

"The Most Photographed Tree in the World." (Story - page 4)
(Photo by Ernest Studios)

the Unight

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"Renew the Face of the Earth..."

Ours is an age in which competition for wealth is the keynote. So many of us know the price of everything and the true value of nothing. The Church is looked upon by many as only a medieval institution with no answers to the problems of the modern world. The devout must, by their words and actions, lead others to the source of their happiness and strength, the Church.

At Christmas time our thoughts go back through the centuries to Bethlehem, when Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, was born to redeem mankind. During this joyful season Holy Mother Church repeats to her members the message proclaimed by the angels to the shepherds on the hilltops: "Today is born to you a Savior who is Christ the Lord... Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will."

On hearing these glad tidings, these simple folk went immediately to the stable to make their adoration to the newborn King of the World. It is the Church's wish at Christmas time that all Catholics imitate the shepherds and adore Christ. They were privileged to see the Son of God in human form with their bodily eyes, We have substantially the same privilege that they enjoyed, for we can adore Our. Lord as truly present on the altar and in the tabernacle as He was in the stable of Bethlehem on the first Christmas resting in the arms of Mary, His Mother.

It took a great deal of faith on the part of the shepherds to truly believe that the helpless Babe who they beheld was indeed the Messiah foretold to them by countless prophets down through the centuries. We, too, need the gift of faith to convince us that beneath the appearances of bread, Our Divine Saviour is truly present. But we, like the shepherds, have the absolute assurance of God Himself that His Divine Son is truly present. The

snepherds received the word of God through the angelic messengers; we receive it through the voice of the Church, the infallible representative of the Most High, authorized by Christ Himself, to teach divine truth to all men.

Both Bethlehem and the Holy Eucharist remind us forcefully of the statement of St. John, read in the third Mass of Christmas: "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." There was no room in the Inn on the first night of His earthly life. And, sad to say, there is very little room today in many human hearts. Daily we see man's inhumanity toward his fellow man in every social strata. We see nations poised and ready to obliterate one another with devastating nuclear weapons. If only we would realize that Christ is the Prince of Peace, "Without Me, you can do nothing." When will we learn the simple lesson that the source of every good is Christ Jesus.

There is no doubt that our heavenly Father has favored most of us with spiritual and material blessings. When we share these with others we increase God's joy and glory. Such self-forgetting thoughtfulness of others will make the world in which we live far less unlovely because we have lived in it. This is the means by which we, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, will "renew the face of the earth."

I would like to extend a personal greetings to all K of L'ers. May the Christ Child bless and keep each one of you in His Grace throughout the coming year. On Christmas day you will all share in the fruits of the Masses which I shall be privileged to say. A Blessed Christmas to all.

> Rev. J. Walter Stanievich Spiritual Director

MUSEUM FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

LITHUANIAN TREE

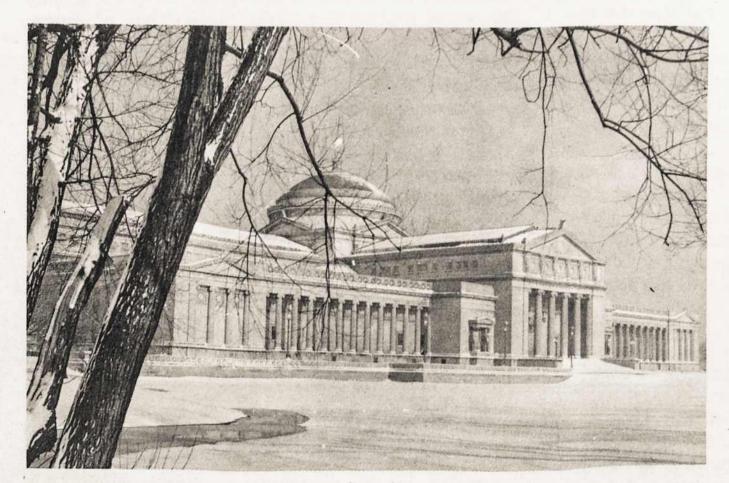
The lost folk art of dressing the Christmas tree is being revived! Each year, thousands of visitors from all parts of the world throng the Main Rotunda of Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry to view the glittering array of Yuletide trees of some 24 nations that are a main feature of the annual "Christmas Around the World Festival."

The visitors, almost without exception, pause for a t leas t a second look at the Lithuanian Tree (pictured on cover), often called "the most photographed tree in the world." A masterpiece in

itself, in its lacy web of delicately hand-fashioned ornaments, this tree is decorated annually by the Art Class of Maria High School, under direction of Sister M. Gratia, SSC, and financed by the Chicago Lithuanian Women's Club.

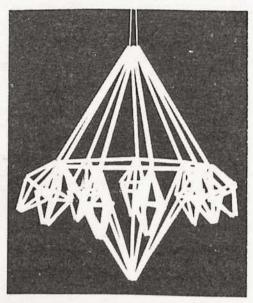
The tree presents a close replica of a Christmas Tree that might have been seen in any home in free Lithuania. All the ornaments are made from very ordinary material, such as might be gathered from or near His manger-straw, eggshells, feathers, nutshells.

The larger ornaments, (šiau-



Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, Ill.

Photo: Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, Ill.

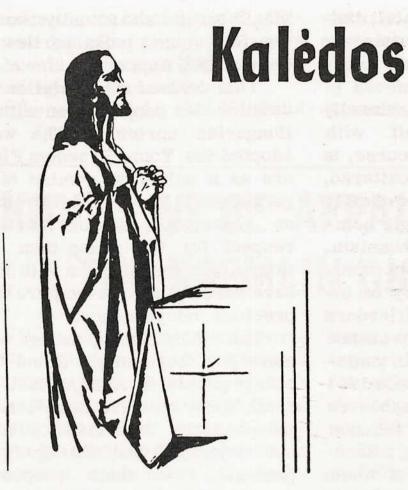


dinukai) are made of straw. (In the U.S., drinking straws make a good substitute.) Stalks of straw are strung together in many fantastic geometric forms, all depending on the ingenuity of the maker. Birds on the tree add The bodies of the birds color. are made of whole egg-shells, some white, some dyed in delicate hues, but all with beaks, wings and tails of gaily colored crepe paper. There are smaller birds of walnut-shells with wings of feather or birch bark or metallic paper.

In place of tinsel, brightly colored juostos (saches) are used on the tree. Handwoven ties, handknit mittens and socks are hung on the lower branches, adorning the tree until Christmas Day when they are distributed to loved ones. There are hand-carved wooden toys and home-made dolls dresed in Lithuanian costumes for the younger ones.

The top of every Lithuanian tree has a cross, a replica of the Lithuanian wayside cross.

In addition to Tree Display, the Museum's Christmas Festival features special dinners, music and pageantry showing Christmas customs of many nations which contribute to American traditions. Since the festival's inception 19 years ago, the Lithuanian part of the program has been directed by Mrs. Josephine Dauzvardis. This year's Lithuanian program included performances by Maria High School Chorus, the Knights of Lithuania Choir, the Ateitis Dancers, and the Ateitis Junior Singers and Dancers.



Kristus

Povilas Dirkis

betliejišku kuklumu, lyg kad Jo visai nebūtų, lyg kad Jis neturėtų balso arba galios pasaulio-žmonijos šeimose.

Vyksta amžių paslaptis. Garbė Dievui augštybėse. Ramybė geros valios žmonėms! Kristus gimė taikai ir mirė už ją. Tai giliai prasmingas pavyzdys, nes taikoje glūdi laisvė, tiesa ir laimė. Tegul šios Kalėdos primena žmonijos vadovams ir kiekvienam geros valios žmogui, kad taika, kaip tiesa, yra tiktai viena, už ką kiekvieno yra pareiga kovoti. Kol bus žemėje pavergtųjų – nebus taikos. Pavergtųjų tarpe randasi ir mūsų tauta – lietuvių tauta. Jei tauta nori išlikti gyva, ji turi būti tikinti. Tautos miršta, kai nustoja tikėjimo. Tam nereikia įrodymo – tai istorinė aksioma. Bet ar lietuvis šiandien laikosi šitos aksiomos, spręsdamas savo tautos, savo krašto problemas?

Bet turime neužmiršti ir bent šių Kalėdų metu prisiminti, kad Kristus gimė kančiai ir kad kiekviena kančia neša įdėjinį atgimimą, paremtą viltimi. Ir po 19 šimtmečio toji pati Kristaus paliktoji viltis yra gyva, ji veikia ir veiks iki pasaulio pabaigos. Ji neaplenkia nė vieno, ji neaplenks nei kenčiančios Lietuvos. Mat Kristus atnešė pasauliui didijį džiaugsmą ir negęstančią viltį ir nutiesė kelią į nesibaigiantį gyvenimą ir nurodė tiesą, kurios laikydamiesi nenukrypsime nuo nutiestojo kelio, lydinčio į gerovę, taiką ir ramybę, kuri yra skirta geros valios žmonėms.

Turint galvoje, kad Kristus gimė kovai su piktu, įsidėmėtina ir tai, kad suskambėję Kalėdiniai varpai neša ne vien susikaupimą, bet ir yra šauksmu aktyviai įsijungti į idealistinę kovą, kurią beveik prieš du tūkstančius metų paskelbė Didysis Karalius Kristus, žmonijos atpirkėjas.

Švęsdami Kalėdas turime prisiminti visada, kad esame lietuviai, pavergti, ir kad kovojame už pavergtą tėvynę Lietuvą ir sujungimą jos vaikų.

Tik atlikę savo, kaipo lietuvio ir laisvo pilnateisio žmogaus pareigas ir prievoles, galėsime ramiai sėstis prie Kūčių stalo ir geroje nuotaikoje švęsti Kristaus gimimo dieną - šv. Kalėdas.

