

WYTIŚ



the Knight

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA



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

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Published monthly Oct. through May, bi-monthly June-July and Aug.-Sept. by the Knights of Lithuania. Second class postage paid at Chicago, Ill. Subscription - \$4.00 per year.

All correspondence should reach the editors by the 5th of the month preceding the next issue. Correspondents may use pen names, but all correspondence must bear the signature and address of the writer. The editor assumes no obligation to return any material not solicited.

All material except Council News should be sent to the editor



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LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS TREE

(Sub-Title: 20th Anniversary of "A Lost Art" Revived.)

JOSEPHINE J. DAUZVARDIS

The traditional Christmas tree is of German origin, comparatively recent. The LITHUANIAN Christmas tree is still more recent, and yet, paradoxically, considerably older than the traditional tree. I will explain how a simple, wall-nigh forgotten Lithuanian folk art blossomed out into the now-accepted, exceedingly popular Lithuanian Christmas Tree.

In 1945 the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago called the Consulate (of Lithuania) for assistance in decorating a Christmas tree in typical Lithuanian style for their Christmas Around the World exhibit in which 20 nations participated. It was stressed that the tree must be in Lithuanian style, not an imitation of the so-called American style.

The Consul assigned the task to me. A quest of several months ensued: groping, inquiring, searching, for in the recesses of my memory I recalled bearing or reading about certain tree decorations in Lithuania. The stock answer to my inquiries was: "In modern Lithuania we decorated trees just as you do, in the universal fashion."

I gleaned bits of information in my research. My efforts were crowned with success when, one day, I casually asked Mrs. Rožė Mazelauskas, (an old Chicago resident and K of L member) whether she knew anything about the elusive ornaments. A spark of sudden recollection lit her countenance. "Why... you know, 50 years ago, as a child in Lithuania, I made ornaments of straw, eggshells and paper. Imagine - I had completely forgotten about them." That very evening she began to make the ornaments. But there were frustrations. Rye and wheat straw, which had been used in Lithuania, was not readily available here, due to the mechanization of farms. Seeking substitutes, we found that soda straws (sippers) proved to be satisfactory, and, actually, more durable. In three days' time Mrs. Mazelauskas could not move around in her living room - it was hung and festooned

with straw ornaments.

Another K of L pioneer Dr. Alexander Račkus of Chicago, former curator of the Museum at Kaunas, Lithuania, helped authenticate the ornaments, reproduce other designs, and create the tree-top decoration embodying typical Lithuanian folk designs. In it, the subtle combination of astral bodies and Cross seemed to symbolize the beginning and end of the Saviour's sojourn on this earth. (We utter a sincere "Amžina Atilsi" for both Mrs. Mazelauskas and Dr. Račkus, whom the dear Lord has called unto Himself.)

On the day assigned for decorating the trees, my family trekked into the Museum laden with huge cartons full of ornaments. We labored twelve hours decking the tree, and departed weary and with some apprehension: our tree seemed so simple and unassuming as compared to the others.

The following day, opening day of the exhibit, not only dispelled those notions of ours, but left us stunned with the realization that our tree was a sensation. Crowds clustered about it; newspaper reporters and photographers centered their attention upon it. Major Lohr, President of the Museum, escorted visiting dignitaries to view it. These and similar scenes have been repeated year after year at the Museum.

The Lithuanian Christmas tree has become an institution. It has inspired other nationalities to apply their native art to their trees.

For the first three years the tree decorating was the project of the Daužvardis family and friends. Then the good Sisters of St. Casimir came to our assistance, took over, and made it their project. The Art Department of Maria High School, under the direction of Sister M. Gratia, kept the art alive, and elaborated on it, creating new Lithuanian designs of exquisite beauty.

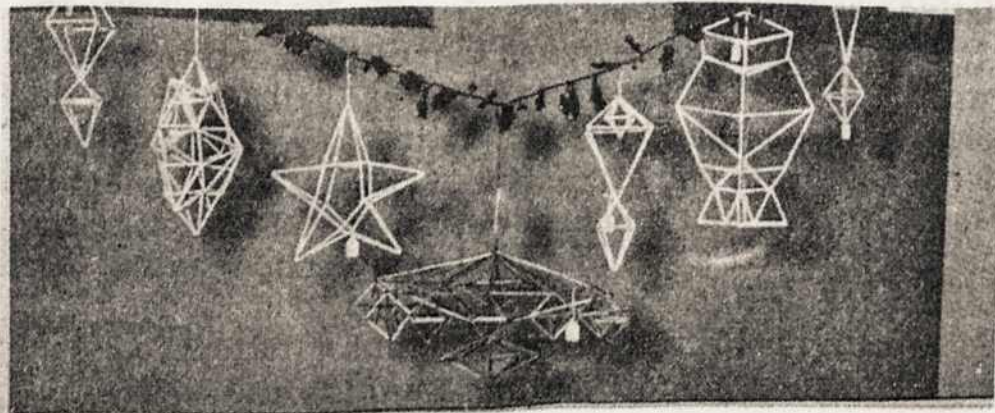
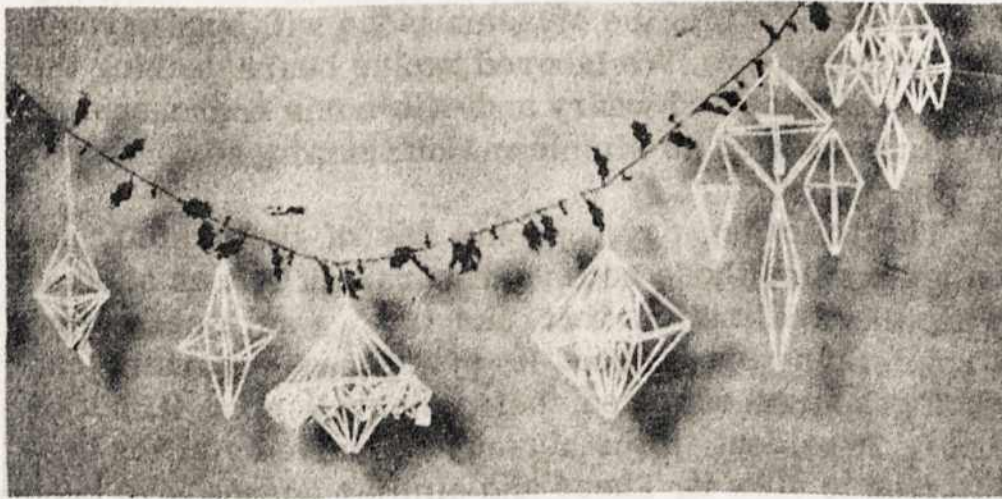
If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, one can say that the Lithuanians have been flattered beyond ex-

pectation. Lithuanian Christmas trees have appeared throughout the length and breadth of this continent, in schools, institutions, places of business, etc. Every year, newspapers and magazines carry pictures and stories of the tree. One year, the public relations department of the Museum subscribed to a clipping service during the Christmas season, but begged off after receiving 500 clippings devoted to the Lithuanian tree and its decorations.

THE ORIGIN OF THE ORNAMENTS is lost in the mists of time. It may have been a simple farm boy or girl of Lithuania who first observed the pleasing effect of the geometric patterns formed by random straws in field or barn, and perpetuated the patterns by stringing them. It may have been a woman with an ardent desire to beautify her barren home, who, using the most easily available materials, created art objects which were the forerunners of the mobiles of modern art.

In due course of time, the paukščiukai, šiaudinukai, sietyneliai, became standard art objects in Lithuanian homes. The word "sietyneliai" offers an interesting clue. It has two definitions: constellation (of stars) and chandelier. The sietynelis of straw and paper might have been a primitive reproduction of the big dipper, or, later, a frank imitation of the ornate chandeliers of the manor houses of Lithuania.

