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KOVAS-MARCH



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"LINKSMA DIENA"



Rev. C. Pugevičius

"Linksma diena mums nušvito; visi troškom džiaugsmo šito; kėlėsi Kristus, mirtis krito. Alleliuja, alleliuja, alleliuja!"

"The joyous day has dawned on us, a joy we have all been longing for; Christ has risen, death has fallen. Alleluja, alleluja, alleluja!"

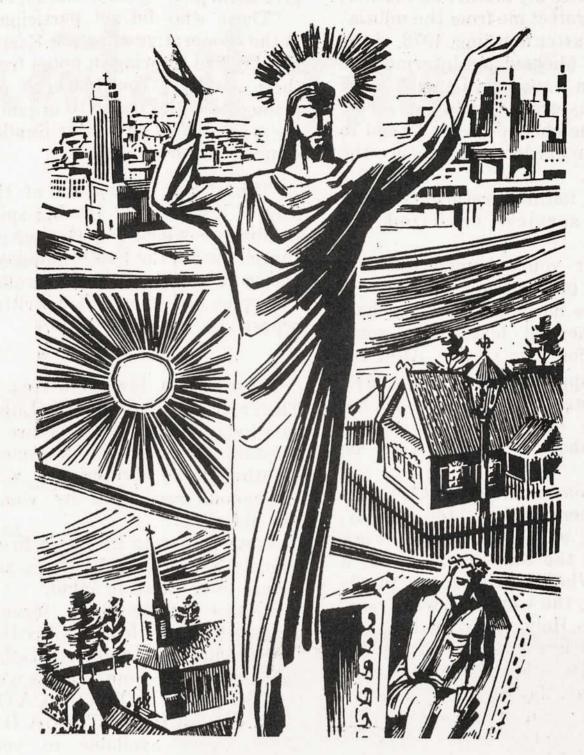
No one who has heard those words in their traditional setting can easily forget the scene they conjure up:

The traditional, long, Lithuanian Easter sunrise procession: three times around the inside of the church with bells ringing and people singing, incense filling the air, and children strewing flowers before the Blessed Sacrament.

It took a strong man to carry that golden monstrance, as it took a strong man to care for the spiritual welfare of those proud, beautiful people who were our parents and grandparents.

As children, we might have looked forward with a mixture of anticipation and trepidation to the long ceremonies. It was part of growing up to participate in that procession.

In many of our parishes, those centuries-old Lithuanian Easter traditions had to make way for even more ancient, and more universal traditions of the Easter Vigil.



In Lithuania today, our Catholic brothers and sisters pay a price far greater than fatigue in order to honor the Risen Christ. Even the children who dare to strew flowers during the procession have to pay the price.

THE CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITHU-ANIA, the underground publication from Lithuania which continues to report the latest violations of human rights in that country, reports in its eighth issue, newly available in English:

"Principal Šerkšnys of the middle school at Baisogala, and 11th-Grade Class Advisor Šidlauskaitė berated and insulted 11th-Graders Regina Jagėlaitė and Vanda Aleksandravičiūtė simply because they had been flower-girls in the Easter procession..."

Chronicle No. 7 reports: At Easter, 1973, some of the pupils were told to observe which pupils went to church. Like detectives, some staff members of the Panevėžys Department of Education came to church at Mižiškiai at Easter..."

And Chronicle No. 6 reports: "KAUNAS. Easter, April 23, 1973, was proclaimed a day of work throughout the schools of Kaunas. The students objected. They offered to work some other day, but not during the Easter holiday. In some schools the work was anticipated, while in others...

"On April 20, at Primary School #2, Mrs. Stanonienė, one of the teachers, threatened the children:

'Don't go to church at Easter, because the militia will be there, and they will arrest you all'. "One girl replied, 'I WILL go to church with my mother and father; they'll protect me from the militia'.

"On Easter morning, 1973, at the Adomas Mickevičius Intermediate School in Kaunas, a Leninist work team was organized in the school yard. The children were forced to dig in the garden and to police the grounds.

"The faithful returning from Easter services criticized the teacher:

'Aren't you ashamed to force children to work on such a day? If you have no respect for our holy days, then at least have some respect for your Lenin - After all, today happens to be his birthday!"

"At Intermediate School #24, not a single student of the Eighth Grade showed up for work on Easter.

"At Komsomol School #1, an announcement that Easter Sunday, April 22, would be a day of work hung on the bulletin board for a week. When teachers and pupils objected, the work day was transferred to Holy Saturday...

"When it was announced at Intermediate School #12 that Easter would be a day of work, pupils of the upper grades said they would not come, so that only students of Grades 5-7 had to participate.

"Teachers of some grades threatened to turn recalcitrants over to government authorities, to give them poor conduct marks, etc.

"Those who did not participate in the cooperative effort on Easter Sunday had to bring in notes from their parents. The teachers explained that the order to organize the work teams on Easter Sunday came from above...

"The Party Committee of the City of Kaunas sent teacher-spies to observe which pupils went to church during the Easter holidays, and to record the priest's sermon. The spies had to submit a written report".

Those are a few vignettes of Easter in Soviet-occupied Lithuania today: a composite picture of constant bureaucratic harassment by atheistic authorities, met with courageous resistance by young and old alike.

As we celebrate Easter in Freedom, let's keep our brothers and sisters over there in mind.

Besides breathing a fervent prayer for our fellow Christian Lithuanians, all Knights of Lithuania ought to become familiar with the CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITHUANIA. Make copies available to your friends, parish priests, and to diocesan authorities such as the Peace and Justice Commission.

May your Easter be a joyous one, filled with God's blessings. May it also be an occasion to renew your efforts on behalf of others.



Copies of the Chronicle can be obtained from:

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Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid 6409 56th Road Maspeth, N.Y. 11378

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Supreme Council Officers

and the "VYTIS" Staff

The repentant THIEF

Antonia M. Wackell

What is my name? Why should you know? I was just a man, unadmired by friend and foe, Destined by a multitude to live a life again To be scorned and berated by men.

Minds like mine make their prisons, Bodies like mine are flailed. Day succeeds day with never a change Until comes the time when we must satisfy Higher authorities for our crimes.

Then came the day my life I was to pay
But Pilate set me free.
In my place was to be nailed instead
A Man called Jesus of Nazareth, they said.
I would not be one of the tortured three.

Why must He be crucified in my place And what were His crimes, I asked: "He preached the word of God", they said, "For such blasphemy He will be crucified".

Who am I? Just Barabbas, former Bandit leader, murderer and thief. The people's choice set me free And crucified Jesus of Nazareth, Who preached the word of God, instead.

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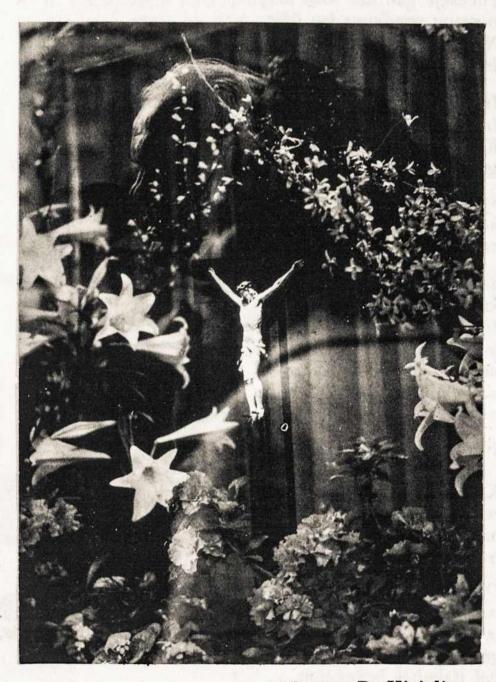
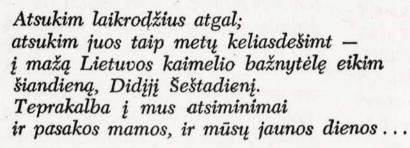


Photo - R. Kisielius

KAI ATSIMINIMAI PRAKALBA

JURGIS GLIAUDA



Tai toks ankstyvas rytas, tai toks ankstus pavasaris tėvynės laukuose. Pavėsyje gali dar rasti ledą, o pievų vandenys jau ūžia. Neramūs jie putojančiais upokšniais skuba ir žengiančio pavasario džiaugsmus pabudina širdy.

Ir pirmos pempės klykia iš karklyno "gyvi", "gyvi". Ir joms praeivis taip linksmai atsako "sveiki gyvi". Kely bažnyčion baltos moteriškių skaros tartum anksti laukuos pražydę baltojo bijūno puokštės.

Štai, ant kalnelio, juodųjų medžių apsupta medinė, nuostabiai kukli, mažytė bažnytėlė.

Sena, sena, dar mūsų protėvių Dievulio garbei pastatyta, kukli mažytė bažnytėlė.
Ji tykiai laukia stebuklingo ryto ir tos didingos valandos, kada prabils varpai, dabar sustingę, skambiais, skardžiais balsais, pritardami procesijos džiaugsmingam Aleliuja.

Šventos ugnies ir švęstojo vandens kiekvienas nori parsinešti. |
Koks didelis ir mielas triūsas — pavasario laukais, pilnais gyvybės ir linksmučio vėjo, namop parnešti ugnį iš bažnyčios ir džiaugtis išdidžiai mamos pagyrimu.

O vakarop, kada karklynuose užmiega pempės, pailsta vėjas dar neartuose laukuos, ir melsvas vakarinis šydas akiračius kalvotus užvynioja, gojelius, pakelės rūpintojėlius, vėl išskubėt bažnyčion...



Bažnyčioje, didingam ramume, lietuviškos bažnyčios glūdumoj toks paslaptingas, ašarom graudžiom apverktas karstas. Karste mūs Išganytojas, žmogaus mirtim ant kryžiaus miręs.

Lietuviškos bažnyčios jaukume jis pašarvotas. Eglėšakių vainikai kvepia. Gėlės.

Ir vaško žvakės blykčioja kaip gelsvos peteliškės.

Jo iškankintas veidas mums byloja apie žiaurią kryžiaus mirtį.

Ant jo kaktos erškėtrožių vainikas. Ir kraujo dėmės, ir mirties šešėliai jo veide lyg juda toj blankioj ir mirgančioj šviesoj vaškinių žvakių.

Giedorkos moterys, vienu balsu, taip graudžiai gieda, kad net širdis iš skausmo plyšta. Ir giesmės tos, iš tų švarių širdžių, kažkur augštai, bažnyčios skliautuose nutyla — ir aidi vėl iš naujo, lug tie ant lubų išmiešticii angelai kartų su lietuvaitėmis

lyg tie, ant lubų išpieštieji angelai kartu su lietuvaitėmis giedotų.

