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BALANDIS – APRIL



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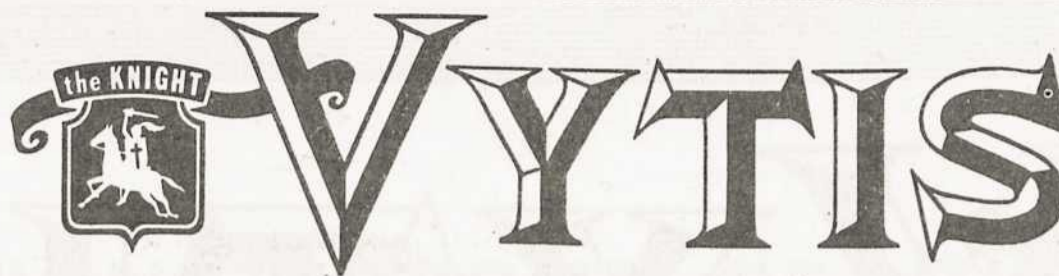
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JURGINĖS



Jurgis buvęs pasaulinio masto šventasis. Vienas populiariausių. Šimtus metų jis buvo gerbiamas. Šventą Jurgį savo globėju pasirinko Britanijos liūtas - Anglija, švento Jurgio kryžiumi Rusijos carai apdovanodavo pačius narsiausius... Jurgio vardu krikštydavo karalius, Jurgiui buvo kuriamos odės, misterijos. Jo vardu buvo pavadinti miestai, pilys, bažnyčios, gatvės, vienuolynai... Jo garbei skiriami atlydai, iškilmingos procesijos, giedamos giesmės.

Viduramžių laikais jam beveik nebuvo lygių kitų šventųjų gretoje. Jisai kilnus, bebaimis riteris, ietimi nugalėjęs baisų slibiną, tuo išgelbėdamas mirčiai pasmerktą karalaitę. Dar prieš keliasdešimt metų mūsų senoliai labai pamaldžiai giedojo giesmę šlovinančią šį Jurgio žygį.

Jurginės - viena pavasario švenčių. Lietuvių liaudies tradicijose tai buvo oficiali gyvulių išgynimo, pavasario darbų pradžios diena. Senų senovėje ji buvo švenčiama apie balandžio mėnesio vidurį, kai prasidėdavo laukų darbai. Priėmus krikščionybę, ši šventė buvo sutapinta su Jurgio diena. Taip Jurgis pasidarė gyvulių globėju. Tad lietuvių liaudis apie balandžio 23 dieną sako: "Jurgis ant šimelio (šyvo žirgo) parjoja".

Jurginės buvo lyg ūkinio gyvenimo riba. Baigėsi sunkus žiemos metas, baigėsi maisto atsargos ir pašarai galvijams. Iki tos datos reikėjo taip tvarkytis, kad ištektų

pašaro savo maitintojams gyvuliams. "Lig švento Jurgio turėk ir ožkai" - moko lietuviška patarlė. O kita dar perspėja: "Ir šventas Jurgis ne su šieno vežimu atvažiuoja".

Senovės žmogus, visiškai priklausomas nuo gamtos, stengėsi prie jos prisitaikyti, o taip pat jos jėgas palenkti savo naudai. Kai kur iki jurginių nevalia buvo ginti ganyklon gyvulių. O pačią jurginių dieną būdavo atliekamos įvairios pirmojo gyvulių išgynimo apeigos. Visos jos skirtos apsaugoti savo galvijus, gausinti bandą.

Išgindamas gyvulius iš tvarto, šeimininkas padėdavo slenkščio galuose po kiaušini. Mat, daugelyje tautų kiaušinis yra nuo amžių pripažintas vaisingumo simboliu. Be to, kiekvienam gyvuliui būdavo sudrožiama verbos šakele, dainuojant jurginių dainas. Kai kur galvijus, prieš išgindami, pasmilkydavo švestomis žolelėmis.

Gyvuliais tą dieną ypatingai rūpindavosi: juos geriau pašerdavo, darbiniam gyvuliams leisdavo ilsėtis - tą dieną neardavo, nekinkydavo. Nepamiršdavo ir piemenukų - šeimininkės jiems pateikdavo geresnio, sotesnio maisto. Tai būdavo lyg piemenų šventė, panaši į sekmines. Grįžusius juos stengdavos perlieti vandeniu, vėl pavaišinti.

Piemenukai, savo ruožtu, pradėdami tokį svarbų darbą, taip pat rūpinosi užtikrinti jo sėkmę. Apeidavo bandą su rykštele ir vakare ją užkišdavo už skersbalkio: kad visą vasarą banda laikytųsi būryje, kad gyvuliai nepasimestų, kad būtų nesunku juos ganyti.

Išgenant gyvulius, stengtasi, kad apeigose dalyvautų jaunavedžiai. Jų veiksmams labiausiai tikėta. Ne veltui liaudies jurginių dainose, tokiose primityviai lakoniškose, atsiranda vestuvių motyvų. Pavyzdžiui, kreipiantis į Jurgį

ir prašant paleisti rasą ir žolę, jis raginamas "neženyta" apvedinti.

Tą dieną buvo pagerbiami visi Jurgiai: jų kepures papuošdavo keliomis tuščiomis varpomis, "kvietkomis".

Jurgis, jurginės. Neramios nuomininkams, samdiniams dienos. Ar liksi gyventi vietoje, kur, kokiam šeimininkui parsisamdysi sekantiems metams? Balandžio 23-ji diena - jau išgalėjusi kaip samdos, nuomos sutarčių sudarymo diena. Ji patogi šeimininkams: nuo kalėdų paleisti samdiniai būna savo namuose. Ūkyje per žiemą jų rankos nereikalingos, nereikia maitinti atliekamų burnų. Nuo jurginių užgriūva pavasario darbai, - pats laikas apsirūpinti samdinių darbo jėga. Kita vertus, iki jurginių nuomininkas galėjo būti ramus, kad šeimininkas net teismo keliu neišmes jo iš buto. O po jurginių jau pavasaris. Ši tradicinė teisė Lietuvoje buvo išgalėjusi ne tik kaime. Jos laikėsi ir miestuose.

Šiandien jurginės pagyvensiems žmonėms primena senas, pilnas rūpesčių ir vilties pavasario dienas.



Sv. Jurgis

THE ROLE OF RADIO IN FREEDOM



By Columnist John P. Roche

& Leonard Davidonis C-10

MUNICH - I have been here for several days in my capacity as a member of the U.S. Board for International Broadcasting, which is charged by law with oversight of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe. These two stations headquartered for operational purposes in Munich, have assembled over the years quite remarkable staffs for the purpose of providing a surrogate free press in five eastern European nations (RFE) and the Soviet Union (RL).

Only in Romania and Hungary are they not subject to heavy jamming. Indeed, it has been estimated that Moscow uses enough electricity to light a city of one million for a year in the effort to block Radio Liberty.

Unfortunately, the high negative value that communists assign to the stations is not reflected by a positive response in the United States. Here the difficulty is that, when the news surfaced in 1971 that the Central Intelligence Agency covertly started the enterprises and funded them, conformist liberals consigned them to the junk pile as "Cold War relics". In one sense this is true. Like the Berlin Wall (which has not to my knowledge been dismantled), they do have a Cold War function.

The question is: Who says the Cold War is over? If you happened

to have your feet blown off a few hundred kilometers from here in an East German border minefield, you would not I suspect share the detente euphoria.

However, unlike the East German mines and automated machine guns in the border zone, neither Radio Free Europe nor Radio Liberty has a malignant Cold War function. They simply seek to provide accurate information to peoples living in what Alexander Solzhenitsyn called the "Muffled Zone".

A few years ago, one of the RFE Polish staff was monitoring a local station in Gdansk and was startled to hear that savage rioting between police and workers was in full progress. RFE's Polish service moved into immediate action and brought the news to the Polish people, who had not been informed by their own media.

Examples of this sort abound. Last evening, for example, I met the Russian emigre who had just finished reading the whole of the "Gulag Archipelago" over Radio Liberty, and this station has a library of "Samidzat", the underground publications unmatched in the Western World (the KGB probably has a sizable collection, though for other purposes).

Listening to Solzhenitsyn's work (particularly with jammer-provided background static) may not be as easy as watching "Upstairs - Downstairs", but every night

young men go out into the countryside around Moscow (which is saturated with jammers), get RL on their short-wave sets and turn on a tape recorder. This magnetized tape is then passed around from hand to hand.

Then the Soviets have an interesting trick. Unlike the AP and UPI wire service, which send out all their material to tickers all over the U.S., Tass sanitizes the news so that the material fed to the Ukraine may omit items sent, say, to Georgia or Uzbekistan. RL monitors these changes and then thoughtfully calls to the attention of the Georgians and the Uzbeks the news that was not fit to print.

In addition there is cross-reporting: that is, RFE's Hungarian service will tell its audience what the Romanians have been saying about Hungary or what a high Soviet official told a Bulgarian party congress about the Romanians playing footsie with Peking. Technically, this is a complex and incredibly demanding job, particularly since much equipment is out of date (to reach Soviet central Asia, for example, RL has to tie together four of its six 50 megawatt transmitters). But every day the work goes forward, and unbiased, un-cooked news goes to millions of eager listeners - surely a project the United States can be proud of.

The article is provided through the courtesy and permission of Hearst columnist JOHN P. ROCHE, the "SPEEDX" magazine, and its short-wave enthusiasts Mr. O.E. and Council 10's L. R. Davidonis, who is the Lithuanian language translator in the "SPEEDX" Handicapped Aid Program. Information can be obtained on this program by writing to Mr. Gene Moser, HAP Director, 6805 Woodland Court, Coloma, Mich. 4903 USA.



There's Work to be Done!

Like many other Lithuanian-Americans, I see the Knights of Lithuania as a leadership organization. The K of L is, of course, many things to many people. To some, it's a social club: an organization where you can meet with kindred souls and enjoy the company of people with similar interests - maybe even find yourself a partner for life.

For others, the K of L is a Catholic organization, to bolster parish life. For still others, the K of L is a strong, well-organized mechanism to accomplish things for Lithuania and Lithuanians in the political sphere.

The K of L is, I suppose, all of these things and more. (How about writing the editor a letter to tell us all what YOU think the K of L is?)

To me, the K of L is an organization which should produce leaders for the Lithuanian community in the U.S.A. The Knights of Lithuania as an organization should exercise a very special role of leadership in the Lithuanian-American community.

As Americans of Lithuanian descent, we should span both cul-

tures. We should know and absorb the best of old Lithuanian traditions, history, and culture. We should also try to see how these things can contribute to the making of a better America. An important element of all this, of course, will be our Catholic Faith.

Specifically, I propose that the Knights of Lithuania assume their rightful leadership role in the Lithuanian community of the United States by calling a summit conference on Lithuanian participation in the American Revolutionary Bicentennial.

Some weeks ago I attended, along with K of L member Joe Novitis, of Philadelphia, and several other Lithuanians, a meeting in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the American Revolutionary Bi-Centennial Administration, the D.C. Bicentennial Commission, and The National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs. The meeting was attended by about 200 people from various ethnic groups. This was the second time in my experience that such a large cross-section of nationalities in this country had been brought together to discuss common concerns. The first was a meeting of ethnic clergy in Cleveland last June

The point was made very strongly that the celebration of the American Revolution must not just be a WASP (White-Anglo-Saxon-Protestant) parade and fireworks exhibit. If the Bi-Centennial of this country is to mean anything, it must include a celebration of the Lithuanian coal-miner, tailor, steel-worker, priest, nun, nurse, etc. who helped to make this nation great, shoulder to shoulder with the Scotch, Irish, Afros, and all the others.