Kalėdos – Didžiojo pranašo, mokytojo Kristaus gimimo diena. Kristus gimė žmonijai, kad ji galėtų tapti Dievo vaiku. Kristaus-žmogaus gimimas yra didžiausias žmonijos istorijos įvykis, nes jis atvertė žmonijos gyvenime naują istorijos lapą. Kitaip tariant, Kalėdos atnešė Kristų, kuris nuo Betliejaus iki Golgotos kelia šviesųjį dvasios primatą prieš tamsią medžiagos naktį.

Kristus atėjo ne pasaulio nei žmonijos sunaikyti, bet parodyti naują mokslą, nurodyti naujus kelius ir kad žmoniją padarytų savęs verta. Jis savo paskelbtomis tiesomis ir pasiaukojimu idealistiniam pasauliui, padėjo sulaužyti bestiališką žmonijos prigimtį, nutiesdamas kelius darniam žmonijos bendradarbiavimui.

Kristus savo gimimu, savo darbais, savo mokslu, savo stebuklais žemėje, savo įsteigta bažnyčia ir jos tęstinumu paliko viltį, amžinosios sveikatos ir ramybės viltį, kuri nėra užgęsusi iki šiol ir niekuomet neužges.

Nors antras tūkstantis metų baigia nugrimsti ir paskęsti praeities jūron ir nors slenka metai, dešimtmečiai, gyvenimas keičiasi, bet Kristaus paskelbtos tiesos žmonijoje nemažėja, nenyksta, nes su Kristaus gimimo diena jos kas met sutvirtinamos. Kristus-Dievas tapo žmogumi, kad žmonija taptų Dievo vaiku. Tai buvo naujos žvaigdės pasaulyje pasirodymas Betliejaus Kūdikio Jėzaus gimimo dienoje. Nuo to laiko ir prasidėjo nauja era - krikščionybės era. Tai buvo nepaprastas įvykis, kuris būtų taip giliai paveikęs pasaulio žmonijai, kaip šios naujos eros įsikūnijimas.

Kristaus gimimo diena - Kalėdos duoda mums suprasti esantį Dievą, kuris iš nieko sutvėrė pasaulį ir kuris laiko savo rankoje, bet su tokiu Once upon a time I was accused of being a pessimist. Once upon a time I was a pessimist where things vytiškai were concerned. But now I find myself a happy, giddy, downright cock-eyed optimist! What's the explanation for this change of attitude, this rosecolored outlook?

My explanation involves a number of factors, and they all point to this current decade as being the most important ten years in the history of the Knights of Lithuania.

This is the first of a series of six articles on the "Decade Ahead." In these monthly discussions we will see and better understand the nature of our K of L goals and how we are destined to realize them. Yet, in all the articles there will be an underlying theme, a leitmotiv, and that will be the importance of mutual understanding between member and

Part I.

OUR PEOPLE HAVE FOUND A PURPOSE

By John V. Chervokas

The

member, council and council, district and district, of just where we are going and how we are to get there.

Our primary thought, naturally enough, concerns itself with people. The K of L, of course, is a body of widely-scattered, variously-employed, economically diverse people with a single common bond - Catholic Lithuanism.

In 1963, as our society commemorates a half century of intermittent success, K of L leaders remember with reverence those men who gave the organization its impetus. But these 1963 leaders will neither be graybeards nor venerable founding fathers. They will be vibrant young Lithuamost of whom nian-Americans, visualize the Nemunas as a fairytale stream, Kaunas as a grand old city of legend, and amber as funny kind of yellow-orange stone.

Yet these late twentieth-century K of L leaders who have never seen the Baltic, are inflamed with as much zealousness and love for Lithuania as their brave brethren who have actually felt war's sting and communism's damnable barbed wire.

Why is that?

The answer perhaps has a psychological root. The tense and ominous state of international affairs has brought with it a new deep-rooted seriousness among young adults. College students, young married couples, and established families are now associating themselves empathetically with the persecuted people in Iron Curtain countries.

People who once felt squeamish about speaking Lithuanian or even having it known that they were Lithuanian are now buying Lithuanian records, rejoicing that Ruta Lee and Johnny Podres are of their

ethnic strain, and actually clamoring for more polka parties and more kugeli suppers.

This desire for association with downtrodden people began with the Hungarian uprisings. The world adopted the Young Freedom Fighters as a universal symbol of the persecuted. Free people developed an enormous, almost spiritual, respect for the young men and women who fought tanks with their bare hands just to re-acquire their precious independence.

The Hungarian uprisings were merely a beginning. Since then, young people in Asia, Africa, and South America have been leading independence movements, pointing out injustices and outrages perpertrated on their respective nations. Whether we agree or disagree with their methods of action and philosophies, we must acknowledge their ardor and sincerity.

Until recently, the most vigorous struggles in affluent America have concerned themselves with getting a seat on the rush-hour subway, securing a profit-sharing plan at the factory, and landing a pair of World Series tickets somewhere or other. Frankly, young Americans are now beginning to have pangs of guilt, consciously or otherwise.

We see suffering abroad. We sympathize with it. AND FINALLY, we are beginning to do something about it. The Peace Corps is an obvious example. Psychologically, we are ashamed so many people are being persecuted or suffering poverty and deprivation while we are safe, secure, and solvent.

Happily, the K of L can look around its regional districts and find that young American-born Lithuanians are waking up to their duty-by-heritage, to their right-by-birth. A belabored argument of Lithuanian refugees that the K of

K of L IN THE DECADE AHEAD

L cares more about social activities than the plight of captive Lithuania is now a shallow and meaningless accusation.

the sixties, through conscience and a society keenly attuned to the evils that a godless society can provoke, is becoming an ardent worker, a The new Knight, the Knight of determined spokesman for Lithua-

nia's cause. This, in turn, points to a new vigor, a rekindled fire, a broadening K of L new frontier, if you will, in this coming decade. And none too soon!

NEXT MONTH - "Good Old Days" or "Good Old Daze"

SHOULD WE BE AFRAID TO EMBARRASS

THE KREMLIN DICTATORS?

By Leonard Valiukas

"I assure you that the Department of State sympathizes wholeheartedly with the motives which prompted the submission of House Concurrent Resolution 153." wrote Mr. Broeke Hays, Assistant Secretary, in his letter of September 29, 1961, to Rep. Thomas E. Morgan, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of House of Representatives. Further in his letter Mr. Hays stated that he was afraid that the aforesaid resolution might "embarrass the Soviet Union. 11

As far as this so-called embarrassing business of the Soviet Union is concerned, according to Rep. Lipscomb, nobody in the Senate or the House goes along with this wrong thinking of some of the high officials in the Department of State.

"If we are to survive," said Rep. Glen Lipscomb recently, "we must adopt a positive policy - one based on recognition of the fact that our enemy is determined to destroy this nation as it is now constituted. You, Lithuanian-Americans, and other freedom-loving people of this great land of ours should do everything in your power in trying to change this wrong thinking among some of our high officials who are still afraid to embarrass the Kremlin dictators."

What are you doing in trying to promote the passage of the Kuchel - Lipscomb resolution (S. Con. Res. 12 and H. Con. Res. 153)? First, each of us should write a letter to President Kennedy and Mr. Rusk, Secretary of State,

urging them to be firm when dealing with the Kremlin dictators. Secondly, we should emphasize in our letters to President Kennedy and Mr. Rusk that this nation should not be afraid to embarrass the Soviet Union in fighting for the freedom of the captive countries in Europe and Asia. Finally, we should ask the President and Mr. Rusk to support the Kuchel-Lipscomb resolution that is pending now before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee. We should not forget also to contact

Congressmen and both Senators of our own State. In our brief letters to these legislators we should ask them to support this worthy cause when the Congress convenes on January 10. 1962.

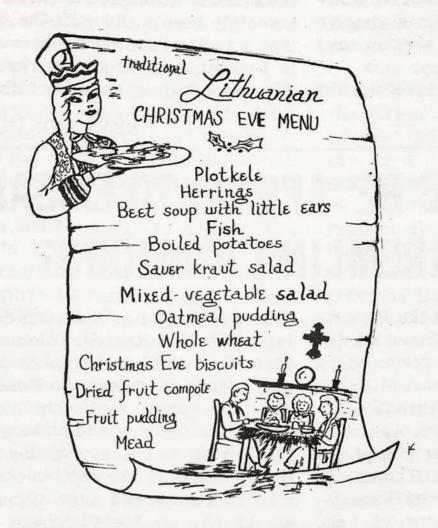
P.S. Letters to President Kennedy and Mr. Rusk should be addressed in the following manner: His Excellency John F. Kennedy, President of the United States, The White House, Washington, D.C.; Honorable Dean Rusk, Secretary State, Department of State. Washington, D.C.



Los Angeles K of L'ers recently met Rep. Glenard P. Lipscomb, one of the authors of the famous Kuchel-Lipscomb Resolution concerning the captive peoples of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Pictured from left to right are: Anthony F. Skirius, organizer and Past President of the L. A. Senior Council; Miss Alice Dotts, Immediate Past Secretary of C-133; Rep. Lipscomb; and Leonard Valiukas, Past President of C-133.

Photo by Daumantas Cibas





HERRINGS IN TOMATOSAUCE

4 herrings

6 large onions, sliced

1/2 c. cooking oil

1 can tomato sauce

1/4 c. water

3 whole cloves

4 peppercorns

2 bay leaves

1/2 c. sugar

pinch - edible sour rock salt

Soak herring overnight in cold water. Remove bones and skin, cut each herring into small slices.