Prie karsto žiaurūs kariai sargybą eina.
Legijonieriai Rymo.
Ant galvų uždėti jiems šalmai.
Ir raudoni apsiaustai lig žemės.
Kardai ir jietys.
Ir vaikai, pamiršę motinų pamokymų žodžius, bažnyčion tik įžengę, negali atitraukt akių nuo tų baisių karių, kurie prie Kristaus karsto budi.
Nes kas gi nenustebtų, lietuviškos bažnyčios glūdumoj tokius rūsčius karius, kardais ir jietimis ginkluotus, pamatyti?

Sena, sena, dar protėvių statyta, lietuviškojo kaimo bažnytėlė kokia didinga ji šiąnakt, kat Kristaus kūnas joj su tokia meile pašaroctas!

Ir vaško žvakių mirganti šviesa, eglėšakių vainikų aromatas, ir giesmininkių graudulingos giesmės, ir išplėstos mažų vaikučių akys, ir melsvas vakaras už bažnytėlės lango tai viskas – viskas į nedalomą ir mistinį, ir skaistų vaizdą ir visame aistringds ir kantrus laukimas, viena nedūžtanti viltis, tikėjimas skaistus ir karštas, kad tuoj, kad tuoj sugrius baisingo pragaro ugniniai vartai ir . . . kris mirtis.

O namuose, bakūžės pastogėlėj, Velyky gardumynai baigiami paruošti. Ir vaišių ir skanėstų vidury o šeimininkės džiaugsmas! pasididžiavimas ir pagarba mamyčių rankoms: velykinių margučių pintinėlė!

Koks grožis! Kokie nuostabūs jų rašto raizginiai! Tarytum ant margučio lukšto sutilpo visas lietuviškojo kaimo grožis smagus darželių margumynas, tyriausiųjų svajonių sapnužėliai. Lelijos skleidžia savo puošny žiedą. Čia pievų ramunėlė šypsosi kukliai. Čia dobilo lapeliai. Čia išdidus jurginas. O čia prabėgusios žiemos, lyg pasakos skeveldros, trapios snaigės . . .

Raštai taip supinti, kad tik stebies, žmogau, iš kur tiek meilės ir iš kur tiek igudimo tuos nuostabius, tuos pasakų margučius taip išpuošti. Margučių pintinėlė, kaip švyturys, visoj trobelėj spindi ir skelbia mums: diena nepaprasta ateina - Velykos!

dwaift want four

Kas nuo bažnyčios kiek toliau gyvena, jau lenkia ausį tas prie Teprakalba į mus atsiminimai, žemės.

Šventoriuj dunda būgnas – kviečia Rezurekcijon skubėti. Kai ausi glaudi prie žemės – žemė lyg gyva – girdi tu būgną, kaip tolimą griaustinį dundant.

O varpai dar tyli. Varpai prabils tik Kristui prisikėlus.

Tyli, tamsi pavasario naktis. Keliai pilni važiuoty ir pėsčiųjų. Bažnyčion skuba visi žmonės šitą naktį.

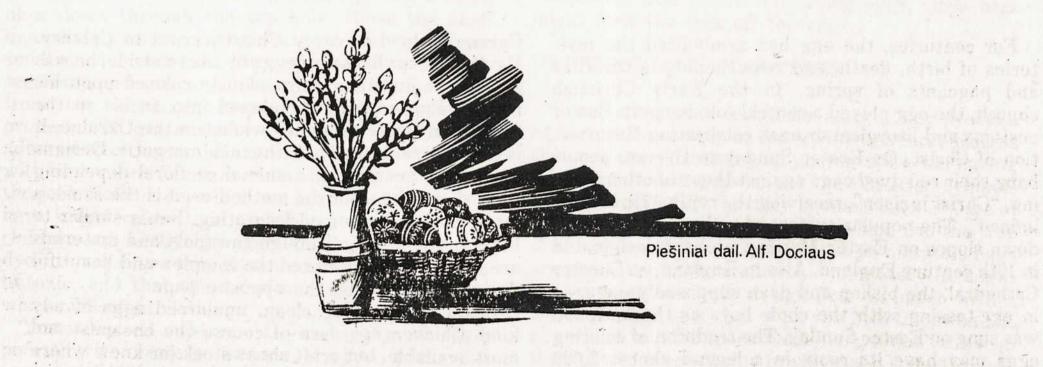
O bažnytėlėj, kaip danguj, šviesu. Pradingo mėlyni audiniai altoriuos. Ir viskas spindi, žvilga, šviečia. Ir šviesos tos kiekvieno žvilgsniuos ir širdy. Ir štai . . . Pakyla virš minios, virš geraširdžių besimeldžiančių lietuvių, kaip ryto saulė, monstrancija, auksinė ir skaisti. Ją neša kunigas taip iškilmingai. Karūnos, sidabru išpuoštos, plevėsuoja. Vargonai prašneka griausmingai. Berniukai skambina varpeliais. Sargybiniai piktieji bėga, pamesdami kardus ir jietis. Varpai, procesijos pažadinti, pabunda. Ir gieda moterys, vaikai ir vyrai. Ir džiaugsmas toks, kad jau nebežinai, ar tu esi mažojoj bažnytėlėj, ar ten - augštai, augštai prie rojaus vartų, prieš Dievulio sostą.

Varpai iš varpinės galingai skelbia žinią: Kėlės Kristus, mirtis krito. Aleliuja, Aleliuja!

Ir džiugesio pilna, ir kupina nežemiškų vilčių, procesija, varpams vis gaudžiant ir giesmei skambant vis garsiau, tris kart aplinkui senają medinę bažnytėlę iškilniai apeina . . .

ir pasakos mamos, ir mūsų jaunos, skaisčios dienos ...

to be the first of the second of the second and the second of the second









Sandra Cipkas works with the wax-resist method of dyeing eggs that she learned in her native Lithuania as a child. There, this technique is called margutis. In her home just outside Baltimore, Sandra paints, does needlepoint, and makes rugs. She formerly was a professional dancer.

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For centuries, the egg has symbolized the mysteries of birth, death, and reawakening in the rites and pageants of spring. In the Early Christian church, the egg played a central role in many Easter customs and liturgical dramas celebrating Resurrection of Christ. On Easter Sunday in Greece, people bang their red-dyed eggs against those of others saying, "Christ is risen", receiving the reply, "He is risen indeed". The popular custom of rolling colored eggs down slopes on Easter Monday probably originated in 19th century England. Also in England, at Chester Cathedral, the bishop and dean supposedly engaged in egg-tossing with the choir boys as the antiphon was sung on Easter Sunday. The tradition of coloring eggs may have its roots in a legend almost 2,000 years old. It is said that an egg merchant, Simon of Cyrene, helped to carry Christ's cross to Calvary. Having left his basket of eggs by the roadside, he was amazed to find them miraculously colored upon his return. Egg coloring developed into an art in the Slavic and Baltic countries where, in the Ukraine, it is called pysanka and in Lithuania, margutis. Designs vary from geometric to animal or floral depending upon the region. But the method used is the same, a wax-resist technique of decorating that is similar to batik fabric dyeing. Though the tools and materials are simple, they produced the complex and beautiful designs pictured on the opposite page.

Begin by selecting clean, unmarred eggs of any kind. Chicken eggs are of course the cheapest and most available, but craft shops stock (or know where to get) duck. turkey, emu, quail, and ostrich eggs.





Photo - R. Kisielius

Some of these are speckled or colored, but their variations may simply be incorporated into your design. Eggs may be worked on raw or hard-boiled, or may be blown to remove the contents, to insure against messy breakage (something to consider if children will be handling them). I prefer not to blow those I decorate. It results in holes that may interfere with the design. But if you want to remove the contents, puncture each end with a pin or fine scissor point, and break the yoke by jabbing carefully through the hole. Then, holding the egg over a bowl, blow down through the top hole. Rinse the shell immediately under running water to prevent it from smelling. As you handle the egg, check frequently to see that your hands are clean, as even the natural oils from your skin may prevent the wax from adhering properly. To get a surface to which the dye will adhere better, wash the egg in yogurt and rinse well with cool water. (Vinegar or baking soda will also do the job). Food dyes, which are harmless, cheap, and have bright colors, are probably your best bet. If children will be dyeing eggs, check when you buy dyes to make sure they do not contain aniline, which is toxic, and that they are not permanent colors, which will stain clothing.

You will need cups, one for each color; vinegar; pencils with erasers; several straight pins with various sized heads; and a candle or beeswax. Bees-

wax is preferable because it adheres better. It comes in blocks at craft shops, but it is cheaper to get it at a sewing store where it is sold (for waxing thread) in a one ounce package that will do a dozen eggs. Cover your work surface with newspaper to prevent stains from wax and dyes from spoiling table tops.

Mix the dyes according to the directions on the labels. Add two tablespoons of vinegar to each pint of coloring to promote a consistent distribution of color over the egg. Be sure that dyes of any kind are completely cold before immersing eggs, since heat might melt the wax off the eggs.

PATTERNS AND PROCESSES

In selecting your design for margutis or pysanka eggs, you can use any of the traditional floral designs shown in the accompanying photographs. Or, among some of the most popular are the Christian symbols of the cross or fish, fertility symbols such as ears of wheat, pairs of deer or horses, the sun, and the tree of life. Many of the patterns found on margutis eggs are also taken from traditional embroidery. It might help to work out your design first on paper with a pencil to make sure that what you plan to put on the egg will fit into the space available. But don't draw on the egg with a pencil; the graphite will show through the dye and cannot be erased after waxing. In work-

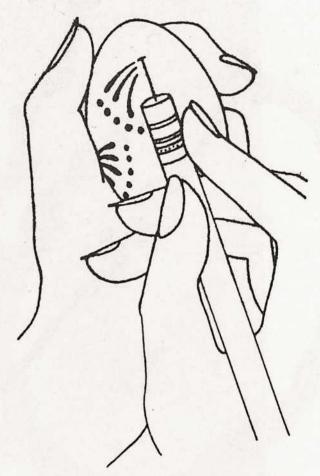
ing out your design, remember that you will apply wax to those areas you don't want dyed, which is why this is called a wax-resist method. Successive dyeings should go from lighter to darker colors and it helps to plan that sequence in advance.

