMBERSHIP?

What type of membership should be available to:

	Full	Partial	None
a. Non-Lithuanians married to Lithuanians:	30	28	0
b. Non-Lithuanians interested in and friendly to the K. of L.	2	30	25

4. IN REFERENCE TO THE USE OF THE LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE IN K. OF L. AFFAIRS:

	Yes	No
a. Do you understand Lithuanian?	53	3
b. Do you read Lithuanian?	42	13
c. Do you speak Lithuanian?	49	7
d. Do you say the prayer in Lithuanian at meetings?	50	6
e. Do you use Lithuanian during the meetings?	36	20
f. Do you read a fair number of English articles in the "Vytis?"	56	0
g. Do you read a fair number of Lithuanian articles in the "Vytis?"	30	24

5. IN REFERENCE TO THE K. OF L. CONSTITUTION,

a. Does our present constitution state clearly the present day purposes of our organization?

The general opinion was No.

b. If not, would you suggest where greater emphasis might be placed?

The general opinion was that an allowance be made for Non-Lithuanian spouses.

c. What points in our constitution need further clarification?

On this question, we received very little response mostly because the question was too general and most of the delegates were not too familiar with each individual article. A discussion on each individual article with a copy of the constitution available would have made for a more useful and constructive discussion of this question.

The results of this panel and the one held at the Detroit Convention have definitely proven to us that everything is not well in the makeup of our organization. We have problems and we must resolve them this coming year by strengthening the structure of our Constitution and By-laws. We must strengthen our local councils through adequate leadership and stronger programs so that we can halt the steady decline of membership and councils and maintain our position as the most outstanding Lithuanian - American organization in this country.

Larry Janonis

Supreme Council 2nd Vice President

YOUR PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Anthony Yuknis, Chairman

Among the hard working committees of the Supreme Council is the Public Relations staff. Your publicity writers work differently from the others which convene or plan participations. We work alone, unseen and unheralded at the typewriter. You may read our articles in the VYTIS, the Lithuanian papers, or in the American press. It may take you only five minutes to go through our compositions, yet it is a good bet that we had spent a few hours to scrape the material together and to whip it into readable form. You may not even bother to read the products of our toil and prefer to cuddle up to your TV set. Yet we have done our job. We spend up to 60 evenings and Sunday afternoons grinding out copy. The Public Relations Committee has produced a world of publicity for the Knights of Lithuania every year.

The National Convention, which was held in Chicago in 1956, selected Valiukas, Sadauskas and Yuknis for the Publicity staff. The following year the National President, Walter Chinik, made arrangements with Father Peter Činikas, M.I.C., administrator of the Catholic Daily "Draugas", to establish a weekly K. of L. column in said paper. Mr. Chinik then contacted Yuknis, who had earned the 4th degree by writing one dozen feature articles for "Vytis" magazine, and requested him to write one feature article per month for the column besides being on the receiving end of submissions from all over the country. He acquiesced. Since most of the contributions were expected to be in English, the National President suggested the names of two persons who would act as translators. Yuknis countered by recommending Ed Sulaitis, a newcomer to Council 99, who was accepted. The former agreed to feed Sulaitis all types of copy pertinent

to the K. of L. Since the latter was a steady writer for the "Draugas" it was decided, finally, to insert his address in said paper.

The logotype "Lietuvos Vyčių Veikla" was designed by Yuknis and donated to the cause. Now the weekly column, in the Saturday feature edition of the "Draugas," was ready to roll — from scratch.

The kickoff was in February of '57 and the fun began. Yours truly wrote articles of national, districts and councils interest. Acting as a roving reporter for Illinois - Indiana district was a trying experience as they promptly hooked him for committees and even hounded said reporter to tend bar at the picnics and dances. No rest for the wicked-writers and "loafers."

So the burden of keeping the column rolling in '57 and '58 rested on the shoulders on Sadauskas, Sulaitis and Yuknis.

At the National Convention in Detroit, in 1959, 4th degree member Frank Vaskas joined the staff. He made a terrific account of himself. By this time the Public Relations Committee, not only had a regular and abundant column going in the "Draugas," but bust at the seam to contribute copy to "Garsas," "Darbininkas", "Sandara" and our own "Vytis". Then there were the numerous contribs to the American papers. Come in Frank and take a bow. Permit us to say, that all of us combined, covered the waterfront.

More help was given the staff when the National Convention in Worcester, in 1960, added Marcella Andrikis to cover the New England District.

After a campaign via articles in the "Vytis," by letter and personal contact more contributions were being sent in by responsible persons. A number of persons sent in material voluntarily. We thank each person who has shut off the TV set and spent his valuable time in pounding out or writing articles, with a skip proof ball point pen, for the Vyčių Veikla column. Let us hear from you often.

SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Supreme Council, Knights of Lithuania, was held Oct. 22, 1960, in the Roosevelt Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pa. The meeting was opened with a prayer at 2:40 P.M. Robert S. Boris, president, presided. Attending the meeting were:

Robert Boris, President;
Helen Shields, First Viie-President;
Larry Janonis, Second Vice-President;
Loretta Kassel, Recording Secretary;
Dorothy Sinkavitch, Financial Secretary;
Rita Pinkus, Treasurer;
Eleanore Laurin, Trustee;
Frances Daniels, Trustee;

Julia Aleshunas, Lithuanian Affairs Chairman;
Edward Daniels, Ritual Committee;
Jack Jatis, Honorary Membership Committee;
Frank Vaskas, Publicity Committee;
Frank Gudelis, Cultural Committee;
Stephen Onaitis, Cultural Committee; and
Margaret Potts,
Marcella Onaitis, Guests.

Loretta Kassel, secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Correspondence:

The secretary read a letter from the Lithuanian War Veterans Drum Corps of Shrewsbury, Mass. requesting that the Supreme Council provide them with a Knights of Lithuania Banner for use in their public appearances. The matter was tabled for New Business.

PRESIDENT, Robert Boris

Mr. Boris announced that he, together with several Detroit and Chicago Knights of Lithuania, represented the K. of L. at the various business and social functions of the Ateitininkai Convention in Chicago Sept. 3-4, 1960.

Masses were offered by the Supreme Council for the repose of the souls of Phyllis Grendal's father and brother, and that of Prof. K. Pakštas.

Mr. Boris met with the Cleveland Regular and Seniors Councils recently to help iron out various difficulties encountered in planning the national convention. Major problems have been resolved and convention plans are well underway. The convention is set for Aug. 24-27 in Cleveland, Ohio.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, Helen Shields

A complete written report was submitted and is on file with the secretary. Decisions concerning a Junior camp, Junior participation in VYTIS, and Junior contests were tabled for New Business.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, Larry Janonis

Results of the Convention Membership panel will be published in the December VYTIS. The membership drive will be held from Jan. 1 to March 31. Other rules will be essentially the same as in the past, except that councils will be classified as those with less than 30 members and those with over 31 members.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY, Dorothy Sinkavitch

All records have been returned from Winifred Skudris Reardon. Stale checks were returned to the respective councils for replacement and Dorothy is in the process of bringing the records up to date after receipt of these records and checks. A written report is on file with the recording secretary.