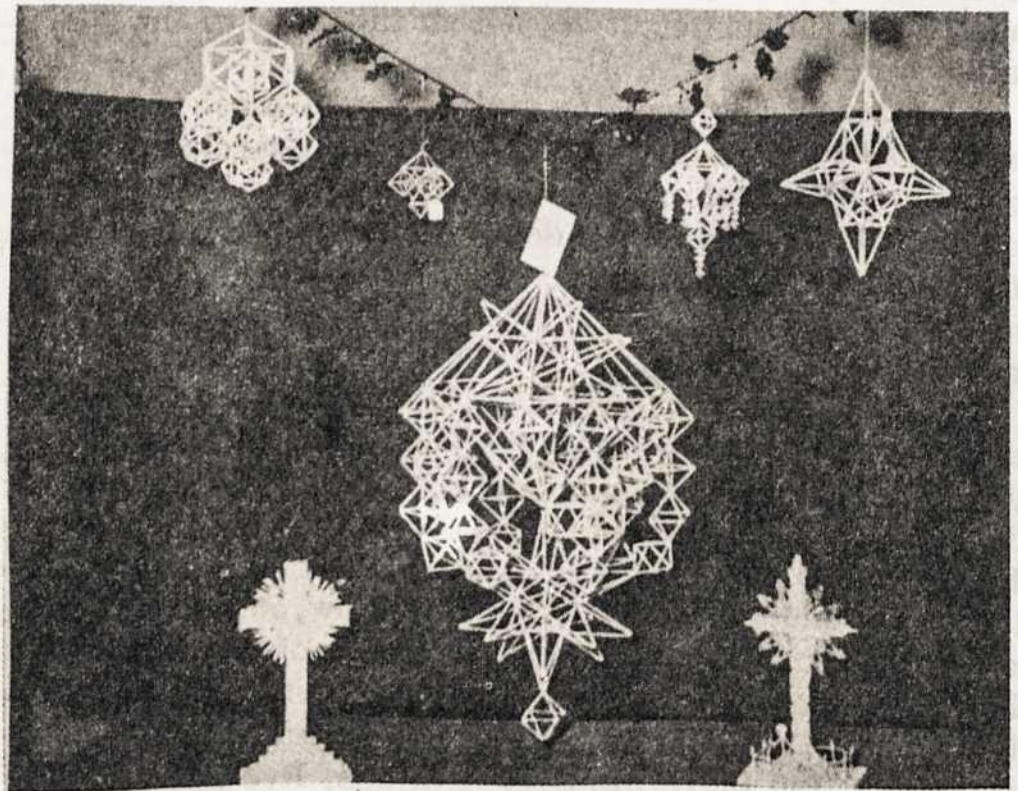
The ornaments were also associated with wedding customs and traditions in some regions of Lithuania. The "bride's tree," clusters of green boughs, set up in the corner of the room where the bridal feast took place, was bedecked with ornaments of the type we now associate with the Christmas tree. After serving its decorative purpose, the bride's tree was either purchased by the groom's family, or auctioned off to the wedding guests, with the proceeds of the sale going to the bridal couple. Occasionally, this same custom was practiced at christening parties, too.



The appeal of the tree lies in its simplicity, in the exemplification of the principle that man, utilizing his God-given talents, can create things of beauty from commonplace materials, such as might have been found in and around the Christ Child's Manger. It decries the commercialism which has enveloped the Christmas season.

Consequences resulting from the Lithuanian Christmas tree are numerous and gratifying. The tree has been accepted as an integral part of Lithuanian folk art. The programs given annually at the Museum during its Christmas Around the World, portraying national Christmas customs and traditions, have helped revive Lithuanian Christmas customs which emphasize the spiritual aspect of Christmas. Christmas songs and carols, sung during those programs, have been translated into English, nearly forgotten Christmas songs were revived, and several new Lithuanian Christmas songs were written by composers, Rev. B. Markaitis, S.J., Dr. L. J. Simutis & Faustas Strolia. The programs have been repeated in schools, on television, radio, etc. by the students of Maria High School (who stage the afternoon programs at the Museum) and by the various choral and dancing groups of Lithuanian Chicago. Visitors to the Museum have become acquainted with Lithuanian folk art and weaving through several exhibits arranged at the Museum during the Christmas season. The national Christmas dinners served at the Museum created a new interest in our traditional foods, indirectly resulting in my "Popular Lithuanian Recipes" which is now in its third printing. Sister M. Gratia, prepared a fascinating book "A New Look at Christmas Decorations."

The greatest rewards have been the stimulation and bringing to life of long-forgotten memories and arts, the realization and awareness that Lithuania and Lithuanians have a cultural heritage meriting admiration and preservation.



Prize winning straw ornaments from last year's Lithuanian Ornament Contest held in Chicago at the Jesuit Center. Contest sponsored by Frank Zapolis, C-36 member.

KALĖDU VILTIS

POV. DIRKIS

Kalėdos yra vilties simbolis. Tačiau bet kokia viltis ir bet kada atrodė mažiau išsipildžiusi, kaista, kuri buvo gimusi Betliejuje tą tyliąją gruodžio naktį, beveik prieš du tūkstančius metų. Gimęs Kristus paskelbė kovą Romėnų imperijos jėgais. Kristus išėjo prieš Cezari! Kristus atėjo į šį pasaulį naują gyvenimo kelią parodyti, bet negriauti.

Kas liko iš Cezario galybės šiandieną? Jo galybė liko tik istorija, jo imperija subyrėjo. Jo įtaka tapo nuliu. Tačiau žodžiai, apie ką Kristus kalbėjo – tie neliečiami idealai, tie vilties žodžiai perviršijo materialinį pasaulį ir su kiekvienu šimtmečiu vis darėsi stipresni. Ir tas sudarė pagrindą vilčiai, kuri yra gimusi tą tyliąją Kalėdų naktį ir kartojasi kiekvieną Kalėdų naktį. Tų Kalėdų metu, ku-

los paverstos bedievybės lizdais, bažnyčios kraujuose, nusikaltimuose. Jei toji maža grupelė, sutikusi gimusi Kristų prakartėje, būtų žiūrėjusi į tą bjaurumą ir neteisingumą, kuris pripildė tų laikų pasaulį, jie būtų turėję desperatiškai šaukti: "Žiūrėkite, koks pasaulis yra mums skirtas." Tačiau jie žiūrėjo tik į miegantį tvartelyje Kristų ir kalbėjo: "Žiūrėkite kas atėjo į pasaulį." Jis yra visokios vilties simbolis.

Šiandieną tas pats chaosas yra ir mūsų Lietuvoje: tauta pavergta, pažeminta, bejėgė pasipriešinti žiauriam okupantui, kuris šėtoniška technika progresyviai naikina visa, kas šventa. Tėvynės idėja paminta, tradicijos pažeistos, šeimos išdraskytos, piliečiai kalinami, deportuojami, mokyk-

met Kristus gimė, pasaulis irgi buvo nyčios išniekintos ir paverstos viešais namais, žmonės terorizuojami teismuose. Tai kruvinos vergijos karalystė. Bet ten dar yra ir didelis heroizmas, kuris rodomas tiesiog mums nesuprantamu būdu, persekiojamųjų. Jie yra tvirtesni už komunistines grandines, jų kulkosvydžius ir tankus, atremdami savo krūtinėmis. Jie galingesni ir už mirtį. Jų vilties simbolis Kristus.

Kiekvienų Kalėdų metu viltis gimsta kaip šviečianti žvaigždė, kuri lyg Dievo pirštas rodo į Betliejų ir ateitį. Tai yra Kalėdų viltis. Ji kartais atrodo tamsi, bet tas tamsumas nėra tiek baidantis, kaip vidujinis. Atėjęs Kristus yra Taikos Dievas, kuris, reikia turėti vilties, greit sulaužis piktos žmonijos ginklus.



In Ancient Bethlehem

Antonia M. Wackell

A gleaming star
A chill midnight
A roofless stall
A small Child's cry
In ancient Bethlehem.

Peacefully they gathered
Shepherds, flocks and kings
Seeking the Wonderful newborn
In a manger heaped with hay
In ancient Bethlehem.

And so each year
The wintry sky
Gives forth its brightest star
Reminding us the birth of Christ
In ancient Bethlehem.



POPULAR
Lithuanian
RECIPES

These recipes are taken from the Third Revised Edition of the popular book compiled by Josephine J. Dauzvardis.

TRADITIONAL FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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 cheesecloth 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 (recipe with Christmas Eve Biscuits).

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

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 (recipe with Christmas Eve Biscuits).

CHRISTMAS EVE BISCUITS—

—PRESKUČIAI. SLIŽIKAI

- 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.

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.

CHRISTMAS BREAD—

—KALĖDŲ PYRAGAS

- 1 yeast cake or
- 1 package dry yeast
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 cup scalded milk
- 1/4 cup cold water
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups white raisins
- 1/4 cup poppy seeds
- 3 cups sifted all-purpose flour

Dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup lukewarm water. Combine butter, sugar, salt, milk, and cold water, and add to this the egg, raisins, poppy seeds, together with dissolved yeast. Add sifted flour and mix well till blended thoroughly. Grease a pan (9x5x3) and pour mixture into it. Cover with clean dish towel and let rise in a warm place (85) for about 1 1/2 hours until light. Bake in a moderate oven over 50-60 minutes. The last 5 minutes of baking, remove from oven, brush with honey that has been warmed slightly, and sprinkle with poppy seeds. Be careful not to let honey get too dark, so watch last 5 minutes.

(Reprinted by the courtesy of Mrs. Dauzvardis.) The complete book can be obtained at Draugas Press, 4545 W. 63rd St., Chicago, Ill., 60629.

GOLDEN PRIESTLY JUBILEE

OF

THE VERY REVEREND MONSIGNOR
MICHAEL JOSEPH URBONAS, LL.D., V.F.

Msgr. Urbonas is the Pastor of St. Joseph's Church in DuBois, Pa., Dean of Clearfield County. He was ordained a priest Dec. 18, 1915 by The Most Rev. John E. Fitzmaurice, Bishop of Erie, Pa. Appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Parish on the same day. Elevated to the title of Very Reverend Monsignor by Pope Pius XII on Nov. 24, 1953 and received a honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from St. Vincent College, Latrobe, Pa. on May 17, 1955.