But how best to celebrate and publicize the role of Lithuanians in the history of America? A book? A traveling exhibit? Who is to do it? Where will the money come from? I'm convinced that although no one of us has all the answers, together we can find them.

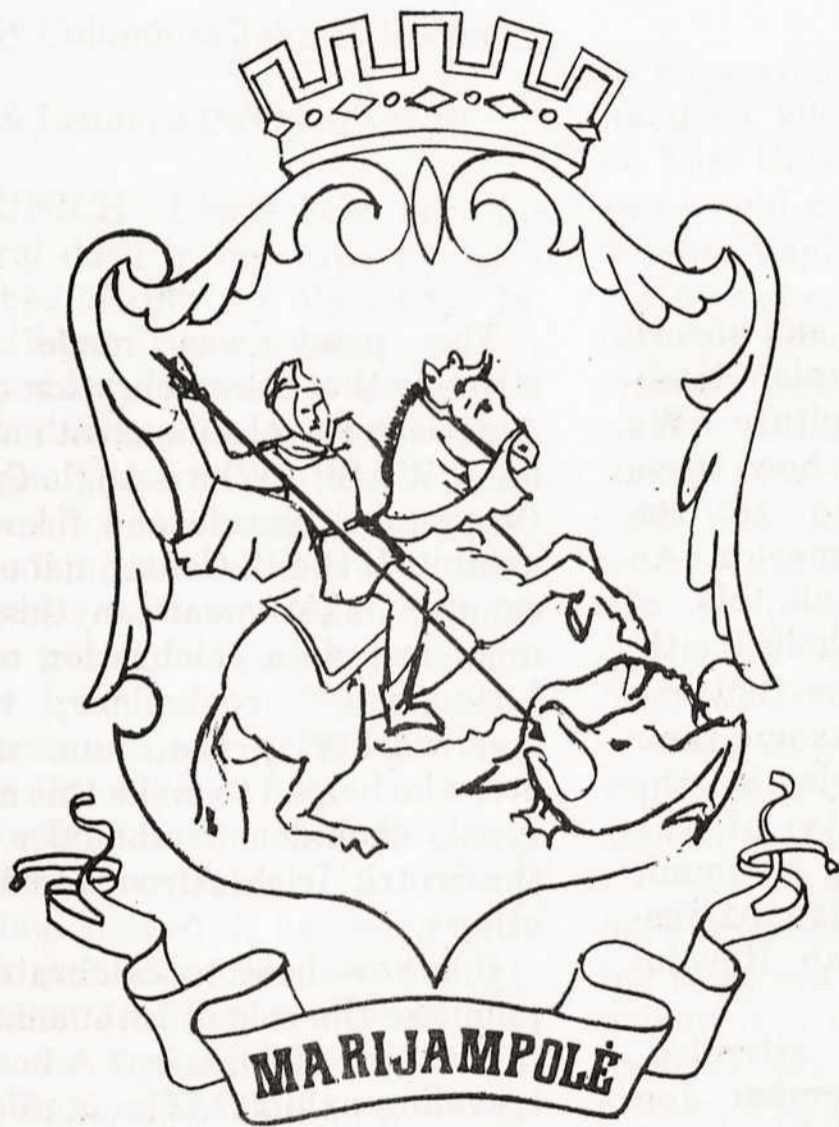
I propose that the Supreme Council waste no more time in announcing a date, place, and agenda for representatives of all Lithuanian groups and in fact individual Lithuanians who may have a special interest in the Bi-Centennial, to meet and lay some plans.

Father Casimir Pugevičius

SPIRITUAL MODERATOR

THE MONTH OF APRIL IN LITHUANIAN HISTORY

APRIL 10, 1830 Lithuanians in Marianapolis rose in rebellion against the Czarist government then ruling Lithuania. The rebellion proved futile and as a result, 1170 Lithuanians were imprisoned by the Russians.



APRIL 22, 1863 Pope Pius IX wrote to Alexander II of Russia, stating that the people of Lithuania rebelled against his government because of its oppression of the Catholic faith and other infringements on basic freedoms. The Russian representative in Rome, Mr. Meyerdorf, then stated that Catholicism in Russia was equal to revolution. Following this statement the Czar broke diplomatic relations with Rome.

APRIL 24, 1904 The unrest of the period prompted Moscow to lift the ban on publication of Lithuanian books using the Latin alphabet. During the previous forty years only 54 books were published in Lithuanian language in Lithuania itself, and all of these used the Russian Cyrillic alphabet. The primary intent of the original ban was to russify the Lithuanians' character. The ban was a complete failure. Rather than destroy the Lithuanian national character, it nurtured its development. During the period of the ban, Lithuania's great literary minds went underground later to emerge as the chief proponents of Lithuanian unity and independence. One of the most colorful of characters of the "Book Smuggling Period" was the KNYGNEŠYS or book carrier, who risked life and limb to smuggle books in Lithuanian across heavily-guarded borders, back into Lithuania from neighboring lands.



"Knygnešys" - Sculpture by J. Zikaras

APRIL 17-18, 1906 The first Lithuanian-American-Catholic Congress convened in Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania. It organized all Lithuanian-American Catholics into an organization known as the Lithuanian-Catholic Federation. This organization proved effective in dealing with immigrant, spiritual and social necessities.

APRIL 27, 1913 This day marked the culmination of the lifelong dream of one Mykolas Norkunas. This one-time KNYGNEŠYS smuggled books from Tilsit, Germany to Lithuania during the ban on publishing in the Lithuanian tongue. Now he met with other Lithuanian immigrants to the U.S. in a Parish Hall in Lawrence, Mass. to create an organization strictly for Lithuanian-American Youth as an outgrowth of the Lith.-American Catholic Federation. This new organization, first called "The Lithuanian Falcons", later became the "Knights of Lithuania". Others present at that founding meeting were Rev. Jusaitis, Stasys Bugnavicius, A. Simoniute, K. Urbonas, S. Maciulskis, A. Jankauskas, V. Paulikaitis and A. Maciulskaitė. The new organization's theme became "For God and Country".



APRIL 6, 1919 Antanas Smetona was appointed first president by the convening parliament of the newly-restored republic of Lithuania.

APRIL 19, 1919 Only one year after declaration of their independence, the Lithuanians routed the bolsheviks from their capital city of Vilnius on Holy Saturday 1919. The Communists had attempted to forcibly overthrow the infant Lithuanian republic and annex the country into the newly-formed Soviet Union. However, stiff Lithuanian resistance thwarted these attempts.



Mykolas Norkūnas

A LITHUANIAN CHURCH IS CLOSED ST. ANN'S LITHUANIAN CHURCH JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 1913 - 1974

Edward W. Baranauskas



As a former communicant of St. Ann's Lithuanian Church in Jersey City, New Jersey, it is not easy for me to write an obituary about a parish that was so much a part of my life. It is a story of a parish that came into being because of the sacrifices and devotions of many of our early Lithuanian immigrants that settled in Jersey City. It is also the story of a parish that fell victim to our changing times.

Jersey City lies directly across the Hudson River from the island of Manhattan, which is one of the boroughs of New York City. It is not known exactly when the first Lithuanians arrived in Jersey City,

but by 1898, they numbered about 340. Those who had come to live here were staunch Catholics, but because of circumstances, they were forced to attend other churches for devotions, and Mass was not usually conducted in their native tongue. Seeing that other Lithuanians in neighboring cities had their own churches, the Jersey City Lithuanians were determined to have one of their own.

Meetings were organized, and plans began to be made. The first order of business was to decide on a name for the Church, and St. Ann was selected as the patroness of their new parish. In 1908, Rev. B.

Zindzius of the city of Elizabeth came to visit the people in Jersey City, and offered his encouragement and advice. The census showed that 600 families, including Lithuanians living in Hoboken, Union City, North Bergen, West New York and Cliffside were willing to support a new parish.

A committee then went to the Chancery Office to keep an appointment with Bishop John O'Connor, and permission was granted to incorporate St. Ann's Parish. The date was March 19, 1910.

Since there were no Lithuanian priests available at that time to take care of the Jersey City faithful, Bishop O'Connor allowed Rev. M. Servydis, pastor of St. Michael's in nearby Bayonne, to look after the spiritual needs of St. Ann's Parish. Services were held for three years at the nearby parishes of St. Boniface and Holy Rosary, both in Jersey City.

However, the Jersey City Lithuanians still yearned for a



church of their own. A special committee was organized, and it was decided to buy a theatre on Grand St. and Manning Ave. The building was completely renovated, and now the new St. Ann's Lithuanian Church was ready. The first Mass was said on Thanksgiving Day in 1913, and, escorted by the banners of the societies of St. Ann's Church, the Bishop entered the church, which was completely filled.

The first pastor was Rev. Joseph Rastutis, who was designated by Bishop O'Connor in 1912 to organize the Lithuanians in Jersey City and to establish a permanent parish. He left St. Ann's in 1915.

The deed for the church was recorded in Hudson County on January 7, 1914.

The rectory at 337 Woodward St. was purchased by the third pastor of St. Ann's, Father Krasnitskas, for his personal use, and when he returned to Lithuania in 1926, he donated the house to the parish.

Under the inspiration of the fifth pastor of St. Ann's, Rev. Peter Vanagas, the Knights of Lithuania, Council 124 of Jersey City was organized in 1930.

Under the guidance of the eighth pastor of St. Ann's Parish, the

Rev. John Scharnus, the church was completely remodeled, a new organ was installed, and the church exterior took on a new look with aluminum siding. Rev. Scharnus was the pastor of St. Ann's from 1941 to 1964.

Unfortunately, with the passing of the years, the number of the parishioners began to decrease. As death began to take its toll of the older parishioners, the changing nature of life in Jersey City compelled the younger couples to move out to the suburbs. An era of change began to set in.

Because of the constant vandalism the church had suffered over the past few years, and because the parishioners had dwindled to about 40 in number, the church faced the unsurmountable burden of meeting its financial obligations.

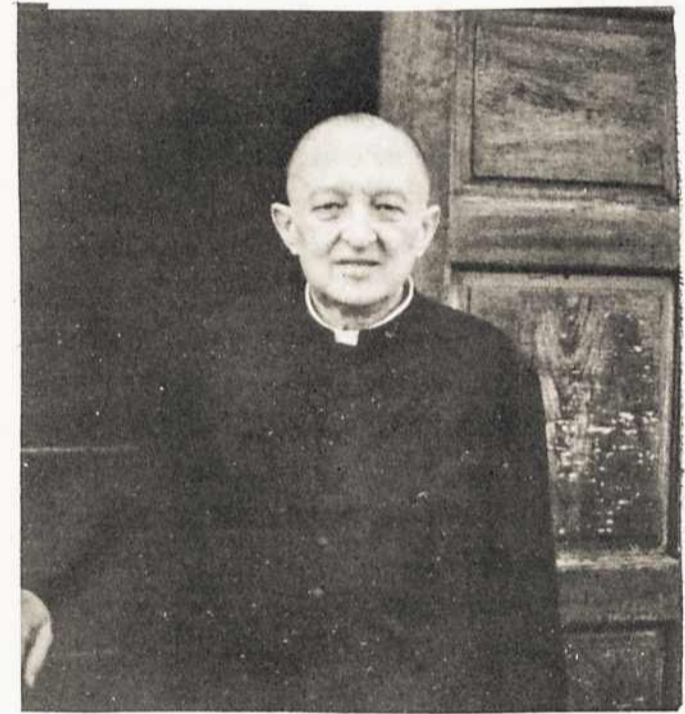
Rev. Vladas Karalavicius, who served as pastor for the last six years, said the final two Masses at St. Ann's Lithuanian Church on December 1, 1974. Only 6 people, of which four were Lithuanian, attended the first Mass, while only 2 people attended the second Mass. Two days later, on December 3rd, the church and the rectory were sold to the Black Methodist Episcopal Church, whose head ar-

rived from Washington, D.C. to sign the documents.