Fry onions in oil until tender. Add tomato sauce mixed with water. Add sugar, cloves, peppercorns, bay leaves, and pinch of rock salt. Cook for five to ten minutes. Then pour over herrings filet and let stand until cooled off. Keep under refrigeration.

Remove spices from cooked sauce to eliminate strong flavor.

*SAUER KRAUT SALAD -Kopūstų Salotos

1 No. 2 can sauer kraut

3 tbsps. salad oil

1 stalk green onion

(or 1 small onion, diced and fried in oil)

Dash of pepper

Remove sauer kraut to sieve. Run cold water over it. Drain. Chop onion, add to kraut. Pour oil over kraut, mix well. Season with pepper. Chill thoroughly.

* CHRISTMAS EVE BISCUITS - Preskučiai, Šližikai

1 cup milk

1 ounce yeast

1 tbsp. sugar

1/2 tsp. salt

1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour

Cream yeast with sugar. Add warm milk and salt. Sift in flour. Stir thoroughly. Put in warm spot to rise a little. If necessary, add more flour to roll. Roll with rolling pin on floured board. Cut into finger-width strips, then into bits of 1/2 inch or less. Bake in 350° till edges are light brown. Serve with poppy seed milk.

* Reprinted from "Popular Lithuanian Recipes" with permission from Mrs. Josephine Dauzvardis

* DRIED FRUIT COMPOTE -Džiovintų Vaisių Kompotas

8 oz. prunes

8 oz. dried pears

8 oz. dried apples

6 cups water

3 to 4 tbsps. sugar

3 sticks cinnamon

6 whole cloves

Wash fruit. Soak each fruit separately in cold water overnight, allowing 2 cups water for each. In the morning, boil each fruit separately, adding a tablespoon of sugar, stick of cinnamon and 2 cloves to each. Cool. Combine fruits and syrups before serving.

* OATMEAL PUDDING - Avižų Kisielius

2 cups old-fashioned oatmeal 4 cups cold water 1/4 tsp. sugar

Place oatmeal in large bowl. Pour on water. Cover with cloth. Place bowl in warm spot for about 24 hours or until oatmeal ferments. A piece of sour rye bread added to oatmeal will hasten fermenting. Strain oatmeal through cheese-cloth or sieve. Bring the strained liquid to a rapid boil. Reduce heat and continue to boil, stirring constantly until thick and separating from sides of pot. Stir in sugar. Pour into a bowl which has been rinsed in cold water. Serve cold with sweetened water or poppy seed milk.

Left-over pudding may be sliced and fried in bacon fat or butter.

DARŽOVIENĖ (VINIGRETAS)

2 bulvės (vidut. dydžio)
2 morkos
1/4 svaro žalių žirniukų
1/4 sv. baltų pupelių
1 svogūnas (mažas)
2 šaukštai alyvos
Be to, pipiru, acto ar c

Be to, pipirų, acto ar citrinos rūgšties, cukraus, druskos.

Daržoves išvirti atskirai ir atšaldyti. Bulves bei morkas nulupti ir supiaustyti keturkampiais gabalėliais. Svogūną smulkiai sukapoti. Po to viską sumaišyti, pridėti alyvos, acto, pipirų ir druskos pagal skonį. Leisti kiek pastovėti. Sudėti į salotinį indą. Papuošti įvairiomis kapotomis ar žaliomis daržovėmis.

* WHOLE WHEAT WITH HONEY -Kviečiai su Medum

Boil whole wheat in lightly salted water until soft. Pour off water. Drizzle honey over wheat. Sprinkle with poppy seed.

Can also be served with poppy seed milk.

* POPPY SEED MILK -Aguonų Pienas

1/2 lb. poppy seeds 2 cups boiling water 10 almonds 2 cups milk

Pound the seeds fine. Cover with boiling water. Blanch, peel and chop almonds, stir into seeds. Add sugar to taste, and when cool, pour in the milk. Pour over biscuits just before serving.

Juozas Mikuckis

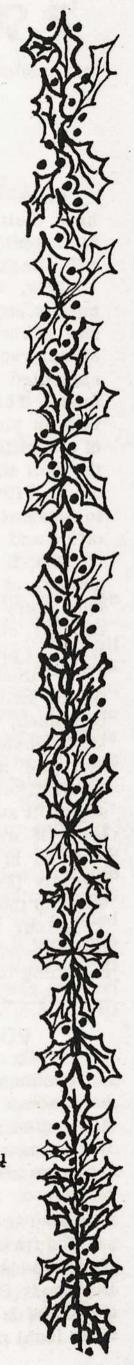
KŪČIŲ VAKARAS

Vakaras šventas, vakaras Kūčių, Ką mums šiandieną išburs jis? Mūsų nelaimių metų likučių Dienos užgesti kur bursis?

Daug artimųjų trūksta prie Kūčių, -Staltiesės svetimo lino . . . Sykštus likimas nebe rieškučiom Dovanas mums išdalino.

Mūsų Betlėjun - Tėviškėn Kūčių Grįžti ženklai nebežymūs. Mirksinčios liepsnos vargo žvakučių Dar nenušvinta grįžimui...

Vakaras šventas – vakaras Kūčių, Ką mums šiandieną išburs jis? Mūsų nelaimių metų likučių Dienos užgesti kur bursis?



OFFICIAL NEWS

ELECTIONS, MEMBERSHIP and the K of L

Since this is the month when most councils have their elections, I would like to bring up the forthcoming Membership Drive that commences with the new year.

Now, when council members are planning and conducting their campaigns for desired officers and offices, is also the time to be thinking of your Membership Chariman. In the past, most councils neglected to elect, select or appoint such a Chairman. This is an office as important as all the rest in your council. In pondering the selection of a qualified Membership Chairman, keep in mind the fact that this office will require a person with drive, with many new ideas, a person who is willing to assume the tasks and responsibilities of this office and WORK.

The K of L is entering crucial times. The number of new members obtained every year has been very poor. With all the Lithuanians in the country, our membership should be ten times what it is. At present we have less than 1500 members. This situation can only be blamed on the indifferent attitude of our present membership and if continued, can mean the dissipation of the K of L. Unfortunately, some of you have the impression that one member, more or less, will not make much difference. Can you visualize the detrimental result such thinking would produce on a national level if everyone felt this way? Take a positive position in this area. One more member is extremely important. We need new blood, new ideas, we need the help of new members.

At our National Convention we can only make recommendations. It is up to the delegates upon returning to their councils to see to it that as many recommendations as possible are brought before the council and action taken upon them. In the final analysis, it is the individual council and individual members that will either expand or disband the K of L. Let each council and council member resolve to enlarge the council and by making it larger, more active as well. As a result, more people will join because of this activity.

Very shortly the K of L will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. When this date arrives, will we be a dwindling organization or will we be alive and active? Will our membership be on the upgrade; will there be new life in the organization; will we be entering the second 50 years as a growing organization; or will the climatic end engulf the K of L before its 100th Anniversary? It depends on us.

What our great organization becomes in the future depends on what we do here at the present. You must have some interest in the K of L or else you wouldn't be a member. Take this interest and impart it onto your non-member friends. Sign them up. Bring them into the council. Get them interested in all we do.

The above message is directed toward every K of L'er, not just a few. It requires every member's attention. When the first of the year rolls around, make sure your council has a Membership Chairman. If it does not, find out why. What is even better, get on the committee that means so much to all of us. It will decide our future.

William A. Grigas Vice President Membership Chairman

VOLUME OF RESOURCES

The Supreme Council Culture Committee has on hand some copies of "Lithuania and Lithuanians - A Selected Bibliography" by Dr. Jonas Balys. This is a comprehensive reference work in the English language giving details on publications covering all phases of Lithuanian history, government, arts, economics, language, education, etc.

The price of this book is \$5.00, and orders should be sent to Frank Gudelis, 129 Rita Street, Dayton 4, Ohio. It is particularly recommended that K of L councils obtain and donate this book to their local public libraries.

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE RECORDS

The Lithuanian Language Course records are still available from the Supreme Council Culture Committee. The set consists of two records that can be played at either 33 or 45 RPM, and two booklets giving the Lithuanian and English text of the recordings. Price per set is \$3.00, plus .25 cents postage on mail orders. Postage will be prepaid when two or more sets are ordered.

Orders should be sent to Frank Gudelis, 129 Rita Street, Dayton 4, Ohio.



KofL JUNIORS

Edited by: Helen Shields

No. 6 December, 1961

Laimingu Nauju Metu!

Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year

AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS EVE IN LITHUANIA

By Vytautas Belajus

In Lithuania, we do not anticipate Christmas Day so much as we do Christmas Eve, which we call "Kučios." This is the day of days and the eve of eves. In our district, we never heard of Santa Claus, and never received any Christmas gifts. Nevertheless, there was still a great deal of color to "Kucios." Long before sunset, my two brothers and I dashed over to auntie's house. Shaking the snow from our Klumpes (wooden shoes), we entered reciting the customary prayer, Lai Buna Pagarbintas Jezus Kristus. (Praised Be Jesus Christ). Ant Amžių Amžinųjų (for ever and ever) would be the reply.

With the rising of the evening star, the table was covered with a pure, white, linen table cloth, whereupon hay was strewn. A sacred picture of the Nativity or the Madonna and the Child, predominated in the center of the table with figures of cows and donkeys, surrounding it, so that we might be brought closer to the understanding of the conditions at the birth of Christ. Now the family gathered about the table. The dishes were set on the hay and a 12 course dinner, commemorating the 12 Apostles, was served, A festive meal that only Kucios could offer. Before we began eating, prayers were said, then the plotkele, a big square wafer, bearing the image of Christ, was broken into as many pieces as there were persons at the table; each member kissed the blessed wafer and ate their alloted piece.