WAXING

If you decide to use beeswax, melt it over a low heat in a double boiler (never over a direct flame) or in a small chafing dish with a candle underneath. Hot wax is combustible; use a thermometer to make sure the temperature of the wax does not rise above 300 degrees Fahrenheit. Stick the various-sized pinheads into the erasers of the pencils; these are your stylus tools. When the candle has formed a pool, or the beeswax is melted, dip the pinhead into the wax and stroke it quickly along the egg. If you have picked up too much wax on the pinhead, stroke it across your thumbnail before marking the egg. Use a small pinhead for fine lines and ball-headed pins for wider ones. If the line starts to skip, the wax is not hot enough. To increase the temperature of the candle wax, heat the pinhead directly in the flame for a moment before picking up the wax. Give yourself time to get used to the feel of the stylus and wax. Use a rubberband stretched around the egg as a guide for longer lines. Be careful not to cover large areas with wax at one time as it may come off during dyeing.

Once you have applied a wax pattern to the egg and the wax has cooled, put the egg into its first dye bath. If you had planned to dye an egg more than one color, you will have left space in your design for the second or third waxing. Put as many colors on as you want but, to obtain the truest color in a series of dyeings, the sequence must be from light to dark, (for example, yellow, orange, red, green, blue,



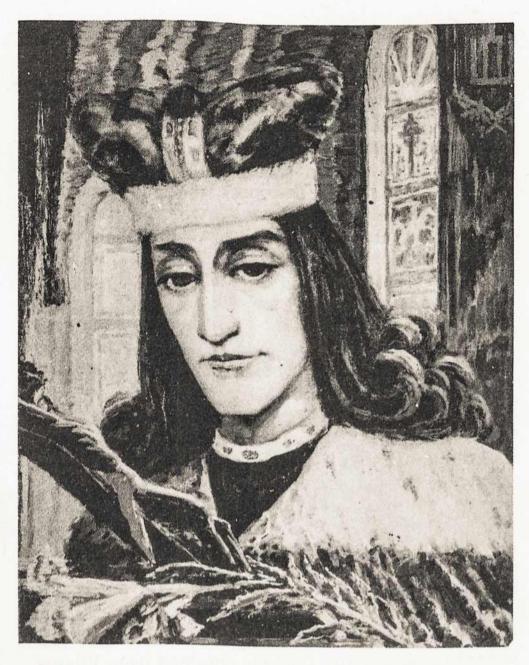


Stroke the egg with the side of the pinhead to make tapering lines. The line thins because the wax on the pin is used up quickly.

purple). Any of these hues applied over another will acquire a slight tint from the one beneath, something useful to know if you decide to alter the above order. Check the color every few minutes until you are satisfied with the shade; then remove the egg from the dye with tongs or a spoon, place it on paper towelings and let dry. Do not rub or pat dry with toweling or the dye will come off. If you leave the first wax on, that area will remain white in the final design. If, however, you want the second color to adhere in the areas covered by the first waxing, remove the wax by holding the egg over low heat with tongs (not too near) and wipe frequently with dry paper towels. Never scrape wax off and do not use cleansers; these will remove the dye. Apply the wax over areas you don't want redyed to preserve the first color during the next dyeing.

To cover mistakes, or to add some localized color, you can "spot dye" with a small paintbrush. You can also create an etched effect by scratching a design through the dye with a pin. When the egg is completed to your satisfaction melt off the wax over low heat or in an oven set at 150 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 minutes. Do not use a candle flame; the carbon from it will discolor the egg. Give your finished egg a gloss by rubbing it with a soft cloth or by giving it a coat of shellac or varnish. As you gain experience you will find it easier to increase the complexity of your design. And, like the Baltic craftsmen have done, you may choose to display your eggs year-round as decorative ornaments or to present them as gifts.

Photo R. Kisielius



It was 1518. Powerful Russian forces threatened the Lithuanian city of Polock. A small army was sent out to relieve the beleaguered fortress. Defense strategy called for a crossing of the flooded river Dauguva. Its swollen, turbulent waters proved impassable. As their leaders pondered the next move, the defenders heard the thud of distant hoofbeats. Soon an armored knight astride a powerful white charger hove into view. He urged the Lithuanians to cross the river and charged into the swirling stream. The army followed him across, defeated the Russians and saved the fortress.

Who was this unknown warrior? Where did he come from? Where did he disappear after the battle?

The defenders claimed that the armored youth who led them to victory was Casimir, long deceased brother of their king Sigismund. Casimir, who had died some thirty-five years earlier, was renowned for his holiness of life. The cause for the canonization of this young prince was then in progress. His apparition at Polock is described in the daily prayerbook of the clergy, the Roman Breviary.

Saint Casimir, patron of Lithuania was born on October 3, 1458 in Cracow, Poland. His father, Casimir, the Grand Duke of Lithuania, also ruled Poland (1447-1492).

In 1387, three score and ten years before the holy prince's birth, Lithuania had accepted the True Faith. His grandfather Jogaila, Duke of Lithuania,

SAINT FROM THE BALTIC

Adapted from book ST. CASIMIR by Zenonas Ivinskis

had been a pagan the greater part of his life. Only in his declining years was he baptized and received into the Church before ascending the throne as Polish King.

Jogaila's son, Casimir, father of the saint, governed Lithuania (1440-1492) and later Poland. He was married to Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Albert II, Emperor of Germany and King of Hungary and Bohemia.

Most of Saint Casimir's youth was spent at Cracow, where his father resided more than he did in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, much to the dissatisfaction of the Lithuanian gentry. However, Casimir learned much about his fatherland, the Lithuanian state and its history from his capable teacher, a Polish historian, John Dlugosz. Dlugosz testifies that Sain Casimir was "an excellent youth of rare talents and remarkable knowledge. Another teacher, Callimachus Buonacorsi calls Casimir a "holy youth".

At the age of thirteen this "holy youth" was offered the throne of Hungary, but despite his advisors' earnest efforts, he was unsuccessful in the struggle and failed to be crowned. Nevertheless, King Casimir was determined to have his son succeed him and permitted young Casimir to accompany him on his journeys to Poland and Lithuania.

In 1475 Saint Casimir visited Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, for the first time. Four years later he again accompanied his father on a visit to Lithuania. Because of a conspiracy against the king, Saint Casimir returned to Cracow alone and administered the affairs of state for two years. He proved to be a capable administrator, prudent in handling state finances and just to all. Casimir improved Polish relations with the Vatican where political dissensions had caused his father to lose favor. While bettering domestic conditions, he was aware at the same time of the dangers of the war with the Turks, who were then forcing their way into Western Europe through Constantinople.

In 1483, Casimir was sent to Lithuania to represent his kingly father there. Little is known or recorded of his accomplishments in that land where he shunned public life for solitude, recollection and prayer. He wore a hairshirt, slept on the floor and fasted as often as his confessor permitted. These rigorous penances and mortifications broke his health and the dreaded killer tuberculosis numbered his days. On March 4, 1884, Casimir died, while enroute to his father's palace at Cracow. Casimir's body was interred at Vilnius, the city of Gediminas, his ancestor.

The prince's death was a blow to his aged father. The king looked forward to the day when his son would succeed him. Now his son's remains lay in the Cathedral of Vilnius. Such are God's ways. An earthly scepter was exchanged for a heavenly crown.

The young prince's holy life was well known to the inhabitants of Vilnius. They flocked to his tomb to seek his intercession. Soon miracles were reported. On May 15, 1501, Pope Alexander VI granted an indulgence to all those who on specified days visited the saintly prince's tomb. The same document also confirmed that miracles were wrought through his intercessions. A copy of this bill is preserved in the Vatican Archives and it is considered one of the oldest documents available testifying to the veneration of St. Casimir.

The Vatican Archives also contain three other lengthy parchment letters written about 1516 to the reigning Pontiff by the brother of St. Casimir. Sigismund the Elder, ruler of Lithuania, by Bishop Albert of Vilnius and his Chapter and by the Franciscan Fathers of Vilnius. The letters contained detailed descriptions of Casimir's virtues and an account of miracles wrought through his intercession, and earnestly petitioned his canonization.

The case for the canonization of Casimir was initiated in 1517. To the present day it is believed that soon after the investigations of Bishop Zachary Vincent Ferreri, Pope Leo X proclaimed Casimir a saint. However, no written proof can be found either in Vilnius or in the Vatican Archives to uphold this contention. All evidence uncovered points to the contrary.

It is now believed that the cause once started by Pope Leo X was interrupted and never completed due to the Sack of Rome and the disturbance caused by the Reformation.

However, a document, exclusive of that about the canonization, must have been written favoring the veneration of Saint Casimir since we read in the priests' Breviary that Casimir was canonized by Pope Leo X. A similar statement is also found in the Roman Martyrology and in the brief of Pope Clement VIII. Only in 1621, during the Pontificate of Pope Paul V, was the name of Casimir finally inscribed in

liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church. On August 4, 1636 Pope Urban VIII proclaimed him Patron of Lithuania and designated March 4th as his feast day.

Saint Casimir has ever been the favorite saint of Lithuanians all over the world. Devotion to Saint Casimir spread rapidly and steadily. Its influence reached far beyond the confines of Lithuania. It was felt in Poland, Italy, Belgium, Germany and other countries. Poland, the country where Casimir spent much of his youth, claimed him as its special patron. In Germany this Saint was well known and loved because of the rule of the Hapsburg dynasty and the fact that his sisters had married and lived there. In Italy, too, a widespread devotion was evident, especially in the cities of Palermo, Naples, Florence and on the island of Malta. In Belgium, he was venerated in the city of Mecheln.

Italy was one of the first countries to make public manifestation of its devotion to Saint Casimir. Five biographies of Saint Casimir were published during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Even to the present day the saint's influence is felt. At baptism many Italian children are given the name "Miro", an abreviated form of "Casimiro". In Naples, in the church of Saint George Major, a beautiful chapel was dedicated to Saint Casimir. Here, too, the children of the nobility were organized into a sodality which had Saint Casimir as its special patron. They also possessed a relic of Saint Casimir obtained from Vilnius.



In 1677 Prince Cosimo III of Tuscany also secured a relic of the saint - a portion of the thigh (femur), which was kept in an ornate reliquary in the Basilica of Saint Lawrence at Florence. The reliquary was decorated with ribbons bearing the inscription "S. Casimirus Magnus Dux Lithuaniae" and the saint's own words: "Malo mori quam foedari" (It is better to die than to sin).

The Knights of Malta, who fought the Turks, chose

Saint Casimir as their patron.

Saint Casimir's extraordinary, appealing traits of character, his pure life and determination "rather to die than to sin" are an impelling force urging youth of all times to take him as their model.