The church is now known as St. Ann's Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. The furnishings of St. Ann's - the statues, Stations of the Cross, relics, and some vestments - were taken by a Franciscan missionary for use in a chapel in the Philippine Islands.

Rev. Karalavicius is now retired because of health reasons, and lives at the Holy Trinity Parish of Newark, New Jersey, where Msgr. John Scharnus is pastor.

And, now, St. Ann's Lithuanian Parish of Jersey City, New Jersey is nothing but a memory.



Rev. Karalavicius



T A K E T I M E	TAKE TIME TO THINK It is the source of power.	TAKE TIME TO BE FRIENDLY It is the road to happiness.
	TAKE TIME TO PLAY It is the secret of perpetual youth.	TAKE TIME TO LAUGH It is the music of the soul.
	TAKE TIME TO READ It is the foundation of wisdom.	TAKE TIME TO GIVE It is too short a day to be selfish.
	TAKE TIME TO PRAY It is the greatest power on earth.	TAKE TIME TO WORK It is the price of success.
	TAKE TIME TO LOVE It is a God-Given privilege.	

DVIGUBOS IŠKILMĖS PROVIDENCE

Balandžio 27 d. įvyks dvigubos iškilmės Šv. Kazimiero lietuvių parapijos bažnyčioje, Providence: kun. Vaclovo Martinkaus 40 m. kunigystės jubiliejus ir jo pakėlimas į Lietuvos Vyčių Organizacijos 4-tą laipsnį. Koncelebruotas Šv. Mišias jubiliatas laikys su svečiais kunigais. Anglų kalba pamokslą pasakys Providence dioclezijos ganytojas vyskupas Louis E. Gelineau. Rita Pinkus, Lietuvos Vyčių centro ritualo pirmininkė, atliks 4-to laipsnio ceremonijas. Po Šv. Mišių pagerbimo pietūs įvyks parapijos salėje, kuriuos ruošia vietinė 103 Vyčių kuopa.

Jubiliatas gimė 1909 metais kovo 15 Veitelių kaime, Ylakių valsč. Tai buvo šeštas iš aštuonių vaikų, gimusių šeimoje. Tėvas Leonas ir ten gimęs, motina Benedikta Lenkauskaitė kilusi iš Puodkelių kaimo, Skuodo valsč.

Tėvas, nenorėdamas tarnauti rusų kariuomenėje, su vieno felčerio pagalba, pasidarė žaizdas ant kojų. Iš kariuomenės paleido, bet žaizdos liko visam amžiui ir darė jį mažai darbingą. Sūnui Vaclovui, 9 metų amžiaus "vyru", teko dirbti visus sunkius žemės ūkio darbus



iki 14-kos metų amžiaus, kai, baigęs Gesulų pradžios mokyklą, įstojo į Ylakių vidurinę mokyklą. Jam dar lankant pirmą klasę, mirė tėvas. Vaclovas, atostogų metu turėjo atlikti visus vasaros ūkio darbus.

Baigęs 5-tą klasę Mažeikių gimnazijoje 1928 metais, įstojo į Telšių kunigų seminariją, kurią baigė 1935 metais, ir bal. 24 d. buvo išventintas kunigu.

Jojo pirmoji kunigo vieta buvo Mažeikiuose. Parapijai priklausė apie 7000 sielų. Be eilinių vikaro pareigų, kas savaitę jam teko dėstyti religiją (30 val.) pradžios mokyklose, vadovauti vietos jaunimo organizacijoms, Pavasario Sąjungos rajonui ir organizuoti darbininkus.

Po 5-rių metų buvo paskirtas Židikų parapijos klebonu. Tik mėnesiui praėjus, rusai okupavo Lietuvą. Buvo planavęs daug organizacinių darbų, kurių negalėjo įvykdyti. Rūpinosi parapijos pastatų remontu ir naujomis statybomis. Kapinėse pastatė stilingą koplyčią, sutvarkė kapines ir pastatė naują mūrinę kleboniją, kurioje šiandien yra įrengta ligoninė.

Pasitraukęs Vokietijon, lankė išsibarsčiusius po kaimus ir miestus lietuvius. Suradęs 50 lietuvių belaisvių prie Nuerenbergo, juos išlaisvino. Sužinojęs, kad 500 lietuvių belaisvių Regensburge gresia išdavimo pavojus rusams, padarė atitinkamus žygius amerikiečių įstaigose. Visi tie lietuviai belaisviai buvo paleisti.

Providence vyskupo McVinney kvietimu 1950 m. atvyko į Providence, R.I. Pusantrų metų padirbęs ne lietuvių parapijose, 1952 metų pavasarį buvo nukeltas vikaro pareigoms į Šv. Kazimiero lie-



tuvių parapiją, kur tuo metu klebonavo kun. Jonas Vaitekūnas. Jam 1963 metų vasarą mirus, vyskupas paskyrė kun. Martinkų klebonu. Čia jis tas pareigas tebeina iki šiol. Kun. V. Martinkus visa siela atsidavęs jaunimo reikalams. Jis pagelbsti žmonėms visokiuose gyvenimo reikaluose ir padeda finansiškai nelaimėse.

Atvykęs į Providence atgaivino ir BALFO veiklą, kuriam ir iki šiol pirmininkauja. Įsijungė į centrinę BALFO vadovybę: 2 sykiu buvo išrinktas BALFO direktorium, o 1964 metais ir BALFO pirmininku. Eidamas šias pareigas kas mėnuo važinėjo į posėdžius New Yorke, lankė lietuvius Europoje, Columbijoje, Argentinoje ir kitur.

Praėjusiais metais jam sukako 65 metai, o šiemet, balandžio mėnesio pabaigoje, mini 40 metų kunigystės sukaktį. Prieš trejetą metų širdis sunegalavo, bet laimingai praėjo. Dabar jis jaučiasi dar pajėgus dirbti lietuvių naudai.

Jo sesuo Lietuvoje turi 7 vaikus, kurių 6 yra baigę aukštąjį mokslą. Du broliai žuvo Lietuvoje, viena sesuo, A. Odinienė, gyvena Chicagoje, o brolis Missouri.

"Ad multos annos"!

LEARNING LITHUANIAN IN CONNECTICUT

Back in Feb. 1974, Kestutis Svelnys, a member of C-135, Ansonia, Conn. and of St. Anthony's Parish, an avid supporter of Lithuanian Heritage, asked the Parish Council to help him in forming classes in the Lithuanian language for beginners. The Parish Council agreed, and the Educational Committee of the Parish Council, comprised of Carol Starkey, Lillian Twerian and Kestutis Svelnys, organized the first class on Mar. 26, 1974 with Mrs. Gintare Ivaska as the instructress. Kestutis, with the help of St. Anthony's Catholic Mens' Club, purchased a map of Lithuania and presented it to the Parish on Lithuanian Independence Day. Photographs were in the local newspaper depicting these two events. Funds to pay the instructress became a problem, but Kestutis again appealed to the Catholic Mens' Club of the parish who agreed to finance the program until the end of June.



The Parish Council suggested the possibility of having the classes taught at the Ansonia High School under the Adult Basic Education Program paid for by the State. Through the efforts of Dorothy Dubinsky, a member of the Council and an instructress in the Ansonia High School, classes in Conversational Lithuanian for beginners began on Sept. 24, from 7 to 9:30 P.M.

On Oct. 18, an article appeared in the Evening Sentinel, the local newspaper, announcing America's First Adult Basic Educational Course in the Lithuanian Language being offered in Ansonia, according to Robert Spanier, Adult Basic Education Director.

Mr. Spanier indicated the course which includes the study of the Lithuanian Heritage is so popular that it needed two teachers. They are Mrs. Gintare Ivaska and Dr. Elona Vaisnys.

Mrs. Ivaska of Monroe, Conn. formerly of New York, has published Children's stories in Lithuanian. She won a prize for an adventure novel for teen-agers.

She has taught Lithuanian Saturday School in New Haven and is teaching at the Maironis Lithuanian Saturday School in New York. She is a frequent contributor to the Lithuanian American Press, and is a popular speaker at youth camps.



Dr. Vaisnys lives in North Haven, Conn. She is a graduate of Yale University and is active in Lithuanian American Groups. A former member of the Lithuanian Educational Council, she is the Associate Executive Director of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies. She has taught in Lithuanian Saturday Schools in New Haven and writes a weekly column for a New Haven newspaper.

An editorial in the Evening Sentinel appeared Oct. 26, 1974: "ONLY ONE IN U.S. - Ansonia, Conn. apparently is unique in all America in offering an Adult Basic Education Course in the Lithuanian Language.

Lithuania is a small country on the shores of the Baltic Sea - a country swallowed up by Russia since World War II but still recognized as independent by the United States. Lithuania is an Indo-European tongue of great antiquity analogous to other major languages of that family: the Germanic Languages, the Celtic tongues, the Latin Languages, the Slavic Languages, etc.

It is good to know that the Lithuanian language is being preserved and perpetuated in Ansonia, Conn., the United States of America, just as the Spirit of National Independence still burns bright in captive Lithuania itself".

A LETTER FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN OF LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS



This past February, we commemorated the 57th anniversary of Lithuania's independence from 123 years of Russian Czarist occupation.

As you and I know, Lithuania enjoyed her independence for only 22 years. She is once again an occupied "slave-state", this time, of the Soviet Communist regime.

As a result, it has been 35 years since February 16th could be celebrated in Lithuania as her Independence Day. How long will it be before the people of Lithuania can once again openly celebrate this day on their calendars?

As your chairman, I have received and read much material on various subjects from "A" to "Z" - some of it even relating to Lithuania.

I read noted scientists and scholars discussing the future of the world on such subjects as population, food, and pollution. It appears that little, if any, is written on future changes in world political and social systems.

One interesting tidbit I received from a member referred me to an article dealing with Europe 50 years from now. The article quotes the predictions of one man, who it seems, is quite knowledgeable and experienced in the present-day Communist system. The man is Milovan Djilas, former head of the Yugoslavian Parliament and vice-president of Yugoslavia. This man was expelled from the Communist Party in 1954 and imprisoned from 1956 to 1961, for his beliefs.

For the world as a whole, Mr. Djilas believes that the most significant development in the next 50 years will be the disintegration of the Soviet Empire. The crucial factors will be domestic discontent and pressure from China, and in this latter connection, he cannot rule out war between China and the Soviet Union, nor uprisings in Europe.

Mr. Djilas predicts that the Soviet territories east of the Caspian Sea will secede into separate national states under Chinese influence. The Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, will once again become independent, as will the Ukraine. The Caucasian nations of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbakhia, will secede and form an independent federation. Germany will be re-united without a civil war. His own country of Yugoslavia will probably be broken-up into four separate nations: Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Serbia.

Obviously, these changes will not occur peaceably.

Does this mean that we Lithuanians can now sit back and let history take its course? Perhaps it means that we should take-up arms...

The first course of action would obviously accomplish nothing and might even prolong this "natural" process, if we assume that Mr. Djilas is correct. And what if Mr. Djilas' predictions are not correct? In either case, the second choice or course of action would only lead to a holocaust...

What if Mr. Djilas' predictions are partly true? It may not take a full 50 years to see Lithuania free again.

I personally feel that an independent Lithuania in the not-too-distant-future hinges on a number of factors. The most important of these is the activity or laxity of Lithuanian-Americans.