According to custom, the meal lasts for three hours and to make certain that it did, stories concerning the Nativity and kindred subjects as well as of all the miracles, were told. On Christmas Eve, we were told, the waters turn sweeter, and even the animals can speak with human voice so that they may praise the glorious name of Him who brought peace on earth. The hours never pass more rapidly than the 3 hours on Kucios night.

Of course many carols were sung. Since Kucios falls on the names-day of Adam and Eve, Adomas ir Jieva was one of the proper hymns to be sung. Because an apple is connected with the lives of Adam and Eve, a game of prediction was played with an apple. The apple is cut and divided among the members of the Kucios party. If the apple was cut into an even number, all will be well until the coming Kucios, but if the apple was cut and an odd number resulted, then one of the guests will be missing during the coming Kucios.

Another game is played with sheafs of hay. Sheafs are pulled from under the plate and the one whose sheaf is the longest will live the longest. After the dishes were cleared away, the hay was gathered from the table and taken to the stalls to be fed to the cattle, so that they, too, might share in the feast.

I can remember how reluctantly we would go home, turning our eyes skyward in search of the marvelous star of Bethlehem. Nor did we soon fall asleep, for we were thinking while lying in our beds, of the Christ Child who brought so much joy to the world.

WELCOME - - - - - - - - - - - - WELCOME

Since the 48th National Convention, TWO JUNIOR K OF L COUNCILS WERE ORGANIZED! We are happy to welcome the Junior Knights of Council 79, Detroit, Michigan, who were organized officially on October 4th. Our sincere gratitude to the Pastor of Divine Providence Church, Reverend M. Kundrat; Council 79 President, Frank Zager; Jos. Kazlauskas and others who were most instrumental in organizing the Junior Knights of Council 79.

A most sincere welcome to Junior Knights of Council 119, Maspeth, N.Y. who held their organizational meeting in October. We are most most grateful to the Rt. Rev. Monsignor J. Balkunas, Pastor of Transfiguration Parish; Rev. Frank Bulovas, Spiritual Director; and Miss Helen Yocis for their interest, cooperation and dedication in organizing Jr.Council 110.

To the Junior Knights of both councils, we express the hope that you will be members of the Knights of Lithuania Organization for many years!

Helen Shields

JUNIOR activities

Jr. C-79, Detroit, Mich.

Susan Tollus

Sunday, September 17th, the Junior Council met at Kensington Metropolitan Park. Present were: John Dargis, Jerry Kazlauskas, Bill Lambrose, Lucille Tocalis, Susan Tollus, Ralph Valatka and Susan Waskiewicz.

We took a two-mile hike on the nature trail, then drove to a spacious picnic area. There we ate lunch and played games. Then followed the first meeting of Junior Council 79. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Jr. C-110, Maspeth, N.Y.

Members of Jr. Council 110 send a cheerie "Hello" to all. The Junior Council has been organized through the diligent effort of the Regulars" most active member, Miss Helen Yocis.

The first meeting was attended by members whose names were the same as those of members a score of years ago; the Wezwicks', the Yocis', the Kulis' (Augustinas), the Thomas'.

The following were elected as officers: President - Charles Wez-wick; Vice-President - Christine Kulis; Secretary - Margaret Kulis; Asst. Secretary - Anne Wezwick; Treasurer - Irene Thomas; Sgt. at-Arms - Charles Kulis.

Miss Yocis has many interesting programs planned for us, such as: learning the Lithuanian language; having group outings with other councils and many other social functions of which I will report on from time to time.



Jr. C-52, Elizabeth, N.J.

Our Junior Council consists of three groups - the high school, 8th grade and 7th grade. Elections were held by all three groups in October and the following were elected to serve as officers during the coming year+High School Group: President - Anne Gwaldis; Vice-President - Barbara Drescheer; Secretary - Lorraine Kavaliauskas; Treasurer - Jeanette Gwaldis.

8th Grade: President - Alexander Bosch; Vice-President - Susan Savonis; Secretary - Maryann Degutis; Treasurer - Marian Przekopowski.

7th Grade: President - Linda Kronis; Vice-President - Madeline Nemetz; Secretary - Clayre Bialy; Treasurer - Louis Mikolajczyk.

We thank the officers of last year for their dedication, and wish the newly-elected ones a most successful year! Jr. C-3, Philadelphia, Pa.

At our September meeting, we voted on a number of spiritual, cultural and social activities that will be held between now and Christmas.

The first social event to get underway was a Ping Pong Tournament and Pinochle Tournament that began on October 14th. Eight boys are competing in the Pinochle Tournament and thirteen are trying to win in the Ping Pong Tournament. We wish all of them luck—and are anxiously awaiting to see who will be the winners.

Jr. C-26, Worcester, Mass. Betty

A Halloween party was held on November 4th. Between Mr. Bones' stories, dunking for apples, donut eating and dancing, the Juniors had a fabulous time in their odd array of costumes. Our sincerest thanks go to the Regular K of L'ers who chaperoned us.

Our Jr. K of L Folk Dance group has performed twice for audiences in Worcester and Hudson, Mass. They performed so well, that they were requested to give several encores. We're very proud of them, and wish them much luck in the future!

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Junior Council 26, Worcester, Mass. presents it's member of the month - RONALD WALINSKY.

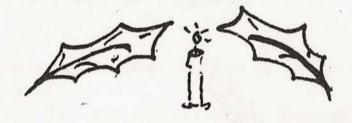
Ronald's happy (?) grammar school days were spent at St. Casimir's. His education continues at St. John's Prep, where he is in his sophomore year.

Aside from his studies, Ronnie is very active in the Junior K of L and the C.Y.C. He is a member of the Jr. K of L Bowling League and is Spiritual Chairman of the C.Y.C.

As for his vital statistics, Ronnie stands approximately 5'11", blonde, brown-eyed, with a fabulous personality. Fun-loving Ron is always ready to lend a helping hand wherever he is needed.

Fun to be with and well-liked is Ron - our personality of the month.

by Betty - C-26



ATTENTION ALL JUNIOR COUNCILS!

Has your council sent in any council news, articles, pictures, jokes, poems to appear in the Junior Page? If not, see that your council is represented in the next issue. This Junior Page is being printed for your pleasure and the only way that you will find it interesting is if you have someone contribute from your council. All material is to be sent to: Miss Helen Shields, 217 Wharton St., Phila. 47, Pa. The deadline is the 20th of the month -2 months preceding publication. Non-Jr. K of L members receiving the Junior Page are also invited to write. Let's hear from you!

LITHUANIAN CORNER

How are you coming along in learning the Lithuanian phrases? Hope you gave it a try and learned at least a few of them, if not all. Have you tried using them at home or with your K of L friends? You are really missing out on getting acquainted with your grandparents' language if you are not taking advantage of this opportunity to learn these simple phrases. Here are a few more of them - let's see how well you can learn these.

Kiek laiko? What time is it?
Oras blogas The weather is bad.
Prašau paskubėti Please hurry.
Ateikit čia
Čia jis ateina Here he comes.
Ten jis eina There he goes.
Kodėl ne? Why not?
Ko norite? What do you want?
Ką sakėte? What did you say?
Ne taip greit Not so fast.



Christmas in a Lithuanian Village

SNOW FALL

Helen Megrail, Jr. C-3, Phila, Pa.

Dancing in the winter twilight
The frolicking snowflakes silently fall
To form a blanket on the earth below
Covering each hill and valley
Gently laying on every tree and bough!

THE CHARGE BUTCHE



Kai Ķristus gimē mažame Betliejaus miestelyje, iš Rytų šalies atvyko Išminčiai, nešini dovanas: auksą, smilkalą ir mirą.

Maži piemenēliai tai matydami verkē, nes jie neturējo ko padovanoti Kūdikēliui Jēzui.

Kai jų ašaros nukrito žemēn, išdygo gēlēs. Piemenēliai jas nuskynē ir skubēdami nešē Betliejaus Kūdikiui.

Pagarbiai jie atsiklaupē prie prakartēlēs taip, kad Kūdikēlis Jēzus galētų matyti gēleles. Ir kai jo mažytēs rankutēs palietē žiedus, staiga gēlēs pavirto gražiausiomis rožēmis.

Ir taip tos gēlēs kasmet pražysta tik Kalēdų laikotarpyje, kuriomis amerikiečiai puošia bažnyčios altorius. Jos ir vadinamos Kalēdų gēlēmis.

de this tim this this this tim this this this this this this

A CONTEST - FOR JUNIOR K OF L MEMBERS ONLY!

All Junior K of L members are invited to participate in an Essay Contest. Just write a one-page (or longer) article entitled, "ST. CASIMIR, OUR PATRON." Mail to Miss Helen Shields, 217 Wharton St., Philadelphia 47, Pa., not later than January 20th.

Essays will be judged and prizes will be awarded to three winners selected.

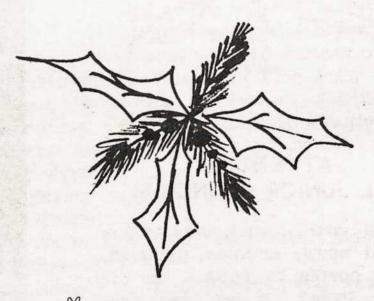
Winning articles will be published in the March issue of the VYTIS Junior Page.

We would like to receive as many entries as possible, so we hope that a great number of you will take time out to enter this contest.

THE JUNIORS' CODE

Irene Thomas, Jr. C-110, Maspeth, N.Y.