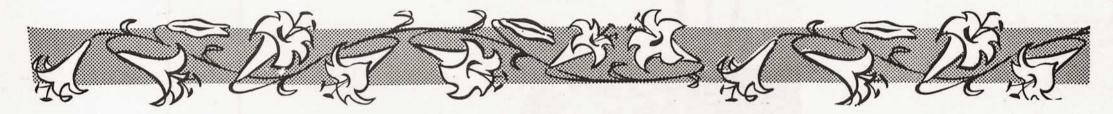
Saint Casimir has been considered the mortal enemy of Moscow since the beginning of the sixteenth century. Lithuanians held him as their greatest protector in their struggle with the Orthodox Russians. When the Russian Czars first overran Lithuania the public celebration of the feast of Saint Casimir was forbidden and the beautiful church of St. Casimir in Vilnius was converted into a Russian Orthodox temple.

The communists have presently taken over the Cathedral of Vilnius in which the relics of Saint Casimir were enshrined for almost five hundred years. The relics have been removed temporarily to

another church in Vilnius.

Lithuanians await the dawning of the day when they can again enjoy complete freedom and the unrestricted right to venerate their Patron publicly. Their silent prayers and hymns go unceasingly forth petitioning the intercession of their good Saint Casimir in their hour of trial. Saint Casimir will not fail them.

"THE MARIAN"



ŠV. KAZIMIERAS LIETUVOS VYČIU GLOBĖJAS

Šv. Kazimiero dorybė turi didele reikšmę "Lietuvos Vyčių" etikai. Mūsų organizacijos stiprybė glūdi vyčio širdyje ir kaip Šv. Kazimieras, jis turi būti dorybės pavyzdys ir jo elgesys visuomet turi liudyti tokį nusiteikimą. Šv. Kazimiero siekimai yra mūsų organizacijos pagrindas - religijos, laisvės ir garbės dvasia. Drąsa, atsidavimas ir ištikimumas šiems idealams sudaro "Lietuvos Vyčių" dorinį pagrindą ir čia slypi mūsų didingumas, nes ištikimybė garbės ženklas! Laimės paslaptis yra laisvė, o laisvės drasa!

Kaip mums brangus Šv. Kazimieras, taip ir šaunus vytis nešioja savo krūtinėje gilią Dievo meilę, ir nėra, kas jį gali priversti, daryti ką nors prieš Dievo valia.

Kiekvienas ištikimas lietuvių tautos sūnus šviečia savo patriotizmu ir krikščioniška dvasia - jis visad dega gilia dora ir pasiaukojimu tėvynės labui.

Kaip Lietuvos kariams Polocko mūšyje, ir visais kitais laikais, visose aplinkybėse, visuose frontuose ir visuose mūšiuose Šventas Kazimieras ves mus į pergalę ir mūsų darbas bei pasiaukojimas bus visad naudingas gimtajam kraštui Amerikai ir mūsų tėvynei Lietuvai!

Šventas Kazimieras - koks gražus pavyzdys jaunimui sekti!

Šventas Kazimierai! Melski už kenčiančią Lietuvą!

Fr. Hirst'as





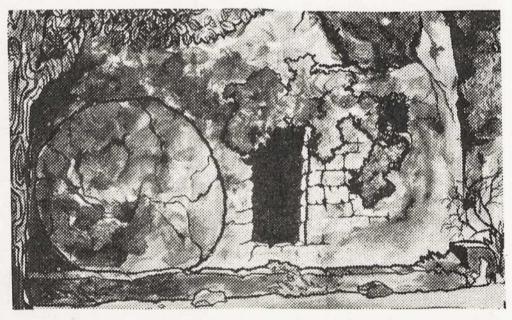
Just outside the city walls of Old Jerusalem is a road leading down from the Mount of Olives to one of the seven gates into the city. It is said that this is the thoroughfare Jesus travelled when his followers hailed and praised him, just before his death. His triumphal entry is referred to today as "Palm Sunday".

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

PALM SUNDAY

GOOD FRIDAY

Just outside the walls of the old city of Jerusalem is an eroded hill that bears a resemblance to a skull, and is called Golgatha. It is said that upon this hill stood three crosses the day that Jesus was crucified. That agonizing day that Christ died is referred to today as "Good Friday".



EASTER

Only a short distance from Golgatha, where Jesus was crucified, is a hole carved into a rock hill. It is possible that this was the tomb of Jesus, as it was a garden tomb during that period in history. This vault fits the description of Joseph's tomb and would be similar.

The Mid-Atlantic District extends a most cordial invitation to all the members of the Knights of Lithuania to attend the 62nd National Convention that will be held in New York City during August 21-24, 1975 at the Hotel Taft.

It's been a long, long time! Almost a quarter of a century has passed since the Knights of Lithuania met in New York City for their Annual Convention! Much has transpired in our organization and much has changed in New York during that period of time. The business sessions of the convention will bring you up to date on the Knights of Lithuania and the trip to New York will provide the opportunity to observe the many new and wonderful things that have happened in New York.

The Convention Committee is extending every effort to make your visit a pleasant one. We are certain that the Supreme Council is as equally busy in planning interesting and informative sessions. However, the success of a Convention depends on you, the members. Your participation in the business and social activities is essential. Therefore, it is our hope that all of you are beginning to plan to be in New York City during August 21-24, 1975. The combined efforts of all of us will result in making this Convention an outstanding one in K of L history.

Our National Conventions provide us with the opportunity to re-kindle and strengthen our Lithuanian spirit and heritage, discuss and plan organizational matters and meet with old and new friends from various parts of the country. We shall certainly be looking forward to welcoming members from all the councils, and especially from Scranton, Pennsylvania, Syracuse, New York and Bridgeport, Connecticut - our newest members of the Knights of Lithuania family.

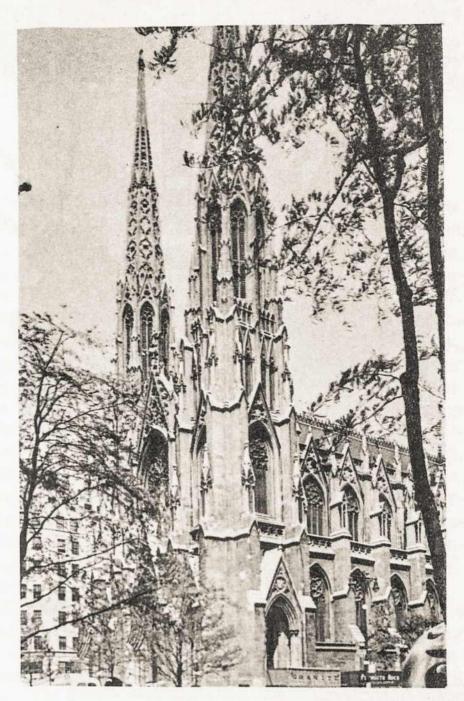
Kviečiame visus, lauksime visų Lietuvos Vyčių 62-jam Seime.

Helen Shields Convention Chairman



Hotel Taft Lobby

CONVENTION NEWS...



St. Patrick's Cathedral

CONVENTION PROGRAM BOOK

It's not too early to start thinking about adding your greetings to the K of L 62nd National Convention Program Book. The prices are as follows:

Full Page - \$35.00 Half Page - 20.00 Quarter Page - 15.00 Patrons - 5.00 Well-Wishers - 2.00

Copy and your check should be sent to:

Mrs. Loretta I. Stukas,
Program Book Chairman
1467 Force Drive
Mountainside, N.J. 07092

Your patronage will be greatly appreciated... and will help the Convention Committee in making arrangements for the best convention yet! Add your support, and sent that greeting TODAY. Don't delay!



PREPEREPER

We get Letters . . .

A SCHOLARSHIP "THANK YOU"...

DANIEL F. KABASIN, C-100, Amsterdam, N.Y., decided to show his gratitude for receipt of the K of L - 1974 Scholarship in a most unusual way. Deciding to "start at home", Daniel prepared packets of "goodie" souveniers (litter bags, booklets, vacation guides, etc.) and passed them out with short thankyou notes to members of the Mid-Atlantic District attending their quarterly convention in Amsterdam last November. Rumor has it that Daniel will extend his "thank you's" to the National Convention in New York this August.

Everybody's talking about it...

What are they talking about? Why, the annual K of L Membership Drive which is now in progress! After all, what is more important than to keep the K of L

strong and growing?

Right now the first order of business is to make certain that dues are paid. Remember that dues were due January first. Don't wait to be tracked down and coaxed by your council Financial Secretary, pay your dues at once, and make it possible for your council to win an award.

Membership Awards will be presented at the National Convention to the first 100% paid-up council in each of the following categories:

First Category Second Category Third Category

1 - 49 members

50 - 99 members

100 - or more members

The deadline for the 100% Paid-up Membership Phase of the drive is March 31. If you have been coasting, get a move on! Pay up immediately!

Financial Secretaries should collect dues at every opportunity, and should forward them at once to the Supreme Council Financial Secretary. Failure to do so can cost your council an award. It is extremely important to keep our present members and to prevent them from becoming delinquent. They are our mainstay; we cannot afford to lose them. Let's not take them for granted.

We must concentrate on reaching a 100% paid-up membership first, and then we must launch our drive for new members. Rules for determining the award winning individuals and councils in the second, or New Member Phase of the drive will be published next month, but first and foremont - PAY YOUR

DUES NOW!!!

Anthony M. Miner, National Membership Vice President

EIIIIMISMIENUS:



LITHUANIAN VETERNARIANS MEET

Chicago was the scene of a recent reunion of the Society of Lithuanian Veternarians in Exile when the group celebrated its 25th year of activity. Members attending are pictured, l. to r.: Dr. Leonas Kriauceliunas, Dr. J. Gliaudelis, Dr. P. Giriotis, Dr. P. Trinkunas, Dr. L. Gaudusas, Dr. P. Svarcas, Dr. A. Grigaliunas, Dr. A. Brizgys, Dr. B. Leparskas, Dr. K. Latoza, Dr. Pr. Jaras, Dr. A. Delertas, Dr. K. Karnauskas, Dr. V. Bagdonas, Dr. K. Avizienis, Dr. St. Stirbys, Dr. A. Masiulis, Dr. St. Jankauskas, Dr. A. Dabrila.

(Photo - P. Maleta)

The Lithuanians of Worcester, Mass. recently dedicated their new Maironis Park Building, replacing a building that was burned out last year. The new main structure cost approximately a half-million dollars.