The Reverend Monsignor
Michael Urbonas

A Christmas Prayer

In response to numerous requests, we are again reprinting the Christmas Prayer that touched the hearts of mankind. This prayer was written by four young exiles of Lithuania in a slave camp in Siberia. The prayer book, from which this prayer was taken, has been translated into many languages. The English and Lithuanian texts follow:

Kalėdų malda

"A Christmas Prayer"

With icy lips, with tearful cries, tormented by despair, we fly to Your straw-cover crib, O Holy Babe! Accept our petitions and prayers, Accept our longing and resolves. Accept the sacrifices of heroes. Accept the tears of our loved ones, their sighs and cares, steeped in sorrow. Preserve us all for a dawning future Great heavenly bliss of those who have died in foreign land from hunger and hardship. Through the merits of Your Holy Mother and of all the saints, have pity on my dear ones and on my whole nation. With a bruised heart, I implore You - cut short the days of our trials. If you wish a sacrifice, take it from me, But give me the courage and fortitude of martyrs. Amen.



"Kalėdų Malda"

Suledėjusiomis lūpomis, ašarotomis akimis, nevilties iškankinti puolame prie Tavo prakartėlės, Šventasis Kūdikėli! Priimki mūsų prašymus, maldas, priimki mūsų ilgesį, pasiryžimus, priimki karžygių aukas, priimki mūsų mylimųjų ašaras, maldas, skausmu persunktus rūpesčius, išlaikyki mus visus gražiai ateičiai. Suteiki dangaus laimę svečioj šaly iš vargo ir bado mirusiems. Dėl Tavo Švenčiausios Motinos ir visų šventųjų nuopelnų, pasigailėki mano mylimųjų ir mūsų tautos. Sutrinta širdimi maldauju, sutrumpink mūsų bandymo dienas. Jei reikia aukos, imki ją iš manęs, tik duoki man kankinių drąsos ir ištvermės.



LEONARDAS ŠIMUTIS

Spalio 9 d. mirė dr. Aleksandras M. Račkus, kurio vardas labai gerai žinomas, nes garbingasis velionis buvo L. Vyčių organizacijos uolus veikėjas, "Vytis" organo pirmasis redaktorius ir per keturiasdešimt metų dienraščio "Draugo" rašytojas.

Bestudijuodamas mediciną Chicago universitetuose tarp 1916 ir 1922 m., kai kuriais atvejais velionis dirbdavo "Draugo" redakcijoje, žinių iš lietuviško veikimo ir gyvenimo skyriuje. Čia jis įsigijo žurnalistinio patyrimo.

Dr. Račkus ir lietuvių katalikų jaunimo organizavimo darbu baruose suvaidino garbingą vaidmenį. 1914-1915 m. jis buvo Lietuvos Vyčių centro valdybos sekretorius. Jis netik sekretoriavo, bet organizavo kuopas, laikė joms paskaitas kūrė sporto ratelius. 1915 m. Chicagoje įvykusiame seime studentas Račkus, vyčių centrinis sekretorius savo raportu bei pranešimu seimui sužavėjo ne tik atstovus, bet ir svečius. Pranešimas buvo nepaprastai išsamus, labai kruopščiai paruoštas, duodęs puikų vaizdą apie organizacijos augimą, jos darbus, rūpesčius ir trūkumus. Todėl nestebėtina, jei tų metų vyčių seimas, nutaręs leisti nuosavą organą - žurnalą, velionį išrinko vieną iš jo redaktorių. Šalia

STAMBIŲ NUOPELŲ VYRUI DR. ALEKSANDRUI RAČKUI MIRUS

jo į nutarto leisti žurnalo (Vyties) redakciją bei administraciją seimas išrinko studentus Kazį Pakštą ir L. Šimutį.

Šiuos žodžius rašantis, kaip vienas tos trijulės narys, labai gerai atsimeina kokiu užsidegimu studentas Račkus ėmėsi žurnalą redaguoti. Jis rašė puikius vedamuosius jaunimo organizavimo ir auklėjimo klausimais, jis pats būdamas dailininkas - mėgėjas, laikraštį ir iliustravo. Jis sugebėjo sutelkti prie žurnalo jaunų bendradarbių. Juos skatindavo rašyti, kurti. Be to, važinėdavo po įvairias lietuvių kolonijas su paskaitomis bei prakalbotis tiek jaunimo, tiek ir kitus mūsų visuomenės reikalus gvildindamas.

Jau tada buvo galima matyti, kad šis vyras savo gyvenime laiko negaišins, bet jį aukos ne vien tik savo profesijai, kurios jis siekė (medicina), bet gilinsis į lietuvių literatūrą, į Lietuvos istoriją, pasirinkdamas tas jos sritis, kurios mažiausiai buvo išstudijuotos. Velionis buvo vienas pirmųjų Amerikos lietuvių filatelistų, pats pirmas numizmatas, visą laiką kruopščiai ir nepailstamai ieškojęs medžiagos senovės Lietuvos pinigams ir jos labai daug surinkęs.

Prieš pat savo mirtį dr. Račkus išleido pirmąjį savo ilgų studijų veikalo 344 puslapių gausiai iliustruotą tomą apie Lietuvos senovės pinigus ir taip pat pilis. Jau buvo surinkęs ir antram, dar svarbesniam tomui medžiagą, bet prieš mirdamas labai gailėjosi, kad jau nebesuspėjo tos medžiagos išleisti į antrąjį knygos tomą.

Viename trumpame rašinyje neįmanoma duoti bent kiek ryškesnis vaizdas apie velionies darbus ir nuopelnus Lietuvai ir lietuvybei. Reikėtų atskirai rašyti apie jį, kaip apie spaudos žmogų, mediką, visuomenininką, mokslininką ir istoriką. Daug spaudoje vietos tektų pašvęsti, kad aprašytų jo didįjį darbą, kokį velionis atliko rinkdamas medžiagą Amerikos lietuvių veiklos ir gyvenimo istorijai. Juk daug kas dar atsimeina, kad lygiai prieš trisdešimt metų, būtent 1935 m., kai Kaune įvyko pirmasis Pasaulio Lietuvių kongresas, dr. Račkus nuvežė į Lietuvą kelis toms įvairiausios medžiagos, kad specialėj suruoštoje parodoje pavaizduotų Amerikos lietuvių veiklą ir jų gyvenimą. Tai buvo vieno kruopštaus žmogaus darbas, kuris nustebino visą Kauną ir visus į kongresą suvažiavusius atstovus.

Po kongreso ši paroda su visais gausingis eksponatais buvo perkelta į Lietuvos muziejų ir, reikia manyti, kad bent dalis tos medžiagos dar yra užsilikusi.

Kai 1940 m. Lietuva buvo bolševikų okupuota, dr. Račkus buvo priverstas grįžti Amerikon. Jis ir vėl pradėjo čia praktikuoti mediciną, rašyti "Draugui" apie sveikatos reikalus, ir vėl pasinėrė į darbą studijuoti Lietuvos numizmatiką, ir naujai rinkti Amerikos lietuvių istorijai medžiagą.

Kažkaip sunku apsiprasti su mintimi, kad jau palaidotas šis stambių nuopelnų, kruopštus vyras, mūsų bendradarbis ir daugelio metų artimas draugas.

MASS RALLY FOR BALTIC FREEDOM IN NEW YORK

Senator Mundt and M. C. Leo Cherne receive Lithuanian Wayside Crosses as remembrances of the Rally. R. Kisieliaus Nuot.



Above, Students from Maryland University and March Coordinator, Pranas Ažuolas. Below, Rally march from Madison Square Garden to the U.N. Building. R. Kisieliaus Nuot.



U.N.

- TARGET OF DEMONSTRATION

Thousands upon thousands of Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians, Americans of Baltic descent, and friends of their cause converged on Dag Hammarskjold Plaza on November 13th. The demonstration across the street from the United Nations building was preceded by a mass rally at New York's Madison Square Garden.

The huge auditorium of the Garden, setting over 18,000, was sold out for the rally at the end of October. Special "Freedom Trains" and "Freedom Excursions" were expected from Chicago, Philadelphia, and 30 other major American cities. Senator Mundt (R, N.D.), Williams (D., N.J.), and U. S. Postmaster General O'Brien were the main speakers.

The November 13th rally and demonstration highlighted a world-wide drive to expose Soviet colonial rule in the Baltic States and to initiate measures leading to restoration of self-government for the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian people. The drive enjoyed the support of leading American, European, and Afro-Asian statesmen, parliamentarians and intellectuals.

Immediate United Nations action to hasten the recovery of Baltic independence was requested in a Resolution, adopted at the rally. An "Appeal to the Conscience of the United Nations," endorsed by over 100 prominent Americans, was published in the New York Times Sunday edition of November 7th.