- 1. Never hitchhike, never accept rides from persons you do not know.
- 2. Never go with strangers who askyou for directions.
- 3. Never take money, candy or gifts of any kind from strangers.
- 4. Never go inside of another person's home without first telling your parents.
- 5. Never play alone in alleys, woods or deserted buildings.
- 6. Never agree to work for strangers without the approval of your parents.
- 7. Never wait around washrooms in school, theatres or other public places.
- 8. Never let strangers touch you, if so, tell your parents immediately.
- 9. Use the buddy system, take along a pal or playmate when you go to school activities, the movies or hikes.
- 10. Never tarry on the way when you start for school, home or some other place, move along swiftly. If you are going to be delayed, telephone.
- 11. When answering the phone, never reveal that you are home alone.
- 12. Never open the door to strangers when you are alone.



Dittle King, so sweet to see,
Bless all of those who come to Thee;
Prince of Peace and Hope of all,
Bless the world, on Thee we call.

May Your love and grace today
Be with all for whom we pray;
Bless this greeting, Jesus dear;
Happy Christmas, Bright New Year.

Catholic Action was the main topic reviewed, discussed and planned by delegates at the 35th Congress of the American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation.

Delegates, representing Lithuanian Catholic organizations, parishes and chapters of the Federation, gathered from various parts of the country to attend the Congress which was held at the Hotel Leland in Detroit, Michigan, October 21-22.

Among the organizations represented were: Ateitininkai-Sendraugiai, Studentai and Moksleiviai Moterų Sąjunga, Lithuanian R.C. Alliance, Lithuanian R.C. Priests League, Catholic War Vets, editors of Lithuanian Catholic newspapers and publications, and the Knights of Lithuania.

Numerous greetings were received from Lithuanian convents, Monsignori, pastors and other accept the burdens in the future. A few of the delegates cited the Knights of Lithuania as an example because of what we are striving to accomplish, not only in our regular councils, but of our efforts to organize, develop and maintain junior councils as well.

The desire of having closer associations with all American Lithuanian Catholic organizations was stressed.

Delegates were urged to use all means possible to give Catholicism its proper place in carrying out the purposes and ideals of their respective organizations.

It was emphasized that the spirit of Lithuanianism will be retained as long as we concentrate our activities around our Lithuanian parishes.

AMERICAN LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION CONGRESS

clergy, national officers of numerous organizations etc.

The National Officers of the A.L.R.C. Federation reported on their efforts to unite, foster and strengthen Catholic Action amongst all Lithuanian Catholics in the United States. Presidents of national organizations also presented reports of their particular organization's programs, activities and accomplishments.

It is a pleasure to mention that the report rendered by our Supreme Council President, Robert Boris, was one of the most warmly acknowledged by the delegates. It enumerated the endeavors of the Knights of Lithuania to further a deeper understanding and more zealous practice of the Catholic faith among its members; to educate members in good American citizenship; to preserve our Lithuanian heritage, culture, customs, traditions; as well as our efforts to aid the suffering Church of Lithuania and the people of Lithuania.

One of the more interesting discussions concerned the importance and necessity of organizing and guiding our American Lithuanian youth. It was brought out that the accomplishments of Catholic Lithuanians of the past will only receive proper recognition if we cultivate leaders who will

Therefore, we as Catholic Lithuanians and members of Catholic Action organizations must leap at this chance to develop and maintain a strong affiliation with our Lithuanian parishes; because it will be through this close affiliation that we will be able to spread Catholic Action amongst our own people more effectively.

A banquet was held on the last evening of the Congress to pay tribute to the American Lithuanian R. C. Alliance which is celebrating its DIAMOND JUBILEE this year. The A.L.R.C. Alliance is the oldest and perhaps the strongest (financially and in membership), of all the American Lithuanian organizations.

The President of the Alliance, Mr. Leonard Simutis, in his address at the banquet, expressed the hope that organizations much younger than the Knights of Lithuania, would be as strong in their determination and dedication to work for the cause of God and Country fifty years hence, as the Knights of Lithuania are at present in preparing for their 50th Jubilee. Mr. Simutis referred to the Knights of Lithuania a number of times during his address.

To sum up briefly, that evening the Knights of Lithuania received the TRIBUTE OF TRIBUTES. If you were a member of the K of L, you were proud you were, if not, you really wished you were!

BETHHLEM 11961 1EM

By Fr. Paul T. Hoban, O.Carm. Director - Little Flower National Shrine, Chicago, Ill.



NATIVITY STAR: A 14-pointed silver star marks the place of Christ's birth in the Grotto of the Nativity at Bethlehem, Jordan. The star was presented to the church by the Ottoman Sultan in 1852.

Photo Arab Information Center

Recently I experienced a thrilling privilege, one to which I aspired all my life, of visiting the hallowed site on which Our Saviour was born.

The Incarnation took place in a climate closely allied to Arizona or Florida. Palestine is a semitropical land of sand and desert.

Strangely, I had always thought that Bethlehem was situated a long distance from the Holy City of Jerusalem. As a matter of fact, the entire journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem was only 70 miles, although they were walking for three days. It is only 5 miles to the south.

I was prepared for a whole day's trip from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. My guide and I were in the auto only 20 minutes when suddenly he applied the brakes and said, "Over to the left is the field where shepherds were watching their flocks when they heard the Angels' song on the night of Our Lord's Birth."

The terrain slopes gently from the highway. About two city blocks distant in rough, open country is a small chapel called "The Shepherds Watch." No evergreen trees, no holly, no poinsetta plants. No trees at all. The area south of Jerusalem is third-class soil, dusty and barren, on which little grows. The countryside is suitable only for grazing sheep.

A mile further down the twolane highway from Shephard's Watch is modern Bethlehem. It is a city of 8000 people, mostly Christian Arabs, who in largest proportion belong to the Greek or Russian Orthodox Church.

The immediate aim of every pilgrim in Bethlehem is a rectangular building, about 4 floors high, of Romanesque-Byzantine construction located on the outskirts of town. This Basilica was erected in the 4th Century by the Emperor Constantine. In the Basilica my guide and I walked

through the long, dark nave to a staircase at the left of the altar.

At the bottom of the stairs under the Basilica is a corridor 20 feet long and 5 feet wide. It leads to a circular area about 15 feet in diameter. No more than 20 people can crowd into the space. This is the actual Cave in which Christ was born. Two small altars, inset in the walls, face each other. The one on the right is erected over the place of Jesus's Birth. The other, over the Manger in which Mary had laid the God-Man immediately after the Virgin Birth.

One cannot kneel on that hallowed site without being overwhelmed with emotion. Crowds of pilgrims file through, pausing long enough to sing hymns in their native language.

The universal disappointment which Catholics experience the startling news that custody of the Hallowed Cave in which Christ was born is not exclusively Catholic. Charge of the Manger is divided equally among the Greek Orthodox Church, the Russian Orthodox, the Coptic Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Church. Each Church is allowed only certain hours during which it can hold services. Unfortunately, the altar over the Actual Birth Place belongs to the Orthodox Churches. No Roman Catholic Priest can offer Mass here.

Although Christ is the Prince of Peace, bitter feeling and rivalry prevail among the Churches which worship in the Cave. On Christmas 1960, The Franciscan Fathers who represent the Roman Catholic Church in Bethlehem were attacked verbally, screamed at and were reported to the Government of Jordan for supposedly overstaying their allotted time for Midnight Mass.

Nevertheless, the privilege of praying in that Grotto is an inexpressible joy for loyal sons and daughters of the Catholic Church whose Redemption began on that immortal site. But, then, Christ is the Author of all True Happiness. The President's United Nations address was hailed as an offer of peace in a mailed fist. The National Commander of the American Legion, Charles L. Bacon, praised Kennedy on his stand for a strong United Nations. Then others cried "appeasement."

While the Berlin settlement is of great importance, we are concerned with the problem of self-determination of nations. Kennedy pointed out that self-determination has not yet reached the Communist Empire where a large population lives under governments installed by foreign troops, without free debate, free elections, free press or trade unions. He stated that we should debate colonialism in full, to apply the principle of free plebiscites in every part of the globe.

However, the President spoke in general terms, failing to mention countries or population figures of the enslaved. Next day, Andrei Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister, replied to Kennedy and did just that, in mentioning the colonies of the West.

Gromyko conveniently did not include the Soviet enslaved colonials in his reply. He forgot to mention the Soviet Union's colonial empire of over 100 million souls in Albania, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Shortly before the U.N. reconvened, the American Legion held its 43rd National Convention in Denver, where they advocated a strong stand against Communism that we become more aggressive. Their prayers must have been answered. When Lord Home, Britain's Foreign Secretary, addressed the U.N. on September 27, 1961, he unleashed a barrage at the Soviet Union. He censured them for making preparations for atomic bomb testing while talking about a ban. Home added that the could not survive such world "double dealing." He asked whether there were two codes of behavior, one for the Western de-

THE COLONIAL NATIONS OF EUROPE

Anthony Yuknis

mocracies, another for the bully who deals in fear.

Home asked if the Soviet's demand for self-determination for colonials in Africa and Asia applied only to them, or also to West and East Germany and two Berlins. He concluded by stating that peace eludes the world because one third of the governments of the world are dedicated to the destruction of the other two-thirds. A long U.N. delegates' ovation followed.

The Hungarian question was placed on the Agenda of the United Nations Assembly on September 25th by a vote of 52 to 15. The Communists voted against it and there were 30 abstentations.

The nationals of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have formed Committees to support Senate Congressional Resolution 12 and House Resolution 153, to bring the Baltic states question before the U.N. Assembly.

Since the Soviet Union annexed the Baltic states by threats, fraud and the force of arms, they have no right to suppress these once sovereign states. The United States and other countries have continued to recognize the diplomatic and consular representatives of the old legal governments of these states.