TREASURER, Rita Pinkus

A full report is on file with the recording secretary.

TRUSTEES, Eleanore Laurin and Frances Daniels

The trustees would audit the Treasurer's books before completion of the meeting.

Eleanore Laurin reported that she is in process of adopting the K. of L. Manual. Various committee heads are being requested to make needed revisions in their respective committee sections. Upon receipt of the re-

visions, the new Manual will be prepared for distribution to all councils for their officers' use.

CULTURAL COMMITTEE:

The secretary read excerpts of a letter from Jack J. Stukas, Chairman of the Cultural and Scholarship Committees, stating that work is going on in the preparation of the Lithuanian language course records and should be completed in a few months. \$700.00 was needed to pay the expenses. This money was to be borrowed from the Building Fund. A meeting of the Cultural Committee was planned for the near future to discuss work on publication of the Cultural Committee manual, a Lithuanian Language text, and other projects of the committee. This year's scholarship have been paid in full, and a small balance was left to be applied to next year's award.

Mr. Boris expressed the board's gratitude and congratulations to Jack for his excellent and imaginative work in promoting Lithuania's culture among the Knights of Lithuania.

Frank Gudelis reported that the loan from the Building Fund to finance publication of the records has been sent to Jack. He urged all members and councils to support the sale of the records when they appear on the market. He also noted that work is well underway towards preparing a Lithuanian language textbook.

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS: Julia Aleshunas

Letters were sent to the various dignitaries and newspapers who helped with the National Convention by their moral support and / or participation. A committee bulletin was coming shortly.

SPORTS: Al Kassel (via Loretta Kassel)

The annual Midwest Bowling Tournament was scheduled for May 27 and 28, 1961 with the Ill.-Ind. District acting as hosts. Bowling would be at Miami Bowl and headquarters would be the Sahara Motel, both in Chicago. The second annual Midwest Golf Tournament would take place in June in Detroit. No date has been set yet.

VYTIS:

Letters were read from Dr. Leimonas, editor and from Mr. Gorski of the Vytis Advisory Staff, stating much more help is needed from Supreme Council members and others in providing articles and news for "Vytis." The new deadline, the 5th of the month, should be observed.

PUBLICITY:

Frank Vaskas reported that much good publicity has been received from the Lithuanian press in the New York - New Jersey area. A report was read from Tony Yuknis commenting on similar success with the Lith. press (especially "Draugas") and radio in the Midwest. Tony and others recommended that more be sent to be used in the weekly Vyčių Veikla column in "Draugas." Eleanore Laurin suggested that this news be sent directly to Tony Yuknis, as he also puts the news in "Garsas," "Darbininkas," "Sandara," and others.

RITUAL COMMITTEE: Ed. Daniels

Al Janks has prepared a new set of Ritual Rules which provides a compromise between the two sets of

rules proposed at the convention. Jack Jatis has agreed to complete all old business of distributing medals and certificates and clearing up records of past degree recipients.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Jack Jatis

Jack remarked that districts are still behind in paying for Honorary Member medals. It was recommended that he send letters again to the delinquent districts. It was agreed that the Supreme Council pay for Matas Zujus' medal, as he currently does not belong to any district.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT: Rita Pinkus

Activities:

Officers conference, Oct. 22, 1960
District Whist Party, Oct. 22, 1960
Juniors Party, Nov. 11, 1960

NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY DISTRICT: Larry Janonis

A District meeting was held in Sept. A district dance is planned for this fall in Newark. A Convention will be held Dec. 4, in Patterson. A Testimonial Dinner is planned for Larry Janonis on Jan. 14, 1961. The District Bowling League was in its tenth year of existence.

ILLINOIS - INDIANA DISTRICT: Eleanore Laurin

Cultural: District Lithuanian classes will be resumed within a few weeks. A K. of L. Choir is currently being reorganized. The District is aiding Sister M. Gratia Listaitė of Maria High School in selling her book, **NEW LOOK AT CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**, featuring directions for making Lithuanian Christmas ornaments.

Civic Affairs: District members participate regularly in various Chicago civic affairs, and several are on Mayor Daley's Inter-Nation Committee.

Juniors: New Junior activity in Chicago is currently being reorganized by Al Kassel.

Sports: A weekly bowling league of 8 teams is in operation. Monthly bowling parties are also being held.

On behalf of the Illinois - Indiana District, Miss Laurin presented the Supreme Council and the Jubilee Committee with invitations from various Illinois and Chicago officials inviting the Knights of Lithuania to celebrate their Jubilee Convention in Chicago, and officially put in Chicago's bid for the 1963 Convention.

On Oct. 16, Jack Stukas, under Ill.-Ind. District sponsorship, presented a report on his trip to Lithuania, with movies and commentary. The program also included a Lithuanian Cultural Exhibit, songs by Ona Skever, and a Lith. affairs presentation to Consul and Mrs. Dauzvardis. L. Kassel, chairman reported that the activity attracted a record crowd of over 1200 people, making two showings necessary, and that approximately \$1000.00 profit was realized. All the profits would be given to the National Scholarship Fund as Ill.-Ind. District's donation, and would probably be donated in portions of \$200.00 per year for the next 5 years.

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT: Bob Boris

The District Convention was planned for Nov. 19, and 20, 1960 at the Sheraton Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, Mich.

OLD BUSINESS:

Membership Dues: The matter of setting up a plan by which members can pay their dues for 5 or 10 years in advance, was discussed again. The Board approved of the idea and appointed Larry Janonis, Eleanore Laurin, and Dorothy Sinkavitch to set up a plan and design the appropriate membership cards.

NEW BUSINESS:

Regards the Lithuanian War Vets Drum Corps' request for a donation of K. of L. Colors by the Supreme Council, Jack Jatis moved that the local New England District be asked to finance the colors, but that the Supreme Council approve the colors' display. The motion was seconded and carried. The secretary would write the necessary letters to the War Vets and to the New England District.

Constitution Revision:

Jack Jatis requested that the Supreme Council again consider the possibility of admitting non-Lithuanian spouses of Lithuanians to Knights of Lithuania membership. As this matter involves constitution changes, it was decided to refer it to a Constitution Revision Committee. Larry Janonis moved that a new Constitution Revision Committee be selected, as the former committee expired with the exit of the former Supreme Council. The motion was seconded and carried. The committee selected was the following: Rev. Albert Contons, Robert Boris, Larry Janonis, Jack Jatis, Loretta Kassel, and Eleanore Laurin.

Juniors:

Approval to have 300 extra copies of the Juniors' pages in VYTIS printed for Junior distribution, was granted to Helen Shields. Helen Shields moved that the Supreme Council sponsor the Juniors' Camp at the American Lithuanian R. C. Federation Dainava Camp in Manchester, Michigan the week of Aug. 13-19. The motion was seconded and carried. Several Detroiters have already agreed to handle the details of setting up the camp, as Detroit's councils 79 and 102 sponsored it last year with success.

It was agreed to appropriate \$25.00 of Supreme Council funds to purchase prizes for two Junior Contests planned. Prizes will be given for the best name for the Junior section of VYTIS and for the best short story or poem submitted by a Junior. Also, approval was granted to purchase Junior registration and membership cards. The membership cards would be sent to the respective Jr. counsellors for distribution.