Look what the Jews have done in Israel. Most of what has been accomplished in that small country has been mainly due to the efforts of Jewish-Americans.

You may argue that they have connections, etc. Well, the point is that we Lithuanian-Americans DO have connections. The most glaring example is the case of Simas Kudirka. Much as some individuals and organizations may object, it was the Lithuanian community AS A WHOLE that brought him and his family to this country. Just think what could be accomplished if all of the Lithuanian organizations in this country worked together in a coordinated manner.

What I am leading up to is publicity. The Knights of Lithuania has the means to this end. Public Relations and Lithuanian Affairs are, to me, the most important asset we have.

Publicity has always been a thorn in the side of the Communists. We Lithuanians should enlarge that thorn to, perhaps, the size of a "Sword". And we can.

We should all make a resolution to write and speak - for Lithuania. If someone would like to interview you regarding something Lithuanian, take the opportunity. Even if you don't know as much as you would like to know, you still know a lot more than a non-Lithuanian (in most cases).

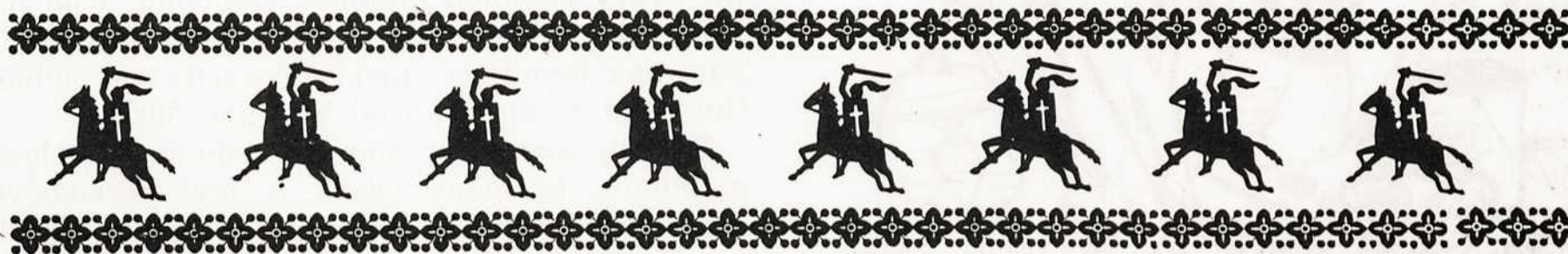
And sit down and write that letter I've been telling you to write. It's essential that everyone do this. We don't want a dribble. We want a flood! Write your Congressmen and Senators. Write to the White House. Write to your local newspaper and your radio and TV stations. Let them know about Lithuania. If YOU don't tear down the Iron Curtain, no one will know what's behind it!

I think that with a whole-hearted, concerted effort, we may see a free and independent Lithuania in our life-times.

I think the words of Simas Kudirka were very appropriate when he spoke in Boston on December 28th, 1974: "The pen is the most pernicious enemy of the Communists. It is the pen that will bring down Communism".

Remember, these are the words of a man who was on the inside, looking-out for four years.

Denis G. Mazeika, M.D.



IŠ PADANGIŲ KILK GALINGAS VYTI

Pro debesuotą pajūrio plotį
Ateina žinios vis šiurpulingos.
Paraudęs dangus pradeda raudoti,
Alpsta tėvynė skausme sustingus.

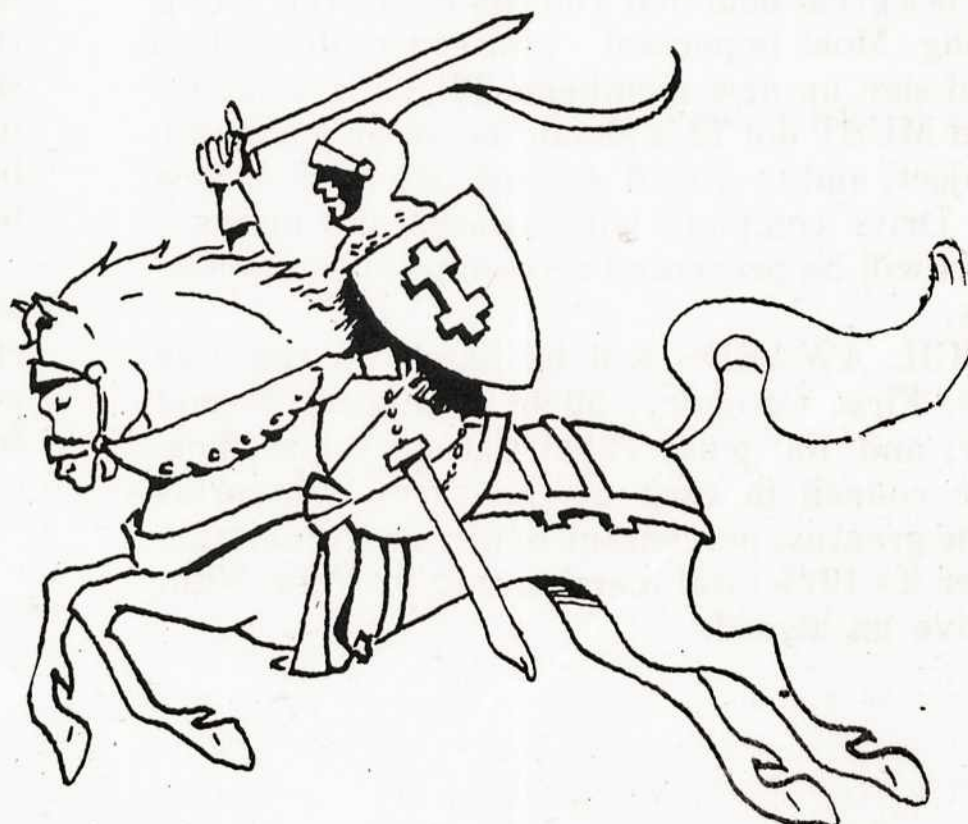
Argi tu žemėj gyventi neverta?
Kam tau pasaulis duris uždaro?
Kodėl ant kaklo kilpa užnerta,
Kodėl be laiko į kapus varo?

Ginkimės, broliai, kas kuo ginkluoti!
Atėjo laikas: gyvent ar žūti.
Vieninga dvasia, drąsa šarvuoti
Už tėvų žemę, už skaisčią buitį.

Verkit, berželiai, melskitės kryžiai,
Varpai, jų liūdną raudą kartokit.
Šaunūs karžygiai, tautos didvyriai
Iš kapų kilkit, į kovą stokit.

Ženg' iš padangių galingas Vyti,
Ir kelk tėvynę, kraujuos sumintą.
Padėk iš krašto priešą išvyti,
Gražink mums laisvės žiedą nuskintą.

(Prieš porą metų miręs buvęs "Vyčio" redaktorius Kazys Jonaitis-Žilvytis yra išleides savo kūrybos-eilėraščių rinkinį "Sielos Balsai" ir jį paaukojęs vyčiams. Čia dedame jo paskutinių gyvenimo dienų kūrinėlių-eilėraščių. RED.).



WHAT CAN YOU DO THIS SPRING?



There is a great deal that you can do for the K of L this spring. Most important - you can really get to work and sign up new members! THAT is what we CAN and MUST do! This should be an on-going, all-year project, and to give it a boost, we have a New Member Drive complete with awards and prizes.

Awards will be presented according to the following rules:

COUNCIL AWARDS will be based on the 1-49 members, First Category; 50-99 members, Second Category; and 100 plus, Third Category classification. The council in each of the three categories having the greatest percentage of increase (minimum 10%) over its 1974 total membership by June 30th, will receive an award.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AWARDS will be presented to the three members who earn the highest number of points for signing up new members. Individual Member Awards are not governed by the 3 category system of council classification, but are earned on an organization-wide basis. 10 points are gained for every new member enrolled, and 5 points for every rejoined member (someone who has not been a K of L member for one or more years). Get your new members quickly. Awards will be based on the point totals realized by June 30th.

In your search for members, do not overlook past members. In many cases, a few persuasive, encouraging words can convince a former member to rejoin. Also bear in mind the many possible Associate Members. As you know, a Catholic, non-Lithuanian spouse of a K of L member is eligible. Examine all possibilities, take a handful of Membership Applications, and start selling the K of L to your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances.

By now, all councils should be 100% paid-up. Apparently, some councils have been slow in sending the 1975 dues to the National Financial Secretary. According to the records, by the end of January 22 councils had not sent in any dues whatsoever, and three councils had sent in dues for only one member each. Come on Knights! Let's not be lax. Let's get those dues paid up. Council Financial Secretaries - send in dues as they are collected. Please do not wait until you have them all collected. This would ease the burden of the Financial Secretary, as well as make a better record for your council.

As mentioned earlier, we have an ample supply of attractive and informative K of L Membership Brochures. They could be very helpful in attracting new members. The brochures are free for the asking; just contact me, and I'll forward as many as you desire.

Anthony M. Miner,
National Membership
Vice President

KUDIRKA HONORED AGAIN

Simas Kudirka, winner of this year's top honors from the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture of Chicago, has urged his fellow Lithuanian-Americans to join him in a "fight for freedom - not with guns - but with words".

Kudirka, the Lithuanian seaman who captured the world's attention in an attempted leap to freedom in 1970, was named the museum's 1975 Lithuanian-American of the Year at the 6th annual awards banquet held at the Martinique Restaurant, Evergreen Park, Ill.

The museum's gala dinner dance was attended by more than 400 persons, representing governmental, cultural and ethnic organizations and friends and supporters of the museum. The Honorable Anicetas Simutis, Consul General of Lithuania, came from New York City to introduce Kudirka and to praise his "courageous stand against the Soviets".

"I think the Balzekas Museum could have made no better choice" in honoring Kudirka, said the Consul General.

"We honor Kudirka, not because he wanted to live in America, but because he stood his ground courageously under the most adverse conditions", continued Simutis.

Consul General Simutis also praised the Balzekas Museum for its efforts to preserve "old books, old writings, medals, and uniforms - everything that reminds us of the independence of Lithuania, and its great past.

"This work of the museum is very worthwhile to support", added the Consul General who expressed his appreciation to the many volunteers and sup-



Presentation of the Balzekas Museum Award. L. to r. Mary Krauchunas, Chairman Liu Dargis, Simas Kudirka, The Honorable Anicetas Simutis, Consul General of Lithuania, and Stanley Balzekas, Jr., Director of the Balzekas Museum.

porters of the museum's programs.

Proceeds of the event went to a "Free Lithuania" wing which will be introduced at the museum and to a scholarship fund for the Kudirka children, Lolita, 14, and Evaldas, 8.

Stanley Balzekas, Jr., founder of the museum, presented the seaman with two bank books, each with accounts of \$1,000, for the future education of the Kudirka children.

In responding, Kudirka said he accepted the museum's honor on behalf of all the sons and daughters of Lithuania who have given their lives for their country's freedom.

"As long as there is one country in slavery, even a big country like the United States cannot be free", he declared. He asked Chicago's Lithuanian-American community to continue working in various ways for Lithuania's freedom.



Simas Kudirka, his wife Gene and Consul A. Simutis meet with Msgr. D. Mozeris, pastor, and J. Kudirka, organist, of Immaculate Conception Church, Chicago, where a special Mass was held in the Kudirka's honor, before the Balzekas Banquet.



The officers of Chicago's Lithuanian Seaman's Society (Jūry Šauliai) also met with Consul Simutis and Mr. Kudirka during their visit Jan. 19, 1975.