PRESIDENTS

May I extend a word of greeting to all our members and friends at this Holy Season of the year and wish everyone good health, many joys and a prosperous future. This is a Holy Christmas wish, and also a wish for the future.

Let us say a word about membership. We have been organized many years and certainly want to keep up our organization and wonderful ideals. Many persons have joined us and left us - or perhaps I should say dropped out of our organization. So that in having membership drives and attaining new members, what is our profit if we gain several hundred new members but lose several hundred older members. This is a problem to be looked into. If we kept our membership intact, and gained several hundred new members each year, why shouldn't we have ten thousand members instead of only several thousand members.

Junior members are of course a potential for the future. Senior councils may be the answer to some of our "drop-outs". The question is how do we define a Senior council. This question will be taken up at a future discussion.

Marriages shouldn't mean losing members or one member, rather it should mean gaining a member or even two members.

Our officers and council by-laws should be lenient and flexible so that we hold the members. Officers of councils should not antagonize members. Sharp words at meetings or undiplomatic comments can hurt someone so that they will not want to return to council meetings, especially the new or sensitive members.

Let us remember the immortal words of our late President Kennedy, "Let us not think of what the country can do for us, but what we can do for our country," and apply it to our own organization - the Knights of Lithuania.

Al Wesey
National President



K of L Calendar

Dec. 11

New York - New Jersey District "Open Bowling" Social, Kearny Lanes, Kearny, N. J.

Dec. 19

C-5, Chicago, I-I District Bowling Social and Christmas Party

1966

Feb. 13

C-36, Chicago, Annual Hearts Dance, K of L Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

Feb. 20

Illinois-Indiana District "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet commemorating February 16th, K of L Bldg., Chicago, Ill.
Aug. 25-28

53rd National Convention, C-26, Worcester, Mass.

Sept. 3-5

Our Lady of Šiluva Chapel Blessing and Dedication Ceremonies, Washington D.C.



LINKSMU,
KALĖDU,
LAIMINGU,
NAUJU, METU,

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

SUPREME COUNCIL OFFICERS
AND "VYTIS" STAFF

PRESIDENTS

OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS

As we Knights are preparing for the Christmas Holiday let us not forget our fellow-man who is still behind the Iron Curtain. Let us all do what we can to aid our fellow Lithuanians in their great hour of need.

May the Star of Bethlehem Shine through the Iron Curtain and the Prince of Peace show His loving heart to all men and may the day come when indeed there will be "Peace on earth to men of good will".

Linksmų Kalėdų and Linksmų Naujų Metų visiems.
Alex Kardokas
Chairman Lithuanian Affairs,
New England District

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Unusual but appropriate and useful presents to those who would like to improve their Lithuanian language and heritage are available to K of L members.

Lithuanian language instruction records both the "Speed Course in Lithuanian for Adults" and "Children's Playway to Lithuanian" are available at \$3.00 per set postpaid. Each set consists of two records that can be played at either 33 or 45 RPM, with booklets giving the Lithuanian and English text of the recordings.

A comprehensive reference work, in the English language giving details on publications covering all phases of Lithuanian history, government, arts, economic, language, education, etc., "Lithuania and Lithuanians - A Selected Bibliography" by Dr. Jonas Balys is also available. The price is \$5.00.

Orders for the records and the book should be sent to Frank Gudelis, 129 Rita Street, Dayton 4, Ohio.

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REQUEST

Josephine Zukas informs us that although many Districts and Councils have elected new officers and appointed committee chairmen, she still has NOT received their names and addresses. In order to compile a complete listing for EVERYONE'S convenience, she MUST have the cooperation of each District and Council. Send the names and addresses of YOUR officers to: Josephine Zukas, 9 Charles St., Port Washington, L.I., N. Y.

PAY YOUR 1966 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW

Johanna Jakunas requests that membership dues for 1966 be paid from a January 1st to December 31st basis. Council Financial Secretaries should send dues collected to Miss Jakunas as soon as possible.

If a new member joins a Council, the dues should be as follows:

\$4.00	if member joins from
	January - March
3.00	April - June
2.00	July - September
1.00	October - December

2.00 Non-Subscribing (Not entitled to receive VYTIS. Primarily for second or additional members of family living at one address not wishing to receive extra VYTIS copy.)

6.00 Couple (First year. Subsequent years, couple pays only \$4.00 per year.)

Member record sheets and applications for new members are available without charge from the Financial Secretary.

RULES FOR THE 1965-1966 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Earn TEN points for each new or re-activated member you enroll by JANUARY 31, 1966. However the cards must be post-marked and received by the National Financial Secretary BEFORE February 28, 1966.

Earn SEVEN points for each new or re-activated member you enroll during FEBRUARY, MARCH & APRIL, 1966.

Earn FIVE points for each new or re-activated member you enroll during MAY & JUNE 1966.

Membership totals will be supplied by the S.C. Financial Secretary according to her records as of 9-1-65. The Council awards will be presented for the greatest percentage of increase based on these totals as of 9-1-65.

There will be FIVE AWARDS:

- (1) Individual in a large Council with the most points;
- (2) Individual in a small Council with the most points;
- (3) Council with less than 40 paid-up members;
- (4) Council with 40 or more paid-up members;
- (5) District with the greatest number of new members.

SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Supreme Council, Knights of Lithuania, was held October 2, 1965, at St. George's Hall, 180 New York Avenue, Newark, New Jersey. The meeting opened with prayer at 5 P.M. Al Wesey presided.

Attending the meeting were: Al Wesey, President; Mary Stonis, 1st Vice President; Josephine Zukas, Recording Secretary; Johanna Jakunas, Financial Secretary; Edward Daniels, Ritual; Joseph Boley, Ritual & Honorary Member (N.Y. Seniors); Frank Vaskas, Public Relations; Loretta Stukas, Scholarship; Anne Mitchell, Honorary Member (C-52); John Sprainaitis, Honorary Member (C-61); Kazys Sipaila, President C-29.

Josephine Zukas, Secretary, read minutes of the August 5th and August 8th meetings held in Los Angeles, California. These were accepted as read.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR - A letter was received from Father Edward Abromaitis, President of the Priest's League, informing us that Father A. Valancius has again been appointed our Spiritual Director for the coming year. (Father Valancius was unable to attend our meeting due to illness.)

PRESIDENT - Al Wesley welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He advised that two appointments had to be made. One was for a responsible person to keep up the K of L Archives in Chicago. The other appointment was for an individual who would be able to attend meetings regarding the Youth Congress to be held in Chicago in July, 1966. We understand Vince Samaska attended one of their meetings, and perhaps will continue to be our representative.

1st VICE PRESIDENT - Mary Stonis reported that she gets absolutely no cooperation from Councils in response to letters sent them regarding their Junior Councils. Ed Daniels reported that the Worcester Council would hold their Junior Rally in April, 1966.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT - Eleanore Laurin sent in her report. The 1965-66 Membership Drive is under way as of September 1st. All rules, the same as last year, will be published in the Vytis. One addition was made - All applications for new members must be mailed to the Supreme Council Financial Secretary, with a postmark before the end of the month which follows the end of a particular point drive period. She urged each Supreme Council member to return to his Council and stress the importance of dues collections. We must not lose a single member. She will report later on plans to reorganize another Council in the midwest. If anyone needs help in this regard, she will do all she can to assist.

RECORDING SECRETARY - Josephine Zukas advised she had mailed out minutes of the August 5th and August 8th meetings to all members of the Executive Board. She has also mailed to all Councils a letter prepared by our President asking for support, financial and in attendance, for the Madison Square Garden Rally in N.Y.C. on November 13th. She received from the former Secretary, Eleanor Sakevich, a supply of stationery and the record of 1964-65 Council Officers' addresses. Mrs. Sakevich stated she would forward the remainder of her files to the archives in Chicago.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - Johanna Jankunas advised that new Supreme Council stationery had been ordered and would soon be available. She will forward to each Council's Financial Secretary some Membership Application Cards and Pink Dues Sheets. This will be accompanied with an explanatory letter covering all phases of dues collections. This will also include instructions on

clergy. She suggested that Application Cards for Juniors be different from the regular Membership Cards.

TREASURER - Frank Svelnis sent in his report which was in detail through September 28, 1965.

LEGAL ADVISOR - We have received a very nice letter from Konstant J. Savickus consenting to continue as Legal Advisor for the Knights of Lithuania. He remarks he has "a soft spot for the organization" and will be glad to work with us.

DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S REPORTS:

INDIANA-ILLINOIS DISTRICT - Vincent Samaska. Election of new officers was scheduled for October. Plans are being made for the District's annual February 16th Commemoration "Memories of Lithuania" banquet. All other standing activities continue as usual, - St. Casimir's Day observance, K of L Choir performances, participation in civic expositions, etc.

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT - Ray Medonis. The District participated in the annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, Carey, Ohio, on Sunday, May 2nd. The Annual Bowling Tournament was held in Detroit, Michigan, the weekend of May 14-15-16. In conjunction with this, a District Meeting was held. All councils were represented, and they were honored to have Father Valancius attend as well. Camp Dainava Week (August 15-21) was again sponsored by the District at Manchester, Michigan, under the leadership of Joseph Kazlauskas, 1st Vice President. Attendance was disappointing, and unless there is an increase in the number of campers, this project may have to be discontinued.