It was recommended that the Constitution Revision Committee consider increasing dues payment of large Junior councils, and that all Junior dues become payable on Jan. 1.

Leadership Course:

Eleanore Laurin moved that the Supreme Council sponsored a Leadership Course for Knights of Lithuania, at the Dainava Camp in Manchester, Mich., prior to the National Convention. It was seconded and carried. The camp would be set up for Aug. 20-23. Bob Boris and Joe Boley would initialize plans and select a committee to work out a program. It was felt that such a camp

would provide an excellent opportunity for acquainting members with the various projects of the Knights of Lithuania, as well as provide time for national officers to get together and prepare in leisure for the National Convention.

K. of L. Participation in Wakes, etc.

It was recommended that councils be more active in expressing sympathy, in corpore, upon the death of K. of L's and members of their immediate families. Eleanore Laurin suggested that the Supreme Council prepare a Rosary Booklet which members reciting the rosary in body at a wake could sign and present to the bereaved family as a remembrance of the council's expression of sympathy. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Ritual Committee prepare these booklets, and appropriate a sum not exceeding \$50.00 for their printing.

It was further suggested that the Ritual Committee urge councils to have on hand extra 3rd and 4th degree medals to be placed on the deceased member's bier during the wake.

Convention Sessions:

Loretta Kassel moved that a Convention Modernization Committee be appointed, and that this committee investigate positive means of revamping and improving the sessions and present their plan for discussion and approval at the next Supreme Council meeting. The motion was seconded and carried. The committee appointed was the following: Robert Boris, Francis Daniels, Larry Janonis, Jack Jatis, Loretta Kassel, and Eleanore Laurin.

A few of the suggestions offered for consideration were:

1. Eliminate all oral reports, except that of the President. The president could give an extensive report of the organization's progress of the year, and include committees' contributions to this progress. All full reports would be prepared for distribution in advance and given to delegates in booklet form.
2. Revamp the work of the various convention committees to eliminate confusion on the floor.
3. Post, rather than read, all greetings.
4. Concentrate on inspiring delegates by projects and discussion, rather than by giving reports on past work.

Board Meetings:

Mr. Boris asked that Supreme Council members who can, send their reports to the secretary two weeks before a meeting, so that they can be prepared for dis-

tribution, and so that their reading could be eliminated. Oral reports should be kept to a bare minimum, so that more time could be spent in discussion on how to improve the organization. The next Supreme Council meeting was scheduled for **Sunday, Jan. 15, 1961** in Newark, New Jersey.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 P. M. with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta I. Kassel,
 Recording Secretary

TO ALL FINANCIAL SECRETARIES:

The Membership Drive will be on for January, February, and March. Here are the following dues that should be collected.

New Member — \$4.00

Non-subscriber — \$2.00 (this means when there is more than one member of a family joining the K. of L.)

Married Couple (new) \$6.00

Married Couple (rejoining) \$4.00

Please enclose application cards for all members, properly filled out, when submitting dues.

Dorothy Sinkavitch,
 National Financial
 Secretary

At the November meeting of your Council your secretary brought to your attention an important letter from the K. of L. History Fund Committee. To what extent have you personally adopted the ideas put forth in that letter?

K. OF L. CALENDAR

December 25 — Brooklyn, N. Y. (Queen's) — 41, ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DANCE, Annunciation Hall.

1961

January 14 — Testimonial Dinner tendered Larry Janonis, National Vice President and President of New York-New Jersey K. of L. District, sponsored by the District, St. George's Hall, 180 New York Ave., Newark, N. J.

January 15 — Supreme Council meeting, Newark, N. J.

May 27 - 28 — Midwest Bowling Tournament, Chicago, Illinois. Host: Illinois-Indiana District.

August 24-27 — 48th K. of L. National Convention.

Host: Senior Council 25, Cleveland, O.

(continued from p. 10)
 bit of fluff hidden in you somewhere. A gift can make promises for the future: the first five books for a boy's library, the first silver spoon for a teen-ager's hope chest.

Perhaps the art lies in the world itself. To "exchange gifts" at Christmas is an expression we might well drop into the sea. Exchange smacks of barter; giving smacks of love.

Give usefully and generously, yes, but give hyacinths as well as biscuits. Give fun: laughter is beyond price. Open a door in the world, for a child. Polish up the existing landscape a little, for an adult. Give courage, or leisure; give intimately. A gift can show that you honor someone's achievements, or his heart's desire.

The art is to put into every

package more than the gift itself. We should think to ourselves that any gift will rattle around in any box unless the box is stuffed with human values, with joy and smiles and loving-kindness. Put yourself in every Christmas package! This is the way that Christmas traditions, secular or religious, bring out the true spirit of Christmas; the little Babe, lying in the manger!

VYČIAI VEIKIA



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK NEW JERSEY DISTRICT

LARRY JANONIS TO BE HONORED

Ae Testimonial Banquet will be tendered by the New York-New Jersey District of the Knights of Lithuania in honor of Larry Janonis for his outstanding fidelity during his years of service to our organization and for his sincere devotion to the aims and objectives of the Knights of Lithuania which he has shown while President of our District.

All members of the Knights of Lithuania are cordially invited to join with the New York-New Jersey District in this formal tribute to Larry and help render the accolades he so richly deserves in view of his dedication to the ideals of the Knights of Lithuania.

The testimonial dinner and dance will take place on Saturday, January 14, 1961, at St. George's Hall, 180 New York Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, starting at 6:30 p.m. Jack J. Stukas will be toastmaster. Tickets, which are \$5.00 per person, can be obtained through the Ticket Chairman, Joe Sable, 342 Grove St. Jersey City 2, N. J.

A. B.

Newark, N. J. — 29 The Wanderer

Belated thanks to Worcester Council 26, host to the past National Convention for its hospitality shown Council 29 delegates and guests. It was a great reunion for Ye Scribe. He met many friends whom he had not seen for years!

After the summer hiatus, we are back in the swing of things once more. Council 29 will be represented by three teams in the district's Bowling League. Wish the bowlers a good kegling session.

Our council observed the Feast of Christ the King, October 29, by at-

tending 10:30 A.M. Mass and receiving Holy Communion. Two events closed out our social calendar for the year. One was an Arbutas Dance on November 5th, and the other, a Card Party and Movies trip to Lithuania shown by Jack Stukas, November 27th.

At the October meeting, the following were selected members of the Nominating Committee: Mrs. A. Treciokas, Mrs. A. Malakas, Charles Sipaila and Victor Vosylius. The Nominating Committee will present its Slate of Candidates for Office at our December meeting.

Your correspondent expresses his sincere thanks to "Draugas", "Darbininkas" and "Garsas" for their kindness in providing space in their newspapers with write-ups on K. of L. activity during the past year.

Recently, yours truly has been enjoying a reunion with Mrs. Jonas Kiausis and her family. Mrs. Kiausis (Natalie Staknis) is a niece of the writer and the reunion this year was their first in 38 years. Mr. and Mrs. Kiausis and their five children arrived in this country from behind the Iron Curtain in July.