ROLAND GRYBAUSKAS, young Lithuanian athlete of New York, has been selected to the all-American YMCA "All-Stars" for his outstanding record in Water Polo.

The New York City Center "Joffrey" Ballet Co., consisting of 40 dancers, recently appeared at the new state opera and ballet theater in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania.

NEW ALTAS LEADERS

During their recent annual meeting in Chicago, the American Lithuanian Council (ALTAS) elected the following new Board of Directors: President, Dr. Kazys Bobelis; Vice-Presidents, Theodore Blinstrubas, Dr. Kazys Sidlauskas, Dr. Vladas Simaitis, Dr. John Valaitis; Secretary, Rev. Adolfas Stasys; Treasurer, Joseph Skorubskas; Financial Secretary, Eugene Smilgys; Recording Secretary, Aleksander Pakalniskis; Members of the Board: Alvydas Jonikas, Teodora Kuziene, Valerijonas Simkus, Emilija Vilimaite. Committee work was assigned to the following: Secretariat: Rev. A. Stasys, A. Pakalniskis, J. Skorubskas; Political matters: Dr. K. Sidlauskas, Chairman; Public Relations: T. Blinstrubas, Chairman and Dr. J. Valaitis, Vice-Chairman; Organizational matters: T. Kuziene, Dr. V. Simaitis, V. Simkus; Finance: E. Smilgys, Chairman; Youth, Dr. V. Simaitis, Chairman.

ALTAS, which represents American Lithuanians throughout the USA, particularly in matters relating to Lithuania's fight for independence, has commended the K of L for its Lithuanian Affairs work over the last few decades. In recent bulletins, ALTAS has encouraged all Lithuanians to join in this very important work with their letter-writing in Lithuania's behalf.

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LITHUANIAN PARISH CELEBRATES 80-TH YEAR

Saints Peter and Paul Lithuanian R.C. Parish, of Elizabeth, N.J., celebrated its 80th anniversary on Sunday, Jan. 26, 1975. The celebration began with a solemn concelebrated Mass at noon, in the Church, and was followed by a banquet in the parish hall. Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul is the Rev. Peter Zemeikis, an active K of L-er. Rev. Joseph Pragulbiskis and K of L Hon. Member Rev. A. Valancius are assistants. St. Peter and Paul was the first Lithuanian parish established in New Jersey and still boasts of a large parish membership, a grammar school, and an active choir and numerous other parish organizations. Guest speaker at the banquet was the parish's oldest parishioner, 96 year old Joseph Jakimavicius, who told of how the church began its existence.

VYČIU SENDRAUGIŲ PIRMININKO **IGNO SAKALO KALBA PRIE** A.A. H. ŠIRVINSKIENĖS KARSTO

[1974 M. GRUODŽIO 29]

Ruošiamės palydėti senuosius 1974 metus. Vieniems jie buvo kaip pavasario giedra. Laimė ir šviesūs pragiedruliai jų gyvenimą kasdien turtino ir skaidrino. Jų gyvenimo kelias buvo nuklotas gražiausiomis gėlėmis. Visoki patogumai, kaip paukščių giesmės, saldino gyvenima.

Kitiems praėjusieji metai buvo sunkūs. Ju gyvenimo kelias buvo spygliuotas, o kai kurių ir erškėčiais išpintas, vargais išdabintas.

Brangūs vyčiai, jauniai ir sendraugiai, ir senųjų lietuvių šalpos ir švietimo draugijų nariai ir rėmėjai, šia valanda susirinkom čia ne senuosius metus atsisveikinti, bet juodosios viešnios - mirties iš gyvųjų tarpo išvestosios atsisveikinti ir į šaltuosius kapus palydėti.

Brangi mūs narė, tu nebūsi ta, kurią spauda tavo kelionę amžinybėn aprašys; gal net perdėtai, kaip dažnai laikraščiuos skaitome. Ir garsas, kad tu amžinai iškeliauji, neis per žmones. To nelauk ir nesitikėk. Bet mums, vyčiams, ir kitoms draugijoms, tavo darbai yra supinti į gražiausius vainikus. Tavo darbai šviečia tiek vyčiams, tiek kitoms draugijoms ir gyviesiems lengvina veiklą, kaip kad Lietuvos vieversėlis čirendamas lengvina



artojo darbą, kad purenama dirva duotų gausių vaisių.

Iš tavo gyvenimo daug kas būtų galima papasakoti, bet ne šia proga, kai esi paruošta gulti į šaltą žemę. Tenkinuos tiktai trumpais tavo gyvenimo bruožais.

Šeimos gyvenime visuomet buvai šviesus pavyzdys. Išauginai sūnų ir dukra. Seniau Lietuvoje motinos, eidamos i bažnyčia, pirmiausia užsukdavo i rūtu darželi.

nuskindavo gražiausią gėlę Marijos altoriui arba jos statulai papuošti. Tu gi savo dukrai iš pat mažens pašaukimą į dvasinį gyvenimą skiepijai. Ir tavo maldos bei prašymai pasiekė Dievo sostą. Šiandien matome ja vienuolės abite. Ar tai nėra didelė motinos auka? Vienturtę dukrą paaukoti Dievo garbės tarnybai...

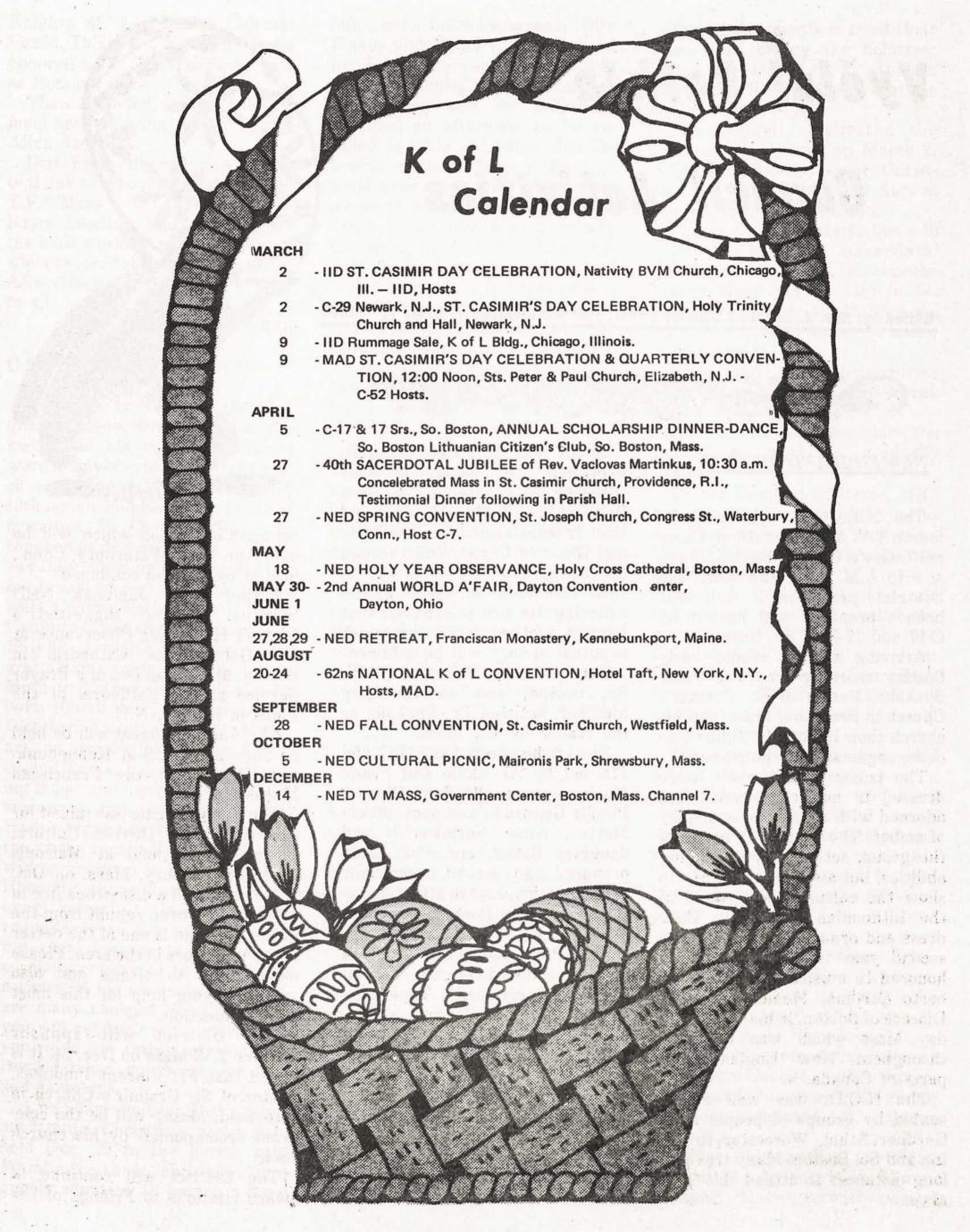
Vyčiams ir kitoms brolijoms, kurių ženklai puošia karstą, priklausei nuo pat jaunų dienų, kaip ir tavo vyras, kuris prieš dvidešimt metų, iškeliavo amžinastin. Visoms rodei daug meilės ir pasiaukojimo. Ko negalėjai atlikti savo protu, padarei širdimi - aukomis ir patarnavimais. Nieko nesigailėjai. Net sendraugiams ruošiant šiais metais Kūčias, jau negalėdama dalyvauti bei patarnauti, stovėdama ant slenksčio i amžinybę, prisiminei vyčius ir toms Kūčioms auką davei. Ar kada kas girdėjo tokią meilę organizacijai?..

Brangi mūs narė, palydėdami tave amžinybėn, prižadame, kol mūsų jėgos leis ir kol juodoji viešnia neišsives mūsų į šaltuosius kapus, dirbti tavo pavyzdžiu, kad tau iš aukštybių būtų miela į mus žiūrėti. Juk vyčiai ir yra pašaukti dirbti Dievui, Tautai ir Bažnyčiai.

SVARBUS PRANEŠIMAS

LIETUVIŲ TAUTINIŲ ŠOKIŲ INSTITUTAS praneša, kad 1975 m. rugpiūčio 17-24 dienomis Dainavoje, 15100 AUSTIN RD., MANCHESTER, MICH. 48158, įvyks tautinių šokių mokytojų vadovu kursai. Kiekviena veikianti vienetą atstovauja nedaugiau kaip du asmenys. Registruotis iki š.m. liepos 1 d. adresu:

> Jadvyga Matulaitienė 188 Logan Str. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11208



Vyčiai Veikia Council Activities

Edited by: Mrs. J. Zukas, 9 Charles Street, Port Washington, L. I., N. Y. - 11050



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

The N.E. Dist. sponsored its fourth T.V. Mass Dec. 15 on Channel 7, Gov't. Center, Boston, Mass. at 9:15 A.M. After the Mass, the District provided a delicious brunch prepared and hosted by C-17 and 17-S of So. Boston.