NEW YORK- NEW JERSEY DISTRICT - Al Wesley was re-elected District President. District Secretary is one of this year's scholarship winners, Miss Nancy Kober.

A District Bulletin is being mailed to all members in the District four times a year. We have had "open bowling" sessions which have been very successful and which will be continued. Our June meeting was followed by a successful picnic in Bayonne, N.J. which was a profitable one attended by members from all Councils. We're planning now for our March Communion Breakfast and Meeting, at which we will have 3rd Degree ceremonies. All committees are active and in good working order.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT - Rita Pinkus advises that the new District President is Joseph Sakaitis. Secretary is Miss Albina Burdulis. Mr Sakaitis has promised to reactivate many activities in the District.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VYTIS - Editor Irene Sankus reported that the October Golden Jubilee issue will have a gold cover, and to offset the additional cost, an ad was obtained from a K of L

member business man, J.F. Gribauskas (St. Anthony Savings & Loan Ass'n), and Chicago members gave patron donations. Miss Sankus suggests that by obtaining ads, we may be able to get the Vytis on a more self-supporting basis. Letters on this subject will be mailed to the Supreme Council Board and to all Councils. Since we cannot get the services of a Business Manager, each Council must assist in this endeavor.

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS - Father John Jutt has sent out two Bulletins since the National Convention, and a third is on the way. He is spending a lot of time trying to get the Senate to adopt one of the Resolutions, - and, also, at every opportunity publicizing the November 13th Rally at Madison Square Garden to make certain of its success.

RITUAL - Ed Daniels submitted a detailed financial report (made up by Joseph Boley) for year ending July 31, 1965.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Frank Vaskas reports that he is getting some fine K of L publicity in the local New Jersey newspapers. The Lithuanian newspapers have also cooperated very well.

CULTURAL - Joseph Yanulaitis has undertaken to prepare a monthly program for the Council Cultural Committee Chairmen for presentation at their monthly meetings. It is so prepared that it leaves room for improvisation by the Chairman. The first such program was distributed at the National Convention in Los Angeles, and delegates were asked to hand them over to their Cultural Chairmen, who, in turn, were asked to send Joseph their address. He has not had a single reply. Supreme Council members were urged to return to their own Councils and follow through. The second program for October was in the mail September 22nd. Since many councils are in the process of elections, names and addresses of new chairmen should be sent to Mr. Yanulaitis.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OFFICIAL K OF L PIN - The National Convention approved the old type shield pin, and since the supply was low, Frank Gudelis was asked to reorder. He obtained estimates from two companies, - one in Boston for 75c per pin, and one in Mississippi for 54c (quantities of 1,000). Inasmuch as there now seems to be small demand for the pins, we would like to get estimates in quantities of 500. Ed Daniels will get an estimate from Mary Wytonis in Providence and will advise at the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DUES - It was suggested that perhaps dues should be raised from \$4. to \$5. Loretta Stukas suggested that the extra dollar could be divided equally - 50c to the Supreme Council, and 50c to the Council. Most councils would appreciate this extra revenue, and the Supreme Council would benefit as well. Letters will be sent to each District President asking for their opinions. We are reminded that the Supreme Council can recommend, however, the National Convention acts on it.

NEW BUSINESS:

1966 NATIONAL CONVENTION - Ed Daniels reported the dates of the National Convention to be August 25-26-27-28, 1966, to be held at the Holiday Inn, Worcester, Mass. Bill Grigas (Kenburma Road, Worcester, Mass.) is Convention Chairman. Ed Daniels and Vincent Graulis are his two assistants. They will have their own Public Relations people for Lithuanian and English publicity, which will be guided by the Supreme Council. Spiritual Director will be advised of all Convention plans before they are officially publicized.

SUPREME COUNCIL TRAVEL EXPENSE ALLOWANCE - Johanna Jakunas suggested there be an expense allowance for Supreme Council members traveling on K of L business. (This excludes the President who already has been voted a limit of \$300.) Some limit could be set; i.e. \$50. for a member traveling over 300 miles. We realize our Treasury is very low, but possibly we might build it up by various methods, - including ads in the Vytis, etc.

REVISION OF CONSTITUTION - Joseph Boley brought up the fact that some time ago the Supreme Council appointed a committee consisting of Joseph Sakevich, Anthony Mazeika, and Joseph Boley to bring the Constitution up to date. A rewordage was printed up for the Chicago National Convention, in 1964, however, the changes were never finalized. Al Wesey will contact Helen Shields for more details.

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP AMENDMENT REJECTED BY RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE AT NATIONAL CONVENTION - A letter was received from Frank Gudelis in which the Dayton Council voiced their indignation in the handling of this Resolution. They plan to prepare a comprehensive memo covering this matter and circulate it direct to the membership of the various councils. Definite action was to be decided at their District Convention Oct. 23rd. Ed Daniels mentioned that the New England District is also working on a similar resolution to be presented at the next National Convention.

OUR LADY OF SILUVA CHAPEL DEDICATION CEREMONIES - Msgr. John Balkunas wrote our President Al Wesey and requested a Knights of Lithuania delegate on their committee to plan activities for the blessing of Our Lady of Siluva Chapel on September 4th, 1966, and the meeting of the Catholic Congress in Washington, D. C. that same weekend. Joseph Boley was appointed to represent the K of L on this committee. We understand the Dainava Choir will sing the Mass. The K of L Choir will also participate.

The site of our next Supreme Council Meeting will be Chicago, Illinois, and is scheduled for February, 1966. The date has not as yet been decided upon.

The Meeting was closed with prayer at 7 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,
Josephine Zukas,
National Secretary

JUNIOR NEWS

CHICAGO JUNIORS C.M.

The Halloween Card and Bunco Party sponsored on Oct. 24th by the Juniors was not only quite successful monetarily but was also a lot of fun for those relatives, friends and boosters who attended.

Bunco was played amidst halloween decorations (real pumpkin jack-o-lanterns, large tissue roses in Autumn hues, etc.) that the Juniors themselves made.

Prizes galore were raffled off... the two grand prizes going to Mr. Henry Klatt (transistor radio) and Mr. Louis Sadauskas (electric can opener); however, no one went home empty handed - everyone received a prize.

An added feature was the "Pumpkin Surprise" raffle board, put together by Mrs. Sabina Klatt and a very popular attraction.

The Juniors, in halloween costumes, played games, won prizes and ate much, much "trick or treat" candy. A parade of costumes was held to help the judges decide the best costumes and after much deliberation they awarded Francine Klatt (Scarecrow) the most original; Denise Jocius (Miss Kentucky) the funniest; Simoneta Giedraitis ('Lil Injun Squaw) the prettiest.

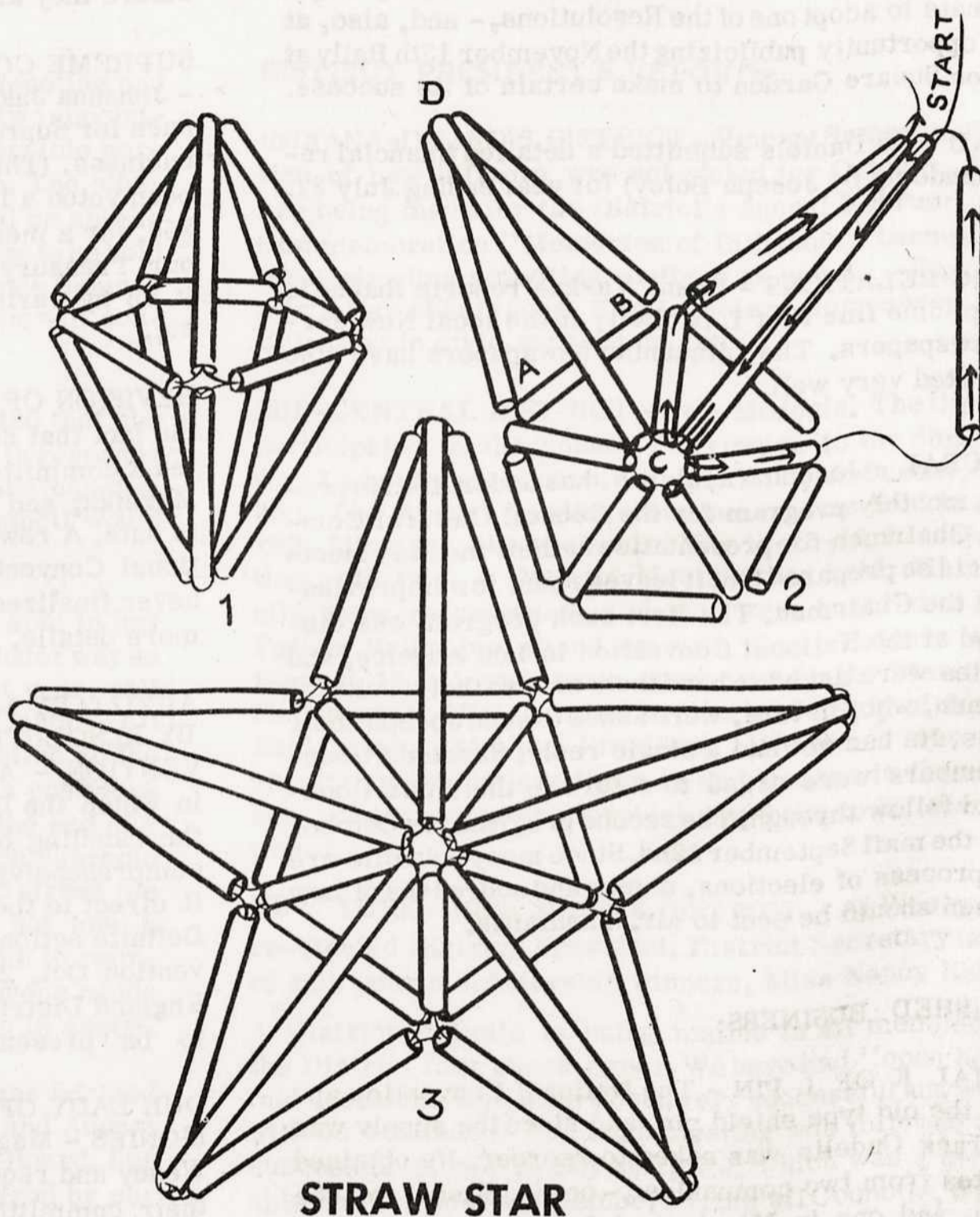
Homemade cakes, (donated by the Juniors' mothers) coffee, and hot chocolate were served to conclude the afternoon's activities.