(Photo - P. Maleta)

VYČIU CENTRINIO ARCHYVO REIKALAI

Ignas Sakalas



Pastaraisiais metais Lietuvos Vyčių seimuose, be kitų bendrų organizacijos reikalų, keliamas ir Vyčių Centrinio Archyvo klausimas. Berods, buvo išrinkti igaliojiniai tam archyvui sutvarkyti, o praėjusių metų seimas net atskira rezoliucija davė teisę Centro valdybai kontaktuoti Ohio valstybės universiteto (Kent State University) archyvarą, kad jis pateiktų žinių (žinoma, pirmiausia tą archyvą peržiūrėjęs), kaip yra archyvuose gauti dokumentai skirstomi, numeruojami, kataloguojami ir t.t. Net \$1,000 paskirta tam reikalui.

Jau pusmetis praėjo nuo seimo, jau Centro valdyba paskelbė šių metų seimo vietą ir datas, o minėtoji archyvo reikalu rezoliucija, turbūt, dar tebėra popieriuje.

Kalbant apie archyvą, susiduri su nariais, kurie net nežino, ką žodis archyvas reiškia, arba klaidingai jį supranta ir bando aiškinti. Archyvas yra įstaiga (vieta), kur renkami istoriniai dokumentai. Kadangi mes kalbame tikrai apie Vyčių archyvą, tai jis apima tikrai organizacijos veikimo liudininkus - dokumentus: seimų protokolų knygas, visus Centro valdybos raportus, Centro valdybos posėdžių protokolus, narių rekordus, centro oficialius leidinius-laiškus, seimų programas, ženklelius ir visa, kas esti išspausdinta seimo reikalais. Toliau apskričių ir kuopų protokolų jau išbaigtos knygos, bylos, žymesnių parengimų apyskaitos, skelbimai (plakatai), bilietai ir t.t. ir t.t. Toliau "Vyčio" pilnų metų komplektai, Lietuvos reikalų komisijos biuletiniai ir kitoki leidiniai, kurie liečia vyčių veikimą. Reiktų nepamiršti ir Vyčių skyrių komplektų, pav. "Drauge" ir kituose laikraščiuose dedamų korespondencijų. Taip pat seimų, apskričių suvažiavimų, svarbesnių iškilnių, švenčių, minėjimų ir kitokių parengimų, iškilesnių narių, pakeltų į aukštesnius laipsnius, mirusių aprašymai, fotografijos ir t.t. Bendrai, visa, kas tik svarbesnio pasirodo spaudoje apie organizaciją ir jos veikimą. Gautoji archyvinė medžiaga turi būti skirstoma pagal rūšį - turinį, žymima raidėmis ir numeriais. Tas būtina bendrai archyvinei knygai, kurioje kiekvienas dalykas turi būti įrekorduotas. Tokiu būdu kada nors, kam

nors ir bet kokiam reikalui esant, atrakinus archyvo spintą, per keletą minučių būtų galima rasti reikalingų žinių. Vyčių Centriniam Archyvui nereikia kokio diplomuoto archyvaro. Juo gali būti sąmoningas, raštingas ir mėgiantis tą darbą narys. Archyvinė medžiaga ir du kiekvieno "Vyčio" numeriai turi būti nemokamai siunčiami į archyvą, nurodytu adresu.

KĄ DABAR TURIME ARCHYVE?

Be abejonės, ne vienam nariui įdomu bus žinoti, koks dabar yra Vyčių archyvas, kuriam sutvarkyti seimas yra paskyręs tokią stambią ir, sakyčiau, nereikalingą pinigų sumą. Vyčių name, Chicagoj, yra mažas kambarėlis-sandėliukas, kuriame stovi dvi nedidelės geležinės spintos be jokio užrakto. Spintose, suglaustai imant, guli tokia archyvinė medžiaga: dvi ar trys knygos senų seimų protokolų, keletas seimių programų, pluoštas senų narių aplikacijų, įvairių ženklelių, bilietų, laiškų ir kitokių smulkių dalykų; Vyčių namo pirmųjų metų rekordai, apyskaitos ir geroka krūva įvairių nuotraukų-fotografijų, kurių daugumas jau gerokai apgadintos, sulaužytos nuo žiūrėjimo. Visa ta medžiaga, berods, yra surinkta velionio Garbės nario Jack Jatis (Juozaičio). Kadangi jis buvo susirišęs ir su Chicagos miesto politika, tai ir archyvą atmiešė politiniais agitaciniais leidiniais bei fotografijomis. Kitas archyvo mėgėjas buvo velionis K. Zaromskis. Būdamas veiklus savo kolonijos draugijų narys, ir jis įdėjo archyvan tų draugijų ženklelius, plakatus ir bilietus. Pastarieji dalykai nieko bendra neturi su L. Vyčių organizacijos veikla, tad visą tą atmiešimą reiktų išimti.

Drėgname namo rūsyje pelėja daug palaidų "Vyčio" numerių, kuriuos taip pat J. Jatis pargabeno ir sukrovė. Bet iš tų krūvų jokių būdu negalima sudaryti bent vieno kurių metų pilno komplekto. Tad klausimas, ar tie pavieniai "Vyčio" numeriai yra naudingi archyvui? Juk 1975 metų pirmas "Vyčio" numeris yra pažymėtas "Vol. 61 Nr. 1". Reiškia "Vytis" eina šešiasdešimts pirmuosius metus. Kiek yra jo pilnų komplektų ir kur jie guli? Suvežus visus komplektus į archyvą, būtų labai vertingas įnašas. Kas privalėtų tuo reikalu rūpintis? Iš viso, kas šiuo metu archyve yra, didžiausia gėda būtų organizacijai, pasikvietusiai universiteto archyvarą, parodyti ir prašyti nurodymų, kaip reikia tas archyvas sutvarkyti. Nedaryme tokios gėdos organizacijai ir nemeskime tūkstančio į balą.

Kitame "Vyčio" numeryje pateiksiu savo nuomonę, kas darytina su archyvu ir koku būdu galima jį papildyti ir sutvarkyti. Nors jau labai pavėluota, bet, kaip sakoma, geriau vėliau, negu niekad.

CONVENTION NEWS...

NEW YORK IS A SUMMER FESTIVAL ESPECIALLY FOR JUNIORS

New York City is indeed a summer festival, particularly for those of you who are young and interested in exploring the exciting adventures waiting for you at YOUR Knights of Lithuania Convention in New York this summer.

While the regular members are proceeding with the business of the organization, Juniors will be involved in a variety of activities suggested and planned for them by members of local Junior Councils. A tentative schedule has been set up for your consideration, and hopefully to be filled out with your suggestions.

WEDNESDAY - Early Bird Activity - Amusement Night.

THURSDAY - Museum Tour - Sight-seeing.

FRIDAY - Convention Session - Play Day.

SATURDAY - United Nations Tour - To - be - Announced.

SUNDAY - Convention Mass and Brunch.

The early bird activity will include a visit to world-famous Coney Island or Rockaway Park. During the Thursday morning arrival and registration times, outings to the local museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Natural History and the Hayden Planetarium will be available after you have settled in.

The afternoon will provide a boat tour around Manhattan Island, or another sight-seeing tour.

Friday morning, a Junior Convention Session is being planned, where round table discussions and workshops will be highlighted. Those of you who register for the

C-110, Maspeth, Juniors sponsor rummage sale to earn funds to attend the 62nd National Convention.

Convention will receive advance notice of the interest groups available at the session, such as Leadership, Creative Meetings and Activities, Transition from Juniors to Regulars in the K of L, Lithuanian Language, Preparing for Degrees, Public Relations, Cultural Programs, Lithuanian Crafts, and Working for Lithuanian Affairs. Hopefully, these, as well as other sessions, will help each of you to discuss your ideas with other Juniors and a Counselor, as well as allow you to return to your Council with plans and ideas to improve your Junior program.

For those of you who are interested in outdoor activities, an afternoon of sports and folk dancing is projected for Friday afternoon in Central Park.

On Saturday morning, a visit to the United Nations is being planned. The Saturday afternoon schedule is not yet planned. Hopefully, this unscheduled time will be planned by you at your own Convention sessions.

These plans are still tentative, and suggestions from those of you planning to attend the National Convention are most welcome. To

enable you to attend the Convention, the Conventionship Awards (four to each District, at \$50.00 per award) are being offered again this year. You should be receiving your applications within the next few weeks from your Counselor. If you do not, or wish further information, contact Marian Skabeikis, 102-26 93 Avenue, Richmond Hill, New York 11418 (212) 441-4775.

Awards are made on the basis of your activities as a K of L member. They should be returned to your District Vice President in charge of Juniors, since they are the people who are most familiar with your area, and its activities. Deadline this year is August 1. You must attend the Convention to receive the award, and must be 16 years of age, or younger.

The Hotel Taft is offering reduced rates to Juniors if they register as a group, and share a room with other Juniors. To qualify for a lower rate, you must send in your registration reservation through Marian Skabeikis.

ROOM RATES FOR JUNIORS

Room for 4 persons (2 double beds) \$7.00 per person.

Room for 3 persons (2 double beds) \$8.00 per person.

Room for 3 persons (Individual) \$9.00 per person.



All rooms are per person, per night and do not include tax. Groups will be formed when individual Juniors wish to register. Registration fees for the Convention sessions will be published in the next issue of VYTIS.

Plan now to attend the 62nd National Convention. There will be many surprises and worthwhile activities waiting for you in New York. All activities will have adult supervision, but will be hosted by people your own age.

New York is a summer festival. Be part of it at your Junior Knights of Lithuania Convention.

REMINDERS:

Dues are payable for this year to the National Financial Secretary.

Ritual reports should be sent to the Chairman of the National Ritual Committee.

Junior News in the VYTIS needs YOU to report your Council activities.



SOUVENIR JOURNAL

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 send that greeting TODAY. Don't delay!

DEADLINE - JUNE 1, 1975

OFICIALUS SKYRIUS OFFICIAL NEWS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To make for a more effective National Convention, all councils, districts and individuals wishing to present resolutions at the Convention are asked, wherever possible, to submit the resolutions in writing AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to their respective District Presidents before June 1, so that the resolutions can be screened, etc., at the next Supreme Council meeting. Resolutions will also be accepted during the Convention itself.

REMINDERS...

Dues have been raised to \$7.00 per year this year. Additional members of the same family pay \$3.50. Married couples pay \$10.50 the first year they belong, \$7.00 thereafter. Pay your dues today.

Membership VP A. Miner has a large supply of K of L membership brochures, and will send you a supply at no cost, just for the asking. They can be most effective in seeking out new members.

National Secretary Grazina Vaskelis still does not have a report on new officers from all the Councils. Please send her your list WITHOUT DELAY.

All National Officers' addresses are listed in the inside cover of each issue of VYTIS.

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers...

ANNE V. GYBA

Member, C-135

Ansonia, Conn.

Died February 19, 1975

JOSEPH NOREIKAS

Member, C-96

Dayton, Ohio

Died February 23, 1975

ANELE NORBUTAS

Member, C-133

Los Angeles, Calif.

Died February, 1975

CHICAGO, ILL.

MES DIRBAM TAUTAI IR BAŽNYČIAI...

Kiekvienais metais Lietuvos Vyčiai, Chicagoje iškilmingai mini šv. Kazimiero šventę. Plazda vėliavos, skamba giesmės, taiklūs žodžiai pamoksle ir salėje. Tai primena, kad vyčiai moka gerbti vienintelį Bažnyčios atstovą šv. Kazimierą, kuris anais laikais iškilo Lietuvos padangėje.