Wish all a most Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Amsterdam, New York — 100

Smile & Sparkle

The newlyweds, Don and Mary Ann Nikstenas, were present at our October meeting. Father Baltch opened the meeting with a prayer. In the absence of our secretary, Gene Gobis read the minutes of the preceding meeting. Father Baltch announced that we have 25 Junior K. of L.'ers. and that they plan to have Halloween Party.

We welcome into our council, two new members, namely, Ruth Birutė Lalas and Carolyn Kreisel. Ruth is working in Albany, New York as a commercial artist, while Carolyn is associated with the Mont-

gomery County Trust Company of Amsterdam.

Plans were made to have a "Hob Goblin Spree" with Eleanore Stakauskas, as chairman, and assistants Pat Sargalis, Pat Olbie, and Gene Gobis.

Colored pictures were shown by both Gene Gobis (European tour) and Pat Sargalis (Hawaiian trip).

Refreshments were served by Pat Sargalis and Pat Olbie. President Matt Kazlauskas and Vice President Don Nikstenas volunteered to be on the Refreshments Committee in November.

News Bits

Father Baltch, Gene Gobis, Ann Beleckas, Margaret Boccio, and Josephine Nikstenas, were among those who attended the Sisters of Jesus Crucified Auxiliary Convention (Worcester, Mass.) at Our Lady of Vilna Parish. Father Baltch renewed acquaintances with Father Al Contons and Father Al Yankauskas. Gene arrived late for the convention with Joe Kondrotas (Worcester) and both were whisked into one of the classrooms by Father Yankauskas. There, they found Mr. and Mrs. Adomaitis with their batch of pictures taken in Europe. Luckily, Gene brought along her photos also. Father Al went to the rectory and returned with his assortment of shots. It was most thrilling reminiscing over the various experiences which we had while touring Europe. Father Contons joined Gene and Joe later, and, once again, the photos were brought out for inspection. Father Contons, K. of L. National Spiritual Director, plans to visit Amsterdam the latter part of January.

An annual visit to Palisades Park, New Jersey was made by Gene Gobis. The occasion was to help celebrate our member, Isabelle Dopkus' birthday, October 13. Gene's arrival into New York was delayed for over an hour due to a train wreck

just outside of New York City. When Isabelle and her friend, Milt McKinley, met her, it was decided to go to Greenwich Village for a late supper. The village has always been a most fascinating spot for both girls. Isabelle once lived in the Village while attending the New York University, and Gene used to be a regular visitor. Sunday, both girls witnessed a gigantic Holy Name parade in Hackensack, New Jersey. There were over 10,000 marching and 30 bands playing.

The American Lithuanian Club resembled lovely Hawaii, October 20. Palm trees, Hawaiian hula girls, singers, Steve Anthony's Hawaiian garbed orchestra, took over the hall. Lucky enough to get tickets for the outstanding affair were Gene Gobis and her party, Betty Smith, Dick Roth, and Dr. David Kaskel.

On October 29, the Hob Goblin Spree took place. Visiting Gene from Worcester were Joe Kondrotas and Phil McCabe. Others attending were Rev. Joseph Rashtutis, Rev. Robert K. Baltch, Matt & Nancy Kazlauskas, Sadie Karbus, Don and Mary Ann Nikstenas, Mrs. Josephine Nikstenas, Joseph and Milda Zemaitis, Vic Rimkus, Geraldine Meyers, George Ragaisis, Prof. Joseph Olsauskas, Tony and Beleckas, Mary Constantino, Margaret Boccio, Pauline Urban, Pat Olbie, Pat Sargalis, Eleanor Stakauskas, and Gene Gobis.

After the spree, Gene, Pat Sargalis, Eleanor Stakauskas, Phil McCabe and Joe Kondrotas had a quick tour of Amsterdam. Sunday, Joe and Phil joined their "mellow" voices with St. Casimir's choir in the singing of the Mass of St. Louis. After dinner at Gene's, the fellows, Gene, Pat and Eleanor went bowling. We won't mention the scores.

From there, they all proceeded to the Auriesville Shrine for the 4:00 p.m. Mass. There was a busload of Worcester K. of L'ers at the Shrine. Gene met many of her convention buddies — Mary Jankowski, Joe Sakaitis, Vitty Norkunas, and Bill Grigas. Eleanore and Pat renewed acquaintances with Vitty who had attended the summer outing. After the services, the group walked through the grounds, visiting the museum and the first chapel built in Auriesville. The sun was slowly

fading when the five returned to Amsterdam. The Worcester boys, not having seen the A.L.C. hall, decided to pay a visit to the establishment. They were very surprised to find the hall as large as it is. We hope they enjoyed their stay in our city in the Mohawk Valley.

P.S.... They must have liked the valley climate, as they made a return visit Armistice Day weekend for the Harvest Moon Festival.

* * *

Our November meeting brought us together on the eve of the Presidential Election Day.

Our Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 18 at the Elks Club. Committee consists of Tony Stokna, Mary Ann Nikstenas and Gene Gobis.

Father Baltch read an article from "Lituanus." It stresses the fact that Religion is not dead but still very much observed in Lithuania by the old and the young. We also enjoyed slides and movies of Father Baltch's trip to Bermuda with Father Jonaitis. Don and Mary Ann Nikstenas showed slides of their trip to Florida. An array of "Gardumynu" was brought in by the Nikstenas' and Matt Kazlauskas. We had such goodies as — namų keptą Lietuvišką pyragą, Boston cream pie, apple pie and tasty cookies. Ruth Lalas and Carolyn Kreisel will serve on the Refreshment Committee in December.

We recently received a card from Milda Zemaitis who is attending Michigan University. She misses us but says college life is great!

Our newest member, Ruth Lalas, has recently become engaged.

Taking active part in one of Amsterdam's favorite sports — BOWLING — this year are Don and Mary Ann Nikstenas, Sophie Olbie, Marion Jakaitis, and Gene Gobis.

Elizabeth, N. J. — 52 Nuff said

Our delegates to the National Convention were Ruth Lacijs, Frances Balandis, Ann Mitchell, Danny Degutis and Edmund Sharkis. Ruth gave a comprehensive report on the Convention; very interesting. Oh yes, we had other members at the Convention as guests. It was enjoyed by all, "Thank You" Worcester!

At this meeting we elected a "new" group of officers to lead us in the forthcoming year: President Charles Oskutis; Vice President Ed Sharkis; Recording Secretary Ann Mitchell; Financial Secretary Fran Balandis; Treasurer Stan Naiva; **Lithuanian Affairs**, William Senkus and James Stokas; **Ritual**, Ed Sharkis, Mary Motecus, Ruth Laucius and Fran Buzas; **Welfare**, Ann Baronis and Charles Surplis; **Correspondent** A. Mitchell; **Social Co-Chairmen**, Ed Anilonis and Narb Wysocky; **Spiritual Program**, Aron Buzas & Ann Baronis; **Sports**, Charles Rusteika. Trustees Ruth Laucius, Mary Motecus and Norb Wysocky, **Cultural Comm.** Ruth Laucius and Al Budreckas.

This is a mighty fine executive aggregation with plenty of experience. This does not mean that we can sit back and let them do the work. So, let's get behind them with a big helping hand.