The Juniors and their counsellors (Camilla Bereckis, Helen Pius and Cis Matul) would like to thank all those who contributed through various donations and moral support to make this affair a success.

Wanted:

News of Junior Council Activities from all active councils needed.

Editor



STRAW STAR

STRAW STAR

1. Use drinking straws to make a small five-sided ornament (Fig. 1). Add one side to the geometric ornament just described.
2. Measure two equal straw lengths to extend from *points A and B* to *point D* (see Fig. 2). Measure two longer straws to reach from *point C* to *point D*. Follow arrows in Figure 2 for attaching straws. Turn star on reverse side and attach remaining long straw.
3. Repeat step 2 four more times until all five points are completed.



The K of L

A Family Affair

This is probably the greatest selling point for the K of L, yet so seldom used.

How many of us go out looking for strangers or acquaintances to join us and don't look right in our own back yard. Brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, in-laws, relatives and neighbors - we're sure of their eligibility - so why not start with them.

There are many things you can tell them about the K of L. There is no doubt that ours is the finest organization for single people. We're active, progressive and we have many aims and ends other than purely social. And, of course, few can beat us from the social standpoint. The education and professional level of our general membership is excellent. Acquaint yourself with some of these facts about your fellow members - talk about them. They can be important factors to some prospects.

Point out to them that if they marry, they do not have to leave and they do not have to leave the rest of the family at home. If they are already married and have families, the K of L is made to order for them. They need not be concerned with what their youngsters are doing. They can enroll the young ones in our Junior councils and help plan their growing up into society; help them grow up with knowledge and a justifiable pride in their enviable ancestry.

And we know that no one ever grows too old for the K of L. For those who feel out of place in a regular council, we have the seniors. Yet how many of us have invited our parents to join. They probably were more active K of L'ers than we, in their younger days, and would like to rejoin - if someone would just bother to ask them and make them feel wanted. If we look around, we could all find several relatives and neighbors whose possibly lonely lives would be brightened by being active or just "belonging".

O jūs mūsų brangūs senjorai galite prisidėti prie šio svarbaus reikalo įrašyti į Vyčius ne tik senesnius į Senjorų Kuopą, bet ir jūsų sūnus, dukras, anūkus ir kitus jaunesnės kartos vaikus. Jums turėtų būti lengva juos įtikinti patiems būnant nariais jau trisdešimt, keturiasdešimt ar daugiau metų. Nė vienas negalime praleisti progos padidinti bendrą organizacijos narių skaičių. Vyčiai yra šeima. Nepašalinkime nė vieno iš šios šeimos!

Yes, the K of L is a FAMILY AFFAIR. Let's ask EVERYONE to join our family.

Eleanore H. Laurin
Membership Vice-President.

NOTE: As of November 1st, Council 26 has 7 new members, Council 79 - 3, Council 112 - 2 and Councils 3, 6 and 113 have 1 each. This is a fine start and we hope this will encourage EVERY council to enter the competition as early as possible.

VYČIAI VEIKIA



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Edited by: Mrs. Theresa Strolia, 11747 S. Lafayette, Chicago, Ill. 60628



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Westfield, Mass. C-30 Marcejona
 Congratulations to our new officers: Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Vincent Puidokas; President - John Tarnauskas; Vice President - John Kucharski; Secretary - Theresa Atkocaitis; Treasurer - Stella Jutkus; Lithuanian Affairs - Benedict Coach; Ritual - Helen Alexik, Kunigunda Coach; Trustees - Benedict Coach, Joseph Sabonis; Cultural - Bernard Minkus; and Vytis Reporter - Marcia Rogers.

President John Tarnauskas was the chairman-in-charge of arrangements for the trip to New York, for those who attended the Protest rally at Madison Square Garden. Many council members represented Westfield.

Everyone is again looking forward to our annual Christmas party. Committee members in charge, Helen Alexik and Ann Kylis, assure us that Wed. Dec. 15th at Shaker Farms Country Club will be a memorable evening.

Our Spiritual Advisor Rev. Vincent Puidokas reminded all members of the final plans which will bring to a close the celebration of the Golden Jubilee Year of St. Casimir's Parish. Thanks to all members who helped in making each function a total success.

Westfield C-30 wishes to all a Joyful Christmas and Happiness in the New Year.

Waterbury, Conn., C-7

James Valaitis was re-elected president at a special election meeting held in October. Other newly-elected officials are as follows: vice-pres. and finc. secy., Nell Diggles; secy., Lillian Paulauskas; treas., John Alanskas; and steward, Peter Kudzma. The Board of Directors

are Walter Pitcavage, Otto Shatas, Joseph Roach, William Gervickas, Edmund and William Shukaitis. Prof. Alexander J. Alexis was also re-elected chairman of the Lith. Cultural Committee. Chaplain is Father Leonard Kvedas.

On Oct. 30, we held an "Old Times Nite", and what a party! Ben Kenausis received a gift for being one of the old-time members. We were very glad that he and his wife could come. The committee included James Valaitis, honorary chairman; Dr. Wm. Shukaitis, chairman; Wally Pitcavage (a very good cook!) co-chairman; and Lillian Paulauskas, Nell Diggles, Mary Undraitis, John Alanskas, Edmund Shukaitis, Peter Kudzman, K. Blinstrubas, and Olga Laureckas. Music was furnished by Bill Conino. Among the guests were the Rev. A. E. Gradek, Rev. Leonard Kvedas, Rev. Raymond Yuskas, Prof. A. Aleksis, and the two candidates for mayor of this city, Fred Polumbo and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bergin.

Congratulations to Peter Kudzma upon his marriage this spring. Best of luck to both. Good luck to Olga Laureckas upon her acceptance by the State Dept. for an overseas position. The question is where. She hopes it's Japan.

Athol-Gardner, Mass., C-10

Vincukas

In September the Rev. Michael Tamulevičius, formerly of Worcester and recently appointed pastor of St. Francis parish, Athol, was feted at a testimonial by some 300 parishioners and friends from Worcester and Gardner. A program with speakers followed the excellent Lithuanian-type meal prepared and served by the women of the parish. We wish Father

Mike many successful years as pastor of St. Francis. It is worthwhile to note that St. Francis parish was Father's first assignment as a newly ordained priest, and he has come back as his first pastorate.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Genaitis of Gardner were pleasantly surprised by some 200 friends and relatives on Nov. 13, the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary. Both are members of the K of L and several other civic and church societies. The couple renewed their marital vows at Sacred Heart Church, where they are parishioners and members of the church choir. The local paper carried an article and picture of them. We all wish Charlie and Blanche many more happy years together. j

Dr. Henry Gailiunas, Lennie Davidson, Clara Zetkowsky, Bill Wisnauskas, and Mr. Mrs. Charles Genaitis attended the N.E.D. Convention held in Cambridge. Doc and Bill were both elected to district offices.

Our council held a cake and food sale in October, and a nice sum for our treasury was realized. As an added attraction coffee and doughnuts were served after the Masses on that Sunday.

A group of our council members attended C-26's Halloween Dance held at the L.A.C.C. Club.

I wish all the readers of the VYTIS a happy and holy Christmas.



N.Y. - N.J. DISTRICT

Kearny, N.J.

F.V.