Šių metų šv. Kazimiero šventė buvo atšvęsta Marquette Parke, šv. M. Gimimo parapijos bažnyčioj. Kun. Vac. Zakarauskas, vyčių dvasios vadovas, čia atlaikė pamaldas. Dalyvavo daug vyčių iš Ill-Ind. apskrities ir kuopų. Po pamaldų daugumas nuvyko į vyčių salę. Čia buvo akademinė dalis, laipsnių pakėlimas ir žymesnių veikėjų pagerbimas. Vyčiai visur pasipuošia savo atžymėjimais. Gausiai dalyvavo ir sendraugiai. Tik gaila, kad jų pirm. I. Sakalas vėl ligoninėje. Jis vis parašydavo ne tik iš vyčių, bet ir šv. Vardo Draugijos bei kitų organizacijų veiklos. Linkime jam greitai pasveikti. Jis yra LV Garbės narys. Šventės parengimui dirbo Elenore Laurin, Leo Paukšta, Irene Sankus, V. Samoška ir kt. Garbė LV, kad jie, nors ir blogam orui esant, iškilmingai ir nuotaikingai švenčia savo globėjo šv. Kazimiero šventę. Tai stiprina mūsų ryžtą ateities darbams, kurių tiek daug prieš akis. Juo labiau kai prosenelių kraštas - Lietuva - išgyvena sunkius vergovės laikotarpius.

Vasario 23 d. Vyčių salėje įvyko sendraugių Bunco žaidimas, kuriam vadovavo ilgametė vyčių darbuotoja Kazimiera Petrulis. Kovo 1-2 d. įvyko Choro "Pirmyn" statoma operetė "Meilės Daina", kurią vyčiai gausiai stebėjo ir dalyvavo jos pastatyme.

Kovo mėn. 15 d. vyčių salėje įvyko įvairių dovanių daiktų išpardavimas namo skolai apmokėti. Namo direktorių pirm. Al. Mockus kvietė visus prisidėti. Daug vyčių ir jų bičiulių suaukojo įvairių daiktų ir vėliau atvyko jų išpirkti. Tai davė keletą šimtų dolerių pelno.

Bowling - tai savotiškas sportas, kurį, matyti, vyčiai labai mėgsta. Jie daugiausia žaidžia Woodmac Lane, 7625 So. Western, kurią tvarko su kitais susidėjęs Br. Shotas. Kovo 16 vyko žaidimas, kurį organizavo Al Raubiškis, Dolores Wainauskis ir Julia Zakarka. Nors žaidimas ir brangokas, bet norinčių nestigo.

36 Lietuvos Vyčių kuopa, veikianti Brighton Parko apylinkėje, kviečia visus narius ir svečius atsilankyti į jų rengiamus pavasario šokius balandžio 19 d., 8:30 val., pavadintus "Žydinčių vyšnių laiku", vyčių salėje. Įėjimas tik 2.50 dol. asmeniui. Nepamirškite tų linksmų šokių, nes juose skambės žinomo Wally Tenclingerio vedamas šaunus orkestras.

Kalbant apie šokius, tai ir studentų vyčių šokių grupė balandžio 13 d. rengia pasirodymą St. Frances Supper, IC mokykloj, 44 ir Fairfield, 3:30 p. pietų. Ten bus linksma kartu su jaunimu praleisti sekmdienio popietę. Įėjimas tik 3.00 dol. Padėkime jaunimui.

Lietuvos Vyčių salė yra didelis rūpestis. Nelengva ją išlaikyti ir talkos būdu išgražinti. Dabar yra išrinktas salės prižiūrėtojas Joe Laurinitis. Jo telef. numeris 376-9426. Reikalui esant, pav., salę išsinuomot, ar greitai valgius parūpinti, ar susirinkimams, klubams, vestuvėms, krikštynomis ir kitoms progoms, skambinkite jam. Ta sale naudojasi šauliai. Sudegus Hollywood Inn salei, dabar daug klubų eina į vyčių salę. Pasiūlikim savo salę, jei kas ieško. Kiekvienas centas yra brangus, tad rūpinkimės ir savo salės išlaikymu, jos išnuomavimu, talka ir gražinimu.

Illinois-Indiana LV Apskritis leidžia savo biuletinį "Trumpet". Jį šiais metais redaguoja Geraldine Mockus, o administruoja Joseph ir Valeria Stanaitis. Jei kas nori biuletiniui teikti žinias, prašomi rašyti šiuo adresu: 10801 So. Kolmar, Oak Lawn, Ill. 60453. Ilgą laiką jau Ill-Ind. apskritis leidžia šį biuletinį, nes jis reikalingas greitesnei informacijai. Vyčių skyrius "Drauge" pasirodo kas savaitę, o "Vytis" išeina kas mėnesį, todėl apskrities valdyba greičiau ir kondensuotai suteikia žinias. Vyčių skyrius "Drauge" nemaža rašo apie vyčius. Taip pat ir "Vytis". Padėkime spaudai, nes ji mus jungia ir informuoja.

Bal. Brazdžionis



Chicagos L.V. Choras, vad. F. Strolios, dalyvauja Lietuvių Festivalyje, Ford City prekybos centre.

Foto - P. Maleta

**APRIL**

- 5 - C 17 & 17 Srs., So. Boston, **ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER-DANCE**, So. Boston Lithuanian Citizen's Club, So. Boston, Mass.
- 5 - MAD St. CASIMIR'S DAY CELEBRATION & QUARTERLY CONVENTION, 12:00 Noon, Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Elizabeth, N.J. - C-52 Hosts.
- 15 - C-7, Waterbury PRAYER DAY, 7:00 p.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, Waterbury, Conn. Refreshments at Clubrooms after Mass.
- 19 - C-36, Chicago "CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME" Dance, K of L Bldg., Chicago, Ill. 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$2.50. Dancing to Wally Tenclinger and his band.
- 19 - C-141, Bridgeport, FIRST AMBER BALL, St. George Parish Hall, Bridgeport, Conn.
- 27 - 40th SACERDOTAL JUBILEE of Rev. Vaclovas Martinkus, 10:30 a.m. Concelebrated Mass in St. Casimir Church, Providence, R.I., Testimonial Dinner following in Parish Hall.
- 27 - NED SPRING CONVENTION, St. Joseph Church, Waterbury, Conn., Host C-7.

MAY

- 6 - C-29, Newark, DAY OF PRAYER. Services 7:00 p.m. Holy Trinity Church, Newark, N.J.
- 18 - NED HOLY YEAR OBSERVANCE, Holy Cross Cathedral, Boston, Mass.
- MAY 30 - 2nd Annual WORLD AFFAIR, Dayton Convention Center, Dayton, Ohio

JUNE 1**JUNE 27,**

- 28, 29 - NED RETREAT, Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, Maine.

AUGUST

- 20-24 - 62nd NATIONAL K of L CONVENTION, Hotel Taft, New York, N.Y. Hosts, MAD.

SEPTEMBER

- 28 - NED FALL CONVENTION, St. Casimir Church, Westfield, Mass.

OCTOBER

- 5 - NED CULTURAL PICNIC, Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, Mass.

DECEMBER

- 14 - NED TV MASS, Government Center, Boston, Mass. Channel 7.

Vyčiai Veikia



Council Activities

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



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-116 - SO. WORCESTER, MASS.

The month of February, is of course, dear to the hearts of the Lithuanians. The Commemoration of the Anniversary of her Independence is marked throughout Lithuanian colonies. Worcester is no exception. We are proud to say that a few of our members provided a big assist in the preparation of the program held on Feb. 16. Tony Miner, our council president, also president of the TARYBA, Worcester Lithuanian Organization League, was chairman of the entire affair. A Mass was held at St. Casimir's Church at 10 A.M.; a program at the Lithuanian Club was held at 2 P.M. with Aušra Zerr of Philadelphia as guest speaker. The Women's Alliance C-5, under the direction of Mrs. Kaneb, and the children of Lithuanian Saturday Classes of Our Lady of Vilna Parish presented the concert selections. Many local civic and political persons were in attendance. After the official commemoration program, a dinner was held at Maironis Park. Tony has become quite a spokesman for the Lithuanians and is very much in demand as a Master of Ceremonies.

Our Cultural Chairman, Irene Tamulavich, with help from her husband Ed, prepared an Exhibit of Lithuanian Arts & Crafts, which was displayed for the entire month of February, at the Main Public Library. It was an extensive and brilliantly arranged display. Amber jewelry, woven items, wood-carvings and prints, and native costumes were exhibited in individual glassed-in cases. Below each item was a history of each item, all written by Irene & Ed. Much love and many hours of planning and collecting were in evidence, and we express our appreciation for all the efforts extended on behalf of our Council. All this was accomplished, in spite of the fact that the Tamulavich' were upset over their stolen car, which was taken while they were attending a K of L meeting. The car was never recovered, and Ed was particularly upset because he lost all his favorite fishing equipment.

In addition, Tony Miner, and Ed & Irene Tamulavich have been invited to serve on the Advisory Board of the Lithuanian Hour being presented to the local radio listeners, via Station WICN - 90.5 FM on Wednesdays at 7 PM and Saturdays at 5 PM. We are very grateful to Anute Keblinski Greeny, who is hostess for this program, for her very enthusiastic attitude toward everything Lithuanian. Thru her efforts the local citizenry is becoming acquainted with our customs, culture and music. Tony Miner was kept very busy preparing material for a 3-hour program broadcast on Feb. 15 commemorating Lithuanian Independence. We just do not know where he finds the time to devote

to all these worthwhile projects.

We extend our sincere condolences to Rita Skamarock, her sister and brothers, on the passing of their Mother. Grace & Joe Balukonis are sporting lovely tans after their vacation in the Bahamas. We are very proud of Vic Mrozinski, a Lieutenant of the Police Dept. He recently spent two memorable weeks attending seminars at the FBI School in Washington, D.C. Ted Kasper is the best thing that happened to our Friday nite bowlers. His black coffee concoction keeps everyone happy even when hitting low scores. Anyone who is not worried about the world situation should have his TV examined.

TARADAIKA

C-135 - ANSONIA, CONN.

Your prayers are asked for the soul of Valeria Igaunis, St. Anthony's Parish housekeeper for the last 14 years. She passed away Jan. 21.

Congratulations to Lil and Stan Twerian who became grandparents for the first time when their son, Wayne and his wife Irene were blessed with a 9 lb. 4 oz. baby boy on Nov. 20. The baby was baptized Wade Christopher by Father Paul, here at St. Anthony's.

We are happy to have George Martin back with us once again. George spent 30 long days at Yale New Haven Hospital before they let him go. Welcome back 'Slugger'.

Casey Svelnys is also back with us after his second trip to Griffin Hospital in Derby. Welcome back, Casey. Our "Blini King" tells the

story that three days after his operation, he wasn't too happy with his sick roommates and asked if he could be transferred to the empty bed in the next room. The nurses were very willing and obliged. When his doctor arrived the next morning, he was upset, thinking that Casey had expired during the night. He was very relieved to find him in the next room - hale and hearty! Casey is still laughing everytime he thinks of the incident!

Jack Tyson, our "smiling chef", chaired a very successful New Year's Eve party sponsored by the Parish Council. Our church hall was beautifully decorated under the direction of Lil Poehailos assisted by Lil Twerian. Many members of our council were present including four young people from Bridgeport's newly formed Council - Charles & Helen Ziobo and George & Stella Antonaitis. Lil Chaplik must have had the best time of all because she kissed and danced with practically every man at the party.

We ask all council members to read our new Church Bulletin to be informed on coming activities of our Council. This is the very best way to know what's being planned.

INO

C-26 - WORCESTER, MASS.

When this article is published, the snowstorm raging outdoors at this very moment will be just a memory! Slippery walking conditions and hazardous driving will all be forgotten and the beauty of the Easter Season will be upon us, with Easter lilies and tulips and daffodils reminding us that we'll soon be travelling to Waterbury, Conn. for the NED Spring Convention.