Wish the best of every thing to Delores Neverauk and Edward Anilonis on becoming Mr. and Mrs. on October 1, 1960...

Larry Janonis visited and talked with us, come see us again, Larry...

The bowling season is on again. Come on out to the Twin City Alleys to bowl or root for your team every Sunday afternoon...

Our church will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Had a ride in Ann Mitchell's new lilee & white Ford. Ston Naiva has a new black Impala. To the both of you, ride them well... Madeline Sarockas is attending Notre Dame College... Al Budreckas is now attending Rutgers Law School... Charles Oskutis attended a convention in Detroit for the Elizabeth Redevel — opened Agency.

Reminder. Our meetings are now being held the third Sunday of each month, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Come and bring your new ideas and revitalize the old.

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

Dayton, Ohio — 96

"EL"

Now that the cool weather has set in, our council has taken up the annual sport of BOWLING. The

bowling meet has been changed to Friday and many of our members have taken an active interest in it.

Our dancers were invited to participate in a Columbus Day parade. Our council decorated a float, thanks to Ada Sinkwitz and Mary Lucas. They performed at the Fairgrounds and in Vandalia Ohio.

On October the 8th, a dance was held at the Polish Hall. The Polka Orchestra was from Cleveland and everyone enjoyed it, especially Junior K. of L'ers.

We wish to congratulate one of our members, Miss Veronica Omlor, who recently became the bride of Kenneth Heitkamp of Minster Ohio.

Spooks and Goblins turned out in full force at our Halloween Party held in the church hall. Many thanks to Ann Scott and her committee.

On November 13th our council held a Smorgasboard dinner with Mary Lucas as chief cook and bottle washer. Thanks to all who helped make the dinner a success.

Many of our members plan to attend the Mid-Central Convention, to be held in Detroit.

Detroit, Mich. — 79 Dot & Dash

The 79'ers' holiday activities have been varied and numerous as Detroiters themselves. With plans formulated for Kiddies' Xmas, Bunco-card party, Father's testimonial dinner and New Year's party, this council set an event-pacing record.

Since the "Hostess of the Month" program has been in progress, the membership attendance soared tremendously. An attractive September theme prepared by Dorothy Martin and Adeline Vitichus was very impressive. The Halloween motif arranged by Betty Petroski and Gerry Chaps for October meeting provided a nice "Trick 'n Treat" evening. Speaking of Halloween, imaginations ran wild at Petroski's costume party. There were beatniks, rag-o'muffins, a red-riding hood and miscellaneous — all having a ball.

November 2nd meeting was a special occasion — a "Bob Boris Day" indicated the event on the lovely poster prepared by Rita Neverouck (C-102) as members entered the Church of Divine Providence hall. The affair was a combined

meeting and pot-luck dinner given by the 79'ers honoring our Supreme President, Robert Boris of Council 102. Besides the attending members of Council 102, the respective Spiritual advisers — Fr. Kundrat and Fr. Stanievich, were present; also we were delighted by the presence of Fr. Schuler and Bob's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Boris. A wet evening did not hamper an excellent attendance which totalled to 83 members. In the Food Dept., a buffet table was strikingly arranged with many wonderful varieties on the menu in addition to dishes dreamt up by some of our menfolk, too. So, if you're an expert on Lithuanian food, Mrs. Medonis and her co-chairman Mrs. Chaps, served about anything you'd crave (and we didn't seem to have any timid ones either). Many thanks and compliments to all the workers who surely contributed to a smooth-running affair. A few "well-chosen" words delivered by Fr. Kundrat and Fr. Stan were muchly enjoyed. (With a "dig" here and "poor soul" there, we hope relaxed some of those butterflies away from our guest of honor). The highlight of course, was in speaker Bob Boris when he asked for our cooperation and pledged his full support in his role of Supreme Presidency. Following a huge applause, Bob was presented by our president, Frank Zager, with an appropriate gift (we hope) from Council 79.

Dorothy Martin, our genial dispenser of conviviality had busily gathered donations, gifts and prizes toward the Bunco-card party held in November to raise funds for the Kiddies Xmas party. The results have been rewarding — Dorothy had many fine helpers and we say a very hearty "thank you" for your willing and profound efforts.

Although we'd like to recognize all our hard workers which we are extremely proud in C-79, we wish at present to bestow tribute to one of our silent workers — Anthony Dainus. Since Tony's prolonged illness, he's simply not just "flat on his back." He's been noted in many fields of work but his writing speak the most. One of greatest significance titled "Vipers to Our Bosom" condemning Communism appeared in the Detroit Times. May we say "Thanks Tony" — and, do hurry and get well; we sincerely miss you.

This & That

Our very belated sympathies to Mrs. F. Ambrose upon the death of her grandmother... Congratulations to the Salas' upon their new residency — just a stone's throw from the Zagers. And we hear Vicki Chapelonis moving thataway, too (What a Lith Colony!) Incidentally, Vicki's all thru "casting" a broken wrist due to a fall (so she claims) and jiving at the at the 'ole grind again... Your ailing reporter, Sophie Zager — mended, following surgery and back on the job as you can see. Also, get well wishes to Sophie Leskosky... The Janus' still "raving" about their trip to Virginia and thereabouts — and the Milius' had a great time while in Montreal... Estelle Pileckas sporting a new Impala (Ahem! who'se said single life is not a bliss-?)... Sorry to hear that Ruth Grasha's father has been ill and our best wishes for quick recovery... Ralph Valatka, Jr. and Mark Zager two very enthusiastic Junior bowlers — keep striking 'em boys!... The Vitichus' son had a very busy summer at interlochon on a scholarship — may he be blessed... A "happy birthday" to all that's celebratin' as due to space we won't mention names. And best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Cleveland Seniors — 25 M. Trainy

Members of the Seniors Council in Cleveland have been saddened by the death of their beloved President Mrs. Victoria Maciokas.

Vicki, as she was affectionately known, passed away Oct. 28, 1960 after a long illness. Surviving her are husband, Anthony and daughters sister Gerard of the St. Augustine order, and Dorothy. We shall never forget Vicki and all she has done for us.

Convention Notes:

Cleveland Seniors and Council 25 members are working jointly to make the 1961 convention in Cleveland, Ohio a memorable one.

A committee has been selected and is busy shopping for a hotel, which we feel sure will be one of our best.

We are all anxious to bid all K. of L. members a hearty welcome to our city, the best location in the nation.

Cleveland, Ohio — 25

S. Paskevicz

Cleveland Council 25 reporting. The 1961 National Convention is coming to Cleveland. Mr. Robert Boris, our Supreme Council President, was in Cleveland to talk to Council 25 about the Convention. He was present at the monthly meeting held on September 18. The meeting was held at Nellia Arunski's home.

October appeared to be a busy month for our council. A Weiner Roast was held October 9 at Euclid Creek Reservation. John Andrulis was chairman and there was fun and games for all besides good food. The monthly meeting was also held during this weiner roast. The woods in autumn is different and unusual but a beautiful spot for a meeting. October 29 brought out the ghosts and goblins plus a variety of other characters at our Halloween party.

Getting away from the light and social side. Members received Holy Communion in a body on October 16 at St. George's Church, 9 o'clock Mass.