These Resolutions request the President to place the Baltic States question before the U.N. They demand that the Soviet Union withdraw its armed forces from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, to repatriate all of their citizens from

prisons, slave camps and remote Siberia, to request the United Nations to conduct free elections.

When the new Congress convenes in January, this pending action will be passed or rejected. Every American citizen has the privilege of expressing his opinion to his congressman, to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, or the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Abraham Lincoln said that people who do not believe in liberty for others, do not deserve to have it themselves.

SINCEREST APOLOGIES...

CONSULATE OF LITHUANIA, Los Angeles, California, whose name was inadvertently omitted from the list of Convention Greeters, in the October issue of VYTIS. Dr. Bielskis' warm and much-appreciated greeting was received and extended to the convened delegates in Cleveland, but was, in error, left off the printed list of greeters. Nuoširdžiai atsiprašom!

MANY THANKS. . .

for her excellent work in helping with the editing of the November VYTIS while your Editor was "away from it all" enjoying a vacation in the Caribbean.

Editor

VEIKIA



COUNCIL

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

District News Highlights by Bernice Kavadaras, Pres.

The annual fall convention of the New England District was held in September at St. Peter's Church, South Boston, Mass. with C-17 as host.

Bernice Kavadaras of C-116, Worcester, was elected President. Other new officers are: 1st Vice Pres. Barbara Mazeika, C-116, Worcester; 2nd Vice Pres. John Cervokas, C-27, Norwood; Rec. Sec. Florence Zaleskas, C-17, South Boston; Corres. Sec. Eleanor Anusauskas, C-26, Worcester; Treas. Edward Daniels, C-26, Worcester; Trustees, Al Jaraitis, C-17, South Boston and William Wisnauskas, C-10, Athol; Spiritual Advisor, Rev. John Zuromskis of South Boston; Sports Chrm. Ann R. Miller, C-116, Worcester and Carol Tagman, C-26, Worcester; Cultural Chrm. Jay Pauliukonis, C-26, Worcester; Newly elected members to Ritual Committee, Mary Klimkaitis, C-116, Worcester.

It was decided that the next convention would be held in late April in Worcester with C-116 as host. The district bowling roll-offs began on Sunday, October 29, in Worcester, followed by Sunday, November 26, Cambridge.

Third Degrees were presented to: John Andruski, Charles Lapinskas, Barbara Mazaika, Ann R. Miller and Gertrude Zibinskas.

A Lithuanian folk dance workshop, directed by Bernice Kavadaras, Cultural Chairman, and accompanied by Mrs. Ann Bender, in which over forty members participated, followed the business meeting.



The sudden death of Patricia J. Balkus, Council 103, Providence, R.I., cast a sad shadow over K of L activity in New England. Miss Balkus, although only 19 years of age, nonetheless had captured the respect of her fellow Knights and was active as president of C-103. She also served on the New England District Board of Directors, and was a VYTIS correspondent. Her untimely death will be felt deeply by K of L'ers of her own council and of other councils.

The VYTIS Staff extends its most heartfelt sympathy to Patricia's beloved family and friends. May God grant her eternal happiness and a place of honor among His faithful.

Worcester, Mass. C-26 "Ellie"

Our council has really been on the go these past few months. Most of the activities have been centered on practice for the Third Annual Musical Revue, held on November 17th and 18th. It is at these revues that we all let our hair down and show off our many hidden talents. It is also one of the many times when all the members give all they have for the benefit of the parish.

Our annual clambake was held at the Lithuanian War Vets and turned out to be very successful. Most of the credit should be given to the workers in the kitchen who prepared such a wonderful meal for those attending. Many thanks to Joseph Yurewicz, Bob Puishys, Ed Marculaitis, Bill Grigas and Tony Leketa. Also, the hard-working waitresses, Carol Tagman, Mary Ann Roland and Ellie Anusauskas.

Many members attended a Pilgrimage to The North American Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, New York. It was a perfect fall day and a beautiful rewarding experience. Every member that did attend really benefited by it. The Pilgrimage was led by our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Michael Tamulevicius.

The bowling alleys have really been rockin. So far,

High Single is held by Joe Kondrotas - 135, Helen Gillus -117;

High Triple is held by Joe Kondrotas - 363, Joan Krusas - 301;

High Average is held by Joe Kondrotas - 103, Helen Gillus -91;

The team in first place is -.
Joe's Old Pros.

Our Juniors have really been going strong. They formed a Lithuanian Folk Dance group, which has performed in many places, and have done an excellent job.

They also sponsored the Fourth Annual Junior Rally which was held here in Worcester on November 12th. We congratulate the whole committee on the great job every single one performed to make this the best Junior Rally ever.

Congratulations to Bob and Pauline Puishys on the birth of a baby girl.

C-26 extends its deepest sympathy to C-103 Providence, on the death of their President, Miss Pat Balkus.

We wish everyone a ''HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY JOYOUS NEW YEAR''



South Boston, Mass. - C-17 Nakties Peleda

Council members have been meeting and discussing tentative plans for the "Back to the Sea" 50th Convention and though no formal committees have been formed as yet, the enthuasiasm of the members is overpowering. At our next meeting, the election of the general chairman and other convention committees will be held. A large turnout is expected since we have some very good candidates who are interested in the position. More news about the 50th Convention will be forthcoming.

The spaghetti supper that was held after our meeting was a real success due to the hard work of Alice Zaremba and hostesses, Mary Kraneles. The gaily decorated clubroom, in a Lithuanian-Italian motif, flickering candlelights, and soft strains of mandolin music (via Al Jaritis' tape recorder) produced a captivating charming Old World atmosphere. The idea of an international foodfest is the order of the day. What's next in the way of an Epicurien repast? Anyone for Briochi's?

One of our active members, Joseph Lubinas, was elected to the office of Vice Commander of the Stephen Darius American

Legion Post 317. Good luck during your term.

Loretta Kontrim and Norma Razvad, students at Emmanuel College, were given their caps and gowns by Richard Cardinal Cushing in a formal ceremony. These two gals are really active with their K of Lagduties, school work and activities, and besides all this, they are both working their way through school. They love every minute of it.

That terrific sparkling you might have seen wasn't the Russkies' 50 megaton bomb, it was the diamond that Ray Zibinskas gave Diane Plevock. The date for the nuptials is next October.

A word of well-deserved credit recognition to some of our and members who are working out of town but still support the council the best way they can by buying tickets for council-sponsored activities. They are: Frank Yonika, employed by the Government in Washington, D.C.; Wanda Yelmokas, also employed by the Government and teaching school in Germany; and Kasty and Bertha Sauciunus. Kasty is employed by General Electric and working in Bridgeport, Conn.

Quite a few council members are furthering their education by attending night school. They are: President Jerry Venis, Ed Rudis, Ray Zibinskas, Gussie Uselis, Janet Gideck, Loretta Kontrim (when does she sleep?) and Florence Zaleskas.

A good number of members made the annual mission that was held at St. Peter's Church and was conducted by two Lithuanian Passionist Fathers.

After the concluding session of the mission, a group of 17'ers leaped into their cars and motored to Worcester for the New England District Bowling Rolloff. Even though the scores were depressing, the spirits were high.

Those rumors were true, it's now 1st Lt. Frances A.Daniels and she reports to Alabama and then to Smyrnia, Tenn. Fran, buy yourself some hillbilly records

because they never heard of polkas in that part of the country!

A banquet will be given our Pastor, Reverend Francis Virmauskas, in commemoration of the 45th Anniversary of his ordination. We expect quite a few members at this most honorable event.

Please remember in your prayers the souls of our dear departed friend, Pat Balkus of Providence, and Alice (Laudausky) Fabrazio's father.

A very Merry and Blessed Christmas to all.

Athol-Gardner, Mass. - C-10

C-10, Athol, Knights bid "Farewell" to Fr. Al Voluntis, before his transfer to St. Casimir's Worcester. Farewell Wienie Roast was held at Frank Anoris' summer camp. Fr. Al is pictured in the third row, third from the left.



N. Y. - N. J. DISTRICT

District News

F.V.

The N.Y.-N.J. District meeting was held on Sunday, September 17, at Kasmocius Hall, Great Neck, N.Y. The meeting was called to order by President Larry Janonis. Opening prayer was offered by Rev. Stanley Raila, Former National President and current C-109 President, Al. Wesey, welcomed delegates and guests on behalf of C-109, host council. Minutes of the June conclave were read by

secretary Charles Strolis and were accepted.

Frank Vaskas and Al Janks, delegates to the 48th National Convention, gave their report.

Ann Klem gave both, the Lithuanian Affairs and Cultural Committee reports. She announced taht the latter group is sponsoring an essay contest on Lithuanian Culture. Contest will end of February 1, 1962 and winners of both, Junior and Senior sections, will receive awards at the annual Communion breakfast in March.

It was announced that the N.Y.N.J. District Lithuanian Roman
Catholic Priest League had appointed Reverend Zemeikis of St.
Michael's parish, Bayonne, N.J.,
as District Spiritual Director. Reverend Zemeikis replaces Rev.
Vladas Karalevičius of Elizabeth,
N.J.

We heartily welcome Reverend Zemeikis and extend our good wishes that his endeavors are crowned with success..

We certainly regret losing the services of Reverend Karalevičius and we wish to express our sincere and heartfelg thanks for his many years of service to our district.

The Misses Joan Mazeika and Carolyn Nagin have been added as members to the District Publicity Staff.

The next District meeting will take place in Linden, N.J. with C-113 as hosts.

Also discussed at the session was the 1962 49th Convention, which our District will host.

Meeting closed with a prayer by Reverend Raila and the singing of the K of L Hymn.

Delegates and guests of the five councils represented at the meetiing express sincere appreciation to C-109 for the wonderful hospitality that was extended.