Arriving at the studio early Sunday morning was Fr. Peter Shakalis, Pastor of St. Casimir's Church in Brockton, Mass. and his church choir led by Mr. Julius Gaidelis, organist and choirmaster.

The ladies of the choir were dressed in native costumes and adorned with a marvelous display of amber. The District is proud of this group, not only for its singing abilities, but also for its efforts to show the cultural background of the Lithuanian people by their dress and ornamentation. For the second year the choir has been honored to musically assist Humberto Cardinal Medieros, of the Diocese of Boston, in his Christmas day Mass which was televised throughout New England and parts of Canada.

The N.E.D. was well represented by groups of people from Gardner, Athol, Worcester, Brockton and So. Boston. Many traveled long distances to attend this T.V. Mass.

In his homily, Father Shakalis explained the analogy between suffering Lithuania and Christ's Passion. In each Mass the wine and Host is transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ, and through the Eucharist, man is saved: so shall Lithuania be saved by its suffering. He also pointed out that Love is another vehicle by which eventual victory will be attained.

Atty. Anthony Young of C-17S, So. Boston, and an Honorary Member, assisted Fr. Shakalis as the reader for the Mass.

The kitchen crew from C-17 and 17S led by Al Akule and Frank Markuns along with John Olevitz, Phyllis Gendreau and sons, Adele Martus, Anne Norinkavich and daughter Cathy, and Pat Akule prepared and served a delicious brunch at St. Joseph's Chapel on E. 7th St., So. Boston, after the Mass.

At 2 P.M., the N.E.D. held an Executive Board Meeting chaired by Pres. Albert Jaritis. Topics discussed were as follows:

The Fall Convention will be held Sept. 28 at Westfield, Mass. hosted by C-30.

Lithuanian Independence Day, St. Casimir's Day, Founder's Day and the Spring Convention were discussed and some plans were formalized. It was suggested that Founder's Day, Apr. 24, and the



Spring Convention which will be held Apr. 27 at Waterbury, Conn., hosted by C-7, be combined.

Father Albin Janiunas, NED Spiritual Advisor, suggested a District Holy Year Observance at the Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston, May 18, in lieu of a Prayer Service at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, N.H.

The Annual Retreat will be held on June 27, 28, 29 at Kennebunkport, Maine, at the Franciscan

Monastery.

The Family Picnic was tabled for this time. The District Cultural Picnic will be held at Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, Mass. on Oct. 5. Maironis had a disastrous fire in 1973, but has been rebuilt from the ground up, and is one of the better function centers in the area. Please make plans to attend and also volunteer your help for this most worthy function.

The District will sponsor another T.V. Mass on Dec. 14. It is hoped that Fr. Vincent Puidokas, Pastor of St. Casimir's Church in Westfield, Mass., will be the celebrant accompanied by his church choir.

The District will continue to award citations to Friends of the Knights at the Annual Cultural Picnic. This year, 5 persons were honored at the Cultural Picnic held at Romuva Park in Brockton.

The day ended with a delicious meal and a closing prayer by Fr. Albin Janiunas.

Dist. Pres. Albert Jaritis wishes to thank all who participated at the T.V. Mass and the Executive Board Meeting, and especially to the hard working men and women who prepared the meals of the day. Ačiū visiems. A Happy New Year to all.

Joseph White

C-26 - WORCESTER, MASS.

The word is "GO"! In the first quarter alone, President Joe Sakaitis and his board of officers were involved with plans for council participation in the Feb. 16 Lithuanian Independence Commemoration. St. Casimir's Day was commemorated on March 2. Mass and Holy Communion preceded the full breakfast served in the parish hall. Congratulations to all the Casimirs of our council! Since Mar. 19 is St. Joseph's Day, more congratulations are in order. Ilgiausių Metų to Father Joseph Budzeika (who substitutes for our Spiritual Director, Father Anthony Miciunas, on occasion), Pres. Joe Sakaitis and Treas. Joe Zalieckas. Bowling is hot and heavy now that the season is into its second half! Easter arrives early this year and the choir members in the council will be involved in this area also. Honestly, there is an activity for every talent! It would approach redundancy to list each activity, but each member is needed and cordially requested to join in the activity of his choice... and there are many choices! We think that you will get back much more than you give in terms of personal reward when you work for God and Country!

A one-day wonder! That's what our annual Christmas party was, held Dec. 29 in the parish hall. Members, their children, and guests admitted to having a very fine time. Co-chairpersons, Rita Pinkus and Helen Gillus, assisted by Nell Thompson, Adele and Francis Degutis, Donna Murphy, Olga Kersis and Joe Zalieckas, provided an afternoon to be recalled as truly enjoyable. Joe Zalieckas' claim to fame is his personal association with the famous personality, Santa Claus, who drops in on our annual Family Christmas party, to absolutely delight the youngsters... and us, too!

By virtue of the fact that he was seated between Father Miciunas and Father Budzeika at the Christmas party, Steve Walinsky, Sr., subtly suggested we address him as "Bishop". However, he failed to receive even a "Monsignor" out of any of us!

In January, our pastor, Father Miciunas, honored the volunteers who work weekly at the parish bingo parties with a dinner at Maironis Park. A good number of council members were among those honored. While good works need not be rewarded, it is needless to say that it was very enjoyable and appreciated by these volunteers.

Best wishes for a Happy Easter and a lovely spring season!

"Dzūkelė"

C-103 - PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Belated birthday greetings to Alex Vaitkunas and Irene Landanski.

After the annual BALF Dinner in Providence, Father Martinkus flew to Florida for a well deserved rest. The poor have always found a warm spot in Father's heart.

Bette Ciuryla's son Vincent recently received his Doctorate in Biochemistry. Her husband Vinnie was hospitalized for minor surgery just before the holidays.

John and Irene Valaska's son John Jr. had a most enjoyable vacation in Florida.

Marcella Savickis, the mother of Beatrice Mathieu, Bertha Stoskus, and Ruta Krecioch, celebrated her 80th birthday on Jan. 5. Sveikiname! Two of our members tried their sales skills during the holidays: Helen Seraichekas at Jordan Marsh, and Reggie Krecioch at the Outlet Store.

The Council celebrated the Feast of St. Casimir on March 2.

Grace Vaitkunas spent Christmas day with her husband Alex at the VA hospital in Boston.

Father Vaclovas Martinkus will celebrate his 40th Sacerdotal Jubilee on April 27. A concelebrated Mass will be said in St. Casimir's Church at 10:30 a.m., with a testimonial dinner to follow in the parish hall.

Civic and social enterprises continue to keep Mildred Seraichekas busy as ever.

Beatrice Mathieu's leg which she injured at work is gradually healing.

Father Edmund Budrecki, MIC, has returned to his priestly duties at Marianapolis in Thompson, Conn. Father was on the sick list for six months.

Spec. 5 Paul J. Stoskus and three of his buddies traveled the perimeter of Thailand before finishing their duty with the Joint Casualty Resolution Committee based in Thailand. Paul is anxiously awaited home in early March by his parents.

The first community-sponsored Kūčios in Providence was a tremendous success. Members attending the wonderful event were Beatrice & Victor Mathieu, Helen Seraichekas, Grace Vaitkunas, Bette Ciuryla, Ruta & Eugene Krecioch, John & Bertha Stoskus, Father Martinkus, John & Irene Valaska, Irene Landanski, Ruth & Lillian Savage with their Aunt, Mrs. Savage from West Roxbury, Mass. Everyone attending the affair hopes that it will become an annual event in Providence.

Besides his professorial duties at Providence College, Father Jurgelaitis spends his week-ends giving spiritual assistance at various parishes.

Vladas Chlemauskas, the Head Chef at St. Anthony's in Kennebunkport, Maine, recently passed away. We extend our deepest sympathy to his most gracious wife, who went out of her way to make the K of L most welcome during their annual retreats year after year. Mr. and Mrs. Chlemauskas were dedicated to the Lithuanian Franciscan Fathers, and this today is a rare quality in our society.

Jonas

C-116 - SO. WORCESTER, MASS.

It was the brightest lit house on the street, and as we entered inside, we were warmly greeted by our host & hostess. We had the feeling of entering fantasia; we oh'd and ah'd over the gay decorations. We had gathered for a very festive occasion, our council's annual Christmas party. The ladies were all dressed in sparkling holiday finery, most impressive was Joan Treinas in her dark red, oneshouldered velvet dress, very lovely, indeed. The men, of course, looked nice, all in their very best. It didn't take long for the animated conversations to get going, no doubt urged on by the punch made by Dot Sinkavitch, her specialty, There was the usual exchange of gifts and several attempts by Mary Duggan to get a sing-a-long going. Our hostess kept reminding the Vytis Correspondent not to forget to mention our "Government Official" present, namely Harold Ostrowski, Selectman for the Town of Millbury. He even presented her with some kind of award, the Key to the Inner Sanctum. The food that graced the table was something to behold. It was a contribution of so much by so many. Although much credit goes to Carol Borek, her creations were just fantastic, Dot Sinkavitch and Dot March were up to their usual wonderful planning and preparation of much of the goodies. We thank Irene Ostrowski for her famous deviled egg entree, Bob Paluses for his famous home baked beans, Ann Yurkenas for those delicious meatballs, - and to others we may have omitted.

We are especially grateful to our

most gracious hostess and host, Irene & Ed Tamulevich, for inviting us into their lovely home. We appreciate their grand gesture. Especially, since Ed's car was stolen a few weeks before, and up to the night of the party had not been recovered. We also wish to thank Irene's Mom for the delicious baked bread. We wish for all of you a happy,-healthy and a much luckier '75.

Almost a year later, what was a tragic affair, the burning of our beloved Maironis Park, turned out to be a very happy occasion. On Dec. 8, the Lithuanians of Worcester, and their many friends, attended the ribbon cutting of the new, much nicer and larger Maironis Park. Over 2,000 people passed thru the new building during the course of the day. They partook of tons of numerous Lithuanian dishes. It was indeed a very auspicious occasion and we extend our sincere congratulations to the board of officers, directors and entire membership for making it all possible in such a short span of time. It almost seems impossible that from the ashes of a year ago, we Lithuanians should possess such an imposing building. It proves out the old adage, "Where there's a will, there's a way". Viso ko geriausio linkime Maironio Parkui.