Earlier plans for our council's local St. Casimir's Day celebration were changed by a meeting of the District which brought about a far more grand celebration! St. Casimir's Day was celebrated by the NED in our parish, St. Casimir's Church in Worcester, on Mar. 2 at 5 P.M. Our pastor and

Spiritual Advisor, Father Anthony Miciunas, M.I.C., and president Joe Sakaitis, and his board of officers, were very happy to welcome fellow New Englanders in celebrating the feast day of our patron. A Communion supper was served at Maironis Park following Mass.

Spiritual and civic celebrations took place on Feb. 16th. The Lithuanian Affairs committee was busy-busy writing letters to political figures, literally begging them to plead for Lithuania's freedom. Our special appreciation to Dr. Mazeika, the S.C. Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, who gives us endless material to act upon.

A baby daughter was born in January to Joe and Barbara Godek, presenting Michael and Debbie with a little sister. Congratulations to the Godeks on the happy arrival of baby Cheryl!

Bill & Carol Grigas with daughter Caryn, and Ellie & Steve Walinsky with son and daughter, Mark and Lynne, and grandparents, Steve & Anne Walinsky, with other of their friends, enjoyed a pleasant, snow-filled New Hampshire ski weekend in January. Everyone had a marvelous time. Even the little 6 and 7 year-olds rode in the ski lifts! These days, everyone seems to be professional!

Sincere and prayerful sympathy to Sue Roland whose brother passed away in January.

Those of us who attended the performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony in February spotted Edwina Ginkus seated on the alto side of the stage, with her daughter Janet on the soprano side. What a marvelous chorus and orchestra! The Ginkus' have been active in various and sundry musical programs for some time now, and we're still proud each time we see their names listed in the program. Also listed in the program was the name, of Steve Walinsky, Jr., who is a member of the board of directors of the Worcester County Music Assoc. Whenever something "good" is in the offing, one can always expect

to find names of K of L'ers. Music, sports, you-name-it!

We're happy to hear that our New Jersey friend, Frank Vaskas, is beginning to feel like his old self! Time takes care of many things, and we're sure that this spring season will certainly help take care of everything!

A Happy Easter season to all!
"Dzūkelė"

C-7 - WATERBURY, CONN.

We extend a hearty "welcome" to the new members who recently joined our ranks - Richard Grisgraber, Joe Norkus, Associate Member John Cheplick, and John Beinoris, who formerly belonged to the Providence, R.I. Council, who has located here in Waterbury as organist for St. Joseph's Church.

We changed our usual practice for St. Casimir's Day. Wally Blinn & Nell Diggles arranged for Mass to be celebrated Mar. 4 in the evening, with a Buffet served at the school hall immediately after Mass. As usual, all parishioners and members of various organizations were extended an invitation. This being our most important event on the K of L calendar, we thought a change might be well received, as it was.

NED Convention Chairman John Alanskas and Co-Chairman Patricia Richards have selected their committee and plans are being formed for the Annual NED Convention to be held here in Waterbury on Apr. 27. We are hoping to see all NED councils well represented so we might have a successful convention.

April 15 is Prayer Day at C-7 during this Holy Year, and Mass will be held at 7 P.M. with "coffee and" at the Clubrooms. We hope all K of L members plan to attend and bring their families and friends to pray for help for the people in Lithuania.

We were saddened by the news that St. Joseph's Parish was to lose their Nuns who so ably taught the children at the school. This has been decreed by the Mother House. We bid a sad "Farewell" to

the Sisters and wish them a happy future, wherever they will be located after school ends.

Our good news for the year is that Rev. Raymond Yuskas was extended his tenure at St. Joseph's Parish, which was to terminate in 1975. We are happy for "Father Ray" and hope that his health will also improve and he will be with us for many years to come.

Ed White is so enthusiastic about cruises that he is trying to get a large K of L group to go on the "Cruise to Nowhere" together. Anyone interested, see "Cruise Director White" for details. Our Florida State vacationers, Dot & Al Alankas, were in Miami for a month. Did you bring back some warm weather?

Honor was extended at a Sports Dinner held at the Holiday Seasons Restaurant on Jan. 26 by Waterbury Timers to another of our long standing council members - Joe Samoska, Sr. Joe has given his time and effort for years in the field of sports - Little League, K of L basketball, and boxing. He has also been active in Civic Affairs, Chairman of the March of Dimes, Red Cross Blood Bank, United Fund, Exchange Club, Chamber of Commerce, Serra Club, the K of L, serves as trustee of St. Joseph's Church, and finds time to visit the sick in local hospitals and convalescent homes almost daily. There was a beautiful, and quite lengthy, article in the Jan. 24 issue of the Waterbury American Newspaper entitled "Tribute Overdue Joe Samoska". We are indeed very proud of Joe. Men like these are rare, so God willing, we hope Joe will be around for a long time to come. We extend our congratulations and wish him a long and healthy life.

Happy Easter to all and pasilikit sveiki!

Lelija



MID-CENTRAL

DISTRICT



C-25 - CLEVELAND OHIO

Council Officers for 1975 are: Vic August - Pres. (* reelected); Bill Jakubs - Vice Pres.; Alice Karklius - Rec. Secy.*; Frank Lucas - Treas.; Joanna Shigo - Fin. Secy.*; Gene Kunsitis - Sgt.-at-Arms; Alvina Luiza and Adele Svet - Trustees; Betty August - Sunshine Girl*. We wish them a fruitful and successful year.

We would like to welcome Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas as our new Spiritual Advisor. Father Kijauskas is the newly appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

The Holiday Season was started with our Christmas Party held Dec. 21 at Andrew Palzes' lovely home. Thank you Andy and Committee Chairmen, Helen Jakubs, Bill Jakubs, The Augusts', The



Tony Buknis (Cleveland Srs.) and Nellie Arunski (C-25) at the American-Lithuanian Club in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Kunsitis', The Shigo's, and Nellie Arunski (who couldn't attend after all her baking and cooking - due to the FLU), and to Eleanor Lucas.

SEEN ON CHANNEL 5-TV were the dancingest members of our Council - John and Evelyn Andrusis. They were interviewed by Paul Wilcox of the Polka Program.

BITTEN BY THE DANCE BUG: Betty & Vic August and Alvina & Peter Luiza. Both couples are taking dancing lessons. Keep up the good work; we'll all soon be eyeing you with envy. Cha-Cha-Cha!

We welcome new members Mrs. Elaine Stempuzis and Joe and Doris Lukiavich to C-25. We were also pleased to have Andy and Vi Skarnus rejoin our Council after several years absence.

Taking Lithuanian Language Classes at the Lithuanian Community Center are Betty August, Helen Jakubs, Ursula Kunsitis and Nellie Samas. Helen Jakubs, who is of Polish descent, is the organizer of these classes and we take our hats off to her for her sincere and intense desire to master the Lithuanian Language.

SMALL WORLD. While visiting the Lithuanian Club in St. Petersburg, Fla., Nellie Arunski and Tony Buknis (Cleveland Senior) happily bumped into each other during the Thanksgiving holidays.

Just about having unpacked their bags after a trip to Yugoslavia and the Adriatic Sea, Vi and Andy Skarnus are packing their bags again for a trip to Venezuela. How lucky can some people be!

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Nellie Arunski, Mar. 20, Bruno Bartkus, Apr. 11, Charlie Machutas, Apr. 12 and Bill Jakubs and John Garnis on Apr. 28.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES to Mr. & Mrs. Isadore Samas who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary Jan. 27.

Al and Joanna Shigo's winter vacation this year included stop-

overs in Maryland and New Jersey to visit sons, John and Raymond and their families, with a few days visit in Pennsylvania with other family members.

When the Lucas' celebrate their birthdays, its like a Lithuanian Wedding - three days. Happy belated birthdays; Eleanor and Frank!

Urs

C-102 - DETROIT, MICH.

"Kūčios" has to be the highlight of our council's events of the year. It's always a pleasure to have Father Stan, who celebrated the Mass, in our midst; at which our young and newly elected Pres. Margy Bunikis and Vice Pres. Bob Klucens read the scripture readings. We then broke bread with our fellow K of L'ers, ate the traditional foods so ably prepared by our own members, and socialized. Thanks to committee - Ann Uznis, Donna & Margy Bunikis for getting it altogether, and to Bob Boris, for being such a gracious host. Incidentally, the straw ornaments Bob bought in Germany, while visiting brother Vince, were really an eye catcher and conversation piece. Ann Uznis was especially chic in the white linen dress she wore, a souvenir from Africa. What a pleasure to see folks like Donna Stanievich, George Kayganich and Maryanne & Bill Juodwalkis, who keep themselves quite busy raising their lovely six children - and vivacious Vitalija Vaskelis, who is contemplating a job return after working in Lansing for several years. Hope to see more of all of you.

Labai ačiū to Mrs. Vaskelis for the delicious tortes we were treated with at "Kūčios".

By now Helen & Tony Smolek will be looking at the pictures they took while on their 10-day Hawaii - Las Vegas trip, a surprise gift to them from their children upon Tony's retirement of 38 years from the Chrysler Corporation. Congratulations, Tony!

It's "All in the Family" when you

feast your eyes on our officer's slate for the coming year. Joining Pres. Margy Bunikis are her parents - Donna, Fin. Secy. and Ritual Chairman, and Frank as Treas.; also Vice Pres. Bob Klucens' mother Edna as Corresponding Secy., and reliable Maryanne Guerriero, Rec. Secy. It's people such as these who keep our council a working one - "Small but Mighty".

To keep any council active and its members enthusiastic, it takes an exchange of ideas and new incentives - alternating our meeting months by having them held every second month in a member's home is proving quite successful and especially enjoyable. We had a good turnout at the home of the Baibak's, where it was especially good to see Clem & Evelyn Galinas. Thanks Gena and Gus for your wonderful hospitality.

NUOŠIRDŽIAI AČIŪ to Gražina Vaskelis for being our President these past 4 years. We've really appreciated all your past efforts, and know you'll do a great job as S.C. Recording Secy.

C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

Mary Ann Blum and Frank Ambrose, religious co-chairman, began their first program for '75 with a religious discussion involving the adult group of Holy Cross Parish and the Knights at the Sunday CCD class. Sister Alberta, SND, was moderator. The group was small but active in ideas and topics. These discussion groups will continue to be held the second Sunday of each month. Walter and Mary Lou Lastoskie were host for the refreshments. Thanks to all.

On Jan. 17 we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Simas Kudirka. Mr. Kudirka was accompanied to Dayton by the Consul General, the Honorable Anicetas Simutis. A group of Dayton Lithuanians met Mr. Kudirka and Mr. Simutis at the airport in the morning. A press conference was held at the Holy Cross Church hall in the afternoon. In the evening a cocktail party was held, open to the public, to meet

and talk with Mr. Kudirka. Mr. Kudirka's warm response to the Dayton Lithuanian community certainly won our hearts. He rekindled and inspired us to move on with the work ahead to free other Lithuanians and Lithuania. What a "beautiful" man to bring to the world the plight of Lithuanians enslaved by the USSR.

During the course of the evening greetings were presented to Mr. A. Simutis on his 40th Anniversary as Consul General. Mr. Simutis was very generous with his praise for the Knights of Lithuania, and we're most appreciative.

Alice Petkus and Margie Grushas have been a most active Lithuanian Affairs committee. They are now busy writing to the Encyclopedia Britannica and to local dignitaries protesting matters concerning Lithuania. Both are very much impressed and inspired by the Nat'l Lith. Affairs Chairman, Dr. Denis G. Mazeika.