A meeting of the N.Y.-N.J. District took place here at the Lithuanian Catholic Community Center. The session was called to order by president Al Wesey, and opened with a prayer by Rev. Peter Zemeikis. The minutes of the June meeting, held at Bayonne, were read and accepted. The mandate committee report showed nine councils represented at the session. Frank Vaskas gave the report on the national convention. Joe Boley reported on rituals and urged all councils who have candidates for degrees to submit names as soon as possible. Kazys Strolis gave the report on Lithuanian Affairs, presenting awards to Frank Vaskas and Josephine Zukas for their efforts in this phase of the work. Rev. Peter Zemeikis reported on the picnic held at Bayonne in July, which was most successful. A talk on Lithuanian culture was presented by the Rev. Walter Karalevičius of Elizabeth. There was quite a discussion on the scholarship fund, and many points raised, which will be submitted to the scholarship committee.

The yearly elections took place at this time, and the following will compose the district board for the coming year: president, Alexander Wesey, Great Neck, N.Y.; vice presidents, Mrs. John Nakrosis, Kearney, and Virginia Dutkus, Patterson; trustee, Kazys Sipaila, Newark; secretaries, Nancy Kober and Mrs. Josephine Zukas, both of Great Neck C-109; trea-

surer Dorothy Dutkus, Patterson; rituals, Joseph Boley, Brooklyn and Larry Janonis, New York; Lithuanian affairs, Charles Strolis, Newark and Joseph Sable, Linden; sports, Mildred Grinevich, Kearney; and cultural, Dorothy dutkus.

We wish to commend the staff of the N.Y.-N.J. quarterly bulletin. The number just released before our September gathering was indeed newsworthy. All councils are asked to send material to the editorial staff, and, perhaps, if enough material is received, the bulletin will be sent out more often. So, let us get on the ball, one and all.

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

As already mentioned in the October issue of VYTIS, C-29 commemorated their 50th anniversary on Oct. 2 with a dinner - dance in St. George's Hall. Toastmaster for the occasion was Prof. Jack J. Stukas. The invocation was offered by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Ignatius Kelmelis, pastor of Holy Trinity Church. Chairwoman, Christine Yakavonis, welcomed the guests.

On behalf of the City of Newark, Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio extended greetings and congratulations to the council and wished them the best of success in their future endeavors. Other speakers on the program were Al Wesey, president of the S.C. and N.Y.-N.J. District, and the Rev. Peter Zemeikis, district spiritual advisor. The following clergy were also

present: The Revs. Raymond F. Thompson and Alfred T. Zemeikis, both of Kearney; Rev. Stanley Valiusaitis of Brooklyn; and the Rev. Petras Totoraitis, spiritual director of C-29.

Fourth degree certificates were presented to Jack Stukas and Kazys Sipaila, C-29 president. Benediction was offered by Father Totoraitis, and the program closed with the singing of the K of L Hymn.

On Sun., Oct. 3, there was a High Mass offered for the deceased members of the council. The celebrant was Father Totoraitis, who also delivered the sermon appropriate to the day. The St. Cecelia Choir, under the direction of Clement Bagdonavičius, sang at the Mass.



Mayor Hugh Addonizio of Newark converses with C-29 Pres. Kazys Sipaila during Golden Jubilee Banquet.



Left: Rev. Peter Zemeikis, NY-NJ Dist. Spiritual Advisor, adds cheery note to Banquet. Right: Standing; Jack Stukas, evening's M.C. Seated; Rev. S. Valiusaitis, Christina Yakavonis, Gen'l. Chrmn., Msgr. I. Kelmelis, pastor of Holy Trinity, Newark, Al Wesey, S.C. Pres., Johanna Jakunas, S.C. Fin. Secy., Edward Daniels, S.C. Ritual Comm.

Notes Off the Cuff: We can proudly say that our dinner-dance, commemorating our 50th Anniversary, was one of the best attended events in our area in several years. Our only regret is that we could not accommodate all who wished to take part in this celebration. Greetings via telegram and letter were received from Lithuanian Consul Anicetas Simutis of New York, Governor Richard J. Hughes of New Jersey, and from C-52, Elizabeth. Spotted in the audience were Joe Boley and Joe Sakovich, former national presidents; Jeanne Kurpius of Brooklyn; Gene Gobis of Amsterdam; Mrs. Eleanor Sakovich, former S.C. Rec. Secy.; Johanna Jakunas of Chicago, present S.C. fin. secy.; Josephine Zukas, S.C. rec. secy.; Joseph Kanapka of Waterbury, Conn., who was one of the organizers of C-29 a half century ago; East Ward Councilman, Philip E. Gordon; and many others from Florida, Chicago, Worcester, and Amsterdam.

We doff our chapeaus in the direction of Chairwoman, Christina Yakavonis; co-chairwoman, Mary Stonis; Souvenir Program chairwoman, Loretta Stukas; cultural chairman, Louis Stukas; and all the other members of the committee, who worked so diligently. We must also mention Frank Elesika and Kazys Strolis, who gathered material for the C-29 history, which appeared in the souvenir program book; and the local businessmen, Councils, and other organizations, which contributed to the souvenir book. The event was given publicity in the Newark Evening News, The Elizabeth Daily Journal, The Advocate (official organ of the Newark



Nat'l. Pres. Al Wesley and his wife, Starsy with Rt. Rev. Msgr. Henry J. Reel, Pastor of St. Aloysius, Great Neck, N. Y.

Archdiocese) Draugas, Darbininkas, and Garsas. In closing, the writer and C-29 extend best wishes to all councils and friends of the Knights for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and most Blessed New Year.



ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

A special meeting of the I-I District was held on Wed., Oct. 20th at the K of L Building for the purpose of electing officers. Congratulations to the officers for 1965-1966: President, Eleanore Laurin C-13; 1st Vice President, Cecile Matul C-14; 2nd Vice President, Albert Raubiskis C-112; 3rd Vice President, Alex Budris, Chicago Seniors; District (Recording) Secretary, Gerry Mack C-112; Board (Corresponding) Secretary, Ceceil Kincie C-13; Treasurer, Walter Gregar C-36; Trustees, Kazys Ulevičius C-36 and Camilla Bereckis C-14; Sgts-at-Arms, Edward Pocius C-112, Louis Rogers C-112 and Jerome Jankus C-36.

Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas has again agreed to serve as our District Spiritual Advisor.

The outgoing president of the District, Vincent Samaska of C-36, will serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

At the Board of Directors' meeting held on Nov. 3rd, the new president, Eleanore Laurin, made the following appointments of committee chairmen: Lithuanian Affairs, Vincent Samaska C-36; Cultural, Milda Pakalniškis C-36; Sports, John G. Evans C-112; Publicity - English, Helen Zimmer C-36; Lithuanian, Balys Brazdžionis C-112; Vytis Correspondent, Loretta Macekonis C-5; Public Relations, Estelle Rogers C-112; Scholarship, Irene Sankus C-112. The balance of the committee appointments will be announced at the next meeting.

I-I District Coming Events - Feb. 20th, "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet; a weekend in May, Mid-West Bowling Tournament; banquet and/or dinner - dance commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the K of L Choir in Chicago.

Chicago, Ill. C-112 ARDEE

Now that the elections are over, our newly elected officers and committee chairmen are busily taking up their new duties. We are certainly fortunate to have Al Mockus at the "helm" of our council once again. Al has done a number of good things for us in the past, and it is like "old times" to see him sitting in the President's chair. Assisting him as Vice President is a newcomer, Frank Savickas, who is a very welcome addition to our roster of officers. This is Frank's first assignment in our council and we are sure he too will lead us to bigger and better accomplishments. Frank has already plunged into a number of committees with great enthusiasm, and we hope his "reign" is a pleasant one.

Our Social Chairman, Julie Zakarka, has formulated plans for our social calendar, and let me tell you our socials will be ones to look forward to! Starting the social season, a Halloween party held in the "Zakarka Rathskellar" and directed by Julie was a fun-filled evening with plenty of refreshments, dancing, and games. Among the guests present were: Eleanore (Rajah of Bombay) Laurin, Bernardine (Bunny) Lazitsky, Louis (Red Devil) Rogers, Irene (Harem Gal) Rākaitis, Dolores (Caesar) Wainauskis, Estelle (Frenchey) Rogers, Monica (Gypsy) Kasper, Al (Pierre) and Ruth (Mimi) Dagis. The best boy costume award was presented to Ray Bartkus who was practically a genuine George Washington. Lorraine (Lawrence of Arabia) Wainauskis won the best girl costume award. Hey Lorraine WHY wouldn't you model your prize?

Our "Sudiev Vasara" dance on Sept. 25 was pronounced a huge success and chairman Vladas Paliulionis sincerely thanks all who helped to make it so. Our council donated one-half of the profit proceeds to the I-I District Building Fund.

Congratulations to Mrs. Emilija Pakalniškis who was awarded a beautiful pen and pencil set at our last regular meeting for the outstanding work she has done in Lithuanian publicity for our council. Keep up the good work, Emilija!