Our Friday night bowling league has reached its mid point. John Yurkenas' team is leading and intend to stay there. Well, we shall see. Friday nights is getting to be a real merry night, especially since Ted Kasper has joined our ranks of bowlers. During the holidays, he rewarded the good bowlers with a beautiful gift. We warmly welcome Ted to our ranks - with his very merry infectious laugh. It's too bad we don't hold our meetings at the alleys; we have more members there than at our meetings.

The Adamaitis family celebrated Christmas and the New Year in their new home. We extend to them our good wishes for much happiness.

Taradaika

C-10 - ATHOL-GARDNER, MASS.

Our council members elected the following slate of officers for 1975: Pres. Leonard Davidonis, V.P. William Wisnauskas, Treas. Nellie Melaika, Rec. Secy. Charles Genaitis, Fin. Secy. Frank Anoris, Spiritual Advisor Rev. Justin Steponaitis, Ritual Chrman Mary Gauronsky, Scholarship Chrman Blanche Genaitis, and Vytis Corresp. William Wisnauskas.

The council sponsored the annual Christmas party for St. Francis Parish altar boys on Dec. 8 and held their Christmas party in the rectory with a covered dish supper.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Genaitis, Lennie Davidonis, and Clara Zetkansky attended the annual T.V. Mass in Boston.

Our council again this year sponsored the Feb. 16 program in St. Francis Parish Hall, Athol, with Pres. Leonard Davidonis as chairman. St. Casimir's Day was celebrated on Mar. 1 with Bill Wisnauskas as chairman.

A very Happy Easter to all! Vincukas



MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

C-100 - AMSTERDAM, N.Y.

The Canterbury House was the scene of the annual Christmas banquet held by K of L C-100 on Dec. 1, 1974. A cocktail hour preceded the dinner.

Peter J. Sargalis was Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Prior to the dinner, he introduced Very Rev. Robert K. Baltch who explained the Lithuanian custom of the Christmas wafer (PLOTKA). The Plotka is a thin piece of white unleavened bread baked by the servants of the church. This is always served at the Christmas eve supper (KŪČIOS). The meal itself must traditionally consist of at least twelve dishes, all meatless. Following prayer, family members wish each other luck with the breaking of the Christmas wafer of unleavened bread, made especially for the occasion. The guests found wafers at their plates and everyone participated in the traditional custom of breaking the Plotka and wishing each other luck and a joyous Christmas season.

Speakers included President Anthony Radzevich, Spiritual Advisor Rev. Robert K. Baltch, Rev. Anthony Grigaitis, Rev. Peter Jonaitis, Gloversville, N.Y., Mr. Philip Kriger, Mayor of the Village of Hagaman, and senior K of Lemember Mr. Michael Kerbelis.

There was a Christmas grab bag. Carols were sung in Lithuanian and English. Prizes were awarded to Miss Christine Zakarka, Mrs. Louise Kerbelis, Rev. Peter Jonaitis, and Mr. Edward Baranauskas, Schenectady, N.Y.

The evening program was concluded with benediction prayers said by Rev. Peter Jonaitis.

The committee in charge of the dinner and program were Mrs. Sadie Karbus, Mrs. Charlotte Sargalis, Mrs. Evelyn Rimkunas and Mrs. Helen Augun. Also, helping out was our newest member Frances Drzewicki.

Smile & Sparkle

C-3 - PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Best of luck to our new President Tony Burch and his officers Chuck Weigand, Leonora Balten, Lillian Sasnauskas, Joe Yanulaitis, Margie Petronis and Irene Ozalis. We wish them success in their endeavors for the coming year.

C-3 celebrated the Christmas Season at the Mallard Inn in New Jersey. Though our group was small, it was big in good fellowship and congeniality.

Tony Burch and Al Ozalis combed the mountains of Western



C-100-Pres. Anthony Radzevich, V.P. Gene Gobis, Atty. Norbert Sherbunt, Republican candidate for City Court Judge, Joe Janulaitis of Philadelphia and Eugenia Karpus of Brooklyn.



Edward & Polly Ziausys with their Lithuanian Cultural Exhibit. The collection of amber, wood carvings, linens, etc. is part of their private collection.

Pennsylvania during deer season, but those frisky critters proved to be most elusive.

Julian Greymas, Joe Yanulaitis, Vic & Leonora Balten had a great time at the Amsterdam Dist. Conv. and raved about the wonderful hospitality they received.

Dianne & Joe Drumstas spent the Thanksgiving Holidays visiting friends and relatives in Worcester as did Tony & Alana Burch. Tony & Alana will have a new baby in their household this coming spring. Congratulations!

Sincere condolences to Irene Svekla whose dear father passed



The Liquid Refreshment committee: Chairman Bill Liberis with his aids Peter Hayes and Joe Shatas. The sign behind them...."Happy Hour"...."Linksma Valanda".

away in December. May his soul rest in peace.

Early vacationers this year include Chuck & Alberta Weigand who cruised the Caribbean in January and Al & Irene Ozalis who toured the Hawaiian Islands in March.

Best of luck to Helen Shields in her role as Chairlady for the coming National Convention. We know it will be a fine Convention and are all looking forward to August and a wonderful time with our K of L friends.

C-3 wishes all a Happy Easter! Gabbigail

C-109 - GREAT NECK, N.Y.

Our council has been rather inactive for the past several months, however, with the New Year, we hope to become an active working council once again.

Officers for the year are as follows: Pres. Al Wesey, Vice Pres. John (Ricky) Marks, Rec. Secy. Starcy Wesey, Fin. Secy. Jo Zukas, Treas. Lou Ann Rutha, and Sgt-at-Arms Millie Rogers. Spiritual Advisor is Rev. Frank Bulovas, Pastor of Transfiguration Church in Maspeth, N.Y.

Our annual Christmas Party was held Dec. 29 at Virgil's Restaurant in Port Washington. It was great to see everyone enjoying the evening with fellow members, their children, and friendly guests - Ann Discavage, Mary Ann Wesey, and Liz Kurtin.

We look forward to renewed enthusiasm and activity in the council, and ask for the support of all members.

A very Happy Easter to all our friends!

C-12 - NEW YORK, N.Y.

Resolving our plans at the December meeting, we held a Christmas Party for the children on Dec. 15. Ladies of the Council

brought covered food dishes for a pot luck buffet dinner. Former President Vincent Yatkauskas paid us a visit and treated all with his famous Santa performance. On this occasion we had the opportunity to thank Vincent for his past services to the Council. Santa rewarded all the children with gifts as we wished one another a Merry Christmas. Our thanks to Chairlady Helen Yurkus for organizing the event with the assistance of committee members, Jeanne Janonis, Helen Cuperwich and Helen Matthews.

At our council's 5th annual Christmas Eve Community Endeavor, Chairlady Mary York added a Bicentennial note to the activity. We honored Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first native born American to be raised to Sainthood on Sept. 14. We in Manhattan are particularly interested because she was born 200 years ago in N.Y.C. A Founder of the first native American religious community - Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, she was also Founder of the first Catholic parochial school. This is truly a Bicentennial gift to the U.S.A. and a cause of joy to the church, in which all men and women of goodwill can rejoice, whatever their race or nationality. We have been enriched by the memory of Mother Seton for the enduring educational and charitable programs.

The committee for the Christmas Eve circle of friendship were Joseph Kscenaitis, Millie Pietz, Ona Kscenaitis, Ellen Muske, Agnes Krauss and Barbara & Michael Kartanowicz. Our thanks to Bobby and Annamarie Waskiewicz for their assistance in helping us to extend hospitality to 70 people. We are grateful to Pastor Gurinskas for the use of the church hall and facilities to serve coffee and to the guests and parishioners.

While chatting with council members, we learned congratulations are in order to Edward Senken upon his recent promotion to Senior Court Officer in the N.Y. State Supreme Court. There is also beneficial news from Albert Yatkauskas' place of employment. It seems the Veterans Administration is showing interest in helping the aged folk and retarded children with assistive communication devices. We hope they followup on another worthwhile endeavor for the good of those who could use a helping hand.

May St. Casimir bless and preserve us in America and help Lithuania regain her religious freedom.

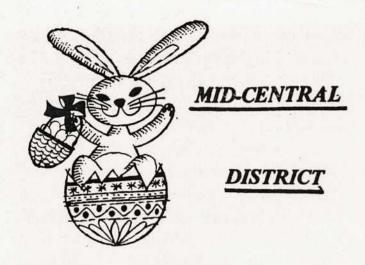
Liberty Lady



C-12 Vice Pres. Helen Cuperwich surrounded by John Bell, Al Monk and Eddie Senken.



Story Book "Little Women" and future "knights" at C12 Christmas Party



C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

A hearty thank-you to Sally Miller and her helpers, Annadel Miller and Marianne Podoyak, for another successful Ladies Christmas Dinner on Dec. 4. A special thanks to Ada Sinkwitz for her treat. What was that called, Elaine (Pacovsky), Blue Hawaii? Wonder what caused Teri Scott to blush? Chalk up another gabby night for the ladies!

Fran Vangas made arrangements for the 'Vejeliai' dancers to perform at the Mt. Olive Church on Dec. 4. Aldona Ryan scheduled the dancers for Dec. 14-16 at the Dayton Convention Center for the Holiday Hello Festivities.

Our dancers had the honor of having Mrs. Galena Gobiene come to Dayton from Detroit to give them some advice to improve their dances and left instructions on other dances for the group to learn. Mrs. Gobiene is chairman for the Summer Dance Festival, Chicago, Ill. on Labor Day Weekend in 1976. Our dancers hope to perform at that time along with many other groups.

Congratulations to chairman Maryann Blum and her committee for another successful Lithuanian cookie - craft sale at the Dayton Winters Tower on Dec. 13 in conjunction with Dayton's annual Holiday Hello Festivities. Elinor Sluzas instructed us in a new craft - making Bread Baskets. Pitching in, also, were Rosemary Budelis, Karolyn Ambrose, Teri Scott, Rita Ambrose, Gus Blum, Frances Mikalauskas, Eugenia čas, Stephani Rastikis, Judy

trokas, Fran Petkus, Al and

Albina Wallis, Sue Mantz, Mary Lou Lastoskas, and Jr. Knight Julie Prasmantas. Mrs. Isabel Latos made Lithuanian Christmas decorations for the sale. Mrs. Monica Petrokas instructed us in making 'Ausukes', and stuck it out with us while waiting for the baskets to bake.