Cleveland Council 25 signing off for now.

ILLINOIS-INDIANA **DISTRICT**

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The Illinois - Indiana district of the Knights of Lithuania bid farewell to its Spiritual Adviser Rev. Anthony Miciunas, M.I.C. with a supper at the Elks Lodge. Father Miciunas left the "Draugas" Press to become the Pastor of St. Peter's Church in Kenosha, Wisconsin. In attendance were District President Eleanore Laurin, Ed and Al Pratt, Helen Zimmer, Irene Sankus, Loretta Macekonis, Frank Jurgaitis, Paul McGuire, Loretta Kassel, Tony Yuknis, Albin Manst and son. A gift was presented and everyone had an enjoyable evening.

Detroiters who came to Chicago to attend the "Ateitininku" Golden Jubilee Banquet were National President Bob Boris, Father Dagilis and Frank Bunikis, President of Council 102. Other Supreme Council staff members joining the party were Loretta and Al Kassel, Eleanore Laurin and Irene Sankus of the District.

Wedding bells have been ringing for Edvardas Šulaitis (C-24), and Onytė Ališytė; and Richard Butchas (C-112) and Helen Ambrose. Engaged is Ray Simutis and Jean Ziupsnytė.

Alex Shviraga (C-5) had a new lannon stone front put on his Gaiva restaurant... Dr. Petras Dauzvardis (C-112) has just observed his 35th year in the Lithuanian Consular service... Adam Anderson (C-112) was elected Adjutant in the 4th American Legion District... Congratulations to Ann Marie Paukstis for the splendid job she did as Lithuanian Affairs Committee chairman for Marquette Park C-112. (responsible for mailing 505 letters and topping all of the other councils)... Vince Samoska (C-36) President of the Ateitis Lithuanian Folk Dance Group has recently made another road tour with the troupe... Sports Chairman Al Kassel is always looking for more bowlers for the K. of L. Friday Night League. Give him a buzz at Ya 7-1524.

DISTRICT NEWS

"Perkūnas"

Chicagoans returned from the Worcester Convention with a little more representation on the Supreme Council this year... with Loretta Kassel's reelection as National Recording Secretary and Eleanore Laurin's election to the office of National Trustee. Heading some of the National Committees are Al Kassel, Sports, Tony Yuknis, Publicity, and Jack Jatis, Honorary Members. Congratulations to all!

Most regretfully, the District recently bid farewell to Father Anthony Miciunas, who served so hard and well as Ill.-Ind. District Spiritual Adviser during the past year. Father was feted by the District Officers at a dinner at the Elks Club upon word of his transfer to Kenosha, Wisconsin. Our fondest and best wishes for success in your new pastorate go with you, Father, and we're anxiously awaiting the chance to meet that new council you promised... to extend the boundries of the Ill.-Ind. District to Wisconsin as well!

The District — sponsored October Bowling and Supper Club party proved socially successful — and for First Prize winners Aldona

("with cream") Kaminskas and Buzz Manst especially, financially successful as well. About 45 bowlers competed at Queen's, then returned for the supper social at the K. of L. Hall afterwards.

After a few years of rest, the District Bowling League has come back into existence, with 8 teams bowling every Friday at Marzano's Palace Bowl. Al Kassel is President and Al Manst is Secretary - Treasurer. Everyone is invited to "help" the bowlers... you'll know them by the exhuberant cheers heard throughout the Palace.

Our newly-elected National President Bob Boris again paid us a welcome visit recently, this time accompanied by Frank Bunikis, C-102 President, and Rev. Degelis of C-102. The occasion... the "Ateitininku" Convention which they attended. Among the other K. of L's participating in the Convention were dignitaries Bishop Brizgys, Consul and Mrs. Petras Dauzvardis, and Leonard Simutis of Chicago and Dr. Juozas Leimonas of Boston... also Tony Balcytis, John Sakas, Emily Vilimas of C-36. District officers Eleanore Laurin, Irene Sankus and Al and Loretta Kassel also attended several of the Convention's activities.

Since her recent visit to Chicago, Terry Mazeika of Council 3, Philadelphia, claims she's anxiously awaiting the next Chicago convention... plans to spend her spare time, between sessions, shopping at Marshall Field's, and her evenings at Eddie Korosa's Baby Doll Polka Club! Chicago — 50-'63, Terry??

The Chicago "Nomads" (no names needed — you'll know them!) are busy planning trips again... heading for Pittsburgh and the Supreme Council Meeting, Detroit and the Mid-Central Convention, and Philadelphia and the Mummer's Parade New Year's Eve weekend. (Note: We are coming, "Philly"). Anyone caring to join the crowd is more than welcome.

Congratulations to Council 36, winners of the District Membership Trophy for gaining the most members during the National Membership Drive.

Our congratulations to Edward and Ann Šulaitis on their recent marriage. Ed is a member of Council 99, editor of Vyčiu Veikla in

"Draugas", and is a member of the Supreme Council Publicity Committee.

A record crowd of well over 1200 people turned out to see and hear Jack Stukas' eye-witness account of "LITHUANIA, 1960" on Oct. 16 at D-G Legion Hall. So interested was the public that the hall was filled to capacity well before starting time, and a second showing had to be scheduled. Their enthusiasm did not go unrewarded, however. Thanks to Jack and his interesting and very bold commentary and movies, all who attended went away a little better informed, and, we hope, a little more determined to aid in the fight against Communism. Also, thanks to all who attended, the Ill.-Ind. District will present a very sizeable contribution to the National K. of L. Scholarship Fund!

In addition to the movies and commentary, the program included some Lithuanian folk songs, beautifully rendered by Ona Skever of Council 36, and a Lithuanian Cultural Exhibit, featuring various samples of Lithuanian Handiwork and jewelry. Also, the Lith. affairs 100-a year Club award was presented to Consul & Mrs. Petras Dauzvardis. The committee expresses most cordial thanks to Jack Stukas for so graciously contributing his valuable time and talents on our behalf, and to all others who offered their respective services to make this event a success.

Stan Kancewick, Art Director of the VYTIS and Ill.-Ind.'s prize toastmaster, recently served as Toastmaster of the 65th Annual De-LaSalle Alumni Association Banquet, at the Grand Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton Hotel. This banquet boasts annually of famous guests such as Bob Hope, Pat O'Brien and others, and is attended by several thousand alumni regularly, among them many prominent city and state officials, businessmen, and clergy. Congratulations, Stan, and keep up the good work.

Chicago, and the Ill.-Ind. District, play host this May to the Annual Midwest Bowling Tournament of the K. of L, and big plans are already underway. Do these plans include **you**? To make sure they do, register **now** by contacting Al Kassel. Details so far are:

Date: May 27-28, 1961

Place: Headquarters — Sahara Motel

Bowling — Miami Bowl Parties, etc.—K. of L. Hall

Better start lining up your teams and your practice sessions now!

Our sincerest condolences to the family of the late Rose Mazlauskienė, of the Seniors.