Congratulations are also in order for Ann Marie and Leo Juraitis who became the proud parents of another daughter, Donna, born on Sept. 21, 1965, weighing 9 lbs. 8 oz.



Former C-36 Presidents at Anniversary Banquet: (Seated, l. to r.) Sophie Zukas, Adomas Banis, Johanna Jakunas. (Standing, l. to r.) Vyto Gestautis, Albert Kassel, Frank Svelnis (Current Pres.) Vincent Samaska, Jack Jatis.



Honored at C-36's Golden Jubilee Banquet were 50 year members Tekla Norbut and Antanas Petruilis. Eleanore Laurin, I-I Dist Pres. presents an award to Mr. Petruilis and Frank Svelnis, C-36 Pres. presents award to Mrs. Norbut.

Please pay your 1966 dues now! Our newly elected Financial Secretary, Al Dagis, is anxious to have all our council members paid up by the end of this year.

Chicago, Ill., C-36

S.G.

After an extensive vacation we have returned with a little bit of news for you and you.

Congratulations are due to Ma and Pa Maluska, proud parents of a baby girl, christened Jacqueline Ann, on Oct. 17, 1965, at Immaculate Conception Church.

Wedding bells have rung for Sylvia Chuprinskas. Now all her mail will read Mrs. Paul Wade.

C-36's newly elected officers: president, Frank Svelnis, Jr., 1st vice president, Helen Pius; 2nd vice president, Richard Shlaustas, 3rd vice president, Anthony Petruilis; recording secretary, Willy Ulevičius; corresponding secretary, Lillian Kodis; financial secretary, Emily Gestautas; treasurer, Joseph Ulevicius; trustees, Helen Zimmer and Stella Gregor; and sgt. at arms, Napaleonas Sopuskus and Jerome Jankus. Some of these people have served two to four terms in office. This year will bring many problems, also many worthwhile rewards. Good luck to you all.

We were saddened by the news of Mrs. Petruilis straining her back while working at the K of L Hall. Get well. We all miss you, Mrs. Petruilis.

C-36 celebrated their Golden Jubilee on Nov. 21st, at the K of L Hall. It was a gala affair, with a program,

dinner and dancing. Old time members reigned that night.



MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

Vytis

"CO-OPERATION" KEY-WORD AT DISTRICT CONVENTION.

Representatives from eight K of L Councils - three Councils from Detroit, two in Cleveland, and one each in Dayton and Youngstown and Pittsburgh on Sat., Oct. 23, 1965, met in Annual session at the Hotel Roosevelt in Pittsburgh, Pa. Mr. Raymond J. Medonis, District President, presided with the other district officers making up the presidium.

From the various reports given by the District officers, Chairmen of various committees and from all the Councils, it became apparent that the District as a whole and its member-councils enjoyed quite an active year. The annual summer camp week at Camp Dainava, in Michigan, for the children and grandchildren of K of L members, was due to the untiring efforts of our District First Vice-president, Joseph Kazlauskas, a great suc-

cess. What it lacked in numbers attending it more than made up in true and wholesome Lithuanian spirit. In spiritual activity, the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine at Carey, Ohio was a momentous and inspiring occasion. Approximately 100 K of L members from most of the councils attended. In the field of sports, the Annual Mid-West Bowling Tournament, held in Detroit, was very well attended and enjoyed by all attending. Our District was host to the Illinois-Indiana District bowlers. Our District this year increased in council strength to eight with the re-organization of a K of L council in Youngstown, Ohio.

The District awarded a donation of \$25.00 to the Committee to Restore Lithuania's Independence to help defray the expense incurred in staging a gigantic Rally at Madison Square Garden in New York, Nov. 13th, and urged its membership to participate in the rally. It also adopted a resolution expressing deep gratitude to our Lithuanian daily newspaper "Draugas" for its unstinted cooperation in giving our District needed publicity through its columns. The District urges all its members, in gratitude thereof, if not subscribers now, to subscribe to the "Draugas" and to urge all their friends to do so.

The District again will sponsor a Raffle, for the purpose of raising sufficient funds subsidizing the expenses to be incurred in the promotion of the annual K of L Youth Week at Camp Dainava next summer. Next year another pilgrimage to the Shrine at Carey, Ohio will be sponsored and our

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District will journey to Chicago, for the annual Bowling Tournament next Spring.

The following District Officers for the year 1965 - 1966 were elected: District Spiritual Director - it was decided to recommend to the Lithuanian Priests' Association the appointment of the Rev. Father Ivanauskas, pastor of St. George's Church in Cleveland, Ohio; District President - Vincent Ed. Pavis, Youngstown; First Vice President - Joseph Kazlauskas, re-elected, Detroit; Second Vice President - Frank Zager, re-elected, Detroit; Secretary - Mrs. Stella F. Pavis, Youngstown; Treasurer - Michael Petkus, re-elected, from Dayton; Trustees - Miss Julia Aleshunas, re-elected, Jeanette, Pa. and Joseph Karpowic, Detroit; Sgt-at-Arms - Anthony Buknis, Cleveland.

Chairmen: Catholic Action - Stanley Vaitkus, Vandalia, Ohio; Ritual - Frank Gudelis, Dayton; and Lithuanian Affairs - Peter Luiza, Cleveland.

The District expressed a deep and warm gratitude to the members of Council 19 of Pittsburgh, for their wonderful hospitality and graciousness as hosts for the convention. Mrs. Mildred Chinik, their Council President, Miss Julia Aleshunas and all the others rendered herculean service to make this convention the real success it was, are all worthy of the highest commendation. The Get-together, Friday evening, at the hotel, and the Reception Social Gathering, Saturday evening at St. Casimir's parish hall were well attended and enjoyed. The fine entertainment and the refreshments served were really out of this world.

Sunday morning at 10:00 o'clock at St. Casimir's Church the services were really impressive. It was a real thrill to those of us who had not participated before at Holy Mass where the services were purely in the Lithuanian and Latin languages. The "Pulkim Ant Keliu" and the other hymns sung in the Lithuanian language left

a lasting impression on many. The pastor and Council 19's Spiritual Director, the Rev. Father Walter C. Karaveckas, deserves much praise for his zeal in keeping up the good old Lithuanian traditions. He is a real credit to our nationality. After the services it was really beautiful to hear our K of L Hymn sung practically by the whole congregation.

After church services the delegates and guests gathered at Johnny Gargeau's Smorgasboard in Monroeville for a wonderful repast. The food was delicious. After the dinner the Master of Ceremonies presented several speakers. Rev. Father Karaveckas delighted the assembled with some choice anecdotes and some serious thoughts of the day. Raymond J. Medonis, the District's past President, thanked all those who in any way helped to make his term of office a pleasant one and wished the new officers success in all their endeavors. Vincent Ed. Pavis, the District's newly elected President, thanked Mr. Medonis for his kind remarks, the convention delegates for their confidence in him, and as a key-note for the success of all the District's coming activities he asked for whole-hearted cooperation from each and every member in the District in order to assure the success we long for. Only through unity and a united effort can success be won and happiness in the fruits of labor enjoyed by all.

The guest speaker, the Rev. Father Milius, now visiting the States from San Paolo in Brazil, was indeed a wonderful orator, who throughout his entire address kept his audience spellbound so that one could have heard a pin drop. After his introductory remarks wherein he highly complimented our organization its endeavors, he launched into his main topic - the Lithuanian language and its true value as evaluated by renowned scholars throughout the world. He brought out the little known fact that our language is the key to the study of practically

all languages. Lithuanian is even more ancient than the Sanscrit, the latter deriving from the Lithuanian and not vice-versa as it was once generally thought. The rich heritage of our mother language is indeed a rare gift that we Lithuanians possess. We should cultivate and cherish it and indeed be very proud of our wonderful heritage. Father Milius' remarks that day will remain indelibly recorded in the memory of all those that were fortunate to hear him.

The delegates imbued with a burst of new energy and spirit returned to their homes and their Councils firmly resolved to do everything within their power to help their Councils and their District, and to urge their fellow members to do likewise. "CO-OPERATION" is the key-word this year in the K of L Mid-Central District - for bigger and better progress!

Dayton, Ohio, C-96

Eleanor

Our annual Halloween Party was a "spooky" success, with many masqueraders attending. The Juniors were in charge of the prizes and games, and they did a fine job. The cooks outdid themselves. Behind the scenes a lot of work is required at one of these socials, and by attending we show our appreciation to our co-chairmen.

Our religious discussions will resume again at Ann and John Scott's home. We sincerely hope to have good attendance. The first bowling get-together was held on Sunday, Nov. 7. Bill Knoffle and John Scott were co-chairmen. Afterwards there was a songfest and social at the church hall. It was a good afternoon of fun.

During the past year, several future K of L members arrived: a daughter to George and Fritzie Mikalauskas; a son to John and Anita Goldick; and let's not forget the grandparents, Mike and Alice Petkus, and Veronica and Ernest Omlor. Congratulations to all.