Pat Zelinskas and Eloise Berczelly along with Elinor and Ed Sluzas, Rita Ambrose, Judy Petrokas, John A. Berczelly, Ray Gečas, Michael F. Petkus, Harley Karns, Joyce Boston and Jr Knights Annamarie Sluzas, Greg Blum, Rita Veda and Irene Gečas paid their annual Christmas Caroling Visit to the shut-ins and older members of Holy Cross Parish on Dec. 22. As in the past, the carolers received more than they gave. They were so warmly received, and the delight of the recipients made all worthwhile.

Prize Night for the bowlers on Dec. 20 proved most successful. Winners were Christina Mantz, Michael Dailey, Ray Gecas, Patti Dutcher, and Rita Ambrose. Dennis Noreikas and Frank Ambrose came in with a tie with Frank winning the toss. Congratulations!

A warm welcome to our newest members, Leo and Elynor Matkins. Moving up from our Juniors is Michael F. Petkus. Many active years ahead for all of you.

We are thankful Ada Sinkwitz, Mary Lucas, Kitty Prasmantas and Kathy Sinkwitz came through witnessing an armed robbery at a local restaurant recently with no harm to them. We got to see Karolyn Ambrose and Joyce Boston recently on "Bowling for Dollars", a local TV program.

Good to see Elinor Sluzas recovered from her recent eye infection. Fran Petkus is doing fine after a fall, resulting in nine stitches in her knee. Good to see Fr. Walter Katarskis doing wellnow. Our prayers are with Joe Noreikas for a speedy recovery.

Through Charles Petkus fine salesmanship and 'winning ways', he and Sarah just returned from a trip to the French Riviera! Pat Zelinskas had a pleasant trip to Hartford, Conn. with a stopover in Torrington.

Speedy recovery wishes are sent to Frances Mikalauskas' sister, Isabel Reedick, C-25, Cleveland, O. Isabel is recuperating from a broken arm.

Attending the International Festival in Cincinnati, O., the weekend of Nov. 15-16 were George and Frances Mikalauskas and their family, Joe and Aldona Ryan, Ildephonsas and Janina Bucmys, Stephani Rastikis, Joe Gečas and his daughter Rita.

Congratulations to Ildephonsas and Janina Bucmys on becoming grandparents for the first time. It was a boy! Janina received the news in Australia while visiting her sister.

FBP

C-79 - DETROIT, MICH.

Snowdrifts and snow-clogged streets, following that "White Sunday" snowstorm on Dec. 1, didn't daunt 13 council members who attended our meeting on Dec. 4. Following the meeting a social followed with a Christmas motif. Skanių užkandžių ir kavutės paruošė Marge Nashlon and Barbara Sackle. A Big Ačiū!

Ex-Pres. Ruth Grasha and Virginia Kirsch made T.V. news when they were shown among a multitude of people, many in Lithuanian dress, who gathered at the Metropolitan Airport to meet the arrival of Simas Kudirka on Dec. 13 for a 5-day whirlwind visit in Detroit, including a sumptuous banquet at the Lith. Cultural Center. Simas is the Lithuanian sailor who tried to defect from a Soviet vessel 4 yrs. ago, was released and has now arrived in the U.S. with his family.

After some years, our council's New Year's Eve party was revived at the Veteran's Hall. Chairman Clem Patocki gave us the top treat. The Dance Band kept dancers hopping, the buffet table was filled with lots of good food, the same

spirits dispensed at the bar, the same friendliness for everyone, rekindling nostalgia. It was nice to see the Kurpowic Klan from C-139. There were some trend-setters at the party with spectacular fashions, including a set of twins. Alice Sarigiani and Sophie Zager wore identical gowns, and when they stopped to chat on their identical choice of dress, they discovered they were both Aquarians! Over 100 members, friends and guests attended our New Year's Eve event. The accolades belong to Mr. & Mrs. Clem Patocki, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Petroski and Mr. & Mrs. Chester Nashlon. They did a beautiful job decking the hall, and many thanks for all their efforts in making this an enjoyable evening.

Daug Sėkmės, Leon Pauksta, our new Supreme Council President, in this New Year of 1975. It's an enormous task and responsibility, as those who served before well know. However, let's reach out in friendship as true K of L'ers and cooperate to our utmost; let's build bridges instead of walls.

Second thoughts were exchanged among a number of 79'ers who embarked on trips during the Thanksgiving holidays and were caught in the Great Storm of '74, coming home from various sections of the country. Betty and Frank Petroski were "marooned" for 17 hours in their car near Toledo. Other stranded motorists were the Patocki family, who took over 30 hours to get home from N.Y., and Elizabeth Paurazas who got "lost" for some 18 hours between Chicago and Detroit. This is one storm we will NEVER forget... Joe and Mary Kazlauskas will be settling in their new, large mobile home on their lovely Acres, in the Irish Hills. Pete and "Bingo" Stanulis vacationed in Hawaii and still rave about the beautiful Island. Betty and Frank Petroski will be grandparents for the first time next summer.

Mike Vale expresses his heartfelt appreciation to all members, families and friends who were so kind and thoughtful during the loss of his dear wife, Adele. Both Addie and Mike did much for our new church and cultural center, and for this will always be gratefully remembered.

A hearty welcome to our new pastor, Rev. Fr. Victor Krisciunevicius, who was assigned to Divine Providence on Jan. 1. Father offered his first Mass here on New Year's Day. Best Wishes, Father, and Ilgiausiu Metu!

Soffi



ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

Belated congratulations to Christine Stachyra re-elected C-36 President. We know she will again give enthusiasm to her officers and members.

The Chicago Seniors held Kūčios on Dec. 22 at the K of L Bldg. to a capacity crowd. Compliments to the cooks who prepared the delicious food. Ignas Sakalas was emcee for the evening. Everyone enjoyed the religious slides pre-

sentation and all who attended had a very pleasant evening.

The District held their quarterly meeting on Dec. 11 and a Christmas social followed.

Dist. Pres. Algerd Brazis made the following committee appointments: Lith. Affairs - Al Zakarka, Public Relations - Estelle Rogers, Civic Affairs - Vince Samaska, Scholarship - Eleanore Laurin, Vytis Correspondent - Helen Skudra, Lith. Publicity - Emilija Pakalniskis, English Publicity - Anthony Yuknis, Lith. Cultural - Adelle Zunas, Bulletin Editor Gerry Mockus, Bulletin Publishers-Valeria and Joe Stanaitis. Congratulations, and our thanks for their interest in the organization.

Hoosier

C-112 - CHICAGO, ILL.

The annual Christmas Party of our council, held at the K of L Bldg. on Dec. 14, was well attended and enjoyed by all. The meal was delicious, especially the goodies prepared by our own girls, the music delightful, and the entertainment, superb. Santa Claus, who looks a good deal like Pete Gagle, "Rudolph" (Al Shulicke) and his "reindears" Albina Gaides and Sophie Nieminski, and the carolers presented a most entertaining Christmas program. A big thankyou to raffle prize donors: Prexy John Evans, Don Petkus, Al Bra-



K of L members elected to top spots in the Don Varnas American Legion Post, Chicago. Pictured: Auxiliary President, Jean Pragauskas, C-112, Commander Joseph Ramanauskas, Chicago Seniors, Mrs. Ramanauskas and C-112 Prexy and former Don Varnas Commander John G. Evans.





Santa Claus (Peter Gagle) welcomes AI Raubiskis and other guests to the C-112, Chicago, Annual Christmas Party held at the K of L Building.



Pilot Joseph Nausedas, C-112, (left), visited with vacationing Vyto Butkus, also C-112, in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin.



Winners of the IID Annual Golf Tournament Richard Shlaustas, C36, and Dolores Wainauskas, C-112.

zis, Estelle Rogers, Gerry Mack and Irene Sankus. Winner of the gallon of V.O. was lucky Emily Petraitis. Congratulations to chairman Ed Krivickas, his special

helpers Gerry Mockus and Julie Zakarka, bar chairmen Al Zakarka and Al Dagis, and all of the board members who worked very diligently to make the event so successful. Proceeds were allotted to the K of L Bldg. Fund and the Nativity B.V.M. Parish Piano Fund, a special council project.

The December meeting social, prepared by Julie Z., was most delicious with Christmas goodies, coffee and the very special liquid refreshments dispensed by Estelle Rogers.

Members were really busy during the past holiday season with many, many K of L parties. The party hosted by Dolores and Andy Yuknis had a special entertainment program, with Faustas Strolia at the organ and the wonderful singing of Al Brazis and our West coast visitor Adele Druktenis. The evening climaxed with all singing farewell songs in the Yuknis' foyer and a photo-taking session.

The Chicago Seniors' traditional Kūčios was held Dec. 22 at the K of L Bldg. Many council members were in attendance and truly enjoyed the Lithuanian meal prepared by the Senior ladies.

Condolences to Anele Pocius on the death of her father in Lithuania and to the Pagois and Savickas families on the death of Albert Pagois.

iks

In Memoriam

Please remember in your prayers ...

CHARLES" CREEPER" RUSTEIKA

Member C-52

Elizabeth, N.J.

died January 16, 1975

Draugas 4545 W. 63rd St. Chicago, Ill. 60629

62ND NATIONAL KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CONVENTION AUGUST 20 · 24, 1975

HOSTS - MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT



HEADQUARTERS
HOTEL TAFT
NEW YORK, N.Y.

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 20

A.M. - Early Bird Registration (All Day)

P.M. - Broadway Theater Party

THURSDAY - AUGUST 21

A.M. - Registration (All Day)

- Supreme Council Meeting

12:00 Noon - Opening Mass

2:00 P.M. - Opening Session

8:30 P.M. - "Nostalgia Night"

Buffet, Refreshments, Music

Hotel Taft, N.Y.

FRIDAY - AUGUST 22

9:30 A.M. - Second Session

12:00 Noon - Lunch Break

2:00 P.M. - Third Session

8:30 P.M. - Lietuviškas "Linksmavakaris"

SATURDAY - AUGUST 23

9:00 A.M. - Fourth Session

12:00 Noon - Lunch Break

1:30 P.M. - Fifth Session

7:30 P.M. - Inaugural Banquet and Ball

Lithuanian Cultural Center,

Brooklyn

SUNDAY - AUGUST 24

11:00 A.M. - Convention Closing Mass and Brunch

Transfiguration Church,

Maspeth

- Convention Photo

P.M. - Bicentennial Ceremonies

- Farewell