Congratulations to Fr. Walter Katarskis on his winnings in the Ohio State Lottery. Joan Kavalauskas had taken over the lead for the women in our bowling league with her single 214 and 553 series!

Belated notes: Sally Miller and Joe Gecas also participated in the Christmas caroling sponsored by the council. Sally also instructed the parish Saturday Lithuanian class students on making Lithuanian Christmas decorations. Ada Sinkwitz and Veronika Omlor also made donations to the Christmas Bazaar at the Dayton's Holiday Hello festivities.

With George Zelinskas retiring after 40 years at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, we hope to see more of him and Fran! Happiness ahead to both of you. Good to see Kitty Prasmantas back on her feet after a recent hospital stay.

Our Feb. 1 "Sportman's Polka Party" proved to be a success in spite of the small crowd. Profits from the dance are to help get our teams to Pittsburgh for the Midwest Bowling Tournament. Tony Alexander from Waterbury, Conn. came in to help our 'cause'.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Al Wallis who, within a week's time, lost both his mother and a brother. We pray their souls are at rest.

fbp



ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

The Annual K of L Choir Dinner Dance held on Jan. 18 at Pakstas Hall was a complete sellout.

Co-chairmen John Auksciunas and Tony Bilis, with their very capable committee, Estelle Rogers, Loretta Grigaliunas, Emilija Pakalniskis, Birute Pumputis, Al Zakarka and Juozas Juska worked diligently to make it a pleasant and successful event. There were many others who helped that evening, and to all our sincere thanks.

The Choir, under the direction of Faustas Strolia, entertained with a few songs and delighted the audience with their performance. The Bilitavicius Sisters gave a modern rendition of a few Lithuanian songs and it was a nice change of pace. Also included in the program was Vytautas Rusteika, choir soloist, whose beautiful baritone voice everyone enjoyed.

Presentations were made through the generosity of several people. Stase Grigaliunas, artist and mother of Ray Grigaliunas, as in the past two years, donated a beautiful painting. Dinner for two was donated by Richard Shlaustas, owner of Diamond Head Restaurant. International Gifts gave a lovely gift. Several other prizes were received. Cash donations were given by Phil Labanauskas, Louis and Bernadine Rogers. Our thanks to all.

When the band stopped playing, untiring Faustas Strolia walked down the aisles with his accordion, leading all in song.

It was so very nice to see Mary and Tony Kober of C-109 Great Neck, N.Y., who came out expressly for this event. We were very pleased to have in attendance Aloyzas Jurgutis who recently left Lithuania. It was most interesting to hear some of his experiences in getting to the U.S. Ken Jakay of C-112, aldermanic candidate, also was there.

Through this annual affair, the Choir is able to be self-existing and continue to bring enjoyment to Americans as well as Lithuanians.

Our sincerest thanks to everyone who contributed in one way or another to support the K of L Choir.

C-36 hosted a Bowling Party Jan. 26 at Woodmac Lanes and had a very good turnout. Dinner followed at Darius-Girenas Post with a delicious round of beef prepared by Vince Samaska. His aides were Kazimera Petrulis, Jerome Jankus, Irene Norushas and Christine Stachyra.

Sincerest condolences to the family of Helen Sirvinskas who was an active member of C-36. Amžina atilsj.

Hoosier



K of L Choir, performing at their Annual dance.



A. Jurgutis assists the Committee and Director F. Strolia in making presentations, during K of L Choir Dance, Chicago.

Photo - P. Maleta



MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

C-100 - AMSTERDAM, N.Y.

At the January meeting, final plans were made for the observance of the 57th Anniversary of Lithuania's Independence. The chairman of the event was Mary Stanionis assisted by Helen Druziak, Polly Ziausys, and Bernice Sherbunt. The dinner and program was held on Feb. 15 at 6 P.M. at St. Casimir's Social Center. Peter Urba, Executive Director of the Fulton County Area of the Chamber of Commerce, was the Master of Ceremonies. Pete & Ronnie donated two tickets for the Annual Sno-Ball on Mar. 1 as a door prize. Thanks a million!

Through the efforts of Edward Baranauskas, Chairman of our Lith. Affairs Comm., the special guest speaker was Vytautas Gadiauskas of Ridgewood, N.Y. Mr. Gadiauskas, just like Simas Kudirka, was a radio operator on the Soviet fishing trawler, Vishera. The trawler was in Odessa, a port on the Black Sea, for repairs. Repairs completed, the captain took the ship out to sea for a trial run. The crew, consisting of 6 or 7 men, was then advised by the captain that he did not plan to take the ship back to Russia. Instead, he was taking the trawler through the Dardanelles, and then to Greece for political asylum. He invited the entire crew to join him. The crew was made up of 2 Russian officers, 2 Ukrainians, 1 Georgian, 1 Armenian, and 1 Lithuanian, Vytautas Gadiauskas. As the ship went through the Dardanelles, one of the crew jumped overboard and swam ashore to Turkey. The Turks called the Russian Embassy in Ankara, who in turn called the Kremlin. A massive sea and air

search was launched by the Russians, but the trawler managed to get to Greece safely. Vytautas and the rest of the group arrived in the U.S. in October 1973.

Our February meeting was hosted by Very Rev. Baltch at the rectory. Birthday greetings were extended to Father in the form of song; his birthday was celebrated Feb. 17. President Tony Radzevich gave an interesting resume of the happenings at the Dist. Conv. held in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he and Edward Baranauskas attended as delegates.

The newly appointed attorney for the County of Montgomery is member Norbert Sherbunt. Congratulations, Norb!

Joe Valikonis and Ginny Miciulis said, "I DO" on Dec. 21 in Florida where Ginny's two daughters reside. Ilgiausiu, laimingu metu, Juozai ir Virginia! This lovely couple were champagne-toasted at our Jan. meeting.

Four new members were welcomed into the organization: Mrs. Frances Drzewicki, Mrs. Helen Wojcik, Mrs. Judy Kastravickas and Gerard Drenzek. We're glad to have you!

Leona Zakarka headed the committee for our annual Communion Breakfast which was held at the Holiday Inn on Mar. 9.

Mildred Thomas is a grandmother for the second time. She just returned from Maryland where daughter Cindy (past secy. of our council) had a little girl, Nicole Rene.

Peter Sargalis was elected a director of the Amsterdam Federal Savings and Loan Association. Congratulations, Pete!

Dennis DiLorenzo is a busy reporter for the Albany Times Union newspaper. We regret he has to miss our council activities because of his various working hours.

Frances Bobines, a victim of a very unusual accident, has recuperated, and we are very happy to see her in our midst again.

Very Rev. Robert K. Baltch gave the invocation at a recent dinner for Mary Ann Krupsak, the

new Lieut. Governor of N.Y. State. It was held in Amsterdam at St. John's Hall where over 700 people attended the festivities - including a few of our K of L'ers.

Our deepest sympathies go to Jean Maldutis, Edith Orante, and Helen Augun who lost their brother, Albert Shatas on Feb. 7 in a very unexpected accident. Al was a very well-known person in our community. He was the former Fire Chief of the Volunteer Fire Dept. of the Village of Haganan. The community, especially Haganan, has suffered a great loss. Amžina atilsj...

SMILE & SPARKLE

C-109 - GREAT NECK, N.Y.

Our Feb. 2 meeting was combined with a Hot Dog Dinner held at the Legion Hall in Great Neck. Members and their families were invited to attend - which resulted in the best attendance we've had in quite some time. Surprisingly, the children were well behaved, and everyone enjoyed having them there. We intend to make our meetings family affairs; it's a good beginning towards keeping the council active and productive. Father Frank Bulovas was very enthusiastic at the good response, and our members were gratified to see that with a little change, we can overcome any indifference or apathy which was starting to creep into being.



Great Neck C-109 Members Millie and Charlie Rogers.

The members voted to pay the assessed \$10. to the M.A. Dist. to help their treasury, - and to take a full page ad in the Dist. Bulletin. We are glad we are able to help in this instance.

We were sorry to miss Joe & Rae Bernatovich at the meeting. Joe is recuperating from surgery, and we hope he will be on the mend shortly. Joan Bernatovich, minding Billy at home with the flu, sent her husband Bill and little Rita Ann, who thoroughly enjoyed herself. We missed Rose Bernatovich, too.

We thank Frank Aleck, a member of the American Legion, for making the hall available to us. Our thanks, too, to Millie & Charlie Rogers who baked all those scrumptious cakes, to Starsy Wesey who supplied the kapusta for the delectable hot dogs, and to ALL our members who pitched in for kitchen duty.

Sincere condolences are extended to Mary Picardi on the loss of her dad, Wassil Truss, on Nov. 7, - and to Stanley Simanovich on the loss of his beloved mom on Dec. 8. We were sorry to hear of the death of Jerry Ziegler, the husband of the former Frances Zorski. Though Frances is not now a member of our council, she was at one time a charter member. May their souls rest in peace and may God enfold them in His love.

It was exciting to hear Lou Ann and Phil Rutha's story of a visit to their home by a cousin and nephew from Italy, - relatives who were not even known to them, when they knocked on the Rutha's door! Where there's a will, there's a way, but this was, indeed, by long distance!

Joe and Janie Zukas are still horseback riding every Sunday at the No. Shore Equestrian Center. At their recent horse show, in their own-respective classes, Janie came in 4th with a White Ribbon, and Joe won a 1st place Blue Ribbon. Janie shows great promise. Good luck!

Al & Starsy Wesey took time off in February to attend their

nephew's wedding and to visit with Star's sisters and their families, one in Louisville, Ky., another in Chicago, and the third in San Diego, Cal. While in California they met with Ann Martens, our Great Neck member who is now residing in Riverside. We sure do miss Ann; she was always willing to get involved, everything was possible. Much happiness in your new environment.

Mary & Tony Kober planed to Chicago to attend the Ill-Ind. Dist. K of L Choir Dinner on Jan. 18, and also attended the Balzekas Museum Banquet honoring Simas

Kudirka the following day. This truly is a "beautiful" city with very fine people and much activity, and anyone who has ever visited there can attest to the true Lithuanian hospitality of the community.

Nancy Kober is now residing in an apartment in N.Y.C. - within walking distance to her place of employment, Asti Tours, Inc. Nancy loves traveling!

Congratulations to Sue Zebart who is now retired and living the life of leisure. Sue's retirement gift from her grateful employer was a trip to London, which she will be taking in the Spring.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑ JUNIOR NEWS ❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑



Future K of L-ers Lori Stukas (Hillside, N.J.) and Georgianne Kassel (Chicago, Ill.) get broadcasting pointers from their Uncle Jack Stukas, Director, "Memories of Lithuania" Radio, New York.



C-12, New York. Junior member Barbara Yurkus assists mother Helen during K of L party.

C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO, JUNIORS

After our Christmas Party at the home of Mrs. Elinor Sluzas, new officers for 1975 were elected: Spiritual Adv. Rev. Walter Katarskis, Pres. Mary Mikalauskas, Vice Pres. Linda Petkus, Treas. Julie Prasmantas, Sgt.-at-Arms Kim Blosser, and Vytis Correspondent Kathy Sinkwitz.

On Jan. 17 some of the Juniors, dressed in their Lithuanian cos-

tumes, met Simas Kudirka at the airport, and later in the evening at a reception held in his honor at Holy Cross Church Hall, heard his speech on how he suffered and later gained his freedom.

The Juniors participated in the Feb. 16 Lithuanian Independence Day Program at the Lithuanian Club Hall. A skating party was held in March. Our two new Counselors are Sue Mantz and Maria Lazdinis.

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

62ND NATIONAL KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CONVENTION

AUGUST 20 - 24, 1975

HOSTS - MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

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

HEADQUARTERS

HOTEL TAFT
NEW YORK, N.Y.