Newark, N.J.- C-29 The Wanderer

After a short recess due to the convention and other doings, we again swing into action and relate the happenings of C-29.

The main event on the program was a dinner-dance on September 30th in the newly renovated St. George's Hall. This event was the first one of its type sponsored by the local Knights and it was a grand success in more ways than one. There were over 250 persons in attendance.

A play by play account of the occasion follows: The festivities opened with the singing of the Star Spangled Banner and the Lithuanian National Anthem by Louis Stukas. Accompanist was Algirdas Kacanauskas. Invocation was offered by Monsignor L. Tulaba, rector of St. Casimir's College, Rome, Italy.

Among the distinguished guests called on to take a bow were: Rt. Rev. Monsignor I. Kelmelis, Pastor of Holy Trinity Church; Rev. Peter Totoraitis, assistant at same parish; District President, Larry Janonis; Supreme Council Vice President; Helen Shields; Jack Stukas, Chairman of both, the Scholarship and Cultural Committees; and Joseph A. Sakevich, former National President.

The success of the event can certainly be accredited to the committee in charge of arrangements for their sincere efforts. Chairman, Jack Remeika and Co-Chairman, Christina Korbet, headed the committee which included President Charles Strolis, Eva Sharan, Julia Strolis and George Basil. A special vote of thanks goes to Mrs. Rose Basil, President of the Lithuanian American Veterans Post Auxiliary for her cooperation and contribution of service. And the credit of the delectable dinner goes to cooks, Mary Balchiunas, Rose Yankauskas and Ann Pocius.

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Elizabeth, N. J. C-52 Nuff Said.

Our official delegates and "social delegates" are back from Cleveland with new friends and new ideas. Here is a HEARTY THANK YOU to the hosts. Now that the convention is but a pleasant memory, more of the same is

promised in Newwark in '62!

Fr. Walter Karelis resume of Monsignor Tulaba's report of conditions in present day Lithuania was really spellbinding. He related the devious methods of the Russian masters in suppressing the Lithuanian Clergy and people. And we complain at times of how rough we have it here!

At this writing, Stan Valatka is visiting in Lithuania. He should have some interesting items to relate. Leo Alexis is on a Mediterranean cruise. Isn't this a small world?

Our deepest sorrow to Bill Senkus on the loss of his mother.

Stan Naiva was the Grand Marshall for our parish contingent in the annual Holy Name parade. A real leader - high hat & all. All of our K of L'ers marched.

Charles Oskutis is enjoying his new job with the Elizabeth water Commissioners. By the way, "Chuckie," would you recommend the Jersey shore as a relaxing and restful place?

Our best wishes and congrats to Mr. & Mrs. Al Balandis on the arrival of baby Joann, weighing in at 7 lbs. 11 ozs. All doing fine!

Fifty best wishes to Mr. & Mrs. John Degutis, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary. Sons, Dan, Dr. Al and Joe are all active 52'ers.

A big welcome to Gerrie Kern, who is on active part of 52 already - enjoyed the convention and looking forward to more.

Junior rally of the N.Y.-N.J. District to be held in Elizabeth in April, 1962.



Philadelphia, Pa. C-3 "Twinkle"

Our meetings will now be held on the first Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. This will surely make it easier for all members to attend in full force.

Our travelling dinner party, Halloween-style, was a success. "Frankenstein," Al Ozalis, along with -"Caveman," Steve Salnaitis, were big hits. Flapper, witches, backward-walking men, old men, Castros, etc. reigned supreme. Our thanks to those members who so graciously invited us to their homes to partake of all the delicious food.

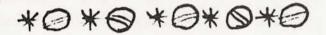
Our congratulations to John Mickunas and Mary Ann Burch on their engagement.

Birthday greetings in November were extended to Lillian Sasnauskas and Helen Shields.

Our sincere sympathy to Terry Mazeika whose father passed away in October.

The gang celebrated Ginny and Steve Salnaitis' first wedding anniversary at that lively polka place, "The White Lantern." Everyone attending had a grand time.

That's all for now folks!



Amsterdam, N.Y. - C-100 Smile & Sparkle

Our October meeting, which ordinarily would have occured on the first Monday of the month, was postponed until October 9. Reason - three K of L'ers belong to the Community Concert series - Father Baltch, Prof. Joseph Olsauskas, and Gene Gobis. October 2nd, the first of the concert series took place together with the Branko Krsmanovich Chorus of Yugoslavia in Amstedam. A magnificent performance was given.

Father Baltch opened the meeting with a prayer. Reading of the minutes followed by our capable secretary, Eleanor Stakauskas. Father Bob informed us that we had a group of fifteen members in our Junior K of L - - all high school students. They plan to hold their meetings one Tuesday evening a month. Sister Mary Girard, a member of the Sisters of Jesus Cricified teaching staff at St. Casimir's School, offered to take charge of this group. Their first endeavor was a Halloween party. We wish to thank Sister Girard for her enthusiasm in organizing such a nice group of Juniors. She

has always been most anxious to see an active Junior K of L council and has done much to keep it alive.

December 17 was chosen as a tentative date for our Christmas party. Sadie Karbus and Ann Beleckas were elected Chairmen. Mary Ann Nikstenas offered to serve on the committee.

Refreshments which were furnished by Don and Mary Ann Nikstenas, were served after the meeting.

Father Baltch invited us to the rectory to listen to the Lithuanian language records which Eleanor Stakauskas and Gene Gobis brought back from the Cleveland convention. They were remarkable. Mary Ann Nikstenas asked to take them home. At our next meeting we'll test Mary Ann to see how much progress she has made! We also heard some excellent singing by the Ciurlionis Ensemble and the Alice Stephens Singers. We wish to thank Father Baltch for his kind invitation and for the most pleasant evening.

News Bits

Anella Keriker, one of our newer members, took the walk up the aisle in November and became the bride of Bob Traskos.

Milda Zemaitis is back at Ann Arbor, Michigan starting her sophomore year at the University of Michigan. Rumor has it that she received two scholarships this year.

Sophie Olbie, who feared water, has decided to take swimming lessons. Good luck, Sophie!

Birthday greetings to Sophie Olbie - December 5, and to Milda Zemaitis - December 6.

Must be that our V.P., Matt Kazlauskas, ''išvažiavo medžioti ir užmiršo mūsų Vyčių susirinkimą spalio 9 dieną.'' Did you ''bag'' anything, Matt?

Matt Orante has been so busy in his store that we no longer get to see him at our gatherings.

All council members wish Mary Ann Nikstenas' mother a speedy recovery.

MID.-CENTRAL DISTRICT

Detroit, Mich. - C-79 Dot & Dash

October 4th marked the official inception of Junior Council 79! And to add spark, a fine turnout of Regulars came to welcome them on their ''Opening Night.'' Fr. Michael Kundrat gave some interesting points of advice to all the juniors. A sincere THANK YOU to Jos. Kazlauskas for his tireless efforts in organizing a Junior Council, and to our K of L parents for their interest in ''Futurism.''

Following the meeting, the Juniors focused their 'radar' eyes and 'yummy' appetites on the many goodies prepared by Mesdames M. Salas, A. Salas and P. Medonis.

Well, a bit of "putting on" really dazzled our Autumn Fantasy Card Party on November 5th, proceeds of which benefitted the annual kiddies Christmas party and Church of Divine Providence catechism class. Chairmen, Rose -Padolski and Gerry Chaps, worked double shifts on prizes. Decorations and table favors were arranged by Sophie Zager and V. Chepelonis. Pat Milius and A. Stanulis managed the kitchen detail very capably. The tickets were efficiently handled by Del Stepan and B. Petroski, Jr. Publicity was taken care of by Jos. Chaps. Others on the committee who gave a helping hand were: A. Dainus, K. Gogelis, J. Salinas, Cassie Bay, John Kolinske, L. Petkus, M. Tene and Ed Martin. But all members were pitchin' in - well, just about!

Our congratulations to ALRK Federation's 35th Congress in Detroit on Oct. 21-22. Mrs. P. Bandza and Jos. Salinas represented C-79. Bernie Vitchus, Jr., gave a superb accordian solo at the Sunday night banquet. Not to be outdone in another realm, which he did very well, was Bill Walls - as coffee-pourer. And Ralph Valatka, Sr. did a terrific job as a toastmaster. Labai Ačiū!

The bowling season for the

79'ers opened Sept. 8th. We are glad to welcome into our midst a group from C-102. Incidentally, the plans for our Midwest Bowling Tournament are going very strong. You'll be hearing more about it in the future.

Ruth Grasha, who never seems to be at home unless she's giving attention to her pom. pups, has returned from the Mid-central Convention safe, sound and 'newly reformed.'' We're sorry to hear that Ruth hated to leave Pittsburgh!

Our monthly Communion Sundays have been slipping. Of course we can understand why, but vacations are over now (or are they?). So let's remember this takes on special significance and we can show good example by giving all our efforts.

Gerry Chaps reports that Chet Nashlon's mother is doing nicely following surgery. Stanley Bernadis and Ann Valatka on the mend after bouts in the hospital. Get well wishes to Rose Padolski's father who is seriously ill. Hope Joe Chap's mom is better. And Estelle Pileckas had a preview of the '62 flu.

A happy holiday season from All of Us to All of You.

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Detroit, Mich. C-102 Peléda

C-102 members who attended the 1961 Convention in Cleveland found it very inspiring and came home with many new ideas to pass on to the members who were not able to attend. They were particularly impressed by the "new look'' of the sessions. The biggest thrill of all comes in the knowledge that we now have three Supreme Council members from C-102. Congratulations to Father Stanievich, the new Supreme Council Spiritual Advisor and to Bob Boris upon his reelection as National President. Also to Bill Juodawlkis who is cochairman of the Sports Committee!