Chicago, Ill. — 112 "ARDEE"

President Al Dagus has been very busy appointing new chairmen for the various committees. Following are the new appointments:

Spiritual Adviser—Very Reverend V. Zakarauskas; Lithuanian Affairs and Cultural — Ann Marie Paukstis; Lithuanian Radio & Newspapers — Balys Brazdžionis; Local Publicity — Dolores Rupp; Membership — Julia Zakarka; Ritual — Ruth Dagus; Social Chairman — Pat Usavage; Pulpit News — Al Dagus; Gift — Monica Kasper; Vytis Correspondent — Barbara Gercius.

Fifteen members received Holy Communion on September 18 and Communion Breakfast was served afterwards at Caffarello's Restaurant. It was the first time our wonderful Spiritual Adviser, Father Zakarauskas, was able to attend one of these breakfasts, and he was apparently just as happy to join us we were happy to have him. His beaming smile at the head of the table certainly made the whole affair so much nicer.

Dolores Rupp, chairman of our September Social should be able to "close the book" on a very pleasant evening. Twenty-nine members and guests attended a Smorgasboard dinner at the Kungsholm Restaurant on September 24 and a fine time was had by all. Andy Yuknis "Chief Happy Birthday Singer" led a group of us into singing enough "Happy Birthdays" to last through 1965! Following the meal, we all enjoyed a puppet show in the same restaurant, and were very much entertained and enthralled by the third acts of La Traviata, La Boheme and Lucia De Lamermoor.

Plans have been completed for our Halloween Masquerade Ball. Our grand comedian, Al Schulicke, accepted the chairmanship for our annual Thanksgiving Eve Dance, and heading the various committees

to help him are: Al Zakarka, Al & Ruth Dagus, Monica Kasper, Gerrie & Al Mockus, and Ann Marie Paukstis. Good luck "Schu" and may this dance be the best one yet to be recorded in the C-112 files!

Chicago, Illinois — 112 "Onyté"

"Home Owners," boast Al and Geraldine Mockus who recently purchased their own home neighboring Ed Pocius' lovely family and home.

Chicago, Illinois' loss is Phoenix, Arizona's gain! The last monthly meeting came to a sad close when good-byes and good luck were bid to Florence Rumsas who now together with her parents have taken residency in Phoenix. Florence's aim: To make known and organize a K. of L. council there.

Leonard Malas, Ted Antusis, Wally Gregor, Al Kachinski, John Chaplin, Geraldine Mack, Angie Andres, and Ann Marie Paukstis, the council's STAR BOWLERS, join other K. of L's every Friday evening for the K. of L. Mixed League Bowling.

A recent undertaking of the Illinois - Indiana District, movies and commentary on Lithuania 1960 by Jack Stukas on October 16, 1960 was an overwhelming success under the chairmanship of Loretta Kassel (C-36) and following committee members of C-112: Irene Sankus, Eleanore Laurin, Geraldine Mack, Ruth and Al Dagus, and Ann Marie Paukstis were flabbergasted, stunned, pushed, had their sore feet stepped on, carried chairs, and tried to pacify the crowds that were unable to get in for the first showing... are now firm believers in when coming to an affair sponsored by the K. of L. to come early and get a seat, or come in later and carry your own chair, and if you come just a little later and as you finally reach the door, it is closed and you are graciously asked to return for the repeat performance!!!

Ed Krivickas' keen planning once again brought a successful ending to the Halloween Masquerade Party held October 29, 1960. A delicious buffet was served by the ladies of the committee, tasty ham, salads, attractive jello molds, home-made cakes and coffee. Best costume awards went to Rita Gorb (C-112) and Wally Tenclinger (C-36). She

was LADY beatnik and he MAN beatnik.

Congratulations to Irene Rakaitis on her recent appointment as Vice President in charge of Closing Loans at St. Anthony's Savings and Loan in Cicero, Illinois.

Al Shulicke, chairman of the Thanksgiving Eve Annual C-112 Dance, this year to be called Harvest Moon Dance is making this year's dance the best one to be remembered.

Ann Marie Paukstis has recently been appointed as Secretary to the Assistant Administrator of Holy Cross Hospital. Her new position now entails management of the professional personnel of the hospital. And they say it's a man's world!!!

Chicago, Illinois — 36 "Blogas"

POST - CONVENTION NEWS

First and foremost, congratulations are in order (belated) to the newly-elected members of the Supreme Council. Lots of special luck to Detroit's Bob Boris who will diligently head our fine organization this coming year. Openly we also express our appreciation to Council 26 for a fine convention... Continued success to Loretta Kassel, the re-elected recording secretary and also recent holder of her Masters Degree from DePaul University in Mathematics... Also to her brother Al Kassel upon his Sports Chairman appointment. By the way Al also holds his own Masters according to the number of Degrees that he picked up along the way to Worcester... our girl Lucille Stacy thoroughly enjoyed her whirl of convention activities and since this was Lu's first convention she was really impressed about the post-session conferences that took place in and around the Bancroft... or else she captured the eye on the Cape of every "eligible"... all kidding aside, Lucille was a very good delegate and attended all the sessions as all of our delegates did. Our own Ona Skevar sang her heart out all attired in Lithuanian costume at the closing banquet. A bouquet to you, Ona... Scotty Zukas, the veteran conventioneer, made it again to another convention and enhanced the scene many a times during the activities... Our delegation came to Worcester as slow as a turtle, ala Al and Lor via the Wobalas and Impala or trying to beat the record for toll road travel

straight through, 21 hours worth like Wally Tenclinger tried to do... He did it too. Our boy Wally tried to compete with the number of degrees that Al Kassel was collecting but the best man won, Al of course.

Chicago 32, Illinois

Our council activities besides the convention whirl have included our "Harvest Hop" which was held on October 1st and was a complete success, thanks to Loretta Kassel and Bernadette Balauskas... participating in the movies of Lithuania program which Jack Stukas presented on October 16th at Darius - Girenas. Once again they were a heartwarming view of how Lithuania really is today... a thought in the back of all of our minds... Thanks again to Mr. Stukas... We have some pleasant memories behind us and we shall look forward to our convention next year in Cleveland...

Wish all a VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

South Boston, Mass. — 17

Ann Onimus

It seems strange writing this news because when it appears in print it will not be "news" at all. It will actually be a month and a half old. Hallowe'en is just over, yet it is time to think ahead to what would be timely for late Christmas. Nonetheless, that's the way it must be: so all of what you read is the record of past events in the present tense.

November to C-17 means Fall Dance Time. It is with every wish for an enjoyable evening that chairman Ed Rudis has been hustling around spurring his committee to create Dance Magic at the Lith. Citizens' Club, November 26th. This dance has traditionally been the "big one". The hosts are getting their shaking hands in shape for welcoming the localites and the many out-of-states who come for this gala affair. Another high spot of the November Dance is the fashion parade it always inspires. Last year, one of the girls wore her red silk stockings. Some of the Worcester girls make a **must** of new dresses. Even Al Jaritis is re-reading his Arthur Murray correspondence

course. (Beware of missing pages.) We hope for success and your attendance at this our fall dance.

November 20th has a bowling roll-off scheduled in Worcester. The Monday night council bowling sessions at the Bond Alleys draw a steadily growing crowd. It's good to have Millie Vallis and Peter Dumas there with us. Both have been silent supporters for quite some time. We welcome their appearance at this activity. Both bowl pretty well — and seem to enjoy the good spirited cheers and jeers.