Our monthly meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of the month and the last

MID. - CENTRAL CONVENTION







Supreme Council in action!

District Officers. Seated 1. to r.: M. Chinik, Trustee; J. Aleshunas, 2nd V.P.; R.Grasha, Rec. Sec.; A. Uznis, Trustee. Standing 1.to r.: F. Gudelis, Lith. Affairs; S. Vaitkus, Ritual; A. Rodzers, 1st V.P. Missing: M. Trainy, Pres. M. Lukas, Cultural.

Sunday of the month is K of L Communion Sunday. Let's all try to come to the 9:00 Mass and have a good turnout.

We were well represented at the District Convention in Pittsburgh. Those who made the trip Father Stanievich, Bob Boris, Lee Galinskas, Ann Uznis and Rita Neverouck. Ann was elected a Trustee for the District.

It was nice seeing Helen Shields in town again. This always-on-the-go lady was here as a representative to the American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation Congress.

In the long-time-no-see department are Carl Gobis, Ruth and Mart Wagster, Clem and Evelyn Glainas - we miss you, come up and see us sometime, like the second Wednesday of the month!

Ann Uznis is convalescing at home after a short stay in the hospital. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

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Dayton, Ohio C-96

"El"

Amid the rustle of fallen leaves and howling Autumn winds come the familiar sounds of crashing pins and bowling balls. Every Friday night our members can be found competing for first place in the K of L League and having a "ball" doing so. This season we have six teams in competition. New faces among the bowlers are Anne Sinkwitz, Elaine Lucas and Shirley Leasure. Incidently, did anyone see the amazing split Shirley made at the alleys last week?!

A bewitching Halloween Party was planned for Oct. 28. No tricks but a lot of treats were enjoyed by large and small ghosts and goblins. George Mikalauskas recorded the happy event on movie film and the committee comprised of Elinor Sluzas, Judy Petrokas and Mary Lucas saw to it that the revelers were well fed and happily feted.

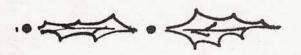
At last report, word has reached this scribe that our two

"Super-Salesladies," Anne Scott and Elinor, have gone over the 100 mark in the annual Christmas card sales. These two eager beavers have not only done a marvelous job with greeting cards but are also taking orders for Christmas candy. So all you members, get your orders in early while the supply lasts.

Through the smoke of burning leaves this reporter detected a few "incidentals":

Tony Noreikas was seen proudly showing off his Marine uniform while home on leave recently. . . Tony and Joanne Zelinskas are bouncing a brand new baby son. . . Kitty and Louie Prasmantas all aglow over the birth of a darling new daughter. . . Mary Ann and Gus Blum also proud parents of another son. . . Frank Ambrose nursing a few limps and bruises after being signed up on the Dayton Triangles Football Team. . . Two "happy wanderers," Frank and Stan, returning from Pittsburgh after attending the Mid-Central District Meeting. . . Rita Ambrose seen lunching with a certain new 'somebody.'. . . Veronica and Ernie Omlor anticipating becoming new grandparents . . . Eileen Pietrzak attending college in Columbus. . . Father Narbutas anxiously waiting to try out his new ice skates.

As the smoke clears from the burning leaves, we find among the embers plans for a few more merry ice skating soirces and poker socials to be held during the frosty nights ahead. So deal me in. I'll be there, how about you?



Cleveland, Ohio - C-25

Convention is all over - no more distinguished guests and visitors - no more dashing around like crazy. Had loads of funthough and we miss all the excitement. The convention committee, C-25, and Seniors want to offer their sincerest appreciation and thanks

MID-CENTRAL CONVENTION





L. to r.: R. Boris, Rev. J. Kara-veckas, addressing Banquet, E. Aleliunas.

Delegates at Banquet

to all those who attended the National Convention and to all the native Clevelanders who were a part of it, or assisted in some way, for all their efforts. Can't hardly say thanks enough to Helen and Bill Jakubs for having their boat at Cedar Point. Mr. & Mrs. Yankauskas are certainly glad to have their daughter settled down somewhat and home again. Now if she'll just get all the K of L Programs and books cleared up in the basement, everything will be back to normal! How about that BB (Bob Boris) getting on television in Cleveland during the convention (through the efforts of Mr. Stempuzis, bless his heart).

The Convention Committee and all the workers were treated to a grand party at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Mihelich. The food and drink were superb. Was good to have "BB" with us again for the party.

We can all thank Father Dze-

goraitis for arranging the beautiful Mass at the Cathedral during the convention and Fathers Angelaitis and Goldikovskis for all their help.

Sincere congratulations to Father Ivanauskas (Ivans) on his appointment as the new Pastor of St. George's.

Mary Ellen Arunski (our Northwest Orient Stewardess) is now living in Alexandria, Virginia and flies out of the Washington, D.C. airport. If anyone is traveling via Northwest, take a look around for Mary Ellen.

Understand Al Samas is doing some flying with Ed Stonas in Ed's new plane.

Joann Shigo took a trip to Washington recently to visit her son who is in the Marine Corps.

Sure gonna miss not getting out on the lake in Gene Kunsitis' boat. Wonder if Bill Smith ever got up on those water skis?! Ursula Yankauskas is taking swimming lessons (silly girl, the summer's over!) but understand she hasn't learned to breathe!

Sure enjoyed having everyone in Cleveland - wish you could come back more often.



ILL. - IND. DISTRICT

Chicago, Ill. - C-36 Blogas

As we once again celebrate the birth of our Lord, may we be reminded as American-Lithuanians that there are those who are less fortunate than we and are unable to partake in the religious ceremonies which rejoice with great enthusiasm, the birthday of our Lord.

On behalf of Rev. Paul Juknevicius, our Spiritual Advisor, and the officers of Council 36, our warmest greetings are extended for a Happy and Holy Christmas and a most prosperous New Year to all of our fellow Knights throughout the United States. Chicago, Ill. - C-112

"Gandonese"

After a summer's rest - it's time to bring you all up-to-date on our Council's activities.

Our sincerest belated best wishes to two Council brides: Corresponding Secy. Barbara Gerches, and Social Chairman, Ann-Marie Paukstis. The stork paid a visit to Willow-West Grove, our annual picnic grounds, and presented Richard and Helene Butchas with a baby boy. Name, Anthony Joseph; weight 7 lbs., 10 oz.; Arrival October 22nd. We understand mother, baby and father are doing fine.

Our final summer activity started out to be a relaxing day at Al Brazis' place in Beverly Shores, Ind., but with swimming, baseball, sunbathing and eating especially the Wainauskas sisters' barbeque beef), it became an activity-filled day. We were promised a visit by a strolling musician, but he must have strolled by when we weren't looking!

Convention Report - a little late but nevertheless very important announcements! This year our Council had a full delegation of 10 at the Convention. Present were: Irene Rakaitis, Estelle Rogers, Monica Kasper, Dolores Wainauskas, Gerry Mack, Wally Gregar, Vyt Lubert, Al Raubickas, Tony Yuknis, Bernice Laurentan and Grace Adduci. Representing the SC and District were Eleanore Laurin and Irene Sankus, respectively. Not only were our members in attendance but they also served on the various committees: Nominating, E. Laurin; Mandate, I.Sankus and G. Mack; Greetings, I.Rakaitis and E. Rogers. Other members actively participated at all the sessions. Our Council is extremely proud of

the following achievements: 1) 3rd place in the Membership Drive and combined with C-36's 1st place, our District came out on top; 2) Irene Sankus and Al Zakarka, by writing at least 100 letters for the Lith. Affairs Committee, became members of the 100-A.Year Club and received awards; 3) Eleanore Laurin and Irene Sankus were elected as Natl. Trustee and Natl. Lith. Affairs Chrm., respectively. Our sincere appreciation to the Cleveland Seniors and C-25 for their wonderful hospitality.

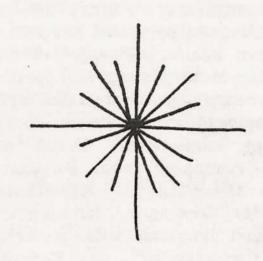
C-112 Golf Champs! Winners of the recent District Golf Tournament were all C-112 members. Top men were Red Cibulskis and Gusty Paicius; top woman, Dolores Wainauskas (she also won at the Natl. Tournament in Cleveland). The champs had better do some winter practicing as they will have many challengers in the early Spring. (Right, Estelle R. and John S?)

To start the fall season in style, our September social was an evening at the Villa Venice Restaurant. We couldn't have asked for a more pleasant evening (excellent cuisine, wonderful dance and a gondola ride thru the beautiful Villa Venice grounds).

Ed Krivickas' home was the scene of our annual Halloween Party and it gave us the opportunity to christen Ed's new home and to meet the adorable "Gigi." The tasty refreshments were provided by the girls; and the music by a strolling accordianist, Dick Majiera. With Monica K, Ruth D and Julie Z all wearing muumus it looked like a Hawaiian night, but with a clown (Al Z), a beatnik (Al D), a Lithuanian cowboy (that is what he called himself), a Good-night Irene and two

pillows (the Wainauskas girls) and host of other costumes, Halloween won. The hit of the evening was "Gigi." Who is this provocative creature? None other than Ed K's little white poodle puppy. Who had the best time of all? Why, Gigi, of course!

Don't forget! The Quarterly Communion Sunday and our annual Christmas Party in December!



May you have ~

The Truth of Christmas which is fope,

The Joy of Christmas which is hope,

The Peart of Christmas which is Love,

And the Peace of Christ forever.

Surreme Council and Vytis Staff