November 13th is Meeting Day. The backlog of Ritual work is being cleared up thanks to the effective efficiency of Rita and Jerry Venis, Angie and Stan Yelmokas, and Florence Zaleskas. After this meeting, applicants will be screened for second degree. Possibly during the December meeting, some second degrees will be presented. And possibly during the December meeting, the annual Christmas party will be planned. That time is always real good fun for all concerned — be they cooks, decorators, planners, or comers.

On the chatty side.. —

Larry Svelnis, our suburbanite living in Needham, is occupied by a dual interest these days. K. of L-wise, he is doing his utmost to promote the K. of L. history. He is on the History Fund Committee. This history should arouse the eager support of all members. Most formally, it is a sage statement of K. of L. goals and achievements. Less formally, it is a wonderful way to reminisce over people, places and events that K. of L. membership made possible. Larry's other avocation is informed citizenship. He's made a point to attend every political rally in his area. Wonder if he picked the presidential winner?

Also in a political vein, the council's best wishes go to Phillis Grendal whose name appears on the ballot as the Republican candidate for Representative of Word 6. By the time this article appears, the election will be over. Our hope is that she is chosen to bring the same effort and energy into the State Legislature that she brings into the publication of "Vytis."

Another "Vytis" writer and C-17, Joanne Neviera made the news. She was toastmistress and chairwoman for the Reunion Breakfast of St.

ANTANAS BALCYTIS-36

2512 W. 45 PL.

CHICAGO, ILL.

Peter's Grammar School. Along with Joanne, these members were in that first class that graduated ten years ago. There was Alice Zarembo, Helen Suprin, Norma Razvad, Mary Kraunalis, Loretta Kontrim, Janet Gideck Madeline Druzdis, Joseph Casper, Jr., and Ray Zibinskas — quite a slice of our current membership. At the latest Sodality Congress, Joanne presided over a discussion on Communism. The Sodalists were roused to a saner, less superficial consideration of the meaning of the Red menace. Joanne arranged for the speakers.

Continuing along with the "schoolish" tenor of the news; President Jerry Venis is pursuing his studies in engineering at Northeastern nights. Half a year down; a year and a half to go. He aspires to a Master's and even a Doctorate. Such ambition... Much good luck. While Jerry is learning about engineering, his wife Rita is learning to use her new multi-attachment sewing machine. That is a technical education in itself.

Congratulations to Bron Martus. He has a fellowship in math and science at Boston College. It means work; but it means opportunity, too.

Madeline Druzdis has returned to us from Hartford. B.C. School of Nursing had her there for part of her training. Back in this big city, she resumes her training at St. Margaret's Hospital. June, for her, means commencement. Madeline is president of the Senior Class.

In the "Some People Have All the Luck" department, the Yelmokas families deserve mention. Angie and Stan Yelmokas celebrate their eighth anniversary. They and their three youngsters form a fine K. of L. family. Unrelated to this milestone, Angie and Stan have orchestra seats for the smash musical CANELOT. Those tickets are as dear as water in a desert. Wanda Yelmokas, a cousin, won doorprize at a card party. Florence Zaleskas took her to that Wednesday. On Friday, Wanda won dinner from a Teachers Club. She doesn't bemoan her good fortune. She just wishes that the prizes had been cars, and trips, and furs and diamonds.

Rita and Jerry Venis have a new-to-them Oldsmobile. Much motoring pleasure to you!

Patricia Plansky's family has a new house. Pat and her family call a six-room modern ranch in West Quincy their home now.

Bob and Phyllis (Rudis) Gendream have returned from their Canadian wedding trip to settle in their first home — an apartment in South Boston.

Tourists of a different type, were the Kleponis girls. They toured the Northeast up to Canada. Joan loved the color and tranquility of Vermont. Mary is hankering (and undoubtedly saving) for a return to Europe. Ann piloted the family car.

John Olevitz, Ed Rudis, Frances Daniels, and Joanne Neviera traveled to New Jersey for Ellie Miskanch's wonderful wedding.

Loretta Leščinskas was proud god mother for her aunt's baby — Irene Gedaminsky. The parents, Joanne and Pete chose the name Irene for their daughter hoping that as her name implies, Irene will be a "bringer of peace."

John and Anita Daniels named their little girl Karen.

Well, the holiday season takes hold from here on. Our Council has hopes of keeping the membership growing in number and growing in terms of the spiritual, cultural, and social value that being a K. of L'er means.

Westfield — 30

Genovaitė

At the meeting held November 1st, every hat in Council 30 was off for Dolly Kisonas for the wonderful job she did as chief cook for the K. of L. Spaghetti Supper held October 29, 1960. The supper was a tremendous success with 200 tickets sold, thanks to the good work of all the members.

The Refreshment Committee for the meeting (Cookie Coach and Nellie Dardinski) served a real "trick or treat" snack of apple cider and donuts which everyone enjoyed. Thank you ladies.

As the Holiday Season approaches the council is buzzing with plans. First, of course, is the Christmas Party for the children of the parish. Edna Bernardicius and Ann Sabonis offered their services to help with the many arrangements.

The council itself also has plans for a Holiday get-together and Helen Alexik and Ann Sabonis are in

charge of arrangements for this affair.

Council 30 wishes to extend its wish to all the Knights of Lithuania for a happy and holy Christmas and New Year.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT CONVENTION

The New England District Convention took place in Lawrence, Mass. at St. Francis' Parish on Sept. 24 and 25th. The convention was preceded by a dance held at St. Francis' grove, Methuen, Mass. Saturday night. An enthusiastic and jolly crowd was present, dancing and singing to the strains of waltzes, cha-chas, fox-trots, and a few polkas, by request. An enjoyable time was held by all. Sunday, a High Mass, celebrated by Fr. Janiunas for the K. of L., opened the official business meeting of the day. During the sessions, old business as well as new business was discussed. We were fortunate in having a guest, Helen Shields, from Philadelphia, Pa., who is the 1st National Vice President. She spoke on interesting members in aiding to form new Junior Councils within the councils. It was enjoyable having you with us for the weekend Helen, and do come again! During the latter part of the afternoon, nominations for officers took place. Spiritual adviser, Fr. John Zuromskis; President Joe Sipas; Vice President Bill Grigas; Recording Sec'y. Fran Daniels; Corresponding Sec'y. Joan Lisauskas; Treasurer Mildred Lapinskas; Trustees Bill Wisnaukas and Al Jaritis. Congratulations to all of you!

The convention was brought to a climax by the serving of a Lithuanian cooked buffet supper and the showing of slides of the K. of L. Pilgrimage to Europe, by Fr. Al Contons, National Spiritual Director. Many thanks to C-78 for its hospitality!

Fran D.

Su dideliu liūdesiu pranešame, kad mirtis išėmė iš šio gyvenimo dvi veiklias, atsižymėjusias vytes, tai Chicagos vyte Rožę Mazeliauskiene ir Clevelando Vyčių Senjorų kuopos Pirmininke Viktorija Mačiokiene. Apie jas bus prisiminta sekančiam "Vyties" Nr.